4 Blunck as Führer of the KSCV

At their meeting of 20 June 1933, Otto demanded that Blunck conduct a thorough investigation into the events which had taken place behind the scenes in Bad Kösen the previous month. The enlightening details were then to be circulated to all KSCV corps and SC’s. Blunck agreed in principle to Otto’s requests but asked for time to sort out certain details; in particular Otto’s demand that he replace his newly appointed assistants, Werner Heringhaus and Günther Kraaz. On 29 June Otto was instructed by official letter that any criticism on his part of Blunck’s method of carrying out his new office as KSCV Führer would be considered by the Reichsleitung as mutinous and contrary to party interests. In addition, the letter informed Otto that he was relieved of any further power to act in the matter. It appears that the meeting with Otto was actually superfluous, for records show that Blunck and his aides met with Mohr and his assistant, Ulrich Wetzel, on the day previous to their discussions with Otto, in order to establish what business remained to be completed by the KSCV Vorort and to draught the constitutional changes required to satisfy Nazi doctrine. The subsequent amendments and organisational changes which the KSCV corps were expected to adopt, were made known to the SC’s and CC’s through circulars written predominantly by Blunck, although his assistants did from time to time also author portions of the directives. These circulars were released as Blunck felt necessary, averaging a fortnightly distribution and reached nearly fifty in number by the time that Blunck left his position as leader of the KSCV. The first two of Blunck’s circulars were published in the KSCV periodical, the Deutsche Corpszeitung, of June 1933. They outlined, with some rather judicious pruning of the facts, the details of Blunck’s appointment as leader of the KSCV and the Reichsleitung’s endorsement of his taking office.

Perhaps more interesting though, is the reproduction of a letter dated 3 June 1933, from Hitler’s Secretary of State in the Chancellery, Hans Heinrich Lammers, who on behalf of the Reichskanzler acknowledged
receipt of a telegram from the KSCV on 1 June. The telegram indicated the offer of a monetary contribution towards the government’s efforts in alleviating the distress of deutsche Volksgenossen. This appears to have been the trump card which Blunck played to assure his certification by Hitler and the Reichsleitung. It is corroborated by a short article written by Kraaz which appeared in the same group of circulars reproduced for the KSCV. Kraaz recounted that on 7 June 1933, Blunck had been received by Lammers at the Reich Chancellery. While seated on the terrace, Lammers informed Blunck that the KSCV was to renew its former membership in the Allgemeine Deutsche Waffenring (ADW) and to implement the ADW Aryan membership regulations. Hitler eventually joined them on the terrace, at which point Blunck presented Hitler with a gift of 5000 Marks on behalf of the KSCV, which the Reichskanzler turned over to the Minister of Culture, Berhard Rust, for the aid of needy students. Hitler apparently spoke to Blunck for an hour and a half, the essence of which is quoted by Gerhard Neuenhoff. ‘We could promise the world ten years of peace if it were possible for today’s generation to overcome the history with which it is encumbered. The situation is like that of Moses, who, after having led his people to the promised land, found they had to wait before entering.’ The audience with Hitler gave Blunck a virtually uncontestable seal of approval and thereby consolidated his position as Führer of the KSCV. In light of this it is not at all surprising that he later was able to have Otto’s authorisation terminated following their disagreeable meeting on 20 June.

One of the primary criteria in the selection of new persons for leadership positions of the fraternity federations was that of Nazi alte Kämpfer; that is to say, holders of a party membership number which was issued prior to 30 January 1933. This went some way to ensure that persons appointed to positions of authority within the student federations were not merely opportunists but conscientious party members. Indeed, the majority were more interested in promoting party interests and ideology, and thereby their own careers in the new regime, than they were in fostering the heritage of their own particular federation. Mohr, who served as chairman of the KSCV Vorort prior to Blunck’s verified appointment as its Führer, was relieved of his duties, presumably on the technicality of his membership number. He had never been enthusiastic or terribly sympathetic to the Nazi cause, and as mentioned previously, he had joined the party only after being threatened with the disruption of the annual congress over which he was to preside. But Mohr apparently was called before the USCHLA or Nazi court for party discipline, which