

A Festschrift for Hiroshi Yonekura  
on the Occasion of His 65th Birthday

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LANGUAGE  
AND  
BEYOND

Eichosha  
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## **Edward Breck, Anglo-Saxon Scholar, Golf Champion and Master Spy**

Heiner Gillmeister

**Compared with Edward Breck, Tiger Woods and his ilk lead a rather uninteresting, if not altogether boring life. None of them would ever have dreamed of writing a doctoral thesis on Anglo-Saxon, of becoming a golf and fencing champion afterwards, and of then ending up as a guide in the North Woods of Nova Scotia and, ultimately, as a spy in Argentina.**

Edward Breck was born in San Francisco on 31 July 1861.<sup>1</sup> Nothing is known about his early school days in Boston and Newton. On 24 June 1878, however, at the age of sixteen and coming from Boston, he made an appearance in Leipzig in the company of his mother Ellen and his elder brother John Leslie. In the visitors' lists of the Saxon metropolis the attendance of the two boys at a German school, presumably a gymnasium, was given as the reason for their stay.<sup>2</sup> The brothers' going to school in Germany may have been possible because they were descended from a German family,<sup>3</sup> and German may still have been spoken in the paternal home. At any rate, when Edward returned to the States and entered upon a course of studies, first at Oberlin College and then in Amherst, he tried hard to improve his German with a view to studying at a German university later.<sup>4</sup> We do not know anything about how Edward pursued his German studies in America, but we have information about his studying at the Oberlin College conservatory from 1882-1883.<sup>5</sup> It was there that he apparently studied voice and, more generally, musicology. That is why he was later said to have sung "as a lyric tenor in opera",<sup>6</sup> and although no confirmation for this could be found, it does not seem to be altogether implausible. Albert Bigelow Paine, who in his novel *The Tent Dwellers* (1908) made "Eddie" Breck his main character, stated that he could sing well.<sup>7</sup> As a result of his preoccupation with music, he was also able to translate into English *The Violinist's Manual* authored by violinist and teacher Eugene Gruenberg (1854-1928),<sup>8</sup> and to supply

the lyrics to a cantata by Charles Braun titled *Sigurd*.<sup>9</sup> In 1887, he considered himself sufficiently versed in musical theory to face an oral examination by Professor Pauli of Leipzig who, however, rated the American's performance as rather middling, 3 on a scale from 1 (best) to 6 (bad).<sup>10</sup> Breck's translation of Ernst von Wolzogen's *Der Kraft-Mayr* (1914)<sup>11</sup> can also be attributed to his predilection. The main character of this humorous novel about a young piano teacher who is also a strongman, Florian Mayr, is dedicated to the memory of Franz Liszt.<sup>12</sup>

This oral examination is proof that Edward Breck had carried out his plan to study in Germany, and this was what also his brother Leslie did. But whereas John Leslie enrolled at the Königlische Akademie der Bildenden Künste in Munich where in 1880 he signed up for the so-called Antikenklasse,<sup>13</sup> Edward opted for the University of Leipzig.

In the 19th century, Leipzig was the hub of a new and fascinating academic discipline, historical linguistics.<sup>14</sup> It was therefore only natural for a promising young man and a native speaker of English to find the study of Old English especially attractive, and that is why it was almost inevitable that he landed up in the classes of Richard Paul Wülcker, one of the nestors of the discipline in this country. In 1887 and after seven terms he submitted a thesis on the fragment of a translation of Æthelwolds *De consuetudine monachorum*, which not only he, somewhat naively, but also his academic teacher Wülcker considered to be the work of Ælfric.<sup>15</sup>

His degree (grade *magna cum laude*) appears to have been sufficient qualification for Breck to become editor and literary adviser of the famous Boston based arts publisher Estes & Lauriat, and from 1890-1892 editor in chief of the journal *Life* of London. In 1895, he continued his journalistic career in Berlin, as correspondent of the *New York Herald* and the *New York Times*.<sup>16</sup> However, Breck's sojourn in Berlin seems to have been caused by circumstances other than journalistic ones. It occurred at a time of US expansionism in the 1890's, which resulted in a boost being given to the nation's navy. Not least because of his excellent command of German, Breck was assigned the position of a vice consul general in the Prussian capital, but as such he was also assistant to the US naval attaché. This latter function was especially tailored to him because his father had been a high-ranking naval officer.

Once in Berlin, Breck revealed a hitherto unnoticed facet of his complex per-

sonality. In Berlin's society he was immediately conspicuous as an all-round sportsman. A member of the Boston Athletic Association, he competed successfully in the lawn tennis,<sup>17</sup> golfing and fencing events of the capital. Obviously, the Doctor's favourite sports were golf and fencing.

In 1894, a golf club had been founded in Berlin's Westend by a young Scotsman, Andrew Pitcairn-Knowles. The Charlottenburg Golf Club (which changed its name to Berlin Golf Club in 1895) recruited its members mainly from the staffs of the English and American embassies and the Berlin Anglo-American Club. In 1896, the first Championships of Germany and Austria were held under the club's auspices and in the absence of another outstanding American golfer, Professor Willoughby ("Willow") Dayton Miller, DDS., Breck was the winner.<sup>18</sup> He repeated his success in the following year and might have continued his golfing career had not events of a completely different nature prevented it.



