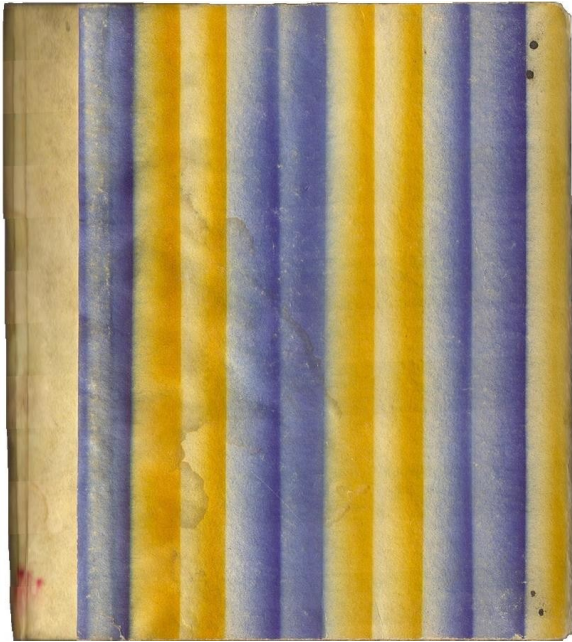


**S. S. Deutschland
Autograph Book
of
Ruth Stoeckly**

August 21, 1932 – September 1, 1932



Edited by James Logan Crawford

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S. S. Deutschland

from: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_Deutschland_\(1923\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_Deutschland_(1923))

FOREWARD

My mother, Ruth Stoeckly Crawford, crossed the Atlantic ocean in August of 1932 on board the ship S. S. Deutschland. By coincidence, half of the passengers on the ship were the German and Swiss Olympic teams returning from the 1932 summer olympics in Los Angeles. Since Ruth was one of the few young single females on board, she drew lots of attention from the mostly male olympians. Two days before the ship was to reach Europe, Ruth attended a costume ball as was customary on these Atlantic routes. Her pirate costume won her third place, and for her prize she was given a blank book. The following day she went around the ship and collected the signatures of 73 people, including at least 54 olympians, of which 29 of them won gold, silver, or bronze medals in Los Angeles. On the day after she disembarked in France, Ruth wrote her recollection of the ship on 38 pages following the autographs. This was not meant to be a diary of her voyage, because she already had a diary that she wrote in each day. This was meant to be more formal, and Ruth omitted many of the personal items in her diary such as her friendship with Hans Eller, one of the gold medal winning coxed-four rowing team.

A complete list of the 143 German olympians is found at:
<http://www.sports-reference.com/olympics/countries/GER/summer/1932/>

Note that the 59 contestants listed as participating in the “art competitions” were not on the ship, so there were at most 84 German athletes on board, seven of which were females and 37 of which won medals. There were also five Swiss olympians traveling with the German team. Another interesting web site shows a photograph of all of the Olympic rowers:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rowing_at_the_1932_Summer_Olympics

Jim Crawford
March 16, 2011



Ruth Stoeckly (on right) with her roommate, Louise Schmoldt

Chapter 1: Voyage of the *S. S. Deutschland*

[Here are Ruth's memories as she wrote them, with only a few glaring mistakes corrected, and a few photos interspersed.]

Foreward

I write this one day after my journey on the Steam Ship Deutschland came to an end. I am alone in Paris staying at the Fondation des Etats Unis. My friend Evelyn Wolcott had planned to meet by train from Cherbourg but a telegram which I received at the last minute before getting off the steamer informed me her plans had been changed and that she would not arrive in Paris until the evening of the following day. And now on the afternoon of the 2nd day after having slept for almost 20 consecutive hours I sit down and write the following pages of my impressions and after thoughts of my journey across the Atlantic ocean, of the German Olympic Team, and of the new friendships that I have made. I make no attempt at keeping events in order of their happening. I write of those things that struck me as being unusual, and hence interesting.

On the 2nd day of September, 1932



Memories of the Steam Ship Deutschland

A crowded pier, people singing German songs, shouting, waiving, young men in blue jackets and grey trousers, everywhere German being spoken, the blowing of a whistle, the drawing up of the last gang plank -- and we are off!! Aufwieder sehen, United States, Aufwieder sehen!!

And so, after having dreamed about it and thought about it since a mere child, I am at last on my way to another continent -- to the old world.

Before the boat started I had found my roommate, and together we stood leaning on the rail and waiving good-by to her husband and friends. An empty pier could have held all the friends that stood in the crowd waiving me good-by. Jenny, the girl with whom I had tramped all over New York City the twelve days before, had come with me to the boat at 9:30, but New York City is no place for a girl to wander about alone at midnight so she left at 10:30. Thus when the boat departed at midnight there stood no friend, or friends, waiving and shouting "bon voyage" to me. But I waived and shouted good-bye with my roommate to her husband and friends.

Though the hour was midnight we could not miss seeing the lights of New York from the harbour. So we made our way to the end of the ship and stood watching with other passengers for fully half an hour. The towers of the larger and better known buildings are all illuminated. We picked out the Empire State Building, the Chrysler Building and the tall buildings standing behind Battery Park on the end of Manhattan Island. Here at the end of Manhattan Island there stands an aggregation of buildings so assembled that they appear to be a massive and impenetrable fortress. From out the waters edge they loom up dark and foreboding. To one who has lived in the spacious and open west these skyscrapers seem to be the prison walls for hundreds and thousands of men and women. I am happy in the thought that I had lived there among these walls for twelve days but much happier in knowing that I need never live there the rest of my life like many of these people behind those walls will undoubtedly do.

As we went further down and out of the mouth of the Hudson River we were granted a sight which nature does not give to all steamers leaving the harbor at midnight. Just behind the Empire State Building there had risen a crescent moon and now it looked for all the world as though it were attached to the spire of this building. It shone with a mellow glow and was of a much deeper orange than any harvest moon. It seemed to wish us "bon voyage".

We waited till we passed the Statue of Liberty, and after waiving a last good-bye together we went to our cabin.

To write all my impressions of this girl with whom I spent the most of my seven days on the water would take many many pages. Her real name is Dr. Frau Haeffner, but her sailing name is Louise Schmoldt. While unpacking she explained to me the circumstances under which she was sailing. Ten years ago at the age of 18 she came alone from Germany to America to Texas. There on a ranch she worked as a common servant for almost a year. Then she went to New York and in time became a governess for some rich Jewish children -- and later for some other rich people near New York City. Two years before she met a German chemist working in New York City and four days before she married him. She had planned for some time to return for a visit to Germany and had secured her ticket before she knew she was to be married. Her husband will follow in one month and if possible they will remain permanently in Germany.

