German and Austrian contributions to world literature : a private collection

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KLAUS W. JONAS

GERMAN AND AUSTRIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO WORLD LITERATURE: A PRIVATE COLLECTION

The purpose of the following progress report is to respond in all brevity to numerous questions asked by researchers and librarians in Europe and in the United States about a Pittsburgh-based research project entitled «Documentation in Modern German Literature¹».

This project is being carried out with the help of a collection which seeks to preserve, enhance and make accessible documents in twentieth-century German and Austrian literature, particularly from the period 1890 through 1970. The collection was started in 1948 and, ever since 1957, has had its base within the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures of the University of Pittsburgh².

My intent has been—to put it simply—to document the lives and works of a selected group of twentieth-century writers as thoroughly and conscientiously as is possible under the circumstances for a single researcher and collector carrying out his project with the support of the University, but without institutional or foundation funding for the acquisition of the necessary research materials. However, many friendly helpers throughout the world are supporting his efforts as a collector, in particular the authors themselves (or their families) whose works form the nucleus of the collection.

With the exception of Golo Mann, now seventy-five years old, all the writers to whom I have turned my attention as a collector, biographer or bibliographer, were born in the second half of the nineteenth century either in Germany or what was then the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The oldest of them, Gerhart Hauptmann, was born in 1862, the youngest, Ernst Jünger, in 1895. The majority of these German and Austrian writers spent the last years of their lives abroad : Hermann Hesse, Thomas Mann, Rainer Maria Rilke, Carl Zuckmayer, and Golo Mann in Switzerland; Richard Beer-Hofmann, Hermann Broch, and Erich von Kahler in the United States; Nelly Sachs in Sweden; Mechtilde Lichnowsky in England; Stefan Zweig in Brazil. German literature in excile thus constitutes one of the focal points of the entire collection. It may be more than a mere coincidence that four of the writers collected were awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature : Gerhart Hauptmann, Thomas Mann, Hermann Hesse, and Nelly Sachs.

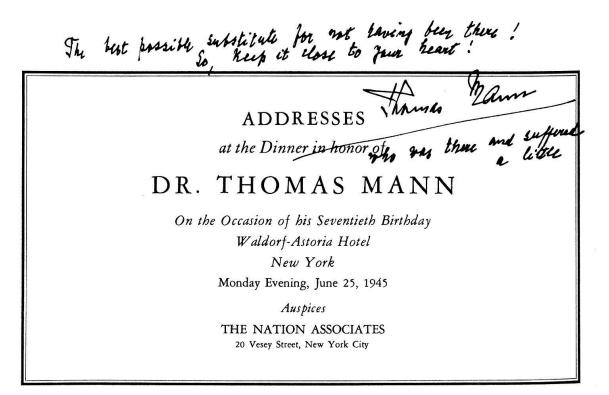
It is true that several of the writers represented in the collection may be considered modern classics who undoubtedly belong to world literature. Nevertheless, the collection itself is by no means restricted to the abovementioned individuals, but includes their families, friends, and colleagues as well. And finally, every effort has been made to include—as far as possible—documents concerning the political, historical, and cultural background of the period 1890–1970.

A standard American reference book on subject collections refers to the collection as «Bibliographical Center for German Literature» and describes its mission as a «Center for the development of collections and bibliographical control of the record of publications, manuscripts, correspondence by or relating to modern German authors³.»

In view of its private character, the collection is in no way comparable to some of the specialized collections described by Lee Ash in his book *Subject Collections*. Many public institutions in this country such as the Library of Congress, leading private institutions such as the Pierpont Morgan Library, the Newberry Library, the Huntington Library, the

itten in November 1906 into the Latvian critic William ATTIC " " A to be hy any hinger 1906. Buddenbrooks for Four-page dedication from Thomas Mann, a copy of «Buddenbrooks» (Berlin 1905, Sawitzky (1879–1947), thanking him for hi kit, much pe Jon 4 when we fill the giling hile him 447 44 Thur, 4.2 64 Rains bailes & last prosting tto M Hi fo Pause Litrate. Re. 73 Shick AL PULL 6.144. 1 with in to det Le. 1 huch Here al they with 4.07.70: H' when he Vi puil the second secon 445 to week, " i firthe the the form Bit. 3 of you the the Wellin' the Hill till the to the dure. サインウトる my phay whend? Linu 4.4 44 う生き 4.2 i. Ut. (a)

