

# Max Kade Institute Friends Newsletter

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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON, 901 UNIVERSITY BAY DR., MADISON, WI 53705



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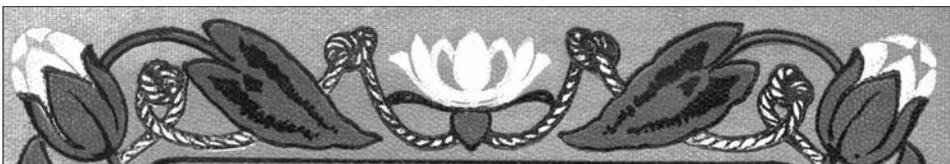
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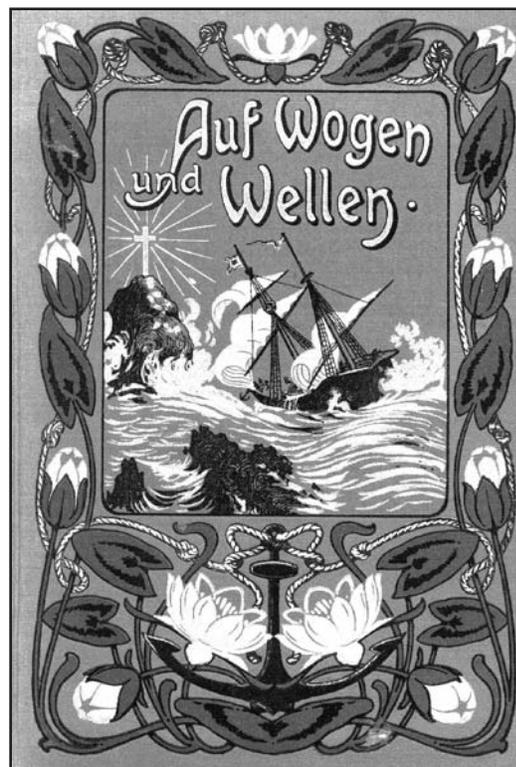
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## Judging books by their covers: On-line resource is a bibliophile's dream

By Kevin M. Kurdylo  
MKI Librarian

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries, in conjunction with the University of Alabama University Libraries, has created an image-rich digital collection that explores the decorative trade bindings of American books and reveals how these books provide insights into historical, cultural, and industrial developments during the period 1815-1930. The resource is called Publishers' Bindings Online [PBO], 1815-1930: The Art of Books, and it can be found at: <http://bindings.lib.ua.edu/index.html>. Visitors to the site will be able to view, in full color and in one virtual location, a collection of more than 5,000 covers, spines, endpapers, and title pages taken from books residing at various physical sites, including some 200 titles held by the Max Kade Institute for



Gold, black, green, and white stamping on blue pebble-grain cloth, from the MKI Library.

Continued on page 4

## German-American studies in the classroom

By Mark L. Louden and Cora Lee Kluge, MKI Co-Directors

Greetings from the Keystone House! The spring semester is now well underway and our program of events is a full one (see p. 5 of this Newsletter). We were gratified at the turnout for our first event, the gala presentation of our "How German Is American?" poster/booklet/Web site project. Over 80 people attended and we have received a lot of good feedback. We are looking forward to taking our presentation on the road. "How German Is American?" will be featured on March 30 at a conference on "Interdisciplinarity" sponsored by the UW–Madison's Office of the Provost, and again on May 5 at the joint annual meetings of the Pennsylvania German Society and the Society for German-American Studies, to be held in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Other upcoming events of note on campus will be talks by Max Kade Visiting Professor Jürgen Macha, Professor Don Yoder (U of Pennsylvania, emeritus), and Dr. Kristine Horner (U of Luxembourg).

Aside from outreach efforts such as "How German Is American?" and the lectures the MKI

sponsors, this year has also seen an increased level of "inreach" through the incorporation of German-American content into courses offered here on campus. Enrollments in these courses have exceeded our expectations, and we foresee increased opportunities to build German-American studies into the curriculum. Therefore, we would like to share with you some of the highlights of these courses.

This semester and last the German Department has offered a total of four courses with a German-American component. In the fall, Cora Lee Kluge offered a senior seminar in German on "The Image of America in Germany from Goethe to the Present" (Das Amerikabild in Deutschland von Goethe bis zur Gegenwart). The subject was an eye-opener, and the 18 students produced papers on diverse topics, ranging from Goethe's image of America to the view in Germany of America's stand on genetically modified foods. This spring, Cora Lee is teaching a more general course, in English, on "The German Immigration Experience." It has a large enrollment of 32 and will probably be offered again next year.

Two additional seminars with a strong German-American orientation are being offered this spring. Mark Louden is teaching "Pennsylvania German Language and Culture" for both undergraduate and graduate students from German and Folklore. This course includes a large number of primary Pennsylvania Dutch texts that exemplify interesting aspects of the folklife of Pennsylvania Dutch-speakers.

At the graduate level, Rob Howell, Mark Louden, and Joe Salmons, all in German, are co-teaching a seminar on "The German Language and Immigration in International Perspective." Sponsored as an interdisciplinary research collaborative through the Center for German and European Studies, this seminar meets via videolink with students and faculty at three other universities: the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill, the Free University of Berlin, and the Europa-Universität Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder). The course examines German in

### Max Kade Institute

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Visit the Max Kade Institute on the  
World Wide Web at:  
<<http://mki.wisc.edu>>.

## Greg Smith promotes German in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin

By Antje Petty, MKI Assistant Director

Each spring twenty to thirty German students from Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, visit their partner school in Biebertal, Germany, and every fall an equal number of students from that German community come to Wisconsin. In addition, every year a few students from

Beaver Dam spend a half-year in Germany, participating in a unique semester-long exchange program pioneered by their Wisconsin high school. The popularity of these exchanges as well as the very successful German-language program at Beaver Dam High School are largely the work of German teacher Greg Smith. When

Greg moved to Dodge County thirteen years ago, he noticed that many of his students were drawn to German, often because of their German-American background—not a surprise in a county where 56% of the population claims German ancestry. For Greg this presented a unique opportunity to convey to his students a love for the language and an interest in Germany today, while drawing on the rich historical resources of his community.

