

Royster vs. Maerz: A collection of messages between Dietrich Maerz, self-proclaimed world-famous expert on the Knights Cross and A.D. Royster who disputes this claim.

On 4/13/11 1:01 PM, "Arthur Royster" <adroyster@hotmail.com> wrote:

Dear Herr Maerz:

You have no idea how much entertainment I have gotten by reading your furious and hysterical postings about me on the Wehrmacht Awards site.

I note with amusement that you complain about the fact that I am not German and that there are *misspellings* in my posting on fake Knights Crosses.

But I also note with even more amusement that you somehow seem to avoid discussing any of the critical points that I have raised about fake decorations.

How could a man with your brilliant, engineering mind miss such an issue?

There is an old American saying that it is the kicked dog who yelps and in this case, the dog is yelping overtime.

It is obvious to me, and many others, that you protest too much. I have said that your book on the Knights Cross is a well-produced work but filled with what can only be called deliberate disinformation about the Knights Cross. And also, your biographical background on the late Dr. Kurt-Gerhard Klietmann is entirely incorrect.

As I was the person who had Klietmann arrested and his Godet dies confiscated, I know a good deal about the man, his wife (Frau Paetzold) whom you claim, in error, was his "secretary," and your allegations that Klietmann married the Godet heiress are utter nonsense. And nonsense in the same category as your entirely inaccurate, and self-serving, remarks about alleged diamond-studded German decorations purportedly being "discovered" by American troops at Schloss Klessheim in May of 1945. All the decorations found in a safe there were confiscated and cataloged by the U.S. Army and sent to the U.S. Army museum at West Point where they remain to this day. Merchandisers, such as yourself and your generally ignorant friends and supporters, have embroidered on this event to cover the sudden appearance of such items, and Merz-endorsed sales to a gullible public. I

knew Hans-Uklrich Rudel, saw and photographed his Gold Oakleaves to the Knights Cross and know, for a fact that only one was produced in January of 1945. Once I publicize this material, I rather feel sorry for the poor victims who bought these, touted at "absolutely authentic" from various auctions and lists.

I am beginning to discover that a growing number of collectors are becoming very disenchanted with the flood of expensive fakes being touted and shoved off on them. I do not know when this will happen but trust me, sooner or later a man who was swindled out of tens of thousands of dollars for a fantasy "*Feldherrnhalle* dagger" or a "rare zinc-centered very early Knights Cross" (no doubt complete with a Maerz Certificate of Authenticity) will seek out either the FBI or an attorney (or both, hopefully) and make an attempt to get their money back.

And as a final note here, the pin on the reverse of the fake "Star" to the Iron Cross depicted in your book on page 341 is so crude as to make me wonder as to why such a meticulous expert as yourself would ever put this crude fake into what you allege as the final word on the subject.

It does occur to me, sir, that perhaps you might have had a connection of some kind with the seller.

And insofar as your shrill yelpings are concerned, pray let me say the same thing to you as Goetz von B. said to the Bishop of Bamberg

(Note: What Götze von Berlichingen said to the Bishop was: Kiss my ass!)

As a German I trust you will understand this. When I publish, I will elaborate for my non-German readers.

Arthur D. Royster

Date: Wed, 13 Apr 2011 13:47:42 -0400
Subject: Re: Your latest postings
From: dmaerz@ironcross1939.com
To: adroyster@hotmail.com

Dear Mr. "Royster" (:):):)),

You amaze me with your capability to include so many errors every time you write something. It is one thing to postulate things you can't prove, but it is certainly a completely different thing to state so-called facts which can be proven as wrong very easily. This time we have the following: the quote you mean (and thank you for not using your rudimentary German ...) was not from Götze to the Bishop of Bamberger (sic. Bamberg) but to a regular captain from the Imperial Army **Wrong. The passage is quite famous**

in German literature, as you ought to know if you had actually gone to school in Germany. I ought to check with U.S. Immigration and find out when you came into this country. Soon.

