

Max Kade Institute

FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE MAX KADE INSTITUTE. VOL. 11 NO.1 Spring 2002

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Diedrich Gives Talk on Frederick Douglass and Otilie Assing

by Felecia Lucht

Dr. Maria Diedrich, fellow at the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute at Harvard University, gave a lecture entitled "Of Borderstate and Leeches" on March 1. It was Diedrich's first visit to Madison in over thirty years. The lecture was on her book, *Love Across Color Lines*, in which she examined the twenty-eight-year interracial relationship between the American abolitionist and political leader, Frederick Douglass, and German journalist Otilie Assing.

Diedrich initially became interested in Douglass and Assing after reading William S. McFeely's 1990 biography of Douglass in which an extended relationship between the pair was hinted at. "It gave me the idea that there could be more," she says. Unfortunately, much of the information on their relationship had been lost or destroyed. Engaging in a lot of "detective work," Diedrich traveled throughout Europe and the United States, looking for some sort of documentation of the relationship. She was surprised that very little of the two had been reported in the popular press at the time. Her primary sources of



information were letters sent by Assing to her sister Ludmilla back in Europe. From these letters she could identify names and locate other sources for more information, verify what was written in the letters, and begin to understand more about the relationship, limited of course, to Assing's point of view.

Assing came to the United States as a reporter for the *Morgenblatt* journal, hoping to establish her career in journalism. She even tried her hand at frontier reporting, and spent eight months in Sheboygan with German friends who were intellectuals starting their new lives as Wisconsin farmers. Assing disliked living there, especially the dreary winter weather, and returned to New York. However, Assing made a name for herself as a political journalist by writing about racial issues in the United States. She became interested in interviewing Frederick Douglass after reading his 1855 autobiography, *My Bondage and My Freedom*, and met him in 1856. During this time she became more involved with Douglass, professionally and personally. Diedrich described them as "partners in a dynamic, professional relationship" and for Assing, working together with Douglass was "an act of love."

But Assing's vision of her relationship with Douglass as a "perfect union" was complicated by the fact that Douglass was already a married man and a political leader who couldn't risk publicly acknowledging his relationship with Assing. She was crushed when after his first wife died, he married his secretary, Helen Pitts, instead of her. In 1884, she committed suicide.

Diedrich is currently finishing a book about Harriet Morgan, a British journalist who came to the United States in 1830 and got involved with the Abolitionist movement. For Diedrich, the lives of both Assing and Morgan challenge the stereotypes that many people have about women of the Victorian age. In her next research project, Diedrich is interested in looking at Hessian soldiers who fought in the Revolutionary War and helped slaves escape by bringing them back to Germany. The soldiers themselves had been under a form of bondage, as they had been leased to the British by their respective dukes. She hopes to make this research project a team effort and work with scholars in both African-American and German-American studies.

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MKI Volunteers for the PBS Membership Drive

by Angela Horn

Members of the MKI staff, Friends, and visiting scholars volunteered to answer phones for Wisconsin Public Television's spring pledge drive on March 11. This is the second time the MKI has participated in the annual event. Volunteers took pledges during WHA's live polka band performance by Karl Hartwich and some of his Country Dutchmen band. Everyone had an excellent time socializing with one another and with callers, most especially the polka lovers among us that could get equally enthused with callers about the toe-tapping genre. Between the "Polka Passion" program and the "Daniel O'Donnell Show," the station received 435 calls and brought in a whopping \$52,720 during our stint as pledge operators.

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MKI Loses a Great Friend: Charles J. Wallman Dies at Age 77

by Andy Wallman

Charles J. Wallman of Watertown, a friend of the Max Kade Institute and University of Wisconsin-Madison alumnus, passed away at his home in November 2001 following a brief, courageous battle with cancer.

Charlie was born on February 19, 1924, in Kiel, Wisconsin, to Carl and May Loftus Wallman. He was raised in Watertown, the oldest of four children. He served in the Army in World War II, survived three German POW camps, and received many decorations, including the Bronze Star. He wrote a book of his experiences, *Combat and More*, creating only six copies, one each for his wife and kids.

Charlie graduated from UW-Madison in 1949 (BBA marketing) where he was a Phi Delta Theta. He met his wife on a blind date at a Wisconsin/Northwestern football game, Charline (Chee Chee) M. Moore of Westport, Connecticut. They married in June 1952 in Winnetka, Illinois. He worked for Brandt, Inc. in Watertown from 1949 to 1983 and made frequent business trips to Germany.

In his retirement, Charlie was tirelessly passionate about preserving the history of his beloved Watertown and made several significant contributions to its early history. He authored *Edward J. Brandt, Inventor; The German-Speaking Forty-Eighters: Builders of Watertown, Wisconsin* (published by the Max Kade Institute and now in its third printing); and *Built on Irish Faith, 150 Years at St. Bernard's*. He also wrote a series on the early, heavily German-influenced years of Watertown history for the *Watertown Daily Times*.

Charlie was a Friend of the MKI and presented papers at its symposiums in 1986 and 1987. An accompanying photo exhibit was shown at the Carl Schurz Haus in Freiburg, Germany. Charlie was also active with the Wisconsin Alumni Association. His Bucky Badger pride ran deep.

Charlie is survived by his wife Chee Chee of Watertown, five children, and nine grandchildren. His charismatic personality, colorful language, love of his family, and love of his German heritage will be greatly missed.

