

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS AND PERIODICALS

Ausländer, Rose. *Gesammelte Gedichte*. Edited by H. E. Kaufer with B. Mosblech. (Leverkusen: Literarischer Verlag Helmut Braun, 1976), 423 pp.

The Literarischer Verlage Helmut Braun is to be commended for publishing this exquisitely beautiful book. For the first time most of Rose Ausländer's work appears together in one volume. Several woodcuts by hap grieshaber along with a 45 rpm record of Mrs. Ausländer reading some of her poems, nicely complement this edition of her poetry. A short vita, a bibliography, some photographs of Rose Ausländer, a 'Handschriftsprobe', and critical estimations by Walter Helmut Fritz, Marie Luise Kaschnitz, Karl Krolow, and Jürgen P. Wallmann round out this volume.

Many of her more recent poems show a fascination with the creative process of writing poetry. The writing of poetry is no secluded, ivory-tower-like isolated endeavor: rather the main theme of all of her work shows the enmeshing and dependency of all Being. Thus her poems are inextricably part of her life, as well as of all life. She feels compelled to write, goes through "seven hells" to do so, but nevertheless it's a serene experience to find herself again

im Wunder  
des Worts.

Isolation, exile, homelessness, and death are the major themes of her poetry. However, death is never equated with an absolute end, rather it is a different form of life itself. Therefore a yearning for salvation from all suffering is always intimately tied to a fearless, unemotional acceptance of death, to a desire for peace and harmony.

Rose Ausländer's use of language is objective, indeed language becomes the object itself. Poems, she says, are "dry statements"; the interest of the reader is aroused by poetic techniques of alienation, stylistic and logical inversions, and oxymorons. Particularly successful is the use of metaphors and

linguistic alienation, devices which serve to concentrate and objectify the language.

The superficial reader of this volume may be weary of encountering yet one more version of the ubiquitous contemporary themes of uprootedness and alienation. But upon probing deeper, he'll be astonished to discover an intense belief in a common unity of all creation. Suffering is merely the emanation of one from of life, which ceases with death.

In the last two lines of the last poem in this collection Rose Ausländer says:

es bleibt noch  
viel zu sagen.

We hope this is a promise to us.

*Jacob Erhardt*  
Westminster College, PA

\* \* \*

*Johannes Schwalm, the Hessian.* (Millville, Pa., 1976), 296 pages. Illustrated, graphs, maps, \$20.00.

There have been many American and German contributions to the celebration of our Bicentennial published by prestigious houses here and abroad, but we here would like to call attention to a new volume that comes from the grass roots of the fine Pennsylvanian Dutch "Heimat" and is produced not by a nationally known publishing house but printed for the Johannes Schwalm Historical Association by Precision Printers, Inc. at Millville, Pennsylvania, in this two hundredth year of deliverance from British tyranny. This impressive Historical Association lists among its officers two M.D.'s, a Major General of the American Army and six captains of American industry, who like the Managing Editor, Kenneth S. Jones, are courageous business men who daily must battle with inflation and the powers of darkness dominated by mass-vote-conscious soldiers of fortune.

Scholars too long have carried on the paper war in defence of the honor of the mercenary and the right or wrong of desertion. All things ultimately have become rather relative and if an American free citizen signs a high paying contract for his

personal mercenary services in some African “democracy” today, that is one thing which certainly ought not be defended by our government if he gets caught making money as a mercenary by his own will, but the Hessian mercenaries were not individual free-will mercenaries who hoped to make a lot of money killing a people they considered inferior, they were forced under arms by greedy German princelings who without asking their vote or expression sold them into the service of the British King to suppress a rising people in America. Johannes Schwalm was one of these unwilling mercenaries and it is to the credit of the Americans that they were not treated as enemies but as helpless subjects of a Prince. When about a thousand of them were brought into Philadelphia a special broadside printed in German urged the Americans to treat them kindly as men to be pitied and who should be given an opportunity to join the Americans to live in American peace and help build up this young nation. More Hessians followed these invitations than German scholars wish to admit and this reviewer would urge all Americans to banish from their minds any stigma that might remain about desertion as applied to Hessians. As soon as they had a chance to express a choice they opted freedom at the risk of their lives, and they should be honored with the sons of the American revolution for their courage not to “desert,” for that is a misnomer, but to flee and ask for political asylum in this nation.

Johannes Schwalm, one of those Hessians who chose freedom rather than the “By-the-Grace-of-God”-corrupted honor of the Hessian princely code, became the founder of a great family of Americans, who like God’s promise to Abraham, became as numerous as the sand of the sea. Fortunately the pill had not yet been invented by “science,” so our country was not deprived of the life and service of the fine people immortalized in this monumental volume. It is full of valuable documentary evidence about the Hessians in Germany and in this country and it includes discoveries of great importance that should have been made long ago by research professors, e.g. p. 42, the granting of a bounty of land to a Hessian “deserter” in Georgia and the payment of funds to

such "deserters" as recorded in U.S. account books. The documentation of contributions of the seed of Johannes Schwalm to America continue through to the present. Of particular interest is the German "Kugelfest" letter given to Samuel Schwalm before he marched off in the war between the states, a letter which was to protect him from all harm and which in its text goes back to German folklore tradition at least to the Thirty Years War and is described in Fleming's *DER VOLLKOMMEN DEUTSCHE SOLDAT*.

