

# In Memoriam

WILLIAM KURRELMEYER, who departed this life on October 9, 1957, was born in Osnabrück, Germany, on January 17, 1874 and came to this country with his parents when but a child of eight years. He attended the Baltimore Public Schools, graduating with high honors from Baltimore City College in 1893, and entered Johns Hopkins University in the fall of the same year. Here he received the A. B. degree in 1896 and the Ph. D. in 1899. In 1902 he married Carrie Herrmann of Baltimore, who died in September 1959. Surviving are a son, Dr. Bernhard Kurrelmeyer, Professor of Physics at Brooklyn College, and a daughter, Dr. Carrie Zintl, Professor of German, at Mt. St. Agnes College. With the exception of one year (1899-1900) as Professor of Modern Languages at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, he was connected during his whole life up to his retirement in 1944, with the Johns Hopkins University.

In addition to his teaching and other routine matters, including the co-editorship of the Hopkins publication *Modern Language Notes*, Dr. Kurrelmeyer found time for a large amount of scholarly activity. His first work of consequence was the publication of a pre-Lutheran bible (*Die erste deutsche Bibel*) in ten volumes (Tübingen 1904-5) which brought him well-deserved recognition both here and abroad. This work launched him into the field of text-criticism that became his paramount interest for the rest of his life. In the years 1928-39 he published seven volumes of the standard edition of Wieland's collected works. This publication had been preceded, however, by an exemplary study: *Die Doppeldrucke in ihrer Bedeutung für die Textgeschichte von Wielands Werken*, published in 1913. It was this important and fundamental monograph which earned for him the signal honor of being invited by the Prussian Academy of Sciences to collaborate with German scholars in the preparation of this definitive edition of Wieland's works.

Of equal importance with the Wieland study were the text-critical articles on Goethe's works. Kurrelmeyer showed in these articles, among other things, that complete editions of Goethe's works were sometimes made by unauthorized publishers, the so-called pirated editions, and also reprinted by the authorized publisher without the author's knowledge, with the result that the author was defrauded of his royalty.

Another rewarding undertaking of Dr. Kurrelmeyer was to search after words not found in the voluminous Grimm's German Dictionary, or to find occurrences of words which antedated those given in this dictionary. Professor Kurrelmeyer unearthed hundreds of words, once used in German writings, many of which were restricted to a given field, as for instance military terms.

Apart from his academic duties and his research work Dr. Kurrelmeyer is to be remembered as the founder and first president of the Goethe Society of Maryland and the District of Columbia (1932-47). This branch of the Goethe Society of America was the only one in the United States that continued to function during World War II. In 1939 he was elected President of our Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland, an office which he held until his resignation in 1952 when he became Honorary President. He had been a member of the Society for about thirty-five years.

Another aspect of Dr. Kurrelmeyer's activities was connected with the search for first editions of the works of prominent German writers. He had the largest private collection of first editions of Goethe's works in America and also a substantial collection of letters written by the most eminent authors in German literature. All these books were bequeathed to the Johns Hopkins University Library. Their value runs into thousands of dollars. The letters alone were recently appraised at \$11,000.

Professor Kurrelmeyer was deeply interested in music, particularly vocal and symphonic. He was a regular subscriber to the symphony concerts of America's leading orchestras and to the Metropolitan Operas that were performed in Baltimore. On all his many trips to Germany he never missed the opera season in Munich and Salzburg.

While a student Dr. Kurrelmeyer played on the Johns Hopkins lacrosse and track teams. Even in later years he would frequently slip out to Homewood to watch the games.

Dr. Kurrelmeyer was a keen and shrewd man in all his various activities. Despite his meagre salary he was able by careful investments to amass quite a fortune. This did not in the least affect his mode of life. He lived as he had always done, for he was unable to outgrow a certain modest reserve and caution in his dealings with his fellow-men. He assumed a brusque bearing to hide a nervous temperament. But behind the exterior there was a kind heart and an infectious humor.

We have in Dr. Kurrelmeyer an excellent example of the German immigrant lad, who, endowed with a superior intellect and by dint of hard work and thrift, both good German virtues, brought honor to himself, his profession and his country.