His students are encouraged to bring German-related items to class, leading to many “teachable moments,” such as the one when a student shared a 1868 framed baptism certificate from his family.

The backing of the frame was made of German-language newspapers from that era from Lincoln, Nebraska. The whole class had a blast applying their newly acquired German skills to this old document and speculating what story might lie behind it.

Greg, however, doesn’t limit his promotion of things German to the classroom. Parents and families are constantly involved in the school’s programs, for example in hosting the students from Biebertal. And Greg is engaged at the community level, leading the drive to create a “German Fest” as

part of Beaver Dam’s annual Lake Days Festival: a Sunday of traditional German music, Sheepshead tournaments, and cultural activities that this year will be celebrated on July 9. Each year the local radio station features one organization in Wisconsin with additional programming and an interview. In 2004, the focus was on the Max Kade Institute, and Greg initiated a community-wide book drive encouraging people to donate “old German books” to the Max Kade Institute Library. Since the MKI collection only includes publica-



Heather and Greg Smith

Continued on page 15

### The Friends of the Max Kade Institute Board of Directors

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German-American Studies. The PBO project was initiated by Louis A. Pitschmann, former Associate Director of UW Libraries and former member of the MKI Executive Committee, before he left Madison in 2001 to become the Dean of Libraries at the University of Alabama.

In addition to a controlled vocabulary and a comprehensive glossary relating to books, bindings, and publishing during this era, PBO includes several essays, galleries, and lesson plans, as well as a master bibliography of publications and on-line resources that describe the binding trade, commercial binding equipment, and specific binderies and artists. Seeking to expand awareness of the book as an artifact, PBO allows us to consider just how unique these “common” objects really are. During this time, almost every form of book, be it fiction, nonfiction, or anything else, exhibited varying degrees of ornamentation and design aesthetics on its binding, and this is also true for German-language books produced in America.

The essays on publishers’ bindings are divided into decades, and each essay provides interesting information about artistic styles of the particular period as well as insights into major literary, cultural, and historical events. Each essay is linked to other Web locations that provide more information about items of interest. Additional essays in the “Teaching

Tools” section address such topics as “Representations of the Industrial Revolution in America as Reflected in Book Bindings”; Civil War themes in fact and fiction, including Abraham Lincoln and Confederate personalities, as well as the impact of Harriet Beecher Stowe’s *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*; the history, literature, and culture of New Orleans; the life and writings of Mark Twain; book arts and book bindings (including the art of metal stamping, a gallery of book-cloth grain patterns, handcraft tools and methods of pre-machine-era decorative bindings, and essays on noted binding artists and designers); the works of Louisa May Alcott; and women’s history told on book bindings.

We appreciate the opportunity to display selected books from the Max Kade Institute’s library in the PBO collection. The resource helps to increase awareness of the cultural, social, historical, and bibliographic significance of these artifacts even among those who cannot read the German language. We can learn much from our books’ covers and design as an indicator of their place in America’s history. A quick-click method for retrieving books from the MKI library is provided by the PBO site: <<http://bindings.lib.ua.edu/gallery/kade.html>>.



Arabesque decoration on an 1896 publication in the MKI collection.



Gold-stamped Egyptian cartouche on the cover of an 1857 German-language book published in New York. MKI Library.

# Upcoming Events

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## MAX KADE LECTURE SERIES

**Thursday, March 30, 8–10 p.m.**

Memorial Union, Madison

**Jürgen Macha:** *Between the Language Varieties: Writing Behavior of German Emigrants to the U.S.*

Jürgen Macha is Professor of German Linguistics at Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität in Münster, Germany. He is currently Max Kade Visiting Professor in the German Department at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

**Wednesday, April 12, 7–9 p.m.**

Pyle Center, Madison

**Don Yoder:** *Folklife in America: A Personal View*

Don Yoder is Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies and Folklore and Folklife at the University of Pennsylvania. He is past president of the American Folklore Society and co-founder of the Pennsylvania Folklife Society.

**Thursday, May 4, 7–9 p.m.**

Memorial Union, Madison

**Kristine Horner:** *Ethnic Identification among Wisconsin Luxembourgers*

Kristine Horner is Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Luxembourg and is currently a visiting scholar at the Max Kade Institute conducting research in Ozaukee County, Wisconsin.

## WISCONSIN ENGLISHES –

### A SERIES OF PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS ACROSS THE STATE

**Milwaukee:** Wednesday, March 22, 6–8 p.m., Public Library (Central)

**Eau Claire:** Monday, March 27, 7–8:30 p.m., Plaza Hotel & Suites Conference Center

**Madison:** Saturday, April 1, 10 a.m.–12 p.m., Union South

Join us for a multimedia public discussion of English in Wisconsin: how Wisconsinites talk, how our regional English came to be so distinctive, and how it is changing dramatically today. This series of events will be built around audience participation, led by experts in regional English from around the state.

### IMMERSION WORKSHOP FOR GERMAN TEACHERS

*Das Land, wo Milch und Honig fließen: Immigrationserfahrung als Thema im Deutschunterricht*

Saturday, April 29, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

University of Wisconsin–Madison, Pyle Center

\$29 Registration required by March 31

Contact Antje Petty at [apetty@wisc.edu](mailto:apetty@wisc.edu) or (608) 262-7546

Or see our Web site: <http://mki.wisc.edu/> (Click on “For Educators”)

### Friends of the Max Kade Institute 2006 Annual Meeting

We invite you to attend a very special program for this year’s annual meeting at the West Bend Art Museum in West Bend, WI, famous for its extensive collection of late 19<sup>th</sup>-century and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century regional art, including numerous drawings and paintings by German-American artists.