If German-American studies are to survive in this country we will need more grass-roots research such as the Johannes Schwalm Historical Association has given us in this well documented and illustrated volume. Future research involving Hessian "deserters," more correctly called "pioneers of American freedom by their own choice," will find this work indispensable. Genealogically it is a pioneer work and one of great reference value for any genealogical library.

*Karl J. R. Arndt*

Clark University  
Worcester, Mass.

\* \* \*

Charles M. Hall, *The Palatine Pamphlet* (N.p., n.d.). Published by the author (7280 Rusty Drive, Midvale, UT 84047). Price: \$2.95.

This 17-page booklet is a "compilation of origins, places settled in the U.S. and source of information for one or more families on each of the 324 ships arriving in Philadelphia from 1727-1775." Printed by photo-offset, it lists the names of ships, the date they arrived, the place of origin of the passengers, the places they settled in America, and other references such as and notes on their religious preferences and the titles of sources and of persons that provided this information. Hall's work is well known and respected. This is an invaluable publication for anyone researching early German-American ancestors of the 17th and 18th centuries. A copy of it is available at the Western Reserve Historical Society (Ward Collection) in Cleveland, Ohio.

*Robert E. Ward*

\* \* \*

*The Palatine Immigrant*, ed. Charles M. Hall (Palatines to America: Salt Lake City, Utah, 1976). Volume I, Nos. 1 and 2.

The Palatines to America is a non-profit organization incorporated in the State of Utah. *The Palatine Immigrant* is its official quarterly periodical. The first issue contains an introduction to this periodical, the constitution of the society, and a surname index compiled from names listed in Don Yoder's *Pennsylvania Dutchman*. The index is divided into 6 columns as follows: (1) surnames, (2) place of origin, (3) page number in Yoder's *Pennsylvania Dutchman*, (4) year of arrival and/or birth, (5) religion, (6) places of settling in America.

The annual membership fee of the Palatines to America is \$5., and includes a subscription to this periodical.

Hall and the editorial staff of *The Palatine Immigrant* are to be congratulated for this important new source of genealogical information on German-Americans of the 17th and 18th centuries. No German-American genealogist should fail to join this organization.

Volume I, No. 2 contains an informative article on "Emigration Patterns of Small Religious Groups," a "Conversation with Ron Jackson" (on the plans for computerizing genealogical data), and another surname index arranged in the same manner as that of the first issue.

I am anxiously awaiting the third issue. Copies of the first two are available at the Western Reserve Historical Society (Ward Collection) in Cleveland, Ohio.

*Robert E. Ward*

\* \* \*

Kathleen N. Conzen, *Immigrant Milwaukee 1836-1860*. Cambridge: Harvard University Pr., 1976.

A new generation of German-American historians has rejected the melting pot myth with reference to an accurate interpretation and portrayal of German life in America. The German-speaking immigrants and their American-born descendents never assimilated, but merely accomodated

themselves to the American setting. Their quietude, as the result of two World Wars, and the melting pot myth led to the false assertion that the Germans had vanished as an ethnic group. Studies on the ethnic vote, the 1976 Bicentennial celebration and the resurgence of ethnicity in the 1970s demonstrate that the unmeltable ethnics are a permanent factor in American life.

Conzen "suggests that the Milwaukee German experience does not coincide neatly with the standard wisdom on immigrant accommodation." The old standard theory stressed the economic situation of the immigrant, his prejudiced exclusion from society in general, social and personal disorganization, while also postulating a long-term rise in socio-economic status and movement out of the ethnic community and ultimate assimilation into non-ethnic life. This theory, developed by Oscar Handlin's *The Uprooted*, is under severe attack from scholars in various fields. Conzen totally rejects this theory in the case of the Milwaukee Germans. The chronicles of the old generation of historians, such as Carl Wittke, J. Hawgood and Joseph Schafer, interpreted the German experience as a normal fusion process. However, as new social, political and economic historians study social mobility, urban life and work styles they encounter again and again one constant and unmeltable element: the German-American.

Conzen's fascinating study shows how the Germans lived together because "It was not so much that they were rebuffed by the native born as that they had little reason purposefully to seek out associations with others." Religious and class cleavages developed in the German community and numerous special interest groups appeared on the religious and political spectrum. In that diversity lay the strength of the German community "it was not a community of like-thinkers and like-actors but a community within which a large number of persons sharing one essential characteristic, German birth, which marked them off from others in the same city." The community retarded acculturation to American life styles. Intermarriage was minimal. Businessmen interacted with American businessmen but the contact "remained on the same

level of delegations treating delegations that characterized political and civic affairs.”

