



MAX KADE CENTER FOR GERMAN-AMERICAN STUDIES

MAY 2007

Tilman Riemenschneider's *Virgin and Child*: A Historic Acquisition

The bequest of Harry C. Thurnau, chair of the German Department from 1917 to 1935, was the catalyst for the acquisition of the Riemenschneider sculpture now in the Spencer Art Museum. In the early 1950s, Thurnau's successor, Anthony Burzle, deliberated with colleagues about the best way to proceed with the bequest. Aware of Mrs. Thurnau's wish for an appropriate memorial to her late husband, Professor Burzle, John Maxon, director of the art museum, and Chancellor Franklin Murphy, who had been the first KU graduate exchange student in Germany, joined forces to acquire the sculpture of the famous German artist.

Knowing that a significant Riemenschneider sculpture from the estate of the Prince of Liechtenstein was for sale, Burzle and Murphy seized on the opportunity. In the fall of 1951, they arranged for the sculpture to be sent to Lawrence for an appraisal. They also contacted Professor Justus Bier, an expert on Riemenschneider at the University of Louisville, to verify the work's authenticity. Bier concluded that this lindenwood carving was a significant work for this artist and could be dated at about the end of the 1490s. A large portion of the Thurnau bequest helped to complete the purchase.

Like the rich collection of Renaissance prints donated by the Max Kade Foundation, which includes significant works of Albrecht Dürer, the Riemenschneider Madonna is a proud jewel in the Spencer Art Museum.



Tilman Riemenschneider, *Virgin and Child*.
Courtesy of the Spencer Museum of Art.
Museum Purchase: Gift in Memory of Harry C. Thurnau
through the estate.

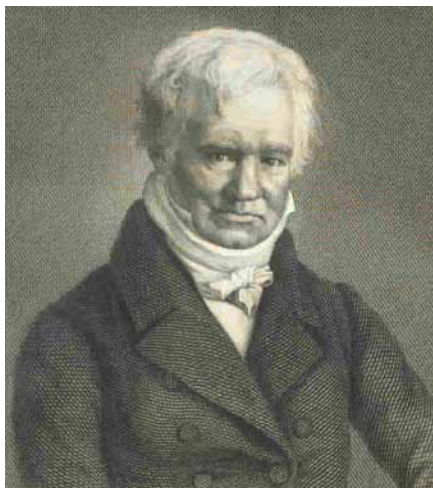
Newsletter of the Max Kade Center

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Alexander von Humboldt



The engraving by Johann Georg Nordheim (1804–1852) of Alexander von Humboldt appeared facing the title page of *Meyer's Monats-Hefte, deutsch-amerikanische Zeitschrift für Literatur, Kunst und Gesellschaft* in 1853. The claim that the artist created a portrait of Alexander von Humboldt from life (“Nach dem Leben”) is,

however, not true. The actual basis for the image was a daguerreotype of 1847, prepared by Herman Biow, the first to introduce the new technology in Germany.¹ Only a few years earlier, in 1839, Humboldt was shown the product of Louis Daguerre’s invention, an image of the moon. He was impressed by the achievement, and, on his recommendation, Daguerre became one of the recipients of the Prussian order *Pour le mérite*.²

Similarly, on Humboldt’s recommendation, John Frémont, received the Prussian king’s “Great Golden Medal of Progress in the Sciences.” In 1856, Frémont was the first Republican Party candidate for the United States presidency. Humboldt



admired Frémont’s achievements as an explorer, as well as his stance against slavery. Nordheim also created an engraving of Frémont in the same issue in which Humboldt’s image was prominently featured.

¹ See the daguerreotype of Humboldt at http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bild:Humboldt,_Alexander_von_1847.jpg

² Helina Nelken, *Alexander von Humboldt: His Portraits and Their Artists. A Documentary Iconography* (Berlin: Dietrich Reimer Verlag, 1980), p. 127.



Revival of Low German in Kansas

By Terry Rombeck (*Lawrence Journal World*, February 28, 2005)

HANOVER - When Don and Dorian Bisping are at home, they almost always speak to each other in Low German, the language of their ancestors. Like many Lutherans in north-central Kansas, they stopped speaking German in public in the 1940s — when blending into American culture and distancing themselves from Adolf Hitler meant more than preserving their heritage. It’s an attitude that’s largely persevered since then.

