

Don Heinrich Tolzmann

### Exploring Eighteenth Century German-Americana with the Tools of the Twenty-First Century

Two essentials for research are, first, the availability of the basic bibliographical tools that identify and index source materials. Second, the actual primary sources themselves must be accessible to the researcher. In the case of eighteenth-century German-Americana, the bibliography of pre-1830 German-American imprints (edited by Karl J. R. Arndt and Reimer C. Eck, and compiled by Gerd-J. Bötte and Werner Tannhof) provides the researcher with an excellent bibliographical tool.<sup>1</sup> The second essential component in the research process consists of access to the bibliographically identified sources. Library and archival locations are referenced in the Arndt et al bibliography, so that materials can be located for further research and study.

However, as travel to such institutions across the country, especially in the eastern United States, might not always be an option, researchers now have another alternative, which can deliver the electronic text of early German-Americana to their computer work-stations. Access to early German-Americana may now be obtained by means of *The Evans Edition/American Antiquarian Society* (Chester, Vermont: Readex, 2002-4). Access to this digital edition is made possible by means of institutional subscription to the service, such as through college and university libraries.

The summary of this electronic source states that it is "based on the renowned *American Bibliography* by Charles Evans and enhanced by Roger Bristol's *Supplement to Evans' American Bibliography*." The summary also notes that the digital edition will be able to serve "as the foundation for research on every aspect of seventeenth and eighteenth-century American life." Upon completion in 2004, the new source "will include every item previously produced on microform plus more than 1,200 additional works located, catalogued and digitized since completion of the earlier effort, and will consist of over 36,000 works and 2,400,000 images."<sup>2</sup>

The first part of this digital edition, *Early American Imprints, Series I. Evans (1639-1800)*, is scheduled for completion in 2004. Thus far, it contains the electronic text of imprints to 1796 (Evans no. 30,364). The second part of the series, *Early American Imprints, Series II. Shaw-Shoemaker (1801-1819)*, is based on the bibliographies of early American imprints by Ralph B Shaw and Richard H. Shoemaker, which listed American imprints to 1820, and is also scheduled for completion in 2004.<sup>3</sup>

The significance of the digital edition is that the researcher is now provided with full text access to early German-American imprints, and that the colonial period of German-American history, literature, and culture has acquired an important research tool that should not only facilitate, but also encourage research in this time period.

A few random sample searches demonstrate the usefulness of the digital edition. For example, a search of the name "Christopher Sower" yields a total of 200 imprints.<sup>4</sup> There are a variety of ways to search the *Evans Digital Edition*—one can make use of either the *search* or the *browse* options. In the *search* mode, one can search the following indexes: citation text, all text, title, subject, genres, author, place of publication, publisher, document number, and year of publication. In the *browse* mode, one can search the following indexes: genre, subject, author, history of printing, place of publication, and language. A good overview of the kinds of works published can be obtained by searching in the language index for German imprints, and then surveying all of them year by year. Thereafter, one can go back and conduct general or more specific kinds of searches, but the general overview is useful, and helpful to further research with the digital edition.

There are obviously multiple possibilities for research with the *Evans Digital Edition*, but some of the following are readily apparent:

1. German-American History: The importance of early German-American imprints for our understanding of the colonial period was most recently demonstrated by the first *Supplemental Issue* of the *Yearbook of German-American Studies*, which consists of a translated edition by Christoph E. Schweitzer of a work by Karl Friedrich Fuehrer.<sup>5</sup> Obviously, there is a wealth of material to be explored in terms of eighteenth-century German-language imprints relating to any number of historical topics, and many more are no doubt deserving of publication as edited bilingual editions, as was the case with the recent edition by Christoph E. Schweitzer.

2. German-American Literature: By means of works such as John Joseph Stoudt's *Pennsylvania German Poetry 1683-1830* and Earl F. Robacker's *Pennsylvania German Literature: Changing Trends from 1683 to 1942*, one could identify the relevant early German-American literary authors and their works, and then seek them out and examine them. Robert E. Ward's bibliography of German-American authors is also essential in this regard.<sup>6</sup>

3. German-American Publishers and Printers: The works of German-American publishers and printers could now be examined and studied from a variety of perspectives, such as their position on a variety of social, economic, religious, and political issues, such as regarding the American Revolution.<sup>7</sup>

4. Place of Publication: Studies of the German-American press at particular geographical locations could now be undertaken.

