



MAX KADE CENTER FOR GERMAN-AMERICAN STUDIES

MARCH 1998

A German Perspective on Cultural Studies

Gert Sautermeister of the University of Bremen, Max Kade distinguished visiting professor, will deliver a lecture on "Germanistik und 'Cultural Studies'" on Tuesday, March 17, at 7:30 p. m. at the Max Kade Center. The University of Bremen, where Professor Sautermeister has taught since 1974, was one of the first German universities to take practical measures to integrate interdisciplinary courses into its curriculum. Professor Sautermeister is a native of Ulm. He studied German and Romance languages and literatures at the universities of Tübingen, Vienna, Paris,

and Munich. He completed his doctoral work at the University of Munich in 1971. For shorter periods he has also taught at the universities of Munich, Aarhus (Denmark), Nizza (France), and Aix-Marseille (France). He has published monographs on Friedrich Schiller, Georg Christoph Lichtenberg, and Thomas Mann. He has written numerous articles on German literature from the period of the Enlightenment until the present. His special research interests are Gottfried Keller and exile literature. Professor Sautermeister has been active as an editor: With Jochen Vogt

he has published almost twenty volumes of the UTB-series *Text und Geschichte: Modellinterpretationen zur deutschen Literatur*; with Jäger he has edited the *Neue Bremer Beiträge*; and with Grathoff and Oesterle *Kulturwissenschaftliche Studien zur Deutschen Literatur*. Together with Christine Sautermeister, his wife, he has translated a work of the French author Louis-Ferdinand Celine into German. At the present time Professor Sautermeister is preparing a monograph on Gottfried Keller, whose works he edited in the series *Goldmann Klassiker*.



KU Graduate students of German hold successful conference.

Newsletter of the Max Kade Center
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Graduate Student Colloquium

February 20-22, 1998

Friday, Feb. 20

Welcoming Reception (Max Kade Center)
Introductory Remarks by **Thyra Knapp**
Panel: Dysfunctionism
Respondent: **Elke Lorenz Champion**

Lisa Mays (University of Kansas)
“Die einseitige Liebe’: A study of Ferdinand von Saar’s Female Characters in *Die Troglodytin* and *Die Geigerin*”

David Prickett (University of Cincinnati) “Like a Stone Thrown into Water’: The Testimony of Magnus Hirschfeld”
Reception (at the home of Elke Lorenz Champion)

Saturday, Feb. 21

Panel: Wilde Frauen I
Respondent: **Prof. Leonie Marx**

Christiane Kuechler (Northwestern University)
“Where the Wild Women Dwell - The Orient as a Space for Extraordinary Women in Wolfram von Eschenbach’s *Parzival* and Adolf Muschg’s *Parzival - der Rote Ritter*”

Stephanie Libbon (Ohio State) “The Search for Self in Kleist’s *Penthesilea*”

Panel: Wilde Frauen II
Respondent: **Prof. Leonie Marx**

Enno Lohmeyer (University of Kansas) “Zahme und Wilde Frauen’: Gedanken zu Marie von Ebner-Eschenbachs *Er laßt die Hand küssen*”
Cary Einberger (Michigan State) “Was geschah, nachdem (und bevor) Jelinek dieses Stück geschrieben hatte”

Open Topic I

Respondent: **Prof. Gert Sautermeister**

Maike Ahrends (Michigan) “Kulturelle Hybridität, Köpfe und Tücher in Aysel Özakins *Glaube, Liebe, Aircondition*”

Marike Janzen (University of Texas-Austin) “An Exile’s Exotic *Heimat* in Paul Zech’s *Die Rubia und ihr Flügelspieler*”



Courtney Pettzer illustrates Mann’s images of Venice.

Open Topic II

Respondents: **Prof. William Keel**, **Prof. Frank Baron**, **Prof. Horst Wenzel**

Donovan Anderson

(Michigan) “Testing the Borders of *Germanistik*: German Studies and *Wissenschaftsgeschichte*”

Paul Gebhardt (University of Kansas) “The Horror of the Unapplied Power: Nietzsche’s *Geburt der Tragödie* Transformed in Rilke’s Early Poetry”

Mark Nesbitt Daly

(University of Kansas) “The Portrayal of Kingship and Peace in Ulrich’s *Lanzelet*”

Dinner (Adams Alumni Center - Paul Adams Room)

Keynote Speaker: **Prof. Horst Wenzel** “wilde unde zam: Zur unhöfischen Wahrnehmung von Körpern und Büchern”

Sunday, Feb. 22

Panel: Thomas Mann’s *Der Tod in Venedig*

Respondent: **Prof. Gert Sautermeister**

Rose Jones (University of Kansas) “A Blue Review: D. H. Lawrence’s Review of Thomas Mann’s *Der Tod in Venedig*”

Glenn Hudspeth (University of Kansas) “Thought and Feeling: A Deadly Dichotomy in Thomas Mann’s *Der Tod in Venedig*”

Courtney Peltzer (University of Kansas) “Thomas Mann’s Venice: The City as Seductress”

Graduate Student Conference Impresses European Guests

Sponsored by the KU Graduate

Association of German Students, the Second Annual Colloquium took place Feb. 20-22 at the Max Kade Center for German-American Studies (Sudler House). Fifteen scholarly presentations covered a wide range of topics: literary criticism, literary history, social and political issues, exile studies, feminism, and the analysis of individual works of German literature. Participants included visitors from the universities of Cincinnati, Texas, Michigan, Michigan State, Northwestern and Ohio State. The colloquium acquired an international dimension through the active participation of European guests.