So the Bispings were a bit puzzled last week when 141 people — mainly residents of Marshall and Washington counties — packed the community center in Hanover to revive the language they’d spoken mainly in private for more than five decades.

“It used to be my aunt would say, ‘Don’t speak German so loud in the store,’” said Dorian Bisping, 69. “Now everybody wants to speak it.”

There’s a buzz in the Hanover area about Low German, the dialect spoken by the Lutherans who moved from northern Germany to Kansas in the late 1880s. It’s due mainly to Dr. Scott Seeger, a Kansas University graduate who heard enough people say they feared the language’s extinction that he decided to start courses to revive the language among older adults and also teach it to younger generations.

“It must be the right time,” Dan Thalmann, editor of the Washington County News, said of the language renaissance. “Enough people are realizing if there’s nothing done, it will die. Scott showed up as our German language savior.”

The idea first came to Seeger when he was interviewing residents in north central Kansas for his doctoral dissertation about their use of Low German, which he said was far different from the more common High German taught in schools. The older residents he talked with said they regretted not passing the language — which also is called “plattdeutsch” — on to younger generations. Some of the younger people he talked with regretted not having learned the language. In addition to World War II, the widespread use of the automobile in the early 20th century helped wipe out Low German as people used English to conduct business in other towns. The danger, Seeger said, was losing not only the language but the cultural aspects that accompany it.

“Low German is becoming an endangered language,” he said. “For these people, they have a strong identity with their German Lutheran heritage, through recipes, songs, church and from German at home.”

So at the urging of Thalmann and Joyce Kracht of Bremen, Seeger had an informational meeting in January to gauge interest in reviving the language.

“I thought there would be 20 or 30 people show up,” Seeger said. “I was just amazed. People just kept coming and coming in. It was a multigenerational crowd.”

Ninety-nine people attended the initial meeting. The first class session, which was Monday, drew 141 people, filling Hanover’s Kloppenberg Center. Attendees were divided into discussion groups based on the amount of Low German they knew. Leland Holle, 69, of rural Hanover, was among those who said he was hoping to brush up on his Low German skills. He spoke the language when he was a child.

“The Indians’ language is going to go down into the grave, which is going to happen to our language,” Holle said. “If we don’t revive it — well, look around the room. There are a couple of younger people, but they’re mostly 55 or older.”

John Kern was among the younger students in the crowd. The 28-year-old teacher in Washington heard his grandmother speak the language when he was a child but only learned a handful of words.

“To me, it’s just the nostalgia of being able to know what my ancestors used to speak,” he said. “I think it’s

phenomenal, really. It’s bigger than anyone would have thought.”

Thalmann, the newspaper editor, sees the project as more than language survival. It could be the communities’ survival. Washington and Marshall counties have seen among the largest drops in population among Kansas counties in the past two decades. Washington has lost about a quarter of its population base; Marshall has seen about a 15 percent population decrease. The Low German heritage, he said, could lead to economic development and tourism.

“This is the most Low German region of Kansas,” he said. “But you couldn’t tell. I just drove through Lindsborg, and almost every porch has a Swedish horse on it. I’d like to see this be the Lindsborg of Low German. There’s no reason not to be proud of it.”

Seeger plans to have classes the third Monday of the month. He’s hoping the project takes on a life of its own for after he completes his dissertation, which could be as early as May.

“A lot of doctoral dissertations get done and put on a shelf and maybe get looked at by academicians,” he said. “But I tapped into this desire that was under the surface, and I’m seeing an immediate interest in my research. That’s an absolutely fantastic example of how research can impact a community.”

Seeger estimated there are 300 to 400 speakers of Low German in Washington and Marshall counties.

German television (NDR – Norddeutscher Rundfunk) interviewed Dr. Seeger recently and conducted twenty hours of filming in Kansas. Their program, “Die Welt ist Platt,” will be aired on June 3 at 3:45 p.m.



