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Max Kade Institute Friends Newsletter

VOLUME 12 NUMBER 2 • SUMMER 2003

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



The magnificent two-story 1882 Turner Hall ballroom (left) was recently restored to its original splendor (below) and public function as a venue for civic and cultural events.

Turners celebrate 150 years

By Rose Marie Barber

The Milwaukee Turners, Inc., and the Milwaukee Turners School of Gymnastics will be celebrating their 150th anniversary on September 6, 2003. Past presidents and forty-year members will be honored. There will be zither music during cocktails, and dinner in the ballroom followed by brief histories of the Turners, an exhibition, in full 1853 costume, by our ladies class, ethnic dancing by the Oberlandlers; and a sing-along of familiar German and American songs.

The Milwaukee Turners, known originally as the *Socialer Turnverein*, was founded on July 17, 1853, in Phillips Tavern on Market Square, a popular gathering place of the time. These pioneers were educators, lawyers, doctors, entrepreneurs, and intellectuals who had lost a revolution in 1848 and came to America to realize their dream of freedom.



Photos courtesy of the Milwaukee Turners

*Time: 6 p.m. cocktails
6:45 p.m. dinner
8 p.m. speakers and
entertainment*

*Date: September 6,
2003*

*Place: Turners Hall,
1034 Old World
Third Street,
Milwaukee*

*For cost and more
info call 414-272-
1733*

*www.milwaukee
turners.org*

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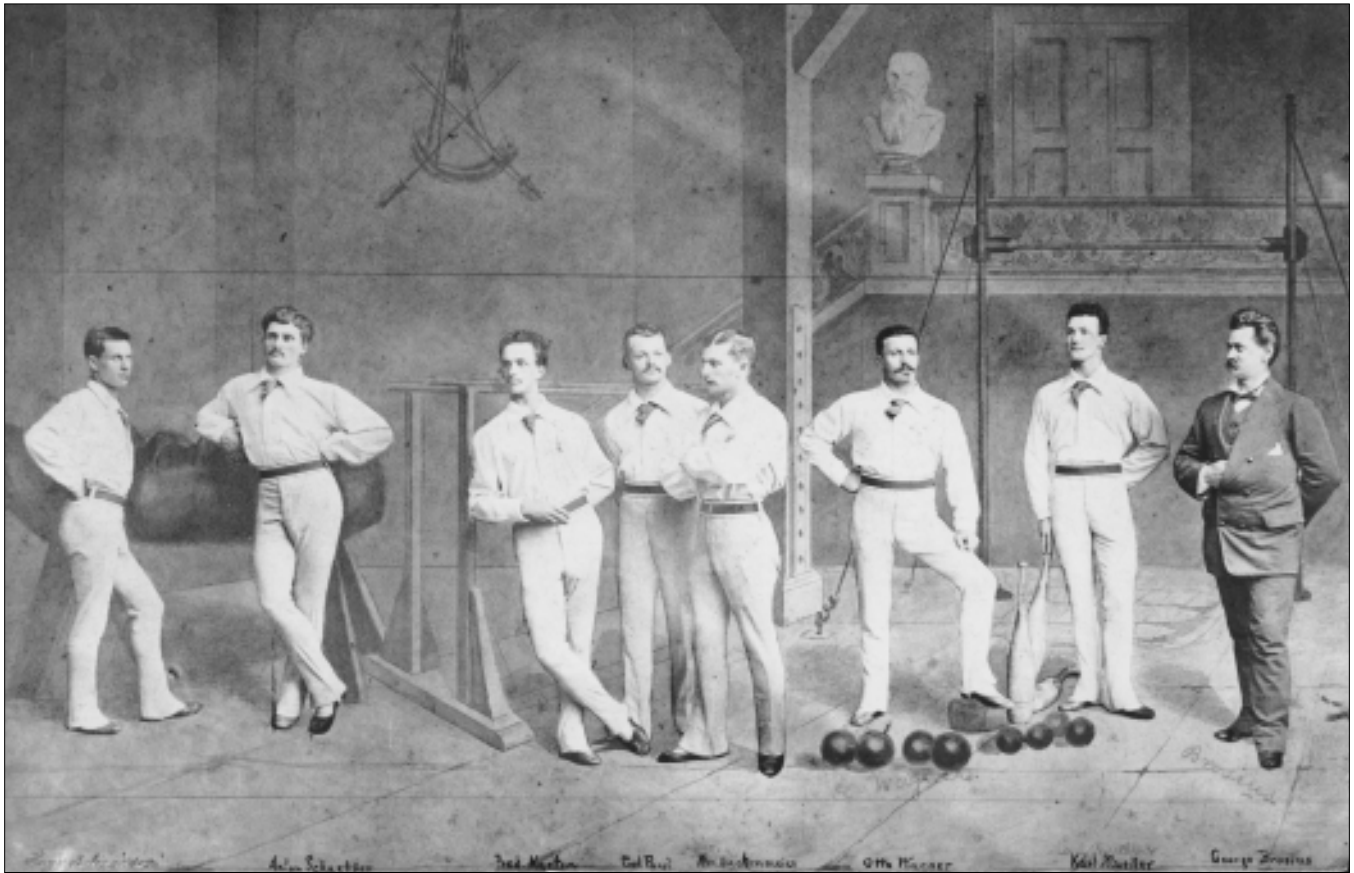


Photo courtesy of the Wisconsin Historical Society

The Milwaukee Turnverein group won five prizes in international competition in Germany, 1880. This photo is part of a larger collection of Milwaukee Turner material at the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies.