Rose Jones compares works of Thomas Mann and D. H. Lawrence.

Gert Sautermeister, Max Kade distinguished visiting professor of German from the University of Bremen, participated in the discussions. He observed afterwards that “the quality and range of the colloquium made a strong impression on all participants for a variety of reasons. There were lectures (by **David Prickett**, **Maike Ahrends**, **Marike Janzen**) that reported the discovery of unknown works. Others (**Lisa Mays**, **Enno Lohmeyer**, **Mark Nesbitt-Daly**, **Christiane Kuechler**, **Donovan Anderson**, and **Paul Gebhardt**)

treated the merits of underrated authors and the significance of ignored connections of literary history. Others (**Stephanie Libbon**, **Cary Einberger**, **Rose Jones**, **Glenn**

Hudspeth, and **Courtney Peltzer**) brought to light new perspectives on the works of prominent authors.”

“The level of this meeting’s excellence compares favorably to that of high-level conferences in our profession. The KU organizers (**Thyra Knapp**, **Mark Nesbitt-Daly**, **Rose Jones**, and **Paul Gebhardt**) were successful in creating a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. They worked with precision and care to provide all

the prerequisites for ideal scholarly work and communication. For me, as a guest from Germany, these three days were a valuable and pleasant experience. I am indebted to the graduate students for their serious commitment in making this event possible and to the German Department faculty members who enthusiastically supported them in their efforts.”

Professor **Horst Wenzel** of the Humboldt University of Berlin gave the keynote address. He also participated actively in the discussions. At the conclusion of the conference he said that he was “impressed by the high standards achieved in the contributions and especially by the natural confidence with which they were presented. I see the value of the unique colloquium in the combination of study, research, and teaching, the quality of the work shown, and the commitment and the democratic involvement of all students in every aspect of organizational questions.

This kind of conference helps to prepare students early and more comprehensively for later professional work, an opportunity not presently available to doctoral students in Germany.”

Professors **Sautermeister** and **Wenzel** believe that the students’ initiatives deserve strong support, and they would welcome the participation of experienced students and doctoral candidates from German universities in future KU conferences.



Documenting German Settlement Dialects in Kansas

The culture and language of hundreds of immigrant communities have long been part of the richness of the American scene. Kansans have been the beneficiaries of the contributions of their Czech, Swedish, French, and especially German neighbors. Now, as the immigrant languages of these people face almost certain extinction, we are beginning to realize the true value of these languages, just as we have begun to realize the value of the many endangered species of plants and animals to our culture and environment. Less than one hundred years ago German dialects were spoken in almost every county in Kansas. In many counties several different dialects could be heard. Continuing in the tradition of KU professors William Herbert Carruth and J. Neale Carman, one of the projects of the Max Kade Center has the purpose of documenting and analyzing as well as preserving on tape the remaining German dialects in Kansas.

Germans played a major role in the settlement of this region from the earliest settlements in northeastern Kansas in the late 1850s until the settlement of the western counties of Kansas at the end of the nineteenth century. Germans and German-speaking immigrants, especially from the Russian and Austrian empires in Eastern Europe, continued to settle in rural areas of Kansas well into the twentieth century. Even today at the end of the twentieth century, new immigration of German-speaking Mennonites from Mexico is occurring in southwestern Kansas.

While large numbers of Germans settled in northeast Kansas, including extensive rural communities in Waubunsee, Nemaha, Marshall, and Washington counties, their impact was overshadowed by the large migration to Kansas of Germans from Russia following the completion of the two major rail lines through Kansas in 1872. Beginning in 1874, large numbers of German Mennonites from

South Russia settled on land purchased from the Santa Fe Railroad in Marion, McPherson, Harvey, and Reno counties. In 1875, German Catholic and Protestant settlers from the Volga region began arriving. Instead of settling along the Santa Fe as was planned, these groups chose to begin homesteading farther west, along the Kansas Pacific Railroad in Ellis and Russell counties. By the end of the 1870s some 12,000 Germans from Russia had found new homes in Kansas (see Norman E. Saul, "The Migration of the Russian-Germans to Kansas," *The Kansas Historical Quarterly* 40 [1974]: 38-62).

