

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

QUO VADIS A.R.B.A.?

Lubomyr R. Wynar's review (in: *American Reference Books Annual*, Vol. 7: 1976, Item 407, p. 225) of Don Heinrich Tolzmann's *German-Americana: A Bibliography* (Scarecrow Press: Metuchen, N. J., 1975, 384 pp.) is a serious distortion of truth. It is for this reason that I am compelled to respond to it.

After reading Wynar's remarks and comparing his conclusions to the pages of Tolzmann's outstanding book, it becomes readily apparent to the reader that Wynar did not carefully examine the work. Had Wynar read the introduction, he would have discovered that Tolzmann's intention is to give "brief annotations . . . when necessary." Indeed, many of the entries are adequately annotated. Wynar also refers to a non-existent section which he calls "Bibliographical Aids." Perhaps he means the extremely helpful "Bibliographical Guides"-section.

The introduction clearly states that the work confines itself to research done in the 1941-73 period. It is clear to any knowledgeable German-American studies specialist that Tolzmann's intent here was not to copy from the Pochmann-Schultz bibliography which treats German-Americana published up to 1940. One is baffled therefore as to why Wynar faults Tolzmann for not including books and articles written in 1919 and 1920.

Wynar's myopia grows stronger as we read his statement that Tolzmann "does not provide information on reprint publications." Yet when one opens Tolzmann's book one finds considerable information on reprints as well as the names of the publishers thereof. Item 207 in this comprehensive bibliography refers to the "Bibliography Americana Germanica" published originally in the *American German Review* and continued in the *German Quarterly*. Yet Wynar says Tolzmann forgot to do that too.

I suppose if Wynar looks long enough, he may find some item not listed in Tolzmann's latest work. But the young scholar from Cincinnati makes no promise of completeness; his introduction specifically states that this is a *selective* list. The book's 5,307 entries are wisely chosen and are indeed, as Tolzmann puts it, "relevant to the student of German-American history, language and literature, German press and book trade, religious life, education, culture, business and industry, biography, genealogical works, and German-American radicalism."

Serious criticism is essential to the world of scholarship, but it is better left to recognized authorities, in the present case, experts in German-American research. Those of us who are knowledgeable in the field are grateful for the many outstanding works by Don Heinrich Tolzmann—German-American poet and scholar.

Robert Elmer Ward, Ph.D, J.D.

AM KASTALISCHEN BRUNNEN

Der Muse fällt nichts neues ein,
ihr Quell erstarrt zum Sprudelstein,
am Quellengrund, am Brunnenrand
Kristalle nehmen überhand
und wie der Sprudel sich versteint,
hat sie ihm lächelnd nachgeweint.

Die Strömung stockt, der Stein besteht,
kein Leichenstein, doch ein Prophet.
Auch Steine wachsen noch im Licht,
aus abgesetzter Erdschicht
gespeist, gedeihn sie mosbekränzt,
vom blauen Himmel überglänzt.

MARGARETE KOLLISCH
Manhattan, N.Y.