

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Froeschle, Hartmut.** *Americana Germanica: Bibliographic zur deutschen Sprache und deutschsprachigen Literatur in Nord- und Lateinamerika.* **Auslandsdeutsche Literatur der Gegenwart, Vol. 15.** Hildesheim: Olms, 1991. 233 pp. DM 49.80

Since the 1970s, Hartmut Froeschle has published widely in the field of German-American Studies (see my reviews in *Journal of German-American Studies*, 15:3-4, 1980, 95-97, *Yearbook of German-American Studies*, 24, 1989, 163-65, and 27, 1992, 175-76). Although he has dealt with German-American topics, his primary focus has been on the German-Canadians and the Latin American Germans. Indeed, one of his major accomplishments has been to contribute to the definition of the field which includes the entire hemisphere, from north to south.

As Froeschle notes in *Americana Germanica*, "Bibliographische Arbeit ist sehr zeitraubend (und zumeist undankbar, da die Benutzer der gedruckten Resultate nicht selten eher die unvermeidlichen Schwächen und Lücken einer Bibliographie sehen, als die zähen, hingebungsvolle Tätigkeit, die hinter bibliographischen Veröffentlichungen steht" (v.). At the same time, Froeschle correctly has recognized that the growth and development of the field rests on bibliographical foundations.

*Americana Germanica* aims to provide bibliographical coverage of German language and literature of the German elements in North and South America. It aims to provide coverage for the fifty-five years since the appearance of Karl Kurt Klein, *Literaturgeschichte des Deutschtums im Ausland* (1939). This half century is important, as it witnessed the Second World War together with the related anti-German hysteria, and the eventual postwar upswing and ethnic revival. Since the 1970s, there has been a veritable avalanche of publications dealing with the topic, as is reflected in this work.

The volume contains bibliographical sections on Canada, the U.S., and the various Latin American countries, each of which carries the name of the scholar responsible for that particular section. Of particular interest to readers of *The Report: A Journal of German-American History* are the sections dealing with the "U.S.A." by Randall Donaldson, editor of this journal. It should be noted that roughly half the work deals with Canada and the U.S. (pp.

3-130), and that the U.S. actually is the lengthiest section (pp. 47-130).

The section dealing with the U.S. is subdivided into six sections dealing with: 1. Bibliographien; Forschungsberichte; Literaturgeschichte; 2. Arbeiten zur Geschichte, Kulturgeschichte und Geistesgeschichte; 3. Arbeiten zur deutschen Sprache; 4. Arbeiten zur deutschsprachigen Literatur; 5. Anthologien und Publikationen in Reihen; and 6. Zeitungen und Zeitschriften. Prof. Donaldson has accomplished an outstanding contribution to the field of German-American Studies by means of his chapter on the U.S. It will serve as a basic and essential tool for students and scholars.

In each section, the arrangement is not alphabetical by author, but rather chronological by date of publication, which is useful for viewing the historical development of the field in specific categories and countries. The mere compilation of this work is a major achievement, and is without question of exceptional value, as it will be a basic source for anyone interested in the German elements and their language and literature in the Americas.

In my own research, which often deals with the wide-ranging interrelationships and cross-cultural relations between the German elements in the America, I have already found that this work is one of my favorite reference works. It is my hope that this work will lead to further comparative studies between the German elements in the Americas, as the possibilities are manifold. This work is one which all libraries, scholars, and students interested in German-American Studies should obtain.

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**Miller, Randall M., editor.** *States of Progress: Germans and Blacks in America over 300 Years.* Ephrata, Pennsylvania: Science Press, 1989. xiii & 101 pp. \$12.00

*States of Progress: Germans and Blacks in America over 300 Years* commemorates the 300th anniversary of the first formal protest against slavery (1688). This volume has five of the original six lectures given in Philadelphia during the 1988 celebration and a lengthy introduction. The documented participation of German-American Quakers in this momentous protest provides the stimulus for the exploration of German- and African-American interaction in

America. The essays, following a chronological order, focus on Black-German perceptions, relationships, or conflicts in the eighteenth and antebellum nineteenth century.

Randall M. Miller's introduction offers an informative and fairly comprehensive overview of 300 years of Black-German interaction. His essay also sets the stage for critical inquiry and thought-provoking discussion. Like the other authors of essays he is committed to debunking popular myths about German-American attitude toward and participation in the anti-slavery movement. Therefore, while Germans did indeed participate in this historic protest, he argues persuasively that their involvement was more the result of their religious belief than their ethnic background. One significant and recurring fact is that *no one* German-American viewpoint emerged on any single issue—including slavery. In short, German-American attitude toward slavery and slaves varied according to local conditions.

Gary B. Nash traces and documents the anti-slavery movement in Pennsylvania in light of the paradox between the establishment of Pennsylvania as a "holy experiment" and the relatively effortless acceptance of slavery by Quakers. It is worth noting that the anti-slavery movement was able to be successful only after it shifted its focus to the moral implications of slavery. In other words, the movement became successful when it concerned itself with the harmful effects of slavery on the slaveowners, rather than on the slaves. Finally, he examines the actual ramifications of the Gradual Abolition Act of 1780 which, initially at least, did not inconvenience the slaveowners all that much. Nonetheless, this law is important in American history since Pennsylvania was the first abolition state.

Black-German interaction is deftly explored by Richard Blackett against the three turbulent and interdependent forces of Colonization, Abolition, and Immigration. The issue of Americanism, that is, "who is American?," confronted both German- and African-Americans—but along racial lines. The growing nativist movement prompted German-Americans at times to assume a stance which was in conflict with the interests of free African-Americans who were struggling for acceptance as contributing American citizens. This essay also

looks at the strategy of "entanglement," which the abolition movement employed with Europe with varying degrees of success.

While it is difficult to speak of one German-American response to the various issues in mid-nineteenth century American society, James M. Bergquist convincingly argues that German-Americans nonetheless became an important political force for the Democratic and Republican Parties. This phenomenon had a number of causes, most notably the role of the Forty-eighters who were vehemently opposed to slavery and who exerted a disproportionate amount of influence in the Republican Party.

Leroy T. Hopkins examines the Black-German interaction in antebellum Lancaster County (PA). Although Blacks and Germans had been there almost from the earliest settlement, race caused their relations to be uneasy. Economic competition between whites and blacks fueled racism and discrimination. Thus, the Columbia race riots of 1834 and 1835 can be attributed to the fears of the white working class that Black economic power could lead to Black social equality.

Finally, Terry G. Jordan debunks the popular myth of the Texas Unionist Germans. While some Texas Germans, especially the liberal intellectuals, supported the abolitionist movement, others were pro-slavery. For the most part, Germans tended to be indifferent to the institution of slavery or "careless of its existence" (95).

In addition to a reprint of the Germantown Protest Against Slavery text, the illustrations, historical documents and photographs interspersed throughout the book add to the relevancy of this topic. Excellent documentation is provided at the end of each essay for further reference. The German Society of Pennsylvania and the contributors of this volume are to be commended for beginning dialogue about the interaction between Blacks and Germans in America. Readable and thought-provoking, *States of Progress: Germans and Blacks in American over 300 Years* is a welcome and important contribution to German-American and multicultural studies and should generate much discussion. One can only hope that more such volumes will follow.

— Susann Samples  
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