YEARBOOK OF GERMAN-AMERICAN STUDIES

Volume 40





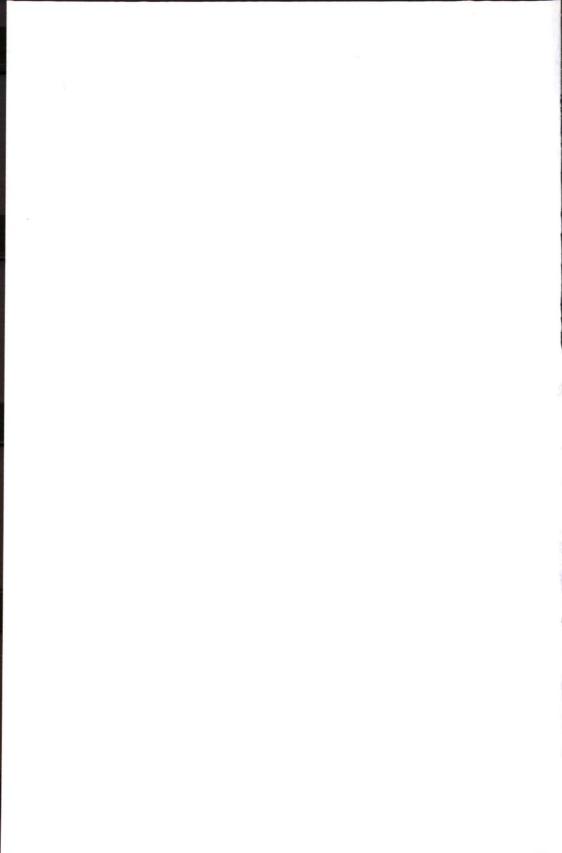
The Society for

German-American Studies

Depicted on the front cover is the seal of Germantown, Pennsylvania, founded by Francis Daniel Pastorius in 1683. The seal was designed by Pastorius shortly before 1700. The three-fold cloverleaf with Latin motto denotes the three principal occupations among the citizens of Germantown: viticulture and wine-making, flax-growing, and textile production. The Latin motto reads *Vinum Linum et Textrinum* ("grapes/wine, flax/ linen, and weaving mill/weaving"). Pastorius formulated the same motto in German as *Der Wein, der Lein und der Webeschrein*.

The Society for German-American Studies has elected to display the Germantown seal on its stationery and membership brochure as well as on the cover of the Yearbook of German-American Studies in commemoration of the earliest group settlement of Germanspeaking immigrants in North America. Our source for the image is Rudolf Cronau, Drei Jahrhunderte deutschen Lebens in Amerika: Ruhmesblätter der Deutschen in den Vereinigten Staaten (Berlin: D. Reimer, 1926), 69.





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Volume 40

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General Information

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 North America. 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 so that it can be read anonymously by the members of the Editorial Board, with the author's name appearing on a separate sheet only. For submission, four copies of the manuscript prepared in accordance with the University of Chicago Press Manual of Style are requested. All manuscripts and correspondence concerning the Yearbook should be addressed to William Keel, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, 1445 Jayhawk Blvd., University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045-7950. Inquiries regarding book reviews for the Yearbook should be addressed to Timothy J. Holian, University of Wisconsin-Waukesha, 1500 N. University Dr., Waukesha, WI 53188-2799. The Newsletter appears four times a year. Items for the Newsletter should be submitted to La Vern J. Rippley, Saint Olaf College, Northfield, MN 55057.

