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Wenn stolz auf neuen Glanz wir blicken,
 Der auf das Sternenbanner fällt,
 So baut das Herz oft gold'ne Brücken
 Hinüber in die alte Welt.

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**THE THREE LIVES OF SOLOMON HENKEL:
DOCTOR, PRINTER and POSTMASTER**

By

CHRISTOPHER DOLMETSCH

University of Wisconsin-Madison

While perhaps not as considerable as those of the Pennsylvania Germans, the contributions of the Shenandoah Valley Germans of Virginia in the fields of art, science and politics were by no means, inconsequential. For among the many German-American settlers in those parts were artists, like the fraktur artist Peter Bernhart or the potter Dirk Pennybaker, doctors and scientists like John Peter Ahl or Conrad Neff and politicians like Jacob Swope or Daniel Sheffey. Seldom, however, were so many diverse occupations combined in a single individual in the way in which they were in Solomon Henkel of New Market, Virginia.

Although perhaps best remembered today as an apothecary and doctor in Shenandoah County, Solomon Henkel also pursued somewhat lesser-known interests in the arts and politics, having established almost single-handedly the Henkel New Market Press and, likewise, having served lengthy terms as that town's federal postmaster. Granted, such accomplishments as these would scarcely allow us to rank Solomon Henkel alongside such prominent German-Americans as Adolph Ochs or Carl Schurz. Still, to find such diversity in one human being should certainly suffice to justify further consideration of this man.

That Solomon Henkel chose to undertake a variety of professions is neither surprising, nor unusual in the annals of American history. It was not uncommon, especially along the western frontier, for pioneers to practice several trades off-and-on as the need would arise. What makes the case of

Solomon Henkel more unusual than most, however, was the fact that he pursued all three of his occupations simultaneously, thereby integrating them surprisingly well. His keen interest in printing and publishing served him in the medical trade by assuring him a steady supply of printed labels and prescriptions. His pharmaceutical skills paid off in his printing by giving him the know-how to manufacture his own chemicals and ink. Then too, his post as New Market's postmaster was handy in both of his other careers by allowing him free access to the mail, both for sending and receiving merchandise of all kinds.

In short, it was the harmonious synthesis of all three of his professions that enables Solomon Henkel to warrant further attention and provide us with the subject for further observation. What follows is what I have chosen to call "the three lives of Solomon Henkel: doctor, printer and postmaster." Not knowing for sure which of his three careers Solomon Henkel would have ranked first, I have taken the liberty of arranging them myself and, thus, shall start by examining the life of Solomon Henkel as physician and pharmacist.

To start with, I should perhaps explain that Solomon Henkel was the eldest son of the famous Reverend Paul Henkel, a pioneer and founder in the American Lutheran Church.¹ He was born on November 10, 1777 in what is now a part of Pendleton County, West Virginia, but by the year 1790, his family had moved to the tiny Shenandoah Valley community of New Market, Virginia—a town in name alone since, we are told, there were at that time barely a dozen dwellings already standing.²

By this time Solomon Henkel had already received some rudimentary education from a bilingual schoolmaster named Philip Weber. But, as New Market still lacked an organized school, his parents thought it prudent and wise to seek their son's education elsewhere. Thus, Solomon accompanied his father to Philadelphia in May of 1793, "with the intention of finding a profession or trade"³ While Paul Henkel was busy attending synodal sessions, Solomon

mingled freely among his father's acquaintances and soon was to receive "the suggestion from one of them to try the work of an apothecary."⁴ To this advice his father "agreed and left him with Dr. Jackson," authorizing, "Dr. Helmuth to apprentice him to his master if he proved satisfactory...."⁵

The aforementioned Dr. Jackson under whom the 16-year old boy was to study was David Jackson, Sr. of Chester County, Pennsylvania, an accomplished surgeon and physician who had the distinction of being among the first medical graduates of the College of Philadelphia (now the University of Pennsylvania). Dr. Jackson agreed to train young Solomon Henkel, however, an outbreak of yellow fever in that city a few months thereafter forced Solomon to return home prematurely after barely six months of medical study. Late in 1794, Solomon returned to Philadelphia, this time not to study, but rather to purchase pharmaceutical supplies. When he returned to Virginia, "he brought a quantity of medicines which he had engaged to sell on commission, but after he had given medicines to a number of people . . . with good results, he had to practice as a doctor"⁶

While this ended, for the most part, the formal medical training of "Dr." Solomon Henkel, he subsequently spent an additional four months with another Valley-German practitioner, Dr. John Peter Ahl, under an apprenticeship contract which was also prematurely dissolved.⁷ Henceforth, he learned his trade by gaining valuable experience in the field. In 1797, for example, Solomon Henkel tended the sick in an extremely severe small pox epidemic until he contracted the disease himself and required several months of rest to recover.