The Max Kade Institute would like to thank Andy Wallman for helping us honor his father's memory. Charlie will always be remembered as a great friend to the Institute.

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Host Families Needed

The Center for Cultural Interchange (CCI) is looking for families in Southern Wisconsin to host German and other European high school exchange students.

Families interested in participating can contact Marge Ryan at 1-888-488-4056 or via e-mail at ccimidwest@aol.com. More information about the CCI can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.cci-exchange.com>.

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Harzig Gives Talk on "Peasant Maids - City Women"

By Angela Horn

On March 18, Dr. Christiane Harzig from the University of Bremen gave a talk entitled "Peasant Maids - City Women: Migration Experience from the European Countryside to Urban America."

Harzig's talk came from a book she edited of the same name (1997). From historical documents, the team was able to create composites of four women who emigrated during the second half of the nineteenth century. Harzig feels that these women exemplify the typical immigrant experience for European women during this period; though she notes that they cannot, of course, encompass all the heterogeneous experiences of women. Differences in the acculturation process can be attributed to the large number of variables differentiating these women, some of which include class, religious faith, time of arrival, marital status, and point in life cycle.

Harzig first introduced Katarina, the peasant maid who worked as a day laborer in Germany. There she had become increasingly valuable as her knowledge of animal husbandry and dairy product process increased. She had three children (who stayed with her parents) with a man she wanted to marry, but without a home, there was no marriage and the manorial landlord limited the housing made available to peasants. She and her fiancé saw America as a chance to be married and legitimize their children. The trip to New York took twenty days, and they ultimately settled in Chicago. Here Katarina was able to stay home and garden, sew, can vegetables, and care for her children who maintained their German by attending the local parochial school.

Sophia was from Sweden where it became increasingly harder to marry while lacking dowries, land, and available partners. Women in Sweden were sent to America as part of a migration culture, which enabled women to immigrate, and yet brought many of them back to Sweden after a time via a prepaid ticket. In Chicago, Sophia found a job as a sewing maid and invited her sister Emily to live with her. One interesting point was that the church actively scheduled events around the maids' days off and the cohesion that resulted was influential in organizing a labor union for seamstresses. Sophia married a widower and returned to Sweden a wealthy woman.

Jane was an independent woman during the post-famine era in Ireland. Thirty to forty percent of European immigrants who left during this period were women; fifty percent of these women were Irish. Jane did not wish to be dependent on her family, nor on a husband and risk physical abuse or childbearing. The landlords in the area aided immigrants for a one-time profit and to help ease the population burden. Like the Swedes, migration among the Irish was already well established through familial ties, routes, and networks. In America Jane joined a religious order, which was very popular within the female community in the area, as was working in education. Day care and other social services were performed by the church, which catered many of their efforts to the needs of immigrant women.

Hedwig came to America from a part of Poland that was occupied by the Austrians at the time. Seasonal migration systems were common, families sending one to two family members to the United States in order to bring back money and to find marriage partners who were scarce back home. Women came to America to find husbands and men, tired of living in boarding houses, were looking for wives. Polish immigrants were less likely to return to Europe than other immigrant groups, but rather, lived among their cultural familiars and married others living within a 10km radius of their dwellings.

Despite the fact that many immigrant groups chose to settle within close proximity of one another, urban life was still a powerful assimilator. Traditions viewed as less useful in the new environment were discarded and factory employment and the consumer market further equalized the groups. New patterns in immigration numbers and experience for both women and men emerge in the 1930s.

Many people in attendance at Harzig's talk offered family stories similar to those of the four women presented. Of especial interest was new evidence that shows many immigrants making return and repeat trips to America, especially as steamboat travel became more affordable.

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The German-American Encounter: Conflict and Cooperation between Two

Cultures 1800-2000

Edited by Frank Trommler and Elliot Shore
Berghahn Books, 2000

Reviewed by Crister Garrett, Associate Director , Center for German and European Studies at UW-Madison

The editors and authors of this excellent collection of essays maintain that Americans and Germans find themselves in the midst of a new transatlantic predicament that will have long-term consequences for our mutual civilization. A resolution lies in promoting a cross-cultural dialogue inspired by a new curiosity to understand the other side, both historically and in today's setting. This volume makes a significant contribution to that effort.

Frank Trommler, professor of German and comparative literature at the University of Pennsylvania, and Elliott Shore, professor of history at Bryn Mawr College, assembled the authors presented in this collection for a conference on "The Future of German-American History" (Philadelphia, 1999) to re-examine "important phases of the German-American encounter in view of their significance for a common future." The overarching conclusion that the authors reach is "that there is no such thing as a useful monolithic interpretation of German-American relations."

To tease out themes, impacts, influences, and possible guidelines for future relations, the editors divide their book into three sections: "The German Part of American History," "The American Part of German History," and "The New Transatlantic Predicament." The editors remind the reader that getting beyond the clichés when examining these periods in history involves an act of "cultural translation" based on a healthy respect for nuance as much as pattern. That process, as much as the results it renders, will help encourage a robust transatlantic civilization.