Dr Edward Breck, first golf champion of Germany and Austria in 1896 who repeated his success in 1897. Courtesy KB-Van Landeghem-Sportarchief, Louvain.

Apart from golf, Breck's forte seems to have been fencing. In America, he was not only reputed to have been "champion of New England with sword [épée] and sabre", but also "champion of Germany and Austria with the foil".<sup>19</sup> While it is true that he *did* compete in the first championships of Germany and Austria held in Berlin in 1897, this claim seems to be yet another instance of how achievements of the past are in retrospect magnified by those who accomplished them. The champion was a certain W. Lingenberg of the Deutsch-Italienischer Fechtclub Berlin, and Breck had to be satisfied with being the runner-up. Moreover, the discipline had not been the foil, but the épée.<sup>20</sup> Breck's second place was nevertheless a success and not even a surprise: Breck had fought in the oldest fencing club of the United States, the Boston Fencing Club of 1858,<sup>21</sup> and counted himself among the best blades in the United States.<sup>22</sup> In addition, the doctor had in 1894 not only been the editor of *The Swordsman*, the official organ of the Amateur Fencers' League of America (AFLA) founded in 1891, but also the author of a fencing manual.<sup>23</sup>

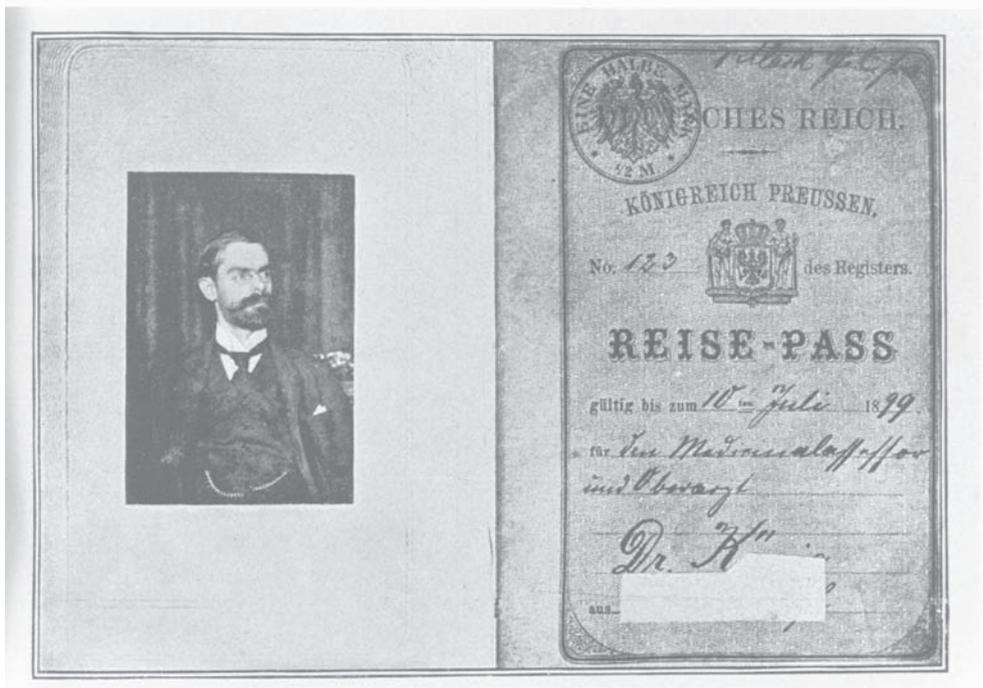
Breck's activities in the Berlin fencing scene were multiple. Arriving in Berlin in 1895, he and Charles de Kay, the US consul general, had together founded the Berliner Fechtclub, among the members of which (most of them Englishmen and Americans) we find not only the initiator of the Charlottenburg Golf Club, the Scotsman Andrew Pitcairn-Knowles, but also a prominent German, Dr Willibald Gebhardt, the German member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).<sup>24</sup> At a National Fencing Event held in connection with the Berlin Industrial Fair of 1896 and as part of a sporting festival which accompanied it, Breck was one of three fencing masters and instructors of note who conducted a fencing academy, a fencing soirée which was enthusiastically received. In a demonstration event, Breck "crossed swords" with Emma Teege, the wife of the university fencing master—it was the first foil event in Berlin in which a woman competed.<sup>25</sup> In November, he, Gebhardt (who would become president of the organisation later) — and nine others formed a committee with a view to creating an umbrella organisation for fencing clubs in Germany and Austria.<sup>26</sup> The Deutscher und Österreichischer Fechterbund [DÖFB, later that year to be renamed as Deutscher Fechterbund (DFB)], came into being on 7 March 1897, and Breck took over the position of supervisor (German *Bundes-Fechtwart*) — it is somewhat strange that as an American he should have been al-

lowed to do so in an association which, strictly speaking, only admitted respectable Germans and Austrians.<sup>27</sup> After that he became a member of its technical committee sitting next to the Austrian master fencer Johann Hartl, whom he greatly admired.<sup>28</sup> In the first tournament of the federation in which he finished as runner-up with the épée Breck, in his capacity as supervisor, had to see to the smooth running of the event, but had at the same time reaped a real victory in the foil qualification event preceding the championships proper.<sup>29</sup> Incidentally, the whole tournament had been held under the auspices of Prince Albrecht zu Schleswig-Holstein who was well known in sporting circles as vice-president of the German committee for the Athens Olympic Games the year before and who like Breck was an excellent golfer!<sup>30</sup>