The SGAS annual membership dues, which include subscription to the *Yearbook* and the *Newsletter*, are \$30.00 for regular members. Membership applications to the Society for German-American Studies should be made to the Treasurer of the Society, William Roba, Scott Community College, 500 Belmont Road, Bettendorf, IA 52722. The Society for German-American Studies is open to membership from individuals, societies, libraries, and organizations.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

From the Editor

Donalf F. Durnbaugh: In Memoriam

INTRODUCTORY ESSAY

Frank Baron

German Republicans and Radicals in the Struggle for a Slave-Free Kansas: Charles F. Kob and August Bondi

HISTORICAL TEXTS

Karl Friedrich Kob

Wegweiser für Ansiedler im Territorium Kansas (1857), with annotations by G. Scott Seeger

Excerpts from Wegweiser für Ansiedler im Territorium Kansas (1857) (Guide for Settlers in Kansas Territory), translated by Julia Trumpold and William Keel

August Bondi

Excerpts from the Autobiography of August Bondi, 1833-1907, excerpted with annotations and index by Frank Baron

87

ix

1

3

29

75

BOOK REVIEWS Edited by Timothy Holian

Paul C. Nagel

The German Migration to Missouri: My Family's Story Reviewed by Robert W. Frizzell 2016

Christian Bauer
The Ritchie Boys: A Film by Christian Bauer
Christian Bauer and Rebekka Göpfert
Die Ritchie Boys: Deutsche Emigranten beim US-Geheimdienst
Reviewed by Jerry Glenn

Don Heinrich Tolzmann, ed. Illinois' German Heritage Reviewed by William D. Keel 165

163

166

168

171

Ernst Grabovszki Zwischen Kutte und Maske: Das geheimnisvolle Leben des Charles Sealsfield Reviewed by Jerry Schuchalter

Christian Gellinek Going Dutch—Gone American: German Settling North America Reviewed by J. Gregory Redding

Frank Mehring Karl/Charles Follen: Deutsch-Amerikanischer Freiheitskämpfer Reviewed by Gerhard Weiss 169

Rudolf Leonhart Memories of New Ulm: My Experiences During the Indian Uprising in Minnesota Don Heinrich Tolzmann, trans. and ed. *Reviewed by Timothy J. Holian*

Philip Otterness Becoming German: The 1709 Palatine Migration to New York Reviewed by J. Gregory Redding 173

Jürgen Macha and Andrea Wolf, eds. **Michael Zimmer's Diary: Ein deutsches Tagebuch aus dem Amerikanischen Bürgerkrieg** *Reviewed by William D. Keel* 173

C. George Fry and Joel R. Kurz The Americanization Process in the Second Generation: The German Lutheran Mathias Loy (1828-1915) Caught Between Adaptation and Repristinization Reviewed by Tom R. Schultz

179

Charles R. Mack and Henry H. Lesesne, eds. Francis Lieber and the Culture of the Mind Reviewed by Randall P. Donaldson	178
Pearl Fichman	
Before Memories Fade	
Reviewed by Jerry Glenn	179
Don Heinrich Tolzmann	
German Heritage Guide to the State of Ohio	
Reviewed by J. Gregory Redding	180
Alexander Stephan, ed.	
Americanization and Anti-Americanism:	
The German Encounter with American Culture After 1945	
Reviewed by Jörg Meindl	181
Donald F. Durnbaugh, ed.	
Edward E. Quniter, ed. and trans.	
The Day Book/Account Book of Alexander Mack, Jr. (1712-1803):	
Weaver, Brethren Elder, Apologist, and Chronicler in Early America	
Reviewed by Karen M. Johnson-Weiner	183
C. Richard Beam, ed., with Joshua R Brown, ed. (vols. one and two)	
and Jennifer L. Trout, ed. (vols. three, four and five)	
The Comprehensive Pennsylvania German Dictionary	
Reviewed by William D. Keel	185
Stephen Bowers Harroff	
The Amish Schools of Indiana: Faith in Education	
Reviewed by Gabriele Lunte	186
Corinne and Russell Earnest	
To the Latest Posterity:	
Pennsylvania-German Family Registers in the Fraktur Tradition	
Reviewed by Bethany M. Usher	188
Christoph Mauch and Joseph Salmons, eds.	
German-Jewish Identities in America	
Reviewed by G. Scott Seeger	190