Cognitive tools naturally shape ethnic encounters, and two centuries of German-American relations are no different. As Kathleen Conzen (University of Chicago) argues in her contribution in the first part of the book, Germans came to America in the nineteenth century with "phantom landscapes of colonization," preconceived notions of class, religion, education, and social ordering that immigrants assumed would simply be imposed on what was also assumed to be a civilizational *tabula rasa*. This chapter could have also been called "The Rude Awakening" because immigrants from Germany learned quickly that to maintain their cherished life-styles, they would have to negotiate energetically in already established public spaces and mores. That realization and subsequent effort shaped dramatically the American fabric, including the emergence in urban areas of the first institutionalized ethnic communities and some of the country's strongest advocates for personal liberty (so that German Americans would not be hassled for their ideas on alcohol, Sunday closing hours, and such).

Of course, there never really was such thing as "the German immigrant." Even Bismarck's victories in 1871 that led to a spike of German national pride in the United States dissipated rather quickly as immigrants began to recall their previous regional, religious, and class differences. As Hartmut Keil (University of Leipzig) lays out richly in his chapter on German-American workers and the country's political fabric in the nineteenth century, some Germans came from an industrial background in Saxony and parts of Prussia, others came from rural labor backgrounds: "The result of this extended migration was a multiplicity of class and cultural experiences that defies easy categorization" (p.38).

Not only were many of these German immigrants often isolated from a larger English-speaking community, then, but they often competed among themselves for prestige and even power. In this context, Keil argues convincingly, language became an important tool of ethnic calculation and negotiation. German workers realized that they had to reach out, in Keil's words, so as not to "remain isolated in their ethnic cocoon." Newspapers like the *New Yorker Volkszeitung* argued that learning English was not a betrayal of the home culture, but a way to gain more influence, i.e., power. Indeed, as Keil concludes strongly: "Overcoming the language barrier was the most significant—and symbolic—step toward interethnic cooperation" (p.41).

Twentieth century encounters between Germans and Americans ran the gauntlet of trauma that was World War I and World War II and unfolded under the tenuous stability of the Cold War and occupation. As the "German Part of American History" in the nineteenth century involved a steady assessment of "the other" and thus of "oneself," the twentieth century "American Part of German History" included a no less complicated process of identity formation and

thus of strategies for social order and civic engagement. As Michael Geyer (University of Chicago) argues when talking about German reactions to American occupation: "People made a picture of America that suited their bent. Those seeking stability saw in America the alien; those seeking to build a new society saw in America mobility" (pp.126-127).

German immigrants had come to America in the nineteenth century to practice, not surprisingly, a form of social construction that equated to "in our image." Just as unsurprisingly, America entered Germany in the twentieth century working with the same maxim. Both journeys inspired ambiguity, uncertainty, new and different forms of resolve, and ultimately evolving societies being shaped by shifting social values and institutions. These building blocks of civil society could be as fundamental as capitalism and democracy. But as Rudy Koshar (University of Wisconsin-Madison) underlines, German-American engagements in the latter twentieth century on the widespread and personal scale such as witnessed with tourism, "did not entail relations between two bounded and homogenous national communities—there was nothing 'international' about it—but rather transnational or subnational encounters and contacts that merged elements in new syntheses, or rather in a series of layered 'intercultures' neither distinctly American nor German" (p.160).

These encounters ultimately transpired under the relative security of a bipolar and stable world where America had the "parental" power role. That era in German-American relations is clearly over, confronting us with what the editors of this book term "The New Transatlantic Predicament." The predicament is never really clearly defined, but what emerges from this section of the book is that it involves the absence of any guidelines from the past on how to manage in the twenty-first century the German-American dialogue. As Karsten Voigt, coordinator of German-American Relations during the current Schröder chancellorship, terms it, we are in the midst of the "labor pains of a new Atlanticism." Even he cannot say how the next generation of transatlantic discourse will transpire, but its significance for both countries is undisputed.

Take an issue that has been at the heart of German-American encounters over the past two centuries: citizenship and identity. Voigt notes how Germans have been studying various models of citizenship over the last decade to adjust their own concepts of citizenship to a society becoming more multi-ethnic. The result, Voigt points out, is that "Germans are currently getting much closer to Americans [in] the reform of citizenship law. This law redefines not only the notion of citizenship, but the whole identity of Germans, which is why it is controversial."

Thus, after over two hundred years, the German-American dialogue remains similar at the core: by encountering and engaging the other, one evaluates and evolves oneself. The result is a culturally richer and more democratic America, and that applies just as much to Germany. Civil societies anchoring freedoms of expression and exchange have emerged in both countries thanks to the vitality of their "transatlantic learning community."

And yet there remains at the essence of the German-American dialogue another dynamic that cannot be ignored and that continues to require a steady engagement of its own. As Konrad Jarausch (University of North Carolina) reminds us, elites and masses in both countries continue to see each other "through a prism of misleading clichés." Indeed, even with the relative return to normalcy in German-American ties, "the cultural discourses in Germany and America remain remarkably different." What is required to create a constructive dialogue, Jarausch concludes, "is a *new curiosity* [italics from Jarausch] on both sides that is ready to explore the differences arising out of a return to normalcy" (p.230).

Of course as any parent or teacher knows, one cannot compel curiosity. It must be inspired. As Frank Trommler notes, this volume is meant to induce such a feeling by encouraging a cross-cultural conversation that will "lead to better understanding, more innovative scholarship, maybe even better politics" (p.217). The book has succeeded splendidly in that goal.