For a long spell of time after 1897, nothing was heard of master fencer Edward Breck. Then, in 1903, Dr Gebhardt received a letter from Breck writing from New York.<sup>31</sup> The form of address used by the American for the four typed pages of his epistle— “Mein lieber Doctor!” (My dear Doctor!) — proved that Breck and the addressee must have been very good friends once. Their friendship, however, seems to have in the meantime cooled off somewhat, for reasons which had something to do with Breck’s Spanish adventure in 1898.

This began in Leipzig where Breck was celebrating Independence Day with his countrymen when suddenly the news broke that the Spanish fleet under Admiral Cervera had been routed by the US navy. As a result, it was expected that the American fleet would now head for Spain immediately, and that is why Breck—who is said to have spoken both Portuguese and Spanish fluently<sup>32</sup>—decided to spy out Spanish coastal fortifications.<sup>33</sup> With a pistol stowed in his luggage, and armed with a passport of the Kingdom of Prussia which he had borrowed from a friend and onto which he had brazenly pasted a photograph of himself, he managed to pass the Spanish border without questioning. His round and rather wide spectacles,<sup>34</sup> no doubt, greatly helped to preserve his incognito as senior medical officer (German Medizinalassessor) and assistant medical director (Oberarzt) Dr K-. By sheer coincidence he became acquainted with ethnic German Lieutenant-General Valeriano Weyler, who had a rather bad reputation as “The Terror of Cuba”, but turned out to be quite an amiable little man.<sup>35</sup> Not least owing to Weyler’s letters of recommendation, the American penetrated into territory not allowed even to the ordinary Span-

ish military, blithely taking photographs and scribbling notes. On his tour through Spanish seaports - Barcelona, Tarragona, Valencia, Alicante, Murcia, Cartagena, Almería, Algeciras, Cadiz and, eventually (after a stop in Gibraltar and continuing his tour by land via Cordoba and Seville), Vigo, La Coruña, El Ferrol, Santander and Bilbao—he got into trouble only once when at the recently completed new battery “La Bota” (The Boot) in Barcelona the bullet of a watchful guard whistled past his ear.



The forged passport onto which Breck had pasted his own photograph. It paved the way into Spain for him. Courtesy: The Gelardin New Media Center, Georgetown University Library, Washington, D.C.

His mission completed, Breck seems to have returned to Germany only for a short spell of time. He had hoped to succeed the ailing US consul general Goldsmith,<sup>36</sup> but when these hopes came to nothing he said goodbye to the Prussian capital. The untimely death of his brother John Leslie in 1898 may have been condu-

cive to his decision to return home.<sup>37</sup> A few years later however, in 1903, he seems to have tried to re-establish ties with the Fatherland. As becomes evident from the letter to Gebhardt, Breck had apparently made an attempt to apply for the post of an attaché to the German team for the 1904 St Louis Olympic Games. In his letter, he pointed out to his old fencing pal Gebhardt (who, incidentally, was the president of the Committee for the Participation of Germany in the Olympic Games, the predecessor of the country's National Olympic Committee) the great interest he had always had for the progress of sport in Germany. However, this offer met with a rebuff: to judge from Breck's letter, Gebhardt had been "peevéd" about his friend's Spanish adventure saying that he had abused the country's hospitality.<sup>38</sup> The whole letter is a touching attempt on the American's part to justify his espionage to Gebhardt and the members of the Committee. "My dear Doctor", he writes (in a handwritten afterthought, his German having in the years past become somewhat rusty), "the whole thing is, among us, rather ridiculous. I sometimes doubt whether Germans have a sense of humour."<sup>39</sup> The Germans remained humourless and adamant: the post of an attaché to the German team was assigned, not to the doctor of philosophy, but to a doctor of law, the German Dr Hugo Hardy.<sup>40</sup>

Breck's letter to Gebhardt had been posted from 16 Gramercy Park, New York City, but by 1903 he seems in an almost literal sense to have pitched his tent in Nova Scotia—or, to be more precise, to have made one of the log cabins along the lake frontage of the famous hunters' lodge Milford House his living quarters.<sup>41</sup> As late as the 1980's, 94-year-old Farish Owen, a former guide from Annapolis Royal, in an interview revealed that he had known Breck well:<sup>42</sup>

Eddie Breck was one of the most accomplished men I have ever known. He was a man I wouldn't want as an enemy. He was a spy in the Spanish-American War, a champion fencer of North America, and I think he was the American ambassador to Germany. He did a great many diplomatic activities for the United States government, so much so that when he died they named a warship after him. He was fluent in five or six languages. He wrote articles in those days for sporting magazines, along with his books he wrote while staying here. Abercrombie and Fitch of New York for years would send all the

new things [outdoor gear] to be tried out by him. He did all his writing in the morning, and the only person he would allow in his cabin in my day was me. I was young enough that I'd go down there and be playing with these things. He was also involved in the Anti-Steel Trap League at that time; matter of fact, he started it.

