



Chairman's Comments

20 Years of German Unity

Two decades have passed since the November 9th, 1989 'fall' of the Berlin Wall. That watershed event became a life-changing experience for me!

When I learned that the once-pristine countryside south of Leipzig (where I was born) had become heavily polluted by a coal-fired power plant—built on the very land which had been confiscated from my family by the Soviets after WW II—I felt an inner calling to do something about it. So, at age 52 I quit my job and formed a nonprofit company with the mission of educating the people over there about the benefits of a clean environment.

Unfortunately, my first thought of retrofitting that electric facility was not feasible since the pipes and metal surfaces had been so heavily corroded by the high sulfur content of Saxon coal. As the next step, ten young professionals from Leipzig, representing industry and academia, were selected and flown to New Jersey, to participate in a four-week, custom-tailored workshop with lectures and field trips.

By coincidence, our seminar concluded on the day when the reunification of East and West Germany was proclaimed. And so our East German guests, before returning to a united Germany, attended a special service at St. Paul's Church in NYC. That service was conducted by Rev. Schmidt-Lange who, upon moving here, became pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church and a member of the Society.

Over the past twenty years, I have followed —Cont'd on page 2

President's Message

It is hard to believe that the summer heat has finally come to an end and the lovely Philadelphia fall season is upon us. This is by far the best time of the year in our area. We closed our fiscal year on June 30 and finished it with a modest operational surplus due to a partial recovery of the stock market.

Our income stream from membership dues, our language program, and Annual Fund Drive was \$45,000 below expectations. I am working with members of our Board to see what can be done in this tough economic environment.

On the expense ledger, we exercised good control and were \$21,000 under budget. The enclosed Financial Statements provide additional details.

Our next Annual Fund Drive letter will be issued in mid-November. We will ask you to be as generous as possible, especially since these contributions took a significant dip in the past two years.

At our most recent Board meeting, it was agreed to establish an endowment fund with The Philadelphia Foundation. The purpose of this fund is to provide a predictable income stream in perpetuity to the Society, which will be used to offset part of our operating expenses. Over the past five years, we have been very successful to raise significant monies for much needed capital expenditures, yet we also noted that foundations and others are much less willing to provide operational funds. Clearly a well-funded endowment would go a long way to assure that the Society remains on solid fi-

nancial ground. We are still in the planning stage and will work with The Philadelphia Foundation to tailor a program that is attractive to our members.

As stated in the prior issue of the Staatsbote, our previously announced plans for this summer which included renovations of our bathrooms, construction of a handicap accessible facility and building a multimedia room adjacent to the Ratskeller were just too ambitious. We also found, upon deconstructing several areas in the basement, that water intrusion, probably over several decades, has caused significant damage.

Consulting architects and specialists strongly recommend that we first solve the water intrusion from the exterior of

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—Chairman's Comments Cont'd

the careers of these ten individuals. They all are doing well in a myriad of new businesses that have since been established in the field of banking, education, engineering, environmental services and personnel management.

Another project, in which I participated during the 90's, was the clean-up of a major contaminated site, and its subsequent development into an industrial park. Due to the size of this project, it was financially underwritten by the German government through its *Treuhand* agency. Adjacent to that site, a new power plant with state-of-the-art technology was constructed as replacement for the *Dreckschleuder* which prompted my mission initially.

While the majority of Germans living in the East are quite content with the progress made to date, there is a growing sense of disenchantment in certain segments of the population. In fact, *Matthias Platzeck*, governor of the state of Brandenburg, recently called Germany's reunification an *Anschluß*—the same word used to describe the Nazi takeover of Austria before WWII.

He claims that the euphoria triggered by the events of November 9, 1989 was short-lived. It soon became clear how difficult reunification would be - economically, socially and psychologically. By the time the reunification treaty was signed, much of the elation had evaporated and many East Germans began feeling steamrolled by their compatriots from the West.