Indubitably in the life of "Dr." Solomon Henkel the year 1798 must have been a red letter year. For in the spring of that year Solomon decided to renovate a tiny dwelling his father had owned at the south end of Main Street in New Market to use as his office and shop. This building, scarcely 7 feet by 7 feet and entirely made of wood, fondly came to be

called "Solomon's Temple," for in it *all* of his various professions were eventually carried on.

During the course of the next several years, Solomon Henkel devoted much of his time to the pursuit of private medical study. He eagerly sought medical books, many of which he acquired through Dr. Jackson in Philadelphia. He also traveled extensively to gain new knowledge and experience, covering virtually every mile of ground between Philadelphia and Salisbury, North Carolina. Solomon Henkel eventually amassed a considerable library of basic medical texts, including important works in both German and English. A survey of those titles bearing his personal bookplate indicates the unusual cataloguing system he devised: numbering his texts not by subject, author or title, but rather by the *use* to which they were put. He also put the old proverb "necessity is the mother of invention" to frequent use by concocting a wide variety of local medicinal cures, including tinctures, elixers, ointments and pills. Moreover he constructed a small plant shed on a corner of his lot in which to grow medical herbs and shrubs all year round.

A great deal is still known about the remedies Solomon Henkel prescribed from the surviving labels and directions printed at the New Market Press after 1806. While the majority of these handouts were in either English or German, some were actually printed as bilingual texts, which may, in perhaps a limited way, have facilitated the transition from German to English among the older residents in the Valley. Probably the most interesting and unusual of these medical texts was one in German giving the names and usages of nine different cures (*Folgende Arzneyen . . . werden verkauft von Solomon Henkel . . . Neumarket Schanandoah Virginien: Gedruckt bey Ambrosius Henkel. [1807]. [Wust: 8]*). Among them we find Solomon's stomache and intestinal bitters which he boasted as being far better than a competitor's brand.

From late 1814 until around 1823, Solomon Henkel was primarily occupied with managing and operating the New Market Press. While more on this subject shall be said

further on, it is interesting to note that during the 8-year period involved, Solomon remained active in his medical trade. Only by relinquishing the Press to three of his sons, could he again devote himself fully to his medical career.

He became extremely interested in the application of an electric machine in the diagnosis and treatment of various physiological diseases and even purchased an elaborate model for himself in 1838. He was also one of the first rural doctors to adopt modern techniques of urinary analysis in treating his patients, the success of which is clearly indicated in copious and still-unpublished notes which he made on the subject.⁸

But, lest we find "Solomon Henkel the doctor" of disproportionate interest, let us now consider the second of his three lives, that of the more-artistically inclined "Solomon Henkel, printer and publisher." Solomon Henkel should be considered the founder of the Henkel New Market Press. It was, moreover, owing to his early interest and foresight that New Market became a center for official Lutheran printing, which it remained well into the 20th century.

Just exactly what the catalyst was that motivated Solomon Henkel in this particular direction, we can only speculate. We know that the Reverend Paul Henkel was aware of the prestige that was to be gained by operating the official press of the Virginia Lutheran Synod. We also know that at an early date Solomon Henkel had thought up the idea of printing his own labels and notes. Still, whether it was one of the above or a combination of both, that finally prompted Solomon to write to his father in the autumn of 1804 and propose the purchase of a printing press, we can not now say for sure. It is, however, certain that Solomon saw in this venture the possibility of great benefit for the entire family.

Needless to say, a first attempt at getting a press and type failed and it wasn't until August of 1806 that arrangements had been successfully made for the acquisition of equipment from the Hagerstown, Maryland printer Johann Gruber. Originally it was agreed that while Solomon was the

de facto owner of the Press, his younger brother Ambrose would carry out the duties of printer. From 1806 through the summer of 1814 this arrangement worked rather well. Indeed, all imprints we can trace in both English and German prior to 1814 indicate that the printing was either done by Ambrose Henkel himself, or at least in his name.⁹ Late in the summer of 1814, however, Ambrose decided to quit the printery and study for the ministry. To Solomon was left the unpleasant task of running the Press as best he could. By eliciting the help of another younger brother Andrew, along with the assistance of the printer Laurentz Wartman, he was able to continue the business just as before, but now under the new name of "S. Henkel's Print Shop." Eighteen publications in German and four in English appeared between 1815 and 1823, a date commonly given as marking the end of Solomon's personal involvement as a printer. After that date he mainly supervised operations and allowed three of his sons to continue the work.

