
German Studies Association

Newsletter

Volume XXVIII
Number 1
Spring 2003

German Studies Association

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German Studies Association

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Section One

Association News

The Twenty-Seventh Annual Conference of the German Studies Association will be held from September 18 – 21 at the Radisson Hotel, 1500 Canal Street, in downtown New Orleans, Louisiana 70112, telephone 504-522-4500, telefax 504-522-3627. The hotel has an especially good location, within walking distance of the famed French Quarter. A complimentary shuttle service takes people directly there. The Radisson has a broad variety of meeting rooms, permitting GSA to have a large number of sessions.

GSA has negotiated special rates in this expensive city, only \$119 (plus tax) single or double. These rates are only available through GSA to persons who have paid the GSA Conference Registration Fee. Our luncheons and dinner are also at special rates, and these include tax, service, and gratuity.

The Executive Committee voted last October to dispense with the requirement of GSA membership for Conference participation. This has proved exceedingly difficult to administer, creating literally mountains of paperwork. Instead, we are implementing a new fee base that is more in line with the procedures of other scholarly associations. Members pay the same rate as before. Non-members do not have to join the Association. However, they pay a Non-Member Rate. This is about the same as member registration plus membership dues, but is much easier to administer. In effect, the rates remain exactly the same. Non-members, however, can now choose whether they wish to join or not. Nevertheless, conference registration is required for all those who attend the conference and for all those who wish hotel rooms in the Radisson at the reduced rate.

GSA is launching a new web-based Conference Registration System, following the procedure used by the APSA, The Renaissance Society of America, and many other scholarly organizations. It is very simple. All one needs to do is to visit the GSA web site, www.g-s-a.org, and click to the 2003 Conference information section. There, you will find the web-system for conference registration and hotel reservations. You will also be able to use all German umlauts, and other diacritical marks. This is explained in the introduction for first-time users. As soon as you reach the site, you will be guided to an information page, which will tell you how to use it. Then, you just enter your information, select your own password, and there you go. Simply follow the steps, choose your meals or whatever, and you will go directly through the registration to "checkout." Here, you can use a MasterCard, Eurocard, or Visa, and pay directly on the web. The system will also generate a receipt for you when you press the print icon on your computer. When you have completed conference registration, you then go directly to the hotel reservation section. Here, you will

find a map of the region of New Orleans in which the hotel is located, and a full reservation form. Just fill it out, and click to complete. GSA will then send your reservation directly to the hotel.

Some people have had a little anxiety whether GSA members actually have credit cards, and we have therefore kept the paper system of conference registration and hotel reservation as in previous years for this one year only, as a sort of transition. This will give you time to get a credit card for next year. Alas, the two systems are not compatible, and we will try to keep the records straight by hand. Since a number of members are already nervous about using faxes, some of them send in faxes and also mailed registration, resulting in duplication. We fear that people will now send in a faxed registration, a mailed registration, and also do the web-based registration. Please just choose ONE form of registration. Just one!! Please.

The new web-based system will supersede the other system entirely next year. Then, we will go to web-based membership renewals. This is necessary because of the HUGE postage and of personnel costs. It is also simple, used by millions and tens of millions of people all the time, and very accurate. When we go to web-based membership, for example, you will be able to change your own address on our records whenever you move, and you will have total control over your own data. This is SO much better. GSA is a modern organization, and these features of electronic structural record-keeping and management actually bring the Association closer to the members. All of us can spend more time being concerned with individual members than constantly typing in new and revised data. When we get the membership data in our structure, you can simply register by using your own membership base.

Web-Based Registration Available NOW!

GSA hopes that you will use the new web-based registration system. Try it now, and you will like it. Just go to the web site and log on!!

Audiovisual at the Conference

We are increasingly concerned both about the increase in cost of renting AV equipment at the Conference hotels and about the level of modern usage of computing equipment by our members and participants. This year, we have instituted a small charge to assist us in providing even more AV materials than before. However, some members are now using their own laptops for presentations, and we want to know how far this has progressed. We are interested, because renting projection devices is also an expense. If you do this already, or have an interest in doing so, please let me know by writing to me at thegsa@yahoo.com and telling me your thoughts. The GSA leadership is interested in input, and there is a concern about runaway costs at our hotels for all AV devices. Frankly, we hope that people will use handouts for photos and

other such materials. With new computer printers being so inexpensive - a good color printer costs less than \$125 - and a good software program with advice available on most campuses, it is possible to print out - in color - on only a few pages, what can be easily distributed in a session. Then, one can avoid time taken away from the presentation, and everyone has copies to take along after the session. With rental costs escalating, and often 25% or more tax and service, mechanical equipment costs are going out of sight. We ask for your indulgence and your suggestions.

Travel to New Orleans

It is increasingly difficult to provide discounted travel options these days, and we need to prove that a great many people actually travel to GSA Conferences in order to do that. Therefore, we need to have as many people as possible book their travel with a single agent.

If you would like to help, book your travel with our selected agent, Signature Destinations, a travel agent of Carlson/Wagons-Lits, at 1-800-486-6884. You can also book by e-mail by contacting one of their agents, such as wally@signaturedestinations.com or amy@signaturedestinations.com and they will give you the excellent service for which Carlson/Wagons-Lits is nationally and internationally known. We have negotiated good fares, and Wally or Amy can provide you with the best that they can find, whether with one of our selected airlines or your own favorite airline. Sometimes, web fares at various sites can be lower, but you may be surprised that Signature can do as well and give personal service on top of that.

They also can offer special fares to other locations. I found a \$99 fare from Phoenix to London on British Air and a \$199 fare to Hawaii. Just for two weeks, and if I had been free, I would have gone, but....

New GSA Main Office Address

Most of you who have wanted to communicate with us have learned of our new address on the GSA web site already. This is the best place to get the latest news. For those who have not yet consulted the web site, the GSA Main Office is now located at 340 E. 15th Street, Tempe, AZ 85281 and our telephone number is 480-966-2245, while our fax number is 480-966-2239. Do remember that we are in Mountain Standard Time, and please try not to phone after hours.

GSA Elections and Nominations

In the just completed election, Volker Berghahn (History, Columbia University) and Sabine Hake (German, University of Pittsburgh) were elected to three-year terms on the Executive Committee. They will serve from 2004 through 2006. The new system of balloting in conjunction with the annual dues payment has

resulted in a gratifyingly higher level of voting participation. Thanks to the nominating committee that produced an outstanding slate: Belinda Davis, Jeffrey Peck, and Marc Silberman, chair.

A new committee has been appointed to nominate candidates for four positions that will be elected in early 2004: A vice-president in German/Culture Studies, who will serve for two years (2005-2006) and then succeed to the presidency, according to the system of alternation between the areas of social science and humanities and three members who will be elected to the Executive committee as representatives of history, literature, and political science for three-year terms (2005 through 2007). The Nominating Committee for the upcoming election consists of: Gail Hart (German, University of California, Irvine), chair; Alice Cooper (Political Science, University of Mississippi); Gerd Gemünden (German, Dartmouth College); and Ronald Smelser (History, University of Utah).