Kansas Student Observes Germany in 1936

Franklin D. Murphy, chancellor of the University of Kansas from 1951 to 1960, remembered his studies as the first exchange student of the University of Kansas fondly. A student of medicine, he was the recipient of a fellowship to study in Göttingen. He reported about his initial experiences to Dr. Ernest H. Lindley, then chancellor of the University of Kansas. The following are excerpts from his eight-page letter:

The three and a half months preceding my arrival in Göttingen were certainly enjoyable and interesting and allowed for some serious work as well. I sailed from New York on the 9th of July [1936], landing at South Hampton. After a week in England and two weeks in Belgium and Holland, I arrived in Germany. My first stop being Schwerin, where I spent 10 glorious days with Herbert Mueller and his family. . . . I motored with Herbert to Berlin for the Olympic Games. I carried away many impressions of the fine athletic performances, the stadium and buildings that make up the great *Reichssportfeld*, called by most authorities the finest athletic plant in the world. Here too, I received my first impression of what we might call the adoration many Germans have for *Der Führer*. Every afternoon Hitler, Göring, Goebbels, Hess and all the others would come to the stadium to watch the proceedings. As the cortege would enter the private box everyone rose to their feet. At least 80,000 of the 110,000 people throw their hands, outstretched, into the air and the stadium would be filled with 80,000 voices chanting as one *Heil – Heil – Heil*. It was such a new experience that it roused a series of conflicting emotions: wonder, awe, astonishment, foreboding.

After 5 days in Berlin . . . I left for Munich. . . It was a wonderful experience living with these people and I was able to study the thoughts and attitudes of the people as regards their government. I have found, very much to my regret, that the average European has a very unfavorable idea of the American. This comes, of course, from the moving pictures and from the typical tourist who talks loudly and stupidly and states

blatantly that he is “damned glad he lives in the home of the free.”

Murphy served as chancellor of UCLA from 1960 to 1968 and then as chairman and CEO of the Times Mirror Company in Los Angeles until his retirement in 1986. He passed away on June 16, 1994

The Graduate Students’ Conference of 2007

The 11th Annual conference of the Graduate Association of German Students (GAGS) took place at the Max Kade Center for German-American Studies on February 16 and 17, 2007.

Professor Irmela von der Lühe, Freie Universität Berlin and visiting Max Kade Professor at the University of Kansas delivered the keynote lecture on „Mephistos Schwestern: Weibliche Teufelsgestalten in der deutschen Literatur.”



Regine Kroh addresses the conference.

Talks by graduate students were „Erinnerung und Gedächtnis in Günter Grass’ Novelle *Im Krebsgang*” by Julia Trimpold; „Die Auswirkungen der Mitläuferschuld in „Die Tat” by Michael Grünbaum; „Eine Autobiographie ist notwendig fragmentarisch”. „Zum künstlerischen Selbstentwurf in Klaus Manns *Der Wendepunkt* by Regine Kroh; „Mehrsprachig bis zur Sprachlosigkeit – The struggle of Alsatian Authors with Language and Identity” by Jörg Meindl; and „Das beredte Schweigen in Irmgard Keuns Roman *Nach Mitternacht*” by James Landes.

**31st Annual Symposium
Society for German-American Studies
The University of Kansas**

Thursday, April 26

9:00 am - 5:00 pm **SGAS Executive Committee Meeting** [Max Kade Center]
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm **Early Registration** [Max Kade Center]
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm **Gemütliches Beisammensein** [Max Kade Center]

Friday, April 27

8:00 am - 5:00 pm **Registration** [Kansas Union, Level 6]
9:00 am - 9:20 am **Welcoming Remarks:** [Kansas Union, Kansas Room]
William Keel, Acting President, Society for German-American Studies
Joseph Steinmetz, Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, The University of Kansas

9:30 am - 11:00 am **Exile Studies I** [Kansas Room] – Leonie Marx, University of Kansas, Moderator
Irmela von der Lühe, Freie Universität Berlin
“Lemuren auf dem Friedhof”: Die New Yorker Emigrantenszene in Hilde Spiels Roman *Lisas Zimmer*“
David Kettler, Bard College
“The Question of Anti-Fascism in the Exile Communities of Paris and New York: Some Comparisons”
Guy Stern, Wayne State University
“Autobiographical and Pedagogical Experiences with Exile Literature in the U.S. and Germany”

9:30 am - 11:00 am **Linguistics I** [Centennial Room] – Scott Seeger, University of Kansas, Moderator
Wilfried Schabus, Universität Wien
“Varietätendynamik und dialektgeographische Entwicklungstendenzen bei den Hutterern in Amerika”
Ludwig Eichinger, Universität Mannheim
“Einige sprachliche Besonderheiten des Deutschen in Belleville, Pennsylvania”