Max Kade Institute

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies is published quarterly at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. The Newsletter is edited and produced by Nicole Saylor with the assistance of the Newsletter Committee of the Board of Directors and is printed by **Great Graphics, Inc.** The Newsletter appears quarterly in March, June, September, and December. Submissions are invited and should be sent directly to:

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World Wide Web at:
<http://csumc.wisc.edu/mki>**

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These 48ers, as they were called, improved the city's social and economic conditions through public discussion. They debated the city's future, and in doing so helped ensure it had one. This practice is continued to this day with our 4th Street Forums, held every Thursday at noon during the year with the exception of the summer months.

In August 1853, the group's first tournament of games was held in what was then faraway Ozaukee County farmland, now Mequon. The new, unusual organization caused excitement in Milwaukee, and membership increased rapidly. Building on the Turner motto "*Frisch, Frei, Stark und Treu*," physical fitness was a "way of life" promoted for all ages. It was the Turners who introduced physical education to the public school system. At one time the organization even trained gymnastics and physical fitness teachers for schools. The first woman physical education

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teacher graduated from the Turners program in 1875.

Many Turner societies, include the Milwaukee Turners, played an important role in the Civil War. In the wake of the conflicts of 1848, many members had the knowledge, strength, and organizational skills to make fine soldiers.

In 1880 the name of Milwaukee's George Brosius became known across the country for what his famous "Frankfurter Riege (team)" accomplished at the German Federal Turnfest in Frankfurt. (Turnfest is a competition similar to a mini-Olympic event.) It was the first time that a team from outside of Germany won significant honors; in fact, the Milwaukeeans won six top prizes.

Music has also been an important part of the Turners with its singing societies—a men's chorus and a mixed chorus once directed by John Anello.

Sunday afternoon concerts under the baton of Christoph Bach, and his son, grandson, and nephew were a tradition in the ballroom. The song "After the Ball" by Charles K. Harris was written in 1892 after a ball at Turner Hall.

At the end of the nineteenth century there were more than three thousand Milwaukee Turner members, ten Turner Societies in Milwaukee and sixty across Wisconsin. But the twentieth century saw a decline in Turner activity as members moved to the suburbs, newer gymnastic clubs were founded, and tastes in entertainment and public life changed.



Photo courtesy of the Milwaukee Turners

The Turners sponsor the 4th Street Forum program, which fosters discussion of community issues.



Photo courtesy of the Milwaukee Turners

Constructed in 1882, Turner Hall at 1034 N. 4th St. is one of several Milwaukee buildings designed by German immigrant Henry H. Koch.

A fire in 1933 and again in 1941 damaged the once magnificent "old world" ballroom. We are happy to say that with the beginning of the twenty-first century we are making repairs, and the ballroom is again being used for art shows, dances, concerts, and other social events.

Many people have come to know the Turners through its children's gymnastics program. We still carry on the tradition with modern equipment, classes for all ages and abilities, and financial aid for children who could not otherwise participate in gymnastics.

Turner Trustee E. J. Brumder, in a statement for our 140th anniversary, said that the Turners look forward "with renewed vigor, to use its roots to create its future."

Rose Marie Barber is executive director of the Milwaukee Turners and a member of the Max Kade Institute Friends Board of Directors.

Zamzow works to keep Pomeranian heritage alive

By Antje Petty

When Don Zamzow grew up in the Wausau area of central Wisconsin, he spoke *Plattdütsch* at home. Settled by immigrants from northeast Germany in the mid and late nineteenth century, the Wausau region has been a center of Pomeranian dialect and culture for generations. Lou Ann, Don's wife of forty-five years, shares his cultural background. In fact, only a few miles separate their ancestral villages in Pomerania.

For many years now Don and Lou Ann have been dedicated to keeping their Pomeranian heritage alive. Their work culminated in forming the Pommerscher Verein—Central Wisconsin in 1994. The Verein now has about 400 members who not only work to preserve the Pomeranian language, but also actively collect, preserve, and publish Pomeranian history and culture in its various forms, including personal stories, songs, and recipes. The Verein publishes a newsletter, *Dat Pommersche Blatt*, of which Don is the editor. Members of the Verein preserve their heritage by hosting the "Pommern Life" radio series, touring with their own "Pommersche Tanzdeel" dance troupe, helping each other research their family histories, and taking joint tours to their ancestral homeland now in eastern Germany and Poland.

It was the Verein's efforts to preserve the *Ost-Pommersch* dialect that led to Don's first contact with the Max Kade Institute. Together they sponsored the Third Biennial *Plattdütsch* Conference in Wausau in 1999. Last year the Verein was instrumental in the first Conversational Platt class at UW—Marathon. The class was a huge success, and Don and Lou Ann were especially happy to see their eleven-year-old granddaughter as one of the participants. In Don's opinion, grandparents have the primary role in passing on

traditions and language. He credits his grandfather, (who simply played deaf if Don did not speak *Platt*) for his love for the Pomeranian dialect.

Don's other lifelong avocation has been music.