Qualifications for suggested candidates for office include, of course, membership in the Association and a record of interest and participation. Please mail suggestions for nominees to the committee chair: gkhart@uci.edu

Update: Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies Fellowships

As announced in the Winter 2002 GSA Newsletter and in publicity on our website (www.g-s-a.org), the German Studies Association has begun the transition into its new role as the American partner in the Free University of Berlin's fellowship programs for A.B.D.s and recent recipients of the doctorate.

A. James McAdams (political science, Notre Dame) and Sabine Wilke (Germanics, University of Washington) served as GSA's representatives on the 2002-2003 selection committee; two more GSA delegates will be added for the 2003-2004 round. By 2005, responsibility for the American side of the program will have completely transitioned from the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) to GSA. Information and application materials for the program can currently be found in the above-mentioned Winter 2002 *Newsletter*, the GSA website, the SSRC website, and by mail from:

Berlin Program
Social Science Research Council
810 Seventh Avenue, 31st Floor
New York, NY 10019

Phone: 212 377-2700
Fax: 212 377-2727

e-mail: berlin@ssrc.org
web: www.ssrc.org

Application deadline for the 2004-2005 academic year is December 1, 2003. The awards cover transportation and 10-12 months of research support in Berlin, including a weekly seminar. The competition is open to citizens and permanent residents of the US in the fields of anthropology, economics, political science, and all germane social science and cultural studies fields, including history after the mid-nineteenth century. An important criterion in the selection process is demonstrated need for access to research facilities in Berlin.

In order to inform potential candidates, graduate advisors, and mentors about this program, there will be a special roundtable session at the GSA Annual Conference in New Orleans, entitled "The Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies: What Applicants Need to Know." The director of the program, members of the selection committee, and a recent grant recipient will offer brief explanations of the purpose of the program, requirements and criteria by which research proposals are judged, and the opportunities open to fellowship holders before responding to questions from the audience. Materials will also be available at a table in the exhibit area

The Berlin Program represents a very special opportunity to support the research of young scholars in the field of German Studies and we seek to promote broader awareness of what it offers. Please spread the word!

Future Conference Sites

GSA is looking at a number of cities for future conferences. In 2004, we will meet in the Washington, D.C. area at the Marriott Crystal Gateway Hotel. We had an excellent meeting there in 2001, and many members commented how the hotel superbly suited our purposes, so we agreed to keep it as our Washington base hotel. In 2005, we will meet at the Milwaukee Hilton, a modernized and expanded hotel in the downtown area. This is also an excellent hotel, with all the facilities that we will need. We are currently looking into hotels for 2006 and 2007. Yes, it is important to book so far in advance. Our meeting dates are always announced as soon as we have signed a contract, and they can be found on our GSA web site.

Think of the GSA Endowment

The GSA Endowment Fund supports GSA and its activities. Since GSA is a 501©3 organization, we are considered tax-exempt, and you can consider GSA for donations. Our dues are very low, and we do try to keep members' interests first and foremost. For information about how to contribute to the GSA Endowment, contact Secretary-Treasurer Gerald A. Fetz.

Section Two

Grants and Other Announcements

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Offers New Program Options

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation has introduced several new options to enhance the attractiveness of its programs. They include two variants of the traditional Research Fellowship Program and the TransCoop Program, which encourages transatlantic research cooperation in the humanities and social sciences.

The requirements for the traditional **Humboldt Research Fellowship—Ph.D.**, publications of distinction, under 40 years of age—remain in place for the two new options. What changes is the length of the research stay. Instead of the traditional stay of 6 months or more, scholars resident in the United States may now apply for either 3 consecutive years with a minimum stay of 3 months in each year (longer is permitted) or for 24 consecutive months. The first option is called the **Summer Research Fellowship for U.S. Scientists and Scholars**, but might be more appropriately labeled "3x3," since the minimum stays may be fulfilled in any season. The second option is labeled the **Two Year Postdoctoral Research Fellowship for U.S. Scientists and Scholars**.

The **TransCoop Program** promotes collaborative research involving Canadian, U.S. and German scholars in the humanities, social sciences, economics, and law. Applications must be submitted jointly by at least one German and one North American scholar. Applicants must hold a Ph.D., but no age restrictions apply, so that research teams may be composed of scholars at different stages of their professional development. Humboldt Foundation funds must be matched by funds from a North American source. Successful proposals may be funded up to EUR 45,000 over a 3 year period. Funds may be used for certain categories of expenses, such as short-term research trips, travel to meet with collaborators to plan aspects of the work, to lay preliminary plans for a conference, and to cover limited personnel costs for research support.

For more information on these and other programs, see the foundation's website (www.humboldt-foundation.de) or email the foundation's U.S. Liaison Office (avh@bellatlantic.net).

The German-American Fulbright Commission

1) **Fulbright German Studies Seminar 2004 "Visual Culture in German Film, Television and the Internet."** will be offered in June 2004 in Germany.

Application deadline: November 1, 2003

The seminar is open to U.S. college, university and community college scholars in German studies and other humanities and social science fields related to the topic, specifically sociology, political science and anthropology. Experts in the seminar topic, as well as nonexperts with an interest in the topic, are encouraged to apply. U.S. citizenship, the Ph.D., Ph.D. candidacy or equivalent experience is required.

2) Fulbright Seminar for Administrators in International Education

Application Deadline: November 1, 2003

It is a group seminar on German higher education and society designed for U.S. university, college and community college administrators whose current responsibilities have a direct relation to international exchanges in higher education. The program includes briefings, selected government appointments, campus visits and cultural events. The itinerary includes meetings in Berlin and other cities in eastern and western Germany. A Ph.D. is not required or expected for this program.

Location: Visits to various institutions.

Length of Grant: 3 weeks

Starting Date: The anticipated dates of the program are April 17-May 7, 2004.

Comments: Applications are invited from full-time administrators affiliated with a college, university, community college, or nonprofit international education exchange organization. Applicants should have significant involvement with at least one of the following areas: student or faculty exchanges, foreign student admissions and advising, study abroad programs, and international education exchange services. Administrators who have substantial responsibility for enhancing the international dimension of their institutions and for international program development are also encouraged to participate.

3) Fulbright Chair in German Studies at Washington University, St. Louis, MO

Application Deadline: September 30, 2003

Eligible: German university professors

For more information on the above mentioned programs, for information on other grants for American scholars in Germany as well as application materials and program details, please contact Dr. Richard Pettit at the address below or visit the CIES Web site at www.cies.org. The web site of the German-American Fulbright Commission (www.fulbright.de) will post details of the programs as they become available. Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) 3007 Tilden Street, NW, Suite 5L, Box F-GERS, Washington, DC, 20008-3009, Telephone: 202.686.6240 o Fax: 202.362.3442 o E-mail: rpettit@cies.iie.org

Fulbright Lecturing/Research Grants to Europe, 2004-05

The competition for worldwide Fulbright grants in the academic year 2004-05 began March 1, 2003 and the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) is now accepting applications.