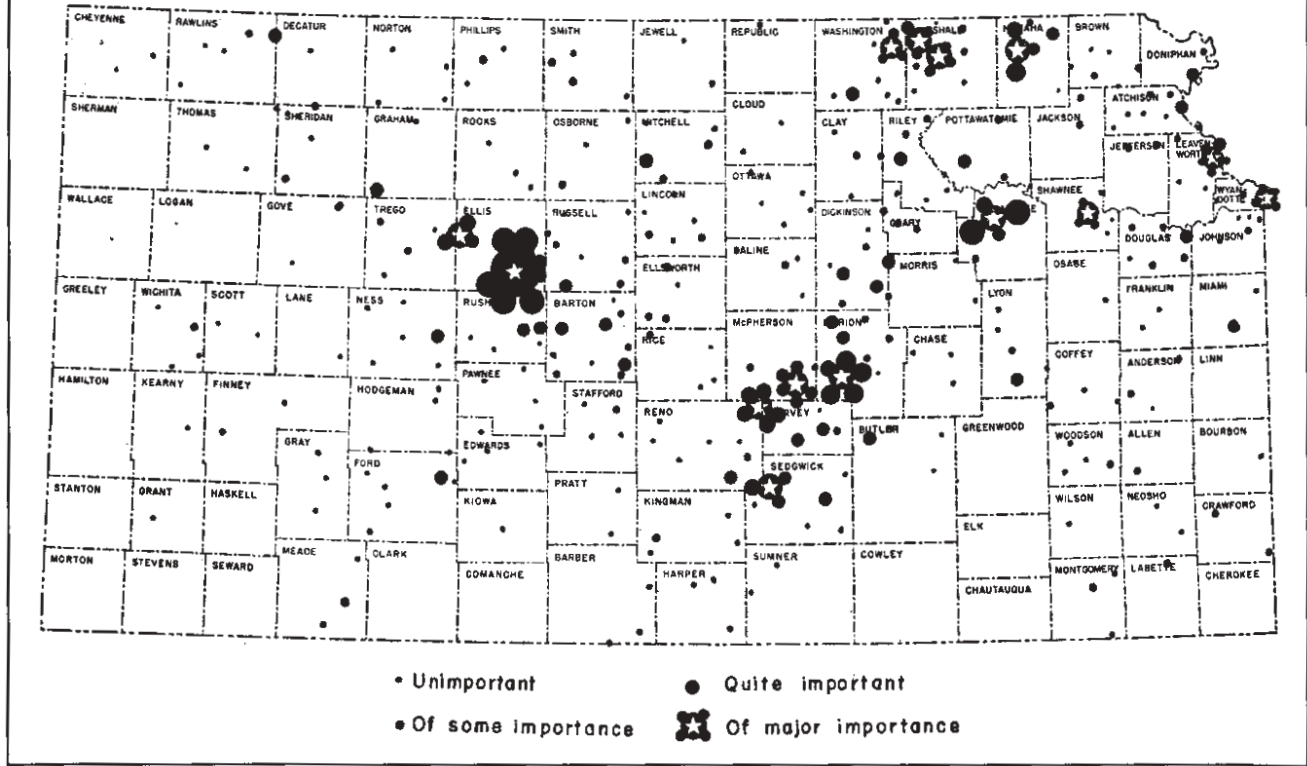
The use of German and/or German dialects by these immigrants in Kansas has been thoroughly documented by J. Neale Carman (*Foreign Language Units of Kansas*, vol. 1 [Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 1962]). In over thirty years of personal investigation and countless trips throughout the state, Carman compiled an exhaustive collection of data relating to foreign-language use in Kansas. For each county we have detailed maps and statistics. Since German-speaking immigrants account for most of the "foreign language units of Kansas," Carman's work is an invaluable basis for any study of the German dialects in Kansas. Unfortunately, as we have already noted above, Carman's statistics reveal that most of the German dialects in the state have been assimilated into the dominant English-speaking culture. More importantly, however, Carman's data indicate that German dialects, while no longer being passed on to next generation, are still spoken in a number of large rural areas of Kansas, especially the Volga-German area in Ellis, Rush, and Russell counties; the Mennonite area in Marion, Harvey, McPherson, and Reno counties; the Hannoverian Lutheran area in Marshall and Washington counties.

In the years since the publication

of Carman's first volume (the final two volumes of Carman's study were published posthumously in 1974 and are available in the University of Kansas Archives), the German dialects in Kansas received limited treatment. In 1979 we offered a course at the University of Kansas on the "German Heritage of Kansas and Missouri." Out of that course arose the first pilot study of a German dialect in Kansas: "The Low German Dialect of Hermansberg." That study gave impetus to the idea of beginning a major survey of the remaining German dialects in Kansas. By the fall of 1979, one graduate student in German had expressed an interest in doing a dialect study of the Volga-German dialect in Catherine in Ellis County. In the spring of 1980 we were able to offer a graduate course on the German dialects. In addition to the work already begun on the Low German area and the Volga-German area, our students began studies in McPherson County (Moundridge). In each of these areas, confirming the data in Carman's study, we found dialect speakers willing to participate in our survey. In fact, our German-speaking informants have been enthusiastic about this project. By 1981 our project was receiving support from the General Research Fund of the University of Kansas.