Don Zamzow

When he was sixteen years old, Don joined the Jerry Goetsch Band as a tuba player and has not stopped playing since. The band plays polka music in the Bohemian and southern German style. When trying to learn lyrics, Don quickly realized that his *Plattdütsch* background was of no help. Thus, he decided to learn the dialects of southern Germany too. The Jerry Goetsch Band has become famous not only across the state but also worldwide. For twenty-seven consecutive years its live show was broadcast on WSAW-TV in Wausau and for over thirty years the band has toured three times a year: one tour to

Central Europe, one to Central and South America and one within the United States. Usually two hundred to four hundred polka fans accompany the band, and more than once the group has taken on the role of international goodwill ambassador.

Don tells the story of one trip to Czechoslovakia at the height of the Cold War. When the group arrived in Prague, their hotel reservations had been canceled to make room for an official Romanian delegation. While the Americans were still contemplating their options, the band began playing in the hotel lobby. Soon enthusiastic listeners surrounded them. The hotel manager asked them to play some traditional Czech tunes and brought in a folk dance group. Everybody had a great time, and the next day the Wisconsin travelers had their hotel rooms back.

In March 2003 Don, who in his day job is the owner of a software development company, joined the Board of Directors of the Friends.

Hol di mon tau!

Reflections on 2002-2003

By Mark L. Loudon, MKI Director

It's hard to believe, but the summer is upon us. Overall, I think this has been a very good year for the Max Kade Institute and our sibling organization, the Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures. We've sponsored or co-sponsored a wide range of interesting speakers and events, and a number of us, especially Antje Petty and Ruth Olson, have spent many hours on outreach activities across the state (and beyond). Our publications series (for both MKI and CSUMC) continue to grow. Throughout this summer, our editorial assistants Eric Platt and Emily Engel and I will be working on a number of new publications that we hope to bring out this fall. You'll be reading about these in future Newsletters!

At the MKI Friends Annual Meeting (which Jeanne and I were unable to attend due to the early arrival of our daughter, Clara Rose, on April 30!), Kevin Kurdylo presented my annual report, which underscored the crucial role the Friends have played in securing our financial future. The bridge money provided by the Friends for publications over three years succeeded in generating parallel contributions from both the College of Letters and Science and the Department of German, such that our financial base is now solid. We could not have achieved this without the Friends, something for which all of us at MKI are profoundly grateful.

In the coming year we look forward to building on our current strengths in outreach by developing a larger repertory of presentations, some of which will be linked to our publications. Also, later this summer, we will welcome a new member of the MKI/CSUMC team, Kirk Martinson, a graduate student in German, who will be employed as a project assistant to work on the digitization of recordings in our sound archive, mostly reel-to-reel tapes from the MKI North American German Dialect Archive. This position is funded through the generosity of the German Department, and will allow us to develop programming incorporating these invaluable sound materials.



Clara Rose Loudon, born in Watertown, WI,
April 30, 2003.

Given the central role that linguistic research has played historically in the activities of the MKI, and because of the interest of many of our Friends in matters pertaining to language, I have decided to introduce a new section in the MKI Friends Newsletter. Entitled "Speaking of Language," this regular feature will highlight interesting linguistic aspects of the German-American experience. In the present issue I talk about two rather familiar "urban legends" of German-Americana. I welcome your feedback, and especially any suggestions for topics you would like to read about in future Newsletters!

Finally, I am happy to share with you the news I received recently from Dean Phillip R. Certain notifying me that I have been officially named MKI director, succeeding Joe Salmons. Needless to say, I consider this a special honor and look forward to continuing to work with an incredibly hard-working staff, as well as our Friends. To all of you, I express my hearty thanks for a job very well done!

Have a wonderful summer!

Two German-American urban legends

By Mark L. Loudon, MKI Director

Urban legends, also sometimes called FOAF (“friend-of-a-friend”) stories, are among the more interesting expressions of popular culture. Somewhat like the children’s game of telephone played out on a much larger level, these are widespread myths that people steadfastly believe, even when evidence of their basic falseness is readily available. For example, although Humphrey Bogart is regularly quoted as saying “Play it again, Sam” in *Casablanca*, a quick run to the video store will confirm that that line was never uttered in the film. Other, more infamous urban legends include stories of escaped pet alligators prowling sewers, and various rodents and insects making their way into prepared foods. Ever hear of the Kentucky Fried Rat?

In the field of linguistics, perhaps the first urban legend to be debunked was the one about Eskimos and their words for snow. Over ten years ago, Geoffrey Pullum, a linguist at the University of California, Santa Cruz, wrote a now famous essay entitled “The Great Eskimo Vocabulary Hoax,” which basically pointed out that Native peoples living in wintry climes probably have no more words and expressions and are no better able to describe snow than your average meteorologist in Canada. Another, less well known linguistic urban legend holds that chimps (or other primates) have successfully mastered a sign language. Sorry; that’s not true either.

Years ago, when I first started learning German in school, I heard two stories about the language that, only many years later, I learned were in fact urban legends. I’d be curious to know how many of our readers have heard them as well. According to the first of these, German almost became the official language of the United States, losing out to English by a single vote in Congress during the days of the early republic. The second legend is of more recent vintage and alleges that President John F. Kennedy proudly declared himself to be a jelly doughnut before thousands of Berliners exactly forty years ago this month (June 1963). Credit for debunking these tales from the annals of German-Americana goes to two linguists, one of whom was in fact the founding director of our own Max Kade Institute (exactly twenty years ago, as

it happens).

So what’s behind the story of German almost becoming our official language? Often quoted to underscore the maxim that every vote in a free democracy counts, this tale has also been used to point out how numerous German speakers were in eighteenth-century America. Despite the good intentions of those of us (gulp, present company included) who have retold the story to students and friends, Dennis Baron, a professor of English at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, in an excellent book on language policy in the United States, clarifies the reality about what really happened over two centuries ago.