EDWARD H. SEHRT

CHARLES HERMANN MIEGEL, the son of Theodore H. Miegel and Caroline, nee Hermann, was born in Baltimore on February 20, 1897. His father was the superintendent of Wilkens Hair Factory on Frederick Road. Both his parents were native Baltimoreans. The grandfather, John, had come from the eastern part of Germany in the early seventies. Young Miegel attended the German-English Public Schools of that time and entered Baltimore City College, graduating in 1915. He completed in three years his studies at Johns Hopkins University. World War I was on, he volunteered for service, but while still in Officers Training in Southern camps the armistice occurred. He went to the Law School of the University of Maryland and was admitted to the bar in 1922. Starting out in a small way as Miegel & Rollins, he later became associated with the law firm of Moylan and McKeldin. At that time his mind turned to teaching in which he found his true life calling. After a brief period in elementary schools he came to the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute in 1922 as a teacher of English. For thirty years to the end of his active life he was outstanding member of the teaching force at Poly. He was endowed with the natural

talent of the true teacher. His genial personality made him a fascinating, sparkling, inspiring master of his classes, who was never dry or prosaic. He found additional outlets for "his teaching abilities, giving courses in Journalism and Public Life at the Baltimore Evening High School at City College and teaching German in Berlitz School and afterwards in the School of Foreign Languages. In 1925 he joined the faculty of the Peabody Institute of Music as instructor in German. He was a rarely accomplished linguist with a full and faultless mastery of German and well versed in German classics. For the Peabody he made many excellent English translations of the German Lieder that have remained standard texts on the institute's concert programs. His lively interest in music, in art in all forms and in dramatics led to an association with Morris Mechanic as assistant manager of the New Theatre. It became his happy hobby to write plays for the amateur stage. Most of the colorful annual "Poly Follies" at the school had him as author and all the annual Christmas Plays in thirty years were written and staged by him.

Charles Miegel was a child of and a lifelong member of Zion Church, where Pastor Hofmann baptized and confirmed him. It was this great man who early recognized his unusual intellectual gifts and who directed his boundless energy into a full use of his life in the service of others. In Zion Miegel taught Sunday School for many years and in 1934 became a founder and inspiring member of the Volunteer Choir under Theodor Hemberger. He served for years as a member of the church council. On June 29, 1927, Pastor Hofmann married him to Sara Elizabeth Meekins in Zion Church. The young couple made a honeymoon voyage to Germany, his only visit to the land of his forefathers. Their only child, Mark, died while a student at Johns Hopkins University.

An organization of Young People that was to make a name for itself in Baltimore as the Zion Church Club was started by Miegel and a few enthusiastic friends. Every year the club presented a play with musical and dancing numbers running for three nights before large audiences. Here appeared some of the finest creations of his versatile mind. Notably among them was "The Black Scabbard" which at a repeated performance filled the 1,200 seats of the Maryland Casualty Auditorium and netted \$1,000 for the relief of the Mississippi flood sufferers in Louisiana. Another repeated play was "Treasure Trove." "Tea Piping Hot" dramatized the burning of the Peggy Stewart in the harbor of Annapolis. Historical background also brought "Where Carroll Flourished," giving the story of the beginnings of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and a very cleverly staged scene of the famous race between the steam locomotive and the race horse. For the 175th anniversary of Zion Church in 1933 our friend wrote a series of historical scenes woven into a pageant with the title "The Walls of Zion." In the field of history he contributed valuable historical articles to the magazine section of the Baltimore *Sun* on Zion Church and its famous parochial school, known as "Scheib's School." His lively interest in German tradition and life in Baltimore and Maryland naturally brought him into the ranks of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland. From 1934 to 1944 he served as the genial secretary of this Society, and his annual reading of the minutes became a delightful and delectable item on the intellectual menu of the meetings.

A tragic breakdown in 1952 put an end to all his activities. Under the devoted loving care of his wife he lingered on with constantly waning strength to his peaceful passing into eternal life on August 16, 1958. He was interred in Moreland Memorial Park Cemetery.

