

## GERMAN SCHOLARS AT THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

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In every sphere of human activity, be it agriculture, manufacture, commerce, arts, or learning, men of German origin have helped in shaping the future of this country. Such names as Mühlberg, Herkimer, DeKalb, Steuben, Follen, Lieber, Carl Schurz, and scores of others could be cited who are known to every student of the history of the United States. Turnvereine and Singing Societies—two specific German institutions—have played their part; the one in matters of education, the other in developing a love and appreciation for music and songs.

However, we do not wish to speak in general about the influence of Germans on American life. As the title indicates, this short article concerns itself with the lives and the activities of some scholars of German origin associated with the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland.

Concerning the purpose of the Johns Hopkins University, President Daniel Coit Gilman, the organizer of the institution in 1878, states in his book, *The Launching of a University*, that "it was the purpose of those in authority to have a university and that they meant by this an institution for graduate students. The fact that so many of the graduates of our colleges were going to Europe, particularly Germany, shows that there was a demand for work higher than that done at the colleges." Of the six professors who were appointed first, three were English men, the others were Americans who had studied in Germany for a considerable length of time. These latter three were Professors Gildersleeve, Roland, and Remsen, outstanding men in their respective fields.

When Ira Remsen, the second president of the Johns Hopkins University wrote his brief article, "German Influence in American Academic Development" in *Baltimore and the Sängerkfest* which appeared in June 1903 he made the phrase "German thoroughness" the keynote to his remarks. "If I were asked what American scholarship owes to Germany, I should unhesitatingly answer that it is more than anything else this quality of thoroughness. The German universities have been teaching this lesson for centuries and for a century Americans have been attending these universities and have come home after having caught some of the spirit that characterizes these great seats of learning."

We shall, however, not discuss the indirect influences which German educational institutions might have had upon this seat of higher learning but we shall limit ourselves to the work of scholars of German origin at the Johns Hopkins University and to be sure to those who have been associated with Hopkins over a period of years. Furthermore, we shall restrict ourselves in this article to men associated with the Homewood Division of the Johns Hopkins University.

The first German to be connected with Hopkins was Paul Haupt (1858-1926) who was born in Görlitz in Silesia. He received his doctorate in Semetic languages from the University of Leipzig in 1878. Haupt's first paper, "The Oldest Semetic Verb Forms," published in the *Journal of the*

*Royal Asiatic Society* in 1878 was written in English. In 1879 his first book appeared, *Die Sumerischen Familiengesetze*. In 1883, before Haupt had reached the age of twenty-five, he was appointed W. W. Spence Professor of Semitic Languages at the Johns Hopkins University which had recently been established in Baltimore. At the same time he held the rank of full professor at the University of Göttingen. This selection shows the keen insight and accurate judgment of President Gilman.

During the following years he spent part of his time at Hopkins and the rest at Göttingen. Until the outbreak of World War I he went to Europe every summer. The annual reports made by him to the President of the Johns Hopkins University reveal the enormous scholarly productivity of Professor Haupt. A list of his publications is found in "Preliminary Bibliography of Paul Haupt," the *Johns Hopkins University Circular*, December 1911. The University of Glasgow bestowed upon him the honorary LL.D. degree in 1902.

The cordial relation and the high esteem in which he was held by the academic world is attested by the remarks made by President Gilman in the before-mentioned book. There we likewise read that in connection with the 25th anniversary of President Gilman, Dr. Haupt presented him with the most remarkable testimonial, a poem in the Assyrian language cut in wedgeshaped characters upon a red clay tablet and baked so that the aspect was exactly that of an Assyrian letter exhumed in recent years. The translation of the poem which accompanied the tablet with its flowery phrases typical of the Oriental language makes delightful reading.

Dr. Haupt was the first United States delegate to the International Congress of Orientalists at Rome in 1899 and the first United States delegate to the International Congress of the History of Religions at Paris in 1900. His books *The New Critical Editions of Hebrew Text of the Old Testament* (1893) and *The Polychrome Bible* (1898) brought him international recognition.

In reporting the death of Dr. Paul Haupt and Dr. Ira Remsen, President Frank J. Goodnow says in *Annual Report of the President, 1926-27*, "By these deaths the University has lost members who were outstanding in their respective fields of work, and who gave unselfishly of their time and energy to the development of this institution."