The basis for our survey has been a direct interview with a sample of dialect speakers in each community. These interviews are recorded on cassette tapes. After a phonetic transcription of each tape has been made, the tapes are preserved for future use in the Max Kade Center. Using the phonetic transcriptions of the interview texts, we prepare analyses of the phonological and morphological features of each dialect (the sound system and the grammatical system). We can then compare the features of our Kansas-German dialects with the features of previously analyzed German dialects in Central or Eastern Europe.

GERMAN SETTLEMENTS IN KANSAS



This enables us to determine a linguistic classification for a Kansas-German dialect. Often this is a simple task. If the group has come directly from Germany to Kansas and has maintained its ethnic unity more or less intact, we can be nearly certain that the Kansas-German dialect should correspond directly to the community's place of origin in Germany. We can use this correspondence to shed light on aspects of the development of the home dialect and its offshoot in Kansas. On the other hand, we find dialects in Kansas, especially among the Germans from Russia, which simply cannot be said to derive directly from a point of origin in Germany. The determination of the dialect's possible origin in Germany is then a matter of linguistic detective work. The features of the Kansas-German dialect must be compared point by point with the features of the dialects in Germany. We can be reasonably certain that the area of greatest overlap points

to the ultimate origin of the dialect. Sometimes we can literally pinpoint the dialect's origin; sometimes we find a case of what appears to be dialect mixture. Where one dialect has survived relatively intact in the face of several migrations and population mixtures, we must then seek answers to the questions how and why.

In the interviews we ask each informant to speak a series of forty sentences in his/her native German dialect. These so-called "Wenker-sentences" have been a standard tool in German dialectology for over a century. Normally the sentences are presented to the informant in an English translation created by our staff rather than the Standard German of the original set of sentences. This is done for two very practical reasons: first, many dialect speakers have little or no knowledge of Standard German, speaking only a German dialect and English; and second, dialect speakers often view the dialect as a corrupt

form of the standard language, and would like to be perceived as using the "correct" form of the word. Using the standard language to present the sentences would thus only serve to confuse the informants. In addition to the forty sentences, we ask each informant to provide the dialect equivalents for a series of isolated vocabulary items. Each informant is to tell a short story or anecdote in the native dialect. If two dialect speakers are present during an interview, we attempt to record actual conversational usage of the dialect. The last two items allow the investigator to observe the informants in a more natural language setting.

The forty sentences used in this study are the sentences (with some minor modifications) constructed in 1876 by the German dialectologist Georg Wenker to elicit dialect data in his monumental study of the German dialects in Central Europe commonly referred to as *Der Deutsche*

Sprachatlas (the German linguistic atlas). The Wenker sentences are designed to provide information on all of the pertinent phonological and morphological features relating to the historical development of the German dialects. Thus the sentences furnish an exhaustive database for the comparative study of the German dialects (see Walther Mitzka, *Handbuch zum Deutschen Sprachatlas* [Marburg: Elwert, 1952]). It is interesting that these sentences, first used in the 1870s, do not seem out of date with speakers of Kansas-German dialects. The sentences often deal with aspects of rural life (mowing hay, threshing grain, selling cattle), which are quite familiar to our informants. Others, such as sentence number eleven (**Ich werde Dich über den Kopf mit einem hölzernen Kochlöffel schlagen, du Affe!** “I’m going to hit you over your head with a wooden spoon, you monkey!”), always produce a hearty laugh in addition to the dialect version of the sentence. The vocabulary items, which we ask our informants, are taken from the list of two hundred items used in compiling *Der Deutsche Wortatlas* (the German word atlas) during the 1940s under the direction of Walther Mitzka. Again, the items are usually quite familiar ones: godfather, godmother, brother-in-law, mother-in-law, horse, potato, hog, plow, etc.

In addition to establishing a linguistic atlas of German dialect materials for Kansas in the Max Kade Center, we work in cooperation with the Institut für deutsche Sprache in Mannheim, Germany, which has the task of documenting German and German dialects throughout the world. The studies generated by our project are monitored by our colleagues in Mannheim so that interested scholars can learn immediately of the types of materials in our collection. To date several projects have been completed. Among them are Ph.D. dissertations on “The Volga German Dialect of Schoenchen, Kansas” by

Christopher Johnson and “The Low German Dialect of Concordia, Missouri” by William Ballew as well as an M.A. thesis on the phonology of the Volga German dialect of Catherine, Kansas: “Dialektstudie des Katharinenstädter Deutsch” by Ilse Vogel Shire. Three Ph.D. dissertations are in progress: Swiss German in Bern, Kansas (Adrian Barradell); Bukovinian Bohemian German in Ellis, Kansas (Gabriele Lunte); and Mennonite Low German among the migrant workers from the Chihuahua, Mexico, Mennonite colony who are now situated in southwestern Kansas (Lisa Mays). The Center also supported the research leading to an M.A. thesis at the University of Mannheim, Germany: “Untersuchungen zum Deutsch in Kansas: Migration und Entwicklung des Wolgadeutschen in Ellis und Rush Counties” by Patrick Kaul.