- Deadline for traditional research and lecturing grants is **August 1, 2003**.
- Approximately 800 grants to academics and professionals in all fields
- Lecturing and research awards in 140 different countries
- Majority of grants in Europe; Germany and Austria have very attractive programs for U.S. scholars

GERMANY

The German Fulbright Scholar Program is the largest (100 grants) and most diverse of any participating country.

All Disciplines Lecturing/Research award (35 grants)

- Largest and most flexible award category—design your own project: lecture, research or do a combination of both
- Open to scholars and professionals in all disciplines with a preference for the social sciences and humanities
- Applicants can select host institution in Germany and determine the length (2-10 months) of their project Applicant to grantee ratio of approximately 2 : 1
- Benefits include transatlantic transportation and a monthly stipend of 2,045 euro

Fulbright German Studies Seminar (25 grants)

- 2004 Topic: **Visual Culture in German Film, TV and the Internet**
- Intensive 3-week seminar in June with 25 grants
- Well-established, highly acclaimed program
- Special November 1, 2003 deadline

All Disciplines Junior Research (3 grants, 3-10 months) for scholars who have received the Ph.D. within the past 5 years or are about to receive it.

Beginning Professional Journalism (5 grants, 10 months) for young professional journalists or graduate/undergraduate students who are fluent in German and have had some practical print or broadcast journalistic experience. Grant includes independent research and an internship with a German media organization.

U.S.-Germany International Education Administrators Seminar in April, 2004; 3-week seminar, 25 grants (special November 1, 2002 deadline)

Two new awards in Germany:

Fulbright-Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik Research in International Politics (2-10 months) for a junior or senior scholar in international politics with a solid publications record in desired research area. The award is hosted by the SWP in Berlin.

Fulbright-Leipzig Lectureship in American Studies (4-10 months) has a preference for established scholars and is hosted by the University of Leipzig.

AUSTRIA

The Austrian Fulbright Scholar Program offers the following awards:

All Disciplines Research (2 grants, 2-4 months)

All Disciplines Lecturing (2 grants, 4 months)

Fulbright/IFK Visiting Fellow in Cultural Studies Research Award (4 months), hosted by the Internationales Forschungszentrum für Kulturwissenschaften in Vienna

Austrian-Hungarian Joint Research Award (4 months, 2 in Austria, 2 in Hungary) for projects with a strong bilateral Austrian-Hungarian or regional emphasis

Fulbright/Diplomatic Academy Visiting Professor of International Relations lecturing award (4 months), hosted by the Diplomatic Academy, Vienna

Fulbright/Sigmund Freud Society Visiting Scholar in Psychoanalysis lecturing/research award (4 months), hosted by the Sigmund Freud Museum, Vienna

FULBRIGHT DISTINGUISHED CHAIRS PROGRAM

Germany offers one distinguished lecturing award in American Studies and Austria offers 6 individual distinguished lecturing awards in a variety of fields, including **Human and Social Sciences** (Vienna & Salzburg), **Cultural Studies** (Graz), and **Gender Studies** (Klagenfurt). These chair awards have a special **May 1, 2003 deadline**

Details, including benefits packages and application forms, for all these awards can be found on the CIES website, www.cies.org, at these URLs:

Germany: http://www.cies.org/award_book/award2004/country/EurGerGM.htm

Austria: http://www.cies.org/award_book/award2004/country/EurAusAU.htm

Distinguished Chairs: http://www.cies.org/ab_dc/ab_dc2004/country2.htm

Consult the CIES website for information on these programs or call 202.686.7877. To request application forms, e-mail: apprequest@cies.iie.org
For additional information on programs in Germany and Austria, contact Dr. Richard Pettit, 202.686.6240; rpettit@cies.iie.org

Fritz Stern Dissertation Prize

Each year the Friends of the GHI award the Fritz Stern Dissertation Prize for the two best doctoral dissertations submitted in German history, German-American relations, or the history of Germans in North America. The winners are invited to the GHI to present their research at the annual symposium of the Friends in November. The prizewinners receive an award of \$2,000 and reimbursement for travel to Washington, D.C. Their dissertations will be considered for inclusion in the "Publications of the German Historical Series", published by Cambridge University Press.

Candidates are nominated by their dissertation advisers. Nominees must have completed all requirements for the Ph.D. degree at a North American university in the fall of 2001 or the calendar year of 2002 as certified by his/her Department Chair or equivalent authority. The prize committee, composed of Jerry Z. Muller (Catholic University of America, chair), Celia Applegate (University of Rochester), and Jonathan Wiesen (Southern Illinois University) will accept nominations through **May 1, 2003**, and announce the prize winners at the end of the summer.

Dissertation advisers should send letters of nomination, along with a one to three page abstract of the dissertation to the committee chair:

Professor Jerry Z. Muller
Department of History
Gibbons Hall
Catholic University of America
Washington, D.C. 20064

German Studies Association
2003 Conference Registration Form

The 27th Annual Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana
Fax to 480-966-2239 or mail to GSA 340 E. 15th Street,
Tempe, AZ 85281 USA

Conference Registration Fee for members \$70 _____

Conference Registration Fee for NON-members \$125 _____

Conference Package for MEMBERS (fee +meals)\$150 _____

Student fee \$15 _____

Friday lunch \$25 per person. Persons _____ Total _____

If vegetarian option check here _____

Friday banquet \$35 per person Persons _____ Total _____

If vegetarian option check here _____

Saturday lunch \$25 per person Persons _____ Total _____

If vegetarian option, check here _____

Total Fees _____

Name (for badge) _____

Institution (for badge) _____

e-mail address _____

Address _____

Enclose check in U.S. dollars or pay by credit card. Only
MasterCard/Eurocard or Visa are accepted.

Credit Card Number _____

Expiration Date on card _____

I authorize the credit card to be charged (sign here):

GSA Hotel Reservation Form
27th Annual Conference 2003

Fax this form to 480-966-2239 or mail to GSA 340 E. 15th Street,
Tempe, AZ 85281

DO NOT SEND TO HOTEL. IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED
SEND ONLY TO GSA MAIN OFFICE!!

Radisson Hotel New Orleans

Name _____

(PRINT NAME IN BLOCK LETTERS)

Address _____

E-Mail Address _____

Arrival Date and time _____

Departure Date _____

Single Room (\$119 plus tax) _____

Double Room (\$119 plus tax) _____

Sharing room with _____

Special requests: _____

MasterCard/Visa(cross out one) _____

Diner's/American Express (cross out one) _____

Expiration Date _____

Authorization

Signature _____

Section 3

Computers and Software

Projection Devices

I am not going to review projection devices here, but there has been a lot of talk about AV at the GSA Conferences and a good deal of talk about whether we will rent projection devices for people who want to bring their laptops instead of using VCRs or whatever. We do not own projection devices at the GSA, and hotels rent them out still at astronomical costs, but their prices appear to be finally dropping, and this probably means that we will be thinking about them in the future. Do you use one? Do you know how to use one? Does your university/department allow you to take one with you to a conference? I would like to know about these matters, because we will continue to be thinking about upgrading our policy. You are our members, and your opinions count. Please let me know and give me a few of your thoughts on projection devices. You can write to me at thegsa@yahoo.com and that will certainly reach me.

