

Rotary International Banquet in Wiesbaden (1935)

Abstract

Rotary International was founded in 1905 in Evanston, Illinois. Over the course of the twentieth century, Rotary attracted thousands of members from across the globe. The club promoted high ethical standards in business, the creation of networks of communication and support for its members, and the importance of using one's profession to serve society and create international understanding and goodwill. Rotarians saw one another as citizens of the world. German Rotarians hosted the Rotary International Banquet in Wiesbaden in May 1935. In this image, the German clubs pose with their international counterparts in the banquet hall. Hanging above are the flags of the participating nations, with the Rotary flag hanging next to the swastika. When the Nazis came to power, the Rotary Club in Germany forced out its Jewish members. Many Germans tried during the early years of the regime to reconcile the extreme nationalism of the Third Reich with their self-proclaimed identities as citizens of the world. Eventually, Rotary Germany was forcibly disbanded in 1937 and re-formed again in West Germany in 1950.

Source



Source: Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preußischer Kulturbesitz Berlin, I. HA, Rep. 228, Nr. 977.

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