An Unpublished Whitman Postcard to Karl Knortz

Edwin Haviland Miller

Abstract

Presents a previously unpublished postcard dated April 20th, 1883, and provides a brief description of its addressee.
NOTES

On the Back Cover:
AN UNPUBLISHED WHITMAN POSTCARD TO KARL KNORTZ

1216.4 To Karl Knortz
ADDRESS: Dr Karl Knortz | cor Morris Av. & 155th Street | New York City. POSTMARK: Philadelphia | PA. | Apr 20 '83 | 2 30 PM.

431 Stevens Street | Camden
New Jersey | April 20 - 1883 -

Thank you heartily for the German renderings — which have been duly rec’d.

Walt Whitman

At a sale at Swann Galleries in New York on September 12, 1991, this previously unknown postcard was auctioned for $440, Sale 1568, #272.

In 1883, Karl Knortz (1841-1918), the author of many articles on German-American affairs, was living in New York City (Corr., 3:289n). In his letters to Whitman that year Knortz frequently included “German renderings” of poems in Leaves of Grass. Later he assisted T. W. H. Rolleston in Grashalme (Zurich, 1889), which “marks the real beginning of Whitman’s influence” in Germany (Gay Wilson Allen, ed., Walt Whitman Abroad [Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1955], 17.)

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