Tablet PCs

Tablet PCs have finally arrived, Models from six manufacturers—Acer, Fujitsu, HP, Motion Computing, Toshiba, and ViewSonic are already available. What is a "tablet PC?" Many of us saw them as children. They are etch-sketchers, a sort of grey tablet on which one wrote with a stylus. Now, they are large legal pad sized tablets, and one writes on them. They are used for taking notes by longhand, and drawing.

While these units represent a promising start to a promising technology, prices, of course, are still quite high, ranging from \$1800 to \$2814. The handwriting recognition feature on some models is not up to speed, while other models are just slow. And battery life is also a concern. Acer's model is sort of neat. The tablet is actually the display of a laptop. It is removable to be carried as a tablet. It sells at the lower end of the scale, costing about \$1800 for the lowest-priced version.

When prices drop and the bugs are worked out, it just might be worth having a Tablet PC to bring along to future GSA meetings. For now, though, I'd wait. In fact, I don't think I would ever use one. I'd rather just "eyboard."

Disposable Junk Mail

If you are tired of spam and frustrated by filter-based junk-mail fighters, you might try using a throwaway address the next time you are asked for an e-mail address online. Clic-VU's Spamex Disposable Email Address Service lets you create a disposable email address (DEA) that forwards your messages to your

real email address. When your DEA is harvested by a spammer, you can identify the source and then turn off that address.

Monster-Vision LCDs

How about letting a monster in your house? 19-inch monitors are now available at much lower prices than were predicted a year ago. Most sell for under \$1000, with some going for as low as \$699. In recent tests by PCWorld, two were chosen as best buys: the Samsung SyncMaster 191T and the ViewSonic VX900. Both of these models have top-notch image quality, wide viewing angles, and generous tech support. The Samsung SyncMaster rotates from landscape to portrait orientation while the ViewSonic features integrated speakers. Now, there is a real difference between LCD displays and the standard monitor that used to come with computers. The first thing that you notice is that you suddenly have more room on your desk. Just think of all the clutter that you can add to fill so much more space. Second, they are really bright and sharp. This makes computing more pleasurable. Third, their view space is also larger than you think. The inch size of such displays underestimates their view capacity. So, this is a genuine upgrade, and one that you might really think of with seriousness.

Visit a monitor maker or retail store and try out an LCD or two before making a purchase. If possible ask to try them out in your home or work setting before making a commitment. Some makers and retailers will allow for that. When choosing a monitor you will be staring at for the next few years, your eyes will be the ultimate judge.

Mice with Innovative Functions

New mice now shipping from Genovation and Gyration have new and very helpful features. The Genovation Ultra Cordless Optical Mouse will allow you to stand 20 feet from a notebook computer and run a presentation. The Optical Mouse Keypad by Genovation offers numeric-keyboard capabilities to your laptop. Both are available at \$79. Why a cordless mouse? Everything is going wireless these days, but having fewer cords on your desktop is another blessing. If the thing works, you will ask yourself how you ever did without one. Now, presentations are another matter. These also act for your presentations, and that is a new idea.

DVD-Burning Laptops

Laptops with recordable DVD drives are now available. Apple's PowerBook G4 and Toshiba's Satellite 5205-5703 are serious rivals to desktop PCs with similar capabilities, though are still slower. The PowerBook G4 has an easy-to-use movie-creation program. Front-mounted audio controls and LED battery gauge, Secure Digital slot, and booming sound are features of Toshiba's offering. I am not terribly keen on the idea of this – seems to me to be an extra feature at this time in search of a real use for academics, but if this is what you were waiting for, then it has arrived.

Mini-Cams

Mini digital cameras are now available. These devices cost less than \$100 and can either be worn around the neck on a chain, or they will fit easily in any pocket, purse, or anywhere. They will hold up to 100 photos, and can be ready for action in a moment. Pictures are easily downloadable, and can be integrated into classroom lessons, used for transparencies in lectures, or whatever. The digital camera revolution is going to be a boon to research and to teaching as well. Some of the mini cameras are not Mac-compatible. However, the new I-Mac is a magnificent computer for most digital cameras. It automatically opens whatever is there.

Get me to the Airport

Using Airport or a similar device for the PC is now a real advantage for working at home. Airport is the Mac wireless device, but there are many others, both for Macs and PC. You do not have to be wired to the internet, but you can just move the computer or laptop anywhere around the house, and you are connected. You can connect multiple computers, for spouse and children, and all can use the internet. Prices are dropping rapidly, and many people are taking advantage of this and going wireless. An interesting trend to watch.

Key-Chains on the Bus?

Yes, I have written about this before, but it fits here, too. A key-chain device with a USB bus has a mini hard disk, and you can travel with data in your pocket. The trend towards miniaturization is continuing, and there is no doubt that more and more devices will follow. For 128mb the key-chain is \$78.

Printers Cheaper by the Dozen?

Well, not exactly, but the drop-off in printer prices and increase in their quality has been nothing short of dramatic. The manufacturers have discovered that the real money is in cartridges. These are not falling in prices, and riches are piling up. At any rate, there is no longer an excuse for not having a good color printer. You can even buy a Kodak or HP or other printer exclusively for photographs, and use your main printer for text. These handy little devices are really excellent. Or, you can buy a mini printer for travel. They connect easily, and as long as you don't lose ink out of the cartridge on your clothes, you are in good shape. Just watch out for the density. The American scanning devices at airports are expensive, large, and of low quality, so we have to worry about things like coffee, chocolate, and anything that might show up. The people who buy these things forgot to ask the Germans, who have a cheaper, lighter, scanning device for airports that sees much better and detects more easily. Oh, well, strike one more for the D.C. bureaucracy.

News on the Web

Students who are not comparing news on the web are missing out in more than culture studies. Some German news outlets are refusing to print what has become

unpopular "American viewpoint" data, so really hard research on what is coming out might be just fascinating for students. Thus, audiences are getting different news reports. This is not the time for the FAZ to clam up, but even comparing n-tv with cnn is worthwhile. The whole issue is a bonanza for political science classes, and the proliferation of newspapers on the web allows for much comparative education. If journalists can be "embedded," we can now find that students can browse newspapers all over Europe and the United States.

Combodrives

The newest combodrives now allow you to put movies and other material on DVD or CD. This is a nightmare for the GSA Conference organizers, because the projection devices are still so expensive to rent that we simply have no funding to cover it. Universities are also struggling to buy such devices.

Routers

This is interesting. If your internet connection at home is through a cable modem or other system that is not dial-up, you can use a router. These devices cost about \$30 and come with a firewall. If you have one, you can set up your laptop on the desk next to your desktop, and be connected to the internet on BOTH simultaneously. There are real advantages to having a connection on one computer while you are working on the other, and the routers are so inexpensive and easy to set up that it hardly involves work.