Two questions that might arise about the digital edition relate to the quality of the electronic text and the comprehensiveness of the coverage of German-American imprints. With regard to the quality of the electronic text, it must be noted that there is absolutely no substitute for the original, and that this is true with regard to the digital edition, which is based on the microform edition. The quality of the text, therefore, and not surprisingly, varies in quality. However, having said that, it can also be said that the electronic texts are legible and can definitely provide the basis for research and study. Most importantly, they provide access to materials that are in some cases relatively inaccessible in the original format due to their rarity, or condition. Moreover, making such texts available in electronic format contributes not only to their accessibility, but to the preservation of the original editions as well. Several examples of title pages from the digital edition are provided as an appendix to illustrate the quality of the electronic text.

The second question regards the coverage of German-American imprints by the digital edition. The bibliographies by Evans, et al., do not provide the comprehensive coverage that the Arndt, et al., bibliography does for German-language imprints. This can be ascertained by checking the number of German imprints in both bibliographies. Currently, the digital edition is complete through 1796, and a search of the language index results in a total of 586 German imprints. However, the Arndt, et al., bibliography lists slightly more than a thousand imprints for the same time period. This means that the Evans, et al., bibliographies provide coverage for an estimated 60% of the German-American imprints for the pre-1796 period, and that, when completed, the new digital edition will also most likely contain this same kind of percentage of coverage as well. In short, we unfortunately do not gain full access to the entirety of the universe of early German-Americana. However, when complete, we will have access to a substantial portion of the German-language imprints published before 1820. This in itself is a major contribution to the field of German-American Studies in general, and to the early period in particular.

In conclusion, the new *Evans Digital Edition*, therefore, provides the field of German-American Studies with an Information Age tool that definitely facilitates the exploration of colonial German-Americana, and which should not only contribute to our understanding of that time period, but should also serve to encourage further research and study into this foundational period of German-American history. Finally, the question might also be raised as to the implications of digitization for the field of German-American Studies, and whether German-American materials and collections might be identified that might also be digitized to facilitate and enhance accessibility, research, and the preservation of the originals.

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> Karl J. R. Arndt and Reimer C. Eck, eds., Gerd-J. Bötte and Werner Tannhof, compilers, *The First Century of German Language Printing in the United States of America: A Bibliography Based on the Studies of Oswald Seidensticker and Wilbur H. Oda*, Publications of the Pennsylvania German Society, vols. 21-22 (Göttingen: Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek, 1989).

<sup>2</sup> See Charles Evans, *American Bibliography: A Chronological Dictionary of All Books, Pamphlets, and Periodical Publications Printed in the United States of America from the Genesis of Printing in 1639 to and Including the Year 1820*, 14 vols. (New York: P. Smith, 1941-59), and also Roger P. Bristol, *Supplement to Charles Evans' American Bibliography* (Charlottesville: Published for the Bibliographical Society of America and the Bibliographical Society of the University of Virginia by the University Press of Virginia, 1970).

<sup>3</sup> See Ralph R. Shaw and Richard H. Shoemaker, *American Bibliography: A Preliminary Checklist for 1801-1819*, 22 vols. (New York: Scarecrow Press, 1958-66).

<sup>4</sup> Regarding the Sauer family see Donald F. Durnbaugh, "The Sauer Family: An American Printing Dynasty," *Yearbook of German-American Studies* 23 (1988): 31-40. By the same author see also "Christopher Sauer: Pennsylvania-German Printer: His Youth in Germany and Later Relationships with Europe," *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* 82 (1958): 316-40. Also see Felix Reichmann, *Christopher Sower, Sr., 1694-1758, Printer in Germantown: An Annotated Bibliography*, *Bibliographies in German-American History*, no. 2 (Philadelphia: Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation, 1943); and, Edward Hocker, "The Sower Printing House of Colonial Times," *Pennsylvania German Society: Proceedings and Addresses* 53 (1948): 1-125.

<sup>5</sup> See Karl Friedrich Führer, *Wahrheit und Guther Rath, an die Einwohner Deutschlands, besonders in Hessen (1783)/Truth and Good Advice, to the Inhabitants of Germany, Especially in Hesse*, edited and translated by Christoph E. Schweitzer, *Yearbook of German-American Studies*, Supplemental Issue, vol. 1 (Lawrence, KS: Society for German-American Studies, 2003). For another example of a recent translated edition of an 18th-century work of German-Americana, see Christopher Sauer, *Sauer's Herbal Cures: America's First Book of Botanic Healing, 1762-1778*, translated and edited by William Woys Weaver (New York: Routledge, 2001).