A finer cleaner girl could not be found anywhere in America. And it seems that it was more than a mere chance of fate that placed us together on this steamer.

Our mutual fears of finding out whether the other smoked were early settled. It was one of the first questions that she asked me. In many respects we seemed very much alike. And it was more than nice that we had the same idea of what was appropriate to wear on board on a ship.

She was very unselfish and did everything she could to help me. She speaks English as fluently as German but because I wished to learn German was very willing to speak German altogether and answer all of my many questions. For this I am everlastingly thankful to her because in the first two or three days I learned enough German to be able to speak with the German Olympic fellows, and this proved to be the greatest of my happiness on board ship.

The morning of our first day Louise and I were almost the first on the ship to arise. But we wished to satisfy our curiosity of seeing nothing but water no matter in which direction we looked. How large the ocean must be! And to think that for seven whole days this is all that we shall see!



The Big blue Ocean
with nothing but
water in sight

S.S. Deutschland

Aug 25 - Sept 1, 1932

J. G. S.

It is hard to describe just what it looks like. On calm days the sky line is like that of a Kansas prairie and you can see ever so far into the distance. And even on such days the water is not entirely smooth but ever and always small ripply waves on it. For two days we had wonderful clear sailing with hardly so much as a cloud in the sky. But on the morning of the 3rd day we entered the Gulf Stream and here a gail was blowing and a storm brewing. Early in the morning it was foggy. The whole day long clouds hovered near the horizon. The wind rocked and tipped the boat to and fro and up and down. The ocean had the appearance of being made of valleys and hills. The waves had white caps on them.

To say that the sailing was choppy is putting it mildly. It was more than Louise and I could stand. Thus far we had both been the best of sailors. But simultaneously we were both stricken! We felt all the pangs and pains of seasickness.

There is no universal cure for seasickness. Each must find out for themselves what is best. We had been told that it is best to eat, regardless. So no matter how bad we felt we kept on eating and never missed a meal. We ate mostly fruit and staid almost the whole time in our deck chairs in the fresh air. We were practically cured by the next morning. Both of us

leaned over the rail and "fed the fishes" only the evening of the 3rd day.

As long as I was not longer seasick I was not at all sorry that I had had the experience. It only made the journey a little more complete. I was sick long enough only to know what it feels like, and I can tell you it is terrible!

During the rest of the time of our sailing we were both in the best of health. We had no more choppy sailing but one or two days were cloudy and somewhat misty in the morning.

The food we were served was of the best of German cooking. The things they cook and the methods of preparing are quite different from American food. But they were not so strange to me for I had heard or tasted of many of them at home. Every day we ate six times! Breakfast was at 8:00 and was a three or four course meal as you chose. Boullion was served with pretzels at 11:00 on the deck. Lunch came at 12:30. At 3:30 we were served tea and cakes in the lounging along with music by the ship's orchestra. And at 6:30 was dinner. Dinner and lunch were both always 5 course meals. First a salad or some meat or fish. Then soup or broth. Then the main dish. Then pie or dessert of some kind. Then fruit with coffee or tea. Very good food, but one never eats very much of any one thing. Then again at 10:00 we were always served sandwiches. These were very interesting, made of dark heavy bread cut in then oblong slices with a thin piece of cold salami or cheese on top and good Germans always drink beer with them.

Other than Louise, I have made no mention of the other people that were on board deck. I am afraid I shall always be spoiled for another ocean voyage, for I am sure I will never find another group of more interesting, more entertaining, and in many ways more wonderful companions than I found here on this steamer.

On boarding the steamer in New York City I found the deck crowded with men who wore grey trousers and blue jackets. On the pocket of the jacket was an emblem. And at once it dawned on me they were none other than the German Olympic team returning to Germany!

Tall, blond, handsome men! And of the one hundred and

sixty some tourist passengers there was almost a hundred German Olympic passengers. Here on board this ship which I had chosen quite unknowingly a month before, was the cream of Germany's young manhood. The best of athletes in their chosen sport -- and some few of them Champions of the World.

And it was my great pleasure in the seven following days to become acquainted with none other than these young men -- to talk with them, to dance with them, to play with them, and to know them as good friends.

On the morning of the first day Louise & I strolled after breakfast on the deck to find out what all our passengers were like. We found that besides the Olympic men there were some dozen young fellows, all of which were Jews going abroad to study medicine. Besides, were 8 or 10 young girls none of which appealed to us at all. Two in particular we wished a hundred times or more to throw overboard. Young Jewesses they were. Both from Hollywood -- and the cabaret type. They danced and smoked and drank like the cheapest of cabaret girls. They did not wait for the men to ask them -- no they always asked the men! And such clothes as they wore! Louise and I wondered why they ever came Tourist class! Not once did they wear the same thing twice and they changed clothes not less than 3 times a day.

I have always had an inexplicable dislike for Jews. After having seen these two girls for 7 days that feeling is much stronger than a mere dislike. Even finding out that they were not Americans but German Jews did not alter my feeling.

In strolling on the deck the 1st morning we were stopped by a group of Jewish fellows who at once introduced themselves and tried to become very friendly. By evening we had met & talked to nearly every one of them. But Louise & I had the same feeling -- we didn't care to know them further.

All day long the Germans had looked at us but none had spoken to us. And it was not our place to speak first. But the evening of the first day we had a get-to-gether dance and before the Jewish fellows had a chance there came 2 young Germans that asked us to dance with them, we accepted and then sat on the side of the room where all the Olympic team sat to-

gether, and from that time till the end of our journey we had only Olympic fellows for our companions and friends.

Through this first fellow, Leo Esser, I met and danced with several others, some of which could speak English.

Traveling with the German Olympic team was also the two men that represented Switzerland in the Olympic games. One of these, Paul Reisen, is more than a usual man.

He told me part of his past. He was in America on a tour for five months and during this time learned considerable English. He was very kind in correcting me, and helping me to learn German. We spoke as much German together as possible.