There were, of course, numerous German-American printers operating concurrently with Solomon Henkel in other parts of the eastern U.S. Of these, perhaps the majority printed books and pamphlets that were as good, if not better, than what the Henkels could produce. Despite this fact, it is significant to note that Solomon Henkel was among the first German-American printers to acknowledge the growing influence of the English language on the Germans living in this country. He quickly realized that the Henkel New Market Press could assist in the difficult process of cultural and linguistic transition, by providing German-speaking people in Virginia the same works in both English and German. This was a concept which surely predates the invention of the parallel text. Hence, not only did Solomon Henkel oversee the translation and publication of several books written by members of the family (eg. *The Pious Twins*, Paul Henkel's *Christian Catechism* and *Church Hymn Book* [all 1816]), but he also supervised the publication of several English sets of synodal reports which made them available for the very first time to those in the church who could not read German.

Furthermore, let it not be forgotten that Solomon, along with Ambrose and several of his sons, was one of the relatively few German-American printers who made their own woodcuts for their printed texts. By the latter half of the 18th century professional woodblock artists proliferated in most of the printing centers along the east coast, especially in Philadelphia and Boston. Most of the Pennsylvania- and Maryland-German printers visited their shops on occasion to purchase suitable woodcuts for illustrating their various handbills, newspapers and books. So too, the Henkels originally purchased a number of professionally-carved woodblocks for their earliest works. But the difficulty in obtaining new illustrations, not to mention the obvious cost, forced first Ambrose, then later Solomon Henkel, to take up the knife and carve out homemade illustrations. While some of their earliest endeavors were crude and poorly-done by professional standards, many of their later attempts must be judged as showing considerable artistic talent. Among the other illustrations Solomon Henkel may have made, he is believed to have helped Ambrose carve and prepare over 50 woodcuts for several ABC books.¹⁰ It is, however, impossible to say how many woodcuts Solomon Henkel actually made since few, if any, references were ever made regarding this activity in his correspondence and notes.

Finally, in comparison to both of his other two careers, Solomon Henkel's political career has remained by far the most obscure. By the year 1800, to no one's great surprise, the majority of the Valley-German electorate had come to support Thomas Jefferson's Republican Party. Jefferson was, after all, like George Washington before him, a native-born Virginian, from a place near the Valley. There were, however, more concrete reasons for this widespread support, not the least of which was due to the Republican's stance in foreign affairs.

It was only natural that the German-Americans should want to see close and favorable ties between this country and the lands from which they had come. Yet, the ruling Federalists had, almost from the start, espoused a

cautious foreign policy which, as President Washington had put it, warned Americans against entering entangling alliances. With the outbreak of war between France and Prussia, many German-Americans protested this kind of isolationism. As the Napoleonic tide swept the Continent of Europe, some even preached direct U.S. intervention. Others merely utilized the German-language newspapers to denounce the French as best they could.

Initially the Republicans refrained from taking sides, all the while maintaining the need for good relations with all of the parties involved. Among the Shenandoah Valley Germans this rationalistic approach was greeted with great approval and, thus, an impressive majority of the area's voters cast ballots for Thomas Jefferson in the Election of 1800. So too, numerous local candidates, among them several prominent Germans, were similarly swept into office in this Republican tide.

Among those who benefit most from this Republican sweep was none other than Solomon Henkel himself. He had already been active in numerous political affairs almost from the start of his medical career. He had been a member of several citizens' committees charged with the establishment of local public schools, the first of which unfortunately did not open until February of 1805. He also had served as unofficial liaison between several of the community's German churches and the local government of New Market. In both of those capacities it seems he gained considerable praise and support, so that it was only fitting and proper that, following the Election of 1800, when names were being gathered to fill various political posts, Solomon Henkel's should be suggested for the position of New Market's postmaster. Consequently, records indicate to us, that on March 20, 1801, Solomon Henkel officially received the appointment to the office of "Postmaster at New Market, Virginia."¹¹

At that time the officer of postmaster was still a position accorded sizeable influence and respect. Not only was the postmaster charged with handling the mails, he also could play an advisory role in matters affecting the local,

state and federal governments. The postmaster could be consulted on any sort of regional business, from the financing and construction of public roads to the licensing of taverns and shops. It is, therefore, likely that Solomon Henkel remained rather active in local affairs, for his name appears with some regularity in the old record books from that period.

Of course the main benefit derived from this office was free and unlimited use of the mails. Whereas most mail service was still regional and private, a nationwide system of postal dispatch was then being established. It was customary for the receiver of mail to pay the postrider or postmaster the delivery fee. In his capacity as New Market's postmaster, however, Solomon Henkel was exempt from such fees and so could receive his mail free of charge, a factor which benefited both his medical and printing trades. Furthermore, by marking all out-going correspondence with: "postage paid in full at New Market," his relatives and customers could also hear from him without having to pay. Thus, newspapers, books, pamphlets and handbills could be easily mailed as far away as the Carolinas and Ohio.

