

anders bestimmt. Koch versuchte sich nun praktisch in Leipzig und London. Eine Zeichnung in der „Jugend“ brachte ihn auf den Einfall, das zu versuchen, was in der Folge seinem ganzen Leben die entscheidende Richtung gab: das Schreiben mit der breiten Feder. Ermuntert von einigen einsichtsvollen Verlegern fand er sich nun allmählich selbst. Er kam rechtzeitig als Mitarbeiter in die Schriftgießerei Klingspor, nun begann er langsam und stetig das zu werden, was er war. Es wird einer späteren umfassenderen Veröffentlichung vorbehalten bleiben, sein Lebenswerk zu würdigen. An dem frischen Grabe des liebenwertem und bedeutenden Menschen und Lehrers stehen seine Freunde tief ergriffen von dem wahrhaft unerseßlichen Verlust. Unser Trost bleibt sein Lebenswerk. Was Goethe von einem Größeren, jedoch nicht Besseren gesagt hat, gilt auch für Rudolf Koch: „Es kann die Spur von seinen Erdentagen nicht in Aonen untergehn.“

RUDOLF KOCH †

Rudolf Koch is dead. It is hardly necessary in these pages to draw attention to the significance of this great master of calligraphic art. Perhaps the best of much that could be said of him is that his every act of artistic expression was wholly upright and thoroughly German. In this lucid personality the fusion of craftsmanship and art is complete.

Rudolf Koch was born on November 18th, 1876 in Nuremberg. One is half tempted to ask where else could he be born. He learnt metal engraving, but it was with this most conscientious and zealous of men as with so many others—the sovereign right of the artist to follow his own bent asserted itself. Before his term of apprenticeship was up he returned to his native town whither he felt irresistibly drawn. The Nuremberg School of Arts and Crafts of the moment failing to come up to his expectations he went to the Polytechnic at Munich to qualify as a drawing master. But this he was not destined to become. A wise fate ruled otherwise. Koch found a market for his work in Leipzig and London. A drawing in the magazine “Jugend” gave him the idea of trying what was subsequently to give his life its decisive direction: the possibilities of the broad nib. Encouraged by some discerning publishers he gradually found himself. Becoming at the right moment a member of the staff of the Klingspor type foundry he began slowly but surely to realise his vocation. An appreciation of his life work is reserved for a later and more comprehensive study. To day his friends stand at the newly made grave of this lovable and eminent man deeply grieved at this real and irreparable loss. His life work is our consolation. What Goethe said of another but not better man is also true of Rudolf Koch: “Es kann die Spur von seinen Erdentagen nicht in Aonen untergehn” (The trace of his days on earth cannot fade for aeons to come).