

PERSPEKTIVEN

PERSPEKTIVEN Volume 3, No. 2

Spring 2004

Germania Translates to Brumder

Building is a Monument to "best known German-American resident"

Historic Bavarian Village is site of Original Passion of the Christ



The Passion of the Christ

By Dr. Samuel Scheibler

With Mel Gibson's epic film "The Passion of the Christ" raising such impassioned responses around the world, it is well to remember that the roots of dramatic representation of those 12 terrible hours can be traced to a small village in Upper Bavaria.

The "Oberammergau Passion Play" stands alongside Shakespeare's "Love's Labour Lost" and Goethe's "Faust" as one of the longest continuously performed stage dramas in Europe. The story of the play's origin and the village's commitment to its perpetual presentation is a drama in its own right.

[Please turn to Passion, Page 10]

IN THIS ISSUE ...

- Summer Kinder Kamps schedule, Page 3
- The story of Turner Hall, Page 6
- Goethe Words of Wisdom, Page 8

When descendants of George and Henriette Brandhorst Brumder hold a reunion in Milwaukee this summer, the distinctive Germania Building will have a place on their tour of historic sites.

After all, the Germania Building is a monument to George Brumder, a 19th century immigrant from Breuschwickersheim, Alsace-Lorraine, who began work in America clearing Wisconsin farm land and went on to build a business empire.

The Germania Building, at 135 W. Wells Street, was the largest office building in downtown Milwaukee when finished in 1896. For a number of years, Brumder directed his printing, publishing, banking and insurance enterprises as well as the family book store from offices in the building.

[Please turn to Germania, Page 4]



Photo by Daniel P. Hanley Jr.

The Germania Building, 135 W. Wells Street



GOETHE INSTITUT

PERSPEKTIVEN

Published Quarterly
by Goethe House
of Wisconsin

814 West Wisconsin
Avenue, Milwaukee,
Wisconsin
53233

Phone (414) 276-7435

e-mail:

goethe@execpc.com

Editors:

Robert W. Wiesian
Daniel P. Hanley Jr.

Managing Editor:

Helga Nikolic

Contributing Editors:

Gerhard Rohr
Frank P. Zeidler

Design:

Carl Ruppert



Printed by Printfast,
Milwaukee

Goethe House of Wisconsin**Board of Directors**

Honorable Ted E. Wedemeyer Jr. President	Honorable Fred P. Kessler Vice President
--	--

Heiner Giese Secretary	Eileen Johannsen Treasurer
---------------------------	-------------------------------

James A. Benz	Carol L. Bruss
Prof. Garry Davis	Gabriele A. Eschweiler
Marvin L. Fishman	Susanne Foster
Dr. Sy Kreilen	Jerome H. Kringel
Dr. William J. LaJoie	Dr. John Pustejovsky
Gerhard Rohr	Dr. Donald J. Ross
Dr. Wolfgang A. Schmidt	Frank Schmitz
Rabbi Barry Silber	Dorothy M. Smaglick
Jill M. Haas-Baumann	

Honorary Board of Directors

Hon. Frank P. Zeidler	Robert Krug
-----------------------	-------------

Executive Director

Katharina Hren

Goethe House of Wisconsin**Academic Advisory Board**

Dr. John Pustejovsky, Chairman,
Marquette University

Dr. Gregory Baer, Carthage College

Gerhardt Fischer, administrator, State Department
of Public Instruction

Dr. Herbert Flaig, Milwaukee Area Technical
College

Dr. Patrick Hagen, University of Wisconsin-
Platteville

Dr. Charles James, University of Wisconsin-
Madison

Dr. Sylvester Kreilein, Marquette University
High School

Dr. Doreen Krueger, Concordia University

Dr. Donald Ross, University of Wisconsin-
Milwaukee

Rev. Dr. Samuel Scheibler

Dr. Larry Schmedeman, Milwaukee School
of Engineering

Dr. Wolfgang Schmidt

Dorothy Smaglick, Deutscher Sprach-
und Schulverein

Rabbi Barry Silber

Ex officio: Hon. Ted E. Wedemeyer

**From
the President**

Fruehling-ah-Fruehling, how nice it is that you have arrived! With the Fausching season, with all its trappings and celebrating, behind us, we at PERSPEKTIVEN now are anxious for the arrival of a new season of activities at Goethe House. There are matters to report.