9:30 am - 11:00 am **Civil War Era** [Malott Room] – Tom Schultz, William Woods University, Moderator
Kristen Anderson, University of Iowa
“At the point of Dutchmen’s bayonets’: Anti-German Nativism in Civil War St. Louis”
Michael Boyden, Harvard University
“Singing Hail, Columbia in Two Languages: Carl Schurz’s Autobiography Restored”
Charles Reitz, Kansas City Kansas Community College
“Horace Greeley, Karl Marx, and Kansas Germans in the Struggle for a Slave-Free America”

11:15 am - 12:45 pm **Alexander von Humboldt and America** [Kansas Room] – Frank Baron, University of Kansas, Moderator
Rex Clark, University of Kansas
“Alexander von Humboldt’s American Literary Reception in International Context”
Ingo Schwarz, Berlin-Brandenburg Akademie der Wissenschaften
“Alexander von Humboldt’s Correspondence with Johann G. Flügel”
Robert Frizzell, Northwest Missouri State University
“Humboldt Becomes Concordia: The Ideology of a Name Change”

11:15 am - 12:45 pm **Linguistics II** [Centennial Room] – Wilhelm Seeger, Grand Valley State University, Moderator
Astrid Christl, Universität Wien & Nicole Eller, Universität Passau
“Dialekte der deutschen Auswanderer aus dem Bayerischen Wald und dem Böhmerwald”
Alfred Wildfeuer, Universität Regensburg
“Spracherhalt, Sprachwandel und Sprachtod im mehrsprachigen Raum: Deutschböhmisches Sprachinseln in Transkarpathien”
Gabriele Lunte, Washburn University
“The Catholic Bohemian Germans of Ellis, Kansas: Language Decay and Awareness of Cultural Heritage”

11:15 am - 12:45 pm **Teaching German-American Studies** [Malott Room] – Dolores Hoyt, Indiana University-Indianapolis, Moderator
Gregory J. Hanson, Kutztown University
“The Minor in Pennsylvania German at Kutztown University”
Sue Frizzell, Maryville, Missouri
“Wiedergeburt!/: Towards Creating a Renaissance in German and German-American Studies”
Elfe Dona, Wright State University
“Integrating Cultural Diversity into the College Curriculum: Creation of a New Course about German Immigrants to North America”

12:45 pm - 2:00 pm **Lunch on your own** [Kansas Union, Marketplace]

- 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm **Immigration Patterns** [Kansas Room] – Giles Hoyt, Indiana University-Indianapolis, Moderator
La Vern Rippley, St. Olaf College
 “Eugene V. Smalley, Minnesota German Immigration Publicist”
James Harmon, Truman State University
 “Railroad, Religion and Real Estate: Orchestrated German-Catholic Settlement on the Great Plains”
Stefan Fuchs, University of Kansas
 “Migration Routes and Settlement Patterns of 19th-Century German Immigrants: A Case Study of Douglas County, Kansas, 1860-80”
- 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm **Exile Studies II** [Centennial Room] – Randall Donaldson, Loyola College in Maryland, Moderator
Lisa Hooper, Indiana University
 “Thomas Mann, Theodor Adorno, and Arnold Schoenberg: Divergent Aesthetics of German Exile Artists in *Doktor Faustus*”
Michael Rice, Middle Tennessee University
 “America in the Letters of Friedrich Torberg”
Susanne Utsch, Universität Heidelberg
 “Literarischer Sprachwechsel im Exil: Positionen, Ängste und Visionen im Werk von Klaus Mann”
- 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm **Immigrant Narratives** [Malott Room] – Elfe Vallaster-Dona, Wright State University, Moderator
Karyl Rommelfanger, Wisconsin
 “The *Auswanderungsgesellschaft* of Manitowoc, Wisconsin, and the Struggle for Free Kansas”
Achim Kopp, Mercer University
 “Three Moravian Travel Diaries from Early Colonial Georgia”
Cora Lee Kluge, University of Wisconsin-Madison
 “The Pre-Kansas Background of Rosie Ise”
- 3:45 pm - 5:15 pm **Immigration** [Kansas Room] – Manfred Zimmermann, University of Cincinnati, Moderator
John Leonard Berg, University of Wisconsin-Platteville
 “Causes and Patterns of 19th-Century German Emigration from Bremerhaven”
Walter Kamphoefner, Texas A&M University & Wolfgang Helbich, Universität Bochum
 “Deported to Schlaraffenland?: The Fate of Germany’s Rejects (Subsidized Emigrants) in America”
Michael McCoy, University of Pittsburgh
 “Selling ‘Earthly Paradise’: The Information Revolution, Travel Literature and German Labor in Pennsylvania, 1683-1800”
- 3:45 pm - 5:15 pm **Linguistics III** [Centennial Room] – Gabriele Lunte, Washburn University, Moderator
Jan Wirrer, Universität Bielefeld
 “‘Ik heff lang ni Platt snackt; du muss dat von achtern den Kopp to vör in the Kopp again’: Language Forgetters in Low German Speech Islands in the U.S. Midwest”
Joseph Salmons & Miranda Wilkerson, University of Wisconsin-Madison
 “Good Old Immigrants of Yesteryear’ Who Did Not Learn English Evidence from Germans in Wisconsin”
Chris Johnson, University of Kansas
 “Researching the Past through the Spoken Dialect: Online Tools for German Dialect Research for the Non-Specialist”
- 3:45 pm - 5:15 pm **Iowa German Studies** [Malott Room] – Albert Spengler, University of Virginia, Moderator
William Roba, Scott Community College
 “Turner Societies in a Metropolitan Area: Davenport, Iowa (1852-2002)”
Matthew Lindaman, Winona State University
 “The *Luxemburger Gazette* of Dubuque, Iowa, 1871-1918”
Robert Reynolds, Kutztown University
 “Recreational Nudism and the Development of Rock Lodge Pond”
- 6:30 pm **Cocktails** [Kansas Union, Big 12 Room]
 7:15 pm **SGAS Awards Banquet** [Kansas Union, Big 12 Room]
 8:00 pm **SGAS Outstanding Achievement Award** (presented by Dolores Hoyt, 2nd vice president)
After Dinner Presentation: “*Ei, du schöne Schnitzelbank!*: A Never-Ending Story” by William Keel
- Saturday, April 28
- 8:00 am - 5:00 pm **Registration** [Kansas Union, Level 6]
- 8:30 am - 10:00 am **Indiana German-Americana** [Kansas Room] – Gregory Redding, Wabash College, Moderator
Andrew S. Deig, Wabash College
 “A Common Bond: Music as a Bridge between *Kirchendeutsche* and *Vereinsdeutsche*”