The next German scholar who joined Hopkins was Hermann Collitz. He was born in 1855; came to this country in 1886. Prior to his call to the University he had gained for himself the reputation as the leading scholar in Indo-European studies at the University of Halle and as Professor of Comparative Philology and German at Byrn Mawr College. He joined Hopkins taking his place among such scholars as Gildersleeve and Bloomfield. Kemp Malone, the great Johns Hopkins' scholar of English philology, wrote in a "Dedication" which appeared in the Baltimore *Sun* under date of May 17, 1935: "The University could boast of a group of giants in the linguistic field, the like of which was not found in any other American seat of learning." The Linguistic Society of America owes its organization to his efforts and recognized the supremacy of Collitz by electing him its first president. The Modern Language Association of America made him its president in 1925. The University of Chicago bestowed upon him the honorary doctorate in 1916. His erudition embraced all the languages and literatures of the Indo-European group. He was at home in Sanskrit, Greek, Latin, Prussian, Lithuanian, Celtic, Gothic, Icelandic, High and Low German. To quote once again Kemp Malone, a man best qualified to judge the character and the scholarship of Hermann Collitz, we read: "He

exemplified the best tradition of the old school, combined in his own person the linguist, the mythologist, the folklorist, and the philologist proper. As a man he was gentle, kind, beloved by all who knew him. He retired from active service eight years before he died but his place has never been filled and never can be. Such is the price we must pay for greatness."

President Frank J. Goodnow said in connection with Professor Collitz's retirement, "His retirement leaves a gap which is difficult to fill." As a mark of their affection and esteem, his colleagues, friends, and students presented to the University an oil portrait of Professor Collitz by Hans Kownatzki.

President Ames, upon the death of Dr. Collitz on May 13, 1935, writes to the Board of Trustees, "He was one of the most distinguished scholars who has been associated with the Johns Hopkins University."

As author, Professor Collitz is best known for his books: *Die Verwandtschaftsverhältnisse der griechischen Dialekte* (1885), and *Sammlung der griechischen Dialektinschriften* (4 volumes, 1884-1915).

Likewise a scholar of international fame was William Kurrelmeyer<sup>1</sup> born at Osnabrück, Germany, in 1874. He received his Ph.D. degree from Hopkins in 1899. After a brief stay at Franklin and Marshall College, he was called back to his Alma Mater in 1900 where he remained until his retirement in 1944. Because he had acquired a most thorough knowledge of all the known manuscripts of the medieval German Bible translations, the *Literarische Verein Stuttgart* invited Dr. Kurrelmeyer to edit for its series *The First German Bible (Die erste deutsche Bibel)* which appeared in ten volumes in Tübingen, 1904-1905. The elaborate edition gives the variant readings of all manuscripts concerned. This profound familiarity with the intricacies of manuscripts in turn led Kurrelmeyer to an investigation of the influence of *Doppeldrucke* on the texts of the works of Wieland, Goethe, Lessing, Herder, Schiller, and other German authors. These studies appeared in various learned journals. Of fundamental significance was the monograph, *Die Doppeldrucke in ihrer Bedeutung für die Textgeschichte von Wielands Werken*, which was published in 1913. In 1923 Professor Kurrelmeyer was honored by being invited by the Preussische Akademie der Wissenschaften to edit, in collaboration with German scholars, certain volumes of the definitive edition of Wieland's works. In the prosecution of this task, which was interrupted by the outbreak of World War II, Dr. Kurrelmeyer spent the summers of 1923-1939 in German libraries. He was German editor of the *Modern Language Notes* since 1916, editor of the *Hesperia* since 1935. For the purpose of his text-critical investigations Professor Kurrelmeyer, in the course of years, accumulated a very valuable and unique collection of first editions in the field of German literature, as well as autograph letters and periodicals which, upon his death (1957), was bequeathed to the Johns Hopkins Library.

His active and leading role in the affairs of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland and of the American Goethe Society, Baltimore Chapter, of which he was one of the founders deserves special mention.

Professor Ernst Feise, a former chairman of the German Department and Professor Emeritus at the Johns Hopkins University, is a native of Braunschweig, born 1884. He pursued his studies first at the University of Berlin, then Munich, receiving his Doctor's degree from the University of Leipzig in 1908. His teachers were such famous scholars as Erich Schmidt, Roethe,

<sup>1</sup> E. Albrecht, "Bibliography of William Kurrelmeyer," *Modern Language Notes*, LXVIII, 5 (1953). This issue of the *Modern Language Notes* is dedicated to Dr. William Kurrelmeyer.

Likewise see: Edward H. Sehr, "William Kurrelmeyer" in the *Thirtieth Report of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland*.