Interestingly enough, the political career of Solomon Henkel was also swept along by the prevailing tides. Following the Election of 1814, for example, when the Republicans suffered temporary setbacks within the state, Solomon Henkel was removed from office. His removal may have been in-part voluntary, since he had just taken over the New Market Press. Still, the disadvantages of no longer being postmaster must have outweighed the burden it had imposed, for on May 19, 1819, Solomon Henkel was reinstated. He continued in this position until his death in 1847.

While Solomon Henkel never aspired to any higher political office, he was, nevertheless, constantly involved in party affairs and he used his influence on occasion to secure German votes for fellow-Republicans. Contrary to what one might expect, however, the New Market Press seems to have played an almost negligible role in helping to shape the political scene. Only a few known examples of political

fliers provide us with any proof at all of such political printing. In 1813 and again in 1824, handbills were printed in German to support Republican candidates for office, the latter one urging the German electorate to back "Wilhelm H. Crawford" in his unsuccessful bid to become president.

By having limited this discussion of Solomon Henkel's career to his principal work as a doctor, printer and postmaster, I have failed to do justice to his many other pursuits, such as his role in the Lutheran Church. Moreover, very little has been said thus far on that side of Solomon Henkel he probably cherished the most, that being his family life. He was married on September 9, 1800 to Rebecca Miller of Winchester, Virginia and he was the father of eleven children, of whom four sons and three daughters survived infancy. Three of his sons entered the medical profession, while a fourth son became an eminent theological scholar. Today there are hundreds of Solomon Henkel's descendents residing throughout the United States.

In short, while it probably could not be truthfully said that Solomon Henkel led an exceptional life, the variety of professions which he chose to pursue distinguished him from many of his contemporaries. Indeed, such diversity of interest was not only rare among the Germans of Virginia, it was highly unusual in this country as a whole. While his achievements, when considered individually, were hardly outstanding or noteworthy, when seen together in art, science and politics, the "three lives" of Solomon Henkel as doctor, printer, and postmaster, are truly worthy of our attention.



NOTES

1 For detailed information on the life of the Reverend Paul Henkel see Klaus G. Wust, *The Virginia Germans* (Charlottesville, Va. 1969), esp. pp. 132-7.

2 As cited by Dr. C. O. Miller, "Solomon Henkel A Medical Pioneer Doctor," *The Henckel Family Records* No. 14 (August 1939). Henceforth this work shall be cited as "Miller."

3 *The Journal of the Reverend Paul Henkel for the Year 1793*, as quoted in "Miller," p. 630.

4 *Ibid.*

5 *Ibid.*

THE GERMAN-AMERICAN FOLKSONG: A BIBLIOGRAPHIC REPORT

By

STEVEN M. BENJAMIN
West Virginia University

Introduction

This report is based on the author's preparation for a tutorial in folklore. The course was requested by a former student, a music major, and the following course contract was developed: 1) introductory readings in folklore and folksong, 2) readings on the German-American folksong, and 3) preparation of a collection plan and questionnaire for field work on German-American folksong material among the Old Order Amish in the Lansing, Michigan area.

The bibliography was compiled from the author's personal bibliographic collection, Tolzmann (1975), Lomax and Robertson (1942), and Haywood (1951a-c). The vast majority of titles, including the only research report, Yoder (1971), pertain to speakers of the Pennsylvania German dialect. The only regularly scheduled coursework in the area seems to be "Pennsylvania Dutch Music," which is offered by William T. Parsons, director of the Pennsylvania Dutch Studies Program at Ursinus College.

A preliminary list of research needs would be the following: 1) field collection of folksongs, using methodological guides such as Leach and Glassie (1968) or Goldstein (1964), 2) collection and organization of printed or recorded material mentioned or included in more ephemeral sources, 3) preparation of a comprehensive research report, and 4) development of material suitable for inclusion in academic coursework and surveys of German-Americana.

* * *

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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.

DON HEINRICH TOLZMANN
University of Cincinnati

BOOK REVIEWS

William W. Newcomb, Jr., with Mary S. Carnahan. *German Artist on the Texas Frontier: Friedrich Richard Petri*. Austin: Univ. of Texas Press, 1978. Pp. xviii, 240, 1st edition. Cloth \$19.95.

