

tion in Germany and in the city of Berlin, and specimens of military currency used in Germany and Austria by the Allied forces. The important German monetary reform of June 1948 is carefully examined, and illustrated are specimens of the currency and coin issued during this reform in both the East and West zones of occupation in Germany and the city of Berlin.

This monograph is a concise, well illustrated and documented study. It will prove enlightening to specialists in economics and law, scholars and numismatists.

Vera Flach, *A Yankee in German America Texas Hill Country* (The Naylor Company, San Antonio, Texas, 1973), 176 pages, \$5.95.

This highly personal work must be considered a valuable addition to the growing body of German-American literature.

Vera Flach is of Welsh ancestry and was born (1895) and raised in Chicago. She married a descendent of Dr. Ernst Kapp, the geographer and freethinking Forty-Eighter who settled in Sisterdale along the Sister Creeks (Upper Guadalupe River), the site of a "Latin farm" colony. The authoress learned German to at least some degree of fluency, and, ultimately, began delving into the Kapp family past. As might be expected, several traditional familiar German folkways come under "Yankee" scrutiny, and, occasionally, authoress Flach has some interesting observations or insights to pass on to the reader. Raised in a teetotaling family, her discovery of the German beer cult (to cite but one example) becomes an almost major life experience. Far more significant, however, is the authoress' ability to breathe life into so many different phases of early twentieth century Texas German life. Her vivid recollections of sausage-making (she fails to use the term, but *Schlachtfest* it is!) makes for enjoyable and, at times, quite humorous reading:

While the meat was being mixed, someone (good grief, not me!) was sent to the river with a washtub of entrails. There they were washed, thoroughly I am sure, turned inside out, washed again, and brought back to be sausage 'jackets'. In place of the grinder, a sausage stuffer with a funny-looking snout was now attached to the table. The entrails were cut into pieces ten to twenty inches long and tied at one end with sausage twine. They had to be tied very tight, for who wants sausage squirting all over the smokehouse?

Sausage-making, soap- and butter-making, a wee bit of folk medicine, and several casual recipes for such "favorites" as cabbage loaf, wine soup, *Kochkäse*, and *Zwieback* are all included. Here, too, we encounter the folksy story-teller. For the Texas version of Philadelphia scrapple, called *pannas*, she advises: *Be sure you have a nice, long-handled paddle, and when your arm breaks, go right on stirring.* For *Zwieback* she relates:

Make a yeast dough with milk, flour, and eggs. Let it rise. Add sugar, butter, salt and more flour. Make nice round rolls and let 'em rise again. Bake the things. Then all you have to do is cut 'em in half and bake 'em again — slowly. My children ate buckets of these things.

The "down-on-the-farm" aspect of this book contrasts with its more serious historical accounts, written in a style which alternates between simple eloquence and casual slang. Compare the following passages:

(1) Somewhere beneath the smooth highway lay the muddy, deep-rutted road on which our pioneers had come north in a wagon brought from Germany, behind six mules driven by a blasphemous boy. Ida and her children bounced in the wagon. The professor rode a horse. It took them five days.

(2) At Mainz another slick realtor arrived. His name was Henry Fisher. He told the Adels-Verein that **his** Land, the Fisher-Miller grant, was far superior to that of Mr. Bourgeois. He was a big buddy of everyone at Austin and Mr. B. could never get a renewal. So — head over heels — they signed on his dotted line to pay \$9,000 in three installments.

The book abounds in cultural and socio-historical themes: ranch and family life, marriage, divorce, the role of the female, pregnancy, sex education, German *Vereine* and *Feste* (chiefly *Schützen-* and *Gesangvereine*), theater, general education, and religion — or lack of it. Treated in a rather exacting manner is the immigration of Forty-Eighters to Texas. Important are the many translations of family letters which unfortunately do not read well (they are termed “free translations”). The first letter written by Ida Kapp (wife of Ernst Kapp) begun aboard the *Franziska* (voyage of 1849) captures her first impression of America: *We crossed the St. Mark’s River . . . on a ferry. By this time the country was becoming much more beautiful. It would take only human hands, as in Germany, to make it a garden spot* And there is the inevitable discouragement: *I feel so sorry for Mrs. . . . She hates it here and is so homesick. She says her husband did not tell her the truth about conditions. I am worried because there is a fever, a sort of epidemic, going around in New Braunfels and I am anxious to get away.* Other free translations include Reports I-XI for the period 15 July 1844 to 30 April 1845 by Prince Carl von Solms-Braunfels (which the writer terms as *probably the saddest and at the same time funniest documents ever sent by a colonizer to his directors at home*), and the almost poetic letters by Amanda von Rosenberg written while aboard the *Franziska*. In one passage, Frau von Rosenberg writes: *The waves, whipped up by the storm, rise up high as the hills. Our little ship lowers its bow. Now the surging waters strive to reach it, flood over and cover it and behold, the beautiful structure raises itself gracefully, majestically higher and higher, and the waves sink helplessly.* A letter by Ernst Kapp to his brother-in-law in Germany underscores the optimism of a “Latin farmer” who believes farming and intellectual preoccupations can be brought into some form of mutuality and harmony.

The critical scholar will suffer disappointments: the authors and titles of only a few sources are cited in text;

there is no table of contents, no bibliography, no index, no family-tree diagram (there is considerable genealogy in this work). A map showing the location of the Texas Hill Country is also absent. The lack of appropriate documentation (e.g. Dr. Ernst Kapp is referred to as a "professor at the University of Minden") is unfortunate. Homespun observations are intermingled with valuable historical information. The general historical data regarding the settlement of Texas by German immigrants appear to be accurate; we can only hope that the translations of family papers reflect the true spirit of the German originals. The first five chapters flow smoothly (pp. 1-37); thereafter, however, sequential coherence is lacking. Some chapters are too repetitious of others; one of them (XXVIII) consists of only three paragraphs comprising fourteen lines. Orthographic errors (in the German) are numerous. Upon reading the German passages, one wonders whether they are intended to represent the Texas German dialect, e.g.

Ist dass nicht ein schoenes haus?
Ya, dass ist ein schoenes haus
Kommt ya nicht ein man heraus?
Ya, da kommt ein man heraus
Ah, wie schoenes!
Ah, wie rotten!

The book's shortcomings, however, are offset by the liveliness of the authoress' presentation and richness of the material she employs. The "Welsh woman" has, indeed, ably comprehended the Texas German *Volksseele*, and I thoroughly recommend putting books of this delightful quality into the hands of young adult readers inclined toward things German and German-American; they are bound to derive both joy and perhaps even inspiration to learn more of America's sound German heritage. Other readers too (particularly those raised in rural or small town settings) will enjoy the nostalgia emanating from the contents of this book.

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