



by Henrik Eberle

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Non-Fiction

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Letters to Hitler: A People Writes To Its Führer

Briefe an Hitler. Ein Volk schreibt seinem Führer. Unbekannte Dokumente aus Moskauer Archiven

review

Here is a bizarre discovery indeed: a cache of letters, unearthed from the Moscow archives, of the letters written to Hitler by ordinary Germans of both sexes and all ages between the years 1925 and 1945. Some are naïve and gushing – literally Hitler’s fan mail. ‘I love you so much. Write to me – please. Many greetings, your Gina.’ This from a seven-year-old. Many of her elders offered excruciating verse. In the earlier years, when the full scope of Nazi ideology was still to be revealed, many perfectly respectable people – teachers, students, priests, nuns, high-flying businessmen and their opposites on the breadline – wrote expressing gratitude for the alleviation of poverty and suggesting further ideas for change. Even some Jews wrote appreciative letters at first, until the pleas of the persecuted became even more heartrending when contrasted with the vicious outpourings of the Jew-baiters.

Gruesome though it is overall, Eberle should be congratulated on putting together this book, which illuminates from a new angle the fanaticism that engulfed a nation. One statistic supplies a corrective, however. In 1934 the Führer received some 12,000 letters. On his birthday in April 1945 the total was less than a hundred.

press quotes

'A groundbreaking historical document.' – *Daily Telegraph on The Hitler Book*

'A revealing view of public opinion in the years [through] to 1945.' – *Der Stern on Briefe an Hitler*

about the author

Henrik Eberle, born in 1970, holds a doctorate in history and teaches contemporary history at the Martin-Luther University in Halle (Saale). He has written about the history of German dictatorships, East and West, in a variety of publications, including *Die Zeit*, *Bild* and *Deutschlandarchiv*. In 2005, in collaboration with Matthias Uhl, he wrote *The Hitler Book*, which was published by *Verlagsgruppe Lübbe* and became an international bestseller, translated into thirty languages.

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