Charles Miegel was an universally gifted man with an unbelievable capacity for creative work in many lines at the same time. He possessed a marvellous sense of humor, a driving zest for life and a deeprooted love of mankind. Wherever he appeared there was life and hearty laughter. Underneath that was a sense of utter dedication to his duty. His help was easily won, his friendship was enduring. Unstintingly he gave of himself in every good and noble cause. He cannot ever be forgotten by those who shared truly good years with him.

FRITZ O. EVERS

HANS RAID, a native of Bregenz in Vorarlberg (Austria), died in Washington, D. C. on May 31, 1958 at the age 69. After a journalistic career in his native country, Raid came to the United States in 1923. He joined the editorial staff of the Cleveland *Wächter und Anzeiger*. Many of his articles appeared also in other German-language newspapers throughout the country because he contributed to the widely used stereotype service of the German Press and Plate Co. in Cleveland. After several years in Ohio, Hans Raid received a call to Pittsburgh where he edited the *Volksblatt und Freiheitsfreund* until its demise in 1929. A brief service with the *Baltimore Correspondent* followed. His excellent and comprehensive education permitted him to apply for a position with the Internal Revenue Service. Assignments in several cities preceded his coming to Washington in 1940 which was to remain home to him until his untimely death. After 22 years in federal service, Raid retired in 1953. Throughout his career in government service he showed an active interest in German American affairs. Among the many organizations to which Raid belonged during his 85 years in America, the *Schlaraffia Washingtonia* and the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland were the ones to which he felt closest.

The German element of Washington has sorely felt the loss which the death of Hans Raid has meant in many respects. Often he was the spokesman for his fellow citizens. When he was already severely weakened by the tragic illness which was soon afterwards to cause his death, he spoke forceful and convincing words at the founding meeting of the Christian Heurich Unit No. 85, Steuben Society of America, in Washington in 1957 which will long be remembered by his friends and by a young generation of immigrants. On June 3, 1958 Hans Raid was laid to rest in the Congressional Cemetery in the Nation's Capital.

KLAUS G. WUST

HANS KARL WEBER was born on May 24, 1887 at Belleville, Illinois, as the youngest son of the Rev. William Weber and his wife Louise, born Keveloh, who had immigrated from Westphalia, a northwestern province of Germany, about 1885. William Weber had studied for the Lutheran ministry in Germany. During his early years in the United States he received his Ph. D. degree from Yale University.

H. K. Weber graduated from Belleville High School in 1906 and received the Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics and Physics at the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with the intention of becoming a teacher. His interest in handicrafts enabled him to teach also these subjects, and his great dexterity in the use of tools has left its mark in the many embellishments of his home in Baltimore. From his German-born parents he learned

in his early childhood to speak German. It was natural that he also used this ability in teaching.

His first assignment as a teacher was with the Conway Hall Preparatory School at Carlisle, Pennsylvania. In the first World War he served with the U. S. Army Medical Corps, teaching convalescent soldiers. This was followed by a brief period as teacher at Hazelton, Pennsylvania. From 1921 on he taught at the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute. On October 12, 1923 he married Mildred Streets. He was well-loved by his students and esteemed among his colleagues as instructor of Mathematics and Physics during thirty-two fruitful years. In the fall of 1953 a heart attack forced him to retire from his active professional work. Hans Karl Weber died in Baltimore on April 2, 1955, survived by his widow and two sons, William Richard and Richard Karl.