To begin with, the United States has never had an official language, though since the eighteenth century there have been calls to designate one through legislation or a constitutional amendment. (Indeed, the history of “English-only” movements is the major focus of Baron’s excellent book.) The German-but-by-a-single-vote story goes back to 1794. In that year the House of Representatives received a petition from a group of German-speakers in Virginia requesting that federal laws be published in German as well as English. Although a House committee endorsed this petition, when it came to a discussion on the floor of the House in early 1795, support was apparently weak. On January 13 of that year, after some debate, a vote was called to adjourn and defer further consideration of the committee’s recommendation. That vote was forty-two to forty-one against adjournment. Although the vote was not on the merits of the question itself, it apparently reflected a general lack of support for translating the laws into German. Some time later, the petition was formally rejected, though exactly what the final tally was is not known.

What is interesting about this urban legend, as Baron points out, is that it has been cited by people with very different agendas. It seems to have originated during the nineteenth century as a way of drawing more attention to the contributions of German-speaking immigrants (and their descendants) in American history. Especially in the latter half of the nineteenth century, when German language and culture were at their zenith worldwide, many ethnic Germans in this country felt marginalized in history books written from a decidedly “Anglo” perspec-

tive. On the other hand, more recently, supporters of “English-only” initiatives mention the story as an early blow struck against the divisive “tribalism” presumed to stem from promoting the use of languages other than English.

One basic fact about multilingualism in United States history, however, that is regularly overlooked by advocates of declaring English our official language, and one that might well have been recognized by the members of the 1795 Congress, is that literacy in a language other than English is a rarity among Americans born in this country. While languages such as German have been used as media of instruction, including in some public schools, literacy among native-born citizens has been pretty much limited to English. This means that bilingual or translated publications, especially today, are read mainly by first-generation immigrants. Going back to early America, although scores of newspapers and other media were printed in German even into the twentieth century, the readership for these publications came to be dominated by fresh arrivals from German-speaking Europe. In the wake of the American Revolution, German immigration to North America dropped precipitously and did not rebound until the 1830s and 1840s. It could well be that the Representatives considering the Virginia petition in 1795 were not convinced that federal funds would be wisely spent on translation for a (then) shrinking German-literate population.

The second urban legend I’d like to talk about lacks the political gravitas of the story just told, but is nonetheless interesting for its persistence, especially in German-language classes. As any foreign language teacher will attest, one of the challenges of teaching students a new language is getting them to avoid translating word-for-word from their native language. (The results look pretty much like what you get when you use on-line translators or try to make sense of your VCR instructions.) One point of conflict between the grammars of German and English deals with the use of articles, especially indefinite articles (*a(n)*, *ein*) that come right before words denoting professions, geographic origins, etc. While in English one would say *I am a student* and *I am an American*, in German you would (correctly) say *Ich bin Student* and *Ich bin Amerikaner*, without the *ein*. You can imagine how common it is for learners of German to say *Ich bin ein Student (Amerikaner)*.

Now turn the clock back, not to 1795, but to June 26, 1963, and President Kennedy’s legendary visit to Berlin at the height of the Cold War. One of the president’s

most famous lines of all time was the one he uttered twice, at the beginning and end of his stirring speech, to express the solidarity of the free world with the citizens of the divided city, namely *Ich bin ein Berliner*. Ever since, German teachers in this country (gulp again, present company included) have quoted this line as an example of what our students should NOT do. Pointing out that one of the regional words in German for “jelly-filled doughnut” is *Berliner*, people have assumed that President Kennedy outed himself as a pastry to hundreds of thousands of amused Germans.

The debunker of this myth is none other than Professor Jürgen Eichhoff, the founding director of the Max Kade Institute. In a 1993 article Professor Eichhoff explains that Kennedy’s words (provided to him by a near-native speaker of German, by the way) were in fact grammatically correct. A rarely mentioned corollary of the rule about *ein* in front of professional terms and nationalities in German prescribes that if the subject of the sentence only has certain characteristics of the profession or nationality referred to, but is not really a student, American, Berliner, etc., then the *ein* is required. For example, if I were to say *Ich bin Clown*, that would mean I’m on the Ringling Brothers payroll. On the other hand, if I’m just acting silly, I would have to say *Ich bin ein Clown*. So the Bostonian president did not misspeak. But even if he had, Professor Eichhoff adds, native speakers of German would have understood precisely what Kennedy meant. And on top of everything else, the dialect word *Berliner* is not even native to the city of Berlin! It is used only further west, MUCH further west, in fact; check out the entry for *Berliner* in the *Dictionary of American Regional English* and you’ll find this word well attested right here in Wisconsin!

Even though urban legends can be downright exasperating for the myths they perpetuate, it still is interesting to consider how they come to be and why they continue to be retold. They also remind us to “check our sources” when we ourselves pass on stories. So if someone tells you about a deep-fried, jelly-filled rat who very nearly learned German instead of English, you’ll now know to be skeptical.

Sources: The English-Only Question: An Official Language for Americans? by Dennis Baron, Yale University Press, 1990; “‘Ich bin ein Berliner’: A History and a Linguistic Clarification” by Jürgen Eichhoff, *Monatshefte* 85: 71–80 (1993).