One should read *German Artist on the Texas Frontier* even if for no other reason than to get an other side of the social geography and regional history slants on the Texas Germans which we have been reading for so long. The Germans in Texas have been largely ignored by German and American scholars because, until recently, these people have been treated by their own best writers in only the most parochial and superficial manner. This biography addresses itself to matters of the mind, human aspirations, and the perception of reality—admittedly not subjects that can readily be quantified and plotted on graphs but which exert as much claim over human destiny as any of the more demonstrable determinants such as droughts, depredations, crop failures, and patterns of dispersal.

This book is especially remarkable as a biographical accomplishment. Despite a paucity of such materials upon which a biographer normally relies—correspondence, journals, diaries, and early published accounts—Newcomb and Carnahan have written a richly textured, stylistically pleasing, and penetrating story of Petri viewed within the context of his times. “An attempt is made here to describe the social, political, and aesthetic world within which Petri was raised and trained, the raw frontier community to which he immigrated, and its Indians” (xvi).

Friedrich Richard Petri has always been considered the most tragic and the most sensitive of the five major German emigre artists in Texas—most tragic because of his short, sad life, and most sensitive because of the intensity and subtlety found in paintings, sketches, and figures which at best shown the work of an artist who had barely reached his mature capability. Born in 1824 in Dresden at the son of well-to-do tradespeople, Petri went on to study for eleven years under the tutelage of J.C.C. Dahl, Adrian Ludwig Richter, and Julius Hübner (of the “Nazarine” school) at the Dresden Academy, from which Caspar David Friedrich had just retired. There he was trained in the tradition of these Northern Romantic artists to produce an art that “could convey sensations of overpowering mystery . . . with explicit religious associations.” [Robert Rosenblum, *Modern Painting and the Northern Romantic Tradition: Friedrich to Rothko* (New York: Harper & Row, 1975), p. 197]

Although the authors perhaps mistakenly attribute more of Petri’s development to the Nazarinians than to other Northern Romantic artists and teachers, they make no errors of judgment in their portrayal in “Chapter 1: The German Heritage” of the socioeconomic, cultural, political, and intellectual currents of the period between the Revolutions of 1830 and 1848.

The remainder of the book is devoted to Petri's life and career within the context of nineteenth-century American art and the paintings of contemporaries like Alfred Jacob Miller, Seth Eastman, Charles Bodmer, Peter Rindisbacher, Charles Bird King, George Catlin, and others. This portion—generously illustrated with plates, sketches, and figure studies (reproductions of about one-fourth of Petri's extant work)—gradually shifts from an emphasis on the artist's life to a critical interpretation of his work. This transition was encouraged by the lack of routine biographical data. The final part of the book shifts entirely to the Indian subjects of many of the artist's most interesting paintings and drawings and what these works imply about Indian life on a receding frontier (the major research areas of William Newcomb).

William Newcomb, director of the Texas Memorial Museum in Austin from 1957 to 1978, is currently professor of anthropology at the University of Texas. He has published extensively on the Indians of North America. Mary Carnahan is in charge of collections at the Texas Memorial Museum.

GLEN E. LICH
University of New Orleans

* * *

Alice Hutson. *From Chalk to Bronze: A Biography of Waldine Tauch*. Austin, Texas: Shoal Creek, 1978. Pp. xvii, 172, 1st edition. Cloth \$15. Illus., with an appendix of the sculptor's major works. No notes, no bibliography.

Waldine Tauch is an artist who consciously and relentlessly sacrificed her life to her art. Born in 1892 in the German immigrant town of Schulenberg and reared in the West Texas town of Brady, her background provides a curious blending of artistic sensibility, rural and agrarian outlooks, feelings of parental rejection and sibling rivalry, creative energy, emotional hypersensitivity, divergent loyalties, and a fear of failure—in short, what has been identified by Getzels and Csikszentmihalyi in *The Creative Vision* (1976) as the ingredients of a successful artistic personality.

Miss Tauch's father was a photographer and occasional landscapist as well as a half-hearted farmer. As a child, Waldine Tauch drew pencil sketches from her father's photographs, and she regularly helped him in his studio. After the family moved from Schulenberg (between San Antonio and Houston) to Brady (near San Angelo), she devoted considerable effort toward art and sculpturing. Her local reputation as a child prodigy encouraged the townswomen of Brady to raise money for a scholarship so she could become a pupil of the Italian sculptor, Dr. Pompeo Coppini of Italy, San Antonio, and New York.

The condition of her study with Coppini was that she resolve never to marry and to devote herself entirely to sculpture as his assistant and successor. Gradually her art became independent of Coppini, but she re-

mained a strict representational sculptress, expressing on frequent occasions her antipathy toward the abstract art that followed the Armory Show.

The heroic, monumental works which Tauch executed were her way of demonstrating that women could sculpt whatever men could sculpt. Her problems as a very small woman doing extremely large-scale sculpture were agonizing tests of strength and endurance.