Of course, Owen erred when he raised Breck to the rank of ambassador to Germany, and also when he stated that the US government deigned him worthy of having a ship named after him, but he is correct about his being a rather prolific writer, and about his testing sportsmen's equipment on behalf of the famous New York outfitters Abercrombie & Fitch.<sup>43</sup> On the basis of Owen's statement, and in the absence of other information, it seems likely that Breck after the turn of the century made a living out of writing popular books and articles for journals such as the sportsman's journals *The Outing Magazine*,<sup>44</sup> *Field & Stream*, and *Forest & Stream*,<sup>45</sup> and out of taking well-to-do Americans such as the novelist Paine on camping tours into the North Woods testing the gear of Abercrombie & Fitch in the process. However, all this does not seem to have been very profitable. In a letter written to his publishers in the summer of 1910 and after having had published, as he put it himself, his "second so-called very successful book", he stated that he had "come to the conclusion that writing books is, if anything, worse than painting. You remember (he told the publisher, having recourse to his knowledge of German) the old German short story, beginning: 'Er war Maler und sie hatte auch nichts!' (He was a painter and she had nothing, too.)"<sup>46</sup> As late as 1925, we see him on one such wilderness tour in the company of his second wife who was assigned the role of court photographer.<sup>47</sup>

It should be noted that because of his activities Breck was in 1909 elected president of the Nova Scotia Guides Association, the object of which was "[...] game protection and enforcements of laws, advertising of sporting attractions and also to prevent the destruction of forests by fire and otherwise." As from 1909, the association staged guides' sporting meets as an adjunct to its annual business meetings in which prizes were given "in rifle and trap shooting, single and double canoe races, canoe tilting, swimming, log rolling, log chopping, and fly casting

for accuracy and distance.” Former sports hero Dr Breck is said to have been instrumental in obtaining many of the prizes from his multiple connections with various sporting friends and related businesses.<sup>48</sup>



“Eddie” Breck, hunter and animal lover, with his Milford pet Yankee and her relative, the Canadian wildcat (ca 1908). Photograph from his *The Way of the Woods*.

Farish Owen also credited Breck with the founding of the Anti-Steel Trap League, an organisation vehemently opposed to the cruel death inflicted on fur-bearing animals by the use of steel traps. In order to champion the League’s just cause, Breck also used his literary talent by writing truly moving poems:

F.F. van de Water alias Edward Breck<sup>49</sup>

The steel jaws clamped and held him fast,  
None marked his fright, none heard his cries.

His struggles ceased; he lay at last  
With wide, uncomprehending eyes,  
And watched the sky grow dark above  
And watched the sunset turn to grey.  
And quaked in anguish while he strove  
To gnaw the prisoned leg away.  
Then day came rosy from the east,  
But still the steel jaws kept their hold,  
And no one watched the prisoned beast,  
But fear and hunger, thirst and cold.  
Oppressed by pain, his dread grew numb,  
Fright no more stirred his flagging breath.  
He longed, in vain, to see him come  
The cruel hunter, bringing death.  
Then through the gloom that night came One  
Who set the timid spirit free;  
“I know thine anguish, little son;  
So once men held and tortured Me.”

Edward Breck (ca 1925)<sup>50</sup>

All night long, gnaw and gnaw,  
Come with me, lady, see what I saw.  
Only a beaver suffering pain.  
God! Take that sound out of my brain.  
A thing of the wilds—who cares how it dies?  
God! Take that sight out of my eyes.

Edward Breck, “A Paradox”<sup>51</sup>

’Tis strange how women kneel in church  
and pray to God above,  
Confess small sins and chant a praise  
and sing that He is love;

While coats of softly furred things  
upon their shoulders lie—  
Of timid things, of tortured things,  
that take so long to die...

'Tis strange to hear the organ peal  
—“Have mercy on us, Lord”  
The benediction—peace to all  
—they bow with one accord  
While from stained windows fall the lights  
on furs so softly warm,  
Of timid things, of little things,  
that died in cold and storm.

Despite his attachment to the wilderness of Nova Scotia, Breck continued to be conspicuous in Washington's society circles. In March 1915, Breck gave a lecture on “Our Navy, and What it Means” in the home of Mr and Mrs Perry Belmont in Washington. In the course of this lecture “under the auspices of the Navy League” some 200 distinguished guests (with Secretary of the Navy Daniels amongst them) were treated to slides showing the “evolution of battleships and other naval subjects”. This was apparently the second of a series of lectures by “the well-known lecturer”, and according to the correspondent of the *Washington Post* another would be given in Philadelphia shortly.<sup>52</sup> In February 1917 and on the brink of war, Breck was present at a speech delivered to Amherst alumni by US Foreign Secretary Lansing,<sup>53</sup> and here the doctor may have had the sudden impulse leading to the adventures he was to have shortly afterwards.