Hoover Institution of Peace and War, or the Leo Baeck Institute, as well as major university libraries—among them Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Columbia, Chicago, Michigan, Indiana, Texas in Austin, and Stanford, to mention only a few—have developed over a period of many decades outstanding research collections, including numerous auIt should be stressed in this connection that the collection described in these pages is strictly private in nature, that it is still in the process of being assembled, and that its holdings are in no way comparable to the treasures contained in the above-mentioned institutions. Another important difference between this archive and the German materials



A humorous dedication written to the collector into a copy of the very rare brochure containing the texts of several addresses given in honor of Thomas Mann's seventieth birthday in 1945.

tographs and rare books relating to the field of German literature and culture. Over a period of time, these institutions have received many valuable items as bequests or—in a number of cases—become the recipients of the papers of world-famous writers or publishers⁴. In addition, these libraries, many of them richly endowed, often rely on the support of private individuals, corporations, or foundations which assist them in acquiring valuable materials that fall outside the scope of their regular acquisition budget. of those great university or private libraries must not be overlooked: For the time being this collection is not yet available to the public due to its inadequate temporary housing and the problems resulting from this predicament. Moreover, it was only once, in the spring of 1983, that a small but representative selection of its materials was shown in a local exhibition sponsored by the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, which attracted numerous visitors to the Department of Special Collections of the Hillman Library of the University of Pittsburgh⁵.

It goes without saying that the autographs both in German and Austrian literature as well as in cultural and political history, that have been entrusted to the collection by a number of donors, are being handled with utmost care and that the wishes of previous owners to remain anonymous are being fully respected. To illustrate this point by an example: When a number of Thomas Mannautographs was turned over to the collection a few years ago, the anonymous donor placed but one restriction upon his gift, that-during his lifetime-his name not be revealed and that no copies be made for use in other archives or collections. Thus, instead of turning over photocopies to the editors of the major bibliography of Mann's letters, Hans Bürgin and Hans-Otto Mayer, the previous owner chose to provide S. Fischer Verlag in Frankfurt with abstracts of those letters so that they could be incorporated into that standard reference book⁶. In a number of exceptional cases of special merit, copies of unpublished documents were made accessible to leading scholars for specific research projects, particularly those dealing with Thomas Mann and Rainer Maria Rilke⁷. These, however, were the exceptions, not the rule, and the recipients of photocopies had to agree in writing not to publish quotations without permission from the owners of the copyright.

THE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

The materials in the collection fall within several major categories:

- (1) Original Works published in German
- (2) Translations of these Works into Foreign Languages
- (3) Journals and other Serials
- (4) Newspaper and Periodical Articles
- (5) Research Literature
- (6) Autographs and Unpublished Letters

(7) Miscellaneous Items

(8) Bibliographical Reference Tools.

Additional subdivisions have been made for each major writer, who is allotted one section for himself. In contrast to other private collections usually concentrating on one individual only, this archive does not attempt to emphasize one single author and to bring together all the materials relating to that individual's works. Absolute completeness an allinclusiveness is therefore not the goal of this collection, but rather the harmonious orchestration of the various sections and subdivisions, complementing one another in such a way as to stress the relations and intellectual ties between the individual authors and their works. Hence a number of studies have been undertaken to document the friendship and correspondence of selected writers with their contemporaries8.

It should be pointed out in this connection that the research materials entrusted to the collection by individuals in many countries will be permanently kept together and will never be transferred to more than one institution. In 1964, a similar collection on twentieth-century English literature assembled by me-the result of twenty years of collecting with the help of the authors concernedwas acquired by the Humanities Research Center of the University of Texas in Austin. Within a few years, the German and Austrian holdings will also find a permanent home in that great research institution. Once that move has been accomplished, an important step toward the expansion and improvement of the collection will have been made. Existing gaps will then be filled through an ongoing, systematic acquisition process; first and special bibliophile editions as well as valuable autographs will be added; and, should the opportunity present itself, even specialized collections on these or related German and Austrian writers may be acquired. Once the necessary space for the proper housing of the collection has been found, a period of steady growth and improvement is anticipated.

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A four-page autograph letter from Rudolf G. Binding (1867–1930), dated Buchschlag (Hessen), June 7, 1928, congratulating his brother-in-law Artur Weese, Professor of Art History at the University of Bern, on his sixtieth birthdop.

