

In Memoriam

ALBERT BERNHARDT FAUST. With the death of Albert Bernhardt Faust the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland has lost one of its most distinguished members, a man whose scholarly achievements embodied vividly the very objectives for which the Society was founded. For more than four decades he was the most eminent authority in the field of German-American studies, and through all these years he took a warm interest in the affairs of our Society.

His parents were natives of the little town of Schlitz in the Grand-Duchy of Hesse. His father, Johann Faust, born in 1828, emigrated to America in 1852 and started a shoe factory in Baltimore which soon attained a dominant position in the industrial life of the Southern states. In 1861 he married Katharina E. Kalbfleisch. Their son Albert Bernhardt Faust was born in Baltimore on April 20, 1870. He attended the well-known "Scheib's School," was confirmed in Zion Church and later enrolled at Johns Hopkins University. Here he was deeply influenced by such eminent Hopkins scholars as Henry Wood and Marion Dexter Learned. After his graduation he travelled for several years in Europe and did graduate work at the University of Berlin, taking courses from some of the great scholars of the period, such as Erich Schmidt, Hermann Grimm and Heinrich von Treitschke. He returned to the United States in 1894 and entered upon a teaching career which led him from Johns Hopkins via Connecticut Wesleyan and the University of Wisconsin

to Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Here he settled in 1904, and remained as professor of German until his retirement in 1938. In 1921 he married Theodora Leisner, the sister of the famous opera and concert singer Emmi Leisner. In Ithaca, in his house at Kelvin Place, he died on February 8, 1951.

Faust's scholarly endeavors centered in a consistent and fruitful manner around two problems: the impact of German immigration on the rise of American civilization and the intercultural exchange between Germany and the United States. Already his first scholarly attempt, his Ph. D. thesis at Johns Hopkins University, indicated the direction of his life-work: *Charles Sealsfield (Karl Postl), Material for a Biography, a Study of his Style, his Influence upon American Literature*. He was the first to penetrate the pseudonym and to rescue Sealsfield's work from oblivion. In 1897 his doctoral dissertation, in a revised and enlarged form, was published in Germany under the title: *Charles Sealsfield, der Dichter beider Hemisphären*. Professor Victor Lange who now occupies the chair of German Literature which for so many years had been held by A. B. Faust has better than anyone else evaluated the work of his predecessor. "No more important discovery has been made by an American germanist," says Professor Lange, "than Faust's of Charles Sealsfield. His earliest piece of scholarship has assumed classical standing. What led him to this extraordinary figure was an instinct for the cultural joint, for the cardinal point of interdependence and rela-

tionship." Sealsfield was to him the "symbol of the cultural interaction of two continents."

After the completion of the Sealsfield monograph, Faust's literary interests were increasingly overshadowed by his historical studies. More and more his research turned towards the history of German immigration into the United States, a field which until then had almost exclusively been held by interested laymen and amateurs. Now Professor Faust, with the firm step of the trained historian, approached the difficult and complex task of compiling a comprehensive history of German immigration and German contributions to American civilization. In 1907 he published his magnum opus: *The German Element in the United States*. The work won immediate recognition through the award of the Seipp Price of \$3,000. It was highly praised by one of the judges of the award committee, the famous historian Frederick Jackson Turner. A few years later a German edition was published, *Das Deutschtum in den Vereinigten Staaten* (1912) which was awarded the Loubat Prize of the Prussian Academy. In 1927 a new and enlarged one-volume edition was sponsored by the Steuben Society of America. To be sure, in the forty years since the first publication of the work German-American studies have moved on, new vistas were opened, and in general scholars have attempted a more discerning and more critical evaluation of the effect of the German influx into the United States. Yet Faust's achievement as the first and fundamental compendium of German-American immigration history stands uncontested. Up to the present time it has remained the indispensable point of departure for all research in German-American studies. "Its sober narrative," quoting again the words of Victor Lange, "was the adequate manner for a large scale study which was to lay out the lines of demarcation for a formidable body of material, to reveal energies that

had never been so clearly defined, and thus to provide countless perspectives for future exploration."