In February 1917 when it was definite that the United States would declare war on the “Mittelmächte”, the Doctor again volunteered for a secret mission. This time, he went to South America in order to infiltrate into German communities and to engage in subversive activities against the Reich.<sup>54</sup> He first went to Brazil where the country's huge German colony was trying to dissuade the Brazilian government from entering the war on the side of the Allies and was said to be preparing hostile acts against them in neighbouring countries.<sup>55</sup> Passing himself

off as a go-between coming from Switzerland, he planned to prevent just this, not exactly a friendly act towards the country that had treated him so well in his youth. Brazilian Germans, however, soon smelt a rat and the American was lucky to make a narrow escape to Argentina, with bruises about the head and an injured arm after a good hiding. In Buenos Aires, he mingled (as Dr Ernst Brecht) with members of the “Deutscher Bund” and in the restaurant “Bismarck”, their favourite haunt, joined in their songs of “Die Wacht am Rhein” and “Deutschland über alles”. At their gatherings presided over by Karl von Luxburg, the Imperial Ambassador, he was loudly applauded because of his pro-German speeches and managed to win their confidence. It was thus that the contents of an encoded telegram came to his notice which His Excellency had cabled to Berlin. In his message (which later was to acquire worldwide notoriety), von Luxburg advised the German admiralty (this was the time of unrestricted submarine warfare) to pursue a “spurlos versenkt” strategy, literally one of sinking neutral ships (including Argentine vessels) without leaving a trace—this in order to avoid international complications. (Von Luxburg in the same telegram had styled Argentina’s foreign secretary a reputed ass, “ein Esel von Ruf”.) When US foreign secretary Robert Lansing published the contents of the telegram,<sup>56</sup> angry Argentines wrought havoc with the interior of the restaurant “Bismarck”, and von Luxburg became a *persona ingrata* and had to leave the country. That behind the scenes a former German golf champion had been pulling the strings has remained a secret until today.<sup>57</sup>

In May 1918, Breck was promoted to the post of naval attaché in Lisbon where he succeeded in devising a scheme by which the Portuguese government, subservient to Allied ideas, took over the task of into controlling its own frontiers. Given the status of a police commissioner and with two Portuguese agents placed under his command he had the power of arresting suspects. In his capacity as attaché he had to arrange for the repairs of the smaller types of Allied warships at facilities in the area as well as for the payment for these repairs through the force commander in London. In addition, all arrangements for docking, provisioning, patrolling, unloading, and storing ammunition had to be made by him. Among his activities, there was one especially by which he ingratiated himself with the Portuguese Government and which certainly contributed to his being awarded the

Portuguese Order of Christ and D.S.M. and to his becoming a Commander of the Order of Aviz.<sup>58</sup> When famine broke out in Madeira, it was due to him that US Rear Admiral A.P. Niblack bought a large cargo of cereals in Africa and shipped it to the island in one of his war vessels.<sup>59</sup>

Breck stayed in Lisbon until February 1919. Then, convalescing from an unspecified illness, he requested transportation on naval transport to the United States for himself and a male nurse. In March 1919, he boarded a ship in Bordeaux which took him back to the United States.<sup>60</sup> Back home, the Doctor of Philosophy devoted himself to a task for which among all the US navy personnel he was suited best, that of a curator of the Naval Archive in Washington. It was here that he resumed his literary work, especially conspicuous in the numerous review articles on naval literature which he contributed to the renowned journal *The American Historical Review*.<sup>61</sup> On 31 July 1925, at the age of sixty-four, Lieutenant Commander Breck retired from the US Naval Intelligence.<sup>62</sup> Breck, who was married twice, succumbed to a heart attack on 14 May 1929 at his home in Washington's Fairfax Apartments. He was buried in Arlington Cemetery.



Lieutenant Commander Rtd Edward Breck in 1929, the year of his death.  
Courtesy Navy Department Library, Naval Historical Center, Washington D.C.

Not only in Germany, but also in the United States, Breck's name has sunk into oblivion. Strangely enough, it is his brother, John Leslie, who still enjoys at least a moderate popularity. After studies in Munich, he had in 1886 taken lessons at the Académie Julian in Paris and had then been among the first artists to settle in the famous impressionist colony of Giverny.<sup>63</sup> There he became acquainted with Monet and fell in love with Monet's stepdaughter Blanche Hoschedé-Monet. Frustrated because Monet opposed their marriage, he returned to Boston where he died young in 1899, only 39 years old.<sup>64</sup> His name, however, survived. In November 2000, one of his paintings titled "Flower Garden at Annisquam" (1892) fetched 270,000 US dollars at Christie's in London.<sup>65</sup>



John Leslie Breck, impressionist painter and pupil of Monet, the spitting image of his brother. Courtesy The National Arts Club, New York.

## Notes

1. On Breck in general see the entry “Breck, Edward” in *Who Was Who in America*, the obituary “Breck Funeral Plans Under Way” and the obligatory curriculum vitae reproduced below in note 4. For most useful information, the author owes a debt of gratitude to Heidi Myers, Navy Department Library, Naval Historical Center, Washington D.C.
2. Cf. file no PoA Nr. 450, Bre, lfd. Nr. 116 in the Municipal Archive, Leipzig. Breck’s mother (whose year of birth is given as 1843) was allowed to stay until 24 June 1878, and this permit was presumably prolonged until 24 June 1879. Communication by Olaf Hillert, Stadtarchiv Leipzig.
3. Cf. Daniels, 259, who called Breck a descendant of a “Colonial German family”.
4. Cf. Breck, *Fragment of Ælfrics Translation*, Appendix:

