MAX KADE INSTITUTE
FRIENDS NEWSLETTER
Volume 19 No 1 • Spring 2010

The Captain Frederick Pabst Mansion: A Testament to America's Gilded Age

Peter Arvedson

Photo used with permission of the Pabst Mansion.

The Pabst Mansion as it appeared in its full glory on Milwaukee's Grand Avenue.

INSIDE

- News Briefs
- The Bubbler and the Kohler Company
- Friedrich Hecker, Forty-Eighter
- 2010 Annual Meeting and Dinner in Milwaukee
- A. R. Hohlfeld and UW–Madison, 1906
- *Die Glocke*
- Friends Profile: Kris Horner

Wisconsin Avenue, one of Milwaukee's central thoroughfares, looks like any other street in a big American city. There is, however, an eye-catching, unique building at 2000 West Wisconsin Avenue: the Captain Frederick Pabst Mansion, where the Friends of the Max Kade Institute will hold their annual meeting this year (see page 9). Built in 1892, the Pabst Mansion is the only building still reminiscent of the time when Wisconsin Avenue was known as "Grand Avenue," a street lined with 65 of the most exquisite homes of Milwaukee's wealthiest families and a representation of the city's Gilded Age. Within only a few decades, however, many of the original owners had moved on. Their houses were sold and demolished, giving way to the city's expansion.

In April 1933, the *Milwaukee Sentinel* published a lengthy article entitled "Back in the Days When Grand Avenue Was a Name That Fitted the Street," which lamented the change of a street that had seen "magnificent homes, outstanding social occasions, and later civic development," where "some of most outstanding citizens had erected houses which

Continued on page 4

Greetings, Friends and Readers!

We are as busy as ever, but we pause to take note of the fact that spring is beginning, the lakes are no longer frozen, and warmer weather is on the way. With the change of seasons, we look back on a winter's worth of hard work and successful activities—and forward to more of the same.

We are focused at this point on fundraising for the Library Project in preparation for our big move next year to the University Club on Library Mall. You have responded generously to our capital campaign drive so far, and we thank you *very much* for your support. At the same time, we are far from finished, and it cannot be stressed enough how essential more contributions are at this point. We are submitting grant proposals to private corporations and federally funded organizations, requesting financial assistance for needed renovations at our new location, for funding for a secure librarian position, and for new acquisitions; and we must show substantial commitment from within—from the UW, from our Friends, and from other private individuals—if our applications are to be successful. Again: many heartfelt thanks, and please continue to support us with your tax-deductible donations. These can be sent to the Friends or to the UW Foundation, always designated clearly "for the MKI Library Project."

Meanwhile, our other activities continue. Just one week ago, MKI and the University of Leeds Worldwide Universities Network Fund for International Research Collaborations co-sponsored an inspiring two-day conference held here in Madison, "Representing and Experiencing Transnationalism: Germanic Languages and Cultures in Global Perspective," with speakers from literary studies, film studies, immigration studies, linguistics, community development, and more. The chief organizer of this conference was MKI Friend Kris Horner, and she and all participants are to be congratulated on a highly successful event. There have been other activities in the last few months, too: MKI co-sponsored a local symposium in February on "Language as Homeland"; and our involvement with the "Language Matters for Wisconsin" project has continued with a number of trips to locations around the state.

Kevin has been working on the German-American Civil War figure named Friedrich Hecker; and I have been collecting German and German-American Civil War literary and journalistic commentaries for coming conferences and courses, as well as looking into the magazine entitled *Die Glocke*. Many wonderful things are still to be discovered, and we are convinced more than ever that we are delving into an absolute treasure trove. Unfortunately, more of the material is disappearing with each passing day: 100 years ago it would have already been too late to undertake some of this work.

Kevin is busy as always cataloging and posting news about our Library's new acquisitions, but he has also spent a good deal of time helping approximately 30 students in Mark Louden's course on "The German Language in America" (German 352). They are using the MKI Library and Archives as a primary source of materials for their projects and term papers. And Daniela Heinisch, Helmut Schmahl's student at the University of Mainz in Germany, is also with us to work on her thesis on nineteenth-century German-American women. We enjoy having a full house—but we are also looking forward to the much improved (larger and more comfortable!) space for students and researchers that will be ours sometime in the year 2011.

We are thinking of you and wishing you all the best for a good spring season—with hard work, good success, and happiness with the assignments that come your way. Stay in touch!

—Cora Lee

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies is published quarterly at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Submissions are invited and should be sent to:

Kevin Kurdylo
Friends of the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies
901 University Bay Drive, Madison, WI 53705
Phone: (608) 262-7546
Fax: (608) 265-4640
kkurdylo@wisc.edu

mki.wisc.edu
maxkade.blogspot.com

Mineral Point High School Students Present "Languages Matters" Film Project April 18, 2 pm United Methodist Church in Mineral Point

Fifteen Mineral Point High School students in Judy Bennetts' AP English Literature and Composition class have been inspired by MKI's "Language Matters for Wisconsin" project. After watching the film "American Tongues," a 1988 production about language in America, the students recorded language in their own community. They will share their videos with the public as part of the Mineral Point Historical Society Lyceum on Sunday, April 18.

Waldsee Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Waldsee, the German-language immersion center among the Concordia Language Villages in Bemidji, Minnesota, is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Former campers, parents, staff, and families are invited to festivities and a series of alumni weekends in June, July, and August. Further details can be found at <www.waldsee.org>.

International Conference on "Investigating Immigrant Languages in America" September 16–17 UW–Madison campus

The Max Kade Institute and the University of Oslo/Norway are involved in collaborative research efforts on immigrant languages in America, in particular the Northern European Germanic languages such as Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, Faroese, Icelandic, Frisian, and the Low-German dialects. Mark your calendars for the international conference on September 16–17. Details are forthcoming, and will be posted on <mki.wisc.edu>.