Section Four

Archives and Archival Reports

GSA Archives Committee Report

The Archives Committee consists of Geoffrey Giles, Jürgen Förster, Rainer Hering, Alan Steinweis, Gerhard Weinberg and Ronald Smelser (chair)

There are issues still pending from last year, among them the Red Cross International Tracing Service at Arolsen. The Archive Committee chair sent a letter two years ago to the American representative on the International Commission of the ITS, Brian Flora complaining about problems of access to its voluminous material. There was no response. Last April, President Friedlander and I sent a joint letter to the president of the Commission. Again there was no response. The committee resolved to take the matter to a different level and direct letters to the congressional foreign affairs committee chairs as well as to the Swiss ambassador.

Last year we also alluded to a forthcoming guide by record group to the holdings of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. The catalogue, in print and on line, is out, assembled by Brewster S. Chamberlain and Carl Modig, Archival Guide to the Collections of the USHMM. Last year we also pointed out that 40% of the museum's considerable holdings had been catalogued. It still stands at that percentage, but not because of lack of diligence on the part of the staff. Rather, new material has been coming in at a prodigious rate. Alongside records from the archives of the former Soviet Union, which dominated the acquisitions of the early 1990s and those from German archives, which were added in the late 1990s, now records are coming in from a wide variety of other sources. To indicate the scope of these materials: Warsaw-- Central Archives of Modern Records and Jewish Historical Society; Brussels-- Center for the Study of World War Two; France--departmental archives; Geneva--Red Cross records; Helsinki--Foreign Office archives; state archives materials from Portugal, Switzerland, Croatia, Lithuania and Romania. Meanwhile, Jürgen Matthäus is engaged full time for the USHMM collecting documents in Europe.

German archives. As the program indicates, there are two sessions at this conference on the state of German archives. One is largely informational, and includes presentations by Hartmuth Weber, president of the Bundesarchiv, Ulrich Ott, of the Schiller-Nationalmuseum und Deutsches Literaturarchiv, Marbach, and Peter Grupp from the Foreign Office Archives in Bonn. The other panel, somewhat more substantive with respect to issues and challenges, included papers by Rainer Hering, Staatsarchiv Hamburg, Susanne Pils, Wiener Stadt- und Landesarchiv, and Josef Pauser, Universität Wien. We are hoping to publish at least several of these papers in a future edition of the newsletter. In our report

last year we surveyed five issues involved with German archives today: acquisitions, new technologies, Datenschutz, archival laws and administrative changes embodied in "Records managers" vs "Historiker-Archivare". None of these issues has gone away in the interim; indeed they have been exacerbated. And they relate to each other in ways vital to researchers. For instance, the fact that more and more documentation is electronically generated relates to the problem of who is going to assess its value and put it into general categories which give the researcher a good "Überblick" over the material: records managers or historian-archivists.

Consequently, as we see it:

- a) more demand and fewer personnel continue to be a theme. Budget cutting and a poor economy have reduced personnel at precisely the time when demand is up. This summer's flooding didn't help either, although little archival material fell victim to flooding. Staffs are falling further behind in assessing and cataloguing the material they receive.
- b) nor are they receiving what they should. Many state offices are not turning over documentation which belongs in archives, but are hoarding them in their own files. This tendency is only exacerbated by the fact that much of the informational and business traffic in governmental offices at all levels is increasingly electronic--and thus all the easier to lose track of.
- c) In a time of very rapid technological exchange: Internet, DVD, etc., the problem is not only what can be acquired and how it is to be evaluated, but also what survives and by what means will the surviving material be accessible in 10, 20 years or more.
- d) In many archives there is a tendency to reduce the scope of acquisitions to that demanded by legal mandate and to avoid securing potentially valuable materials from the private sector and from other kinds of collections, e.g. photos.
- e) Occasionally, governmental units try to limit access to materials. In one case, the oberhessische Gemeinde Neustadt tried to get the Marburg Staatsarchiv to close access to certain "Arisierungsakten", arguing that the archive was solely a repository. The archive refused to accede to that request and won.
- f) We took cognizance of the fact that for three years the process of digitalizing the Hamburger passenger lists (1.3 million names) has been underway and the years 1890-1902 can be researched on the Internet through "Link to your Roots".

On this the 50th anniversary of the Bundesarchiv the committee engaged the issue of just how the archive is to be organized in the future. We note that both for reasons of cost and for more user-friendly service there will have to be a further process of concentration and integration go on. This at a time when actually a process of decentralization has happened with records in the eastern states. Currently the Bundesarchiv has eleven sites in nine locations at which 800 staff members administer 280 km of documents, 130000 films and eleven million photographs while serving 8000 users per year.

With respect to military records, by 2006 the Zentrale Nachweisstelle in Kornelimünster will be closed. The military personnel records and military court records currently held there might possibly go to the Wehrmacht Auskunftstelle (WAST) in Berlin. Further reorganization may take the form of broad historical periodization into account. That would mean that pre-1945 military records might go to Koblenz; post-1945 West and East German military records to Lichterfelde. But this is still speculative.

A *Berliner Zeitung* article reports that an amendment of archival law which recently went into effect stipulates that the former 80 year rule which limited access to government records which dealt with tax, social insurance and banking files, which, for example, could be used to research expropriation, has now been suspended and that these records, to the extent that they were generated prior to May 23, 1949—the day the Grundgesetz was promulgated—are to be accessible for research. However, this change applies only to records of governmental agencies at the national level. Bundesrecht trumps Landesrecht.

Some useful announcements which came out of Friday morning's session on German archives which may be of interest and importance to our members:

a) The Stasi-NS-Archiv has been turned over to the Bundesarchiv. This was NS material raided by the Stasi from state and local archives during the DDR time to be used to defame or blackmail both DDR citizens and Bundesbürger. The provenances include: various Reich ministries, the RSHA, the NSDAP, the KL administration. The files run to 6500 meters.

b) New Internet possibilities were recently announced:

- 1) A brand new database of 22 000 Nachlässe (4000 in BA).
- 2) The first year of the "Kabinettsprotokolle der Bundesregierung" will soon be available on Internet for researchers
- 3) Book titles and guides to other BA holdings available on Encoded Archival Description (EAD).
- 4) the card file of the Zentralkartei der Autographen in the Staatsbibliothek in Berlin is now being digitalized, using the EDV-System Kallias/Kalliope system developed in Marbach
- 5) also the Marbach catalogues and registers are electronically available on line as of this month (October 2002)

In response to member queries we would like to point out that the records of the "Zentrale Stelle der Landesjustizverwaltung zur Aufklärung nationalsozialistischer Verbrechen" at Ludwigsburg was turned over to the Bundesarchiv (Ludwigsburg is now an Außenstelle) to be used on the same terms as other BA records.

We welcome questions, complaints and information from our members bearing on archival research on German history and culture.

Ulrich Ott: Archive und Forschungsbibliotheken für Literatur- und Kulturgeschichte im deutschen Sprachgebiet

Weimar, Wolfenbüttel, Marbach am Neckar - drei Namen kleiner deutscher Städte mit großen literarischen und kulturgeschichtlichen Sammlungen, zu denen Forscher aus aller Welt kommen - Forscher nämlich, die German Studies betreiben. Wer Romanist ist und etwa French Studies betreibt, der findet in Paris in der Bibliothèque Nationale fast alles, was er an Büchern und Handschriften braucht. In Deutschland muß er kleine Städte aufsuchen, weil die föderalistische Struktur der Bundesrepublik, vor allem aber das Kleinst-Staats-Mosaik des Heiligen Römischen Reiches deutscher Nation vor 1803 zentrale, metropolitane Institutionen nicht begünstigt haben. Das ist für die Forschenden, die Quellen und Dokumente brauchen, eine Erschwernis, es ist aber zugleich auch ein Glücksfall.