### VITA\*

The author, Edward Breck, son of the late Lieut. Com. J.B. Breck, U.S.N., and his wife Ellen, née Newell, both of Mass., was born in San Francisco, July 31, 1861, and received his elementary education in the schools of Boston and Newton, and in Germany, whence he returned to America to prepare himself more fully for a German university course, which he did first at Oberlin College, and afterwards at Amherst College. He entered the University of Leipsic in October 1883, and excepting two absences each an half-year in duration, has since enjoyed uninterruptedly the advantages of this institution. The author has attended the lectures and practical classes of Profs. Drs. Wülcker, Ebert, Paul, Settegast, and Dr. Körting, and begs to return to all these gentlemen, as well as to Prof. Dr. Heinze, the Rev. S.S. Lewis of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, and Mr. F.J. Mackney of the British Museum, his grateful thanks for their advice and assistance. Especially to Prof. Dr. Wülcker, however, the author desires to express his heartfelt gratitude for this gentleman’s kindness, which the author feels has been too great ever to be requited.

\*Required to be appended by the statutes of the university.

*Who Was Who Among American Authors*, vol. 1, p. 202, s.v. Breck, Edward (an entry which is often wrong), specifies: “Educ. St. Marks Sch., Newton (Mass.) H.S.” Amherst College was unable to confirm the statement made in the obituary “Breck Funeral” that he studied there, but according to a newspaper article in *The Washington Post* Breck became an alumnus of the college in 1885, see below note 52. Neither is the statement in the obituary and *Who Was Who Among American Authors* correct that he studied in Munich and Cambridge. He presumably visited the latter for the purpose of research seeking the advice of Samuel Savage Lewis but did not register there with a view to obtaining a degree. Communication by Jacqueline Cox, Cambridge University Archives. On Lewis see Venn, vol. 8, p. 165, on Ælfric see Szarmach, *passim*.

5. Communication by Tammy L. Martin, Oberlin College Archives, Oberlin, Ohio.
6. Cf. the obituary “Breck Funeral”.
7. Cf. Paine, pp. 144 and 115 respectively: “Eddie [...] sang me a song”; “[...] and Eddie can sing.”
8. Cf. Gruenberg,. The present writer was able to purchase a copy of the book with Gruenberg’s dedication to the translator. It reads: “To my dear, unsurpassing [sic] friend Eduard [sic] Breck. With the best wishes! Eugene Gruenberg, Boston, Jan. 21,1903.” For a short account of Gruenberg see <[http://oasis.harvard.edu:10080/oasis/deliver/deepLink?\\_collection=oasis&uniqueId=hou00192](http://oasis.harvard.edu:10080/oasis/deliver/deepLink?_collection=oasis&uniqueId=hou00192)> 15. Novembr 2005.
9. Cf. the entry Braun in the bibliography.
10. Cf. the minutes in the University Archive, Leipzig, file no Phil.Fak.Prom. 4387, p. 5: “Der Kandidat ist mit der Harmonik [...] nicht vollkommen vertraut, auch sind seine Kenntnisse in der Musikgeschichte nur sehr mäßig; aber da er die meisten Fragen zu beantworten und sich in die Sache hinein zu denken wußte, so kann ich ihm die Zensur 3 geben.”
11. Cf. Breck, *Florian Mayr*.
12. Cf. von Wolzogen, title page ,and the description of 23-year old Florian Mayr on p. 3.
13. Immatriculation on 26 September 1880. This was an introductory class for all artists who learned to draw after the plaster casts of the Academy Collection. Communication by Birgit Jooss, Akademie der Bildenden Künste Munich.
14. As is well known, the two pioneers of structural linguistics, Ferdinand de Saussure and Breck’s compatriot Leonard Bloomfield had succumbed to the lure of Leipzig where the famous scholars Brugmann and Leskien (who, incidentally, had approved of Breck’s doctoral thesis) had been fellow-students of de Saussure’s. Bloomfield had studied under them from 1913-1914, cf. Dinneen, p. 195, and <<http://www.bookrags.com/biography-leonard-bloomfield/>> 20. Mai 2005.
15. Wülcker in his assessment of Breck’s thesis wrote: “Auch daß Ælfric der verfaßer dieser angefangenen übersetzung sei, hat nichts unwahrscheinliches.” Ebert agreed with him completely (“in allen Punkten”). Breck’s view has long been defeated by Kornexl, pp. cxlix-clii und clx, especially p. cli: “In das Reich der Phantasie gehören mit Sicherheit die Vorstellungen von Breck [...], kein Geringerer als Ælfric habe hier die RC zu übersetzen begonnen [...].” Communication by Mechthild Gretsche, Göttingen. Breck enrolled at the University of Leipzig on 15 October 1883, the subject being philology. He obtained his degree of Dr. phil. on 23 April 1887, after his thesis had been approved by Richard Paul Wülcker (1845-1910) and Wülcker’s predecessor Adolf Ebert (1820-1890); cf. Phil.Fak.Prom. 4387, pp. 1. and 5 in the University Archive Leipzig. The author thanks Sandy Muhl for making copies of this intriguing document accessible to him. On