**When:** Saturday, May 13, 2006

**Where:** West Bend Art Museum, 300 S. Sixth Avenue, West Bend, WI

**Directions:** Call (608) 262-7546

**Program:** 2:00 – 3:00 Annual Meeting (Friends members only)

3:00 – 4:00 Guided Tour of the Art Museum’s Collection

4:00 – 5:30 Social time at the Riverside Brewery, West Bend

5:30 – 6:30 Buffet Dinner at the Museum

6:30 – 7:30 Guest lecture

**Lecture:** By John Eastberg, Senior Historian at the Pabst Mansion in Milwaukee: *Gone But Not Forgotten: Milwaukee’s Lost Homes of Grand Avenue*

**Cost:** \$25 for buffet dinner

**Registration:** Required by May 1st deadline

Send check to:

Friends of the MKI  
901 University Bay Drive  
Madison, WI 53705

Bring a friend, make a Friend!

Dinner purchase includes free 2006 Friends of MKI membership for new Friends.

**For additional information on any of these events, please contact the MKI at (608) 262-7546**

# German-American eyewitnesses

Introduction by Cora Lee Kluge, MKI Co-Director

Translated by Antje Petty, MKI Assistant Director

The following is an excerpt from a piece of historical fiction by Friedrich Mayer (b. 1862 or 1863; d. after 1916). The first of two narrators resembles the author: both were born in Pfalzgrafenweiler (Württemberg), both lived in Michigan, and Mayer had studied theology (Eden Seminary, St. Louis), while his narrator is a young minister. This narrator begins his story by telling that when he was first in Jackson (Michigan), he was eager to add new members to his congregation. He hears of a local man of German birth who will probably not join the church. Only later does he meet him, in connection with a visit from a group of Civil War generals who arrive to support William McKinley, 1896 candidate for the United States presidency. This part of the narrative is full of historical detail, and the figures who appear are American heroes, including Generals Oliver O. Howard, Daniel E. Sickles, and Russell A. Alger. Carl Schurz, and Franz Siegel (Sigel) are mentioned, perhaps particularly for Mayer's German-American audience.

These 1896 events introduce the second narrator, the local German American (also born in Pfalzgrafenweiler!) who avoids the church, the unnamed Forty-Eighter whose "experiences" are promised in the title. It is his account of the 1865 execution of the four co-conspirators sentenced in connection with Abraham Lincoln's assassination that becomes the main story. This figure, who is called "the Counsel," claims he had been the adjutant of General Hartrauft, another historical personality, but in fact he is a fictitious character invented by Mayer to tell his tale. Again, a wealth of accurate historical detail is incorporated, particularly concerning the conspirators' backgrounds, trial, and execution.

The Forty-Eighter's story of his escape from German lands after the Revolution's failure teaches readers about that era, and his narration of the events of 1865 brings to life that part of American history. His story is also the vehicle through which Mayer delivers his central messages: he questions Mrs. Surrat's guilt; and he rails against ministers who preach politics from their pulpits.

I have not learned where this story was first published. The dates of German-American publications entitled *Neue Zeitung* do not fit with the dates involved here, where the first narrator looks back on events of the 1890s. A character named Philipp, who appears once at the beginning of Mayer's story (in a section we have not included), is not identified, and is not referred to again; this leaves us wondering whether this is part of a larger work I do not know.

The following section begins on the day after the Civil War generals' appearance in Jackson, when the two narrators are first introduced to each other in a shoe store.

An excerpt from the Experiences of a Forty-Eighter in America ("Aus den Erlebnissen eines Achtundvierzigers in Amerika")

by Dr. Friedrich Mayer, published in the *Deutsch-Amerikanischer Jugend Freund*, January 1914, pp. 8ff., with credit given to the "Neue Zeitung."

As it turns out, we are indeed from the same village. He knew my mother and went to school with her. He began to talk and told a lot of interesting stories. . . .

"I am a Forty-Eighter; I was wild and foolhardy. When all the hoopla started in 1848, Württemberg was too quiet for me, since our king was not such a bad regent. So I went to Baden. You know what the Prussians did to [Friedrich] Hecker. He had to flee to America, and I had to, too.

"Where did you get the money for the journey? Not from your father, for sure," I interjected.

"No, he himself had very little. When the rebellion was put down, I sneaked through the Black Forest to say goodbye to my father and mother. It

was an awful time, scaffolds were standing everywhere, and the rope for my neck had already been tied. I escaped through the Alsace and France. In Le Havre I became a shipman and sailed around the oceans for three years. In the fifties I came to Michigan, and now I have lived almost forty years in Jackson. Should I tell you about the handful of German pioneers who cultivated this land and wrested a home from the wilderness?"

"Another time, compatriot," I answered. "But how did you get acquainted with these Union generals? Is it true what folks are saying, that you arrested Booth, Lincoln's murderer?"

"I don't like to talk about those days," he said

in an almost solemn voice, "but I will tell you the story. . . . I loved the old fatherland; that's why I had to flee. I love the new homeland; that's why I fought for it for four years. When Richmond finally became ours, and we were preparing to be discharged,

an order suddenly came for General Hartrauft, whose adjutant I was. He was supposed to take his troops in a fast march to Washington. On the way, we heard about the disgraceful assassination of Lincoln, and now we understood the reason for our march. I did not take part in the pursuit of Booth. When we arrived in Washington, we heard that he had already been shot.

But as captain of the jail, I had to guard his fellow conspirators. Four of those were executed. They were Harold, Payne, Atzerot, and Mrs. Surrat. The other three, Arnold, Mudd, and McLaughlin were sent to prison for life. Then there was also Spangler, who was sent to Dry Tortugas for six years. . . . Any minute, he thought, the keys would rattle in his cell door and the soldiers would push in to lead him to his death. I tell you, the man suffered more during this hour of uncertainty than the others, who were executed. And he was innocent, but not the others. I listened to their conversations quite a bit, when they got together in the prison

corridors, and here their guilt was confirmed.