Board of Directors, Friends of the Max Kade Institute

Peter Arvedson *Treasurer, Elm Grove*
Hans Werner Bernet *Monroe*
Sandra Casterline *Oconomowoc*
Gary Gisselman *Secretary, Wausau*
Elizabeth Greene *Madison*
Charles James *Vice President, Madison*
James Kleinschmidt *Fitchburg*
Cora Lee Kluge *ex officio, Madison*
Tom Lidtke *West Bend*
Fran Luebke *Brookfield*
Peter Monkmeyer *Assistant to the Treasurer, Madison*
Antje Petty *ex officio, Madison*
Karyl Rommelfanger *President, Manitowoc*

Continued from page 1

made [Grand Avenue] until recently one of the most beautiful residential sections of the city." The article continues: "When the homes were first built there, every house was set far back on a great lawn. The green plots were scenes of many activities; croquet and archery enthusiasts could be found on almost every lawn." The paper includes a list of residents, a veritable who's who of late-nineteenth century Milwaukee, including publisher George Brumder, industrialists Patrick Cudahy and William Plankinton, restaurateur Henry Wehr, and, of course, brewery owner Captain Frederick Pabst.

Born in 1836 in Nikolausrieth, Thuringia, Germany, Frederick Pabst came to the United States with his parents when he was twelve years old. At age fourteen, he began work as a cabin boy on a steamship on Lake Michigan. By the time he was twenty-one, he had advanced to captain of his own ship,—and for the rest of his life he was known as Captain Pabst. Years later, Pabst married Maria Best, the daughter of Milwaukee brewery owner Phillip Best. Pabst became a partner in his father-in-law's business, taking over the company in 1889 and renaming it the Pabst Brewing Company.

The same year, Captain Pabst commissioned Milwaukee architect George Bowman Ferry to design a house in the Flemish Renaissance Revival style on a large piece of property that Pabst had acquired some years earlier. The original cost estimate for the construction of the house was $75,000, but the final cost was $160,000. Records indicate that even as the house was being built, walls were already being removed and changed. When the Pabst family moved into the house in July 1892, it had been under construction for two years, a remarkably short time for such a home, but Captain Pabst thought it should have been done in 18 months and was already complaining about delays early in 1892.

No cost was spared in the Mansion's design. The house was wired for electricity, plumbed for nine full bathrooms, outfitted with a state-of-the-art heating system that regulated the heat in the Mansion with 16 thermostats, and decorated with custom-built furniture. The outside of the Mansion was just as impressive, with a large stable to the rear of the property that was similar in

Photo used with permission of the Pabst Mansion.

Captain Pabst.

Photo used with permission of the Pabst Mansion.

A photograph showing the Reception Hall as it originally appeared.

style to the main house. A large glass conservatory behind the building housed tropical plants that would be taken out into the gardens during the summer months. At the north end of the property stood a servant's duplex, where the butler, the coachman, and their families resided. Inside the Mansion, colors, woodwork, furnishings, and ornaments harmonized from room to room to create a unified interior design. Works by some of the best-known artists of the time, such as Bougereau, Schreyer, Verboeckhoven, Eckenbrecher, and Ridgeway Knight decorated the walls.

Before they moved into the Mansion, the Pabsts had lived next to the Brewery, ten to twelve blocks northeast of the Mansion, where their five children were raised. For twelve years, the Pabsts enjoyed their home at 2000 Wisconsin Avenue. After Captain Pabst died in 1904 and his wife passed away in 1906, their children put the house on the market. They had their own homes by then, they had not grown up in this house, and the neighborhood was already beginning to deteriorate.

In 1908 the property was purchased by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Milwaukee, which occupied the building for 67 years and preserved its original condition. When the Mansion was sold in 1975, it was slated for demolition by its new owners to give way for a parking structure. Now, however, the people in Milwaukee had grown to appreciate this last remembrance of "Grand Avenue," and in 1978, thanks to a number of community initiatives, the house was sold to Wisconsin Heritages Inc., which opened it to the public as a museum.

Since then much has been accomplished to restore the Mansion at 2000 Wisconsin Avenue to its original state. This includes bringing back original artwork and furniture. In the early years, Captain Pabst had pictures taken of the rooms on the first and second floors and one room on the third, and these pictures now guide the restoration. Additional insight comes from an inventory done of the Mansion shortly before Mrs. Pabst's death.

The Captain and his wife lived on the second and third floors of the Mansion, which they furnished with items from their previous home. The furniture on the first floor was custom made for the Mansion by Matthews Brothers in Milwaukee. After the Pabst children sold the house in 1906, they took what had been on the second and third floors with them, but left the furnishings on the first floor for the Archbishops. As a result, the first-floor interior of the Mansion is still in its original state today. In recent years other pieces of furniture and artwork have been returned to the building by descendants of the Pabst family. Augmented with carefully selected period pieces they now give the second and third floor a near-original appearance, too.

You can learn more by reading *The Captain Frederick Pabst Mansion: An Illustrated History,* a recent book by John Eastberg, Director of Development and Senior Historian at the Pabst Mansion. And do join the Friends on May 1 for their annual meeting and a personal tour!

Photo courtesy of Peter Arvedson.

The Parlor as it appears today.