Unfortunately, these resentments - so he claims - still remain. His comments have kicked off yet another debate over reunification, as the country prepares for the 20th anniversary on October 3.

—Hardy von Auenmueller

—President's Message Cont'd

the building, before we commence with any significant interior renovations. We are presently drafting a grant proposal to cover a significant portion of the required funds for this major capital project.

All exterior walls will have to be excavated, repaired and sealed. Moreover, we need to contribute significant Society funds to this effort. Any financial help provided by our members will be greatly appreciated. Should our grant request be funded, we will likely start with this project in March of 2011.



Under the described circumstances, we will have to delay the bathroom reconstruction until summer of 2011. We just can't take the chance to run into unanticipated construction problems during a period when most of our events, including a significant number of rentals, are scheduled.

We kicked off the fall season with a very successful *Oktoberfest* (see photo above). I hope to see you at the German Unity concert, *Stiftungsfest*, and *Christkindlmarkt*.

Ernest D. Weiler

German Historical Institute Fellows 2010

As in the previous three years, the German Society hosted three research fellows between June 1 and July 15, 2010, who pursued research in German-American history and culture. Thanks to the diligent work of our librarian, Dr. Violet Lutz, the three scholars, coming from Italy, Germany, and the U.S., were pleased to find many archival treasures for their work at the Horner Library. Their fellowships were again generously supported by the German Historical Institute in Washington. We enjoyed their presentation to the GSP members and the general public on June 28. For those members who were unable to attend the luncheon seminar, the researchers prepared short summaries of their findings.

***“Heimat-Transfer.
Origins, language and culture
in German-American children's and youth books of the
18th and 19th century.”***

Liza Candidi, University of Udine

Thanks to the German Society of Pennsylvania and to the German Historical Institute of Washington, I was able to spend a period of time in June and July of 2010 to do research at the Horner Library of Philadelphia. As a continuation of previous studies on the topic of transmission of identity in schoolbooks, I analyzed how German-Americans represented themselves and their country of origin within school texts produced for their children and published in the United States during the late 18th and the 19th century.

Educational books are significant instruments for understanding the socio-cultural values of a given community as it will naturally want to impress those values and historical perspectives to its children. Particularly for immigrant communities, books produced for children have provided an ideal means for keeping the intergenerational bonds with the country of origin alive.

In the Horner Library I focused on German readers for children as well as fables, reading primers, books on counting and arithmetic, handbooks on German literature, atlases, and booklets for Sunday schools. I paid special attention to the perceived and attributed values regarding Germans, German-Americans, Germany, and America. I surveyed the transmission of such values, along with their development with time, and how those values interacted with the new culture as represented in the publications of the time.

A New Look at the Maryland Germans

Randall P. Donaldson,
Loyola University, Maryland

My work at the Horner Library in the month of June was an important part of a two-part, long-range project. I am reprinting, revising, and augmenting Dieter Cunz' classic monograph, *The Maryland Germans*, which was published by Princeton Press in 1949. The first part of the project involves preparing a facsimile reprint of Cunz' volume and writing an introductory essay which identifies both the strengths and the weaknesses of the original work.

In general terms, Cunz' work is solid. However, many of his sources are difficult to verify almost seventy-five years later. In large part because of the

efforts of Professor Oswald Seidensticker, the Horner Library contains materials which document middle-class life in German-America of the mid- to late nineteenth century in unparalleled fashion. Some of that material is in fact Maryland material which no longer exists in Maryland. Much is in documents which bear witness to the life and history of a variety of social organizations of which German immigrants were members, from immigrant-aid societies like the German Society of PA and the German Society of Maryland to singing societies and *Turnvereine*.

During my time in Philadelphia I examined hundreds of items, among them a considerable number of manuscript and uncatalogued materials. Those pieces of ephemera in particular were among the most valuable items I worked with. They allowed me to formulate an independent view of everyday life for German immigrants in Philadelphia, Maryland, Cincinnati, and other places throughout the United States in the period between the Civil War and the First World War.

