

LITERARY HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES*

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GERMAN AND PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN

German: Primary Sources

Prose

At the present time the most fully explored "foreign" culture is that of the Germans. Their settlements date from the seventeenth century, and German travelers and historians have frequently recorded their impressions of the American scene since the early colonial period. Important among such historians is the colonist, lawyer, linguist, and poet, Francis Daniel Pastorius (1651 to ca. 1720), the founder of Quietist Germantown in 1683, whose contribution to colonial literature deserves to be better known. His works are described in an individual bibliographical essay herein. An early history of German settlements is John Kelpius (1673-1708), *The Diarium of Magister Johannes Kelpius*, first published, Lancaster, Pa., 1917, ed. by Julius F. Sachse. The Georgia settlements of the Salzburger are described in Samuel Urlsperger (1685-1772), *Ausführliche Nachricht von den Saltzburgischen Emigranten, die sich in America niedergelassen haben*, Halle, 1735-1752, 3 vols. Other travels of importance are those of Gottlieb Mittelberger, *Reise nach Pennsylvanien im Jahr 1750 . . .*, Frankfort, 1756—translated by Carl T. Eben, Philadelphia, 1898; Gottfried Achenwall, *Einige Anmerkungen über Nordamerika . . .*, Frankfort, 1769—translated by J. G. Rosengarten, Philadelphia, 1903; and Johann David Schöpf, *Reise durch einige der mittlern und südlichen vereinigten nordamerikanischen Staaten*, Erlangen, 1788, 2 vols.—translated by A. J. Morrison, Philadelphia, 1911. The voluminous reports of seventeen Lutheran pastors in Pennsylvania known as the *Hallesche Nachrichten*, Halle, 1787, are significant. These have been translated, Philadelphia, 1880-1881, 2 vols. History and travel in the nineteenth century include Moritz von Fürstenwärther, *Der Deutsche in Nord-Amerika*, Stuttgart, 1818; Ludwig Gall, *Meine Auswanderung nach den Vereinigten-Staaten . . .* (1819), Trier, 1822; Bernhard zu Sachsen-Weimar-Eisenach, *Reise . . . durch Nord Amerika*, Philadelphia, 1828; Gottfried Duden, *Bericht über eine Reise nach den westlichen Staaten Nord-amerikas*, Elberfeld, 1829; F. L. G. von Raumer, *Die Vereinigten Staaten von Nord-amerika*, Leipzig, 1845, 2 vols.—translated by W. W. Turner, New York, 1846; Johann G. Büttner, *Briefe aus und über Nordamerika . . .*, Dresden, 1845; Franz von Löher, *Geschichte und Zustände der Deutschen in Amerika*, Cincinnati and Leipzig, 1847; Moritz Busch, *Wanderungen zwischen Hudson und Mississippi, 1851 und 1852*, Stuttgart, 1854; and Julius Fröbel, *Aus Amerika . . .*, Leipzig, 1857-1858, 2 vols. Popular pictorial books were those of Karl Knortz, *Amerikanische Lebensbilder*, Zürich, 1884; and Rudolf Cronau, *Von Wunderland zu Wunderland . . .*, Leipzig, 1885.

Travel volumes, reminiscences, and romances, especially written to depict American life during the nineteenth century, were published in some number. One of the earliest was Ernst Willkomm, *Die Europamüden*, Leipzig, 1838. One of the most important writers was Charles Sealsfield, whose works are described in an individual bibliography herein. Rivaling Sealsfield in popularity was Friedrich Gerstäcker (1816-1872), whose 150 travel and adventure books include *Streif- und Jagdzüge durch*