THE COLLECTION OF RESEARCH MATERIALS

Original Works in German

The center of the collection is undoubtedly its library of some six thousand volumes containing both collected and individual works of the authors' writings, including their diaries and letters, as well as the worldwide secondary literature about them. The following figures should give an approximate idea of the quantity of the main author's sections, that is, the primary sources. In order to simplify matters, I have chosen to combine in these figures both the number of volumes published in German and that of published translations: Thomas Mann: 1600 volumes; Rainer Maria Rilke: 1000 volumes: Gerhart Hauptmann: 500 volumes; Hermann Hesse: 400 volumes. The remaining 1200 volumes are the works of other authors, among them Richard Beer-Hofmann, Rudolf G. Binding, Hermann Broch, Carl J. Burckhardt, Ernst Jünger, Erich von Kahler, Mechtilde Lichnowsky, Golo Mann, Nelly Sachs, Carl Zuckmayer, and Stefan Zweig.

Translations

Translations of authors' works are, of course, of equal value to the collection. In the case of one major author, Thomas Mann, there are translations into thirty-three languages: Afrikaans, Albanian, Bengali, Bulgarian, Catalan, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Esperanto, Finnish, French, Georgian, Greek, Hebrew, Hungarian, Icelandic, Italian, Japanese, Latvian, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Oriya, Polish, Portuguese, Rumanian, Russian, Serbo-Croation, Slovak, Spanish, Swedish, Tamil, and Turkish. These translations represent not only important sections of cultural history, but also document in a most impressive way the growing interest of readers and publishers all

over the world in these modern German and Austrian writers. It is these foreign-language editions—normally not collected even by major American research libraries—which provide us with a foundation for the study of the worldwide reception accorded to these writers. Moreover, many of them include prefaces, commentaries, and introductory essays that together represent an often neglected portion of the international research literature, particularly of the past three decades.

With the exception of three writers whose families are especially cooperative and supportive—Hermann Broch, Thomas Mann, and Golo Mann—the collection of translations is still far from complete and requires for years to come a great deal of attention.

Journals and other Serials

In the first two categories—original works in German and foreign-language editions thereof—the materials are arranged on the shelves alphabetically by author. It is thus possible to get a quick overview and count the number of volumes relating to each individual writer. Such subdivisions, however, are no longer possible in this as well as in some of the following categories.

As of this writing—March 1984—the collection contains between three and four thousand issues of over five hundred different almanacs, journals, and yearbooks. The major writers represented in the collection are, for the most part, represented in these periodicals either with parts of their own writings, as the subject of scholarly investigations, or simply by book reviews.

In a number of cases, an entire series of a given almanac or yearbook is part of the collection, for example, the almanacs of S. Fischer, Insel- and Suhrkamp-Verlag, or the *Jahrbuch der Deutschen Schillergesellschaft;* the papers of various societies devoted to the study of one major writer such as the Hauptmann-Gesellschaft, the Hofmannsthal-Ge-

7991 Hiefinger 1. 17. 1. 1969

Jehr geebeter Herr Jonas, It's Buch inter den Feronfirm. 200 hat mich berücht den roch die moble Art, auf die Sie die Aufsahe bewältigt ha = ben, ohne der Jache Euroung au zahlen.

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A one-page autograph letter from Ernst Jünger (born 1895) to the collector, thanking him for a copy of his biography «Der Kronprinz Wilhelm» (Frankfurt 1962).

5. Juli 1944 3006 BAAS-FEE. SCHWEIZ

CARL ZUCKMAYER

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CARL ZUCKMAYER

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A two-page autograph letter to the Collector from Carl Zuckmayer, Saas-Fee, July 5, 1974, concerning a proposed study of his original manuscripts.

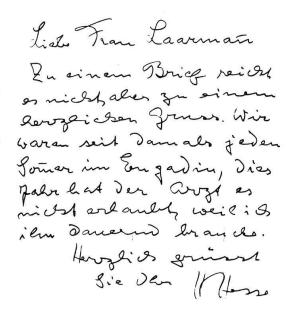
sellschaft, Deutsche Thomas Mann-Gesellschaft, Thomas Mann-Gesellschaft Zurich, and Rilke-Gesellschaft, as well as the publications of «Centro Studii Rainer Maria Rilke in Duino»; the original issues of $Ma\beta$ und Wert, the Zurich-based emigré journal started by Thomas Mann and later edited by his son Golo Mann; and finally, a number of German and American journals such as Aus dem Antiquariat, Beilage zum Börsenblatt für den Deutschen Buchhandel; Imprimatur; Jahrbuch für Bücherfreunde; Philobiblon; Pour le Mérite für Wissenschaft und Künste, and Friedenspreis für den Deutschen Buchhandel. It goes without saying that American journals such as The German Quarterly, Modern Austrian Literature, and Monatshefte are also included.