Beyond scholars and other elites, however, what this book has made strikingly clear to this reviewer is that citizens in both countries have engaged the other because they expected real benefits. There was always the element of a Tocquevillian "noble curiosity," but also a keenly anticipated reaping of "practical benefits," be they the right to practice one's religion, own a trading store, send a child to school, or sleep in on Sunday. We should not lose sight of that fact: For the vast majority of Americans and Germans traveling to each other's lands, the ensuing encounters and learning were inspired by a simple and yet fundamental question of how to improve if not enrich the dignity and meaning of daily life.

This curiosity coupled to self-interest can indeed provide the dynamo to keep vital the German-American discourse that has proved so fundamental to both countries for over two centuries. What this wonderful collection of essays underscores is that while one should not lose sight of the larger picture, the larger picture emerges from many smaller stories. Thus, it is imperative that we continue to research and try to understand what has happened in German-American and other European-American communities in the past to provide knowledge and context for today's transatlantic dialogue. As we learn by the end of this book, the vibrancy of our democracies today ultimately depends on this engaging the past and each other.

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Friends Profile: Charles James

by Felecia Lucht

Charles James has been involved with the Max Kade Institute since he first arrived at the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 1984. "My connection with the MKI here has been almost as long as its existence in Madison," he says. His first formal contact with the Institute was in 1987 when he was invited to be part of a review committee. Charles said that during this time, he "learned a lot" about the activities of the MKI. He was elected to the Friends' Board of Directors first in 1995 and was re-elected in 2001.

In addition to serving on the Board, Charles is also a frequent contributor to the *Friends Newsletter* as a photographer. His interest in photography began when he was a graduate student at Indiana University. In a summer course at IU he learned the technical aspects of developing and taking photographs, including how to examine a subject from the camera's point of view. "I've always been interested in the visual, and, as a right-brainer the visual is central to my way of perceiving the world." He got his first single-lens-reflex camera, a Canon AE-1, in 1977. Photography continues to be one of his favorite hobbies, and he has taken many photographs of lectures and events for the MKI. Charles jokingly commented, "If I keep at it long enough, I may actually get good at it."



Charles is a professor in the German Department and in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at the School of Education. As an educator and a researcher interested in pedagogy, he sees the MKI as a valuable resource for the educational community of Madison. He believes that one of the Institute's strong points is the relationship that it has fostered with area German teachers. The key to this relationship, according to Charles, is combining what the teachers want with the resources that the MKI has.

When asked about his advice for the MKI as it approaches its twentieth anniversary in January 2003, Charles said that the Institute should "continue doing what it's doing": following through on the projects that have been started and focusing on securing grant money to back these projects up.

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Institute Board of Directors
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Sounds of Two Worlds

by Felecia Lucht

The Friends of the MKI are sponsoring the Fall 2002 Conference "Sounds of Two Worlds: Music as a Mirror of Migration to and from Germany" to be held at Memorial Union from September 12-14. The conference will feature lectures by distinguished scholars of music, an exhibit in the Mills Music Library, as well as many concerts. More information will be sent out in the coming month.

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MKI News Briefs

Genealogy Conference

The National Genealogical Society will be hosting its 2002 conference from May 15-18 at the Midwest Express Center, 777 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd in Milwaukee. The MKI and the Friends will have a table at the event. Helmut Schmahl will be presenting two lectures at the conference. His first lecture, "Transplanted but not Uprooted: Nineteenth-Century Immigrants from Hessen-Darmstadt in Wisconsin" will be held at 8 a.m. on Thu., May 16. On Sat., May 18 at 12:00 p.m. he will give a talk entitled "The Top Ten List for Successful Family Research in Germany." More information about the conference can be found online at: http://www.eshow2000.com/ngs/attendee/home.cfm?menu_id=1000. *F.L.*

Summer Immersion Workshop for Educators

The MKI and the Wisconsin Chapter of the AATG will be hosting a summer immersion workshop for educators on German emigration and immigration entitled "*Die Einwanderer—Damals und Heute.*" Participants will have the opportunity to work with authentic historical and contemporary texts and develop lessons for their students. The workshop will be held at the UW-Madison Campus on June 14-15, 2002. Additional information and a registration form can be found on the MKI Web site at <http://www.wisc.edu/mki/EdTeachWkshp02.htm>. The registration deadline

is May 15, 2002. Questions can also be directed to Antje Petty via e-mail: apetty@wisc.edu. *F.L.*

Lake Days Festival: Germanfest in Beaver Dam

Continuing the fine Wisconsin tradition of food, fun, *Gemütlichkeit* and things Wisconsin-German, Beaver Dam's annual Lake Days Festival, which runs through July 11 -14 will include a mini-Germanfest on Sunday, July 14. Joining the ranks of other such festivals, like Franksville's Krautfest und Milwaukee's German Fest, "Germanfest" will have a variety of German foods, music (including the widely known Dorf Kapelle on Sunday afternoon) and culture. The MKI will be there and have a tent on the fairgrounds on Sunday. T.T.

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Calendar of Events Spring 2002

Mon., June 3: Interested in learning Luxembourgish? June 3 is the deadline to sign up for a Luxembourgish language class to be held from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on July 15-18, 22-25, and 29-30. The class will be taught at the Thomas Jefferson Middle School in Port Washington, WI, by Ines Quaring, a teacher from Luxembourg. Registration is required, and there is a \$75.00 fee for instruction and books. Send your name and contact information to: Port Washington Historical Society Research Center, 217 Freeman Dr., Port Washington, WI 53704. Checks should be payable to the PWHS Research Center. For more information, contact Mary Flierl at (262) 284-7174 ext. 3190 or via e-mail at pwhsrc@yahoo.com.