World War I disillusioned Tauch and interrupted her income. Later, under the Works Progress Administration, she started her own public career. In 1930 she was accepted into the National Association of Women Painters and Sculptors, and in 1936 she was one of the major artists selected by the Texas Revolution centennial commission to commemorate key events in state history.

Miss Tauch began teaching in 1939 at the San Antonio Art Academy and at Baylor University. During most of World War II she was on the art faculty at Trinity University. In San Antonio she was instrumental in founding the Academy of Fine Arts to perpetuate an "ideal of classical art through association and exhibition" (113). This later became the Coppini Academy of Fine Arts. Finally, in 1966, she was elected a fellow of the National Sculpture Society in New York City.

From Chalk to Bronze is Alice Hutson's first biography, and her relationship to her subject is very close. Writing the book, she admits, was "a marvelous experience for me, and . . . a nostalgic adventure for her, another symbol of her success" (xiv). Though adequate in length and purpose, the biography is neither as informative nor as deep as the reader might wish or as Waldine Tauch's relationship to the national scene in the fine arts would suggest. It is entirely chronological, somewhat too regional and congratulatory, and far too reticent on the subjects of feminism, public reception of the arts, government sponsorship, the artist's relationship to society, and finally, the artist's aesthetic and social values.

GLEN E. LICH
University of New Orleans

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Rüdiger Wersich: *Carl Schurz. Revolutionary and Statesman. His Life in Personal and Official Documents with Illustrations*. 172 pages. Heinz Moos Verlag, Munich.

This book is published bilingually with German and English in parallel columns. The left hand German and English solid text is always illuminated by illustrations on the facing right hand page, thus giving a reader a very living picture of Schurz's life and times. The book presents a carefully arranged overview of the great German-American's entire life rather than an intense critical analysis of the life and deeds of the subject. There is a very helpful chronology of his life, a selected bibliography, and a table of contents at the end of the volume. It is an authentic and beautiful production that bears the Heinz Moos mark of excellence. We recommend it highly.

KARL J. R. ARNDT
Clark University
Worcester, Mass.

Exploding Star: A Young Austrian Against Hitler. By Fritz Molden. Translated by Peter and Betty Ross, New York: William Morrow and Co., 1979. vii, 280 pages. \$10.00.

Wooden Monkeys. By Anneliese Forster as told to Ingram See. Academy Chicago Limited, 360 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60601. 1979. 158 pages. \$7.95.

Flee The Wolf: The Story of a Family's Miraculous Journey to Freedom. By Marianne Schmeling.

The Donning Company/Publishers, 5041 Admiral Wright Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23462. 1978. xii, 290 pages. \$5.95 paperback.

The experiences of the German people during World War II and after have not to date been a favorite topic of research for historians, especially those in English speaking countries. Residual hatreds and antagonisms stemming from Nazi aggressions and from the monumental crime of the Holocaust have even now not subsided to an extent which would aid in the presentation of balanced and perhaps even sympathetic accounts of a people caught in torment and travail. The Germans have only recently begun detailed examinations of their daily lives during this period. Some of these accounts are fortunately beginning to appear in English. The authors of these three works, for instance, all endured the war and its aftermath as citizens of Germany. Their works contain considerable material of interest and documentary value. Their books are therefore well worth reading, especially by persons fortunate enough to have escaped the ordeal of dictatorship, war and defeat that has been the twentieth century lot of so many of the people of the world.

All of the authors of these volumes plead anti-Nazi sentiments for themselves and their families. Their stories substantiate their positions. The personal ordeals which each of them underwent owing to their expressions and even actions of an anti-Nazi nature dictate that they be placed in the category of having been "good Germans," to use a rather condescending term employed by Americans and others to differentiate between the yea- and nay-sayers of the Hitler era.

The anti-Naziism of Fritz Molden was dictated by his upbringing, familial connections and by his intensely Austrian patriotism. His father was a leading journalist in the Vienna of the pre-Anschluss era who actively supported Chancellor Dollfuss and other non-Nazi conservative or even reactionary alternatives to Socialism and Communism. As a young coming of age at the time when German troops marched into Austria and Hitler declared that his homeland was now part of Grossdeutschland, Molden took part in various anti-Nazi gestures of a public nature in association with fellow members of conservative youth groups. While this was going on, the elder Molden was gradually pushed out of meaningful journalistic work. The latter was compelled to seek the good offices of his acquaintance Arthur Seyss-Inquart, a rather paradoxical Nazi chieftain who flattered himself as being a representative of the "moderate" wing of

the Nazi movement. Despite the fact that Seyss-Inquart's influence only temporarily benefitted the Moldens, the family continued to live in fairly comfortable circumstances throughout the war.