Industrial Architecture in Pennsylvania, 1890-1925

Miron Mislin,

Technische Universität, Berlin

One of the aims of the project was to find out the architects of Philadelphia of German origin and to analyze their works. Of great help was the "Biographical Dictionary of Philadelphia Architects 1700-1930" at the Horner Library. This dictionary disclosed important information about the architects and their completed works as well as the names of the factory owners, their companies and the addresses. This analysis led to a long list of Ger-

man-American architects and factory owners and companies. One of the biggest and most successful companies belonged to J.G. Brill, a car-builder who immigrated with his parents from Kassel/Hessen. Another German immigrant, who built an important factory of plumber's tools was C.A. Blessing in Phila. The largest architectural office belonged to Walter F. Ballinger who co-invented the curtain wall construction method at the end of the 19th century, followed by Kurt W. Peukert, who was one of the most successful German-American architects between 1894 and 1921.

One question of the project was: is it possible to find out influences of German architectural and construction methods on industrial buildings in and around Philadelphia? Further research at the State Archives of PA in Harrisburg about the buildings of the Pennsylvania Railroad disclosed important aspects of architecture and construction of the railroad stations, offices, storehouses and repair shops in the period of 1900-1925. Detailed drawings gave also an answer to our question concerning the typical materials employed by the Pennsylvania Railroad, especially brick, wood and iron used in a similar manner for German constructions.

The roof constructions as well as the architectural details and forms of the Pennsylvania Railroad buildings came very close to those applied in Germany at the same time or even earlier. Further questions to be tackled concern whether and in what way standardized production methods, plant arrangements and the planning of layouts including machinery were transferred from U.S. to Germany in the period after the World Industry Exhibition of 1876 in Philadelphia.

Who is Joseph P. Horner?

Our library has been and still is the heart and soul of the German Society. Since its inception in 1817, there have been prominent individuals who were protective of its holdings, guided its growth, and ensured its continuing existence, thus deserving our gratitude. One avid reader, however, infused life into the library at a critical time almost fifty years ago by bequeathing his estate of \$300,000 to help maintain its treasures. In appreciation, during a special ceremony at the Society's 199th *Stiftungsfest* (Anniversary Celebration) in 1963, the library was rededicated as the **"Joseph P. Horner Memorial Library."**



Joseph Horner was an immigrant who came to our shores in 1885 at the age of three with his parents, two brothers, and two sisters. He was born on April 23, 1882, in Gossengrün which was at that time located in Austria (the Sudetenland in Böhmen, to be precise), but today is part of the Czech Republic. His father, Frank, had apparently visited the U.S. in 1870, probably before he was married. He sought better opportunities for his large family here in America, but fate intervened. Only five years later in 1890, after just having received his U.S. citizenship, he died. Joseph's mother decided to re-

turn to Europe with her five children. In Austria, she had family on whose support she could count in raising and educating her children.

The Horners were a musical family. Joseph and his older brother, Anton, received their first musical instruction at an early age from their father. Once back in Austria, Joseph began his studies of French horn in earnest, first under the tutelage of a great uncle and then in Vienna from 1896-98.

Anton also played the horn. His search for the best horn teacher led him to the Music Conservatory in Leipzig where Prof. Friedrich Gumpert, one of the greatest hornists of his time, taught. Anton would become one of his star students. While there, Prof. Gumpert developed, in collaboration with the Kruspe Company in Erfurt, the so-called "double horn," and Anton may well have been a contributor in this effort. This "new" horn combined the difficult but mellow "F" horn with the more trombone-like "B-flat" horn that was easier to play. Anton became an enthusiastic advocate of this new horn, promoting and teaching it. He was responsible for its adoption by the Philadelphia Orchestra which, as was said, "lent an element of uniqueness to the orchestra's identity."