MKI annual dinner an opportunity for Friends to elect new members, socialize, and learn

By Eric Platt

The MKI Friends' annual meeting and dinner held on May 8 was about more than simply conducting end-of-the-year business. It also gave Friends the chance to meet other members, eat great food, and learn about the role played by Germans from Wisconsin in the Civil War.

The evening did begin with the annual meeting. At it members learned about the Max Kade Institute's many activities during the preceding year, and the important role played by the Friends in all of them. They also remembered two dearly missed former board members who had passed away since the last meeting, Susan Stoddard and Ed Kuenzi.

The Friends elected new members to the board as well. Bill Thiel was reelected for a second term, while former board members Ed Langer and Jim Klauser were welcomed back for new terms. Members also thanked outgoing board members Dennis Boyer and Kent Salomon for their dedicated service to the Friends and the MKI.

The officers of the Board will be the same as last year. Board members re-elected Fran Luebke as president, Bob Bolz as vice president, Bob Luening as treasurer, and Karyl Rommelfanger as secretary.

After the meeting ended everyone had the chance to catch up with old friends and meet new ones

during a slightly abbreviated cocktail hour. They then sat down for a dinner of pork tenderloin, chicken ambassador, or vegetarian manicotti, topped off with a delicious dessert of Babcock ice cream.

The evening concluded with a presentation on the role that German Americans from Wisconsin played in the American Civil War by Richard Zeitlin, director of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. Zeitlin fascinated the

Friends with stories about the Civil War such as the fact that Wisconsin lost all of its money reserves when South Carolina, where it stored its revenues, seceded from the Union.

Zeitlin spent most of his speech, however, detailing the exploits of the Ninth and Twenty-sixth Wisconsin Regiments, two units made up entirely of German Americans. The exploits of the Twenty-sixth Wisconsin were especially noteworthy. They participated in the great Union defeat at Chancellorsville, suffered a fifty-five percent casualty rate at Gettysburg, and took part in General Sherman's famous march to the sea. In a compendium of the bravest Union regiments in the Civil War, the Twenty-sixth was ranked fifth.



Top: Speaker Richard Zeitlin. Above: Noah Natzke, from left, Cora Lee Kluge, and Joe Salmons.



Above: Anne Bolz, from left, Marilyn Everitt, and John Frautschi. At left: Associate director Antje Petty.



Max Kade Friends Annual Dinner 2003



Left: Johannes Strohschänk (from left), MKI Friends Board member Bill Thiel, and Jo Ann Tiedemann. Lower left: MKI Friends President Fran Luebke. Below: Lou Ann Zamzow (from left), MKI Friends Board Member Don Zamzow, and Ted Wedemeyer.



Above: Jo Ann Tiedemann, from left, Carrie Bohman, and Marita Ritsche. Below: Mary Galneder, from left, and MKI Friends Treasurer Bob Luening.



Left: Outgoing MKI Friends Board Member Kent Salomon.



Agnes and Frank Zeidler.

All photos by Charles James

Essays about more than German-American lit

German? American? Literature?: New Directions in German-American Studies, eds. Winfried Fluck and Werner Sollors (New York, Washington, D.C./Baltimore, Bern, Frankfurt/M., Berlin, Brussels, Vienna, Oxford: Peter Lang, 2002). 419 pp. Volume 2 of *New Directions in German-American Studies*, Werner Sollors, General Editor. ISBN 0-8204-5229-7.

By Cora Lee Kluge

This volume consists of twenty-one essays by scholars who live in the United States, Germany, and Austria, and who approach the topic from different perspectives. It is divided into an introductory section and four others: Part I: From Franz Daniel Pastorius to the Forty-Eighters, Part II: Mysteries and the West, Part III: From 1848 to 1917, and Part IV: Twentieth-Century Exiles and Immigrants. The title suggests that the topic is German-American literature, but this is misleading. As a whole, the essays deal more properly with the broader field of German-American studies. The individual scholars are students of heritage and traditions, American historians, immigration scholars, specialists in exile studies, biographers of individuals, sociologists concerned with specific groups, genealogists interested in family letters, and literary scholars interpreting the contribution of one or more authors or works.

The introductory section includes theoretical contributions. Werner Sollors declares that the collection's purpose is "to reconnect German American Studies with current trends in German Studies and American Studies" (4) and "to subject the large topic of German America to new critical scrutiny" (5). Sander Gilman argues for new directions in German-American studies to correct the basic polarization of the last decades between scholars who concentrate on nineteenth-century German-American cultural traditions, defending them against Americans whose attitudes toward Germans changed with World War I, and proponents of exile studies who are not interested in the American German culture into which German exiles came after 1933 (9–10). Frank Trommler, whose extensive efforts to rescue the Joseph Horner

Library of the German Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia should need no justification, argues compellingly that such work is not merely "an exercise in antiquarianism" (25), but rather that ethnic studies are dependent on literary scholarship.

Contributions in Part I include essays on Francis Daniel Pastorius, Moravian spiritual autobiographies, and the recently published letters of a German immigrant family named van Dreveltdt. Parts II and III overlap in time, and it seems arbitrary to separate the essays of the former section—one on the mysteries-genre, one on Gerstäcker, and one on German-language publications in Texas—from those of the latter. Part III, which deals with the Golden Age of German-American culture, includes essays on Otilie Assing, on Ferdinand Kürnberger's novel *Der Amerika-Müde*, on W. E. B. Du Bois's sociological treatise of 1906 concerning African Americans in the United States, on the formation of German-American ethnicity in the 1890s, on translations of an anonymous play entitled *Die Emigranten* (published in St. Louis, 1882), and on Hugo Münsterberg. The contributions in Part IV concern Austrian publishers and book dealers in the U.S. after 1938; the poetry of Anna Krommer; the Yiddish poetry of Troim Katz Handler; Israel Zangwill, Jeannette Lander, and the nineteenth-century writer Ferdinand Kürnberger; Norbert Krapf on his own experiences as an American poet writing about Germany; and observations on German literature from America.