- Ebert und Wülcker see Haenicke and Finkenstaedt, pp. 77 f. and 365 f.
16. Cf. “Breck, Edward”, in *Who Was Who in America*.
  17. On Breck’s competing in the 1896 lawn tennis event on the occasion of the Berlin Industrial Fair, see von Fichard, *Deutsches Lawn-Tennis-Jahrbuch* [1896 und 1897], p. 150.
  18. Cf. *Sport im Bild* 2, No 44 (1896), 30 October 1896, p. ?. Breck the journalist did not forget to mention his achievement in an article contributed—in flawless German—to a German society journal, cf. Breck, “Das Golfspiel”, p. 614: “Unter den Golfspielern Deutschlands sind die Berliner Dame Fräulein Alice Wobring, Professor Dr. Miller von der Universität Berlin, Prinz Albert zu Schleswig=Holstein, Mr. Twist [sic; = Twiss], Herr Richard Leo, Herr Knowles, Redakteur der Zeitschrift ‚Sport im Bild‘, und der englische Botschaftssekretär, Mr. Spring-Rice, zu nennen. In Wiesbaden wohnen zwei Damen, Frau Dr. Monk und Frau Dr. Strecker, die ehrenvolle Erwähnung verdienen. Die Meisterschaft von Deutschland und Oesterreich gewann 1896 und 1897 der Schreiber dieser Zeilen.”
  19. Cf. The obituary “Breck Funeral”.
  20. Cf. Wenusch, p. 437.
  21. Cf. <<http://www.bostonfencingclub.org/>> 6 June 2005. Breck, born in 1861, can hardly have been one of the founding members of the Boston Fencer’s Club [sic] as was claimed by Hamer, p. 72.
  22. Cf. Breck, *Fencing*, p. 38: “Some of the strongest amateur blades [in the U.S.] [...] are Alfred Howard, Archibald Thacher, Curtis Guild, Jr., Sewall Cabot, J.J. Souther and Dr. Edward Breck, of the Boston Fencing Club.”
  23. *Ibid.*, cover. In 1903, Breck also contributed a theoretical article to the journal *Outing*, cf. *idem*, “The Passing of the Sabre”.
  24. Cf. Hamer, p. 72.
  25. *Idem*, p. 71.
  26. Cf. Wenusch, pp. 259-268.
  27. Cf. Hamer, p. 74. Wenusch, p. 259, apparently also believed that Breck was a citizen of the German empire.
  28. Cf. Hamer, pp. 75 and 78. On Hartl see Breck, “The Passing of the Sabre”, p. 644, Hamer, p. 91 f., and Wenusch, pp. 17 f., 57-59 and 63-71.
  29. Cf. Hamer, p. 85.
  30. *Idem*, pp. 84 and 100, note 65.
  31. Breck’s address given in this letter was 16 Gramercy Park, New York City, the letter bears the date of 3 August 1903; the letter is preserved in the correspondence of Professor Englert now in the Carl und Liselott Diem Archiv of the German Sports University, Cologne.
  32. Cf. Daniels, p. 259.

33. Cf. Breck, "A Dangerous Mission" [I und II].
34. Cf. Paine, p. 3, introducing his chief character, "Eddie" [Breck]: "[...] put a new glare into his spectacles (rather wide, round spectacles they are [...])."
35. On the role of Weyler in Cuban history see < <http://www.cubagenweb.org/mil/war-hist.htm>> 7 July 2005.
36. Cf. a letter dated 1 November 1898 which Breck wrote to Robert S. Chilton. It is preserved in the Georgetown University Library, Washington, D.C., Robert S. Chilton Papers, Box 1, Folder 20.
37. According to Falk, p. 74, John Leslie Breck died on 8 May 1898.
38. On p. 1 of Breck's letter to Gebhardt, the words "die deutsche Gastfreundschaft missbraucht zu haben" are put in quotation marks and are therefore a quote from a letter by Gebhardt to Breck. dated 16 June 1903.
39. Breck's letter to Gebhardt, p. 4: "Mein lieber Herr Doctor, die Sache ist ja, unter uns, furchtbar lächerlich. Ich zweifle manchmal daran, ob die deutschen [sic] einen sinn für Humor besitzen."
40. Cf. the present writer's *Olympisches Tennis*, p. 30 f.
41. Cf. Parker, *Guides*, p. 21, quoting Warren "Bud" Miller, long-time resident manager of Milford house: "Anyone that knows much about Milford will tell you that Eddie Breck was the making of this place and of the sportsmen coming into Nova Scotia. He came here around the turn of the century from Washington, [...]." That Breck had taken root in Nova Scotia by 1903 is in a way confirmed by the book Gruenberg dedicated to him in 1903 (see above, note 8). It was acquired by the present writer from John W. Doull Bookseller Inc. in Halifax, and it is conceivable that it had originally been among the books in Breck's cabin.
42. Ibid.
43. On Abercrombie & Fitch, a shop "dedicated to selling only the highest-quality camping, fishing and hunting gear" founded in 1892 by David T. Abercrombie who was later partnered by Ezra Fitch, a lawyer in Kingston, New York, see <<http://www.scripophily.net/abfitcom19.html>> 15 November 2005. The first two chapters (pp. 3-12) in Paine's novel are devoted to Breck's procuring the necessary equipment for his and Breck's fishing expedition into the backwoods of Nova Scotia. A sketch (p. 11) shows the two men in a shop such as Abercrombie & Fitch's.
44. For a naturally incomplete list see the bibliography under Breck, below.
45. The last two names appear from Breck's letter quoted below, note 46. *Who Was Who Among North American Authors*, vol. 1, p. 202, s.v. Breck, Edward, also mentions the journals *Life* (London), *Whole Family* and *Living Age*.
46. Letter from South Milford, Annapolis Co., N.S., dated 31 August 1910, in the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

