

**AN AMERICAN  
IN GERMANY**

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An American in Germany by E. E. Pattou

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**E. E. PATTOU**

**AN AMERICAN  
IN GERMANY**



Heath's Modern Language Series

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AN AMERICAN IN GERMANY

BY

E. E. PATTOU

*Revised Edition*

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## PREFACE

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Many Americans who have studied German for some years, and even those who are thoroughly familiar with the grammar and who translate readily, have had the experience of finding themselves, on arrival in Germany, totally incapable of carrying on a conversation in the language.

The vocabulary of everyday life seems somehow to have been omitted in the composition of the usual grammar exercises, while the classical reading, required for college or Regent's examinations, is of even less practical assistance to persons desirous of speaking modern German. The requirement in regard to oral work, which was recently introduced by the New York Board of Regents, reveals, however, a healthy trend toward more practical methods.

In preparing this volume, in which a total of about four thousand words is introduced, I have aimed to equip students with the usual vocabulary of the modern educated German; thus preparing them both for profitable and pleasurable sojourning in Germany and for a better appreciation of their readings in modern German. The phraseology of everyday life in its various relations: of the theatre, the shop, the hotel, society, comment on music, art, books, and so forth, is illustrated in typical conversations. Each idiom is employed, unobtrusively, not less than three separate times, a repetition which, as psychologists tell us, "makes it our own." A mastery of the forty-six *Plaudereien* will enable American or English students, who have a fair gram-

mathematical foundation, to converse with some degree of ease, from the first moment of arrival in Germany.

While the *Conversations* will, in general, be found suitable for mixed classes, a few (such as *Plaudereien* 25 and 26) may be omitted, if desired. In the same way, for girls' schools, *Plauderei* 27 would, of course, be inappropriate. In such *Conversations* as "Über Bücher, Zeitschriften, usw." no attempt has been made to introduce literary comment, the design of the method being, here as elsewhere, merely to bring to the pupil's notice those words and phrases suitable for intelligent conversation on the subject in hand.

When employed weekly, in connection with grammar and reading, the lessons form one school-year's course. A basis of not less than two years' previous grammar study is presupposed, in order that the best results be achieved.

In employing this method the teacher must, naturally, be guided by size of class, conditions of work, etc. Excellent progress, however, will be noted if the following suggestions be heeded.

1. The home-preparation of the *Conversations* should be performed *viva voce*, each phrase being repeated until it runs as smoothly as possible. An unhesitating and (as the pupil advances) fairly rapid recitation should be urged, as tending to develop fluency and to aid the student in learning to *think* in German.

2. The Notes should be recited as part of each lesson. The words therein suggested and explained are helpful in forming impromptu conversations, an exercise which may be introduced with profit after the tenth lesson.

3. The first five *Plaudereien* should be memorized and recited in rotation by pairs of pupils, as if they were engaging in actual conversation.



4. As it would be impossible to memorize the entire forty-six *Conversations*, it is suggested, for the subsequent conduct of large classes, that the English version be written on the blackboard, or placed before the pupil by means of hectograph copies. Guided thus by the English, the student should be able to give the sentences in German without hesitation. If possible, no English should be spoken by the teacher during the recitation of a *Plauderei*.

I acknowledge gratefully the assistance of Dr. Paul Kunzer of the New England College of Languages, Boston, whose keen and critical examination of the *Conversations* was a valuable service.

E. E. PATTOU.

YONKERS, N. Y., 1911.

NOTE TO SECOND EDITION. — The author is greatly indebted to Professor E. H. P. Grossmann of Simmons College for kindly pointing out certain errors and opportunities for improvement in the first edition. Many of the latter have already been found feasible for this edition.

NOTE TO THIRD EDITION. — The author gratefully acknowledges corrections or improvements kindly furnished by Fräulein Else Klemm, a well-known teacher in Berlin, from whom hundreds of American professors and teachers have received instruction.



## CONTENTS

|   | PAGE |
|---|------|
| 1. Eine Vorstellung, An introduction (social) . . . . .                                   | 2    |
| 2. Man bestellt das kleine Frühstück, Ordering morning-coffee . . . . .                   | 4    |
| 3. Das Zimmermädchen, The chambermaid . . . . .   | 8    |
| 4. Beim Abendbrot, At supper . . . . .  | 12   |
| 5. Man lernt Deutsch in Amerika, Learning German in America . . . . .                     | 16   |
| 6. Eine Einladung aufs Rathaus, A summons to the City Hall . . . . .                      | 20   |
| 7. Sind Sie viel in Europa gereist? Have you traveled much<br>in Europe? . . . . .        | 24   |
| 8. Ein Student der Musik in Berlin, A music-student in Berlin . . . . .                   | 28   |
| 9. Besuch, Visitors . . . . .   | 31   |
| 10. Eine Stunde (a), A lesson (a) . . . . .   | 36   |
| 11. Eine Stunde (b), A lesson (b) . . . . .   | 40   |
| 12. Die Ankunft auf dem Bahnhof und im Hotel, Arrival at sta-<br>tion and hotel . . . . . | 44   |
| 13. Beim Einkaufen, Shopping . . . . .  | 48   |
| 14. Ein Ausflug (a), A trip (a) . . . . .   | 52   |
| 15. Ein Ausflug (b), A trip (b) . . . . .   | 56   |
| 16. Ein Besuch beim Arzt, A visit at the doctor's . . . . .                               | 60   |
| 17. Die Wäschfrau, The laundress . . . . .  | 64   |
| 18. Auf Reisen (a), Traveling (a) . . . . .   | 68   |
| 19. Auf Reisen (b), Traveling (b) . . . . .   | 72   |
| 20. Über Sport, About sports . . . . .  | 76   |
| 21. Auf der Post, At the post-office . . . . .  | 80   |
| 22. Im Automobil, Automobiling in Germany . . . . .                                       | 84   |
| 23. Im Theater (a), At the theatre (a) . . . . .  | 90   |
| 24. Im Theater (b), At the theatre (b) . . . . .  | 94   |
| 25. Bei der Schneiderin, At the dressmaker's . . . . .                                    | 98   |
| 26. Beim Damen-Schneider, At the ladies' tailor's . . . . .                               | 102  |
| 27. Ein Herr beim Schneider, A gentleman at the tailor's . . . . .                        | 104  |
| 28. Im Restaurant, At the restaurant . . . . .  | 108  |
| 29. Die Abfahrt vom Hotel, Leaving the hotel . . . . .                                    | 110  |