The German Element in the United States was the one book of the author which found its way into hundreds and thousands of American libraries, private and public. Other publications were addressed more to specialists, such as the *Guide to the Materials for American History in Swiss and Austrian Archives* (1916), the *List of Swiss Emigrants in the Eighteenth Century to the American Colonies* (1920/25) and the annotated edition of *John Quincy Adams' Translation of Wieland's Oberon* (1940). In addition we have from his pen a great number of essays and articles, among them a brief survey of German-American letters in the *Cambridge History of American Literature* (Vol. IV, New York, 1921) and a chapter on the German Americans in a cooperative volume *Our Racial and National Minorities* (ed. by F. Brown and J. Roucek, New York, 1937). Among Faust's literary efforts there is also a historical drama published in 1944, *The Bank War*, dealing with the conflict between President Andrew Jackson and Nicholas Biddle of the Second Bank of the United States.

We should not forget to say a few words about Faust's activities as a teacher and editor. In 1928 he was appointed editor of the Foreign Language Division of F. S. Crofts and Company, the largest publishing house for foreign language college textbooks, a post he held for almost twenty years. Under his guidance the writings of a good number of German authors such as Heine, Fontane, Hesse, Keyserling, Bonsels, Fallada, Thomas Mann, Paul Ernst and many others were made available to American students of German.

For many years Professor Faust took an intensive interest in instituting exchange professorships for German university professors. He also was instrumental in the founding

of the Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation in Philadelphia, which he welcomed as a promoter of intercultural relations between Germany and America. In 1930 he represented the American universities at the official celebrations which the German Reich arranged to honor the 100th anniversary of Carl Schurz. Three years later Dr. Faust was invited to Vienna as visiting Carnegie Professor. During this year in Austria he lectured on American history, literature and on his special field of German-American studies. He was decorated by the Austrian government with the Golden Cross of Honor. In 1937 he received an honorary Ph.D. from the University of Göttingen.

In spite of his wide travels and his international recognition Albert B. Faust always remained conscious of his roots and of the soil from which he had grown: America, Maryland, Baltimore. He remained a member of Zion Church until his death; frequent trips to his home town kept old friendships alive. His last visit to Baltimore occurred in February 1946 when he delivered the address at the sixtieth anniversary dinner of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland.

Albert Bernhardt Faust's most outstanding and everlasting merit is the establishment of German American studies as a recognized province of scholarly research. He laid a solid foundation on which others are continuing to build. For this he deserves an honored place in the history of American scholarship.

DIETER CUNZ



HANS SCHULER. When the great equestrian monument to General Pulaski was dedicated in Patterson Park, it marked the finish of the life work of a famous sculptor, Hans Schuler, who died at Union Memorial Hospital, April 2, 1951, after a brief illness. On the day after his death,

the *Baltimore Sun* said of him: "In Baltimore he belonged to a school of sculptors of German lineage who held a monopoly here in that particular field for years."

Hans Schuler, the son of Amalia Arndt and Otto Schuler, was born in Lorraine at that time part of Germany, on May 25, 1874. When Hans was still a small child, his father sailed for America alone and his wife soon followed leaving the boy in the care of relatives. At the age of six, the boy was sent to his parents in this country in care of the captain of a ship. He first attended Scheib's School, where another famous Baltimorean, H. L. Mencken, received his early education. Showing a decided aptitude for art, he was sent to the Maryland Institute early in life to study sculpture. On graduation in 1894, he won three medals and the Charcoal Club scholarship which enabled him to study in the Rinehart School of Sculpture from 1894 to 1898. On completion of the course, he went to Paris for work at the Julian Academy under Raoul Verlet. While there, he won the Rinehart Scholarship in a competition in which Saint Gaudens was a judge, as well as three medals for sculpture. His "Ariadne" which is now in the Walters Art Gallery, won him a gold medal from the Paris Salon, an honor bestowed on only four other Americans before that time. In 1905, he married Paula Schneider, the youngest of six daughters of Charles Schneider and Agnes Otten Ricking. Mrs. Schuler's father, a German-born restaurateur, built the establishment now occupied by Miller Brothers Restaurant. The Schulers had two children, Hans Jr., and Charlotte. The son, a graduate of the Johns Hopkins University and captain in World War II, married Anne Didusch, daughter of a medical artist; they have a little daughter, Francesca. Both Mr. and Mrs. Schuler, Jr., are instructors at the Maryland Institute. Charlotte, a graduate of Goucher and Frostburg State Teachers College, married Dr. Howard L.