As the war progressed, Fritz Molden's active opposition to the Nazis brought him to the interrogation chambers of the Gestapo and to a short period of imprisonment. Inducted into the German army, Molden was sent to a punishment battalion on the Eastern front where he and other malcontents acted in concert with S.S. troops seeking to eliminate the swamp strongholds of partisans. Molden narrowly escaped death in these ventures. Luck and helpful interventions on his behalf caused Molden's transfer to France and later to Italy. It was in Italy that Molden deserted the army and went underground, eventually making contact with Italian partisans and helping to form the basis of an active Austrian resistance to the Nazis. In his highly readable account Molden relates his meetings with Allen W. Dulles and other members of the O.S.S. who supported his at time almost quixotic efforts to establish the basis for a democratic Austria amid the disintegrating ruins of a Reich faced with total defeat.

Sensitive and acutely intelligent, Molden was ever aware of the ambiguity of his position as an Allied agent whose efforts materially injured his fellow countrymen. It was true that the Allies accepted Austria's status as a victim of Naziism, at least on paper, but given the German nature of the population and the receptivity of the Austrians on the whole to Hitler. The Allies were not hesitant to destroy Austrian cities and towns in their campaign of aerial *Schrecklichkeit*. To Molden's credit he was able to gain approval for an ending to massive air raids on the part of the western Allies on Austrian cities in the waning days of the war. Molden realized in his own mind that his efforts were hurting his own people, but at the same time he felt that by working to curtail the war and by demonstrating the existence of a democratic Austria he was substantially aiding his Austrian compatriots in the long run.

The story of Anneliese Forster is one of almost unrelieved anguish and torment. Born in eastern Germany, Forster's parents were openly anti-Nazi, with her father sacrificing a prosperous contracting business through his bitter public comments against Hitler and his minions. Forster's father ended up as a member of the Wehrmacht in Italy at the age of fortythree for his pains; a turn of events which ironically probably saved his life as he was absent from his homeland during the terrifying days at the end of the war.

Forster's unwillingness to join the Hitler Youth in her home town turned public opinion against her as it had turned against her father. She lived in a state of virtual ostracism which finally reached the stage of active retaliation on the part of the townspeople against her nonconformist presence. During the war Forster was accused without grounds of having sexual relations with Belgian prisoners quartered in her home. She was sentenced to a girl's work camp, where Forster endured conditions which, in her graphic descriptions, closely emulated in some respects those found

in German concentration work camps. Family influence finally resulted in Forster's release from prison but her ordeal had just begun. A temporary romance resulted in Forster bearing a child out of wedlock, and she and her offspring faced an uncertain future as the war ended and the Americans moved in. The "Amis" were by and large tolerable in their actions but the population's fears and apprehensions reached fever pitch as the Americans moved out of the area and were replaced by the Russians. The familiar litany of looting, rape and pillage was intoned as the conquerors from the East avenged themselves for Nazi sins on the hapless German population. Forster fell victim to a mass rape, but, unusually enough, not to complete despair. She decided to act against the Russians in retaliation for what they had done to her and became a *Grenzgänger*, smuggling men and women in and out of the Soviet Zone of Germany. For years Forster worked at this trade, taking no money for her services but amassing, one might assume, a tremendous store of psychological vengeance in the process. Forster's account of her life is of immense human interest and constitutes in fact a saga of the ability of humans to endure no matter what the conditions of survival.

The Schmelings of Gumbinnen, East Prussia, were, like the Forsters, known anti-Nazis. Again in a manner similar to the other family, the Schmelings were by and large scorned and termed as outcasts by their fellow townspeople. They were, however, sustained in their position by their deep spiritual faith which allowed them to endure war, a dreadful peace and the necessity to build again as refugees. Marianne Schmeling's narrative of the experiences of her family and herself during and after World War II is replete with fascinating details of the daily lives of persons torn from their seemingly permanent moorings and cast upon the seas of drift and uncertainty. Harassed by the pro-Nazi townspeople, the Schmelings were forced to endure the rigors of the war regardless of their political stance. As the Russians advanced, they fled towards the West, always managing to keep one step ahead of the invader. The family finally reached sanctuary in western Germany where they set about to painfully rebuild their lives. Schmeling's story is well told and is especially revealing in its description of refugee life in the waning days of the war and in the long, often dispiriting, years of the peace.

NORMAN LEDERER

Dean of Occupational and General Education
Washtenaw Community College
Ann Arbor, Michigan

* * *

Larry O. Jensen. *A Genealogical Handbook of German Research*. Rev. ed. (The Author: POB 441, Pleasant Grove, Utah 84062; 1978).

