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The Society for German-American Studies was founded for the purpose of encouraging and advancing the scholarly study of the history, language, literature, and culture of the German element in the Americas. This includes coverage of the immigrants and their descendants from Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and other German-speaking areas of Europe. Members of the Society include representatives from various academic disciplines and others who share a common interest in German-American studies.

The *Yearbook* is published annually. The editor welcomes contributions in English, preferably, or German on all aspects of German-Americana from members of the Society. The manuscript should be prepared following the University of Chicago Press *Manual of Style* and be submitted electronically, without the author's name in the document so that it can be reviewed anonymously by members of the Editorial Board. All correspondence regarding the *Yearbook* should be addressed to William D. Keel (wkeel@ku.edu). Inquiries regarding book reviews for the *Yearbook* should be addressed to Susan M. Schürer (schurer@sunlink.net). The *Newsletter* appears three times a year. Items for the *Newsletter* should be submitted to the co-editors (MKGAC@iupui.edu). Inquiries regarding the SGAS website should be addressed to Michael Rice (michael.rice@mtsu.edu).

The Society for German-American Studies is open to membership from individuals, societies, and libraries. Annual membership dues for individuals include subscriptions to both the *Yearbook* and all issues of the *Newsletter* published during the calendar year. Libraries, societies, and other organizations interested in obtaining the publications of the Society may subscribe to publications only. Membership and subscription applications are available online at sgas.org.

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From the Editor

Thanks to the hard work of both our member-authors who submitted their essays for consideration and the tireless efforts of the members of our Editorial Board we are publishing volume 50 (2015) of the *SGAS Yearbook* about eight months following our last issue. We encourage our members to continue to submit their research for publication in our *SGAS Yearbook*. The editor also would like to take this opportunity to express his sincere appreciation to all members of the Editorial Board (see page iii) for their willingness to review and critique manuscripts and ensure the high quality of the Society's "flagship" publication. One other individual, Susan Schürer, also earns accolades for her untiring solicitation of reviewers for recent book publications in our field. Susan has indicated her wish to step down as Book Review Editor. Members who might be interested in taking on this appointment should contact the editor.

A major change since the publication of our last issue, is that our editorial assistant for the past several years, Paula Courtney, elected to retire at the end of 2015. Our *Yearbook* is published with the assistance of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Kansas through its Office of Media Support. We are most grateful for this invaluable support. Paula thoroughly enjoyed her work in preparing the *Yearbook* for publication. We will definitely miss her. With this current issue, we welcome Pam LeRow as our new editorial assistant. Pam worked in same office with Paula for many years and the transition over the past several months has been remarkably smooth. We look forward to working with Pam on future issues of the *Yearbook*.

This issue features essays treating a variety of subjects ranging from politicians to legal scientists, from eighteenth-century Louisiana to World War I, from Alexander von Humboldt to musical concerts in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from the Moravian Brethren to Socialists in St. Louis, Missouri and another chapter in the search for the real Charles Sealsfield. No one can say that German-American Studies is a narrow field. We have spread our nets broadly and—to continue the metaphor—the catch is incredible and richly

rewarding to behold. Following the set of essays and book reviews, the editor has again added a list of theses and dissertations which appeared during the year 2015 as well as an addition from 2011. The editor encourages the membership to send him any missed master's theses or doctoral dissertations touching on our field for inclusion in a future list.

Please take some time to review the documents at the end of this volume that outline the organization and purposes of the Society, especially our **Bylaws**, with recent amendments adopted by the Executive Committee in October 2015 at its fall meeting in Madison, Wisconsin. The SGAS Bylaws are followed by our policies for scholarly support—the **Karl J. R. Arndt Fund** for publication subsidies for monographs published by members and the **Albert Bernhardt Faust Fund** for the support of members' research projects. Members should avail themselves of the opportunities for scholarly support from SGAS by contacting the respective committee chair. A list of recipients of the **SGAS Outstanding Achievement Award** is followed by information on that award. SGAS has also begun a **Student Membership Fund** supported by our Life members (who are listed following a description of the fund) with matching contributions by Life members Mary and William Seeger of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

On the Society's website, *sgas.org*, you will find with one or two clicks all of the information on forthcoming publications and symposia, membership renewals, opportunities for scholarly support, the dissemination of members' research as well as making a financial contribution to the Society. In particular, you will find information on ordering back issues of the *Yearbook of German-American Studies* as well as the Supplemental Issues published in 2003, 2006, 2010 and 2012. The *Yearbook* was published as a paperback until 2003. The older paperback issues are available for a minimal charge of \$5.00 per volume; the hardbound newer issues for \$10.00. A small charge for postage will also be added to the cost. We encourage those members who wish to supplement their set of issues with missing ones to take advantage of the offer. Please contact the editor at wkeel@ku.edu for further information or assistance.

The editor looks forward to seeing many of you at our next Annual Symposium to be held April 20-22, 2017, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Presenters are encouraged to submit their essays for consideration by the Editorial Board for possible publication in a forthcoming *Yearbook*. We now encourage electronic submission of your manuscript (see the editor's e-mail address above).

Max Kade Center for German-American Studies
The University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas
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