—William Keel

Low German Resurgence in Western Missouri?

During the past decade two communities in nearby Missouri have evidenced a resurgence in the use of the traditional immigrant Low German dialects brought from the plains of northern Germany to the prairie of western Missouri beginning in the late 1830s and early 1840s. Cole Camp in Benton County and Concordia in Lafayette County have both established Low German heritage societies and hold annual Low German “theatre” performances each fall. These communities are of special interest to researchers of Kansas German dialects since at least twelve Hanoverian Lutheran settlements in Kansas can trace their roots back to these two Missouri islands of Low German speech, including Block near Paola in Miami County and Linn and Palmer in Washington County.

In my dissertation, I examined the use of Low German and its gradual

decline during the course of the second half of the twentieth century in Concordia, Missouri. Concordia is a farming community of around 1,200 inhabitants about an hour’s drive east of Kansas City on Interstate 70. As a cohesive community, it has been in existence since the middle of the nineteenth century and was populated primarily by chain migration from the area north of Hannover (the modern-day German state of Lower Saxony). Hence, as an essentially Northern German Lutheran community with a proud German heritage, many Concordians of the older generation still speak a dialect of Low German, modified only slightly from the language of their ancestors who settled in the southeastern part of Lafayette and adjacent counties in the period from the 1840s to the 1870s. This Low German dialect has been preserved to the present day in the form of a linguistic “time capsule.”

Despite attempts to preserve the Low German in skits, anecdotes, religious services, classes in the dialect, and word lists in an effort to celebrate Concordia’s ethnic heritage, the eventual demise of the language is certain. The last generation of speakers is generally over fifty years of age; most speakers would have to be classified as elderly. At a recent performance of the Low German “dinner theatre” in Concordia younger members of the audience were polled for their reactions. They thought it was a fitting way to celebrate the community’s heritage, but they understood nothing in the skits. All that remains is the regret that they did not learn the language of their parents when it was still possible.

—William Ballew

The Volga German Dialects of Kansas: Research Past and Present

The Volga Germans, attracted by the prospect of inexpensive, large tracts of land, began arriving in Kansas from the southern Volga region of Russia in the mid 1870s. Their immigrant route brought many through Topeka, Kansas, and eventually further west to Russell, Ellis and Rush counties.

These immigrants were speakers of German dialects, descended from emigrants who left their German homeland in the second half of the 18th century to settle along the southern Volga River at the invitation of Catherine the Great. During the course of the following century, German dialects persisted and prospered in the new settlement area, with only a few Russian words entering into the day-to-day vocabulary of the majority of the speakers. After arriving in Kansas, the immigrants continued to speak German as their first language up until the time of World War I. After this, use of German began to decline. The dialects are now in their last stages of decline, with very few speakers still living who have an active command of German.

Scholars in Kansas have been aware of the Volga Germans and the persistence of their German dialects since the early 1900s, with the highlight of research activity being the publication of *Carman's Foreign Language Units of Kansas* in 1962. Specific research into the dialects and

recording of speakers did not begin, however, until the mid 1970s. Larger-



Old Main Street going from Schoenchen north toward Hays.

scale recording projects were conducted in the early 1980s and again in the early 1990s. Recordings of the interviews conducted between 1980 and 1995 in Ellis, Rush and Russell counties in Kansas are kept at the Max Kade Center for German-American Studies at the University of Kansas. These recordings have been the basis for a number of research articles, a master's thesis and a Ph.D. dissertation.

The Volga German dialects in Russia have also been the subject of research. Since the Volga Germans were deported from the Volga region during the Stalin era, research is largely based on data that was collected during the 1910s and 1920s by August Lonsinger, Georg Dinges and others. Their research goal was to produce a dialect atlas of Volga German similar to other German dialect atlases appearing in Germany. They never achieved this goal in their lifetimes, but their other publications have

been the basis for making comparisons between the Volga German dialects in Russia with those in Kansas.

Prior to 1997, comparisons of the Volga German dialect data collected in Kansas with data collected by Dinges and his colleagues could only be made using information provided by a few articles published by Dinges in the 1920s, most notably the article "Über unsere Mundarten," published in 1923. This article was accompanied by a map showing the major German dialect characteristics that Dinges considered critical for comparing the Volga German dialects with the dialects back in Germany. A 1918 publication, "Proben deutsch-russischer Mundarten aus den Wolgakolonien und dem Gouvernement Cherson," by von Unwerth, also provides some data about the dialects of World War I prisoners of war from the Volga German region of Russia.