Varying in length from seven to fifty-two pages, the essays differ widely in scope, presumed audience, and quality. The best are several dealing with German-American *literature*, perhaps because these met my expectations for the collection. From Part I, the essay by Alfred L. Brophy (a law professor) on Pastorius is recommended; it provides information concerning Pastorius' life, literary publications, religious views, and ideas on law. I recommend two from Part II: (1) Elliott Shore's on *Die Geheimnisse von Philadelphia*, which introduced me to a new genre, new novels, and new ideas on reasons to study German-American literature; and (2) Irene S. Di

Continued on page 13

Highlights of recent library acquisitions

By Kevin Kurdylo, MKI Librarian

Once again we highlight a small number of the new items added to the MKI Library over the past few months, selected from the Published in North America, Subject, and Family History and Archives collections. A complete list of recent acquisitions will be available on our Web site as a link from the News page or at the URL: <http://csumc.wisc.edu/mki/Library/NewAcqs/NewAcqs.htm>.

Contact the MKI Librarian at (608) 262-7546 or by e-mail at kkurdylo@wisc.edu if you are interested in viewing any of these titles, or if you would like to donate to the Max Kade Institute. We are grateful to Patricia Balon (at the Pabst Theater in Milwaukee), Phyllis M. Bunnelle, Hugh H. Iltis, Ronald W. Kletzien, Mark Loudon, the Milwaukee Public Library, JoAnn Tiedemann, and Ronald C. Wagner for their recent donations.

Published in North America

Straubenmüller, Johann. *Pocahontas, oder: Die Gründung von Virginien. Poetische Erzählung*. Baltimore: W. R. Schmidt, 1858. 111 pp.

A poetic retelling of the story of Pocahontas and the founding of Virginia.

Uiberall, Ernest [Ernst] Peter. *Sieben Kurzgeschichten*. [S.l.]: Selbstverlag, 1981. [24] pp.

Short stories written in 1934 under various pseudonyms and which originally appeared in Austrian, German, and Swiss newspapers and magazines. The author was "one of the longest-serving interpreters at the Nuremberg Trials." Donated by JoAnn Tiedemann.

Subject

Dick, Wm. B., ed. *Dick's Dutch, French and Yankee Dialect Recitations. A Collection of Droll Dutch Blunders, Frenchmen's Funny Mistakes, and Ludicrous and Extravagant Yankee Yarns. Each*

Recitation Being in Its Own Peculiar Dialect. [New York: Dick & Fitzgerald, 1879]. 170 pp. + [32] pp. of advertising.

Humorous anecdotes presented in dialect English popularly assumed to be representative of Germans, French, and Yankees. One example from a "Dutch dialect" poem reads: "O vat is dis has come to pass?/

Dis demperance embarger/Has dook away mine fested rights/ Life, liperty, und lager." Donated by Ronald W. Kletzien.

Schild, Ray. "Pommern Weddings in Wisconsin." *Dat Pommersche Blatt*, no. 31, Feb. 2002, pp. 14-15, ill.

Describes typical wedding celebrations by Pomeranian immigrants in Wisconsin in the early 1800s, discussing music, food, and other customs. Includes wedding photographs

taken by Oscar Borchardt in Lincoln and Marathon counties showing two wedding parties, cooks, and a band.

Zeidler, Frank P. *Reflections: The Poetry of a Young Frank Zeidler*. Milwaukee: Milwaukee Public Library, 2002. xx, 85 pp.

Introduction by John Gurda; "On Frank Zeidler's Poetry" by John Koethe. Donated by the Milwaukee Public Library.

Family History/Archives

Bublitz, Irma. *Krone's deutsche Schul-Vorschriften in zehn Heften*. Neue revidierte Ausgabe. Krone's Paragon System of Penmanship. German Edition, no. 3. New York: Krone Brothers, 1885. [24 pp.].

Old German script practice booklet, this volume "introduces Capitals, singly and in words." The exercises have been completed by the author, who signed the cover and dated it November 17, 1909.



Penmanship exercise book, completed Nov. 17, 1909, by Irma Bublitz.

MKI

News in Brief

New staffer joins Max Kade

Dolores Fries joined the Max Kade staff on April 14 as our program assistant, handling an array of duties including payroll and budget.

Dolores, whose parents are German immigrants, will also be sharing her time with the Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures and the Folklore Program. Welcome aboard, Dolores!

Moin, Moin from Manning, Iowa

The 8th Annual International Low German (Plattdüütsch) Conference and Genealogical Workshop will be hosted by the Manning Heritage Foundation at the Hausbarn/Heritage Park in Manning, Iowa, October 3–5, 2003.

Program offerings include Low German dance demonstrations and lessons; music performed by musicians from Schleswig-Holstein, and by *Der Manning Liederkrantz*; a Low German church service conducted by Dr. Richard Trost; folk dancing; theater; a variety of genealogy workshops and presentations; assistance with documents in the old German script; and, of course, German food, drink, and merriment.