"We Throw Coins into Water Fountains": The Bubbler and the Kohler Company

Antje Petty

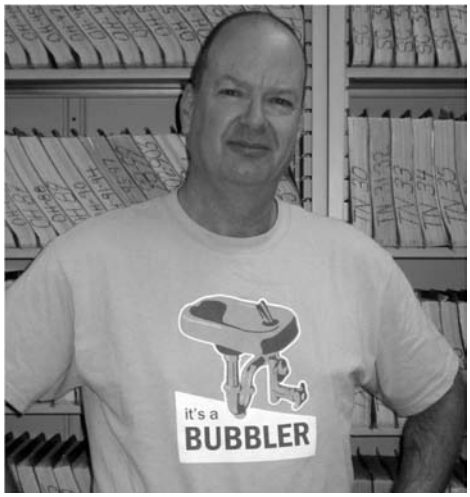
At several public events connected with our Language Matters for Wisconsin project, we have asked, "What do you call the fresh-water drinking device that you find in many public places?" The answers differed greatly depending on where we were. Regional variants of English are not only identified by pronunciation or grammatical structures, but also by vocabulary, and—as it turns out—most of the nation uses two words for the above mentioned device: "water fountain" (most places east of the Rocky Mountains) and "drinking fountain" (west of the Rocky Mountains and around the Great Lakes). In Wisconsin, however, we encountered a third term: "bubbler." Linguistic surveys have shown that "bubbler," meaning "drinking fountain," is used in only two locations in the United States: 1) in the eastern two-thirds of Wisconsin and northern Illinois, and 2) in Rhode Island.

There are many reasons for different regional words. One reason is the influence of an immigrant language on regional English, as, for example, in the widespread Wisconsin use of "brat" (from the German "Bratwurst") for a particular type of sausage. "Bubbler," however, has a different history. Early in the twentieth century, the Kohler Company—located in Kohler, Wisconsin, and already well known for its plumbing fixtures and faucets—introduced a new product: a drinking fountain with a nickel-plated brass self-closing bubbling valve. The original version shot water one inch straight into the air, creating a bubbling texture, while the excess water ran back down over the sides of the nozzle. Later the water came out in an arc projection, making drinking from it much easier and also more sanitary. Kohler patented this design, trademarked it under the name "bubbler," and sold it alongside the traditional jet-stream-valve drinking fountain.

Other manufacturers soon came up with similar valves, and this type of drinking fountain became the dominant design. Nevertheless, it is in those regions in the United States and the world where the Kohler Company originally heavily marketed its "bubbler" that the word has become synonymous with "drinking fountain." Thus, in addition to Wisconsin and Rhode Island, the term "bubbler" is also widespread in Australia, especially around Sydney.

The Kohler Company is named for an emigrant from Austria. John Michael Kohler was born in 1844 in the small village of Schnepfau in the Voralberg region. As a ten-year-old boy he and his family emigrated to America, where they first settled near St. Paul, Minnesota. In 1871, John Michael Kohler married Lillie Vollrath, daughter of Jacob Johann Vollrath, an immigrant from the Rhineland who owned various manufacturing businesses in the Sheboygan, Wisconsin, area. In 1873 he and a friend bought one of his father-in-law's businesses: a plow and farm implement company. Meanwhile, Jacob Vollrath, who had learned the molder's trade, began to manufacture enamelware pots, pans, plates, and other kitchenware, which he created by coating cast iron with ceramic glaze, a procedure that was

Continued on page 15



Front and back views of a T-shirt sold by the Wisconsin Historical Society as part of its "Real Wisconsin" apparel.

Friedrich Karl Franz Hecker, 1811–1881 Part I

Kevin Kurdylo

Most Germans in America in the mid-1800s were not refugees from the failed Revolution of 1848 in Europe, but many of those who were—so-called Forty-Eighters—felt strongly about the issues of slavery and preserving the Union and were drawn to participate in the American Civil War, almost exclusively in support of the North. Idealistic, passionate, often highly educated, and hurting because of their shattered dreams and disappointments in Europe, these individuals were offended by America's failure to adhere to its founding principles of liberty and democracy, and believed that national unity was a cause worth fighting for, with words and actions. In fact, it has been claimed that if not for the Forty-Eighters' crusading spirit and dedication to human freedom, "the outcome [of the struggle] might have been different from what it was."

Hecker as a revolutionary icon.

Speaking at a 1906 memorial service for Carl Schurz, Edmund J. James, a former president of the University of Illinois, elaborated upon this idea:

> *We who love to compromise, that characteristic of the Anglo-Saxon, might have tried to worry on under some kind of system by which slavery should have increased in power and strength without weakening the vigor and might of the free states,—of course, an absolutely hopeless proposition. Or we might have consented to a possible dissolution of the Union, which would have been a great misfortune. . . . But the men of '48 . . . were men not bound down by any of those traditions which held us in chains. They knew nothing of the Missouri compromise or the Nebraska bill or any other of the numerous devices by which we tried to break the force of the oncoming storm. They . . . had suffered in behalf of liberty; they . . . had staked their entire careers on the side of freedom in the great struggle between privilege and democracy; they were prophets; they were seers; they were idealists; they saw or thought they saw what was right, and they planted themselves firmly and distinctly on that side with no hesitation and no wavering. They rallied to a man to the standard of the Union and of freedom.*[1]