To begin with, we wish to thank the Eleanor Arneson family for the generous gift in memory of Eleanor. She was deeply concerned about perpetuating German Culture in Wisconsin. Her bequest to Goethe House will help her desires be fulfilled. We express our gratitude to Attorney Kenneth F. Pedersen, a past Goethe House Board member, for facilitating this gift.

Our German language program has inaugurated two adult language classes in the Germantown Community Center. With the enthusiasm and local cooperation that the classes have generated, we look forward, in time, to expanding the program and in all likelihood establishing a Kinder Kamp this summer.

Goethe Haus will begin a German oral history program. The past several issues of PERSPEKTIVEN have served as a successful basis to initiate the effort. We have received the permission of German Fest to conduct interviews and make the recording before memories fade.

ALLES GUTE

ALLES GOETHE

Ted E. Wedemeyer Jr.

Exciting Days for German Fest, Kinder Kamps!

By Katharina Hren
Executive Director

Greetings! Just as winter seems to be on the brink of turning into spring, we at Goethe House are already thinking about the upcoming summer.

We are in the process of planning some special things for German Fest 2004, so we need to know if people are interested in volunteering...SOON! Volunteers are expected to work two shifts of approximately six hours each during the German Fest weekend, which is July 23, 24 and 25. Or, individuals can apply in pairs and share two shifts. The more volunteers we have, the stronger our presence at German Fest can be. All volunteer hours are paid to the organizations of the volunteers.

It is also time to register for Kinder Kamps! Tell your children, grandchildren, neighbors, friends, students! The following Kinder Kamps have been confirmed, and we may have one or two others in the works.

Please call (414) 276-7435 to find out about registering now! Financial assistance is available. We are also looking for volunteers to help us with a number of project this summer, so please call me if interested. This is the 7th year of the Goethe House Kinder Kamps!

Kinder Kamps 2004

Two-week German day camps for children ages 3-12:

Carroll College in Waukesha/Project Create (July 5 - 16), 100 N. East Ave, Waukesha (262) 524-7190. 8 a.m. -10 a.m. Kinder Kamp and/or 10 a.m.-noon. Kinder Kamp Kiste: German Folk Tales & Stories \$125 for each class. Please call Carroll College to register and obtain more details about this site specifically.

Milwaukee Kickers Soccer Club (July 12 - 23),
76th & Good Hope Rd. Milwaukee

Tamarack Community School (July 19 - 30),
1150 E. Brady St., Milwaukee

Kinder Kamps generally meet from Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until noon.

Children over 12 are accepted as junior helpers. Registration begins March 31 and ends June 2. Total cost (includes materials):

\$150 (non-refundable except for 3 year olds) for 2 weeks, limited scholarships are available (based on financial need).

Make check out to: Goethe House Wisconsin

To register:

1. Call the Goethe House at (414) 276-7435 or e-mail goethe@execpc.com

2. Then send us this form with payment to:

Goethe House Wisconsin, 814 W. Wisconsin Ave,
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Name(s) of child(ren) & age (s):

Phone:

Address:


Name (s) of parent (s):

Site and date preferred:

[Psst.....Hey parents! Did you know that adult German classes are available also?! Please call (414) 276-7435 for more information if interested.]

Es fruehling! Have a wonderful spring and stop in to visit! Alles Gute.

Eure,
Katharina



On behalf of Goethe House of Wisconsin, I cordially...

LEAVE A GERMAN LEGACY

invite you to join in making a bequest to Goethe House in order to guarantee its success and service to future generations.

For more information on supporting Goethe House through your estate plan, contact:
Katharina Hren
(414) 276-7435

Professor Umlaut
Help
Make German culture live today and tomorrow.