Wolfenbüttel ist mit seiner Herzog August Bibliothek als Research Library eine einmalige Forschungsstätte für die Europäische Kulturgeschichte der frühen Neuzeit. Das Goethe- und Schiller-Archiv in Weimar und das Deutsche Literaturarchiv in Marbach zählen sich zur Gattung der Literaturarchive, literature archives, das heißt, daß sie hauptsächlich Schriftstellernachlässe bewahren und für die Forschung erschließen, also alles mit der Hand oder der Schreibmaschine oder heute auch mit dem Computer Geschriebene, das Autoren bei ihrem Tod hinterlassen: Notizen, Manuskripte, Briefe, die sie bekommen haben, und oft auch, in Durchschlägen, Briefe die sie geschrieben haben, Lebenszeugnisse, Tagebücher und ähnliches. Goethes persönliches und schriftstellerisches Archiv, das ist gewissermaßen der Urnachlaß deutscher Sprache. Seit etwa 1885 - es ist das Jahr, in dem Goethes Nachlaß öffentlich zugänglich und das Goethe- und Schiller-Archiv in Weimar gegründet wurde, kümmern sich öffentliche Institutionen - große Bibliotheken, Literaturarchive - um solche Dokumente. Damals, im Zeitalter des Historismus, stand auch in der Literaturwissenschaft das Interesse an Literaturgeschichtsschreibung und Schriftstellerbiographie auf dem Höhepunkt, das Interesse an historisch-kritischen Werkausgaben begann in dieser Zeit - die Weimarer Ausgabe von Goethes Werken ist zwischen 1885 und 1919 am Goethe- und Schiller-Archiv in Weimar entstanden.

Literaturgeschichte, Biographie, historisch-kritische Edition stehen heute nicht mehr im Mittelpunkt der Literaturforschung. Wichtiger geworden sind dagegen Kommentare zu den bedeutendsten literarischen Werken und Untersuchungen über die kulturgeschichtlichen und politischen Zusammenhänge der Literatur, über ihre gesellschaftlichen Entstehungs- und Rezeptionsbedingungen (Literatursoziologie, Rezeptionsforschung), über die kulturellen und mentalitätsgeschichtlichen Gleichzeit- und Ungleichzeitigkeiten der Texte

(New historicism), über das Neue und das Mehr, das in der jeweiligen Begegnung zwischen Text und Leser entsteht. Literaturarchive aber sind entstanden, als man den Autor - im Zuge der Ich-Bezogenheit des deutschen Idealismus und der Subjektbezogenheit des Historismus - zum Zentrum von Text und Literatur konstruierte. Deshalb sind sie in Deutschland am frühesten ausgebaut worden. Haben sie auch eine Funktion, wenn der Autor eher dekonstruiert wird oder wenn der literarische Text nicht mehr das alleinige Objekt der Germanistik ist, sondern Land, Leute, Gesellschaft und Kultur im deutschen Sprachgebiet, wenn also die Germanistik in den Rahmen von German Studies tritt?

Ich will zunächst an einigen Marbacher Beispielen zeigen, daß wir im Deutschen Literaturarchiv durchaus nicht nur Quellen und Dokumente für Literaturgeschichte, Dichterbiographien und historisch-kritische Editionen bereithalten, sondern auch für Literatursoziologie, für philosophische Studien, für Kulturgeschichte, für Publizistikgeschichte und allgemein für German Studies. Und daß dies auch für die anderen Literaturarchive gilt. Ich will dann die Landschaft der Literaturarchive im deutschen Sprachgebiet kurz umreißen und sie in einem Handout übersichtlich zu machen versuchen, so unübersichtlich sie auch ist. Und schließlich werde ich etwas zur praktischen Benutzung sagen, dazu nämlich, wie sich im Internet Informationen finden lassen, die Einblick in die Bestände dieser Institutionen geben können.

Das Deutsche Literaturarchiv in Marbach besteht aus vier großen Sammlungen und einem Literaturmuseum, in dem ständige und wechselnde literarische Ausstellungen zu sehen sind. Grundlage von allem ist die Bibliothek mit 700 000 Bänden, die größte Forschungs- und Quellenbibliothek zur deutschsprachigen Literatur von 1750 an. Literatur ist in diesem Fall als belles-lettres zu verstehen. Der Schwerpunkt liegt, wie in Marbach überhaupt, auf der Literatur der Moderne von 1890 bis heute. Am interessantesten ist die Handschriftensammlung, 1 100 Einzelarchive mit ca. 20 Millionen Blättern. Und die geben nicht nur Einblick in das Entstehen von literarischen Werken. Außer Schriftstellernachlässen haben wir Verlagsarchive (das des Cotta-Verlags will ich gleich als Beispiel etwas näher betrachten, zu nennen sind aber auch das des S. Fischer-Verlages von der Gründung 1885 an, oder das des Luchterhand-Verlages und des März-Verlages, die beide um 1968 ihre Blütezeit hatten); wir haben Redaktionsarchive von Zeitschriften wie der Neuen Rundschau (wer kann schon Briefe zeigen, die zwischen Kafka und Robert Musil gewechselt wurden - Musil wollte 1915 die "Verwandlung" in die Neue Rundschau aufnehmen, wenn Kafka die Erzählung kürze, was dieser ablehnte) oder wie der heute noch erscheinenden Zeitschrift "Merkur", einer Zeitschrift für europäisches Denken, die weit mehr ist als ein literarisches Publikationsorgan - sie gehört zu den wichtigsten Diskussionsorganen der Gegenwart in Deutschland. Und in allen diesen Beständen, Schriftstellernachlässen wie sonstigen Archiven, sind Millionen von Briefen, hunderte von Tagebüchern, alles einmalige Quellen für German Studies, nicht nur für Literaturwissenschaft im engeren Sinn. Walter Kempowski hat für

sein "Echolot" auch aus den Marbacher Quellen geschöpft.