In speaking with these Germans it was very surprising to find what high positions some of them hold. Two of them, both 25 years old, are teachers in Berlin -- one in the military department and another in the Police Department of a university in Berlin. It is undoubtedly a result of the war that such young men should have such high positions.

Many of them were students. Perhaps the best friend I made was Hans Eller -- a law student in the University of Berlin. He is a world champion! He was a member of the crew of 4 men that won the world rowing contest. He spoke very good English.



German gold-medal winning coxed-four rowing team – Hans Eller is

the last one on the right

He was tall, blond, blue eyed, and typically German. Besides being deeply serious in though he was very witty at times. A finer and cleaner cut young man could not be found anywhere.

In fact, the first trait that struck me as being very outstanding among these Germans was there extreme politeness and courtesy.

How different from these America Jews that were also on board the ship.

We were more than delighted to claim a speaking acquaintance with the honorable Mr. Sullivan. This man was the coach for the rowing teams. He is an Englishman and we spoke together in English. It seemed a bit odd that the Germans should have an English coach.

Still another acquaintance that proved very interesting was a Dr. Doerry. This man seemed to have taken a special interest in me. Why, I could not see. I understand he is a widely known and famous man among German newspapermen. His specialty is sports and as a sportswriter he is foremost in Berlin. He is a middle age man with grey hair and a very ruddy complexion. He spoke English as well as German. [Dr. Doerry was on the German olympic teams in 1896 and 1900, editor-in-chief of the Sport im Bild until WWII, in 1910 president of the Verein Deutsche Sportpresse, and in 1927 elected to the executive committee of the Association Internationale de la Presse Sportive.]

I was very disappointed with the girls of the German Olympic team. There were 6 of them. Surely they are not representative of German girls! Surely all German girls are not as coarse as these girls! They smoked and drank as freely as any man! On the 2nd night one was so drunk she had to be carried to her room. Part of them had very coarse and harsh voices.

We had no opportunity of meeting them and after seeing them awhile really didn't care to know them further.

At no time during our journey did we find ourselves bored for lack of something to do. Every evening entertainment was planned for us. Two nights we had movies. These were silent films with the words written both in English and German. One

picture was a historical film of the life of Napoleon. The other was Harold Lloyd in "Feet First." It proved amusing to the Germans. I had seen it some years before.

I have already mentioned the get-together dance of the first night. On the second night we had a Bock-Bier-Fest! It was by way of a celebration for all the German Olympic winners! They sang, and drank, and shouted till it was almost deafening! Not since years ago at college have I seen such merry-making. Their singing is not ragged jazz time music but deep and full. And they know many songs. It was a joy to hear them sing. And in between their songs they give cheers and yells. In all this there was one man who was the leader. He was also the captain of the sculling team. Besides being a leader he is a natural clown. He kept the whole crowd merry by his many antics.

On another night we had a costume ball. This was the captain's night and was the night before the last night for those who got off at Cherbourg. The evening started with dinner -- we had special food -- turkey and ice cream etc. Also the dining room was decorated with special festoons -- and each was given a place card.

At 9:00 the costume ball began. Louise & I had obtained some costumes from the stewardess. Louise had a Dutch boys outfit and myself a pirates garb. Perhaps less than half were in costumes. Many of the Olympic fellows had obtained girls dresses and came dressed as such. Comical? Yes! not just the way they were dressed but the way they acted.

Prizes were given for the best costumes & much to our surprise and delight Louise won 2nd and myself 4th prize. As a prize I was given this book. And what could have been nicer! Already it is among my most treasured possessions. It presented an opportunity for securing the signatures of the German Olympic Team. And I am sure there are nowhere two other girls who possess such, or a similar collection of signatures.

But the last night is to be remembered above all the other nights. A committee of Olympic fellows had posted invitations about the ship inviting all to the final celebration of the Olympic Team. We would be entertained, and sing, and dance

and enjoy jokes, a take-off on the girls who will be in the Olympics in 1940! One fellow had on pink silk pajamas, another very large fellow a white apron -- and the others skirts and sweaters. Each spoke a little poem in a falsetto voice. I never imagined that people from other lands could act so ridiculously silly. They were screams! They made us all simply howl with laughter.

We were given papers with the words of songs on them, and between every two or three dances we would stop and sing awhile. Every man seemed to know the melodies and to sing. They made the room resound with their deep bass voices.

They drank, they sang, they laughed, they danced. They were merry as men can be merry. And I the only American girl among them. And now just two days later all alone in a Paris hotel, I sit and try to remember just what it was all about. Was it a dream or was it real? Will I ever see any of these people again? Can life ever bring again to me such days and such hours as I spent here on this boat?

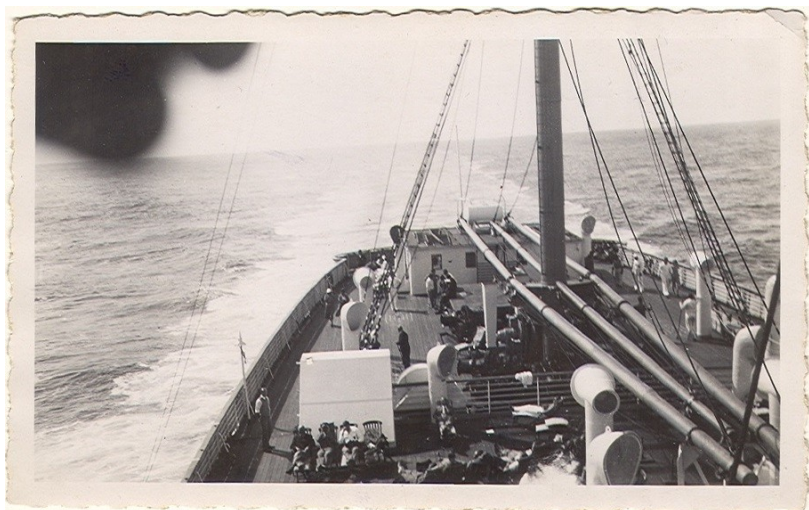
There are many things of which I have not written. But in the days to come when my memory begins to fail me these are the thoughts that I will read and reread with the greatest of pleasure.

Ruth Stoeckly

On the 2nd day of Sept. 1932.