The gulf between Germans and Americans extended to American-born children who could not relate to American children. German-American youth found it relatively unproblematic to relate to other German-American children on a variety of levels: linguistically, socially, economically, religiously, politically and personally. And the Milwaukee Germans did not consume themselves with longing for the old country. They said: “We Americans do not fit there any more.” They “lived within Milwaukee’s Deutschtum.” As Conzen points out, assimilation became a matter of individual rather than group preference. Some members of the German community undoubtedly chose to assimilate, but the Germans as an ethnic group never chose it and never assimilated as a group. Conzen concludes her Milwaukee German study with the statement “the German experience demands closer comparative study and a chapter of its own in the annals of the urban immigration experience . . .”

*Don Heinrich Tolzmann*  
University of Cincinnati

\* \* \*

*Monatshefte*. Bicentennial Issue, 68, ii (Summer 1976).

This special Bicentennial issue is devoted to articles dealing with German contributions to America. It contains eight articles, e.g. Karl J. R. Arndt: “German As The Official Language Of The United States of America?”; Guy T. Holiday and Christoph E. Schweitzer: “The Present Status of Conrad Beissel/Ephrata Research;” Christopher L. Dolmetch: “Locations of German Language Newspaper and Periodical Printing in the United States: 1732-1976,” and Jürgen Eichhoff: “Bibliography of German Dialects Spoken in the United States and Canada and Problems of German-English Language Contact, Especially in North America, 1868-1976, with Pre-1968 Supplements.”

There was a time when *Monatshefte* contained many articles dealing with German-Americana. This is unfortunately no longer the case. It rarely publishes German-American articles, but rather concentrates on German literature "over there." American Germanists still largely refuse to recognize German-Americana. Professors Hollyday and Schweitzer write: "We feel that it behooves departments of German in this country to pay more attention than has hitherto been the case to German-American authors . . ." (p. 178) It also behooves many of the journals of German language and literature in the U.S. to concern themselves with German-Americana. The *Monatshefte* issue is a step in the right direction.

*Don Heinrich Tolzmann*  
University of Cincinnati

\* \* \*

LaVern Rippley, *The German-Americans*. Boston: Twayne, 1976. 271 pp.

Rippley's scholarship and prolific output have earned him the title of a modern day Rattermann. Among his books are: *The Columbus Germans* (1968), *Of German Ways* (1970), *Excursions Through America . . .* (1973), and (with Armand Bauer) *Russian-German Settlements in the US* (1974). His articles, such as his outstanding work on the Minnesota German press, reveal the work of a dedicated scholar.

His latest book, *The German-Americans*, covers German history, early German immigration, the Germans in pre-Civil War America, the Germans during the Civil War, and post-Civil War periods, German churches, schools, theater, music and the arts, architecture, literature and newspapers, the Russian-Germans, German-Americans in the 20th century, and the World Wars and the German-Americans today.

Rippley has written a highly readable and enjoyable book which should become a standard reference work.

*Don Heinrich Tolzmann*  
University of Cincinnati

\* \* \*



Paul Wasserman, *Ethnic Information Sources of the U.S.* Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1976. 751 pages: \$45.

Wasserman identifies and describes sources of information for 89 U.S. ethnic groups with the exception of Blacks, Indians and Eskimos, who are covered adequately elsewhere.

For each group Wasserman lists embassies, missions to the UN, books and pamphlets, audiovisual material, foundations, paternal and professional organizations, festivals, airline offices, bookdealers and publishers, radio programs, banks, religious and charitable organizations, research centers, museums, special libraries, newspapers, magazines, etc. The German-American sections are quite informative. No university/college library should be without this item.

\* \* \*

Gertrud Kuhn, *USA-Deutschland-Baden und Württemberg. Eine Auswahl von Titeln zur Auswanderung und zur Geschichte der Deutsch-Amerikaner vor allem aus Baden und Württemberg von den Anfängen bis zum Ende des Zweiten Weltkrieges.* Stuttgart: Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen, 1976. 125 pp.

Gertrud Kuhn, director of the library at the Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen has compiled a selective bibliography based on the holdings of her library. Special emphasis is placed on German-Americans of Baden-Württemberg descent. The finest and most useful section is the bio-bibliographical material (p. 43-101).

This covers early colonists, soldiers, ministers, preachers, theologians, teachers, journalists, publishers, book dealers, scientists, doctors, druggists, technicians, engineers, businessmen, lawyers, politicians, government officials, artists, writers, authors, cultural leaders and almost all possible occupational areas. Each entry lists the person's name, biographical data, works by the person, works written about the person. A helpful author and name index is included. Genealogists and students of history and literature will find this book to be extremely helpful.

*Don Heinrich Tolzmann*  
University of Cincinnati