

Collaboration with the GHI Washington Ten Years of Successful Fellowship Program

Ten years ago, we celebrated the reopening of the Joseph Horner Memorial Library with an impressive array of speakers and well-wishers. After a slowdown of activities of several years that followed the extremely busy period of the Library Renovation and Cataloging Project (1994-99) and the renovation of the building, a new beginning needed to be advertised to both the members and the world outside. The occasion came with a festive event on November 5, 2006, at which Hans-Jürgen Heimsoeth, Consul General of Germany in New York, and Christoph Mauch, Director of the German Historical Institute in Washington, gave talks on the German cultural heritage in the U. S. Birte Pflieger presented her new history of the German Society (*Ethnicity Matters*); Kevin Ostoyich did the same with his new Reference Guide to the book and manuscript collection of the Library.

The presence of GHI Director Mauch was most opportune as the GHI sponsored both the extensive research that went into the two publications and their printing. His announcement of a joint fellowship program with the German Society consolidated the lasting cooperation of the two institutions. Thanks to the generosity of the GHI, the "GHI-GSP Fellowship at the Horner Library" has become the premier fellowship program in the U. S. for the study of German-American history and culture, opening our great collection to students and scholars around the world. Inaugurated in 2007, each summer we have hosted three or four scholars for a period of two to four weeks who used the opportunity to present their projects to interested GSP members at brown bag seminars.

Our special collection librarians, Violet Lutz, Chrissy Bellizzi, and Bettina Hess deserve particular recognition for their invaluable service in providing materials and research tools to the fellows. Recently, Bettina Hess, long-time cataloger of the Library Project in the 1990s and our current librarian, has completed an extensive overhaul of the reference guide, an im-

pressive accomplishment that also was sponsored by the GHI. Ten years after the first guide appeared, the new reference guide, accessible on the Society's and GHI's web sites, represents with its 300 pages a virtual cultural history of Germans in America, especially in Pennsylvania and Philadelphia.

At the tenth anniversary of the GHI-GSP Fellowship program in June/July 2016, we will welcome three new fellows:

Joshua Brown, an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin will follow in the steps of his colleague and former teacher, Mark Loudon, who gave an excellent talk about Pennsylvania German at the Society in April, and study the much neglected topic, "Pennsylvania High German in Nineteenth Century America."

Hans Leaman, a Yale post-doc, is engaged in the study of the so-called great awakening in the mid-eighteenth century with his project, "Whitefield among the Pennsylvania Pietists." Leaman pursues the thesis that the religious awakening was not just an American or British affair, but also had close ties to German Pietism.

Lisa Minardi, an assistant curator at the Winterthur Museum and Ph.D candidate at the University of Delaware, was instrumental in bringing about the great *Fraktur* exhibition at the Free Library, the Philadelphia Art Museum, and Winterthur in 2015. Mostly interested in the material culture of German Americans, her dissertation project features a broad survey for which she will make use of the Horner collection. The title is "Germans in the Quaker City: Ethnicity, Religion, and Material Life in Early Philadelphia."

We plan this year's brown bag seminar with the fellows on July 14, 2016, in the Ratskeller from 12 noon to 2 pm. All members are welcome.

- Dr. Frank Trommler