Auf zwei Beispiele sei näher eingegangen:

Das eine Beispiel ist das Archiv des Cotta-Verlags. Als der große Johann Friedrich Cotta aus Tübingen, der im gleichen Jahr wie Goethe starb, 1794 Friedrich Schiller als Verlagsautor gewann, tat er den entscheidenden Schritt zur Gründung eines Verlagsimperiums, das hundert Jahre lang mindestens so kulturprägend gewesen ist wie etwa der Suhrkamp-Verlag heute. Goethe wurde der bedeutendste Autor bei Cotta, aber es fehlt auch sonst kein großer Name des späten 18. und des 19. Jahrhunderts. Literatur, Presse, Geographie, Technik, Naturwissenschaften, Ökonomie - alles fand im Cotta-Verlag ein Zentrum. Das riesige Verlagsarchiv, 1961 dem Deutschen Literaturarchiv geschenkt, gibt deshalb einer Fülle von Forschern und Forschungen Nahrung. Über 150 000 Briefe bedeutender Autoren sind darin zu finden, aber auch genaue Aufzeichnungen zur Verlagspolitik und zur Publizistik des 19. Jahrhunderts, auch das Verlagsexemplar der "Allgemeinen Zeitung" in hundert Jahrgängen von 1798 bis 1898, mit Berichten aus aller Welt, verfaßt von Autoren wie Heine oder Friedrich Schlegel und vielen anderen, alle anonym erschienen und nur im Marbacher Verlagsexemplar mit Bleistift den Verfassern zugewiesen; es ist das Exemplar der Cotta'schen Buchhaltung, welche die Honorare zahlen mußte. Gemeinsam mit dem Verlag Saur in der Verlagsgruppe Gale/Thomson Learning Company geben wir zur Zeit eine Mikrofiche-Ausgabe dieses Exemplars heraus, auch um das kostbare Papierexemplar zu sichern. Ein gedrucktes Verfasseregister wird beigegeben.

Das andere Beispiel ist das Tagebuchwerk von Harry Graf Kessler, dem auf der GSA-Konferenz 2002 eine eigene Sektion gewidmet ist. Von 1880 bis 1937 hat der Graf Kessler seine Zeit mit dem Blick auf die Weltpolitik, die Entwicklung von Kunst und Literatur und auf die europäische Gesellschaft ausführlich beschrieben, eine einzigartige Quelle für Historiker, Soziologen, Politologen, Kunst- und Literaturwissenschaftler. Nur ein kleiner Teil davon ist in einem Band 1961 veröffentlicht worden. Wir haben die handschriftlichen Tagebuchbände in einem schwierigen und langjährigen Erwerbsprozeß zusammenführen und den gesamten Nachlaß von Harry Graf Kessler für Marbach erwerben können. Jetzt geben wir, nachdem wir den Text insgesamt elektronisch erfaßt haben, das ganze mit Erläuterung der etwa 16 000 darin vorkommenden Personen in neun Bänden von je 800 Seiten heraus. Der erste Band erscheint zu Ostern 2003, dann jedes Jahr zwei weitere. Die Subskribenten des Werkes erhalten nach dem ersten Band, also im Frühjahr 2003, eine CD-ROM mit dem gesamten Text, am Schluß eine weitere mit dem Text und allen Registern.

So viel zur Marbacher Handschriftensammlung. Es gibt neben ihr im Deutschen Literaturarchiv noch eine große Sammlung mit Medien-Publikationen zur Literatur (Fernseh- und Rundfunkaufzeichnungen, Rundfunkmanuskripte, Filme, Stimmaufzeichnungen und Aufzeichnungen von Interviews, zum Teil

auch von unveröffentlichten, eine laufend geführte Sammlung von Zeitungsausschnitten der internationalen Presse mit ungefähr einer Million Artikeln zur deutschsprachigen Literatur) und eine große Sammlung von bildlichen und gegenständlichen Dokumenten der Literatur, wie die Möbel Friedrich Schillers, der Schreibtisch Hugo von Hofmannsthal, der Tabakspfeife von Max Frisch, vor allem aber Gemälden und Skulpturen, Illustrationen und Plakaten und eine der größten Sammlungen von Totenmasken in Europa.

Soviel zu Marbach. Nun soll der Blick auf verwandte Institutionen im deutschen Sprachgebiet gerichtet werden.

Nachlässe von Gelehrten und Dichtern hat man seit ungefähr 1885 gesammelt. Für die Dichter fühlte sich Weimar zuständig, für die Gelehrten die großen wissenschaftlichen Bibliotheken, von denen es im deutschen Sprachgebiet ganz besonders viele gibt: Die Universitätsbibliotheken, die Landesbibliotheken, die Staatsbibliotheken und die Österreichische Nationalbibliothek in Wien. In Deutschland waren dies vor allem die Staatsbibliotheken in Berlin und München. Aber nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg war Deutschland geteilt, so daß Weimar für die alte Bundesrepublik keine Funktion mehr haben konnte, und die großen Bibliotheken mußten ihre kriegszerstörten Häuser und Grundbestände wieder in Ordnung bringen, sie hatten in den ersten 20 Jahren nach 1945 andere Sorgen, als Autographen und Nachlässe zu sammeln. Durch die Nazizeit und das Exil entstanden dafür große deutsche Autographen- und Nachlaßsammlungen in den Vereinigten Staaten. Um dem eine deutsche Sammel- und Forschungsstätte für das 20. Jahrhundert an die Seite zu stellen, entstand 1955 das Deutsche Literaturarchiv in Marbach, als eine Art nationaler Zentrale. Es war der Erfolg von Marbach, der die Wichtigkeit von Gelehrten und Schriftstellernachlässen bald überall wieder ins Bewußtsein führte. So entstand in den achtziger Jahren des letzten Jahrhunderts fast ein Wettbewerb um Schriftstellernachlässe, der öffentlich sichtbar wurde, als der Nobelpreisträger Heinrich Böll sein Archiv für fast zwei Millionen Mark dem Stadtarchiv seiner Heimatstadt Köln überließ. Viele Städte versuchten das mit ihren Autoren nachzumachen. Marbach aber blieb durchaus die Zentrale für die literarischen Schriftsteller in der alten Bundesrepublik. Dann kamen die neunziger Jahre, mit der Wiedervereinigung an ihrem Anfang. Es war Zufall, daß genau zur gleichen Zeit ein Schweizer Literaturarchiv an der Schweizer Landesbibliothek in Bern, ein Österreichisches Literaturarchiv an der Österreichischen Nationalbibliothek in Wien gegründet wurde. Österreich und die Schweiz waren nämlich besorgt, die Dokumente ihrer Schriftsteller würden alle nach Marbach gehen. Das traf für die österreichische und für die k.k.-Literatur bis zu einem gewissen Grad zu, für die Schweiz weniger. Gleichzeitig wurde die literaturarchivarische Landkarte durch die deutsche Vereinigung mit einem Schlag recht bunt. Das Pendant zu Marbach in der DDR waren seit 1958 die "Nationalen Forschungs- und Gedenkstätten für die Literatur und Kunst des 20. Jahrhunderts" an der Akademie der Künste der DDR in Ostberlin. Die DDR-Regierung hatte nämlich die damals so benannten "Nationalen Forschungs- und Gedenkstätten für die klassische deutsche Literatur

in Weimar" auf die Goethe-Zeit beschränkt, die literarische Moderne sollte in Ostberlin gesammelt werden. Das waren in erster Linie die Nachlässe jener Emigranten, die in die DDR zurückgekehrt waren, wie Bertolt Brecht oder Heinrich Mann und eine Reihe anderer. Diese Sammlungen wurden 1990 mit dem Archiv der Akademie der Künste in Westberlin zusammengelegt. Das hat die zweite große deutsche Nachlaßsammlung neben Marbach ergeben. Ihr Schwerpunkt liegt auch heute noch auf der DDR-Literatur, die aber auch vielfach in Marbach vertreten ist, und auf dem Gesichtspunkt des Zusammenwirkens der Künste, also im Grenzgebiet zwischen Literatur, Malerei, Film, Musik, Architektur. Das wird ein Grund gewesen sein, wieso sich der Schriftsteller und Maler Günter Grass überzeugen ließ, sein Archiv zunächst an die Akademie in Berlin zu geben (jetzt ist ein Günter Grass-Zentrum in Lübeck eingerichtet worden, das ebenfalls Nachlaßteile von Grass verwalten wird).