Timothy A. Rickard, Wabash College

“Father and Son: The Relationship of Gustav and Otto Stark”

Jeremy Sexton, Wabash College

“Indiana’s Utopian Experiment”

Aaron Spolarich, Wabash College

“Vonnegut: A Hoosier Legacy”

8:30 am - 10:00 am

Bukovina Germans [Centennial Room] – Rebecca Hageman, Bukovina Society of America, Moderator

Sophie Welisch, Bukovina Society of America

“Americanization in an Urban Setting: The Bukovina German Experience”

Irmgard Hein Ellingson, Bukovina Society of America

“Bukovina Germans in Rural America: Adaptation and Assimilation”

Steve Parke, Bukovina Society of America

“The Western Kansas (Ellis, KS) ‘Austrians’ from Bukovina: The German-Bohemian Community Story”

8:30 am - 10:00 am

Exile Studies III [Malott Room] – John Spalek, SUNY Albany, Moderator

Bärbel Such, John Carroll University

“‘Unseren täglichen Essig’ gib uns heute: Alfred Gongs *Um den Essigkrug* als religiöse Satire”

Johannes Evelein, Trinity College

“Writing against Time: Hans Sahl, Exile, and the Practice of Remembrance”

Wulf Koepke, Texas A&M University

“Hans Sahl as an Extraterritorial Author”

10:15 am - 11:45 am

Ethnic Communities [Kansas Room] – Cora Lee Kluge, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Moderator

James Leiker, Johnson County Community College

“A Changing Village on the Plains: The Volga-Germans of Antonino, Kansas”

Peter Kastner, University of Northern Colorado

“The German Slice of American Pie: German Immigration to Weld County, Colorado”

Brent Wood, Universität Tübingen

“Ethnicity among the Gottscheers in Sugar Creek, Iowa”

10:15 am - 11:45 am

Linguistics IV [Centennial Room] – Chris Johnson, University of Kansas, Moderator

Isaias McCaffery, Independence Community College

“Mennonite Low German Proverbs in Kansas”

Michael Putnam, Michigan State University

“‘These here pesky demonstratives’: Demonstrative Formation in Pennsylvania German”

Jörg Meindl, University of Kansas

“Is There a Midwestern Culture of Pennsylvania German: Socio-Communicative Networks of Old Order Amish in Kansas”