Germania Building is a Monument to Immigrant George Brumder

[Germania, from Page 1]

Even today, the large copper-clad domes - colored a weathered green - that mark the four corners of the eight-story building claim a place on the city skyline west of the Milwaukee River.

Brumder had earned the reputation as Wisconsin's "best known German-American resident" at the time of his death at the age of 70 on May 9, 1910.

The 15th of 16 children of the Breuschwickersheim village school master and his wife, Brumder emigrated to the United States in 1857, along with a sister, Anna Maria. In Milwaukee, George and Anna Maria had a sister, Maria Eva, who was married to a Lutheran minister, Rev. William Streissguth. Shortly after their arrival, Anna Maria married Gottlieb Reim, another Lutheran minister.

First Lived in Jefferson County

George Brumder first lived with his sister, Anna Maria, and her husband in Helenville in Jefferson County and then returned to Milwaukee to live with his sister, Maria Eva, and her husband. He worked as a laborer, building Milwaukee's first streetcar line and then, until he was married, he was a carpenter.

Brumder became a member of Grace Lutheran Church and married Henriette Brandhorst July 16, 1864. They had 11 children, four of whom died in infancy. Reaching adulthood were four sons - William C., Herman O., George F., and Herbert - and three daughters - Emma, Amalie and Ida. William, George, Herbert, Amalie and Ida had families.

After their marriage, George and Henriette used their savings to open a small bookstore on a site which is now the center of Pere Marquette Park, and then developed a publishing business to print German church books. That was the foundation for Brumder to expand.

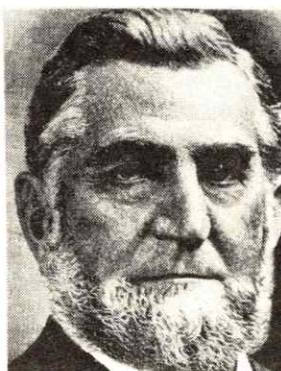
Inspiration for Germania name

The inspiration for the name of the Germania Building was a weekly newspaper, Die Germania, published by the Germania Publishing Company, which was started in 1873 by the German Protestant Printing Association of which Brumder was a member. Die Germania was meant to offset the influence of other German language newspapers in Milwaukee, particularly the liberal Herold and the Catholic Seebote. By 1880, Brumder was sole owner of the publishing company.

The German language was threatened with a setback with the enactment in 1890 of a Wisconsin law - called the Bennett law - that required elementary schools

to provide instruction in English. Germans in the state said the law was an attack on their culture as well as their schools and waged a successful repeal campaign. The repeal bolstered Brumder's publishing businesses.

The weekly Germania became the largest and most influential of Brumder's publications. Germania was



George Brumder



Henriette Brandhorst
Brumder

circulated through the northwestern, western and southern states and was sent to German speakers in California and around the world (Australia, Chile, Germany). He promoted the American way in the German language. The publication was considered the world's largest German weekly at the start of the 20th century.

The growing and prosperous Brumder family moved in 1891 to a three-story mansion on what is now W. Wisconsin Avenue between 17th and 18th streets and a year later began the acquisition of what would total 100 acres and 2,500 feet of shoreline on Pine Lake in Waukesha County where a summer retreat - Villa Henriette - was developed, and some family still owns property there.

To printing and publishing, Brumder added the Concordia Fire Insurance Company, becoming president in 1897, and then in 1903 the Germania National Bank, which ultimately merged in 1932 with the First Wisconsin National Bank, at that time the state's largest. Brumder was bank president until his death, and his son, William C., and grandson, William G., continued the family leadership in banking. William G. Brumder's died October 7, 1976.

George Brumder acquired American Standard Steel Fitting Corporation 1903 and was in competition with Pressed Steel Tank Company of West Allis.

[Please turn to Germania, Page 5]

Germania Building is a Monument to Immigrant George Brumder



Sketch by Carl Ruppert

Germania Building copper dome [Germania, from Page 4]

In 1905 Brumder sold to Pressed Steel and kept 25 percent of the combined company. His sons, George F. and Herman O., were officers of Pressed Steel.