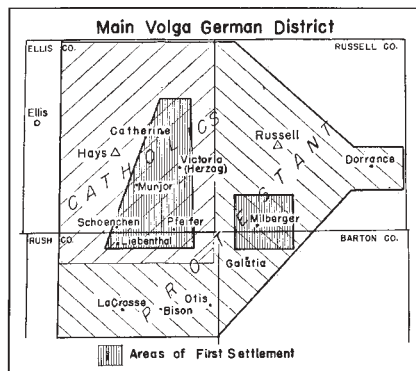
With the 1997 publication of the *Wolgadeutscher Sprachatlas* (WDSA) by Berend and Post, more complete data regarding the dialect characteristics of the Volga Germans in Russia are now accessible. The 285 maps contained in the volume display the results obtained from six different dialect questionnaires that were circulated in the Volga German region between 1913 and 1930.

The data from the *Wolga-deutscher Sprachatlas* represent the state of the German dialects in Russia roughly a half-century after the major exodus of Volga Germans to the Americas. The speakers who provided the data probably represent largely the two generations descended from those who remained behind in Russia.

The data collected in Kansas also reflect, to a significant part, the speech characteristics of the two generations that followed the original immigrants, with the majority of the informants being the grandchildren of immigrants.

The new WDSA data now makes it more possible than ever to do some interesting comparative research with the data collected in Russia, i.e., to discover how the dialects of those who remained differ from those who emigrated to Kansas. But first, the published WDSA data must be reorganized to make this task easier.

Currently, the data from the 285 maps of the WDSA are being sorted by city, rather than by lexical item. Once this is accomplished, it will be easier to compare data from the towns in Kansas directly with the source villages in Russia. Only the villages that have been reported in the local histories of the immigration will be the subjects of this reorganization of data.



Research has shown to some extent that speakers from different villages in Russia who shared some common speech habits, settled together in Kansas. The publication of new data could make it possible to make a stronger statement to this effect.

There is also still need to conduct further fieldwork in Topeka, Kansas. A large group of immigrants chose to remain in Topeka and work for the railroad and factories rather than move further west to the farmlands. These people settled largely together in northeast Topeka and maintained a strong community for many years. It would be very interesting to see how the dialects persisted in this urban environment.

It is very important that all capable, willing informants be identified in all areas where the Volga Germans settled in Kansas while there is still time. Recording these speakers not only helps us with research into the dialects, it also preserves this important aspect of the Volga German culture in Kansas for future generations.

—Chris Johnson



The Catholic Bohemian Dialect of Ellis, Kansas

Beginning in the 1880s, many German-speaking immigrants left Bukovina for the United States. They emigrated from the land that was then part of the Hapsburg Empire (today in the north part of the Ukraine and in the south part of Romania) because of severe economic hardships. They settled in west-central Kansas in the counties of Ellis, Trego, and Rooks. Since the town of Ellis was linked to the rest of the state by the Kansas Pacific Railway, it became the center of these German-speaking communities.

The research about the language spoken by the Bukovina immigrants reveals much about their fascinating background and history. They formed two distinct groups in Ellis. The immigrants of one segment have called themselves Lutheran “Swabian” Germans, who came originally from southwestern Germany. The other



settlers were the Catholic Bohemian Germans, who found their way to America and Kansas via Bukovina from the Bohemian Forest, today situated in the Western Czech Republic.

Today it is difficult to find Ellis residents who can still speak the language of their ancestors. My dissertation represents an effort to document and analyze the speech of a swiftly disappearing linguistic tradition. On the basis of my recordings it has been possible to find two distinct linguistic traces: one, which belongs to the Lutheran “Swabians,” points to origins in the Palatinate dialect from Southwestern Germany, and the other, which represents the focus of my research, that of the Catholic Bohemians, is linked with the Central Bavarian dialect. Even if the family documents have not always survived, the record of these immigrants’ spoken words reflects the harsh reality of their efforts to find a secure homeland.

—Gabi Lunte

German Mennonites from Mexico to Southwestern Kansas

My dissertation will focus on the migration of German Mennonites from Mexico to southwestern Kansas during the last twenty years. Due to problems of overpopulation in Mexico, this migration has intensified recently. This group of German speakers is especially interesting because it has preserved its Low German dialect for about two hundred years.

The so-called "Old Colony" Mennonites left their homeland near the Vistula River in West Prussia in 1788-89 and 1804 for Russia and then migrated to Canada in the 1870s and 1880s. When the Canadian government refused to allow them to educate their children solely in German after World War I, about 7,000 settlers left Canada for Chihuahua in Mexico. Despite their attempts to remain isolated from "outside" soci-

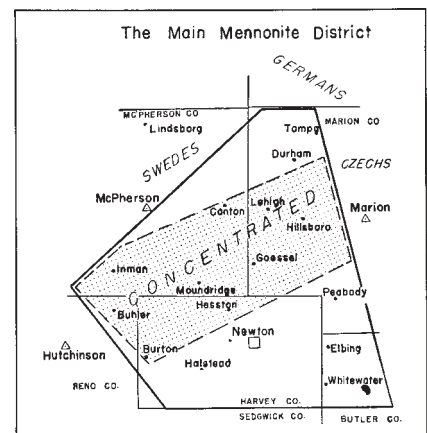


ety, economic hardships have forced many to return to Canada. But a significant group found Kansas to be more promising. My field work will document the current linguistic features of these Kansas Mennonites and determine the influence that Spanish- and English-speaking contexts have had on their Low German dialect.