Mon., June 3: Antje Petty will be giving a talk to the German Interest Group in Janesville entitled, "A Taste of History: Looking at the Immigrant Experience in German-American Cookbooks." Call for more information.

Mon., June 10: Professor Joe Salmons will give a presentation with Kevin Kurdylo on German dialects in Wisconsin for the Dodge/Jefferson Counties Genealogical Society at 7:15 p.m. in the Senior Center, 514 S. First Street, Watertown, WI.

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The Old German Script

by Helmut Schmahl

Evolving from medieval handwriting in the early 1500s, the German Script (also called *Kurrent*) was well established by the end of the eighteenth century.

The invention of the steel pen in the 1830s changed handwriting in ink considerably. Within a short period these pens replaced the quills in German schools, and students were now taught to write letters with thin upstrokes (*Haarstriche*)

and thick downstrokes (*Grundstriche*), though many people developed individual styles as adults. This method was taught in German-language primers both in Europe and North America until the early twentieth century.

After World War I more changes were on their way. Many German students began to use fountain pens, and the thin up- and thick downstroke disappeared quickly. At the same time a new type of German script was introduced in schools. It had been developed by Ludwig Sütterlin (1865-1917) and was better suited for a child's hand because it used steep letters and no flourishes. With some modifications it was taught until 1941, when the Nazi government, then at the zenith of its power, replaced the German script with Roman letters in German schools. The main reason for the introduction of the "Normal Hand," widely used on the continent, was to make it easier for school children in the occupied countries to learn German and with the hope of strengthening Germany's future cultural hegemony. At the same time German printers had to switch from the traditional gothic letters (*Fraktur*) to the Antiqua script.

Although some old people still use Sütterlin today and some elementary schools teach the German alphabet, most people in the German-speaking countries of Europe cannot read their traditional script anymore. Many young people, including university students of history, even struggle with printed *Fraktur* texts. When the diaries of Adolf Hitler were forged in the early 1980s, the forger confused the letters "A" and "F" and attached the Fraktur letters "FH" rather than "AH" to their front covers. Although pictures of the volumes were to be found in all major German newspapers it took several weeks until the fraud was detected.

Learning the German script is essential for university students of German and Central European History, as well as for genealogists who wish to trace their German roots. It can be mastered by anyone, even with a limited knowledge of the German language, but requires a lot of practice. Only the lower case characters b, f, j, l, o, and ß and the capital letters J, L, and O look like the letters we are using today.

A major characteristic of the *Kurrent* is that there are two characters for the consonant "s," a "long s" and a "round/final s." A "long s" must be used as an initial letter of a word or syllable, while the "round s" stands at the end of a word or syllable. The letter combinations (ligatures) sch, sp, st, and the double ss always contain a "long s." If s and ch, s and p, and s and t do not form a ligature, a "round s" must be used, such as in "Mäus-chen" or "Weis-tum."

Useful Literature:

Fritz Verdenhalven: *Die deutsche Schrift. The German Script. 2nd ed.* Neustadt a. d. Aisch: Degener, 1991, 151 pp. *Very useful bilingual book. Contains history of German script, alphabet and a lot of documents with transcriptions.*

Witter's Deutsch-Englische Schreib- und Lese-Fibel/German-English Primer. St. Louis: Witter, 1881. Reprinted by the Max Kade German-American Center Indianapolis in 1987. *One of many beginners texts, both in German and English, printed in America for parochial and public schools.*

*Entry in the autograph book
of Alvina Steinfort Brennecke
from Lake Mills, WI (MKI
Manuscript Collection).*

Transliteration:

**Es blühen zerstreut in dem
Garten des**

**Lebens / Die Blumen der
Freundschaft**

**im schimmernden Glanz; /
Doch welken**

sie einsam und blühen



Ich hoffe, dass Sie sich in dem Garten des Lebens
 ein wenig von dem süßlichen Duft der Freundschaft
 aufwecken können und diesen mit sich nehmen,
 der Sie in jedem Augenblick zu einem neuen
 Schritt in der Freundschaft anregt.
 Hugo Zedler

vergebens, /

**Bis Freundschaft sie windet
zum**

duftenden Kranz. /

Zur freundschaftlichen Erinnerung an

Hugo Zedler

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Visiting Scholar at the MKI: Alexandra Jacob

by Angela Horn



Alexandra Jacob is the Institute's newest visiting scholar. She comes to us from Lippe, a small district in East-Westphalia, Germany (for aerial photos of the region visit: www.argos-luftbild.de). Before moving to the States, Alexandra studied at the University of Bielefeld and spent last year preparing for her preliminary exams in several subjects: English, German, Theology and completed her teaching degree for grades 5 through 13. Early in her studies at Bielefeld she took several courses from Professor Dr. Jan Wirrer, where she not only discovered her passion for linguistics but also became Wirrer's project assistant for the next four years. As her advisor, he further cultivated her interests in the regional dialects of Germany and of German immigrants in the United States. Incidentally, Wirrer has been in Madison since early April and will be speaking on the minority languages spoken in Saterland, a *Sprachinsel* near the coast of Germany. It was through Wirrer that she learned of the Institute and of Joseph Salmons' scholarship in this field and decided to travel here. Alexandra is here on a scholarship from the DAAD, the German Academic Exchange Service, one of the leading organizations awarding monies to those students, pupils, and dissertators wishing to

study abroad or in Germany. Interestingly, at a gathering of scholarship recipients, Alexandra discovered that she was both the only linguist and the only humanities student among them; the others being students in the medical or biological sciences.