America's entry into World War I in 1917 changed much for Brumder and the Germania Building. Among the changes was renaming the weekly Germania the Milwaukee Amerika, changing the name of the Germania Publishing Company to the Union Press Co., and removing the Germania name and statue from the building. The building then was called the Brumder Building.

By 1934 there were, for the first time in sixty years, no newspapers published under the Brumder name.

A Brumder son, George F., became president of Union Press Co. after his brother, William C., retired from the post in 1921. In 1942, George F. bought out other family interests and developed the company, now called North American Press, into a leading job printer. George F. died February 15, 1961.

Edward J. Brumder, succeeded his father, George F., as president of North American Press, the job and book printing and binding part of the Germania newspapers, which had not been sold, and headed the firm until November 1964. Earlier that year, Edward J. oversaw the Napco Inc. sale to the lithographic firm of Dosie and Johnson of Milwaukee.

North American Press and its predecessors had supported the family and gave employment to others for 100 years.

Herbert P. Brumder, the youngest child of George and Henrietta, first bought the Federal Rubber Company,

which ran into financial difficulties, and he sold it in two years. Then he visited Washington State to sell family real estate holdings. In 1920 he and other family members made a large loan to American Grinder Co. Herbert became the treasurer. Following serious financial difficulties Herbert became its president and controlling stockholder in 1924. They entered the hydraulic jack business and Herbert changed the name to Blackhawk Mfg. Co. When he became chairman of the board, his youngest son, Philip, grew the company. Under his leadership Philip took a small division forward to take over the company. It became Applied Power and moved from the American to the New York Stock Exchange.

There are no more original family businesses, as is true of most families today, according to E. J. Brumder Jr., of Milwaukee, the great grandson of George Brumder.

The will of the original George provided for the even distribution of ownership of stocks, bonds and real estate among the surviving seven children under the George Brumder Estate. Their mother, Henrietta, gave up her portion and they agreed to take care of her in the manner to which she had become accustomed. The family real estate was far-flung over the U.S. and Canada. So unexpected was his death in 1910 that it took years to settle his estate. When the last piece of real estate, the Brumder Building, was sold in 1946, the George Brumder Estate was liquidated.

In recent years, the name Germania was restored in gold-colored letters above the main Wells Street entrance. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

July 16, 2004, is the 140th wedding anniversary of George and Henrietta Brandhorst Brumder. The family reunion will start that Friday in Milwaukee, according to E. J. Brumder Jr., who will lead descendants on a German Heritage walking tour of downtown Milwaukee, including the Germania Building and ending at Grace Lutheran Church where they were married. Saturday, they will visit Chenequa to tour Villa Henrietta on Pine Lake and have a picnic lunch, an afternoon at the shore, and then for the evening an Alsatian meal and singing and dancing. Sunday each of the five families with descendants will meet on their own.

Sources: Sharon M. Mallman, author of "The Brumders of Milwaukee," in the magazine of the Milwaukee County Historical Society, and E.J. Brumder Jr., of Milwaukee, great grandson of George Brumder.

The Milwaukee Turners and Turner Hall:

They are Deeply Rooted in German Cultural and the City's History

By E. J. Brumder Jr.

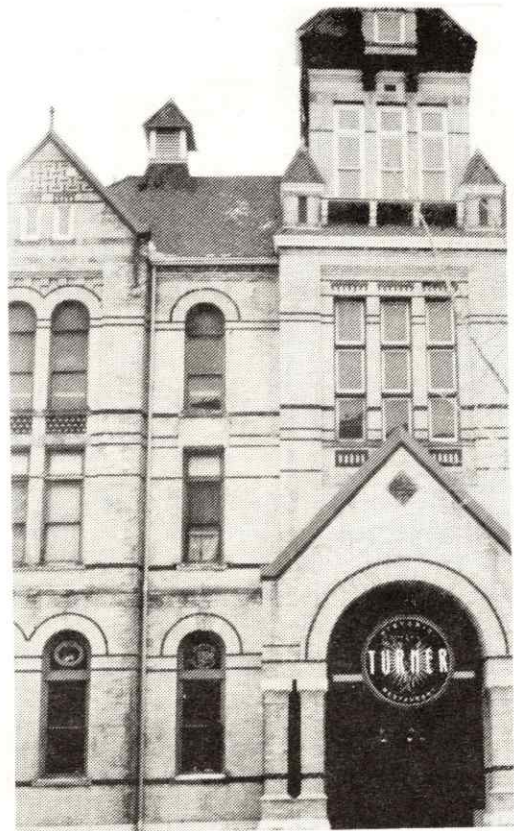
The Turner movement came about because of one man, Friedrich Ludwig Jahn. He spent his youth drinking and dueling and attended several universities but never finished any of them with a degree.