Newspaper and Periodical Articles

In addition to these journals and other serials of which the entire issues are in the collection, many thousands of newspaper and periodical articles-both originals and photocopies-have been catalogued during the past thirtyfive years. These articles, both by a given author or about his life and work, have been arranged chronologically in order to provide a clear overview of the existing research about a particular writer. Inasmuch as the collection itself attempts to be international in dimension, these articles have been collected from German as well as foreign sources such as newspapers, periodicals, encyclopedias, histories of literature, and collections of essays (even if the volumes in which they appeared are represented in the collection). They represent a major part of the secondary literature to which the average research library in this country cannot possibly devote time, money, and energy.

Research Literature

The research literature on the selected group of authors is by far the largest category



One of the last autograph letters of Hermann Hesse, written shortly before his death to Frau E. Laarmannn of Zurich, Bucheggstrasse 151, accompanied by water-color, the poem «Föhnige Nacht» and the words «Mit einem Gedicht aus dem Jahr 1938 danke ich für die Glückwünsche zu meinem 85. Geburtstag».

within the library and accounts for more than half its entire size. These volumes are divided into two subcategories:

(a) The first, catalogued and arranged alphabetically within a given section, contains the following kinds of materials dealing with a particular writer: monographs such as biographical and major critical studies (some of them in languages not commonly known such as Georgian, Japanese, or Turkish); published as well as unpublished doctoral dissertations and other academic writings from various countries usually to be found only as typescripts in their respective university libraries and, for the most part, received as gifts from their authors; brochures, essays, pamphlets, and other miscellaneous printed or unpublished materials dealing with one particular writer.

(b) By sheer quantity of items, however, the second subcategory is substantially larger. Included are histories of literature, collections of essays and *Festschriften*, mem-

FÖHNIGE NACHT

Schaukelt im wehenden Föhnwind der Feigenbaum Wieder wie Schlangen wirr die gewundenen Äste, Steigt übers kahle Gebirg zu einsamem Feste Vollmond empor und beseelt mit Schatten den Raum Spricht zwischen gleitenden Wolkenschiffen der Lichte Träumerisch mit sich selber und zauber die Nacht Über dem Seetal still zum Seelenbild und Gedichte, Daß mir im Herzen zuinnerst Musik erwacht, Dann erhebt sich in drängender Sehnsucht die Seele, Fühlt sich jung und begehrt ins flutende Leben zurück, Kämpft mit dem Schicksal und ahnt, woran es ihr fehle, Summt sich Lieder und spielt mit dem Traume vom Glück, Möchte noch einmal beginnen, noch einmal der fernen Jugend heiße Gewalten beschwören ins kühlere Heut, Möchte wandern und werben und bis zu den Sternen Dehnen der schweifenden Wünsche dunkles Geläut. Zögernd schließ ich das Fenster, entzünde das Licht, Seh die weißglänzenden Kissen des Bettes warten, Weiß den Mond und die Welt und das wehende Wolkengedicht Draußen lebendig im Föhn überm silbrigen Garten, Finde zurück mich langsam zu meinen gewohnten Dingen, Höre bis in den Schlaf das Lied meiner Jugend klingen.

HERMANN HESSE

oirs, as well as anthologies (including College readers) containing contributions by the authors represented in the collection. Forewords, introductions, and commentaries in these anthologies are equally relevant within the framework of the critical or secondary literature.

It is, of course, impossible ever to put together an absolutely complete collection of the rapidly growing international research literature pertaining to these giants in modern German and Austrian literature. Nor have I ever attempted to reach this goal. And yet the materials within this category do show to a certain degree the international reputation of these writers and the reception accorded to them by critics and literary historians.