The execution of the four was delayed, because the Secretary of War, General Hancock, was late. . . . Finally he showed up . . . , approached me and ordered: 'Captain, proceed!'

'All four,' I asked, 'she, too?'

'Yes, all four,' he answered brusquely."

This far my Forty-Eighter had come. We held our breath not to miss a single word. These were the details of the events of a great era as no historian had yet documented them. Our captain once more lived through the hardest moments of his life. He wiped the sweat off his brow. But I wanted to know more, and since he stood there in silence,

I asked: "Why did you ask 'all four?'"

"Well, you see, we knew of several attempts to save Mrs. Surrat from the gallows. From a conversation with General Hancock the day before, I learned that most likely only the three

men would be hanged. I was so convinced that Mrs. Surrat would be pardoned, that when her little daughter visited in the morning I almost said: 'Don't cry, Anna, your mother will be saved.' But I suppressed the words after all. I didn't want to raise hope, where it might not be fulfilled.

You know, Payne had sent for me and said: 'My conscience compels me to declare that Mrs. Surrat is innocent. If I had two lives, I would gladly give one to her. She is innocent and her sole crime is that we were caught and arrested in her house.' I related this statement of Payne's to my superior, but it did not do any good. . . ."

The old man became silent. His chest moved up and down. His face was twitching with pent-up emotion. I have to admit, my respect for him was increasing. He had fought for his old fatherland and had to flee because he loved it too much. For his new homeland he had given his life in the trenches of war and had experienced scenes which



## Work of historical fiction is a Pennsylvania German *Da Vinci Code*

Reviewed by Dennis Boyer, MKI Friend

Scott, Jonathan D. *The Woman in the Wilderness: Inside the Mystery of America's First Mystics*. Coatesville, PA: Middleton Books, 2005. 304 pp.

Pennsylvania German themes in American fiction are sparse and seldom well developed. Such literary works have rarely proved durable. Some would say that they have contributed to a monochromatic view of Pennsylvania German culture in ways that reinforce stereotypes.

Jonathan D. Scott's *The Woman in the Wilderness* is a delightfully bold piece of historical fiction that merits enduring appreciation by the reading public and particular recognition in Pennsylvania German heritage circles. The book takes a small but intriguing slice of early colonial pietist roots and presents it on a broad canvas of two continents over four different centuries. From a central Europe turbulent and fecund with occultism and spiritualism to the Lenape fastnesses beyond the early colonial settlements, Scott brings us into the world of Johannes Kelpius and the mystical community of the Wissahickon creek.

The result is a richly textured story that reveals the author's love of a specific place steeped in mystery as well as the universal spirituality and humanity that binds his characters down through the generations.

Although not a potboiler, it is tightly told and has its share of twists and turns. I like to think of it as a Pennsylvania German *Da Vinci Code*, without the car chases and the meddlesome authorities. Its author has a keen eye for historical detail and a fondness for those who keep mysterious legacies alive.

The fictional character Lydia Bielen of Schwenksville inherits a physical artifact attributed to Kelpius's Pennsylvania settlement and is inspired

to learn more about a forgotten tabernacle. Her journey takes the reader from the secrets of Rosicrucianism to the offices of Governor Samuel Pennypacker.

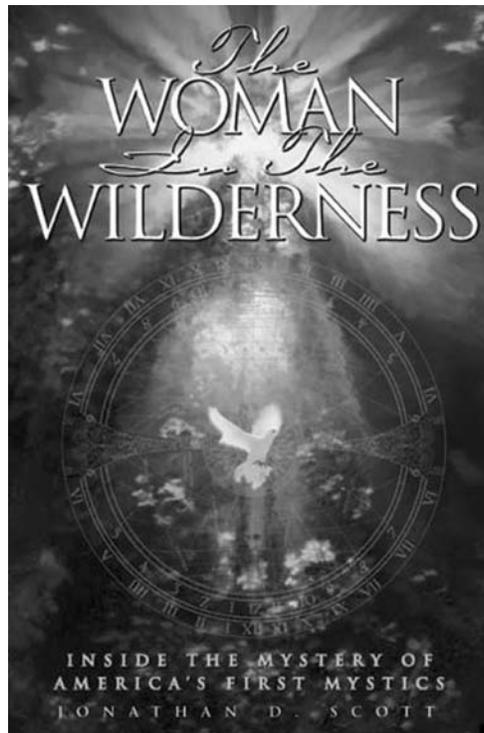
Bielen's investigations alternate with accounts of Kelpius's tribulations and joys. The result is an insightful narrative demonstrating the enduring nature of the quest for spiritual enlightenment.

The author clearly has deep respect for Kelpius's devotion and mystical qualities, but takes care to portray a man grappling with conflicts, contradictions, and uncertainties.

*The Woman in the Wilderness* not only illuminates a little known and fascinating part of Pennsylvania German history, it opens unique perspectives on the potential role of spirituality in community life. In our era of tensions over the role of religion in politics and the principle of separation of church and state, Scott's depiction of life in the Wissahickon com-

munity prompts one to wonder if there is not a kinder, gentler way to dialogue and consensus on these issues.