At the Fondation des Unis Etates

Paris, France



Tourist Class Deck
U.S. Deutschland
Gen. Olympic team
seen in port as deck
Aug. 25 - Sept. 1, 1932



The German and Swiss Olympic teams with some of the ship's crew. Ruth identified 10 men in the photograph with numbers and wrote on the back:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Leo Esser | 5-7. On winning team with Hans |
| 2. Coach of rowing team – Eng. | 8. Hans Eller |
| 3. Franz Kartz – flyweight boxer | 9. Paul Reisen |
| 4. Rodemeister | 10. Ernst Müller |

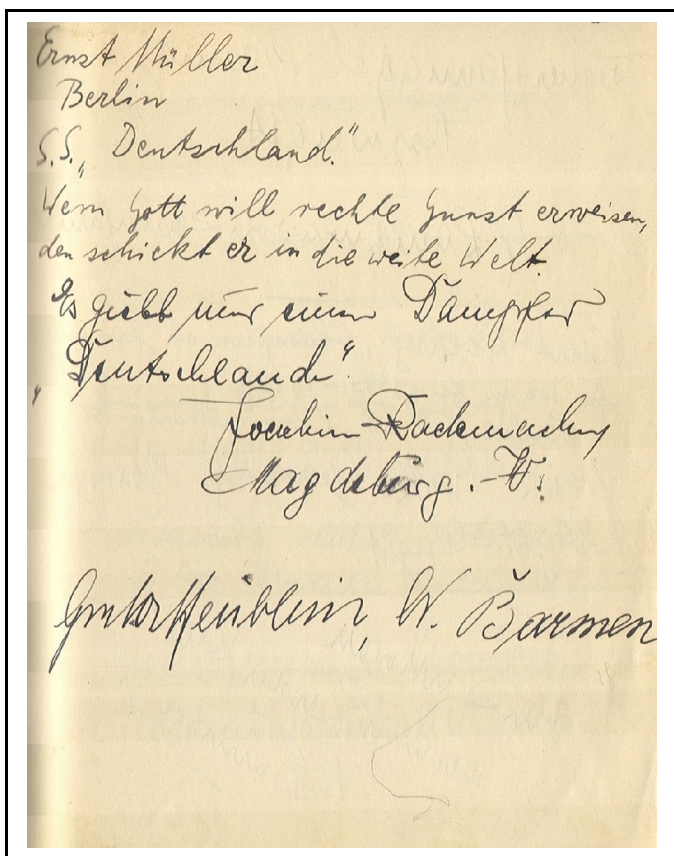
Zoom the file to see the numbers better. The number “9” is especially hard to see; Paul Reisen is the man wearing the dark “Switzerland” sweatshirt in the second row from the bottom.

Chapter 2. Autographs

The following pages show scans of the actual autographs along with my transcriptions. Many of the signatures are hard to read, and I have either denoted letters as xxx or given my guess with (??) by the questionable words. Please let me know if you can decipher any of these!. The 54 signatures that I have definitely identified are given in bold. To the right of their names I have put their sport and any medal which they won in brackets [].

The following german words are used in the autographs:

ruder or rudern	rowing
wasserball	water polo
Deutscher Ruderverband	German rowing association
Verbandswasserballwart	water polo association
Deutscher Olympiasieger	German Olympic sailing
sieger	champion
fünfkampf	pentathlon
ringen	wrestling
rückenschwimmen	backstroke



Ernst Müller

Berlin

S.S. „Deutschland“

XXXX XXX XXX XXX

XXXX XXX X X X XXX

(??)Es girbb uinv sieun Daeptor (??)

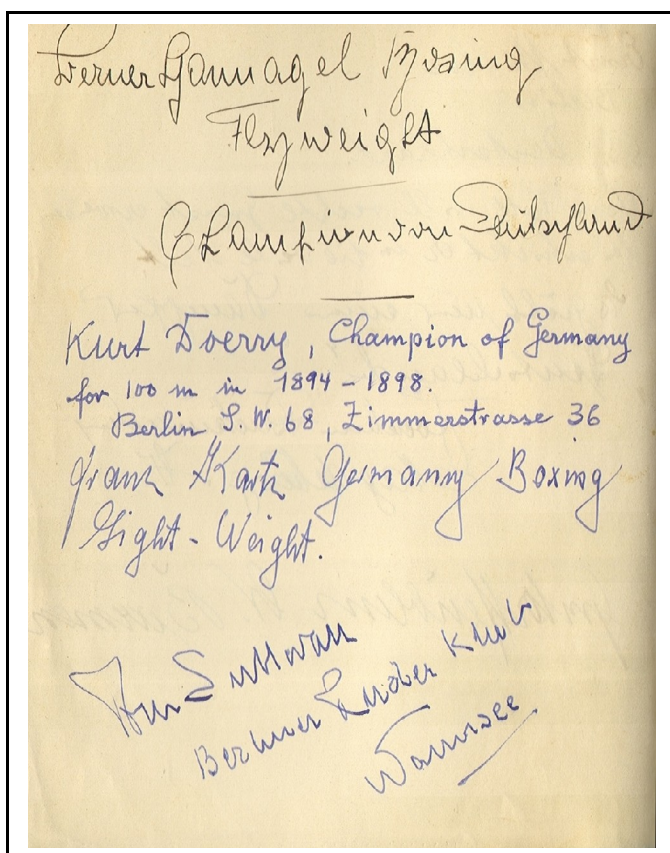
„Deutschland“.

Joachim Rademacher

[silver – water polo]

Magdeburg – NW

(??)Gumtorheinblum W. Barmen(??)



Werner Spannagel xxxx

[boxing - flyweight]