Briggs and has two teen-age sons, Charles Howard and Fredrich Schuler. Hans Schuler, who had returned to Paris for further study after his marriage, joined the faculty of the Maryland Institute in 1909 and in 1925 was unanimously chosen as its director.

His monumental works in bronze and marble are to be found in practically every park and public building in Baltimore, as well as in other cities. Among his best known works are the \$100,000 Buchanan Memorial in Meridian Park, Washington, D. C., the bust of Johns Hopkins in the circle in front of Johns Hopkins University on North Charles street, the great statue of Martin Luther on Mount Royal avenue, the memorial to General Sam Smith in Wyman Park, and a granite memorial at Saint Mary's Female Seminary in Southern Maryland. His influence on the cultural life of Maryland will long be felt. He was not only a sculptor of international renown, but also a lover of the other arts as well. He painted in both watercolors and oils, and some of his closest friends were leaders in the musical world, among them Otto Ortmann, former head of the Peabody Institute, and Austin Conradi, concert pianist. His very human side manifested itself in his love for his grandchildren, for whose enjoyment he often constructed toys of all sorts, including marionettes, Punch-and-Judy shows, guns and other playthings. From earliest youth he had a deep interest in the theatre, building stage sets from the age of fifteen. He later turned to designing fancy dress costumes. One of them "Halley's Comet" won eight prizes. Throughout his life he was one of the most active members of Zion Church on the City Hall Plaza, contributing his talents to its decoration and helping in many aspects of its development for the benefit of the local German Lutheran community. For many years Mr. Schuler was a member of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland. In art, Hans Schuler was a conservative and a

realist, who let it be known that the fundamentals of art and a firm foundation in drawing and painting would be prime considerations as long as he was head of the Institute. With his death, the State and country has lost not only a great sculptor but a noble character.

Col. JAMES P. WHARTON



JOHN F. PRUESS, a former editor of the *Deutsche Correspondent* was born on February 14, 1864, at Bredstedt, Schleswig-Holstein, the youngest son of Johann Peter Pruess and Anna, née Carstensen. He died in Baltimore on April 17, 1952.

The boy spent a happy childhood on his father's farm. When he grew up he learned the printer's trade and worked for a newspaper founded by his brother, Peter Pruess and his future brother-in-law, August F. Trappe. After a few years all three decided to try their luck in the United States. John Pruess arrived in America in May, 1882. For four years he lived in Walnut, Iowa and then, together with his friend Paul Brodersen acquired a homestead of 120 acres in Decatur County, Kansas. However, they sold the farm after less than two years and Pruess drifted back to his first interest, i. e. newspaper work. After the flood of 1888 he found work with a newspaper in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. In December 1891, John Pruess and August Trappe founded the *Cumberland Freie Presse* in Western Maryland. It was at that time the only German language paper between Baltimore and Wheeling. When it became evident that the paper could not support two families, August Trappe resigned and returned to the *Deutsche Correspondent* in Baltimore. John Pruess carried on alone until 1901. Since the Western Maryland climate did not agree with him, he sold out and moved to Baltimore. The *Cumberland Freie Presse* lived on until 1917.

In Baltimore John F. Pruess found employment with the *Deutsche Correspondent*, first as police reporter, then as political reporter, later as city editor. After Richard Ortmann's death in 1912, Pruess succeeded to the editor's chair which he held until the last issue of the original paper was published in April 1918. Many of his editorials were translated and published by American papers. Soon after the first World War he took a position with the Record Office of the Baltimore Court. All through his life he kept an active interest in politics. He died at the age of eighty-eight and was survived by his wife, the former Anna Langlotz of Cumberland, by two daughters Adele and Edith Marie, both teaching in Baltimore high schools, and by two sons, George L. Pruess of Lebanon, Ohio, and Olaf S. Pruess, a civil engineer of Falls Church, Virginia.