<sup>6</sup> See John Joseph Stoudt, *Pennsylvania German Poetry, 1683-1830: An Anthology*, Pennsylvania German Folklore Society, vol. 22 (Allentown, PA: Schlechter, 1955); Earl F. Robacker, *Pennsylvania German Literature: Changing Trends from 1683 to 1942* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1943); and, Robert E. Ward, *A Bio-Bibliography of German-American Creative Writers, 1670-1970* (White Plains, New York: Kraus International Publications, 1985). Ward also lists "Collections and Anonymous Works of the 18th and 19th Centuries," which would be useful as a guide to collections of German-American literature that need to be examined. See Ward, pp. xlvii-xlvi. Also, see the checklist of "German-American Literature: 1700-1974," in my *German-Americana: A Bibliography* (Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1975), esp. pp. 133-36.

<sup>7</sup> For further information on the colonial German-American press, see Daniel Miller, *Early German-American Newspapers: Daniel Miller's History*, edited by Don Heinrich Tolzmann (Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 2001), and James Owen Knauss, Jr., *The Pennsylvania Germans: James Owen Knauss, Jr.'s Social History*, edited by Don Heinrich Tolzmann (Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 2001). Also, see Carl Wittke, *The German-Language Press in America* (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1957), esp. Chapter 1, which deals with the colonial period; Karl J. R. Arndt and May E. Olson, *The German Language Press of the Americas: Volume 3: German-American Press Research from the American Revolution to the Bicentennial* (München: K.G. Saur, 1980); and, Robert E. Cazden, *A Social History of the German Book Trade in America to the Civil War* (Columbia, SC: Camden House, 1984), esp. Chapter 1. For further references to works dealing with the history of German-American publishers and printers, see the author's *German-Americana: A Bibliography* (Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1975), pp. 169-74; as well as his *Catalog of the German-Americana Collection, University of Cincinnati* (München: K.G. Saur, 1990), 2:156-84.

# M Y S T I S C H E

Und sehr geheyme

## S P R U E C H E,

Welche in der Himmlischen schule des  
heiligen geistes erlernen:

*Und dan folgens, einige*

P O E T I S C H E G E D I C H T E.

A U F F G E S E T Z T.

Den liebhabern und schülern der  
Göttlichen und Himmlischen  
weisheit zum dienst.