*Dennis Boyer is a former Berks County (PA) resident who lives and writes in southwest Wisconsin. He has written collections of Midwest stories on ghosts, railroads, taverns, hunting and fishing. He is the author of Once Upon a Hex: A Spiritual Ecology of the Pennsylvania Germans. He is a past board member of the Friends of the Max Kade Institute for German American Studies.*

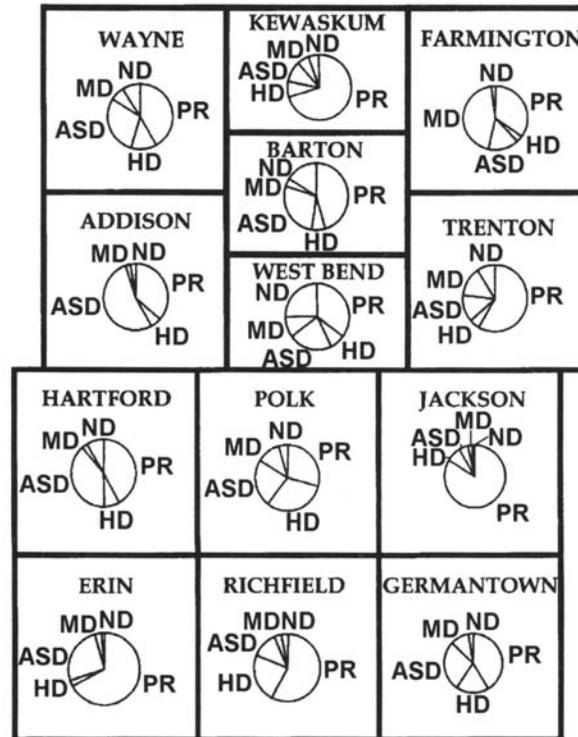


# The early German population of Washington County, Wisconsin

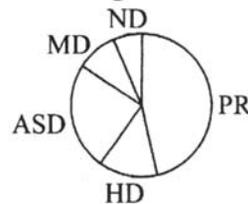
Translated and adapted from a work by Helmut Schmahl,  
University of Mainz, by Antje Petty, MKI Assistant Director

*When the Friends gather in West Bend for their annual meeting this May, they will be visiting one of the earliest centers of German immigration in Wisconsin. As late as the 2000 census, almost sixty percent of Washington County residents claimed German as their primary ancestry, continuing to reflect a settlement pattern that was established in the first half of the nineteenth century. The following passage is translated and adapted from *Verpflanzt, aber nicht entwurzelt: Die Auswanderung aus Hessen-Darmstadt nach Wisconsin im 19. Jahrhundert* [Transplanted but not uprooted: The emigration from Hesse-Darmstadt to Wisconsin in the nineteenth century], by Helmut Schmahl, Frankfurt am Main, 2000.*

In the 1840s, Washington County was second only to Milwaukee as the main destination for German immigrants to Wisconsin. In 1850, 5100 German-born residents as well as 1422 U.S.-born children of German immigrants were listed in the census, and thus German Americans accounted for 58.3% of the county's population. Because of continuing immigration the percentage was even higher ten years later: 16,053 German Americans (9422 German-born and 6631 native-born children) now comprised 68% of the population. Over the



Washington County



Region of Origin:

PR = Prussia  
HD = Hessen-Darmstadt  
ASD = Other south German states  
MD = Central Germany  
ND = North Germany

From *Verpflanzt aber nicht entwurzelt*, p.154.

following decade immigration to Washington County declined because of rising property prices. Members of other ethnic groups moved away from the area, and by the end of the century 80% of the county's residents were of German descent.

During the settlement process, specific patterns emerged among ethnic groups. As early as 1850, German Americans dominated in Washington County. They were, however, concentrated in certain areas—mainly in Germantown, Jackson, Addison, and Polk, but also in Wayne, Richfield,

and West Bend. Anglo-Americans, on the other hand, lived mostly in the sparsely settled northeast and in Hartford, while Irish immigrants were concentrated in Erin and the southwest corner of the county. By 1860 the federal census indicated a population shift: now almost all townships were predominately German.

Irish immigrants—Wisconsin's second largest immigrant group—did not come to Washington County in the same numbers as the Germans. From 1850 to 1860 the number of Irish-born

## Hugo Münsterberg: A German's views on America before World War I—Part 2

By Kevin Kurdylo, MKI Librarian

*In the conclusion of our look at Harvard professor Hugo Münsterberg's book, *American Traits from the Point of View of a German (1902)*, we examine his views of German Americans—particularly his belief that they have not lived up to their potential—as well as his critical observations on American education, scholarship, women, and democracy.*

While Münsterberg seeks to dispel the stereotypical images of Americans held by Germans and of Germans held by Americans, he also laments that German Americans have failed to play an important role in bridging the two cultures. He concedes that the German immigrant is a “respectable and desirable element of the American population,” representing the ideal of solid work and honesty; however, “he is often somewhat unfit to judge fairly the life which surrounds him. . . . [H]e was poor in his fatherland, and lives comfortably here, and thus he is enthusiastic over the material life, praises the railroads and hotels, the bridges and mills, but does not even try to judge of the libraries and universities, the museums and the hospitals. On the other hand, he feels socially in the background; he is the ‘Dutchman,’ who, through his bad English, through his habits and manners, through his tastes and pleasures, is different from the majority, and therefore set apart as a citizen of second rank. . . . [H]e may go his way here for thirty years without ever breaking bread at the table of any one outside of the German circle; he may even have become rich, and yet he is not quite in the social current. . . . Such German-Americans are not only unfit to judge Americans, they are also, unfortunately,

unfit to correct the traditional ideas of Americans about Germans.” Münsterberg claims that German Americans have lost the “German tendency to higher aims”; observing that “the artisan or the farmer, whose highest wish at home would have been to send his son to the Gymnasium, and perhaps even to the university, is here glad if his boy becomes a clever business clerk as quickly as possible. It seems too often as if he imitated by



Hugo Münsterberg

preference the bad features of his surroundings.” He regrets that German Americans have done so little to awaken feelings of mutual sympathy, for “they alone have seen both countries with loving eyes and loyal hearts. . . . In their hands is the flag of truce. They must embody in themselves the best side of the German spirit, and they must open the eyes of Germans at home to what is best in the American nature.”