Over the next calendar year Alexandra will be gathering historical data and field recordings of the Low German dialect from Westphalia among German immigrants living in Sheboygan, WI and the surrounding area.

Alexandra will talk more about her research on Low German dialects in Wisconsin in the Summer 2002 edition of the Newsletter.

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Collection Feature: Genealogy Society Newsletters

by Kevin Kurdylo, MKI Librarian

The Max Kade Institute's library has a collection of newsletters published by genealogy societies concerned with searching for and disseminating the German-heritage histories of their members. Some society newsletters are national in scope, while others are focused on certain geographical areas in the United States (a few of these will cite names found in local cemeteries); some are more broadly interested in German genealogy and the German emigration experience, while others specialize in Germans who emigrated from specific areas, such as Pomerania.

Genealogy society newsletters offer advice for effective research techniques involving print and internet resources, and often include examples of primary source documents such as marriage and death certificates, ship manifests, and family letters. They provide reviews of new publications and useful Web sites, announce upcoming genealogy workshops and conferences, and include articles that help "set the scene" about the lives of ancestors in Germany, their reasons for immigrating to the United States, and the lives they made for themselves here. Society newsletters also provide opportunities to submit queries and develop useful and interesting contacts, as well as clues for picking up lost trails in the genealogical search.

Selected articles from all journals received by MKI are entered into the library's database (see New Acquisitions). A list of society newsletters kept at MKI is provided below. Please note that in some cases our holdings are not current.

Der Blumenbaum (Sacramento German Genealogy Society). Current.

Bulletin / German Genealogical Society of America (Los Angeles, CA). Issues for 1986-1989 only. State Historical Society has issues to 1990.

Genealogical Gems (Fox Valley Genealogical Society, Appleton, WI). Current.

German-American Genealogy (Immigrant Genealogical Society, Burbank, CA). Issues for 1996-2001.

The German Connection (German Research Association, San Diego, CA). Issues for 1983-1989 only.

German Genealogical Digest (Pleasant Grove, UT). Issues for 1985-1986 only. State Historical Society has issues to 1996.

German-Texan Brief (German-Texan Heritage Society, Austin, TX). 1989-2000.

German-Texan Heritage Society Journal (Austin, TX). Current.

German-Texan Heritage Society Newsletter (Austin, TX). Issues for 1979-1988 only.

Germanic Genealogy Society Journal (Minnesota Genealogy Society, St. Paul). Current.

Germans from Russia Heritage Society Newsletter. Issues for 1984-1993 only.

GGG Connect (Newsletter of the Germanic Genealogy Society, St. Paul). Current.

GRHS Heritage Review (Germans from Russia Heritage Society, Bismarck, ND). Issues for 1979-1996 only.

Heart of Wisconsin Genealogical Society Newsletter (Wisconsin Rapids, WI). Current.

Hessischer Verein (Germantown, WI). Issues for 1993-2000. State Historical Society has current issues.

Immigrant Genealogical Society Newsletter (Burbank, CA). Current.

Indiana German Heritage Society Newsletter (Indianapolis, IN). Current.

Infoblatt (German-American Heritage Center, Davenport, IA). Current.

Journal of German-American Studies: A Journal of History, Literature, Biography and Genealogy. Issues for 1969-1980 only.

Journal of the Center for Pennsylvania German Studies (Millersville University, PA). Issues for 1989-1998 only.

Journal of the Johannes Schwalm Historical Association, Inc. [The Association researches, collects and disseminates information relating to all German auxiliaries employed by England during the Revolutionary War.] Issues for 1982-1985 only. State Historical Society has issues up to 1996.

The Lost Palatine: The Genealogy and Culture of America's Rhine Valley Immigrants (Estero, FL). Issues 15-21 [1984?] only. State Historical Society has 1982-1988 on microfilm.

Mennonite Family History (Elverson, PA). Issues for 1987-Jan. 1994 only.

Dat Pommersche Blatt (Wausau, WI). Current.

Die Pommerschen Leute (Mesa, AZ). Issues for 1982-1999 only.

Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland. Reports. No. 24 (1939)-31 (1963), 31 (1990), 42 (1993), 44 (2000).

Swiss American Historical Society Review (Chicago, IL). Current.

The Swiss Connection: Genealogy and Culture (Milwaukee, WI). Current.

The Yellowjacket. (Great River Genealogical Society, Quincy, IL). Issues for 1985-1996 only.

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New Library Acquisitions

by Kevin Kurdylo, MKI Librarian

In this issue we highlight some of the many articles indexed from the journals received by the MKI library. Journal articles are selected with regard to their potential interest to researchers and scholars. Issues of the journals may be viewed at the Institute during normal hours, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays.