10:15 am - 11:45 am

Exile Studies IV [Malott Room] – Jerry Glenn, University of Cincinnati, Moderator

Karl Fuessl, Technische Universität Berlin

“The Primacy of Politics in Science and Exile American Social Sciences: German-Speaking Émigrés and U.S. Reeducation Policy (1942-45)”

Leonie Marx, University of Kansas

“Speaking from a Small Space: Ernst Toller in America”

Helga Schreckenberger, University of Vermont

“The Representation of African Americans in the Literature of German Exiles”

12:00 noon - 1:30 pm

Luncheon followed by SGAS Business Meeting

[Kansas Union, Big 12 Room]

1:45 pm - 3:15 pm

Reinhold Solger in America [Kansas Room] – Charles Reitz, Kansas City Kansas Community College, Moderator

Lori Vanchena, Creighton University

“Reinhold Solger as Agent of German-American Culture Transfer During the Civil War”

Arne Koch, University of Kansas

“Freytag in Amerika: Reinhold Solgers deutsch-amerikanischer Realismus “

Frank Baron, University of Kansas

“Reinhold Solger’s Politics in 1856 and 1860”

1:45 pm - 3:15 pm

History [Centennial Room] – James Harmon, Truman State University, Moderator

Wolf Fuhrig, MacMurray College

“Silesian Immigrants: Germans or Poles?—A Proposal for a Fact-Based Analysis”

Charles Barber, Northeastern Illinois University
“The ‘Treitschke Syndrome’ in Anglo-America: ‘4th of July History’”
Michael R. Shaughnessy, Washington & Jefferson College
“German Pittsburgh: Tracing Cultural History through GIS Technology”

1:45 pm - 3:15 pm **Topics in Religion** [Malott Room] – Achim Kopp, Mercer University, Moderator
William Petig, Stanford University
“Martin Hauser: A Pioneer Missionary in Hope, Indiana”
William Ewald., Concordia University Chicago
“Meet Me at the Fair: German-American Lutheran Schools at the 1903 St. Louis World’s Fair”
Daniel Jay Grimminger, University of Pittsburgh
“Pennsylvania German Music and the Transformation of *Kirchenleute* Culture”

1:45 pm - 3:15 pm **Landscape Architecture** [Pine Room] – La Vern Rippley, St. Olaf College, Moderator
Kurt Culbertson, Cultural Landscape Foundation, Aspen, Colorado
“Landschaft und Gartenkunst: The German Contribution to the Development of Landscape Architecture in America”
Rachel Hildebrandt, Independent Scholar
“The Influence of Hermann Pückler-Muskau’s Ideas on American Landscape Design in the 19th and 20th Centuries”
Daniel J. Nadenicek, Clemson University
“The Practical and the Poetic: German Contributions to the Concept of Park in America”

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm **Linguistics V** [Kansas Room] – Mary Seeger, Grand Valley State University, Moderator
Angela Häusler, Universität München
“The German Language in California: From the Pre-Gold Rush Era to Post World War I”
Petra DeWitt, University of Missouri-Rolla
“‘Drifting Back into Their Old Ways’: The Efforts to Ban the German Language from Missouri during the Great War”
Scott Seeger, University of Kansas
“Beyond the World Wars: Social Change and Language Shift”

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm **Research Projects and Support** [Centennial Room] – William Roba, Scott Community College, Moderator
Cora Lee Kluge, Kevin Kurdylo, & Antje Petty, Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies
“Documenting German Immigration to the American Midwest: Resources from the Max Kade Institute”
Giles Hoyt, Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis
“Max Kade and German-American Philanthropy”
Norman Saul, University of Kansas
“Assessment and Prospects of Research on the Volga Germans in the U.S. and Russia”

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm **Germans and Alaska** [Malott Room] – Michael Shaughnessy, Washington & Jefferson College, Moderator
Manfred Zimmermann, University of Cincinnati
“Georg Wilhelm Steller (1709-46): From Windsheim to St. Elias – the First Scientist on Alaskan Soil”
Andrea Engels, University of Cincinnati
“Nature, the Early Scientist in Unknown Alaska, and the Modern Author: G. W. Steller in Sebald’s *Nach der Natur*”

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm **Immigrant Journey** [Pine Room] – Timothy Holian, University of Wisconsin-Waukesha, Moderator
Randall Donaldson, Loyola College in Maryland
“Setting Sail for the New World”
John Leonard Berg, University of Wisconsin-Platteville
“Windstärke 8”
Denis Warta, New Ulm, Minnesota
“Hermann, the Man, the Battle, his Monuments!”

Sunday, April 29 **Pre-arranged tour to sites in Kansas City with option of shuttle to airport or return to hotel**

9:00 am Depart Marriott Hotel by van for tour of George Kessler sites in Kansas City with Kurt Culbertson

11:30 am Visit to *Steamboat Arabia Museum* (11:30 am – 1:30 pm)

1:30 pm Depart by van for KCI airport (for flight departures after 3:00 pm) or lunch in downtown Kansas City

4:00 pm Arrive back in Lawrence

Albert Bloch and Lyonel Feininger

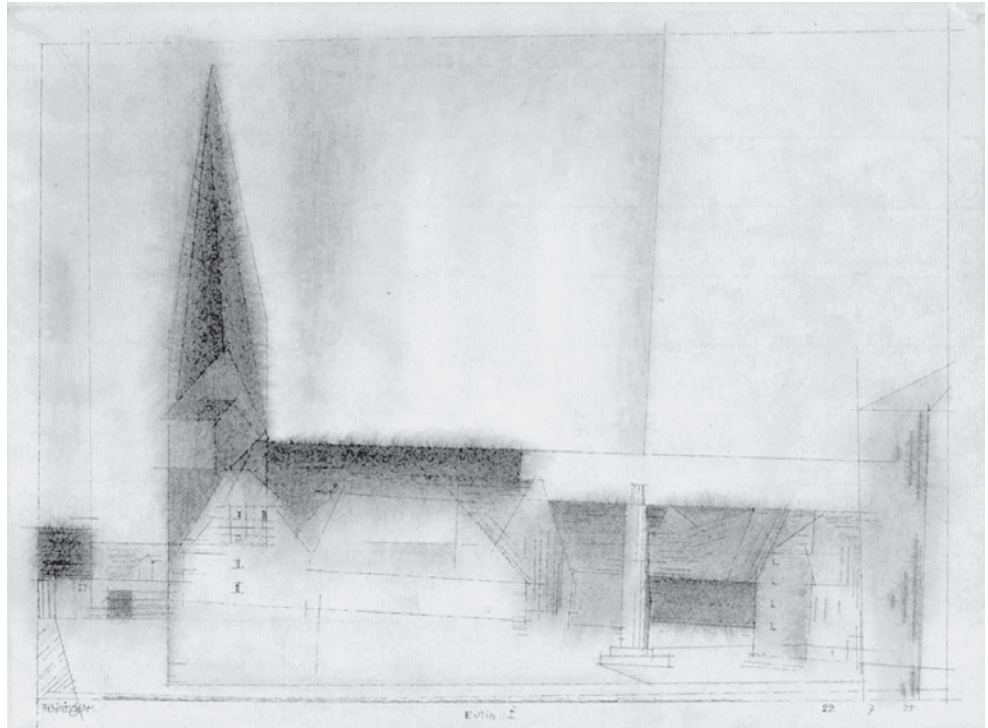
Albert Bloch and Lyonel Feininger, both Americans by birth (Bloch born in St. Louis, Feininger in New York) first met fleetingly in 1913 at an exhibit of the Herwarth Walden Gallery in Berlin. Bloch returned to the United States and from 1923 to 1947 taught art and art history at the University of Kansas. Feininger remained in Germany in the twenties and early thirties and along with Walter Gropius, Paul Klee, and Vassily Kandinsky, he became a prominent artist and teacher at the Bauhaus. The infamous Nazi “Degenerate Art” exhibition included Feininger’s art, as well as the work of many other Expressionist artists, and held it up to ridicule. Feininger abandoned Germany. In 1938, soon after Feininger’s return to the United States, he and Bloch renewed their acquaintance, and Feininger wrote to Bloch: “As for Germany, the country and *das Volk* are no longer the same, and there remains not a corner of the land which has not become penetrated and destroyed forever by the Nazis.” (see a copy of Feininger’s letter

of December 18, 1938, in the Bloch collection at the Max Kade Center) In response to an invitation by Feininger, Bloch began to spend his summers in a peaceful retreat in Falls Village, Connecticut, where the two artists rented cottages near each other. They often met and shared views.

In 1939, Bloch organized an exhibition of works by Feininger at the University of Kansas. Bloch purchased three woodcuts and donated them to the university’s art museum.