Flyweight

Champion von Deutschland

Kurt Doerry, Champion of Germany

[track – 100m]

for 100m in 1894 - 1898

Berlin L. W. 68, Zimmerstrasse 36

Franz Kartz Germany Boxing

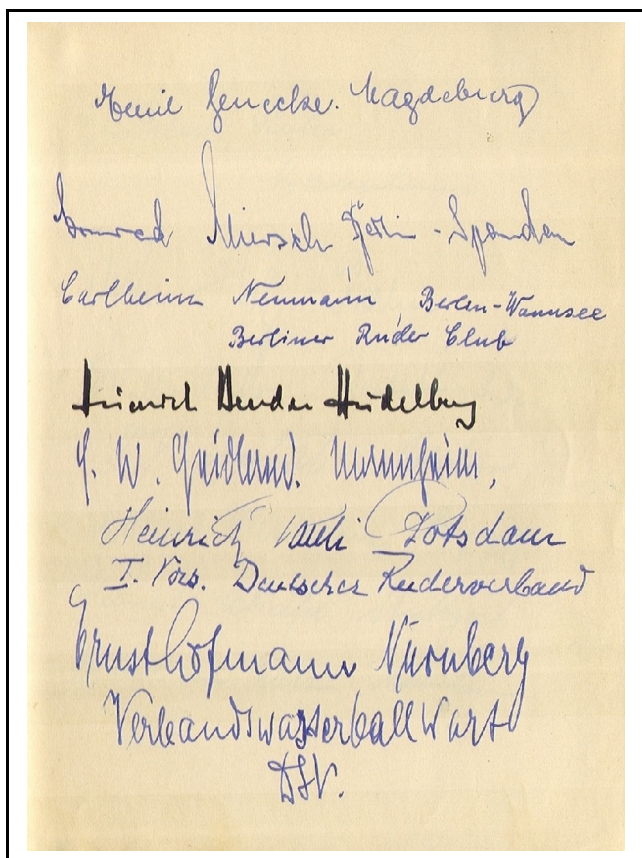
[boxing - lightweight]

Light-Weight

(??)Hans Suttmon(??)

Berliner Ruder Klub

Wannsee



Emil Benecke, Magdeburg

[silver – water polo]

Konrad Miersch xxxxx

[modern pentathlon]

Carlheinz Neumann

[gold – rowing – coxed fours]

Berlin-Wannsee

Berliner Ruder Club

Heinrich Bender Heidelberg

[rowing – coxed eights]

H. W. Heidland Mannheim

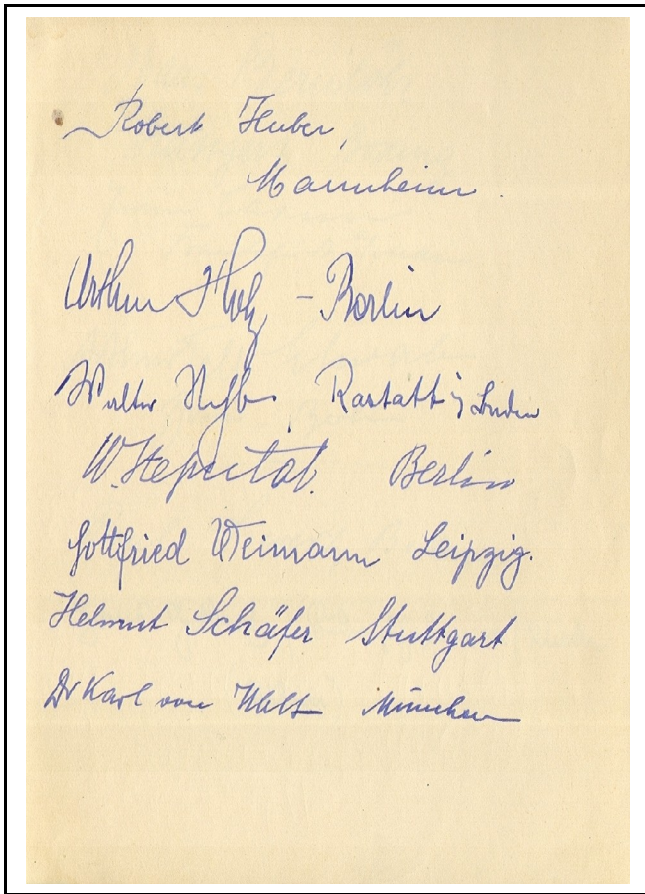
[rowing – coxed eights]

Heinrich xxxxx Gotsdam

I. Vors. Deutscher Ruderverband

Ernst XXXXXX Nuruberg

Verbandswasserballwart DSV



Robert Huber[??], Maxxxheim

Arthur Helz[??] - Berlin

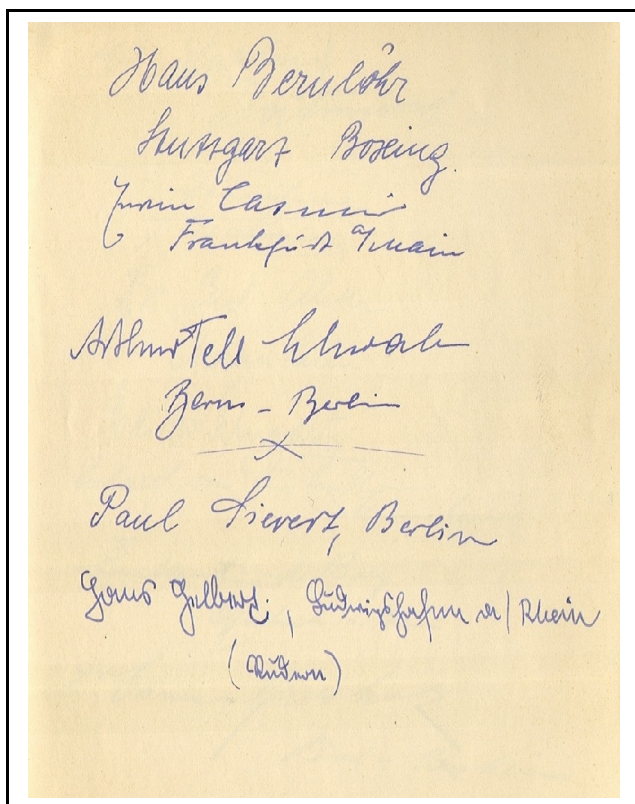
Walter Nehb Rastatt y Baden [track – 400m]

W. (???) Berlin

Gottfried Weimann Leipzig [javelin]

Helmut Schäfer Stuttgart [weightlifting - featherweight]

Hr Karl von Walt(?) München



Hans Bernlöhr

Stuttgart Boxing

[boxing – middleweight]

Erwin Casmir

Frankfurt am Main

[fencing – foil & sabre]

Arthur Tell Schwab

Bern – Berlin

[50km walk, Switzerland]