- there are only three of the total of 20 German Cross with Diamonds in West Point. You might know that I was invited there by the head of the museum, Mr. McAfee, and had the chance to go through the inventory. The official inventory shows only *three* were found at Klessheim in May of 1945. When Mr. McAfee let you go through their inventory, did you see more? If so, do enlighten us. Did they shake you down after the visit? Or could recent fakes have been sold to suckers with the legend that they came from Klessheim?
- your (earlier) assertion that the 3rd. Infantry Division had no Engineers did not sit well with some veterans of the 10th. Engineer Combat Battalion Mr, Burmeister mentioned a specific Combat Engineer unit that he, and you, falsely claim to have found the rare medals you are authenticating and he is selling. Unfortunately, there was no such unit in the American Army in 1945 and, in any case, all the contents of the Klessheim safe were turned over to West Point and were not "harvested" by the brilliant Mr. Burmesiter in recent years.
- the name is Ulrich Rudel, not **Ukl**rich (maybe you visited the wrong guy??) Actually, dear, it is **Hans**-Ulrich as you ought to know.
- the Golden Oakleaves were produced before January 1945 since the award to Rudel took place January 1, 1945. But we know already you are not very good in research. Why don't you prove this statement instead of just expecting readers who might have bought a recent fake to believe you? Why should anyone believe you after all? I have been making specific statements about frauds and in response, you babble on about misspellings. Address the issues or we all must assume that you can not and are making distracting noises to keep people from realizing that you deal in fictions, not facts
- my name is Maerz, not **Merz** (but your name is NOT Royster :):) Well, if my name is not Royster, pray tell me what it is? Your dwarf-boy Gottlieb now says I live in Kansas. I do not and never have. When he told me this entertaining lie, I asked him to give me my address and, like you, he babbled on about something entirely different. You ought to have a dinner with him but then your wives might object.
- there are not only rare zinc-cored Knights Crosses but also very rare ones made with a copper core. Please don't forget them. And yes, I already wrote some COAs for them. Yes, there are copper, zinc, brass cored Knights Crosses of the period but they are *not issue pieces* and were made for sale to *museums only* and not for issue to holders of the decoration. These pieces are worth about \$300 and not a cent

more. And why not "authenticate" a Grand Cross made out of rubber that Hermann wore in his bath? Also, the so-called half-ring pieces are postwar fakes and I have the construction plans from the postwar dealer who invented and manufactured them which I will be putting up. I wonder how many of these laughable frauds your friends have been shoving off on the sucker brigade?

- and, again, the name is Klietmann not Kleitmann. You arrested the wrong man ...**I got the right man, love and what happened to Kurt-Gerhard is going to happen to others.**
- Take care and continue to amuse the collector community! There is a reason why your newsletter is for free ... **You and your friends and the collecting world will be hearing a great deal from me in the future, rest assured. And do remember the word of Goetz, won't you? It fits you very well.**

Dietrich Maerz

PS to the Bcc: this time I got it directly!

Date: Thu, 14 Apr 2011 08:36:41 -0400
Subject: Re: Your latest postings
From: Limited@ironcross1939.com
To: adroyster@hotmail.com

Thank you for putting in writing that Royster is not your correct name. You flat out fell for it. Now all the conversation will go to the FBI Cyber Crime Unit!

Date: Thu, 14 Apr 2011 10:35:56 -0400
Subject: Re: Your latest postings
From: Limited@ironcross1939.com
To: adroyster@hotmail.com

" Well, if my name is not Royster, pray tell me what it is? Your dwarf-boy Gottlieb now says I live in Kansas. I do not and never have. When he told me this entertaining lie, I asked him to give me my address and, like you, he babbled on about something entirely different. You ought to have a dinner with him but then your wives might object."

I will also forward your last e-mail also to the FBI. The statement that you (under the name of Royster, as you claim) are already in contact with them is very helpful. I hope for you it is true, though. Making false

statements about the FBI is not a good thing!

On 4/14/11 10:25 AM, "Arthur Royster" <adroyster@hotmail.com> wrote:

More entertainment from the moronic.

I have *never* said my name was not Royster.

And I have been working with that FBI unit for six weeks now and your name is prominent as an individual who is facilitating a Federal crime, viz using the mails (and Internet) to defraud.