	Axel WO. Schmidt, ed.
	One of the 999 About to Be Forgotten:
	The Memoirs of Carl Barus 1865-1935
192	Reviewed by Timothy J. Holian
	Colin G. Calloway, Gerd Gemünden, and Susanne Zantop, eds.
	Germans and Indians: Fantasies, Encounters, Projections
194	Reviewed by Heiko Mühr
	W 16
	Wolfgang Helbich and Walter D. Kamphoefner, eds.
	German-American Immigration and
196	Ethnicity in Comparative Perspective
190	Reviewed by William D. Keel
	Werner Mohr
	lbert Bloch: Caricaturist, Social Critic, and Translator of Karl Kraus
198	Reviewed by Randall P. Donaldson
	Antonius Holtmann
	A Lost American Dream: Civil War Letters (1862/63) of Immigrant
	Theodor Heinrich Brandes in Historical Contexts
	Eberhard Reichmann, trans.
199	Reviewed by Tom R. Schultz

Albert

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Dolores and Giles Hoyt Annual Bibliography of German-Americana

- I. Supplements for 2003 203
- II. Bibliography for 2004 220
 - III. Topical Index 260
- Five-Year Index of the Yearbook of German-American Studies 267 (2001 - 2005)
 - SGAS Bylaws 281
 - 287 SGAS Publication Fund Policy
 - SGAS Research Fund Policy 284

From the Editor

This issue of the *Yearbook* is devoted to the Germans who participated in the struggle for a slave-free Kansas in the era of "Bleeding Kansas" 150 years ago. The 1850s were tumultuous times in the United States and particularly in Kansas Territory. The Territory was opened for settlement in May 1854 with the signing into law of the Kansas-Nebraska Act. Kansas became a rallying cry for the adherents of several factions, including those favoring the introduction of slavery, those favoring the total abolition of slavery and many who were simply proponents of free soil.

Coinciding with the effective abrogation of the Missouri Compromise of 1820, which prohibited the spread of slavery north of the southern border of the state of Missouri, was the founding of a new political movement that became known as the Republican Party. Abolitionists, Whigs, Free Soilers and others merged in the summer of 1854 into this new and radical political association. The Republicans also attracted many of the leaders of the failed German revolutionary efforts of 1848-49 who had come as exiles to the United States in the early 1850s. These exiled Germans and Austrians saw in the goals of the fledgling Republican Party a new struggle for freedom and democracy on this side of the Atlantic.

The convergence of radical Germans and the Republican Party led directly to the involvement of some of these Forty-eighters in the struggle to prevent slavery from gaining a foothold in Kansas. Indeed, the chief agency of abolitionism in Kansas Territory, the Massachusetts-based New England Emigrant Aid Company, made a concerted effort to attract Germans to settle in Kansas in the belief that Germans would vote against the adoption of a proslavery constitution for Kansas. Many Germans also came on their own to the newest American frontier as land speculators, entrepreneurs, adventurers, or simply homesteaders. These Germans in Kansas apparently had a song that addressed the issues of free speech and free men:

Hurrah - Frei Kansas!

Frei Kansas, freie Erde, Die Freiheit unser Hort, Dafür, sei's mit dem Schwerte, Sei es mit Tat und Wort! Frei Kansas, freier Boden, Von Vorrecht frei und Bann! Dem schwarzen und dem rothen, Sowie dem weißen Mann!

Frei Kansas, freie Erde! Sei unser Feldgeschrei; Krieg, Krieg, mit Wort und Schwerte, Sei stets die Sklaverei!

("German-American abolitionist song" c. 1860, http://www.musicanet.org/robokopp/Lieder/freikans.html and http://www.gtg1848.de/)

In an introductory essay for this volume, Frank Baron examines the complexities of these issues and provides background information on the two individuals whose historical texts are reprinted in this special issue: Karl Friedrich Kob, whose Wegweiser für Ansiedler im Territorium Kansas was published in 1857 with the support of the New England Aid Company and modeled on the company's English Information for Kanzas Immigrants written by Thomas Webb, published in numerous editions in the mid-1850s; and August Bondi whose autobiography was published in 1910.