PAUL HESSEMER

FREDERICK WILLIAM MORITZ FLORENZ was born in Cologne, Germany on October 8th, 1875. He was educated at the "Königliches Gymnasium an Marzellen zu Köln." Upon completion of his studies, the next two years were devoted to serving as an apprentice and as a clerk with the firm of Ludwig Lüthgen in the iron, steel and coke industry. Thereupon he served his one year with the German Army before coming to the United States in 1896. Upon his arrival in Baltimore, Mr. Florenz taught German at Loyola College and was also associated with the *German Correspondent*. Soon thereafter he entered the business firm of Ed. C. Geyer & Co., dealers in leaf tobacco and salt fish. In 1911 Mr. Florenz became the sole owner of this business. The firm, founded as Geyer & Wilkins, celebrated its 100th Anniversary in 1955. It was known to be the oldest salt fish business in the country, having imported salt fish from foreign lands in the days of sailing vessels. The firm of Ed. C. Geyer & Co. was dissolved upon the death of Mr. Florenz, December 22, 1955. Mr. Florenz never lost interest in his native Germany. After World War I, he was most active in helping raise funds for the "Quaker Child Feeding Campaign" under the direction of the Honorable Herbert Hoover. Mr. Florenz was married in 1915 to Miss Edith Gundelach of St. Louis, Missouri, who survives him as do two sons, Frederick W., Jr. and Theodore Carl Florenz.

E. G. F.

ROBERT T. CLARK. The untimely death of Robert Thomas Clark, Jr., at the age of 51, means an irremediable loss not only to his immediate family, his many friends, colleagues, and students, but to the discipline of Germanistic studies in this country as a whole. There are very few, indeed, who as teachers and writers have represented the American wing of the study of German literature more honorably and impressively than Robert T. Clark, Jr. His brilliant career, which has now come to an abrupt and much too early end, has been richly deserved.

He was born July 27, 1906, in Nashville, Tenn., the son of Robert Thomas and Elizabeth Frame Clark. During his undergraduate college years and for the initiation into graduate studies he remained in his home state, receiving his B. A. and M. A. degrees from Vanderbilt University in 1927 and 1928, respectively. There followed a year of study in Germany,

at the University of Leipzig, after which he felt ready to start his teaching career. It led him via Vanderbilt University, Stanford University (where, in 1932, he received his Ph. D. degree), Duke University to his first permanent position at Louisiana State University (1933-1945) where, within nine years, he rose from the rank of an Assistant Professor to a full professorship and the chairmanship of the department. It was from here that his name spread more and more and acquired a reputation which was to grow steadily in the next twenty years; it was here that he met his life's companion, Dr. Lucy E. Austin, then an Assistant Professor in the Department of Classics, whom he married in 1936. In 1945 he was called to the University of Texas as Professor of Germanic Languages, a position which he held until 1953 when he accepted the chairmanship of the German Department of the University of California in Berkeley. Here he died on May 27, 1957, after an operation which failed to halt the spread of cancer.

Early in his scholarly career, shortly after joining Louisiana State University, Professor Clark directed his interest toward the field of American-German relations. His most important publication in this line, and the one which made him fully deserving of the Corresponding Membership granted to him in 1949 by the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland, was his research into "The New Orleans German Colony in the Civil War" (*Louisiana Historical Quarterly* XX, 990-1015). For the Society of the History of the Germans in Maryland this particular aspect of Professor Clark's work is of the highest importance; yet it represents only one facet of his numerous and varied interests. He reached his true eminence in his studies of German literature and intellectual history at the end of the eighteenth century, above all in his *magnum opus*, a definitive monograph of Herder, *His Life and Thought*, a work which had been in the making for fully twenty years, and which the University of California Press could finally publish in 1955. A masterpiece of sound scholarship, yet perfectly readable for the layman, highly judicious in the evaluations of Herder's intellectual dispositions and philosophical achievements, well balanced in the presentation of his friendship (and irritation) with Goethe, Clark's Herder biography is not, and will not be, easily surpassed in any language.

OSKAR SEIDLIN

HANS W. CONSTADT was born on April 12, 1890, in Erfurt-Thuringia. He studied medicine first at the University of Berlin and later at the University of Heidelberg—from which he graduated. He then joined his father's practice and private hospital as an Ear-Nose-Throat Specialist in Berlin. After his father's retirement, he carried on alone.

He left Germany in the fall of 1938 and came to Baltimore one year later. He opened his office in the Medical Arts Building as an Ear-Nose-Throat Specialist shortly after this—where he practiced till his death.

After a short and tragic illness, Dr. Hans W. Constadt passed away on July 2, 1955. He was survived by his wife Elizabeth, his daughter Annemarie Constadt-Mayer, and his grandson Hans F. Mayer.