The Horner family members could not resist the tug of the United States. The fact that their father had become a U.S. citizen now benefited them in their quest to re-enter the country. First, one sister, Julia, returned to Philadelphia where she married and established a home. Anton followed in 1895 after his graduation from the Leipzig Conservatory. He asked his brother in

1898 to join him, and the sixteen-year-old Joseph accepted this invitation. Anton also made possible the return of his mother and youngest sister, Mary, reuniting most of the family.

In 1901, Joseph accepted a position with the Philadelphia Orchestra in its first season under its conductor, Fritz Scheel, but left after only one year to join the Pittsburgh Orchestra which was then under the baton of Victor Herbert. However, his stay there was short and in 1903, he rejoined the Philadelphia Orchestra where he resumed playing second horn. Apparently, Joseph had a good sense of humor, and his orchestra colleagues could always count on him for an apt comment or a quick retort.

His brother, Anton, occupied the principal horn chair at the Philadelphia Orchestra from 1902-1929, and both brothers were members of the Philadelphia's renowned horn quartet. Side by side, they played their horns until Joseph's retirement in 1938. By the way, Anton was also a faculty member of The Curtis Institute of Music from its founding in 1924 until he retired in 1946.

At the age of 41 in 1923, Joseph married Winifred Marr. They made their home in Narberth, PA, but also owned a house in Spray Beach, NJ. Once Joseph retired, they moved to the Jersey Shore permanently. Two of Joseph's leisure-time activities were fishing and sailing. He and his cabin sloop, "Spray," were well-known sights in Barnegat waters. Both he and his wife enjoyed traveling and made several trips abroad and to the western United States.

We know that Joseph Horner became a member of the German Society in 1916, but we don't know when exactly he started to frequent the library. His portrait hangs inside our library and depicts a serious man who, nonetheless, seems to hide a smile and a twinkle in his eyes. After his death on December 5, 1944, Joseph's Will named the German Society as beneficiary of his estate, but only after the death of his sister, Mary Horner Meyer, who died in 1962. Mary had been an active member and officer of the Women's Auxiliary of the German Society. It is through the generosity of members such as Joseph P. Horner that the German Society has survived difficult times and, after 246 years, still remains a viable and vibrant organization and a source of our rich cultural heritage.

—Renate Genieser

Information for this article courtesy of: Dr. Violet Lutz, Roger Blackburn of the Phila. Orchestra, Kile Smith of the Fleischer Coll. of Orchestral Music, and Owen Sindler of the Free Library.

**"The GSP as the
Provider of 'Relief for
Distressed Germans':
The Records of the
Agentur, 1847 to 1938"**

When the German Society of Pennsylvania was founded in 1764, its main stated purpose was to provide "relief of distressed Germans".

For the first eighty years of its existence, this support (originally limited to recent immigrants) was rendered informally by the volunteer members of the Board of Directors, but by 1847, it had become obvious that this was no longer

sufficient, leading to the establishment of the *Agentur* (welfare agency).

Over the next decades, various *Agenten* compiled many log books and financial ledgers chronicling their efforts to help German immigrants, and increasingly also long-term residents of Philadelphia of German descent.

Because the *Agenten* recorded detailed biographical information for each applicant and used an indexing system that allowed them to follow up on their charges, these volumes offer a unique in-depth look at everyday life in Philadelphia during the second half of the 19th century.

Starting in 1900, the newly founded Women's Auxiliary took over the work of helping families, rendering the later *Agentur* records less comprehensive, though they still provide information on the development of the German immigrant community up to WWII.

In my talk, I will try to describe the various aspects of the work of the *Agentur*, as well as offering some case studies of "typical" applicants.

This will take us back to a time when there was no social safety net, only the "private" efforts of institutions like the German Society, which might make for some interesting comparisons with the role of today's society.