The conference meeting will be in English and Platt, with a focus on the Low German spoken in the Midwest and the renaissance of interest in the language and culture of those who still speak it.

Events schedule, registration form, and fee information can be requested from Dr. Curt Struve via e-mail at crstruve@pionet.net or telephone (712) 653-2607 or the Manning Heritage Foundation via e-mail at heritag@pionet.net or telephone (800) 292-0252.

Germany Tour

Join us September 10–18, 2003, for our MKI Friends inaugural tour through several regions of Germany that sent many early immigrants to Wisconsin. After arriving in Frankfurt, this historical and cultural tour will begin by exploring villages of Rheinhessen with Dr. Helmut Schmahl, a German historian well-known to Wisconsinites. The tour will continue on to the Palatinate, the cities of Worms and Mainz, and include a Rhine River cruise. We will also travel along the Moselle River at the height of the wine festivals. Further stops will include Koblenz and the Eifel region. Tours will be led by English-speaking guides. For information, contact Kevin Kurdylo: kkurdylo@wisc.edu. Deadline is July 1.

‘Old Lutheran’ book translated

The Historical Society of Trinity Lutheran Church in Freistadt, Wisconsin, has published an English translation of Pastor Wilhelm Iwan’s *Die Altlutherische Auswanderung um die Mitte des 19. Jahrhunderts*. Iwan’s research, originally published in 1943, documents the emigration of thousands of “Old Lutherans” from Prussia between 1835 and 1854. Compelled primarily by religious reasons, these Pomeranians, Silesians, Saxons, Brandenburgians, and others settled in such Wisconsin areas as Freistadt, Cedarburg, Kirchhayn, Lebanon, and Milwaukee. The three-volume translation details the emigrations, describes disputes and divisions in the new homeland, and provides a list of emigrants by name. The translation may be purchased as a set or in individual volumes. For more information, contact Trinity Church, 10729 W. Freistadt Rd., Mequon, WI 53097. Attn: Ron Kraft or e-mail erkraft@execpc.com.

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Sibling organization collaborates with MKI

The Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures, the Max Kade Institute's sibling organization, has started a Friends organization. The CSUMC Friends, for those interested in preserving and promoting Upper Midwestern cultures, is modeled after the MKI Friends organization.

The Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures fosters research and the preservation of archival collections, while producing educational and outreach programs for a broad public audience. CSUMC also assists community groups, classrooms, and independent scholars with projects involving Upper Midwestern cultures.

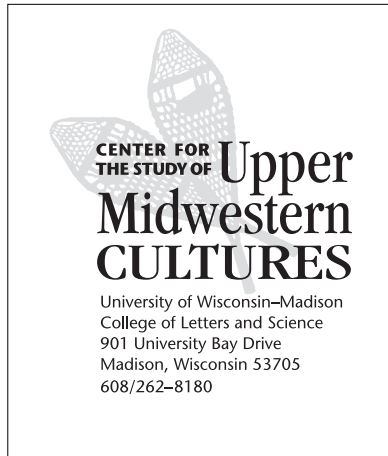
CSUMC has also launched a twice-yearly electronic-publication aimed at highlighting current projects involving the languages and cultural traditions of this region's diverse peoples. To view the

newsletter, go to <http://csumc.wisc.edu/newsletter/ilpp.htm>. CSUMC and MKI work together on a variety of projects, including the German-American music conference as well as "Cultural Play," a work-

shop for school children held at the Neillsville Museum in Green Bay. Other examples of MKI/CSUMC collaboration include our monograph series and digitization of rare music and spoken word recordings.

Friends are dues-paying members whose contributions help pay for projects ranging from folklore fieldwork to the conservation of archival collections and production of cultural events.

To join the organization, fill out the membership application online (<http://csumc.wisc.edu/newsletter/friends.htm>) and mail it back to CSUMC, 901 University Bay Dr., Madison, WI 53705. For more information, contact Ruth Olson at (608) 262-8180 or reolson3@wisc.edu.



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Maio's on Gerstäcker, which investigates three of Gerstäcker's well-known novels for information about immigrants' motives in coming to America, their expectations, and their fulfillment. From Part III, my picks are (1) Winfried Fluck's article on Kürnberger's *Der Amerika-Müde*; and (2) Sabine Haenni's on the formation of German-American ethnicity through the New York German theater in the 1890s—though I had hoped to learn more about dramas written especially for the New York German theater. From Part IV, I recommend Frauke Lenckos's essay on Anna Krommer.

Finally, a word on the use of German in this volume: Apparently the contributors agreed to give all

quotes in English, doing this in various ways, some placing English translations, some the original German in footnotes, and some giving only the English; Lenckos places Krommer's poems and (her own?) excellent English translations side by side. We must reach the point where more Americans can deal with German texts; otherwise our scholarship itself condones the deplorable situation we so regret—namely, in Lenckos's words, that we are studying "works of art [that] should have exerted a decisive impact on American culture, but did not, simply because these poets either could not, or did not elect to, create their [works] in the language spoken by the majority" (333).

Cora Lee Kluge is a professor in the UW-Madison German Department.

Legal and business advice books

By Kevin Kurdylo, MKI Librarian

*Sei freundlich und höflich gegen Jedermann,
mit dem du im Geschäft verkehrst.*

[Be cheerful, and show proper civility to all
with whom you transact business.]