When describing Americans to his fellow Germans, Münsterberg has this to say, “You are right to hate that selfish, brutal, vulgar, corrupt American who lives in your imagination; but the true American is at least as much an idealist as yourself. . . . The American is not greedy for money . . . he runs after money primarily for the pleasure of the chase; it is the spirit of enterprise that spurs him on, the desire to make use of his energies, to realize his personality. . . . [I]n a country where political conditions have excluded titles and orders and social distinctions in general, money is in the end the only means of social discrimination, and financial success becomes thus the measurement of the ability of the individual and of his power to realize himself in action.”

Münsterberg addresses four aspects of American life in his book: education, scholarship, women,

and American democracy. Space limitations allow us to reproduce only a few of his lines here.

On education: “[American children] need parents who understand what they are doing when they keep their children at home from school on rainy days or let them omit the school work when guests are coming, when they allow their youngsters to be idle through the whole long vacations, when they urge the school to reduce and reduce the daily home work, and when they enjoy the jokes of the child on the teacher. It is a noble thing that Americans put millions into new schoolhouses, but to build up the education in the classroom with a foundation in the serious responsible aid of the parents, is not better than to build those magnificent buildings of brick and stone on shifting sand.”

Münsterberg does not believe that American scholarship is all it ought to be, however: “As soon as the right conditions are given, here too new energies will rush to the foreground. Then the universities will become the soul of the country, and productive scholarship will be the soul of the universities; the best men will then enter into their service, and the productive scholarship of the country will be gigantic in just proportion to its resources.”

On women, alas, Münsterberg proves to be quite sexist. While he admires American women, he holds two principles to be true: “One of these . . . is that it must remain the central function of the woman to be wife and mother; and the other is public life and culture . . . are produced, formed, and stamped by men.” The education of women, he insists, does not make a woman less attractive as regards marriage, but he wonders if education does not make marriage less attractive to the woman—“and no one can blame her, however much she may love her own home, for loving still more the fascinating work for which she was trained.” The American system inspires women to look beyond the home and family, and this, Münsterberg reasons, “works against the creation of substitutes for the individuals who have outlived their life, and thus destroys in the nation the power of rejuvenation.”

In the final section, where he asks whether the American model of republican democracy is superior to the German monarchy, he elaborates upon

the following points: “first, that the achievements of democratic America are not the achievements of American democracy; secondly, that democracy in itself has as many bad tendencies as good ones, and is thus not better than aristocracy; thirdly, that the question whether democracy or aristocracy is better does not exist today; fourthly, that Germany every day becomes more democratic, while America steadily grows aristocratic; fifthly, that there is no difference between the two nations anyway.” This convoluted argument cannot be easily distilled here, but he concludes by stating his belief that “Germany is Americanizing and America is Germanizing. . . . [and] this kinship of character is the best security for a future of lasting peace.”

As the war approached, Münsterberg spoke out against the traditional pro-English sentiment at Harvard, continued to write in defense of Germany’s motives and ideals, and urged America to remain neutral. As a result, he was shunned at Harvard, abandoned by friends, heavily criticized by the press, and even accused of being a spy. In 1916 he collapsed suddenly and died while teaching a class at Radcliffe College. For many years his scholarly contributions were overlooked, although he has in recent years regained status in the fields of cognitive science and film studies.

William Stern wrote in his obituary for Hugo Münsterberg, “He was a man with two Fatherlands [and] for many years, Münsterberg considered it his special problem to strengthen the relations between his first and his second homelands. . . . He did not always find sympathy in these attempts either here or there. . . . [A]t the beginning of the world war, his attitude became completely unambiguous and unconditional. . . . He realized that he was a German . . . regardless of the consequences. What this meant to him is shown in the following portion of a letter sent to me in February, 1916: ‘Day and night I work both before and behind the scenes almost entirely in the interests of the political struggle, and fortunately thus I can accomplish much. Of course almost all of my old relations are severed, especially here in Boston. Most of my friends here no longer recognize me: I have been thrown out of clubs and academies. All their rage has concentrated upon me. But we hold out.’”

residents increased from 1060 to 1371, most of them remaining in the more remote rural areas, where land was more affordable. Large numbers of Irish immigrants too poor to purchase any land also settled in nearby Milwaukee, where they found employment in the bigger city.

In Washington County, as in other areas, immigrants of all ethnic groups tended to stay among themselves for years or even decades after their original arrival. Segregation was solidified by later population movements, as can be seen, for example, in Addison Township. This area was settled in the 1840s mostly by German Catholic immigrants. Between 1850 and 1860 nearly all non-German residents had left the township, sold their land to German-Catholic newcomers, and moved to areas where their own ethnic groups predominated.

Nevertheless, German settlers were not a homogeneous group. They came from different areas of German-speaking Europe, spoke different dialects, and belonged to different religions. In Washington County as a whole, immigrants from the vast state of Prussia were the most numerous, comprising 44% of the population. Immigrants from the southern parts of Germany (Bavaria, Hesse-Darmstadt, Baden, and Württemberg) together made up one-third of all German-born county residents. Among the rest of the German immigrant population, 5% came from Saxony and 4% from Mecklenburg.

People tended to move to areas where others from their home region lived. In the early 1840s Father Martin Kundig, a Swiss-born Catholic priest in this part of eastern Wisconsin, remarked: "Wherever I go people shout into my ears: we have reserved land around here for twenty or thirty families, for our friends who will join us in the spring." The 1860 census confirms Kundig's observation: Saxons (229) were the strongest group in Farmington, while Bavarians predominated in Addison (332), Germantown (219), and Hartford (219). The Prussians of Washington County were mostly Pomeranians and former citizens of the Rhine Province. The main settlement of Lutheran Pomeranians was Jackson, people from the Huns- rüch were concentrated in Germantown and Polk, while Catholics from the Rhineland could be found in Richfield and those from the Mosel in Addison.

still stirred his heart today. Almost reverentially, I looked into his weather-beaten, furrowed face, from which a pair of loyal, grey eyes gazed at me. Did he sense my thoughts about him, my pastoral wishes for him? Suddenly he got up: "Herr Pastor, I don't go to any church, but I am not a godless person; I prayed to God Almighty when I crossed the seas; I prayed for his help in the face of the enemy during the war; I even—believe me or not—asked for forgiveness for those four murderers of Lincoln, whose deed I abhorred. Frequently at night, I look out of my window up to the stars and think of God."