Kob was born in East Prussia in 1820 and trained as a physician at the University of Königsberg. He became involved in the ill-fated uprising in the Duchy of Holstein against Denmark in 1849-50. In the aftermath of the revolutionary period in Germany he emigrated, settling first in Hartford, Connecticut, and later living in Boston, Massachusetts. During the election of 1856 he became involved in Republican politics during Frémont's unsuccessful presidential campaign that championed "Free Soil, Free Men and Free Kansas." With the support of the New England Emigrant Aid Company, Kob published his settlers' guide for Germans, moved to Atchison, Kansas Territory, and began publishing the weekly *Kansas Zeitung* in the summer of 1857. Kob collaborated with other Germans in the territory and dreamed of a belt of anti-slavery German settlements extending from Kansas to Texas. He died in Leavenworth of "inflammation of the brain" in 1861. In addition to the original German text, excerpts in English translation that provide descriptions of the German settlements in Kansas Territory are included in this volume.

Bondi, born in 1833, was an Austrian Jew whose family immigrated to the United States in late-1848 following the upheavals in Austria during the revolutionary period and settled initially in St. Louis. Bondi moved into Kansas Territory in April 1855, settling near a number of John Brown's sons in southeastern Franklin County. He and several other German/Austrian abolitionists rode with John Brown during the 1856 territorial skirmishes against the pro-slavery Missourians—the period known as "Bleeding Kansas." Bondi later served three years in Company K of the 5th Kansas Calvary during the Civil War as a Union soldier and was wounded while on a patrol near Pine Bluff, Arkansas, on 11 September 1864. After his discharge in November 1864 he operated a store in Leavenworth, Kansas. Bondi moved to Salina, Kansas, in 1866 and spent the remainder of his life there as a successful businessman and judge. Bondi died in Salina in 1907. The autobiography was published for his family in Galesburg, Illinois, by the Wagoner Printing Company in 1910 and is now a rare book. The first five chapters of his autobiography reprinted here offer a firsthand perspective on the German-Austrian contributions in the struggle for a free Kansas in the years prior to the American Civil War.

For Kob's German text we have attempted to remain true to his German orthography where possible. For instance, nineteenth-century spelling of verbs ending in *-iren* rather than Modern German *-ieren* is retained (e.g., *rapportirte, cultivirt*) and irregular grammatical forms are also kept where nineteenth-century usage was not consistent (e.g., the plural of *Boot* could be *Boote* or *Böte*). Words or names that were emphasized in the German printed version by the technique known as *Sperrung* appear in boldface in our reprint. Where Kob used roman type instead of fraktur we have used italics. His use of English terms is not consistent. He may use roman type for an English word such as *claim* and a few lines later use the same word capitalized and in fraktur. We have attempted to mark actual omissions of letters and typographical errors by [*sic*] in square brackets. Kob also used a system of footnotes. We have also included images of the original cover and the final page (48) of his guide (by permission of the Houghton Library, Harvard University, call number US 287738.57*).

We should also note that volume 40 represents the twenty-fifth anniversary issue of the *Yearbook*. When the Society began publication of the *Yearbook* in 1981, we decided to continue the volume numbers of the *Journal of German-American Studies*, whose last issue in 1980 was volume 15. This issue of the *Yearbook* also contains a five-year index covering volumes 36-40 (2001-2005), including the two supplemental issues published in 2003 and 2006, respectively.

The editor wishes to especially thank his colleagues in Kansas, Frank Baron, Scott Seeger and Julia Trumpold, for their contributions to this volume. As always, our appreciation is extended to Timothy Holian for editing the book reviews and also Dolores and Giles Hoyt for the compilation of the annual bibliography. The next volume of the *Yearbook* is scheduled to appear in the spring of 2007 and will again be devoted to individual essays addressing the scholarly interests of the membership.

William Keel, Editor Max Kade Center for German-American Studies The University of Kansas September 2006