Autographs and Unpublished Letters

By far the most precious items in the entire collection are the autographs and unpub-



lished materials, mostly letters, but also personal dedications, the one and only section of the collection which is not duplicated in any other archive in the world. These are materials usually to be found in rare book rooms or departments of special collections of American research libraries. In some of these documents the authors interpret their own works or characterize the personality or the writings of some of their fellow-writers. Materials in this section are divided into three main subcategories:

(a) The first one contains the original letters written by the major and a number of minor authors, either to the collector himself or to other recipients who then turned them over to the collection. In exceptional cases such letters have been acquired at auctions or through dealers in manuscripts.

(b) The second subcategory contains the original letters written to the collector by the families, colleagues, publishers, or friends of the authors.

(c) And finally, there is a third subcategory-numerically by far the largestwhich, in contrast to the two above-mentioned ones, consists exclusively of photocopies of unpublished documents, mostly letters, in some cases manuscripts of their prose or poetry, the originals of which are to be found in numerous private or institutional libraries scattered over more than one continent. The owners or curators in charge of those collections have generously contributed copies to the collection in Pittsburgh because of the very nature of the projects in documentation that have been carried out in close cooperation with colleagues from this or other American institutions, as well as from Europe and the Far East.

Miscellaneous Items

This group is made up of those materials that fall outside the scope of the previously described categories. Here we find original documents, medals, and special postage stamps issued by various countries to mark the centenaries of the Nobel laureates Gerhart Hauptmann, Hermann Hesse, and Thomas Mann, as well as that of Rainer Maria Rilke. Among the documents, mention should be made of Thomas Mann's Nobel Prize diploma (one of ten facsimile reproductions made by special permission of his widow, Frau Katia Mann); a copy of the «Friedenspreis» awarded to Nelly Sachs, and the original Latin «Laudatio» in honor of Ger-

21. a. Biedersteinen sto. Sellohange'ge Muche. Sohn gechites Ken Perles inciegens finde die eri paar Vonte des lingeter, ge meinen Such .. Kindhert. In Bring has mits and jost hier erricht. Hochach Jorn Vandin Cichnowsey

An undated note from the German writer Princess Mechtilde Lichnowsky (1879–1958) to the publisher of her book «Kindheit».

hart Hauptmann given at the ceremony awarding him the hononorary doctorate at Oxford University. And finally, there are graphic materials and original photographs by various artists, mostly autographed (for example, Marino Marini, Sir Cecil Beaton, Imogen Cunningham, Lotte Jacobi, Yossuf Karsh, Alfred A. Knopf, and Carl Van Vechten) and two original sculptures by Swiss artists Charles Baenninger of Zurich and Fritz Huf of Gentilino/Ticino. their work on several of the writers represented in the collection. Our own research projects—some of them completed in cooperation with others—are, of course, the primary beneficiaries; in fact, their success depends to a large extent on the materials in the

Das tägliche Leben

Bibliographical Reference Tools

In this section, an attempt is being made to bring together a representative selection of the more important and useful research tools indispensable for the study of twentieth-century German literature. Here we find the journal Germanistik, PMLA's International Bibiliography, a complete set of Eppelsheimer-Köttelwelsch's Bibliographie der deutschen Literaturwissenschaft, and, of course, the various «Personalbibliographien» devoted to individual writers. Catalogues of the leading auction houses (Gerda Bassenge, Hauswedell & Nolte, Karl & Faber, and Stargardt) as well as American dealers (H. P. Kraus, Sotheby & Co., Feldman) are equally represented, as are catalogues of major collections, American as well as European. The section includes exhibition catalogues, facsimile reproductions of manuscripts, and the various «Jahresgaben der Maximilian-Gesellschaft».

SERVICE TO SCHOLARSHIP

In conclusion a few words may be appropriate concerning the major raison d'être for bringing together all these research materials. As mentioned, materials in the collection have been made available to a number of scholars in both Europe and this country for

Au Arthur Schnitzler, Rainer Maria Rilke

Rainer Maria Rilke's dedication of his drama «Das Tägliche Leben» (München, 1902) to Arthur Schnitzler.

collection. Without this archive, there would be no bibliography such as *Die Thomas-Mann-Literatur*, of which the third volume again to be carried out in cooperation with the Thomas Mann-Archive in Zurich (covering the period from 1976 to 1990) is now in preparation; neither the Golo Mann Bibliography (to be published by S. Fischer Verlag) nor that of Hermann Broch (Suhrkamp Verlag) would have been completed, and there would be no surveys of manuscripts on these writers.