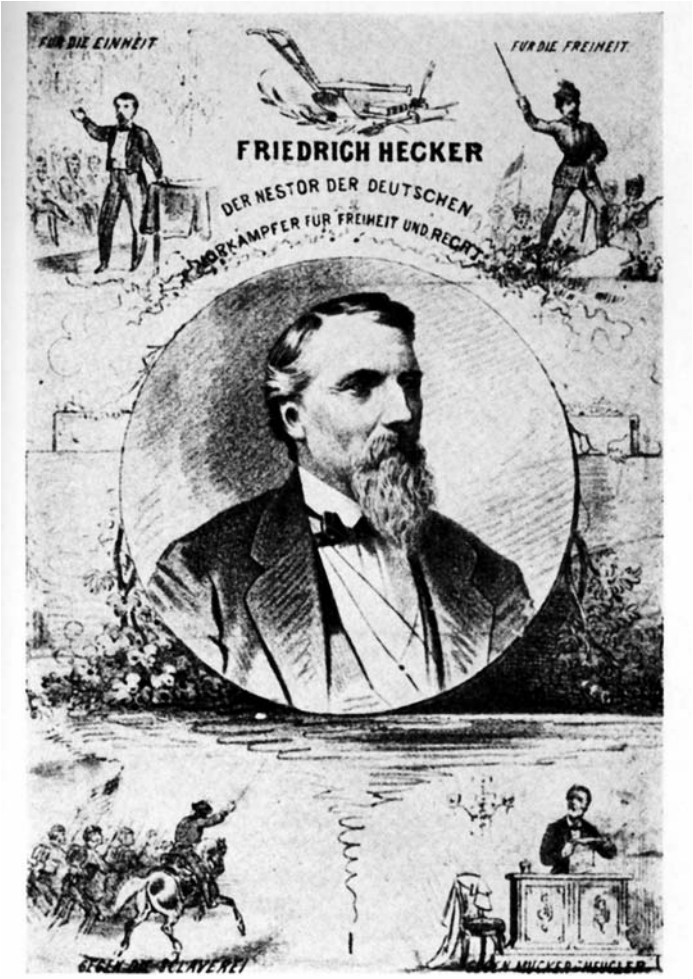
Among these men who could not compromise, who threw themselves into a war to end slavery and preserve the Union with the same ardor that had driven them to struggle for freedom in Germany more than a decade earlier, was the fiery Friedrich Hecker. Born on September 28, 1811, into an affluent family in Eichtersheim, Baden, Hecker studied law and was elected a liberal member of the Chamber of Baden in 1842. He became popular as an ardent champion of human rights and a strong opponent of religious influence in the state, known for his cavalier and dramatic public persona and his eloquent, sometimes violently passionate speeches. A man of action rather than mediation, Hecker assumed a leadership role in the 1848 revolutionary uprising against the autocratic political structure in Baden, and although the small force he led was crushed by government forces at Kandern in late April, he became a figure of near-mythic proportions among Germans in Europe and America. Songs and poems were written about him, iconic pictures of him were proudly displayed in homes, and like-minded men wore the distinctive, wide-brimmed hat, sometimes adorned with a long feather, which came to be known as a "Hecker hat."

After the defeat at Kandern, Hecker fled to Switzerland, where he agitated for further revolt, but with little result. Embittered, he left for America in September of 1848, and was received in New York—with great cel-

ebration—as a revolutionary hero. By this time a "Hecker cult" had already arisen among German Americans, and Hecker toured America, giving well-received speeches to raise support for a second revolution in Europe.[2] Along the way he also urged the founding of America's first Turner Society in Cincinnati.[3]

Although Hecker claimed he had come to America to study the workings of a republican government as he prepared for a second revolution in Germany, he also purchased an already-cultivated farm near Lebanon, Illinois, some thirteen miles from the "Latin farmer" community of Belleville, home to many academically-trained German immigrants who shared Hecker's political convictions. In the spring of 1849, reports of a new uprising in Baden prompted Hecker to rush back to Germany, but the revolutionary troops had already been defeated by the time he arrived in Strasbourg. Deeply disappointed, and without setting foot on German soil, Hecker decided to return to his farm near Belleville. At the port in Le Havre, Hecker met an acquaintance, the poet and fellow revolutionary Caspar Butz, who would remain a lifelong friend. From this point on, Hecker would devote his energies to life in America.[4]

For many years Hecker experienced deep depression over the failure of the German revolution; in an attempt to exorcise his demons, he exerted himself in tremendous labors on his farm to the extent that his body as well as his mind suffered. The young Carl Schurz, after meeting the 43-year-old Hecker for the first time in 1854, described him with these words:



Hecker the Grand Old Man: Fighter for Unity and Freedom; against Slavery and Hypocrites. Illustration presumably first appeared in *Puck*.

> *. . . countenance sunken and peaked, eyes languid, voice weak, skin yellow—parchment-like. I was affrighted to look upon him and still more to hear him. For four weeks he had not slept and was perpetually tossing back and forth with restlessness, though hardly master of his limbs. His illness is the so-called "congestive fever," which manifests itself in a sudden rush of blood to breast and head. . . . In addition he suffers from abdominal ailments. . . . His sanguine-choleric temperament throws him from one extreme to the other, often in the most contradictory manner. . . . He has become exceedingly nervous and permanently irritable. The violent, thoroughly foolish bodily exertions . . . have broken down his resistance, and the present distressing solitariness has confirmed him in the darkest possible views of life. When he complains, he accuses; when he censures, he damns outright. He feels old; believes it is no longer worth the trouble to live, and often wishes for death merely to be at rest.*[5]

If Hecker's life had ended then, his death would have been a tragi-

Continued on page 14

Friends of the Max Kade Institute—2010 Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 1, 2010

Captain Frederick Pabst Mansion

2000 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53233, 414-931-0808

You are invited to join the Friends for their 2010 annual meeting at the historic Pabst Mansion in Milwaukee, where a fascinating view into the past awaits.

DIRECTIONS TO THE PABST MANSION

Coming from the west to Milwaukee on I-94: Take exit 309B (26th Street and St. Paul Avenue); be sure to go straight after you exit—you will be heading north on 26th Street. After three blocks, turn right (east) onto West Wisconsin Avenue. The Pabst Mansion is on your left.