Paul Sievert, Berlin

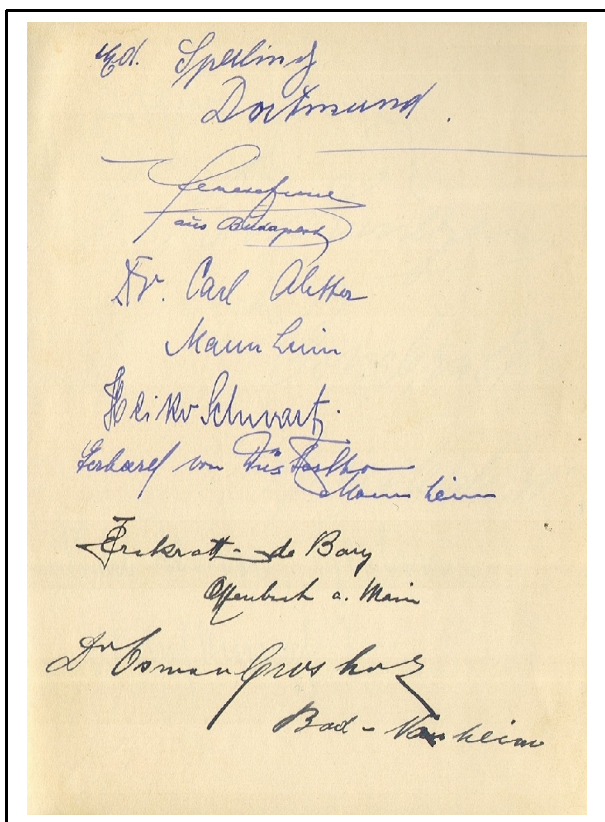
[shot put, discus, decathlon]

Georg Gehring,

Ludwigshafen xxx Rhein

(xxx)

[wrestling – heavyweight]



Ede Sperling
Dortmund

[bronze - wrestling – lightweight]

xxxxxx
aus Budapest

Hr. Carl Aletter
Mannheim

[silver - rowing – coxless fours]

Heiko Schwartz

[silver – water polo]

Gerhard von Dusterloh

[rowing – coxed eights]

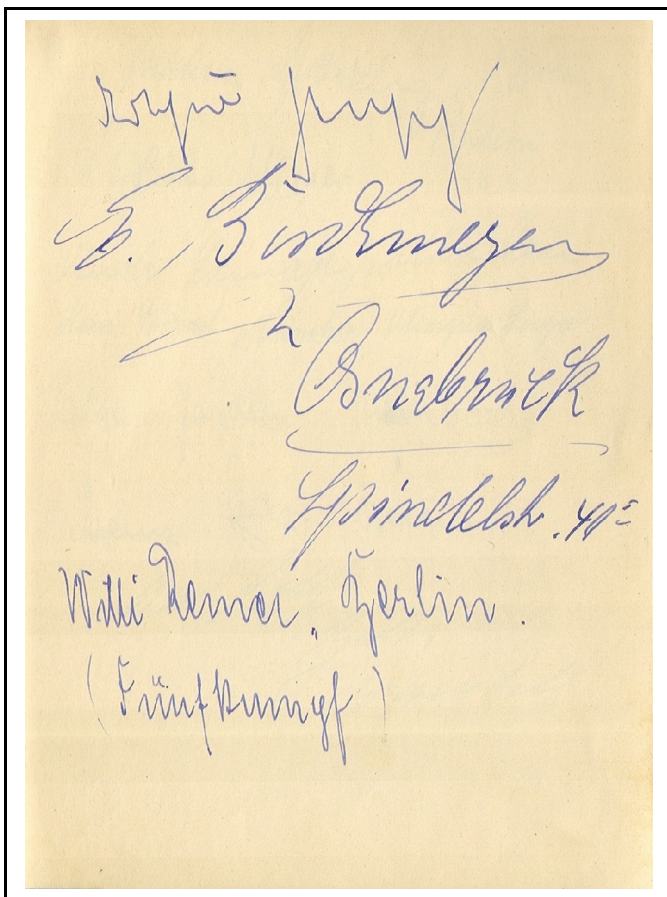
xxxxx

(??)Erikrat de Bany(??)

(??)Offenbach a. Main(??)

(??)Hr Osman Groshas(??)

Bad-nankeim(??)



XXXX XXXX

E. Borchmeyer

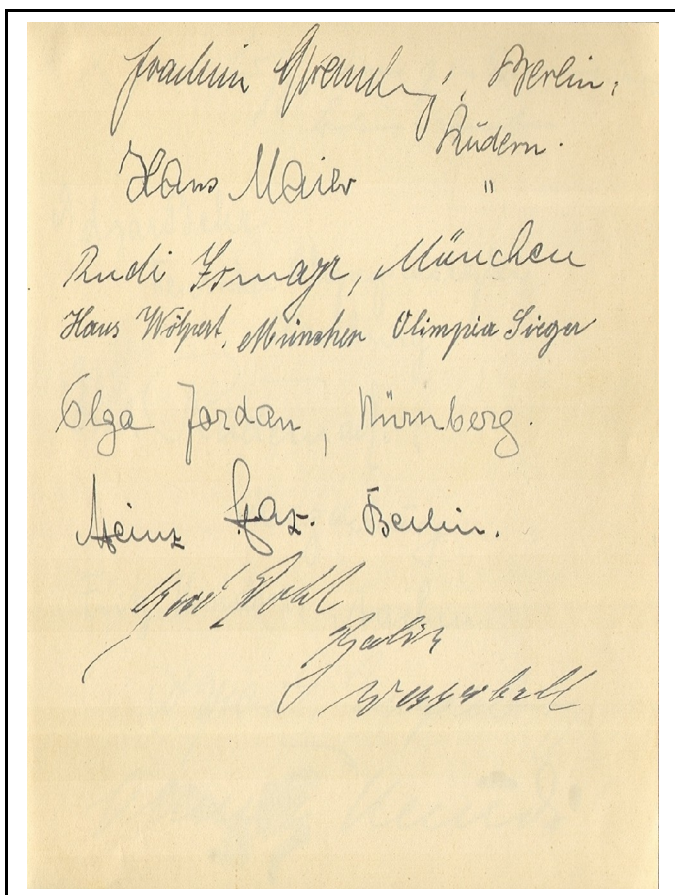
[silver – track - 4x100m relay]

XXXXX

XXXXX

Willi Remer, Berlin
 (fünfkampf)

[modern pentathlon]



Joachim Spremberg, Berlin [gold – rowing – coxed fours]
Rudern

Hans Maier Rudern [silver – rowing – coxless fours]

Rudi Ismayr, München [gold – weightlifting - middleweight]

Hans Wölpert, München Olympia Sieger
[silver - weightlifting – featherweight]