—Maria Sturm

***Your German Roots:
Dig Here!*
Conference on German
Genealogy
on November 20, 2010**

In a first-ever collaboration, "the two GSPs," our Society and the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, have or-

ganized a conference in our facility for 8 am to 4:30 pm on Saturday, November 20: ***Your German Roots: Dig Here!***

We're addressing members and the general public: experienced researchers and people with German roots who are new to this research.

We've lined up six speakers. In the morning, Thilo Agthe will provide a general introduction to German genealogical research, Lanie Graf of the *Moravian Church Archives* in Bethlehem will help you read German script, then Jim Niessen and Doug Nichols will present case studies showing how they applied the presented methods to trace their German ancestors.

During the catered lunch period, attendees will have an opportunity to tour the building and visit with representatives of the participating societies.

In the afternoon, Alex Bartlett will speak about resources for German genealogy at the *Germantown Historical Society*, Maria Sturm will discuss the relevance of our society's *Agentur* records for genealogy, and Jim Niessen will show how you can explore your home ground through "heritage tourism."

At the end of the day there will be a Q&A session with research consultations.

For more information and to register by November 8th (\$50 for members, \$60 non-members) phone our Society at 215-627-2332. —Jim Niessen

**Please remember our
246th *Stiftungsfest* on
November 6, 2010!**

Helene Zimmer-Loew
Recipient of Austrian Cross of Honor



In January 2010, Helene Zimmer-Loew, Executive Director of the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) and a member of the German Society of PA, received the **Austrian Cross of Honor for Science and the Arts** in a decoration ceremony at the Austrian Cultural Forum in NY.

Austrian Forum Director Andreas Stadler commented on the history of the Cross of Honor which is given very rarely. In this case, the *Bundesministerium fuer Unterricht, Kunst und Kultur* had recommended Ms. Zimmer-Loew as a deserving candidate. The medal comes in two forms: a ribboned bow holding the metal cross for formal occasions, and a small lapel pin showing a red abstract design for less formal events.

Ms. Zimmer-Loew's outstanding merit is that of advocacy for the teaching of German at all levels, supported by a multitude of services to teachers and students with funding from government and philanthropic sources. Ms. Zimmer-Loew is a previous recipient of the German government's *Bundesverdienstkreuz erster Klasse*, which she was awarded in 2006.

We congratulate Ms. Zimmer-Loew on her achievement! —Sharan Knoell

Music Has No Borders

Dr. Charles Borowsky, a German Society member, starts each day listening to classical or folk music. He sings and plays the harmonica. His wife and children are all accomplished musicians. Known as the "American Virtuosi," they perform throughout the world. They have twice enchanted our audience as well.

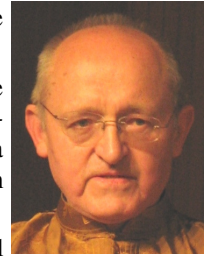
Throughout his life, Charles has taken up social causes. He founded the *International Institute for Suburban and Regional Studies*. With 16 centers worldwide, it serves as a forum of global and local cooperation in business, education and communal affairs.

In recognition for his lifelong endeavor in Sociology and music, he will shortly receive the **I. J. Paderewski Award** for distinguished contributions to society and culture at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, DC.

Dr. Borowsky was born in Silesia just before WW II. After the German borders were redrawn, his homeland became part of Poland under a communist regime. As a professor of Sociology with an interest in researching the US youth movement in the 1960's, his first book covered that movement and its equivalent in Eastern Europe. This caused an uproar. The president of his university stated, "There is no youth opposition here!"—adding that Borowsky would be wise to leave the country, which he did.

Because of his book, he was invited to various conferences here in the US. He joined the faculty at Yale. A few years later, he headed up a project to establish connections for Yale in Eastern Europe. He organized a broad interdisciplinary exchange program in areas ranging from engineering to music. These programs were expanded when the "Iron Curtain" was lifted. Along the way, he met his wife, *Cecylia Barczik*. An accomplished cellist, she introduced him to music.