Coming from the North on I-43: Take exit 72E to I-94 (sign says Marquette University and Public Museum). Take exit 309B to Clybourn and St. Paul. Turn right onto 25th Street. Go two blocks to West Wisconsin Avenue, then turn right.

PARKING is available at the Mansion or across West Wisconsin Avenue in the Brett Funeral Home parking lot.

2:30–4:00 pm: Gather at the Pabst Mansion for a **guided tour**
4:00–5:00 pm: **Annual Meeting** in the Master Suite of the Pabst Mansion
5:00–5:30 pm: *Reflections on Writing a History of the Pabst Mansion*, **presentation** by John Eastberg, Director of Development and Historian, Pabst Mansion
5:30–6:00 pm: Drive to Mader's Restaurant (414-271-3377), 1037 North Old World Third Street, Milwaukee; parking is available behind the restaurant
6:00–7:00 pm: **Dinner** at Mader's Restaurant (menu choices below)

Bring a friend — Make a Friend!

Dinner purchase includes 2010 Friends of MKI membership for *new* Friends.

If you have questions, please call MKI at 608-262-7546 or e-mail Antje Petty at apetty@wisc.edu

----------***cut here and return*** ----------

RESERVATION

(Return form with payment by April 23 to Friends of MKI, 901 University Bay Dr., Madison, WI 53705)

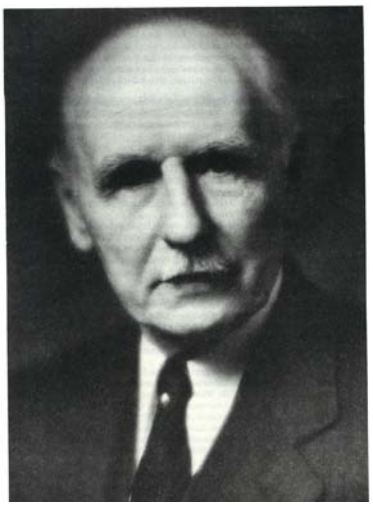
1. Pabst Mansion tour ($9/person) Number of guests (x $9): ____
2. Dinner at Mader's Restaurant ($30/person) Number of guests (x $30): ____
   (all dinners include salad, dessert, and a glass of wine)

_____ Bavarian Platter (sausage and Kassler platter with sauerkraut and potato dumplings)
_____ Sauerbraten (with Spätzle, Sauerkraut and red cabbage)
_____ Portabella Napoleon (Portabella mushrooms with baby spinach, grilled onions, asparagus, and Provolone cheese; served with Späztle and roasted red pepper Coulis)

Total amount enclosed: $_____

A. R. Hohlfeld's Report Concerning German and German-American Influence at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, 1906

Cora Lee Kluge



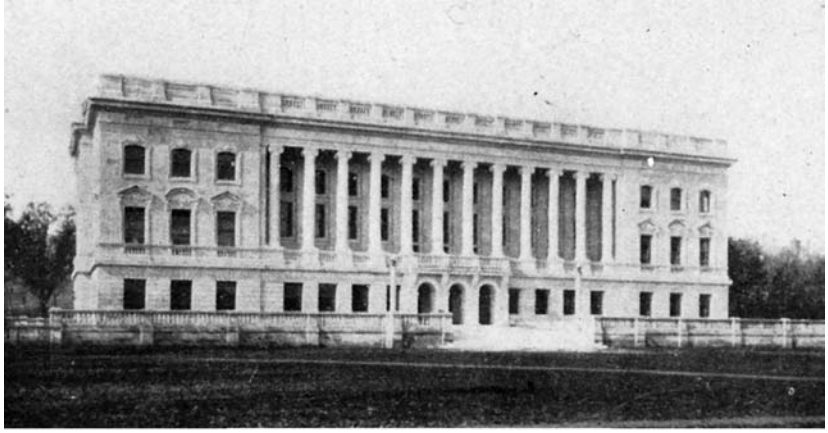
A. R. Hohlfeld. Date unknown.

Among the library treasures at the University of Wisconsin is a complete run of the German-American journal entitled *Die Glocke*. First published in March of 1906 in Chicago, it attracted interest and support from a broad spectrum of the intellectual elite of the times: its collaborators were members of the literary, artistic, and scientific world, German Americans above all, but also others. Expense was not spared: it is a beautiful art nouveau journal rich in literary contributions, essays, translations, illustrations, and reproductions, all elegantly printed on 8½ by 11½-inch glossy paper. And it did not fail to attract attention: just a couple of years after it first appeared, *Allgemeine Zeitung* in Munich noted: "The *Glocke* is a German-American journal of grand style, which we in Germany should greet with lively enthusiasm and encourage as much as we are able. . . . it seems to be advancing in America with vigor, and with its rich and attractive contents it should not be missing in reading circles in Germany."[1] For further information about *Die Glocke*, see page 12 of this newsletter issue.

One article that appeared in *Die Glocke* provides intriguing information and a new perspective on the history of the University of Wisconsin in Madison.[2] Written by A. R. Hohlfeld as the second of a group of three articles about American universities and their German departments, this document is a well-considered contribution to the history of the UW. It is unfortunate that it has received virtually no attention.

Hohlfeld himself is scarcely remembered today, although his place as one of the patriarchs of American German studies is beyond dispute. He had finished his doctorate at the University of Leipzig in 1888 before emigrating to the United States in 1889; and after twelve years as professor of Germanic languages and dean of the academic department at Vanderbilt University, he had come to the Department of German at the UW–Madison in 1901. He served as department chair from 1904 until his retirement in 1936, after which he remained in Madison until his death in 1956. He was known and respected as an authority on Goethe and as one of the early scholars of German-American studies, and among the 64 students whose doctoral dissertations he supervised were many who became leading American Germanists of the twentieth century.