Und dann brachte die deutsche Vereinigung das große alte Literaturzentrum Weimar wieder in den nationalen und internationalen Zusammenhang der neuen Bundesrepublik Deutschland ein mit dem Goethe- und Schiller-Archiv, das auch den Nachlaß von Friedrich Nietzsche besitzt, mit der Herzogin Anna Amalia-Bibliothek als großer Forschungsbibliothek zur Weimarer Klassik und ihren kulturgeschichtlichen Voraussetzungen, mit dem Goethe-Nationalmuseum, das Goethes eigene Kunstsammlung und seine naturwissenschaftlichen Sammlungen verwaltet und jetzt mit den städtischen Kunstsammlungen Weimars vereinigt worden ist, die im Kern auf Goethes Wirken als Staatsminister des Großherzogtums Weimar zurückgehen. Weimar ist der erste Forschungsplatz für jeden, der für die Goethe-Zeit, die Zeit von 1770 bis 1830, ad fontes gehen will.

Ergeben sich bei dieser bunten Vielfalt nicht die schrecklichsten Konkurrenzen beim Erwerben von Sammlungsstücken, Nachlässen, Autographen, die schrecklichste Unübersichtlichkeit für die Benutzer, besonders für die von weither?

Nun, beim Erwerben nehmen wir Rücksicht aufeinander und stimmen uns ab. Oberstes Gesetz ist, daß zusammenkommen soll, was zusammengehört. Kein Nachlaß soll in sich zerrissen werden. Wir kennen unsere Schwerpunkte und machen uns, meist kollegial, auf die Erwerbungs-Gelegenheiten aufmerksam, die sich für die jeweiligen Schwerpunkte an den verschiedenen Institutionen bieten. Es wird kein Schiller-Brief versteigert, ohne daß Weimar und Marbach nicht vorher miteinander telefoniert hätten und verabredet, wer ihn kauft. Gleich nach dem Ende der DDR wurde in der Schweiz das Theatermanuskript von Schillers Wilhelm Tell verkauft. Es war von einem Schreiber abgeschrieben, aber von Schiller selbst reich korrigiert. Goethe hat eigenhändig die Schauspielernamen eingetragen, die für die Uraufführung vorgesehen waren; das Manuskript zeigte Brandspuren, es war im Weimarer Theater aufbewahrt worden, als dies 1825 niederbrannte. Marbach wollte es haben. Die Schweiz bemühte sich besonders leidenschaftlich darum, weil es zum siebenhundertjährigen Jubiläum des Rütlichwures im Jahre 1991 so besonders

gut paßte. Aber es gehörte historisch nach Weimar, und es war das erste Autograph, das Weimar wieder auf dem westlichen Markt erwerben konnte, nach fünfzig Jahren. Deshalb verzichtete die Schweiz und verzichtete Marbach einvernehmlich zu Gunsten von Weimar. Ein anderes Beispiel: Keine öffentliche Institution in Deutschland kauft einen Brief von Thomas Mann, wenn das Thomas Mann-Archiv in Zürich ihn haben will.

Schlimmer ist es für die Benutzer. Die Schwerpunkte sollen für sie sichtbar sein. In dem abgebildeten Schema ist zu sehen, daß dies beim 20. Jahrhundert besonders schwierig ist.

Wie läßt sich da Abhilfe schaffen, wie Übersicht? Seit 1966 gibt es in Berlin bei der Staatsbibliothek die Zentralkartei der Autographen. Mehr als ein Drittel der Einträge darin kommt aus Marbach. Alle Autographen, also alle neuzeitlichen Handschriften in deutschen Bibliotheken und Literaturarchiven und ähnlichen Einrichtungen sollen darin verzeichnet sein, so daß man schnell Auskunft findet, wenn man dergleichen sucht. Auskunft, die auch schriftlich erteilt wird oder per E-Mail, wo in Deutschland sich die gesuchten Autographen befinden, sofern sie in öffentlichen Institutionen sind. So lassen sich Forschungsreisen gut vorbereiten. Diese Kartei wird zur Zeit in digitaler Form erfaßt und dann ausschließlich als digitale Datei fortgeführt. Sie verwendet das in Marbach entwickelte EDV-System Kallias/Kalliope. Selbstverständlich wird sie schon bald über WWW abgefragt werden können. Auch die Marbacher Kataloge und Verzeichnisse, soweit sie elektronisch erfaßt sind, werden ab Oktober 2002 im WWW abgefragt werden können; das Marbacher Nachlaßverzeichnis ist schon jetzt im Internet zu finden. Darüber hinaus ist eine europäische Suchmaschine für Autographen entwickelt worden, MALVINE, die ebenfalls demnächst in Betrieb geht. Zur Zeit wird sogar an einer Suchmaschine für authority files von Namen aus Autographen, LEAF gearbeitet. Und eine virtuelle Fachbibliothek Germanistik als Internet-Portal, das den Zugang zu all dem und noch viel mehr erleichtert, ist gegenwärtig in Entwicklung.

Werden wir in naher Zukunft unsere Sammlungen selbst digitalisieren und dadurch Zugang zu den Quellen in der Ferne gewähren? Zu den Volltexten in ihrer handschriftlichen Form wohl kaum. 80 % der Marbacher Handschriften stehen unter Copyright und bieten zum Teil diffizile Probleme der Privacy; schon deswegen geht es nicht. Für Goethe, Alexander von Humboldt und viele andere wäre es zu erstreben. Aber die Handschriften sind schon wegen der deutschen Schrift mehr als schwierig zu lesen. Eine Volltextdigitalisierung im Einzelfall wäre auf Anforderung ad hoc denkbar, statt des Übersendens von Fotokopien, etwa bei Editionsvorhaben; sie wäre, in öffentlich zugänglicher Form, nur sinnvoll als Ergänzung zu gedruckten Editionen, wie es gerade mit Kafkas Werkhandschriften geschieht. Daran ist auch Marbach beteiligt.

Im übrigen sei, wer immer an Quellen und originalen Dokumenten in Deutschland forschen will, herzlich in die deutschen Kleinstädte eingeladen:

Wolfenbüttel, Weimar, Marbach. Alle drei Institutionen führen Tagungsprogramme durch und haben ein Stipendienprogramm, in Gästehäusern kann man wohnen, so zum Beispiel im schönen Marbacher Collegienhaus. Und engagierte Mitarbeiterinnen und Mitarbeiter helfen kuldig und liebenswürdig mit Rat und Tat.