FRIEDA McCULLOUGH



FREDERICK J. SINGLEY. Frederick J. Singley was born in Baltimore on June 11, 1878, the son of Henry and Louise Hellweg Singley. He attended the public schools and was graduated from the Baltimore City College in 1897. On this graduation he received the Frederick Raine Medal for proficiency in the German language and one of the seven Peabody prizes for general scholarship. He studied law at the University of Maryland Law School, and was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1900. On October 18, 1905, Mr. Singley married Miss Katherine M. Rice of Baltimore, who died in 1928.

Mr. Singley became associated with the law firm of Hinkley and Morris as a law student and became a member of the firm in 1907, and continued as a member of the successor partnerships of Hinkley, Spamer and Hisky; Hinkley, Hisky and Burger; Hinkley, Burger and Singley; and the present firm of Hinkley and Singley. This

firm has had a continuous existence for nearly 150 years. His partner Thomas Foley Hisky was an active member of the Society for the History of Germans in Maryland and its President from 1930 to 1936. Besides his professional activities and his association with a number of business enterprises as a director, Mr. Singley had numerous charitable and civic interests. He was a member of the Board of School Commissioners of Baltimore from 1920 to 1924, as a member of which he was instrumental in arranging for a survey of the school system and took an active interest in the building program of that period. As counsel for Mr. Frederick Bauernschmidt, he took an active part in the building of the Bauernschmidt wing of the Union Memorial Hospital and in the establishment of the Bauernschmidt Fund for assisting middle income persons with costs of hospitalization, and served as one of the Trustees of this Fund until his death. In this capacity he also served as a member of the Boards of a number of hospitals. He was also a director of the General German Aged Home. An active member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church at Saint Paul and Twentieth Streets, he also served the church body at large as Treasurer of the Board of Lutheran Deaconess Work for many years and as trustee of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. Devoted to his profession, unselfish in his interest and attention to the problems of his friends and all who sought his advice and guidance, Mr. Singley was a sterling example of energy, ability and integrity.

Mr. Singley died at his home on April 20, 1950. He is survived by a son, Frederick J. Singley, Jr., a member of his father's firm, and a daughter Anne Katherine Koontz (Mrs. John Edward Koontz), three grandsons, a brother and a sister.

HERBERT F. KUENNE



ALBERT LOUIS HEIL, born in Baltimore on January 20, 1889, was the son of Henry and Caroline Heil. For a few years he attended the Baltimore City College. Then it became necessary for him to go into a business career. He went into the insurance business and stayed in that occupation until his death. In 1904 he was hired as office boy by the firm of H. T. Williams & Co. which later was merged with Matury, Donnelly and Parr. For many years he served this company as secretary and during his last fifteen years he held the position of vice-president and secretary. In 1932 he was married to Margaret Johanna Bien. Their union was one of fullest happiness *in* mutual understanding.

Albert Heil had a deeply rooted love for his church, old Zion Church at City Hall Plaza. In his early childhood he entered the Sunday School. His record of regular church attendance was outstanding. In over fifty years, practically until his illness befell him, he did not miss a single Sunday. When he was married he returned from his honeymoon in Atlantic City to be at his post on Sunday and then went back to rejoin his bride at the seashore. In Sunday School he held the important positions of treasurer and assistant superintendent. In the early twenties he was elected a member of the Church Council where he served with the diligence and conscientiousness which were the outstanding characteristics of the man. For many years he was vice-president and president of the Council. His chief contribution to the growth and stability of the church was his service as chairman of the Finance Committee. In this capacity he originated and constituted the Endowment Fund of the congregation which has grown steadily and remains an important stabilizing factor in the business end of the church.

He died after a protracted illness on May 12, 1952. Funeral services were held in Zion Church. The un-

usually large attendance of his fellow members testified to their appreciation of his heartwinning personality.

FRITZ O. EVERS



CHARLES SCHMIDT. In the middle of the last century an orphaned youth, Peter Schmidt, came to Baltimore from Schlitz, Germany and became an apprentice baker in the bakeshop of Welcome White on Paca Street near Franklin Street. At the end of his apprenticeship he married Miss Elizabeth Minn, and in 1876 opened a small bakery on Fayette Street near Poppleton Street. The business grew and was moved to Saratoga and Gilmore Streets under the name of Schmidt's Progressive Vienna Steam Bakery. Peter Schmidt, the immigrant, died in 1895; his widow survived until 1942, attaining the ripe age of 92.