"A Day in Castle Garden: Recommended Reading for Descendants of German Immigrants." *Der Blumenbaum*

(Sacramento German Genealogy Society), vol. 18, no. 3 (2001), pp. 99-109. *Includes information on newly arriving German immigrants at Castle Garden, a receiving station at the Battery in Manhattan.*

"A Letter From Germany—78 Years Later: A Time of Desperation, Then Years of Silence." *Der Blumenbaum* (Sacramento German Genealogy Society), vol. 19, no. 1 (2001), pp. 6-10. *Excerpts of translated letters and postcards from Carl Bachem of Königswinter am Rhein in 1923 to the related Stehling family in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The letters and the article describe economic wartime conditions, especially inflation and the drastic devaluation of the German Mark.*

"On the Paper Trail of Johann Heinrich Diedrich Leymann: Typical Documents Left Behind by a German Immigrant." *Der Blumenbaum* (Sacramento German Genealogy Society), vol. 18, no. 3 (2001), pp. 126-33. *Translation of Leymann's military diary during his service in the Prussian Army in the World War, 1914-1918; also includes images of documents associated with his master baker examination and immigration to America.*

Cutcomp, Kent; Edwards, Lois; and Sternberg, Paul. "Internet Sites for Germanic Genealogy." *Germanic Genealogy Journal*, vol. 4, no. 2 (Summer 2001), pp. 23-26.

Edwards, Lois. "Starting Points for Germanic Genealogy: Patterns in German Emigration and Immigration." *Germanic Genealogy Journal*, vol. 4, no. 4 (Winter 2001), pp. 16-17, 19.

—. "Starting Points for Germanic Genealogy: Rivers, Ports, and Cities." *Germanic Genealogy Journal*, vol. 4, no. 3 (Fall 2001), pp. 16-17.

—. "Starting Points for Germanic Genealogy: Ten Best Books for Beginners." *Germanic Genealogy Journal*, vol. 4, no. 1 (Spring 2001), pp. 16-17.

Eidman, S. O. "From Germany to Texas in the 1840s; S.O. Eidman's Journal, Part II." *The Journal* (German-Texan Heritage Society), vol. 22, no. 3 (2000), pp. 49-52. *Part II of this 19th-century German immigrant's journal covers from 1860 to 1870.*

—. "From Germany to Texas in the 1840s; S.O. Eidman's Journal, Part III." *The Journal* (German-Texan Heritage Society), vol. 23, no. 1 (2001), pp. 22-26. *Part III of the journal covers from about 1878 to 1922.*

Heller, Carla M. "Fine-Tuning US Immigrant Arrival Research." *German-American Genealogy* (Spring, 2001), pp. 7-8. *Information about the "immigrant's typical experience" and research implications concerning ship manifests.*

Jones, George Fenwick. "Anthony Schomo's Incantations." *Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland, 44th Report* (2000), pp. 55-61. Charms, translated from German, originally written or dictated in late eighteenth-century Virginia by Anthony Schomo, or Shomo. The charms follow an ancient German tradition going back to pagan days, beginning as *Zaubersprüche*.

Knopp, Ken. "Friedrichsburg's Infamous 'Doctor' Schubert." *The Journal* (German-Texan Heritage Society), vol. 22, no. 3 (2000), pp. 53-64. *Recounts the "trail of questionable deeds" of Friedrich August Strubberg, a nineteenth-century emigrant from Kassel, Germany, to Texas.*

Krenz, Michael Frederick. "Wisconsin Pommerns in the Civil War: A Letter of Michael Frederick Krenz to His Wife." *Dat Pommersche Blatt*, no. 30 (2001), p. 13. *Translation of letter written by Krenz while in Alabama on January 21, 1865.*

Lips, Walter. "Hans Heinrich Felder, Jr., Captain in South Carolina's Revolutionary Army, 1778." *Swiss American Historical Society Review*, vol. 37, no. 1 (2001), pp. 28-34. *Historical, biographical and genealogical information on the Swiss-American Felder family, focusing on Hans Heinrich Felder, Jr. and his role in the Revolutionary War.*

Merrill, Peter C. "German-American Artists and Lithographers in Early Cincinnati." *Society for the History of the*

Germans in Maryland, 44th Report (2000), pp. 49-54. *Brief account of German-American artists in nineteenth-century Cincinnati, including Frederick Eckstein (1787-1832), John Caspar Wild (1804-1846), and Godfrey Frankenstein (1820-1873).*

Prinz, Harvey L. "Those Musical Germans and the Zither They Loved: Part 1—The Davenport Zither Club." *Infoblatt*, vol. 6, no. 3 (2001), pp. 6-9. Part 2: vol. 6, no. 4.

—. "When Germans Brought Bowling to Iowa: First Lanes Built in 1847—Narrow Lane Nine-Pin Bowling." *Infoblatt*, vol. 6, no. 2 (2001), pp. 5-7.

Prinz, Harvey; Meyer, Wayne; and Repp, Steve. "A Misplaced Turner Hall in Galena, Illinois." *Infoblatt*, vol. 6, no. 1 (2001), pp. 15-17. *History of the Galena (Illinois) Sociale Turner Gemeinde, organized in 1851.*

Prinz, Merle E. "Breaking Through: German-American Women in United States History." *Infoblatt*, vol. 7, no. 1 (2002), pp. 14-19. *Biographical notes on Mathilda Franziska Anneke, Marlene Dietrich, Lotte Lehmann, Maria Ludwig (Molly Pitcher), Anna Ottendorfer, Doris Mary Ann Kapplehof (Doris Day), Fredericka Scheff Yarger, Elisabeth Schumann, Margaretha Meyer Schurz, Elisabet Ney, and Lillian Wald.*

—. "The Lumber Barons: The Story of Two German Immigrants Who Began One of the World's Largest Wood Products Company [sic] in Rock Island, Illinois. Part One." *Infoblatt*, vol. 6, no. 2 (2001), pp. 8-12. *Frederick Carl August Denkmann and Frederick Weyerhaeuser establish wood products company in 1858. Continued in vol. 6, no. 3 and vol. 6, no. 4.*

—. "The Poor Palatines: The First Large Migration of Germans to America, 1709-1710. Part Two." *Infoblatt*, vol. 6, no. 1 (2001), pp. 6-11. Reichmann, Ruth. "The Germans in Indiana: Glimpses at Hoosier German History." *Indiana German Heritage Society Newsletter*, vol. 17, no. 2 (2001), pp. 3-6.