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die Vereinigten Staaten Nordamerikas (1844); *Die Regulatoren von Arkansas* (1845); *Die Flusspiraten des Mississippi* (1847-1848); *Gold, ein Californisches Lebensbild* (1854); and *Nach Amerika! Ein Volksbuch* (1855). Early translations of Gerstäcker's narratives and romances include *The Wanderings and Fortunes of Some German Emigrants* (1848); *The Daughter of the Riccarees* (1851); *Narrative of a Journey Round the World* (1853); *The Regulators of Arkansas* (1857); and *The Young Gold-Digger* (1860). Other representative works of the same period are Ferdinand Kürnberg, *Der Amerikamüde*, Frankfurt, 1855; Karl Büchle, *Land und Volk der Vereinigten Staaten* (1855); Otto Rupp, the best of whose fifteen volumes of collected works are *Der Pedlar* (1857), *Das Vermächtnis des Pedlars* (1859), *Der Prärie Teufel* (1861), *Ein Deutscher* (1862); Karl Peter Heinzen, *Die Deutschen und die Amerikaner*, Boston, 1860—primary reminiscences; and Reinhold Solger, *Anton in Amerika*, Bromberg, 1862.

The works of Friedrich Armand Strubberg (1806-1889), who wrote under the pseudonym "Armand," have not been translated. More than a score of his novels deal with America, especially with German colonization in the Southwest, slavery, the Mexican War, and the frontier in general. Among the best of them are *Sklaverei in Amerika; oder, Schwarzes Blut* (1862); *Carl Scharnhorst; Abenteuer eines deutschen Knaben in Amerika* (1872); *Der Sprung vom Niagarafall* (1864); *Friedrichsburg: Die Colonie des deutschen Fürstenvereins in Texas* (1867); *Die Fürstentochter* (1872); and *Die geraubten Kinder: Eine Erzählung aus Texas, für die Kinder* (1875). For a study of Strubberg see Preston A. Barba, "Friedrich Armand Strubberg," *Ger.-Amer. Annals*, n.s. X (1912), 175-225; XI (1913), 3-63, 115-142.

The "German Cooper," Heinrich Balduin Möllhausen (1825-1905), described frontier life in some fifty romances. Best known are his trilogy of frontier life: *Der Halb Indianer*, 1861; *Der Flüchtling*, 1861; *Der Majordomo*, 1863. The best of his romances include *Das Mormonenmädchen*, 1864; *Die Kinder des Sträflings*, 1876; *Der Piratenlieutenant*, 1877; *Der Leuchthurm am Michigan . . .*, 1883; *Wildes Blut*, 1886; and *Die Familie Neville: Roman aus der Zeit des nordamerikanischen Bürgerkrieges*, 1889. The sole translation of a Möllhausen work is his *Diary of a Journey from the Mississippi to . . . the Pacific*, 1858.

Reminiscences of frontier life in the latter part of the nineteenth century are Gert Göbel, *Länger als ein Menschenleben in Missouri*, St. Louis, 1877. An early socialistic novel is Max Arlberg, *Joseph Freifeld, Ein Social-Roman aus dem deutsch-amerikanischen Leben*, Milwaukee, 1887.

Robert Reitzel (1849-1898) has been considered among the most brilliant of German-American writers. His writings have been collected in three volumes as *Des Armen Teufel gesammelte Schriften*, Detroit, 1913. His autobiography, *Abenteuer eines Grünen*, was published, Chicago, 1902. See Adolf E. Zucker, "Robert Reitzel as Poet," *Ger.-Amer. Annals*, n.s. XIII (1915), 49-66.

Other items of interest are Hugo Bertsch, *Die Geschwister*, Stuttgart, 1903; Rudolph Puchner, *Anna Ruland*, 1903; and Henry F. Urban, *Aus dem Dollarlande*, 1906, and *Lederstrumpfs Erben*, Berlin, 1908. *The Reminiscences of Carl Schurz* were published, New York, 1907-1908, 3 vols., and a year later Gustav Philipp Körner published his *Memoirs*, Cedar Rapids Ia., 1909, 2 vols. Among the most recent reminiscences are those of Johannes Gillhoff (1861-1930), *Jürnjacob Swehn, der Amerikafahrer*, Berlin, 1918.

Some observers have been especially interested in American industrial and scientific development. See for example Friedrich Ratzel, *Kulturgeographie der Vereinigten*

Staaten von Nord-America, Munich, 1878-1880, 2 vols.; Ludwig Max Goldberger, *Das Land der unbegrenzten Möglichkeiten*, Berlin, 1903; Wilhelm von Polenz, *Das Land der Zukunft*, 4th ed., Berlin, 1904; and Georg von Skal, *Das amerikanische Volk*, Berlin, 1908.