Witkowski, and Sievers. He was called to the University of Wisconsin in 1908 where he remained until 1917. After some years spent at Ohio State University he was called to Hopkins in 1927 where he became full professor one year later. His publications include editions of Goethe's *Die Leiden des jungen Werther*, *Hermann und Dorothea*, Hauptmann's *Einsame Menschen*, and an anthology: *German Literature since Goethe*. His extensive investigations in the field of the short story, Goethe's and Heine's metrics and in the problems of the modern drama are embodied in numerous profound articles in German and American periodicals. Some of the best of these scholarly productions are found in the book *Xenion*,<sup>2</sup> a Festschrift, sponsored by his many friends and students upon his retirement in 1951. Professor Feise's interest in dramatics led to the performance of many German plays in the cities in which he resided. At present he is devoting his time and artistic talents to a translation of Heine's poems into English.

Apart from his academic duties at Hopkins, the outstanding capabilities of Dr. Feise as pedagogue found a most fruitful field as Director of the German Summer School of Middlebury College (1931-1948), a predominantly graduate school with intensive training in the German Language and Literature, where German is spoken exclusively. From a very modest beginning this Summer School of German has grown under his able guidance to such proportions that the number of students admitted had to be limited.

Professor Feise has been a member of the American Goethe Society since its inception in 1932 and served as its president from 1947-1953.

A prominent member of the Johns Hopkins Faculty is Ernst Cloos, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Geology. His native city is Saarbrücken, where he was born in 1898. He pursued his studies at the universities of Freiburg, i. B., Göttingen and obtained his doctor's degree from the University of Breslau in 1923. Upon completion of his studies, Dr. Cloos covered a great part of the world in the employ of a large business concern. His first visit to the United States was in 1924-26, employed by Seismos G. M. B. H. Hannover carrying out in Texas geophysical investigations of the underground by means of artificial earthquakes for the purpose of finding oil. The years 1926-27 found him in Sweden, Norway, Italy, and the Lake District of England, while 1927-28 was taken up with an exploration of the Kirkuk Area of Iraq. In 1929-30 he conducted an investigation of the Sierra Nevada granites. His association with Hopkins goes back to the year 1931, when he was appointed lecturer, rising to the rank of full professor in 1941. During the second World War Professor Cloos instructed classes in meteorology. Besides his publications in structural geology he made two geological maps for the State of Maryland. A grant by the Geological Society of America was used in work on an area in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The scholarly results of the many investigations in the various parts of the United States and abroad appeared in numerous articles in such journals as the *Economic Geology*, *Journal of Geology*, *Zeitschrift für Geophysik*, and *Proceedings of the Geology Society of America*.

One of the most outstanding scholars in Romance Languages is Professor Leo Spitzer. Born in Vienna, in 1887 he began his academic career in his native city. After a distinguished career at the universities of Vienna, Bonn, Marburg, Cologne, and Istanbul he joined Hopkins in 1936. His write-up in the *Encyclopedia Italiana* sums up his scholarly abilities as

<sup>2</sup> Ernst Feise, *Xenion: Themes, Forms, and Ideas in German Literature* (Baltimore, Maryland, The Johns Hopkins Press, 1950).

follows: "A subtle mind, versatile, with an acute sense for the living qualities of the language, Spitzer has undertaken, in a long series of articles and essays to find in stylistics a bridge between linguistics and literary genius. He places the psychological reach of linguistic facts over and above the grammatical aspects."

Besides innumerable articles in various scholarly publications, his chief works are: *Die Wortbildung als stilistisches Mittel* (1913); *Aufsätze zur romantischen Syntax und Stilistik* (1928); *Romanische Stil- und Literaturstudien* (1932); *Essays in Historical Semantics* (1947); *Linguistics and Literary History, Essays in Stylistics* (1948); *A Method of Interpreting Literature* (1950).

An educator and scholar of wide reputation who at the same time was Assistant Librarian at the Johns Hopkins University, is Johannes Mattern, born in Duisburg-Meiderich in 1882. After studying at the universities of Münster and Bonn he came to the United States in 1907, where he was first associated with the Library of Congress and then with the Library of the Bureau of Statistics in Washington, D. C. He joined Hopkins in 1911 as assistant librarian and in the course of years he rose to a professorship in Political Science. Besides the many articles dealing with problems of political science, international law and relation, he found time to publish such books as *Employment of the Plebiscite in the Determinations of Sovereignty* (1920); *Bavaria and the Reich* (1923); *Concepts of State, Sovereignty and International Law* (1928), and several others.

The remarkable academic career of Professor Arno Schirokauer, who joined the faculty of the Johns Hopkins University as Professor of German in 1945, was cut short by his untimely death in May 1954. Prior to his coming to Baltimore he was connected with the Southwestern University, Kenyon College, and Yale University. His life and career bear all the earmarks of the turbulent times of the present century caused by the two World Wars, the depression in the twenties and the horrors of the Hitler regime in the thirties.