He paused, but as if to forestall any answer of mine, he suddenly continued with a raised voice: "When I fled in 1848, I sneaked into the old church in Pfalzgrafenweiler. I wanted to hear a word that would give me solace and strength for my trip and my journey into a gloomy future. . . . But the preacher stepped on the pulpit and started to give a political speech so bitter and untrue that I had to restrain myself not to curse loudly when I went outside. What do politics have to do with the pulpit?"

"That was in Germany, in the state church," I interjected. "Here in America things are different; here the church is free."

"Different," he thundered. "Didn't all the clergy in the South preach against Lincoln, defending slavery? After the execution I went into a church in Washington. How that fellow standing on the pulpit ranted and raved. Not a single word about 'mercy' came over his lips. Here the Yankee preachers take their sermons into the newspapers. Should I tell you what they all preached about last Sunday: tariffs, beer in the park, free silver, women's suffrage, our sheriff, the duties of a citizen, etc. It isn't any different from the same old nonsense we read in the paper every day.

The day we have a church where the ministers allow God's word to be heard, I will be there. . . . You are still young; preach, show people God and their deliverance and their salvation; then you can count on your countryman, the Forty-Eighter in America." With this he was already on his way out of the room.

# Bringing the past to light: Translating obituaries from the *Dodge County Pionier*

By Kevin Kurdylo, MKI Librarian

In Hartford, Wisconsin, volunteers at the Hartford History Room (a part of the Hartford Public Library) have undertaken the impressive task of translating obituaries from the *Dodge County Pionier*, a weekly German-language newspaper published without interruption from 1876 through 1945 in Mayville, Wisconsin. Among the longest-published non-English-language newspapers in the United States, the *Pionier* covered all of Dodge, much of Washington, and some of Fond du Lac, Waukesha, Jefferson, and Milwaukee counties. It includes obituaries for a variety of nationalities, not only the Germans, and the volunteers are finding that many of the obituaries contain information not found in the English-language papers.

Copies of the newspaper are now owned by the *Mayville News*. While bound copies of the last two decades are available at the *Mayville News* for use by researchers, the earlier years are too fragile to be handled. Shirley Hess, coordinator of the Hartford History Room and its twenty volunteers, says they are working primarily with photocopies made from the microfilm holdings at the Wisconsin Historical Society. Unfortunately, the print quality is often problematic. Finding that newspapers for 1876–1885 are especially difficult to decipher, they began with 1886. “One of our volunteers photocopied sixty years of obits and marriages from the microfilms,” Shirley reports. As volunteers translate each year’s obituaries, the German texts are placed next to the translations in book form, then indexed.

The volunteers have translated obituaries for the years 1886 to 1911, and are currently working on the

years 1912 to 1916. They have found a large number of deaths due to railroad accidents, many suicides, and the occasional “odd obit,” such as this one from Feb. 27, 1906:

James Mulligan of Iola was close to being buried alive on Thursday morning. The funeral procession moved slowly from the house of mourning to the church when the driver of the hearse heard a groan behind him, followed closely by the clatter of glass. Mulligan sat up to protest that someone was trying

to bury him alive and he had broken the glass in the casket. The casket was opened and Mulligan, who was completely conscious, asked where he was. He had lain there for three consecutive days with tetanus. (Tetanus is a disease that stiffens all the muscles. Caskets often had a glass insert over the area of the head, so the face of the deceased could be seen.)

Currently wedding announcements are not being translated, although some are being added to family files and there are plans to index the rest in the future. Only a few interesting notices from the marriage section were translated, including this one:

Der katholische Pfarrer von hier, welcher nahezu drei Jahre hier angestellt ist, hatte bisher noch keine Hochzeit in seiner Kirche vollzogen und hat eine stehende Offerte von \$20 für das erste Paar ausgesetzt, welches in seiner Kirche getraut wird. Es ist aber doch wunderbar, dass in der katholischen Kirche in Waupun seit so langer Zeit keine Trauung stattgefunden hat.

Waupun—The Catholic minister who has been serving here for nearly three years has not yet officiated at a wedding in his church. He has promised

— James Mulligan von Iola war nahe daran, Donnerstag Morgen lebendig begraben zu werden. Langsam bewegte sich der Leichenzug vom Trauerhause aus der Kirche zu, als der Fuhrmann des Leichenwagens hinter sich im Wagen ein Stöhnen hörte, welchem gleich darauf das Klirren von Glasscherben folgte. Mulligan erhob offenbar dagegen Einspruch, daß man ihn lebendig begraben wollte und hatte das Glas im Deckel des Sarges zerbrochen. Der Sarg wurde geöffnet und Mulligan, welcher unterdessen wieder ganz zum Bewußtsein gekommen war, setzte sich auf und fragte, wo er denn eigentlich sei. Er hatte drei Tage ununterbrochen im Sarg-Strampfe gelegen.

An example of the text quality with which the volunteer translators have to work.

## Reception for “How German Is American?” was a great success!

By Ruth Olson, CSUMC Associate Director

Spirits were high and discussion stimulating on Friday evening February 3, at the reception for the new Max Kade Institute outreach project, “How German Is American?” MKI Friends, UW students and faculty, and other guests gathered to celebrate the public release of the poster and accompanying booklet, which together explore the influences of German cultures on American life.

