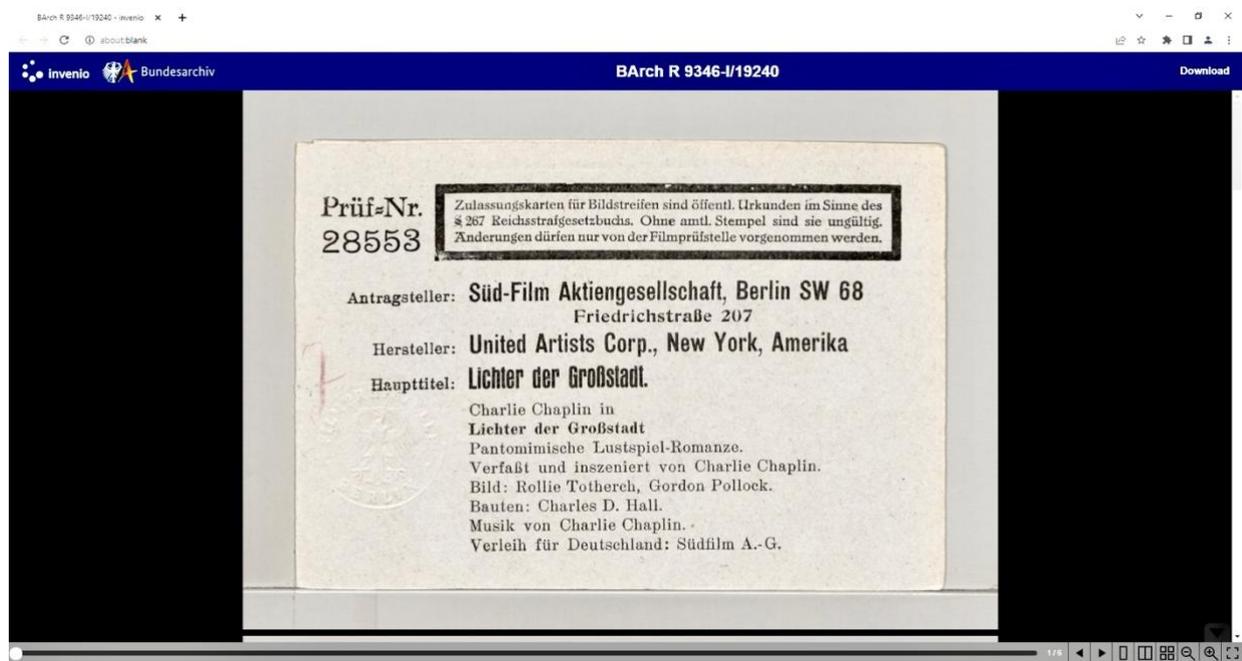


Extensive Collection of German *Zensurkarten* (Film Censorship Records) Now Digitized and Online

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Screening permit (no. 28,553) for *City Lights* (USA 1931, Charles Chaplin) issued by the German film censor's Berlin office on March 24, 1931, as viewed on the Bundesarchiv's invenio portal

The surviving screening permits (Zulassungskarten), commonly referred to as “censorship cards” (Zensurkarten), issued by the various local and national film censorship bodies in Germany from 1906 until 1945 constitute one of the most significant primary sources for film and cinema history in the late Wilhelmine, Weimar and Nazi eras.

Cards issued for films produced during the silent era in particular are an invaluable source for historians, film archivists and restorers owing to the fact that they contain a full transcript of the intertitles from the initial German release in the original wording and correct running order as well as, in applicable cases, indications of footage cut by order of the censors.

In May 2022, following a major multi-year digitization endeavor, the German Federal Archive (Bundesarchiv) has now made its complete holdings of surviving censorship cards issued by the Berlin police commissioner (1908-1920) and the national film censors' offices (Filmprüfstellen) in Berlin und Munich (1920-1945) as well as smaller collections from other censorship bodies freely available for consultation online.

Over 38,000 individual documents can be accessed and downloaded via the archive's invenio portal at invenio.bundesarchiv.de. Currently, the search function is limited only to the films' German-language release titles as indicated on the respective cards, which may prove an impediment to some researchers.

Click on the links below to browse the available collections:

Screening permits issued by the German film censor's Berlin office, 1920-1945:

<https://invenio.bundesarchiv.de/invenio/direktlink/27e05414-f7d2-4a6f-bb78-904f466c1309/>

Screening permits issued by the German film censor's Munich office, 1920-1932:

<https://invenio.bundesarchiv.de/invenio/direktlink/e3eac56c-e6af-4b2b-9747-dfc5e6daae6a/>

Screening permits issued by the Berlin police commissioner, 1908-1920:

<https://invenio.bundesarchiv.de/invenio/direktlink/041af3de-30db-4dc1-8ab0-59e7ef4cc4e2/>

Screening permits issued by other German and European censorship bodies:

<https://invenio.bundesarchiv.de/invenio/direktlink/f39da711-b05c-46bd-ba01-89ca4675e3e8/>

For a detailed overview of film censorship in Germany after the First World War, see:

Keitz, U. v., Edwards, Cyril (trans.) [2000]: *Films before the Court. The Theory and Practice of Film Assessment in Germany from 1920 to 1938*, Deutsches Filminstitut – DIF (today DFF – Deutsches Filminstitut & Filmmuseum), Frankfurt/Main, viewed May 25, 2022

<http://www.difarchiv.deutsches-filminstitut.de/dt2tai10.htm>.