Napoleon's army was overrunning Europe. In 1806, the loss at the battle of Jena signaled the defeat of Prussia and the conquest of Germany. Jahn witnessed it as a civilian and it sparked his decision to work for the unity and freedom of Germany. He had his life mission.

A visit at a progressive school stimulated his introduction to gymnastics for students, first in 1809 as a teacher at "Graues Kloster" school in Berlin. June 1811 saw the opening of a gym field. Students from the newly established University of Berlin could exercise and play games in the open air. It is called the Hasenheide and is marked in Berlin today with a memorial plaque. German youth became physically stronger so that they could throw the French out of their country when the time was right. This movement spread quickly throughout Germany as a patriotic education. This was also a new combination for students, both to study and exercise. They were developing a "Sound Mind in a Sound Body."

E. J. Brumder Jr. delivered this historical report at the 150th anniversary of the Milwaukee Turners held at Turners Hall on September 6, 2003.

Turnvater Jahn invented the slogan "Frisch, Fromm, Froelich, Frei" [Spirited, Pious, Happy, Free] and it was used throughout Germany. The verb "turnen" means "to do gymnastics." Beginning in 1820 doing gymnastics was forbidden by various hereditary rulers. The King of Prussia took Turnvater Jahn into detention. He and others rightly recognized "turnen" as a revolutionary movement associated with democratic principles. In 1840 the new Kaiser of Prussia, Friedrich William IV, allowed the Turners again to practice. But following the failed democratic revolutions of 1848 the Kaiser, in a turnabout move, made a grab for power because he wanted Prussia to control all of Germany. The revolutionaries had to leave their country or be imprisoned or die. Many came to the United States and especially to



Photos by Daniel P. Hanley Jr.

Turner Hall, 1034 N. 4th Street

the upper Midwest area where Wisconsin was for sale and population was growing quickly. Until after World War II one third of the Milwaukee population was from German speaking areas. In the 1990 US Census, 54% of the citizens of Wisconsin claimed at least one German ancestor.

In 1853 the Milwaukee Turners formed their Socialer Turnverein. Our American motto is "Frisch, Frei, Stark, Treu." [Sprightly, Free, Strong, Faithful].

We do have the joke invitation: Let's go down to Turners and have a Frisch Frei Fish Fry.

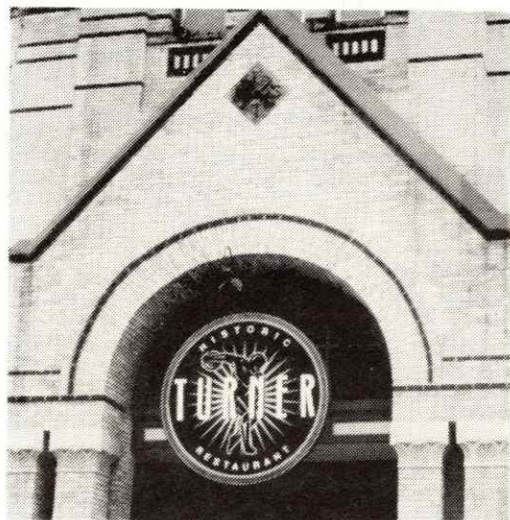
The 150th anniversary of the Milwaukee Turners was celebrated in September 2003 in historic Turner Hall, which was built in 1882.

