

In Memoriam

ANNA KATARINA SCHEIBE

The name Scheibe occupies a noteworthy place in German-American literature. Members of the family were painters and poets. Fred Karl Scheibe's many volumes of poetry, such as *Dem Licht entgegen* (1941) and *Wiskonsin Erlebnis* (1942) were fine contributions to German-American writing. His column, entitled "Literaturscheiben," appeared in the *Cincinnati Freie Presse*, and was written as he completed doctoral studies in German at the University of Cincinnati. Much of his inspiration undoubtedly came from his mother, Anna Katarina Scheibe.

Born in 1885 in Kiel, she immigrated to the U.S. in 1928, participated in German-American life, belonged to various societies and was the only honorary member of the William C. Schmitt Unit, No. 998 of the Steuben Society of America.

In his *Deutsche Lyrik aus Amerika* (1969), Robert E. Ward called her a "talentierte Malerin abstrakter und symbolstarker Oelbilder," but many will remember her poems which appeared occasionally in the *New Yorker Staats-Zeitung und Herold*. In 1968 Anna Katarina Scheibe's poetry collection appeared: *Die Verborgene Welt. Geschichten, Gedanken und Gedichte einer deutschamerikanischen Hausfrau*. Here was an unpretentious, but genuine contribution to German-American literature.

Shortly before her death, July 12, 1979, her son, Fred Karl Scheibe, assembled a manuscript consisting of her prose and poetry as well as pictures and documents from her life. It also contains reproductions of several of her beautiful paintings. It was my pleasure to write a foreword to this work which will soon be published. Hers was a poetry of joyousness and happiness, and was a creation that those from German-America could relate to. As she passes into the annals of German-Americana her place is assured, but she will be missed by loved ones and by all friends of German life in America.

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