I am also in touch with the INS service and want to find out when, and where, you came into this country and if you are a citizen or only have a Green Card.

The others of your sleazy friends have really fallen for it, dude, and you can have adjoining cells in Leavenworth.

No doubt you think I am joking but do laugh when walking past the cemetery.

Just think of all the modern fakes you and your friends have been shoving, knowingly, off on a public.

My Russian friends and my German ones have been circulating all of my writings to collectors in their countries and I understand that doubt about authenticity is beginning to creep in.

You might just get deported, if you are not a citizen.

If you are, since you don't knowingly sell fakes or, better, take them across State lines to sell them, you could turn evidence on the others.

Do let your lawyer know about this.

As far as I am concerned, note that it is not a crime to report a crime. I do not authenticate fakes and share in the profits as you do. The FBI and the Department of Justice do not care if someone buys a pair of Woolly-Baa-Baa slippers for ten dollars that are made of paper instead of lambs wool if they cost twenty dollars but they do care about things such as the "Kesselring baton" and Charlie Snyder's hugely expensive "Hitler paintings," That sell to the unwary for hundreds of thousands of dollars, The government has asked me about proving falseness and I have given them the names of recognized experts, both here and in Europe, who are more than willing to inspect, judge and later testify. Also, I have reams of promotional literature from the manufacturers of fakes from this country, Eastern Europe and

Southeast Asia. Nice illustrations and price lists. PayPal records are open to government inspection so if Dealer A bought a "rare" piece from a firm in, let us say, Pakistan, as a fake and it later appears in his list, his private showing room or his "auction," for a hundred thousand dollars, he is dead meat.

Arthur Royster

From: Arthur Royster [mailto:adroyster@hotmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2011 01:37 PM

To: limited@ironcross1939.com <limited@ironcross1939.com>

Subject: RE: Your latest postings

I would like to know what you are smoking.

In my sending to you I said "Well, if my name is not Royster, pray tell me what it is?" This, you claim, is some sort of "evidence" against me?

I am delighted to hear that you are sending emails to the FBI.

Don't forget to sign your name while you're at it.

It seems you have no knowledge of the American legal system (something that will soon be rectified) but if all I have done is to expose criminal activities that fall under Title 18 of the US Code (which I have done and am doing) no one I know can see where I have violated any Federal laws.

You, on the other hand, have been "authenticating" fake medals and assisting crooked dealers to sell them.

This can be considered conspiracy under American law.

I would earnestly suggest that you discuss this matter with an attorney before you continue to vent your spleen in public utterances

It is obvious to me, and others (I am posting all of this and sending it to the 2000+ people on my email lists) that your howling is more from fear than anger. The wicked, sir, flee where no man persueth

ADR

ps: Do try to improve your English. You stumble around in this language like a Bessarabian rag picker.

Arthur D. Royster

Herr Maerz:

After your threats to turn me into the "FBI Cybercrimes" people (whatever that might be) I have done more research on you, your dealer friends and material you have put into your book on the Knights Cross.

From the first moment that I posted an article on the Guerrilla Warfare Badges, you have displayed a hostility to me that bordered on hysteria.

In reading through your Knights Cross book, I at once understood the reasons for both your anger and incoherence.

While your book is a beautifully illustrated work, I regret to say that as an all-inclusive primer on the subject, it falls lamentably short of any kind of perfection. Pretty pictures aside, it is so full of obvious, and I fear deliberate, errata as to render it useless to a novice collector. You do cover original pieces very well but you also promote outright fakes such as the Klein & Quenzer pieces, the post-war "half-circle loop" pieces and you misidentify, by accident or design, many other pieces. Your mistakes are legion and you either have not, or cannot, read the period source material you tout so lovingly in your text.

The main bone of contention, as I see it, is your ludicrous elevation of known museum copies of the Knights Cross to "rare, unique and original early issue" pieces. If you were the expert you claim to be, you would clearly recognize that a medal with a non-iron center made of copper, brass or even zinc, and with a non-silver rim is nothing more nor less than something produced, during the period to be sure, but not intended for "private purchase sale" and is only a copy made specifically for military displays and museums.