Poetry

Chicago was long the poetic capital, and fully half of the output has been published there. Chiefly lyrical in character, most of it has been written in High German and still remains scattered largely in German-American periodicals and newspapers, and in small booklets. Some has been collected in anthologies such as Konrad Nies and Herman Rosenthal's *Deutschamerikanische Dichtung*, 1888-1890, 2 vols.; Gustav A. Zimmermann's *Deutsch in Amerika*, Chicago, 1894; G. A. Neeff's *Vom Lande des Sternenbanners*, Heidelberg, 1905; Heinrich A. Rattermann, *Deutsch-amerikanisches Biographikon und Dichteralbum*, Cincinnati, 1911, 3 vols. Among local studies or collections, that by Selma Marie Metzenthin Raunick, *Deutsche Schriften in Texas*, 1935-1936, 2 vols., is typical.

Of the older generation of poets, the most gifted and versatile were Konrad Nies and Udo Brachvogel. More modern are Martin Drescher (*Gedichte*, Chicago, 1909), Fernande Richter (pseud. Edna Fern), and George Sylvester Viereck, who has himself rendered his verse and plays into English.

Epic poetry, usually less excellent than the lyric, is typified by Julius Bruck, *Ahasver*, 1875; Ernst Henrici, *Aztekenblume*; Rudolf Puchner, *Aglaja*, 1887; Rudolf Thomann, *Leben und Thaten von Hannes Schaute*, 1873; Ferdinand Schreiber, *Armanda*, 1882; Gustav Brühl, *Charlotte*, 1883; and Theodor Kirchoff, *Hermann*, 1898.

Drama

The German theater, established in New York in 1840, has had a long and continuous existence. Though most of the plays have been German classics, some have been German-American. Geza Berger's *Barbara Ubryk* was a sensational success. Other playwrights include Kaspar Butz, *Florian Geyer*; Ernst Anton Zündt, who chose historical themes such as *Jugurtha*, *Rienzi*, *Galilie*; Emil Schneider, *Ulfila*; Friedrich Schnake, *Montezuma*; Viktor Precht, *Jacob Leisler*; and Friedrich Ernst, *Peter Mühlenberg; oder, Bibel und Schwert*.

Of plays with a setting near home, there is Adolf Philipp's comedy, *Der Corner Grocer aus der Avenue A*, and his *Also das ist New York*; and Lotta L. Leser, *Der Glücksuchende in Amerika*.

Studies of the German-American theater are Edwin H. Zeydel, "The German Theater in New York City . . ." (from 1840 to 1914), in *Jahrbuch der Deutsch-Amerikanischen Historischen Gesellschaft von Illinois*, XV (1915), 255-309; Albert B. Faust, *The German Element in the United States*, Boston, 1909, II (Chapter VII); *Das Buch der Deutschen in Amerika . . .*, Philadelphia, 1909, pp. 421-470; Alfred H. Nolle, "The German Drama on the St. Louis Stage," *Ger.-Amer. Annals*, n.s. XV (1917), 29-65, 73-112; and John C. Andressohn, "Die literarische Geschichte des Milwaukeeer deutschen Bühnenwesens, 1850-1911," *Ger.-Amer. Annals*, n.s. X (1912), 65-88, 150-170.

Pennsylvania German: Primary Sources

The Pennsylvania Germans early developed a literary and cultural tradition. Their writings for the most part have been published in periodicals and newspapers.

The best known and best loved among dialect poets was Henry Harbaugh, many of whose writings were collected in *Harbaugh's Harfe*, 1870. Other well known writers, whose works have been separately issued, are Henry Lee Fisher, whose works include *Die alte Zeite*, 1879; and *Kurzweil und Zeitvertreib*, 1882 and 1896; Thomas Hess Harter, *Boonastiel . . . [A Volume of Legend, Story and Song]*, 1893 (rev. ed. 1942). Harvey M. Miller's *Pennsylvania-German Poems*, 1906, was followed by *Pennsylvania-German Stories*, 1907 (and later), and *G'shbos und Arnsht*, 1939.