Over the years, Dr. Borowsky has lectured in 82 countries on the subject of social movements, politics and religion, and authored 13 books. The Paderewski Award is in recognition of his efforts and contributions to society and culture, and the link between the two—music. —Hardy von Auenmueller



Welcome New Members!

For privacy reasons, these names have been removed.

Calendar of Events

October

- Fri. Oct. 1 German-American Day Proclamation at City Hall with Mayor Nutter, Room 202, 12pm
Sat. Oct. 2 Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10am
Sun. Oct. 3 "Wister and More!" Series presents Piano Duo Volker Ahmels and Frederike Haufe, 3pm
"A Celebration of German Unity Day", Selections include Schumann, Schubert, and Brahms
Fri. Oct. 8 Friday Film Fest, "NaPoLa", 6:30pm—Shown in German with English subtitles
Fri. Oct. 15 *Konversationsabend*, "Report on Trip to China", presented by Hardy von Auenmueller, 7pm
Sun. Oct. 24 "Wister and More!" Series presents Keystone State Boychoir, 3pm

November

- Sat. Nov. 6 Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10am
Sat. Nov. 6 246th Annual *Stiftungsfest*—Reception, Silent Auction, Dinner, Dancing, 6pm
Fri. Nov. 12 St. Martin's Parade for Families, 6pm
Sat. Nov. 13 Book Club Meeting, "Das Parfüm" by Patrick Süskind, 1:30-3pm
Sun. Nov. 14 "Wister and More!" Series presents The Wister Quartet, 3pm
Selections include Paganini, Ravel, and Haydn
Mon. Nov. 15 German Society Board of Directors Meeting, 7pm
Tues. Nov. 16 *Konversationsabend*, "Das Leben in Südwest-Afrika" by Author Katie Thieck, 7pm
Fri. Nov. 19 Friday Film Fest, "Margarete Steiff", 6:30pm—Shown in German with no subtitles
Sun. Nov. 21 "My Name is Grieg, Edvard Grieg", Portrayal by Rolf K. Stang of the Delius Society, 3pm
Nov. 25—28 Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

December

- Sat. Dec. 4 Women's Auxiliary *Christkindlmarkt*, 12 noon
Wed. Dec. 15 *Adventsfeier bei Auenmuellers*, 7pm
Dec. 25—Jan. 2 Closed for Winter Holidays

January 2011

- Sun. Jan. 9 "Wister and More!" Series presents Pianist Claire Huangci, 3pm
Selections include Beethoven, Liszt, and Schumann
Jan. 10 - Mar. 31 Winter Session of German Classes for Adults (beginner through advanced)
Fri. Jan. 14 Friday Film Fest, "Wir Wunderkinder", 6:30pm—Shown in German with German subtitles
Jan. 15—April 2 Winter Session of German Classes for Children (3-12 years old)
Mon. Jan. 17 German Society Board of Directors Meeting, 7pm

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Women's Auxiliary *Christkindlmarkt* on Saturday, December 4, 2010

After the dog days of summer, it feels good to look forward to December.

Members of the Auxiliary have begun planning for this year's *Christkindlmarkt*.

You may think this early, but such an event requires a lot of thought and preparation; e.g., recruiting 65 volunteers, baking more than 1,000 cookies and dozens of cakes, etc. To stock the *Handarbeits-* and craft tables, elves have been working throughout the year. *Marzipan, Stollen, Lebkuchen*, children's books and Christmas cards must be imported. Pamphlets, flyers and programs have to be designed and printed. I could go on and on, but there is not enough space here to list all the tasks involved.

You, too, can be of help to make our *Christkindlmarkt* a success. If you have any items, big or small, for our Attic Treasure and gift tables or have a suggestion on how to improve and enrich this event, please call me (215-355-4228) but, most importantly, reserve the date and join us on **Saturday, December 4, from noon to 5:30 p.m.**

—Christel Tillmann, President of the Women's Auxiliary



The German Society of Pennsylvania

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED