

The Study of Folklore in Göttingen (West Germany)

Compiled by Regina Bendix and Ingrid Tomkowiak

The folklore department of the University of Göttingen is currently chaired by Rolf Wilhelm Brednich. Though folk narrative scholarship has been a primary focus in the last four decades, the lecture and seminar offerings now span a broad variety of subfields of the discipline, going beyond the traditional **Volkskunde** canon and including topics of everyday or popular culture (**Alltagskultur**). Aside from Rolf Wilhelm Brednich, the faculty consists of Christoph Daxelmüller, Sigurd Graf v. Pfeil, Helmut Möller, Elfriede Moser-Rath, Günther Petschel, and Martin Ruch. Students majoring in folklore are trained and prepared for teaching jobs as well as a variety of jobs where folkloristics finds practical application, such as in museums, radio and T.V., and in the public sector. Students can earn an M.A. (in ca. 10 semesters) and Ph.D. degree. Fieldwork and internships are stressed, aside from sound theoretical knowledge.

Resources of the Department

Lesestoffarchiv: in the 1950s, Will-Erich Peuckert began a collection of comics and other popular reading materials which provide research material in the field of popular culture.

Various Collections: Will-Erich Peuckert's legend archives contain thousands of motif and type references. The entire original research for the **Handwörterbuch des deutschen Aberglaubens** is kept in Göttingen, and as these materials were not fully used for the published volumes, there is still much to be drawn from this material. The legacy of the Lothringian folk narrative scholar Angelika Merkelbach-Pinck is also housed in Göttingen.

Symbolarchiv Theodor Weigel: this is a collection of more than 20,000 photographs that were collected mostly under Nazi auspices. Though highly questionable in its scope, the collection does provide insight into a dubious period of folklore scholarship.

Newly Begun Collections: a broadsheet archive and an archive for documentary photography.

Arbeitsstelle Enzyklopädie des Märchens: begun by Kurt

Ranke, the famous encyclopedia of the folktale continues to be coordinated by a staff of researchers located in the same building as the folklore department. Thousands of folktale texts ordered by AI numbers are stored in these rooms and are also used by students and visiting scholars.

Internationale Volkskundliche Bibliographie: Göttingen also coordinates the efforts of this mammoth enterprise.

Fabula: the editorial staff of this journal of folk narrative research is also located in this building.

Regional Resources: since 1970, the department has also started a newspaper archive with regional newspapers. Many seminars engage in field research of the region--Lower Saxony--and the department maintains ties to various local and state agencies interested in cultural preservation.

For more information on the program, write to: Seminar für Volkskunde der Universität Göttingen, Friedländer Weg 2, D-3400 Göttingen, West Germany.

Study for Foreigners in Göttingen

Students are expected to understand German well enough to follow lectures. Often, a language exam is required. Beginners can learn German at the **Volkshochschule**. Students with insufficient knowledge can enroll in courses at the University. For further information, write: Lektorat Deutsch für Ausländer, Burgstrasse 51, II, D-3400 Göttingen. A further possibility to learn the language is the **Goethe Institute**, which offers 8 week intensive courses. For the duration of the course, housing and meals are provided.

For more information, write: Goethe-Institut, Fridjof-Nansen-Haus, Merkelestrasse 4, D-3400 Göttingen. Information concerning general admittance of foreign students is handled by: Akademisches Auslandsamt der Universität Göttingen, Wilhelmsplatz 4, D-3400 Göttingen. This office also gives information concerning stipends and coordinates all the foreign relations of the university. (It may also be possible to participate in some aspects of one of the many exchange programs of American universities with Göttingen).

The City of Göttingen

Population: 123,000. Göttingen is located in northeastern Germany, between Frankfurt and Hannover. The climate is more on the cool side. There is an old part of town which

was not destroyed during the war. Göttingen is primarily a university town with little industry. There are numerous museums of interest to folklorists, such as the **Völkerkundliche Sammlung** (ethnographic museum) or the European Bread Museum. Also of interest is the institute for scientific film; for a catalogue of its holdings, write: Institut für den wissenschaftlichen Film, Nonnenstieg 72, D-3400 Göttingen. The Göttingen student association produces an extremely useful booklet on studying in Göttingen, covering all conceivable topics (such as housing, jobs, libraries, entertainment, etc.). Write: Studentenwerk Göttingen, Kreuzberggring 20a, D-3400 Göttingen.

**M.A. AND PH.D. THESES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FREIBURG I. BR.
GERMANY**

1982

- Schaufelberger, Hildegard. *Motive der Zwergensage im Kinderbuch (Motifs of dwarf legends in children's books)*. M.A.
- Otto, Ulrich. *Die historisch-politischen Lieder und Karikaturen des Vormärz und der Revolution von 1848/49 (The historico-political songs and caricatures of the Vormärz and revolution of 1848/49)*. Ph.D.
- Huber, Susanne. *Die Zimmerische Chronik als Quelle für die Situation der Frau im 16. Jahrhundert (The Chronicle of Zimmer as source for the study of the situation of women in the 16th century)*. M.A.

1981

- Wedel-Wolff, Annegret von. *Geschichte der Sammlung und Erforschung des deutschsprachigen Volkskinderliedes und Volkskinderreimes im 19. Jahrhundert (History of collecting and studying German folk children's songs and rhymes in the 19th century)*. Ph.D. Published in: **Göppinger Arbeiten zur Germanistik**, Bd. 339, Göppingen 1982.