I give you a case in point:

I have a complete collection of the Pour le Mérite. This is on a display panel and consists of all the classes of this Prussian decoration, to include the Grand Cross, Star to the Grand Cross and lower forms of the order. Rare and original? Yes, and of the period to be sure. However, all of the beautifully enameled pieces are absolutely flat on the reverse and bear the marks of the military effects firm of Paul Meybauer. In no way do I, or any other legitimate collector, believe that these were intended to be actual awards. What you are now doing is to take such pieces from a later period and hyping them as "rare and original" items.

In reading over the sales lists and auction catalogs of your friends and supporters in the upper levels of the dealing (as separate from the collecting) world, I can see why you made such gross errors. These lists and auctions are stuffed full of these pieces and at very high prices indeed. And in order to assist sales, your book is cited as an authority for the originality of the pieces.

It doesn't matter that only *one* copy of the Gold Oakleaves and Swords with Diamonds was ever made. German records now in the Bundesarchiv and available for research clearly prove this fact.

Now, one reads the story that these were found in boxes inside Schloss Klessheim by a unit of the American Army in May of 1945 and looted. The pieces currently being sold are said to have come from this source. Unfortunately for you and your friends, only a few expensive decorations were found at the Schloss and were *all* turned over to the United States Army Museum at West Point, New York. There were no such decorations as the Gold Knights Cross with Diamonds or the Gold Knight's Cross of the War Service Cross (a post-war fantasy piece entirely) in the period inventory and as an amusing aside, the much-touted "U.S. Army Combat Engineer" unit you and your friends so lovingly mention *did not exist* during the war. So here we have a non-existent unit looting non-existent medals that now, many years after the end of the war appear in droves like fungus after a rain.

This would be highly entertaining if it were not for the fact that many collectors have been deliberately swindled by these methods and this swindling also extends to the rarer formal Knights Cross certificates, a legion of totally fake 'Field Marshal' batons, diamond studded 'Feldherrnhalle' daggers and a barn full of fake "Adolf Hitler paintings."

You and your friends might find this entertaining and profitable but the only accurate word for this sort of activity is criminal fraud.

This greedy and criminal activity is doing terrible damage to the legitimate collecting world and the sooner officialdom puts an end to it, the better for all of us.

Arthur D. Royster

From: adroyster@hotmail.com
To: dmaerz@ironcross1939.com
Subject: Your last letter
Date: Fri, 15 Apr 2011 17:18:49 -0700

Dear Mr. Maerz:

With reference to my last communication, I am still waiting for your

expert answers to my specific questions. In the event that you have overlooked them, pray let me repeat the more salient ones for you.

1. I have asked you to supply me, and through me, the collecting world, specific official, period references to Knights Crosses intended for issuance to awardees that state the decorations are to be made of copper, brass or zinc. Also I request the same information on the use of nickel-silver instead of silver for the rims.
2. I asked about the specific unit name of the U.S. Army Combat Engineer Battalion that is purported to have found rare Third Reich decoration hidden in *Schloss* Klessheim in May of 1945. Could you confirm this, please?
3. It might be instructive if you also were able to supply an approximate, and as concrete as possible, listing of rare Third Reich decorations that this unit was supposed to have found and removed at the time.
4. Please produce period proof that the so-called semi-circular suspension ring on a Knights Cross was manufactured and issued during the course of the Third Reich and the name of the manufacturer
5. I have microfilm copies of various official records I obtained from the *Bundesarchiv* in Koblenz that deal specifically with the firms that were under contract to produce the Knights Cross, how many they did produce and at what period. As you indicate that you also have such records, could you provide me with the *Aktenzeichen* of each list so that I can compare this with the *Aktenzeichen* on my copies?

Your attention to these issues would be very gratefully received and could certainly clarify certain points of disagreement between the two of us, and, of course, a growing number of the collecting world. And if possible, could you give me the names of the firm(s) who produced the Gold Knights Cross with Swords and Diamonds during the course of the Third Reich? I would like to compare your figures with mine.

Most sincerely,

A.D. Royster