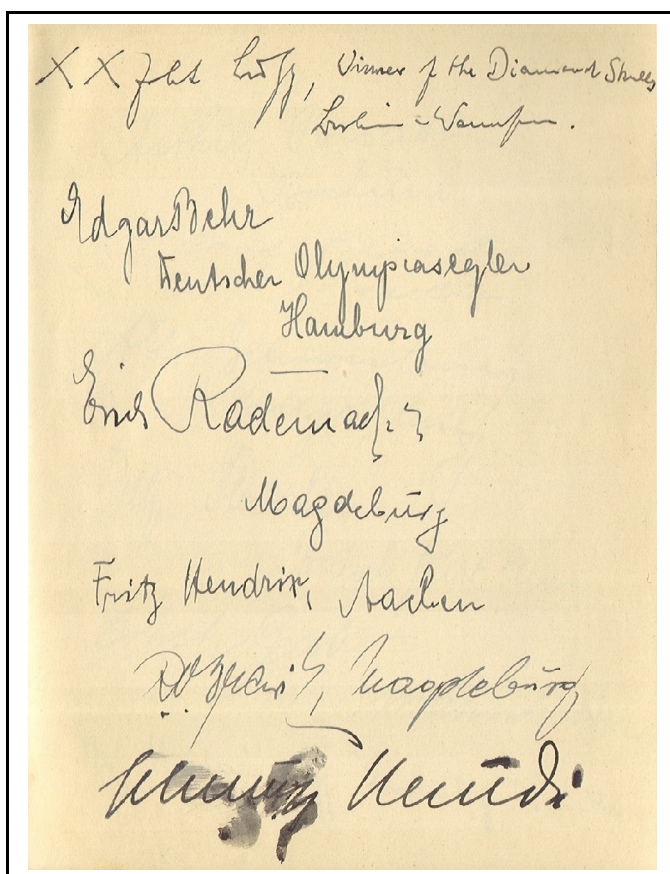
Olga Jordan, Nürnberg [women's springboard diving]

Heinz Hax Berlin [silver – shooting - 25m pistol]

(??)xxx xxx

Berlin

Wasserball



X X (??) , winner of the Diamond Skulls(??)

XXXX XXXX

Edgar Behr

[sailing – one-person dinghy]

Deutscher Olympiasieger

Hamburg

Erich Rademacher

[silver – water polo]

Magdeburg

Fritz Hendrix

[track – 200m – 4x100m relay]

Aachen

[silver – track - 4x100 relay]

XXXX XXXXX XXXXX

(??)Lilissum Weid

Arthur Jonath
 Bochum.
 Horst Hoeck
 Ulli Schwinburg
 Magdeburg
 Tilly Fleischer
 Frankfurt am
 Ernst Gaber
 Mannheim
 Th. Hullinghoff, Frankfurt a. M.

Arthur Jonath

Bochum

[silver – track – 4x100m relay]

[bronze – track – 100m]

Horst Hoeck

Berlin

[gold – rowing – coxed fours]

(??)Ulli Schwinburg(??)

Magdeburg

Tilly Fleischer

Frankfurt xxx

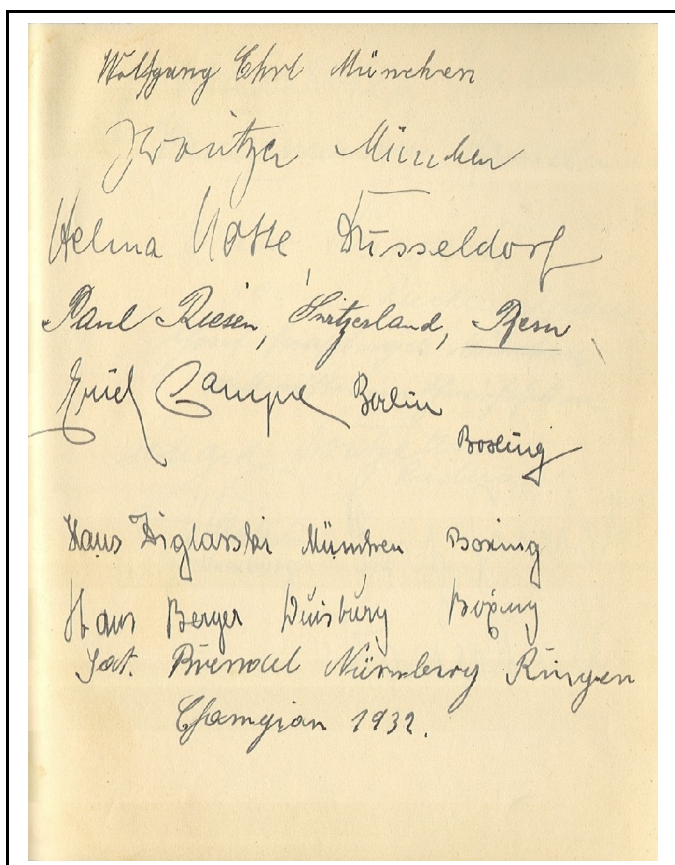
[bronze – women's javelin]

Ernst Gaber

Mannheim

[silver – rowing – coxless fours]

Th. Hullinghoff, Frankfurt am Main [rowing – coxed eights]



Wolfgang Ehrl München [silver – wrestling – featherweight]

(?) zwanzger München

Helma Notte Düsseldorf [women's high jump]