When Hohlfeld wrote about the University of Wisconsin for *Die Glocke*, he was still rather new to Madison and especially to his position as departmental chair; in addition, he had not been associated with



From *Die Glocke*.

Dedicated in 1900 as the Library of the UW–Madison, the building now houses the Wisconsin Historical Society.

From *Die Glocke*.

"University Hall," now known as Bascom Hall.

any public university in America very long. Essentially, he was still gathering information and assessing the situation. However, the beginning of his term as chair coincided with fiftieth-anniversary celebrations of the UW, which were held at the end of the spring semester of 1904 together with the inauguration of Charles R. Van Hise as president; and he learned and used details for his report from Van Hise's inaugural address.[3]

What is unique about Hohlfeld's report is his focus on the role of German, the Department of German, and also the state's German-American friends at the UW. He notes with surprise that in 1850 the UW library, which possessed some 300 volumes, had not one that was in the German original, though one could find English translations of some poems by Goethe and Schiller, Eckermann's conversations with Goethe, Schlegel's lectures (on dramatic art and literature), Menzel's literary history, Lavater's physiognomy, and Zollikofer's sermons. But he reports changes: by 1906 thousands of German-language volumes and hundreds of German-language journals were among the holdings of the University Library, as well as 8,000 volumes in the German Department's own seminar library and over 50 subscriptions to journals, a collection growing by about 500 items per year.

Furthermore, in the early years of the UW there was not even one individual with a German name—among members of the administration, the faculty, or the student body—except for three teachers of modern languages (J. P. Fuchs, A. Kursteiner, and J. B. Feuling). Carl Schurz, to be sure, served on the Board of Regents from 1859 to 1863, but because of his political obligations he did not play an active role; and later another German American, the poet Konrad Krez, also served as a member of the Board of Regents. By the time of Hohlfeld's report, however, there were many UW students and also faculty members with German names: Hohlfeld estimates about one-fourth of the younger members of the faculty were of German heritage. They held positions not only in the German Department, but also in pharmacy, chemistry, psychology, economics, political science, geology, engineering, and other fields. In addition, many faculty members had studied for long periods of time at German universities, some completing their doctorates there.

Hohlfeld points also to growing numbers of contacts between the UW and scholars in Germany; honorary UW doctorates that have been given to German scientists and government officials; and appearances in Madison by German guest lecturers, including the historian Karl Lamprecht, the German Consul in Chicago Walter Wever, the poet Ludwig Fulda, the literary historian Eugen Kühnemann, and others. He mentions regular theater performances in Madison by the German-language Pabst Theater of Milwaukee under the direction of its manager Leon Wachsner, activities of the German Society of the UW, connections to the Teachers Seminary in Milwaukee, the growth of the German Department (with fully 18 teachers employed to teach German courses), the six doctorates in German that had been completed, and more.

Hohlfeld also refers to the strong relationship that had developed between the German Department and its German supporters around the state. The Department's seminar library of 8,000 volumes was the result of a contribution of $3,000 made in 1899 by German-American citizens of Milwaukee; scholarships were made available by private citizens in Madison and La Crosse; and a Carl Schurz Memorial Professorship had just been established to bring an outstanding scholar from Germany to Wisconsin for one semester, with the hope of converting the arrangement later into a two-way exchange.

Continued on page 15

A Noteworthy German-American Journal: *Die Glocke*

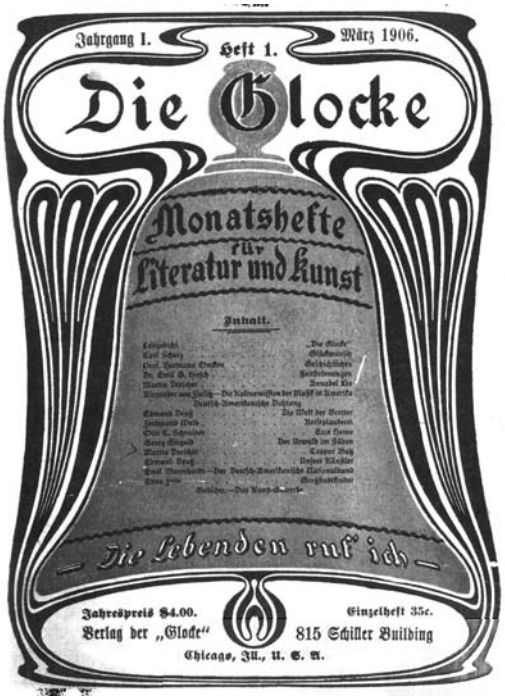
Cora Lee Kluge

For German-American studies, Madison is the center of the world—because of our conferences, our scholars, our energy, and not least because of the publications that can be found here. The specialized collections of the Max Kade Institute, as well as the enormous holdings of the University of Wisconsin's Memorial Library and the library of the Wisconsin Historical Society have attracted visitors from all over the world.

Among other treasures is the complete run of *Die Glocke*, an ambitious and beautiful magazine that was published in Chicago from March 1906 to April 1908, whose subtitle indicates that it was an "illustrated monthly journal for literature, art, and science, and for the promotion of German endeavors in America" (my translation). Inspired by commemorations of the hundredth anniversary of Friedrich Schiller's death, the journal was founded by G. F. Hummel, who assembled a number of prominent contributors and collaborators. It featured original literary pieces by well-known German and German-American writers, including Edna Fern (Fernande Richter), Emerenz Meier, Konrad Nies, Peter Rosegger, and Georg Sylvester Viereck; translations of American writers such as James Russell Lowell, Edgar Allan Poe, Bayard Taylor, and John Greenleaf Whittier; biographical, commemorative, and other articles on important literary figures; essays on American universities, American illustrative art, modern art in Germany, modern technology, American piano factories, American cuisine, exchange professorships, Esperanto; and much more. Following the death of Carl Schurz in May 1906, an entire issue was devoted to reminiscences and articles about him.