The friendship between the two artists reflects their parallel lives. As youngsters, both Bloch and Feininger received musical training on the violin. Following his father’s footsteps, Feininger considered composition and performance seriously, but when the time came to think in earnest about earning a living, both young artists began working for newspapers in the United States and

Germany. Caricatures and the newly discovered form of comics were in demand, and both responded. About the turn of the twentieth century, Feininger’s comics for the *Chicago Tribune* and Bloch’s for the *St. Louis Star* were at the earliest period of this new form. In Germany, both artists contributed caricatures to such journals as the *Lustige Blätter*. Such diversions for monetary gain did not allow them to stray from their primary



Lyonel Feininger, *Eutin II*, July 22, 1925. Courtesy of the Lawrence University Gallery of Art.

interest, painting. In subsequent years, both gained prominence through their distinctive modernist paintings and exhibits that linked them with prominent names of Klee and Kandinsky.

A series of coincidences reunited Bloch and Feininger as representatives of twentieth-century art in Eutin, Lawrence’s sister city. The Eutin museum possesses and exhibits a number of paintings by Bloch. Aware that Feininger created a watercolor of Eutin in 1925, the museum curator hopes to acquire this painting on loan for an exhibition in the near future. This piece, *Eutin II*, is at the art gallery of Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin. The name Amos Lawrence, originally the name of the famous benefactor and advocate of education and a country free of slavery, thus links the name Feininger once again with the University of Kansas and its sister city in Germany.

Eutin II shows details of the city's market square, brewery building, and St. Michael's church. The precise lines of the structures leave no doubt that the artist prepared the initial drawing from the vantage point in front of the city hall. *Eutin I*, which undoubtedly existed, appears to be lost. It is not found in the existing catalogues of Feininger's works. The Feininger correspondence, preserved in the Houghton Library manuscript collection at Harvard

University, allows us to reconstruct the circumstances for the creation of *Eutin II*. On December 11, 1925, Feininger wrote to his wife that he had been working hard with the many pictures he had started to arrive at a stage of transfiguration. He expressed his frustration that he achieved the goal of transcending the material world ("Entmaterialization") only rare occasions. On July 25, 1926, he informed his wife that he hoped that they could again travel

about, as they had done in the previous year, in the old towns. ("Das Schönste wäre, etwas herumzukommen, in die alten Städte, wie voriges Jahr.") The correspondence suggests that perhaps Feininger had made drawings during a visit to Eutin in the summer of 1925 and, based on his drawings, completed his watercolor of Eutin on July 22 of the same year in his Bauhaus studio in Weimar.

The Spirit of the 1848 Revolutions in "Bleeding Kansas"

This issue of the *Yearbook* (2005) 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 der Sklaverei!*

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

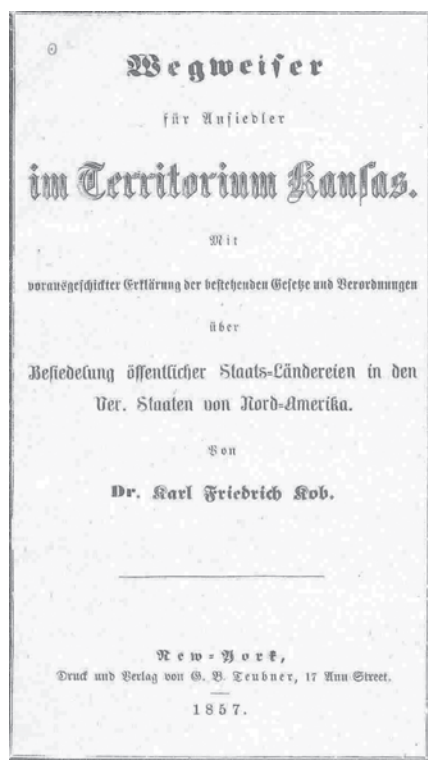
In an introductory essay for this volume, Frank Baron examines the complexities of these issues and provides background information on the two individuals whose historical texts are reprinted in this special issue: Karl Friedrich Kob, whose *Wegweiser für Ansiedler im Territorium Kansas* was published in 1857 with the support of the New England Aid Company and modeled on the company's English *Information for Kansas 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 included his footnotes at the point in the text at which they occurred. 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.

For the articles and texts discussed here see <http://www2.ku.edu/~maxkade/spirit1848.pfd>

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