Jensen's handbook is the first comprehensive practical work on German-American genealogical methodology. The Smiths' recent en-

cyclopedia on German-American genealogy is an excellent contribution to the field, however, it lacks the practical how-to-do-it approach that American genealogists of German descent desperately need. Konrad's manual is helpful, but lacking in detail. The same may be said for Wellauer's recent handbook. Jensen has adequately treated most areas of German genealogical research methodology, including excellent advice on how to use L.D.S. sources. He touches on several areas not adequately treated in the aforementioned publications, e.g. the French Republican Calendar, handwriting problems, German genealogical terminology, determining the place of origin in L.D.S., American and European sources, using *Meyer's Orts- und Verkehrs-Lexikon*, the parishes of Memel (East Prussian area) and their present Lithuanian city and county names, and so forth.

Unfortunately, Jensen's German form letters and references to German sources, etc., contain several spelling grammatical, and punctuation errors. Here are some corrections that should be noted:

Page 63: duchy; Kirchenbücher

Page 64: Wohnplätze

Page 68: Gebrüder; Herlegrün-Königstein

Page 69: eingepfarrt; nördl.; schriftsässig (first letter should be lower case)

Page 78: Müllers

Page 94: Armenregister; Familiengeschichten

Page 95: Staats- und Land(es) archive; Stadt- und Kriegsarchive; Werks- und Wirtschaftsarchive

Page 96: Kirchen-Zweitschriften; Polizeiregister; Abendmahlgästelisten; periodical (Zeitschrift)

Page 134: Hildesheim

Page 174: festgestellt, dass; Gesellschaft; habe, sind; wissen, ob schon; obengenannten

A Genealogical Handbook of German Research must be considered the best publication on this subject printed in the English language. Jensen succeeds in explaining difficult topics for the beginning genealogist, e.g., the confusing patronymics once followed in Schleswig-Holstein and other German areas which adopted the Dutch naming system. He also mentions several historical facts that are not commonly known and the knowledge of which is important when solving certain genealogical problems.

Had Jensen given more details concerning the existence and use of strictly German sources, e.g. the guild records which are a veritable goldmine for the genealogist, researchers would seldom need to seek out supplemental material for the initial stages of their investigations. Perhaps Jensen will do so in a revised edition of this outstanding work. If one is forthcoming, it is hoped that it will be set in a typeface easier on the eye.

ROBERT E. WARD

REPORT ON GERMAN-AMERICAN LITERATURE
SOUTH CENTRAL
MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION

The German-American Literature section of the South Central Modern Language Association convened on 12 October 1979 in New Orleans. Papers were presented by six distinguished scholars from three states:

1. *Hubert P. Heinen*, University of Texas: "Their Finest Hour: World War I and the Fatherland."
2. *Peter C. Merrill*, Florida Atlantic University: "Eugene Sue's German-American Imitators."
3. *Siegfried E. Heit*, Oral Roberts University: "The 'Awful' German Language and Mark Twain."
4. *Dona B. Reeves*, Southwest Texas State University: "Titled Heads on the Tuskawaras: Josef Ponten's American Frontier."
5. *Manfred Kremkus*, Southwest Texas State University: "Günter Kunert's *Der andere Planet*: An East German's Perceptions of America."
6. *Richard Tuerk*, East Texas State University: "Research Opportunities in American Ethnic Literature."

The chairman of this year's meeting was Glen E. Lich, Department of English, University of New Orleans. Hanna B. Lewis, Department of Foreign Languages, Sam Houston State University (Huntsville, Texas) will chair the section during the 1980 meeting in Memphis, Tennessee.

The German-American Literature section was established in 1977 in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Papers may be considered from scholars outside the SCMLA region. Address inquiries to Professor Lewis.

GERMAN-AMERICAN ANCESTOR HUNT

Mrs. Elizabeth Moe, 815 Rogers Row, Faribault, MN 55021 is researching the Träger or Traeger, Strogasacker, Schneider, Gingerich, Hertzler, Fox or Fuchs, Funk or Funck, and Kriechbaum families.

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HERMANN SEELE. *The Cypress and Other Writings of a German Pioneer in Texas*. Tr. Edward C. Breitenkamp. Austin: Univ. of Texas Press, 1979. Pp. xiii - 217, illus. by author, with an intro. and a biographical index by the translator. Hermann Seele was the first school teacher of New Braunfels, Texas. Besides teaching and farming, he served the German colony and his state as a lawyer, lay preacher, mayor, state representative, Civil War major, and editor. These writings are as diversified in subject and genre as his careers. This translation by retired Texas A&M University professor Breitenkamp is clear and refreshing. The book is a worthy addition to the growing field of German-Americana.

—*Glen Lich*