A full-scale study of *Die Glocke*—its contents, collaborators, business practices, and fate—is long overdue. Such a study will lead to a reassessment of both the broad interests and impressive achievements of German-speaking Americans, and also the high level of intercultural understanding between Americans and Germans during the first decade of the twentieth century. The journal's pages, in one article after another, reveal a strong influence of German traditions on the intellectual growth of the American nation during this period, as well as a vigorous transnational cooperation between Germany and the United States. It can be seen, for example, in A. R. Hohlfeld's contribution concerning the University of Wisconsin (see this issue, page 10), in the energy with which translations were undertaken, in efforts to inform readers in Europe about activities in America, and more. Our views about German-American cooperation during this period may have been clouded by our concentration on the complete turnaround that came just a few years later with the onset of the First World War.

Die Glocke ceased publication very suddenly and without warning after the appearance of the second issue of its third year. In fact, there were many indications of plans for coming issues. The first installment of Lotta L. Leser's prize-winning short story entitled "Peter Meffert," for example (which can be found in the MKI publication entitled *Other Witnesses: An Anthology of Literature of the German Americans, 1850–1914*), appeared in the last issue of *Die Glocke*, with the remark that the conclusion would follow. And in the same final issue another literary competition was announced, this time for a German-American novel, with first prize to be $250, as well as publication in the journal. We are attempting to find out what happened, and we promise an update.



Front cover of the first issue, March 1906.

Kristine Horner

Antje Petty

One of the wonderful things about the MKI Friends is the fact that so many members are engaged with the Institute in so many different ways. Kristine Horner is a great example. She was the principal organizer of this month's "Germanic Languages and Cultures in Global Perspective" conference in Madison and is the person behind the collaboration between MKI and the University of Leeds/World Universities Network collaboration,—and she is also a life member of the Friends.

Kris connected with the MKI and the Friends through her research which focuses on the interrelationship between language, society and politics and stems from having grown up in a bilingual family environment in the United States. Inspired by her German-speaking mother and grandmother, she concentrated on Germanic Studies as an undergraduate student. Later she spent a year abroad in the bilingual French/German town of Fribourg, Switzerland. Having developed a keen interest in countries that officially promote multilingualism, Kris focused her PhD dissertation on language policies and debates in contemporary Luxembourg. While working as a Fulbright Teaching Assistant at the Centre Universitaire de Luxembourg (now the University of Luxembourg), she was in regular contact with students and colleagues, which enabled her to gain a deep understanding of Luxembourgish culture. Moreover, Kris quickly developed proficiency in Luxembourgish, the national language, and now considers Luxembourg her home. After eight years as a lecturer/assistant professor in Luxembourg, Kris now teaches at the University of Leeds, where Luxembourgish Studies remains at the heart of her research and teaching in the area of sociolinguistics and language politics.

In 2006, Kris spent several months at the MKI to conduct archival and ethnographic research for a project on the ethnic Luxembourgish community in Ozaukee County, WI. Here Kris met many people in her field and at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. These contacts led to a multi-year collaboration on Germanic Languages and Migration (GLaM), which is currently funded by a Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) grant and includes many other events and projects, in addition to the Madison conference.

Perceiving a gap between laypersons and academics, Kris found the community outreach activities organized by the MKI of particular interest and inspiration. She considers MKI materials online highly valuable for diverse groups of users, including students in Leeds who enrolled in her "German language and migration in North America" seminar last semester. Kris hopes to work with MKI and other colleagues to expand this resource.

She explains: "I think it is crucial for academics to reflect on the ways that our research can have impact on real world issues and also, to welcome opportunities to work with a wide range of individuals beyond academic circles. The Friends of MKI organization serves as a bridge between groups and facilitates cooperation of all kinds. As a Friend, I see my role as a participant in various forms of cooperation, with the aim of linking research to real world experiences and in this way also bring case studies to life in the classroom via a deeper understanding of multiple perspectives."

Continued from page 8

cally romantic one, but he lived on, and his energies were rekindled in 1856 when he was called upon to aid the still-young Republican Party in promoting its campaign against the expansion of slavery. Understanding this assignment as a continuation of the work he had done in Baden, Hecker employed his skills as an orator and writer in an effort to persuade the German-American part of the population to take a decisive stand against the aristocratic power of slaveholders. It was his hope that this would lead to a better future for America and for its citizens of German heritage. He castigated those German Americans who did not want to get involved out of fear that the result would be unrest in the country or even civil war.

There were some who felt Hecker's impassioned, polemical speeches did more harm than good. Gustav Körner, for example, wrote to Abraham Lincoln in 1858 that Hecker, "[w]hile well calculated to animate friends . . . cannot conciliate opponents, and amongst the Catholics and even orthodox Protestants he is considered as the very anti-Christ."[7] But Hecker was called on to speak, and, even though Lincoln was not his choice for presidential candidate, he continued to do his part to influence German Americans on behalf of the Republican Party. Lincoln was elected, and the Civil War could no longer be prevented.

[**To be continued.**]

NOTES

[1]Quoted by Hildegard Binder Johnson, "Adjustment to the United States," in Zucker, A. E., ed., *The Forty-Eighters: Political Refugees of the German Revolution of 1848* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1950) 67–68.