Collections have not yet been made of the writings of Ezra Grumbine, Matthias Sheeleigh, Thomas J. Rhoads, and John Birmelin—chief of the new writers.

Anthologies of Pennsylvania German writing include Daniel Miller, *Pennsylvania German*, Reading, Pa., 1904, 2 vols (reprinted 1911); Heinz Kloss and A. M. Aurand, *Lewendiche Schtimme aus Pennsilveni*, Stuttgart and New York, 1929; *idem*, *Ich schwetz in der Muttersproch*, 1936; Harry Hess Reichard, *Pennsylvania German Verse*, 1940; and several collections by A. M. Aurand.

Studies of the Pennsylvania German language have most recently been made in J. William Frey, *Pennsylvania-Dutch Grammar*, 1942; Albert F. Buffington, "A Grammatical and Linguistic Study of Pennsylvania German . . .," unpublished dissertation, Harvard University, 1939; and Marcus B. Lambert, *A Dictionary of Non-English Words of the Pennsylvania-German Dialect*, 1924. Earlier studies are Abraham Horne, *The Pennsylvania German Manual for Pronouncing, Speaking and Writing English*, Allentown, Pa., 1875 (reissued 1910); Marion D. Learned, *The Pennsylvania German Dialect*, Baltimore, 1889; James C. Lins, *A Common-Sense Pennsylvania German Dictionary*, 1887; Edward H. Rauch, *A Pennsylvania Dutch Hand-Book: A Book of Instruction*, 1879; and S. S. Haldemann, *Pennsylvania Dutch, a Dialect of South Germany with an Infusion of English*, 1872.

The best literary history is that of Earl F. Robacker, *Pennsylvania German Literature: Changing Trends from 1683 to 1942*, Philadelphia, 1943—a survey of the evolution of High German, English, and dialect writing, with a 14-page bibliography. A good brief literary study is that of Harry H. Reichard, "Pennsylvania German Literature," in Ralph Wood, ed., *The Pennsylvania Germans*, Princeton, 1942, pp. 165-224. See also Reichard's "Pennsylvania German Dialect Writings and Writers," *Proc. and Addresses Pennsylvania German Soc.*, XXVI (1918); Heinz Kloss, *Die Pennsylvania-deutsche Literatur*, 1931; and Friedrich Schön, *Deutschsprachige Mundartdichtung in Amerika*, 1931.

The dialect stories of Elsie Singmaster (Mrs. Elsie S. Lewars) are well known. Her first published story was *Katy Gaumer* (1914). By 1940 she had published some 250 stories. Helen Reimensnyder Martin wrote *Tillie, a Mennonite Maid* (1904). The best among the published stories of Katharine Riegel Loose ("Georg Schock") are *Hearts Contending* (1910) and *The House of Yost* (1923). Among other recent dialect fiction writers are Mildred Jordan and Joseph Yoder.

Aside from the poetry of the Pennsylvania Germans, there is a considerable body of other German dialect poetry, most of it humorous. Among the better examples are Carl Münter, *Nu sünd wi in Amerika: en plattdütsch Reimels*, 1878; Ferdinand W. Lafrentz, *Nordische Klänge: Plattdeutsche Reimels*, 1881 and 1882; Karl Adler, *Mundartlich Heiteres* (1886); Charles G. Leland, *Hans Breitmann Ballads*, written between 1856 and 1895, and gathered and published as a single volume in 1914; and the humorous poems of Kurt M. Stein, *Die Schönste Lengewitch* (1925), *Gemixte Pickles* (1927), and *Limburger Lyrics* (1932). Adler's, Leland's, and Stein's verses are a kind of *Kauderwelsch*, or mixture of broken English and German dialect.

Secondary Sources: High German and Dialect***Literary Exploitation***

Novels which have made use of German and Czech settlements and immigrants, especially in the Middle West, include Willa Cather's *O Pioneers!* (1913); and *My Antonia* (1918); Sidney H. Small, *Fourscore* (1924); Ruth Suckow, *Country People* (1924); Hope W. Sykes, *The Joppa Door* (1937); and Hester Pine, *The Waltz Is Over* (1943).



The editors would like to call attention to the recent publication on German-American poetry:

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