Once the temporary housing of the collection is over and the materials will have found their permanent home, scholars and students will have full access to the collection and be able to use it in pursuing their research on twentieth-century German and Austrian contributions to world literature.

NOTES

¹ Cf. Klaus W. Jonas, «Documentation in Modern German Literature: A Progress Report». In: Jahrbuch für Internationale Germanistik 4, no. 2 (1972), 160–170.

Cf. John Neubauer, «Proposal for the Establishment of an Institute for Bibliography and Documentation in Modern German Literature». (Memorandum, University of Pittsburgh, October 22, 1974) in which he states : «The work produced by K.J. has been partially funded by research grants and fellowships. It would be a logical extension of this widely respected scholarly activity if from now on it could be formally supported by the University of Pittsburgh through an Institute, to be operated in cooperation with the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures. ... At the moment there is no Institute or Center in the United States that performs comparable research activities, though the needd for bibliographical tools and related reference works on manuscripts is clearly established.... The proposed Institute would lead to the formation of close working relations with prominent scholars, both in this country and abroad, who would cooperate in completing the various major projects begun by K.J.... We are requesting that the Institute be funded by the University as of July 1, 1975, from that part of the departmental budget which has been used for the support of the Institute for Basic German. The activities of that Institute will come to an end by June 30, 1975.» (AS a matter of fact, at that time, the Institute, founded and directed by Professor J. Alan Pfeffer, was transferred to Stanford University, where it has been flourishing ever since. K.J.).

³ Lee Ash, *Subject Collections* (New York: R. R. Bowker, 1975).

⁴ For example, the papers of Richard Beer-Hofmann at Harvard, of Hermann Broch in the Beinecke Library at Yale, of Erich Maria Remarque at New York University, and of the publishers Kurt Wolff at Yale, and Gottfried Bermann-Fischer (log-time director of S.Fischer Verlag) at Indiana University in Bloomington.

⁵ Cf. German and Austrian Contributions to World Literature (1890–1970), with a preface by D. L. Ashliman (Pittsburgh: Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, University of Pittsburgh, 1983).

⁶ Cf. Die Briefe Thomas Manns: Regesten und Register, 3 vols. to date (Frankfurt: S. Fischer Verlag, 1978–). Vol. 4 in preparation.
⁷ In addition to the Thomas Mann bibliogra-

⁷ In addition to the Thomas Mann bibliographers Hans Bürgin and Hans-Otto Mayer and the chief biographer and editor Peter de Mendelssohn, mention must be made of four prominent Rilke scholars who have used some of the unpublished letters in the collection: Ingeborg

tin klaus U. Jouas mit gnten Wünschen fin das neue Baha Ihre Nelly Sailos Stockholm 01.31.12.66

Sample of the handwriting of Nelly Sachs (1891–1970) from her collection of poems «Späte Gedichte» (Frankfurt, 1966) inscribed for the collector.

Schnack (Marburg), Donald Prater (Geneva), George C. Schoolfield (Yale), and Satoshi Tsukakoshi (Tokyo).

⁸ For example, on Hauptmann and Rilke, Hans von Seeckt, and Krafft Tesdorpf; on Thomas Mann and Ida Herz, Günther Herzfeld, Hermann Hesse, Helen Lowe-Porter, W. Somerset Maugham, Agnes E. Meyer, Caroline Newton, Rainer Maria Rilke, and Stefan Zweig; on Rilke and Richard Beer-Hofmann, Hermann Hesse, Fritz Huf, Mechtilde Lichnowsky, Friedrich von Oppeln-Bronikowsky, Clotilde Sakharoff, Paul Thun-Hohenstein, and Yvonne de Wattesville.

⁹ E.g. The last major project started in 1980, to be completed in close collaboration with other scholars once official funding has been secured, is entitled: Guide to German Manuscripts and Archival Collections in the United States. The project deals with the identification, location, and accessibility of unpublished sources relating to Germany and German culture in the United States. Materials to be included fall into two categories: (1) documents of individuals, including American-born speakers of German who are important to the student of German-Americana; (2) German documents in institutional papers including those of historical societies, professional organizations, research and publishing entities, and religious organizations. Source materials located either in public or academic libraries and archives, as well as those in private possession, will be surveyed. The result will be a reference work that should serve a broad group of scholars interested in German culture in America, German immigration to the United States and the Americanization of Germans over the past two centuries.