[2]A slightly humorous example of the interest taken by German Americans in the events unfolding in Europe is reported by Hildegard Binder Johnson: "Somewhat feebly the spirit of 1848 expressed itself [in Milwaukee] in the organization of the *Drei-Cents-Verein* in June of that year. Members of this society paid three cents weekly to support the German Revolution and by this means collected only the trifling sum of $21.64 which they sent abroad to Hecker in the spring of 1849." *Ibid.* 53–54. The *Drei-Cents-Verein* may be considered an ancestor of such politically and socially involved organizations as Milwaukee's 4th Street Forum.

[3]However, see also: Robert Knight Barney, "America's First Turnverein: Commentary in Favor of Louisville, Kentucky," *Journal of Sport History* History 11.1 (Spring 1984): 134–137.

[4]Also aboard the *Hermann* on 20 September 1848 was Franz (Francis) Lieber, an intriguing figure. A liberal German intellectual, he was by this time an American citizen and an owner of slaves in Columbia, South Carolina, where he remained until 1856. After moving to the North, Lieber became an outspoken critic of slavery. Two of Lieber's sons fought for the Union, while another one fought and died for the Confederacy.

[5]Carl Schurz to Margarethe Schurz, *Intimate Letters of Carl Schurz, 1841–1869*, translated and edited by Joseph Schafer (Madison, Wisc.: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1928) 135–136. While their personal relationship was never close, Schurz and Hecker often worked together politically, and Hecker served under Schurz in the Civil War.

[6]This is a severely limited summary of Hecker's role in politics; any attempt to examine the relationship between German Americans and the politics of this time would be a daunting task. I refer interested readers to the books listed as sources for this article.

[7]Quoted by Sabine Freitag, *Friedrich Hecker: Two Lives for Liberty*, translated and edited by Steven Rowan (St. Louis, Mo.: St. Louis Mercantile Library, University of Missouri–St. Louis, 2006) 200.

SOURCES

Freitag, Sabine. *Friedrich Hecker: Two Lives for Liberty*. Translated and edited by Steven Rowan. St. Louis, Mo.: St. Louis Mercantile Library, University of Missouri–St. Louis, 2006. This noteworthy book makes use of the Friedrich Hecker Papers, 1825–1981, now held at the Western Historical Manuscript Collection of the University of Missouri–St. Louis. See: <http://www.umsl.edu/~whmc/guides/whm0451.htm>.

Wittke, Carl. *Refugees of Revolution: The German Forty-Eighters in America*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, 1952.

Zucker, A. E., ed. *The Forty-Eighters: Political Refugees of the German Revolution of 1848*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1950.

Join the Friends of the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies

Name _____
Address _____
City_____ State_____ Zip _____
Email _____ Phone_____

☐ I am a new member ☐ I am a renewing member ☐ Check here to indicate address change

☐ Student—$15
☐ Individual—$30
☐ K–12 Educator—$30
☐ Family (one address)—$50
☐ Supporter—$100
☐ Patron—$250
☐ Lifetime, Individual—$1,000
☐ Lifetime, Family—$1,500

Please make checks payable to the *Friends of the Max Kade Institute*, 901 University Bay Drive, Madison, WI 53705.

- *Friends of the Max Kade Institute* is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization that supports the research, outreach, educational, and publishing activities of the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies.
- Membership covers the calendar year (January–December). Payments received after November 1 of the current year will be credited for the full succeeding year.

Continued from page 6

widespread in his native Germany but not yet common in America. In 1880, the Kohler Company, too, added an enameling facility, and three years later it manufactured its first plumbing fixture: an enameled cast-iron hog water trough, which was sold as a bathtub. From there the company's product line expanded rapidly to include many more plumbing products, generators, motors, — and the "bubbler."

Today in Wisconsin, "bubbler" is more than just another word for drinking fountain. It has become a marker of regional speech, identity, and pride. Saying "bubbler" says "I am from Wisconsin" as much as wearing a cheesehead hat or eating "brats."

Continued from page 11

German and German-American influence at the UW–Madison, for all intents non-existent in the early years, had grown over the institution's first 50 years. Now there were UW faculty members in many fields who had been trained in Germany; members of both the university community and the general public were enjoying German cultural offerings; and German Americans of the state were supporting the UW in general, as well as the Department of German. Hohlfeld rose to the challenge of sustaining and building on these beginnings, contributing vision, leadership, and energy to make the University of Wisconsin the center of American German studies. It is regrettable that events and attitudes of the World War I era were soon to thwart his efforts to strengthen his department and its offerings and to connect the young University of Wisconsin with first-class German universities and German scholars, thus expanding opportunities for all.

NOTES

[1]Quoted inside the back cover of *Die Glocke* 3.1 (March, 1908). My translation.

[2]*Die Glocke* 1.10 (December, 1906): 365–371.

[3]See Charles R. Van Hise, "Inaugural Address of President Charles Richard Van Hise," *Science* 20 (1904): 193–205.

Friends of the Max Kade Institute
for German-American Studies
University of Wisconsin
901 University Bay Drive
Madison, WI 53705

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage
PAID
Madison, WI
Permit No. 2704
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The MKI Library Project Capital Campaign

Are you

. . . passionate about history?
. . . interested in America as an immigrant country?
. . . intrigued by the experiences of your German ancestors?
. . . concerned about the preservation of American print culture?

If so, please support the MKI's Library Project for

- a state-of-the-art facility in our new quarters on UW–Madison's central campus;
- new acquisitions;
- an endowment to support library staff.

This is a three-year fundraising campaign. Tax-deductible contributions can be made to the MKI Library Capital Campaign Fund at the UW Foundation. For more information, contact Antje Petty at (608) 262-7546 or <apetty@wisc.edu>.