47. Cf. Mary Stanley Breck, *passim*. The society column of *The Washington Post* under Tuesday, 22 April 1924, p. 7, has the following notice: “Mrs Edward Breck, who has been visiting her mother, Mrs W.S. Stanley, 2330 Massachusetts avenue, is leaving here to join Commander Breck in New York. After passing the early spring in Boston, they will go to their camp in Nov Scotia.” Under the date of 14 October 1924, Houghton-Mifflin Co., Publishers, from Boston sent a letter to Breck concerning a book project of the latter, his address being Camp Buckshaw, South Milford, N.S. Breck answered the company under the date of 16 December 1924, his address being 2530 Q St., NW, Washington, DC. Both letters are preserved in the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
48. Cf. Parker, *Guides*, pp. 164 and 167 f.
49. Cf. <<http://www.ivu.org/people/quotes/poems.html>> 26 July 2005.
50. Cf. <<http://www.ivu.org/people/quotes/poems20.html>> 26 July 2005.
51. Cf. <<http://www.thegreatminds.com/anthology/religion.html#top>> 24 August 2005.
52. Cf. “Distinguished Audience”, *loc.cit.*
53. Cf. “Lansing Hopes Peace”, *loc.cit.* In this article, Breck is listed among those attending Lansing’s address, and the year 1895 is given as the one in which Breck became an Amherst alumnus.
54. Cf. here and for what follows Daniels, pp. 259-262, Packard, *A Century of U.S. Naval Intelligence*, p. 12, as well as “Breck Funeral”.
55. In the society column of *The Washington Post* of Monday, 4 June 1917, p. 5, it was reported that Mrs Edward Breck attended a wedding. By this time, her husband, absent on the occasion, may well have been in Brazil.
56. On 1 November 1917, cf. <<http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/comment/Scott/SChA5.htm>> 7 June 2005.
57. For “spurlos versenkt” quotes see <[http://www.giga-usa.com/quotes/authors/karl\\_luxburg\\_a001.htm](http://www.giga-usa.com/quotes/authors/karl_luxburg_a001.htm)> 7 June 2005; cf. also von Uthmann: “Es ist auch schon vorgekommen, dass Diplomaten wegen Beleidigung der Gastregierung ausgewiesen wurden. So zum Beispiel der kaiserliche Gesandte in Buenos Aires, Graf Luxburg. Er hatte dem Auswärtigen Amt 1917 empfohlen, neutrale Schiffe zur Vermeidung völkerrechtlicher Komplikationen ‚spurlos‘ zu versenken, und dabei den argentinischen Außenminister einen ‘Esel von Ruf’ genannt. Die Amerikaner fingen das Telegramm ab, dechiffrierten und veröffentlichten es. Luxburg musste Buenos Aires verlassen.” As late as 1924, Breck in letters to the editor of *The Washington Post* attacked Professor David Starr Jordan, noted pacifist of the time, cf. *The Washington Post*, Wednesday, 10 December and Saturday, 27 December 1924. On Jordan see <<http://www.swarthmore.edu/library/peace/CDGA.A-L/jordan.htm>> 1 February 2006.
58. For these and other orders awarded to him see the entry “Breck, Edward” in *Who was Who in America*.

59. Cf. Cocke, "Lisbon, Portugal. Naval Attaché, the late Lieut. Comdr. Edward Breck", in *History of the Intelligence Division, passim*; this was used, in part, by Packard, p. 65.
60. Cf. a USS New Mexico radiogram to the Communication Office of the Navy Department received on 6 March 1919. Original in the National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC. Communication by Rebecca A. Livingston.
61. For a selection of these articles see the bibliography under Breck, Edward, [review]. Cf. also the monographs by Breck listed "Breck, Edward" in *Who was Who in America*, e.g. *The American Naval Railway Batteries in France* (1920) and *Armed Guards on American Merchant Ships* (1921).
62. Cf. *Register of the Commissioned and Warrant Officers* [1921], p. 212 f., and *Register of the Commissioned and Warrant Officers* [1929], p. 96.
63. The Académie Julian, a private arts school, was founded by Rodolphe Julian in 1868. The school had a reputation for its avant-garde ideas, and many of its pupils later became famous members of the avant-garde.
64. Cf. the index in Gerdts, p. 332, s.v. Breck, John Leslie, also "John Leslie Breck", in <[http://www.art-giverny.com/ART\\_GIVERNY\\_John\\_Leslie\\_Breck.htm](http://www.art-giverny.com/ART_GIVERNY_John_Leslie_Breck.htm)> 8 August 2005.
65. Cf. <<http://www.thecityreview.com/f00camp.html>> 27 July 2005.

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