

Censorship

Heartfield revealed his combative side in his book cover designs, producing striking and provocative work that was regularly censored.

The cover of Heinrich Wandt's *Erotik und Spionage in der Etappe Gent* features a photograph of a soldier in the German army with his hand on a woman's thigh. The public thought it scandalous, and the cover led to a series of trials, which resulted in an order for another image to be printed over the original. Heartfield's response was to go on the attack: the overprinted image is so obvious that it clearly highlights the censorship and the forced alteration.

Author Emil Ludwig felt that the cover of *Das Geld schreibt* put him and his family in a bad light. He immediately submitted a complaint, and he won the case. Heartfield again made handy use of this apparent defeat, simply punching out the faces of the family (including the dog). He thus undermined the censoring of his work, and ensured that buyers would wonder why there were holes in the cover.