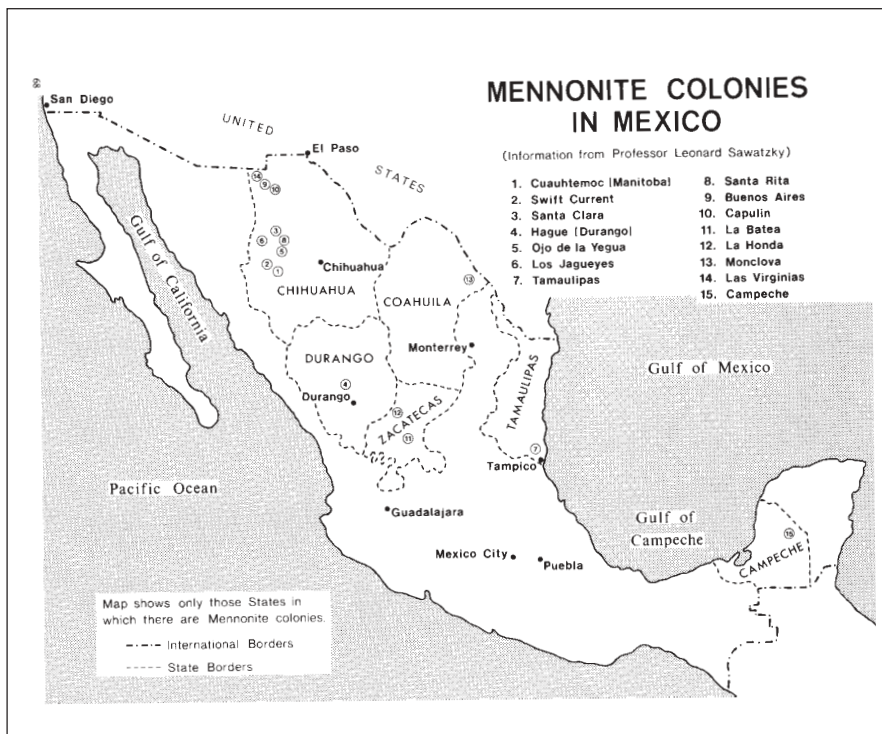
—Lisa Mays

The Dahl Family: A Story of Mennonite Migration

In a recent display in our Engel German Library, Ursula Humburg organized information and illustrations about the Mennonite background of Dr. Dennis Dahl, who retired from his position as a physician at the KU Health Center, and his wife, Nancy Dahl, KU Professor of Biochemistry and Cell & Molecular Biology. The Dahls were able to draw on diaries and letters to reconstruct a lengthy



journey. It began about two hundred years ago in Prussia in 1803-1805, when the ancestors of the Dahls joined about 350 Mennonite families to move to Russia, following the earlier invitation of Catherine the Great. They settled in the Crimea. But after many decades of difficult living conditions the initial promise of a secure homeland faded. Experiencing extreme economic hardship and the loss of religious freedom and their exemption from military service, the Dahls departed on the crest of a new migration movement in 1874 for the United States, and they settled, finally, in McPherson County, Kansas. The story of an adventurous and circuitous migration from Germany to Russia and then to Kansas is one that is familiar to many communities of our state.



Paul Einert (1901-1997)

Paul Einert was a friend, an active supporter, and a generous benefactor of the Max Kade Center for German-American Studies. Born in Seifersbach near Chemnitz in Germany on 16 June 1901, he grew up and received his education in Saxony. As a boy in his teens, his life was shaped by the major experience of the First World War and the “Wandervogel” movement. His association with this German youth movement became an inspiring and invigorating force throughout his life.

The German youth movement—the all-comprising term for the “Wandervogel” and the many other youth groups that followed suit—had gained new momentum after the war. The movement signified criticism of the encrusted nineteenth-century way of life and an attempt for spiritual and cultural renewal. In striving for freedom from hierarchical and institutional pressure, it became an early form of anti-establishment movement. A simple lifestyle, love for nature, appreciation of folklore, and responsibility to society were important concepts defining its goals.

Einert’s decision to emigrate and to seek his fortune in the United States must have been influenced by difficult economic circumstances in postwar Germany. After immigration reopened for German citizens, he came with the new immigrant wave that reached its peak in 1924. First he settled in Buffalo, New York, but soon he moved to New Jersey, where he remained for most of his life, in the Englewood-Fort Lee area, close

to New York, working as a certified public accountant.

Early on, still in the 1920s, he came into contact with a group of other recent immigrants who were inspired by the German youth movement. Whenever possible, they met, hiked, sang together, presented theater sketches, practiced folk dancing, held discussions, and organized literary events. They helped each other in gaining the skills their new environment required, serving as a kind of immigrant aid society. After the Second World War they saw their duty in extending help to people in need in war-torn Germany, sending food, especially to writers, artists, and intellectuals. Their generous actions and activities reflected the best tradition of the German youth movement.