V O R

Die säu dieser welt aber, haben wir keine  
speise, werden ihnen auch wohl ein  
verschlossener garten, und  
versiegelter brun-  
nen bleiben.

~~~~~  
Zu PHILADELPHIA:  
Gedruckt bey B. F. BINKLIN in Jahr 1730.

VORSPIEL  
DER  
NEUEN-WELT.

Welches sich in der letzten Abendroethe  
als ein paradifischer Lichtes-glanz  
unter den Kindern Gottes  
hervor gethan.

IN

LIEBES, LOBES, LEIDENS, KRAFFT  
*und Erfahrungs liedern abgebildet, die  
gedrückte, gebückte und Creutz-  
tragende Kirche auf Erden.*

Und wie inzwischen sich

Die obere und Triumphirende Kirche  
als eine Paradifische vorkost her-  
vor thut und offenbahret.

*Und daneben, als*

Ernstliche und zuruffende wächterstimmen  
an alle annoch zerstreute Kinder Gottes, das sie  
sich famlen und bereit maachen auf den  
baldigen ; Ja bald herein brechen-  
den Hochzeit-Tag der braut  
des Lamms.



Zu Philadelphia: Gedruckt bey Benjamin  
Francklin, in der Marck-strafs. 1732.

# JACOBS Kampff- und Ritter-Platz

A L L W O

Der nach seinem Ursprung sich sehnende  
Geist der in Sophiam verliebten Seele  
mit Gott um den neuen Namen  
gerungen, und den Sieg  
davon getragen.

ENTWORFFEN

IN UNTERSCHIEDLICHEN GLAUBENS-  
u. leidens-liedern, u. erfahrungs vollen aus-  
drückungen des Gemüths, darinnen sich  
dar stellet, so wol auff seiten Gottes  
seine unermüdete arbeit zur rei-  
nigung solcher Seelen, die sich  
seiner führung anvertraut,

ALS AUCH

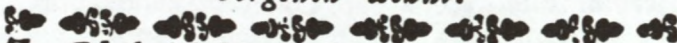
Auff seiten des Menschen der ernst des  
Geistes im aus halten unter dem process  
der läuterung und abschmelzung  
des Menschen der Sünden samt  
dem daraus entspringen-  
den lobes-gehön.

ZUR

Gemüthlichen erweckung derer die das heil  
Jerusalem lieb haben.

VERLEGET

Von einem Liebhaber der Wahrheit die im ver-  
borgenen wohnt.

  
Zu Philadelphia, gedruckt bey B.F. 1736.

Das  
Alte Zeugniß

und die

Grund-Sätze

des Volks so man Quäker nennet,  
erneuert,

In Ansehung des  
Königs und der Regierung;

und

Wegen den nunmehr herrschenden Unru-  
hen in diesem und andern Theilen von America.

An das Volk überhaupt gerichtet.

---

---

Germantown, gedruckt bey Christoph Saur, dem  
Jüngern, auf Kosten der Verfasser, 1776.



Ben seiner Excellenz

**G. Washington, Esq.**

General und oberster Befehlshaber über die Völ-  
ker der vereinigten Staaten von America.

**A** Kraft der Macht, und die Ordre die ich ins besondere empfangen, wird allen Leuten, die so weit als siebenzig Meilen von meinem Haupt-Quartier wohnen anbefohlen, daß sie die eine Hälfte von ihrem Getreide bis den ersten Februarius ausdreschen, und die andere Hälfte bis den ersten des nächsten März Monats, oder sie müssen gewärtig seyn daß alles Getreide welches nicht um die bestimmte Zeit ausgedroschen, bey dem Commissarius und Quartier- Meister der Armee weggenommen, und als Stroh bezahlt werden soll.

Gegeben unter meiner Hand, im Haupt-Quartier,  
nahe bey der Eisen Schmelze im Thal, in Phila-  
delphia Caunty, diesen zwanzigsten December,  
1777.

**G. Washington.**

Auf seiner Excellenz Befehl,  
Rob. H. Harrison, Secretarius.



Lancaster: Gedruckt bey Franz Bailey, in der Königs-Strasse.

Von den  
**A b s i c h t e n**  
und dem  
bisherigen Fortgang  
der  
privilegirten  
**Deutschen Gesellschaft**  
zu  
Philadelphia in Pennsylvanien.

In einer  
vor der Gesellschaft gehaltenen  
**N e d e**

von  
**Johann Christoph Kunze,**  
Professor der orientalischen und der deutschen Sprachen  
auf der Universttät zu Philadelphia und Mitglied  
der gedachten Gesellschaft.

---

Philadelphia,

Gedruckt bei Melchior Steiner, in der Reesstraße, nahe  
bei der dritten Straße. 1782.

W a h r h e i t.

und

G u t e r . . . R a t h ,

an die

Einwohner Deutschlands,

besonders in

H e s s e n .

---

Errette den, dem Gewalt gethethet, von dem, der ihm Unrecht thut, und seye unerschrocken, wenn du urtheilen solst.

Rede die Wahrheit, haße die Lügen, und scheue Niemand.  
Jesus Sprach und Paulus.

---

Philadelphia, Gedruckt bey Carl Eist, in der  
Markt-straße, 1783.

Eine  
**A u f f o r d e r u n g**  
an das  
**Volk Gottes in Amerika**  
zum  
**frohen Jauchzen und Danken.**

An dem von einem Erlauchten Congres wegen erhaltenen Friedens und  
erlangter Unabhängigkeit auf den 11ten December, 1783, aus-  
geschriebenen Dankserie in der St.-Kirche zu Philadelphia  
vorgestellt, und auf Verlangen verschiedener  
Subdres dem Druck übergeben,

nebst dem

**Anhange einer andern Predigt**  
änlichen Inhalts, und an dem Dank- und Betttag:  
des Jares 1779 gehalten, von

**Johann Christoph Kunze,**  
der heil. Schrift Doctor, Professor der orient. und der deutschen  
Sprache auf der Unvers. zu Philadelphia und  
Ev. Luther. Pred. daselbst.

---

Philadelp<sup>h</sup>ia:

Bedruckt bei Melchior Steiner, in der Neek-strasse, zwischen  
der Zweiten und Dritten-strasse. 1784.

# Grundregeln

der

## Deutschen Gesellschaft

im

Staate von Neuyork,

Zur Aufmunterung der Emigration von Deutsch-  
land; Hülfsleistung nothleidender Emigranten, und  
zur Ausbreitung nützlicher Wissenschaften unter  
ihren Landesleuten in diesem Staat.



---

Philadelphia:

Gedruckt bey Melchior Steiner, in der Reed-strasse,  
nahe bey der Dritten-strasse. 1785.