In the 1880s, Third Street, one block away, was
[Please turn to Turner, Page 7]

The Milwaukee Turners and Turner Hall:

They are Deeply Rooted in German Cultural and the City's History

[Turner, from Page 6]



the German shopping center for the city and families lived above their stores and in stand alone houses. This German neighborhood had a social center in this building. Sunday afternoons saw Christopher Bach and his orchestra play for families while the children, men and women socialized with games, pastries, coffee and beer. Gymnasts gave exhibitions. Notice the metal clamps in the floor. This raked stage is the site for many patriotic tableaux and singing groups to entertain families.

National Register of Historic Places

The U.S. Forest Service gave us a place on the National Register of Historic Places. To distinguish us from the many other Turner Halls in the country, we applied for a National Historic status, which only about 3% of the National Register Properties do become. We have the amenities of other Turn Halls on the National Register, namely, gymnastics, clubs, art works, historic building, etc. What sets us apart from others is the vibrant socialist political climate here.

After the Social Democratic Party was established in Chicago in the late 19th century, many members returned to Milwaukee and many were Turner members. They met in this building. We elected three socialist Mayors and a U.S. Representative that were variously in power here between 1910 and 1960. All were Turners. Milwaukee was the city of "sewer socialists" who made the city work for the common man. Chicago politics took another direction.

Today our National Historic Landmark building is dedicated to the same pursuits as when the Germans founded us in 1853. Through the years political, social and gymnastic interests have rotated in dominating the scene of the membership. Membership peaked during the 1890s. Since then our mission has spread to the general public. Public schools have taken up the idea of recess and physical activity. The Deutscher Club was formed in and became the Wisconsin Club. The Milwaukee Athletic Club, the YMCA, the U. S. Army's West Point and other groups have taken the Turner ideas into the mainstream of American life.

We still have gymnastic classes in our 1882 gymnasium. We still have a restaurant which is open to the public. Through our "4th Street Forums" we are carrying our original purpose of nourishing a "Sound Mind in a Sound Body" on into the future. The Turner Ballroom Restoration Trust was formed this year. A long term lease will enable them to raise the money to restore this upstairs area. It is now available to the general public as a performance space for music, art and other multi-cultural events.

And I remind you that our 1882 building is still dedicated to its original purpose in this most German of American cities. This building is among the last standing remnants of our historic German culture downtown today.

Goethe House Welcomes Two New Directors to the Board

With all of the new activity on the Goethe House agenda, we have much work cut out for us. To assist, we wish to introduce two individuals who have joined our Board of Directors.

The first is Jill M. Haas-Baumann, an account executive with Merrill Lynch, Privent Client Group. Jill is a product of our language program and has volunteered numerous hours on various projects of Goethe House.

The second is Dorothy Smaglick, an assistant vice-president of US Bank. She is well known in German language circles and currently serves on Goethe House's Academic Advisory Board. We welcome them because we know they will make a difference.

Goethe House Film Library is Very Entertaining

In Review:

Mostly Martha

(Bella Martha)

(Rating: 3 ½ Pretzels)



1 pretzel: schlecht 2 pretzels: durchschnittig
3 pretzels: sehr gut 4 pretzels: hervorragend

Paramount Classics and Bavarian Film International
106 Minutes

Language: German (English Subtitles Available)

Rated: PG (Thematic Material and Mild Language)

Martha lives for one passion: cooking. She lives alone, eats her meals alone, and cooks everything to her own perfect, unbelievably high standards. In her chic and trendy restaurant, her word is law, and her temper is well-known. Don't like your steak? Don't tell Martha. Or you might receive the pleasure of an undignified visit to your table that will definitely require a new table cloth.

The film *Mostly Martha* introduces us to this strong-willed cook with an amazing reputation and a steely gaze. Her manager tries to control her, her staff tries to stay out of her way, and slowly, we realize that Martha must really be paralyzed by a fear of failure in the kitchen and in her relationships.