More than eighty visitors attended the event. They were greeted by a colorful display highlighting images and texts from the poster, as well as framed versions of the poster itself. Posters and booklets were available for guests to take home.

Mark Loudon, co-director of MKI, welcomed everyone and thanked all those who contributed to this very successful project, including the German Consulate in Chicago who financed the publications. Mark then introduced the rest of the MKI staff, who went on to give lively presentations on the major themes presented in the poster.

Kevin Kurdylo, MKI librarian, spoke on “Settling in America.” Such images as a map showing the distribution of European-born German-speakers in the United States in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and a log-shaped advertisement card meant to tempt possible immigrants gave the audience a good sense of early German immigrant life.

Assistant Director Antje Petty spoke on the theme “Building Communities,” showing images that demonstrated the continued use of the German language in some communities, and images that captured iconic depictions of German-speaking immigrants—for example, a Grundsow (Groundhog) Lodge program cover from Allentown, Pennsylvania, and a postcard from Milwaukee showing a stout German driving a beer-barrel automobile,

complete with compartments for limburger cheese and frankfurters.

Cora Lee Kluge, co-director of MKI, spoke on “Growing into the Nation,” detailing the historical and political development of German immigrant culture in the United States, and remarking on the immigrants’ interest in national as well as local issues. Cora Lee prompted us to remember that many



Mark Loudon, MKI Co-Director

German immigrants also settled in American cities, particularly emphasizing that if German influences are less evident in urban settings than in small town and rural settings, that could be taken as a sign of how deeply engrained German culture has become within America. Thus, the disappearance of the German language might be viewed positively, too—the more invisible, the more deeply

interwoven German and American cultures are.

Finally, Mark Loudon finished off with a description of “Shaping Cultures,” in which he offered several intriguing images, such as an illustration of Bambi from the original publication written by the Jewish author Felix Salten. Mark talked about the transformation of *Bambi* from an allegory about Jewish persecution in Europe, to its current popularity as a Disney movie humanizing animals. Mark reminded us that as well as asking “How German is American?” we can also ask “How American is German?” American culture has made its way into German culture too, through words, phrases, activities—in short, through the usual dynamic processes involved in the creation and maintenance of culture.

Spurred on by these inspiring presentations, many guests participated in a lively question-and-answer session, and continued their conversations with refreshments. “What for beer do you want?” inquired one graduate student, in an appropriate end to the evening.

Pionier continued from page 13

\$20 to the first couple to be married in his church. It is unusual that no marriages have taken place at the church for such a long time.

Shirley wants to be clear that “We don’t claim to be expert translators, and we welcome corrections!” Poor-quality print leads to many difficulties, especially with words and names that include double ff’s and ss’s; capital I and J also cause some troubles. When stumped, the volunteers look at other words and letters in the column, check the History Room’s family files, church and census records, and even other articles possibly from an English paper, until they come up with what they believe to be the correct spelling. Shirley recommends that researchers become familiar with how a sought-after surname looks in German print, and also keep an open mind about variant spellings of surnames, either in print or in translation. All in all, their goal is to provide access to German-language information for those researchers who aren’t comfortable with the language, and their efforts are certainly admirable.

The volunteer-run Hartford History Room contains more than 3,000 family files; church records for many churches in Dodge and Washington counties (most transcribed and indexed); church records from Germany that are of local interest; all naturalizations for Dodge and Washington counties; cemetery records; files on area businesses, buildings, and homes; area photographs, historical books, genealogies, war records, and more. Volunteers continue to add new materials to the files, and they assist researchers with queries in person, by mail, and by e-mail. They also maintain a surname exchange which helps link up researchers investigating the same surnames. There is no charge for using the History Room, other than copying fees and postage for mail queries. Donations of family genealogies and information are always welcome, and monetary donations can help provide additional research materials. Hours are 1st and 3rd Thursdays 10 a.m.–8 p.m.; remaining Thursdays 10 a.m.–4 p.m. (no evening hours in December). Appointments for other days are available, depending on scheduling. The mailing address is Hartford History Room, 115 N. Main, Hartford, WI 53027; they can also be

contacted by e-mail at: [hplhistoryroom@hnet.net](mailto:hplhistoryroom@hnet.net).

An on-line search reveals that a partial index of the *Dodge County Pionier* can be found at: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~widodge/header.htm>. This index—the work of an individual not associated with the Hartford History Room—includes listings of obituaries, wedding announcements, marriage licenses, and some wedding anniversary and birth announcements.

Additional information on the *Dodge County Pionier* is included in a 1970 UW–Madison dissertation by Mary Anderson Seeger, titled “English influences on the language of the *Dodge County Pionier* of Mayville, Wisconsin.” This dissertation is part of the holdings of the Max Kade Institute Library.

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North America and the social and linguistic situation of German in contact with other languages, including in Russia, Latin America, and post-*Wende* Germany itself. The capstone of this course will be a public conference on the topic to be held in Madison Sept. 28–30, 2006. Look for more details on this exciting event in the next Newsletter!

Happy Spring to all our Friends!

Mark and Cora Lee

Profile continued from page 3

tions printed in North America, some of Greg’s students volunteered to identify the suitable books: another real-life learning opportunity.

According to Greg, he joined the Friends to show his appreciation of the support the MKI gives to teachers. He especially values classroom materials and ideas and community seminars such as MKI’s “Old German Script” workshops.

Greg is joined in many of his endeavors by his wife Heather and their three children, ages 11, 7 and 3. Greg and Heather, also a German teacher, met when they participated in a study-abroad year in Bonn, Germany, and both are UW–Madison alumni. It is thus no surprise that German features prominently in the Smith household, and even the children speak—as their dad puts it—a pretty good “Kinderdeutsch.”

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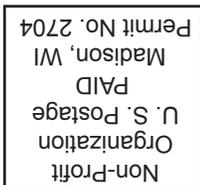
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