While it is true that many German-speaking people immigrated to this country during the nineteenth-century to establish their own farmsteads, others desired to make their living in the world of business and industry. Thus, while those in rural areas may have acquired books to learn about practical household skills such as candle making, leather tanning, and various agricultural practices, some sought to learn about the laws of their new homeland and to develop successful business habits.

Here we examine a selection of books published in America aimed at providing legal and business advice to German-speaking immigrants. To view these books, or any others in the MKI Library, contact Kevin Kurdylo at (608) 262-7546 or kkurdylo@wisc.edu to make an appointment.

Gesetze des Staates Wisconsin in Bezug auf Towns und Townbeamte, Beschatzung und Steuer-Erhebung, Landstraßen und Brücken, und Gemeinde-Schulen. Milwaukee [sic]: [Druck-Committee of the Wisconsin State Legislature], 1850. [132] pp.

A translation of Wisconsin's laws regarding towns and town clerks, monetary affairs and taxes, highways and bridges, and schools.

Mayer, Jacob. *English-German Model Letter Writer and Bookkeeper: A Faithful Companion in the Various Social and Business Relations and Useful Adviser at Home and in Schools = Deutsch-Englischer Muster-Briefsteller und Buchhalter: Ein Allseitiger Führer in den verschiedensten Verhältnissen des Geschäfts- und Privatlebens und nützlicher Rathgeber für Schule und Haus.* Philadelphia: Kohler, 1888. 258 pp.

Examples of letters for various legal and commercial purposes are presented in English and German, as

well as what amounts to an introductory course in bookkeeping. Interestingly, the sample letters are unique in each language, and are not translations. For example, in the section for "Letters of Advice," the English section includes examples of letters from Lord Bolingbroke to Dr. Swift and from Dr. Franklin to an editor, while the German section includes several requests for advice on emigrating or for information about someone who has emigrated. Also worth noting are two small introductory sections, "On the German Language" and "Ueber die englische Sprache," which examine the assets and drawbacks of each. Here German is roundly criticized for lacking a graceful orthography, the difficulty in using articles to designate genders, and the complications of "various deflections and terminations of nouns, adjectives, &c." However, the writer concedes that "it is a language of indescribable power and beauty," that "poets of unsurpassable eminence immortalized themselves by the imbibing and outpouring of its essence in all its fullness," and that "linguists love it."

Nichols, J. L. *Der Geschäftsführer, oder sichere Geschäftsmethode.* Translated by W. F. Heidner. Cleveland, OH: Lauer & Mattill, 1890. 221 pp., ill.

This translation of *The Business Guide, or Safe Methods of Business*, has a rather loose structure, no table of contents, and only a brief index, but it contains a profusion of valuable suggestions, instructions, and warnings that, "wenn beachtet, Manchem mehr als hundert Mal den Preis des Buches werth sein mögen" ["if heeded, may be worth well over a hundred times the price of the book"]. While the aspiring *Geschäftsmann* will find practical information on such matters as handwriting, receipts, business correspondence, promissory notes ("Schreibe deine Schuldschein immer in englischer Sprache," the book admonishes), contract writing, weights and measures, trusts, and avoiding swindlers, there is also an emphasis on building a moral character. The book promises to reveal "wie Fleiß, Ehrlichkeit, Beharrlichkeit und

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Vorsicht zu Wohlstand und Reichtum führen” [“how diligence, honesty, persistence, and discretion will lead to prosperity and wealth”].

Ritter, A., ed. *Juristischer Rathgeber für den Geschäftsmann in Amerika: Ein Handbuch für Alle*. 3rd ed. New York: Zickel, 1878. 725 pp.

Beginning with the warning that “Unkenntniß des Gesetzes schützt vor Strafe nicht,” [“Ignorance of the law provides no defense against punishment”], this book strives to communicate the laws of the United States of America in a clear language that anyone can understand. The foreword points out that while the most important laws often seem to be drawn up so abstrusely as to require the intellectual skills of a lawyer to separate the “Weizen vor der Spreu,” difficulties are most keenly experienced by those “welche die englische Sprache unzureichend oder gar nicht verstehen” [“who have an inadequate or complete lack of understanding of the English language”].

Chapters examine the laws in each state (and territory) as they apply to such subjects as the buying

A little levity from the satirical newspaper, *The Onion* ...



the Onion, copyright 2003, www.theonion.com



Sound legal advice in any language: “Never sign a document for a stranger.”

and selling of wares, deeds, mortgages, assignments, bail and security bonds, partnerships, debt collection, landlords and tenants, apprentices and servants, husbands and wives (and the rights of married women!), powers of attorney, gifts, wills, and executors. Examples of legal documents are provided in both English and German.

Also included are German translations of the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights; excerpts from the constitutions of individual states; information on naturalization and citizens' rights; detailed advice on bookkeeping; example patent applications; recommendations on fire and life insurance; and a table of coins, weights, and measures.

[Wells, John G.]. *Wells' Jedermann sein eigener Anwalt und Formularbuch für Deutsche*. Edited by Wilhelm Landsberg. New York: Hitchcock, 1867. 449 pp.

A translation of *Every Man His Own Lawyer and Business Form Book*, this book is “a complete guide in all matters of law and business negotiations for every State of the Union.” It includes a brief comparison of American and German law and provides German translations of common legal documents to help German-speaking immigrants understand the nature of the items they may be called upon to sign. Additional chapters include representations and descriptions of state seals as well as a summary of the legal and political measures regarding the Reconstruction of the southern states after the Civil War.

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