Riemer, Shirley J. "Sleep, Baby, Sleep: The Cradles, Cradle-Songs, and Bedtime Prayers that Lulled Your German Ancestors to Sleep." *Der Blumenbaum* (Sacramento German Genealogy Society), vol. 18, no. 4 (2001), pp. 150-164. *Traditional lullabies, those with "nonsensical and otherwise curious lyrics," "politically-descriptive lullabies," childhood prayers, and information on cradles, including "cradle idioms" in the German language.*

Roeder, Flora von. "Otto von Roeder: Prussian Nobleman and Texas Patriot." *The Journal* (German-Texan Heritage Society), vol. 13, no. 2 (2001), pp. 137-143.

Schelbert, Leo. "Swiss in South Dakota: A Preliminary Sketch." *Swiss American Historical Society Review*, vol. 37, no. 3 (2001), pp. 3-22.

Sollors, Basil. "Jonathan Hagar, the Founder of Hagerstown." *Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland, 44th Report*, (2000), pp. 7-16. *Biographical sketch of Jonathan Hagar (1714-1775), settler in Maryland.*

Stewart, Anne Seidensticker. "Freethought in German West Texas." *The Journal* (German-Texan Heritage Society), vol. 22, no. 3 (2000), pp. 37-42.

Turbes, Donna Hollerung. "The Brown County Historical Society: A Genealogical Gem in Southwestern Minnesota." *Germanic Genealogy Journal*, 4, no. 2 (Summer 2001), pp. 8-9. *Information on the Society's holdings; contact information, hours, and fees; and website address.*

—. "Emigrants from Kreis Malmedy, Prussian Rhineland, to North America, 1843-1907." *Germanic Genealogy Journal*, vol. 4, no. 1 (Spring 2001), pp. 5-9. *Entries, arranged chronologically, provide year of emigration, village name, emigrant's first initial and surname, age, marital status, and accompanying family members (occupation is sometimes listed). Index of surnames appears at end of article.*

—. "Military Immigration from German Lands 1776-1783." *Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland, 44th*

Report, (2000), pp. 33-48. Account of German involvement in the Revolutionary War, with an emphasis on Hessian soldiers.

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Donations of Books and Materials to the Max Kade Institute

by Kevin Kurdylo

German-language books published in the United States and Canada that were purchased and read by our grandparents and other relatives, but today are stored away in attics and basements. Treasured heirlooms such as diaries and journals that contain unique first-person observations and interpretations of the experiences of early German-speaking immigrants in America. Family histories produced by individuals interested in their German roots that reveal surprising information ranging from old recipes and traditions to the founding of Wisconsin towns and businesses.

These are just a few examples of the important materials pertaining to the history and culture of German-speaking immigrants that the Max Kade Institute's library seeks to collect and preserve. Donations of books and materials are crucial to the growth and enhancement of the Institute's library of German-Americana and related research materials.

To ensure our library continues to fulfill the needs of researchers, genealogists and scholars, the Institute has recently developed the following policy for developing its collection.

The library of the Max Kade Institute at the University of Wisconsin is a resource for all those seeking a better understanding of the experience of German-speaking immigrants to North America and their descendants, as well as how those people have helped shape North America and been shaped by it. Our collections include rare German-language items published or otherwise produced in America, ranging from cookbooks and literary works to religious texts and personal diaries. Such materials are significant in helping us understand the experiences, histories and cultures of one large group of immigrants to North America. The Max Kade Institute is dedicated to preserving these documents and serving as a repository for them to ensure that they remain available to scholars and a broad public for generations to come.

Donations to the library are always welcome. We are especially looking to collect:

- Books published in North America in the German language;
- Works by German-American authors whether published in the United States or Germany;
- Books published abroad and written in German that focus on German-speaking immigrants, German emigration or the Upper Midwest;
- Works published in Germany by firms who also published in America (such as Carl Hirsch and Ensslin & Laiblin);
- Primary unpublished documents such as diaries, journals, letters or other family papers produced by German-speaking immigrants and their descendants, or which detail the experiences of such immigrants in America. Recognizing the importance of such documents to family members, the Institute accepts reproductions (such as photocopies and digital images), which can often prove as useful to researchers as the originals.

We work to determine the best location for items that fall outside of our library's collection; for instance, textbooks or editions published in America for American students of the German language (such as those published by Heath, Henry Holt, Allyn & Bacon, Ginn and American Book Co.) are sent to the Ellis Collection at the University's Memorial Library. Other items not added to the Institute's library collection may be sent to the Friends of the Memorial Library or the University's Department of German. Select items may be sold with the proceeds going to support the Max Kade Institute.

Please contact the Institute's librarian at (608) 262-7546 or mki@library.wisc.edu with questions concerning donations.

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