Charles Schmidt, the son of the late Peter Schmidt, was born in Baltimore on June 21st, 1877. He attended the public schools and the Baltimore City College. Upon his father's death he took over the management of the bakery and soon acquired full ownership. Under his direction the business grew rapidly and in 1913 moved to Carey and Laurens Streets under the name of the Schmidt Baking Company. It became one of the largest bakery businesses in Maryland, with operating branches in Cumberland, Maryland, Martinsburg, West Virginia, and delivery stations in Johnstown and Bakersville, Pennsylvania. Since 1926 Mr. Schmidt has been Chairman of the Board of his Company, and his son, Carl P. Schmidt, has been President.

Notwithstanding the demands upon his time Mr. Schmidt became active in civic, charitable and fraternal affairs. He was director and member of the Executive Committee of the Baltimore National Bank; one of the directors of the Maryland Casualty Company, the Western Maryland

Railway Company, the Maryland Tuberculosis Association, and the General German Orphan Home. For many years he was a director of the Baltimore Branch of the Red Cross. During "World War II he served as a member of the Board of Appeals of the Selective Service System for Maryland. He was a 32nd Degree Mason, a Rotarian, a Shriner, and Past Exalted Ruler of the Elks, as well as a member of Immanuel Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Charles Schmidt died in Baltimore on October 27, 1952. Surviving him are his son, Mr. Carl P. Schmidt, twin daughters, Mrs. Bernard R. Smith and Mrs. Thomas S. Bowyer, and ten grandchildren. His wife, the former Miss Catherine Dreschel whom he married in 1899, died on May 4th, 1942. Mr. Schmidt was a devoted family man. For many years every Friday night was set aside for dinner with the entire family, including all the grandchildren.

LEWIS KURTZ



WILLIAM GUSTAVE POLACK. In the death of Dr. W. G. Polack on June 5, 1950 the Lutheran Church lost an outstanding educator, author, historian, poet, and hymnologist. Born on December 7, 1890 at Wausau, Wis., he was the oldest son of Herman A. and Wilhelmina Stohs Polack. He received a Christian training from his early youth, which was spent largely in Cleveland where his father had accepted a teaching position. After having been privately tutored by the classical scholar Otto F. Kolbe, he entered Concordia College, Fort Wayne in 1906, preparing himself for the Lutheran ministry. He graduated from this preparatory school in 1910 and then enrolled at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. Although he had to help finance his education by working in the Nordyke-Marmon auto factory at Indianapolis for one year and was offered a promotion there, nevertheless he persisted

in his desire to become a Lutheran pastor. He continued his studies at the Seminary in 1912 and was graduated in 1914. On August 16, 1914, he was ordained into the Lutheran ministry and from that year until 1920 served as assistant pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Evansville, Ind. When the senior pastor of that church, C. A. Frank, resigned from his post in 1920 because of age, Polack became the chief pastor. A call for greater service in the Church came in 1925 when he was called to the chair of Historical Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, the largest Protestant seminary in the United States. Regretfully the congregation permitted its beloved pastor to accept the new position. It was at Concordia Seminary that Dr. Polack made a lasting impression upon the life of the Church, especially in the fields of American Lutheran Church History, Hymnology and Liturgies. His outstanding contribution in the field of Church History include *The Building of a Great Church* (on the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod); *Into All the World* (a history on Lutheran Missions); and *How the Missouri Synod Was Born*. In addition he also wrote many other monographs. In 1927 he helped organize the Concordia Historical Institute, official historical depository for the Missouri Synod, and served as its secretary and president, respectively, and as editor of its *Quarterly* for 22 years.

Dr. Polack served the Lutheran Church at large in many capacities and on various boards. In the field of Hymnology and Liturgies he made a vast contribution as chairman of the committee which produced the *Lutheran Hymnal* and associated altar service books. In addition he compiled the *Handbook to the Lutheran Hymnal*, a source book on authors and hymns found in the *Hymnal*.

Professor Polack was a Corresponding Member of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland.

A. R. SUELFLOW