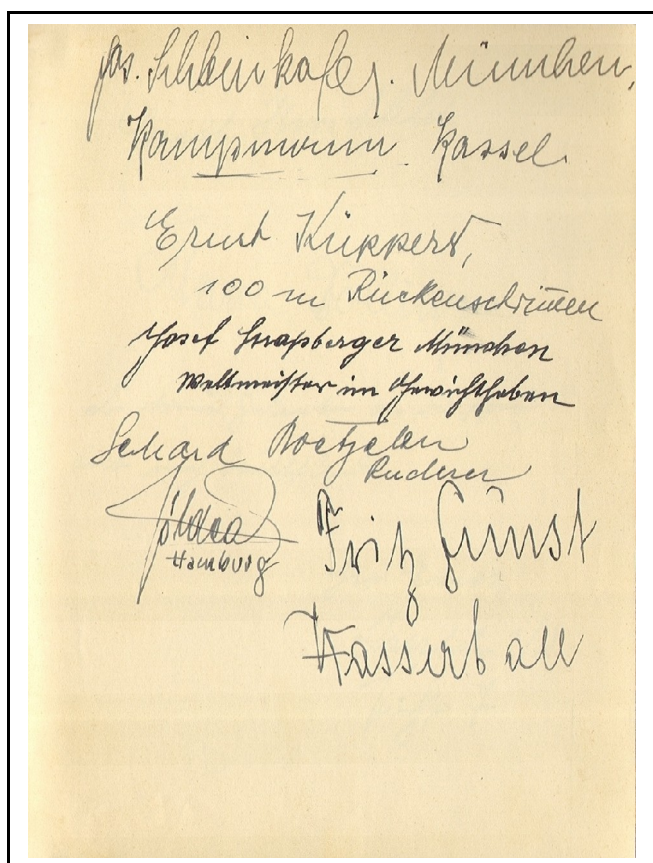
Paul Riesen, Switzerland, Bern [high jump – Swiss team]

Erich Campe Berlin Boxing [silver – boxing – welterweight]

Hans Ziglarski München Boxing
[silver – boxing – bantamweight]

Hans Berger Duisburg Boxing [boxing – light-heavyweight]

Jakob Brendel Nürnberg Ringen
Champion 1932 [gold – wrestling – bantamweight]



Josef Schleinkofer München [silver – boxing – featherweight]
 xxxxxxx kassel(??)

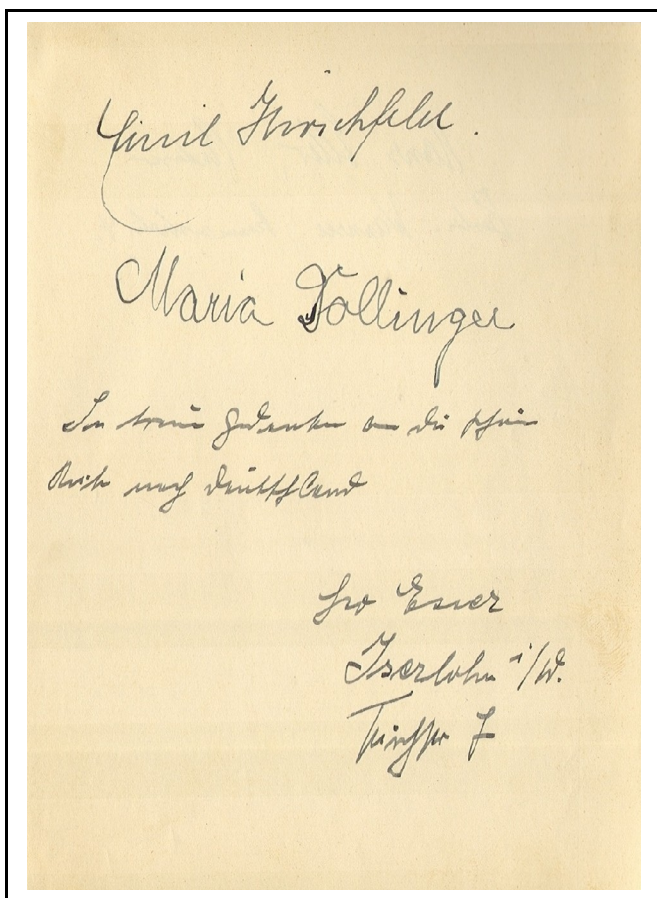
Ernst Küppers [swimming – 100m backstroke]
 100m Rückenschwimmen

Josef Straßberger München
 xxxxxx im xxxxx [bronze – weightlifting – heavyweight]

Gerhard Boetzelen [silver – double sculls]
 Rudern

Földeak [silver – wrestling – middleweight]
 Hamburg

Fritz Gunst [silver – water polo]
 Wasserball



Emil Hirschfeld

[shot put – discus]

Maria Dollinger

[track – 100m & 4x100m relay]

XX XXX XXX XX XXX XXXX

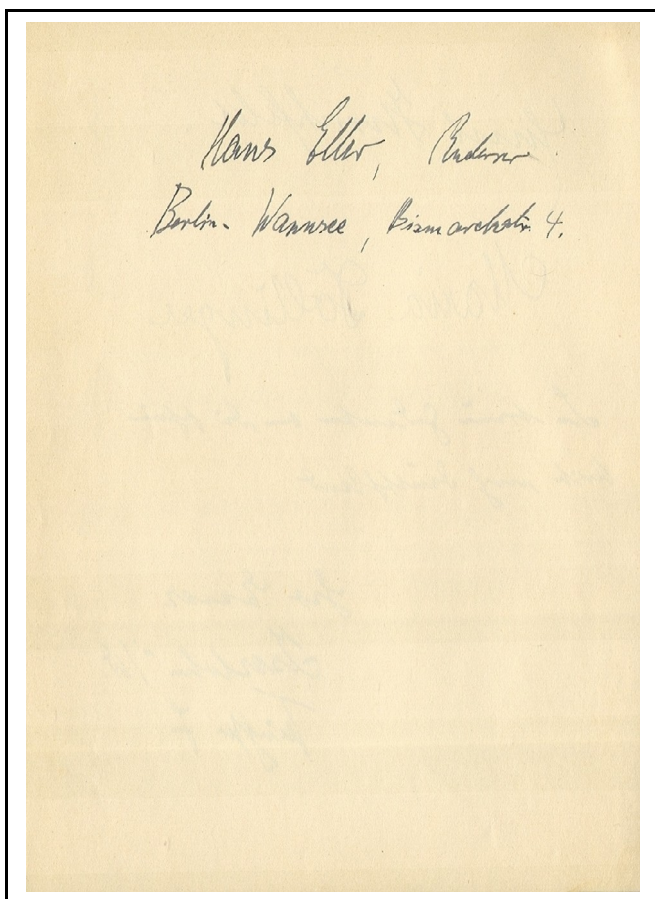
XXX XX XXXXX

Leo Esser

[diving – springboard]

Iserlohn i/W

XXXXXX



Hans Eller, Rudern

[gold – rowing – coxed fours]

Berlin, Wannsee, Bismarckstr 4

Box 332
Garden City
Kans.



Miss Ruth Stoeckly
Ship Deutschland
New York City
New York

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Bon Voyage

Have a good time
Wherever you roam
And don't forget
To come back home.

Your family