Within only a few years, still in the mid-1920s, similar groups came into being in other parts of America. This was not the result of group immigration; instead, the individual immigrants found each other and their common backgrounds and interests here. In 1927 the New York group issued a *Rundbrief*, a newsletter, which developed into a monthly periodical called *Rundbrief der deutschen Jugendbewegung in Nord-Amerika*. It was distributed by subscription for many years as a mimeographed publication among members and friends across the country and, after the Second World War, throughout the world. The *Rundbrief* is still being published by the second generation of members, currently as a quarterly, with its editorial office in

Scranton, Pennsylvania. It has thus become the longest continuing publication of the German youth movement.

Like many members of the *Rundbrief* circle, Einert was an active contributor to its publications. He wrote articles regularly, most recently on his trips to Germany and about his hometown in Saxony. In the late 1970s, he contacted the Max Kade Center and inquired about the goals of the Center. He came to Lawrence twice in the 1980s. After he became acquainted with our book resources and our efforts to develop the collection, he took great interest and became a major supporter.

Einert first donated an almost complete set of the *Rundbrief* (of which today only two complete sets are known to exist). Then he proceeded to add his personal library of relevant books. Finally, he established contacts with other members of the New York group, Hermann and Lucienne Schmid, from whom the Center received another large donation of books. These donations have been significant because they document the history, ideas, and personal experiences of a creative and productive group of immigrants.

We are deeply indebted to Paul Einert, who embodied the spirit and tradition of the German youth movement in America, and who helped to build the Max Kade collection into a unique resource for research in German-American studies. He died on 19 May 1997 in California.

—Helmut Huelsbergen



Max Kade Committee Report

The Max Kade Committee (William Keel, Helmut Huelsbergen, Frank Baron, Rose Jones, and Paul Gebhardt) has met regularly to discuss various projects: the work on a computerized catalogue of our collection, the building of an immigrant/exile collection for the twentieth century, projects to promote research projects at the Max Kade Center, and proposals to improve the facilities at the Sudler House in which the Center is located.

We can report that Rose Jones has been able to acquire, decipher, and adapt the software needed for the cataloging, and the actual process of recording our holdings has begun. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (Bonn), the Austrian Cultural Institute (New York), and the Leo Baeck Institute (New York) have generously donated numerous reference works to help us establish a practical research center for exile studies. An application for further book acquisitions is pending with the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (Bonn). We have been able to acquire original exile letters of author Carl Zuckmayer and composer Ernst Krenek. We are

making arrangements to acquire copies of Albert Bloch's manuscripts and correspondence. Paul Gebhardt has been able to assemble a complete file of Bloch caricatures and accompanying editorials in the *St. Louis Mirror*.

We have been in touch with the Lion Feuchtwanger Archives at the University of Southern California, and in conjunction with Professor Sautermeister's course on exile literature this spring we have agreed to offer a series of grants for KU graduate students in German (offered jointly by the Feuchtwanger Archives, the Max Kade Center, and Professor Sautermeister). Lisa Mays has been the first KU recipient, and we expect two further grants to materialize for Courtney Peltzer and Kai Heidkamp. These grants will allow our students to work in the excellent archival and library facilities of USC.

On April 23-26 several of us will be attending and presenting papers at the annual Symposium of the Society of German-American Studies at Indiana University in Indianapolis. Max Kade Visiting Professor Gert Sautermeister will speak on "Die

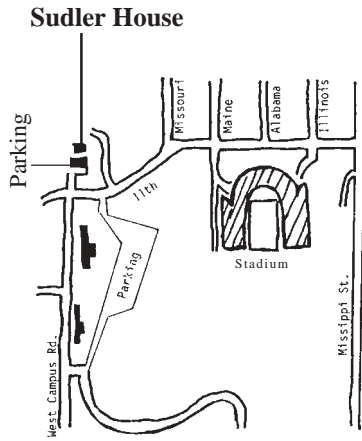
Erfahrung der Zeit: Lion Feuchtwanger als Emigrant zwischen Frankreich und Amerika," William Keel on "From the *Badische Volkswehr* to the Missouri Home Guard: Wendelin Bührle — a Common Soldier in Two Struggles for Freedom," Frank Baron on "Thomas Mann's Exile Politics and *Doktor Faustus*," Elke Champion, who successfully defended her dissertation last December, on "The Exile Experience as Reflected in the Correspondence of Albert Bloch," and Paul Gebhardt on "Arthur Jerome Eddy and the Introduction of German Expressionist Art in the United States (1913-1922)."

Finally, we have taken initiatives in making minor improvements in the appearance of the Max Kade Center, within the building by arranging for the framing and mounting of a series of posters on German-American history, and outside by arranging for work on appropriate sidewalk access and landscaping.

Frank Baron, Director,
Max Kade Center for
German-American Studies

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