Born in Kottbus in 1899, he acquired his doctor's degree from the University of Munich in 1921, studying under such well-known scholars as Carl von Kraus and Fritz Strich. The inflation with its devastating effects prevented him from accepting the flattering invitation of his teacher, Carl von Kraus, to establish himself as professor at the University of Munich. His work as assistant librarian of the Deutsche Bücherei, Leipzig, and as director of the Department of Education of the Central German Broadcasting Station in Leipzig filled the pre-Hitler years. The "Odyssey" of his life came to an end when he finally reached the United States in 1939. Of special interest to him was the field of Germanic philology and almost all his productions evidence the spirit of the born philologist. To mention but a few of his main contributions "Studien zur Mittelhochdeutschen Reimgrammatik" in *Beiträge zur Geschichte der deutschen Sprache und Literatur* (1923); "Otfried von Weissenburg" in *Deutsche Vierteljahrsschrift für Literaturwissenschaft und Geistesgeschichte* (1926); "Bedeutungswandel des Romans" in *Mass und Wert* (1940); "Die Legende vom Armen Heinrich" in *Monatshefte* (1951).<sup>3</sup>

Another scholar of international reputation, whom the turbulent days in Germany in the thirties brought to the shores of the United States, is Professor Ludwig Edelstein. He was born in Berlin in 1902 and attended

<sup>3</sup> For a complete list of Professor Schirokauer's publications see: Stanley N. Werbow, *Twenty-ninth Report of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland* (1956), 73-75.

For a fine evaluation of Professor Schirokauer as man and scholar see: Fritz Strich's introduction to Arno Schirokauer, *Germanistische Studien* (Hamburg, Dr. Ernst Hauswedell & Co., 1957).

the university of his native city from 1921 to 1924. He became associated with the Department of the History of Medicine of the Johns Hopkins University in 1934. A similar position he had held at the University of Berlin from 1930-33. With brief interruption—Dr. Edelstein was Associate Professor of Classical Languages and Literatures at the University of Washington 1947-48, Professor of Greek at the University of California at Berkeley 1948-50, and Martin Lecturer at Oberlin College 1956—he became Professor of Humanistic Studies at Hopkins in 1952.

He is a member of the American Philosophical Society, American Philological Association, American Philosophical Association, American Association for the History of Medicine, and History of the Science Society.

In addition to numerous articles, Dr. Edelstein is the author of the following books: *Peri Aeron and die Sammlung der hippokratischen Schriften*, *Problemata IV* (1931); *Aselepius, a Collection and Interpretation of the Testimonies* (with Emma J. Edelstein) 2 vols., 1945. He is the editor of *Hindu Medicine* (H. E. Zimmer) 1948, and *Collected Essays* (Erick Frank) 1955.

A prominent member of the Department of History of the Johns Hopkins University is Hans Wilhelm Gatzke. Upon graduation from the Gymnasium in Germany in 1934, he entered Williams College as a German exchange student in the fall of that year. Returning to Germany in 1935, Dr. Gatzke attended the Universities of Munich and Bonn studying law. Not finding the Hitler atmosphere of the thirties to his liking he returned to the U. S. A. in 1937. After receiving his A. B. degree from Williams College "with honors" in 1938, he entered the Harvard Graduate School. During his years at Harvard he served as fellow, tutor in history, and assistant to the senior tutor of Eliot House. He was awarded the Sheldon Traveling Fellowship for 1941-42 and spent the year chiefly at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California, doing research at the Hoover Library. He did military service with the Psychological Warfare Division of the 12th Army Group and after the end of hostilities as Information Control Officer of "Radio Frankfurt." He completed his studies at Harvard in 1947 and then joined Hopkins in 1948 advancing to a full professorship in 1956.

The titles of his books reveal that Dr. Gatzke's special field of scholarly research is Modern German History: *Germany's Drive to the West* (1950); *Stresemann and the Rearmament of Germany* (1954); *The Present in Perspective* (1957). He was awarded the Herbert Baxter Adams Prize of the American Historical Association for his book *Germany's Drive to the West*. Dr. Gatzke has also contributed articles and reviews to the *Journal of Modern History*, the *Vierteljahrshäfte für Zeitgeschichte*, the *American Historical Review* and *Current History*.

In addition to his academic duties and scholarly pursuits. Professor Gatzke has served as one of the editors of the *Journal of Modern History* and as a member of the Committee on German War Documents of the American Historical Association.

In addition to these scholars who as the result of their connection with the Johns Hopkins University have brought their share of fame and glory to this institution, there are several more whose association with Hopkins, however, was of a short duration. Likewise one could add the names of a considerable number of outstanding German scholars who lectured at Hopkins as visiting professors, among them Julius Petersen, Herman Eduard von Holst, Johannes Hoops, Fritz Lieben, and others.