Of course, all this changes when a fateful accident brings her 8-year-old niece into her life. Lina wants nothing more than to go home; Martha wants nothing more than to survive. But Lina won't eat, Lina won't talk, Lina won't do anything, and Martha has no idea how to care for the strong-willed child who becomes the one person just as stubborn as herself. Add to this a relaxed, jazz-loving, seemingly careless Italian cook named Mario in HER kitchen at the restaurant, and the result is a film that is not so much about food as the movie cover leads you to believe (although there is a some very sweet romance). Instead, the film is a gentle exploration of Martha's fears, perfectionism, and her growing understanding of what it means to love, both in the maternal sense and otherwise. Both Lina and Martha quietly suffer through their experiences: one learning to parent, both learning to trust. The gradual transformation visible in both characters is a credit to each of the two main actresses.

Goethe Words of Wisdom



**Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
in Wilhelm Meister's Lehrjahre**

In German

"Man soll jeden Tag wenigstens ein kleines Lied hören, ein gutes Gedicht lesen, ein treffliches Gemälde sehen und, wenn es möglich zu machen ist, einige vernünftige Worte sprechen."

In English

"One ought, everyday, to listen to a little song, read a good poem, see a fine painting, and, if possible, speak a few reasonable words."

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

The film is enjoyably subtle, building each scene quietly upon the next, sometimes without characters speaking all but the most necessary words. Instead, it shows their reactions to the situations they are placed in. Even the coloring seems to be adjusted to the scene and characters, either the soft, warm, golden lighting of the restaurant, the steamy metals in the kitchen, the cold gray-blues of Lina's schoolyard and the streets, or the cozy-but-sparse whites in Martha's apartment. The score is a mix of quiet, appealing harp, piano and instrumentals with healthy servings of light-hearted jazz from various countries, suggesting Martha and Lina's loneliness that just about to spill over into the richer, more exuberant life that comes with time, and their own healing.

***Mostly Martha* is available on DVD
in the Goethe House film collection**

Reviewed by Kathleen Dolan and Sara Schaeufele

Defiance Despair Desire: German Expressionists

Prints Contribute to Notable Collection at the Milwaukee Art Museum

By Kathleen Dolan

Thanks to the personal collection efforts of Marcia and Granvil Specks, the Milwaukee Art Museum is now home to a comprehensive collection of over 200 prints by over 33 artists. In December of 2000, the couple gave the museum the gift of 446 German Expressionist prints, which they had been collecting since the late 1960s.

Works from their collection have been shown at Northwestern University in 1988 and at the Block Gallery in 1993. According to the Milwaukee Art Museum, their gift consists of prints that are of a "uniformly high quality," and have been assembled with great "intellectual and aesthetic acumen."



Karl Schmidt-Rottluff
Three at the Table, 1914. Woodcut.
Marcia and Granvil Specks Collection.
Milwaukee Art Museum

When added to the already strong German art collections from other donations and acquisitions, our very own Milwaukee Art Museum now possesses one of the foremost collections of German Expressionist prints in the United States.

An exhibit, which closed March 14th, spanned the 1890s to the 1930s. Most of the exhibit pieces will be in Milwaukee permanently.

"Expressionism" as an art term emerged in 1911, and by 1920, art critics were declaring an "eclipse of the movement." Visiting the exhibit, the breadth and depth of the subject matter presented is striking. The prints explore the harsh realities of war and poverty, the absurdity of

corrupt political and social systems, and even the beauty of nature and form. The pieces are first grouped by artist, and then as you move through the exhibit, they are displayed in sections according to themes and commentary.

As to why many Expressionists favored woodcuts for their prints, the museum notes that woodcuts have been an historically German art form dating back to medieval times. Expressionists sought to recall the "Golden Age" through woodcuts as a medium. Printmaking also allowed for multiple copies, helping artists reach larger audiences. New techniques produced striking, angular features and contributed to a sense of dynamic energy in the movement.

Deeply Personal and Emotive

Often, the artists viewed the pieces as deeply personal and emotive. As Ernst Ludwig Kirchner commented, "Nowhere does one come to know an artist better than in his prints."

Milwaukee has seen much of Erich Heckel's *Standing Child*, a stark portrait of a nude girl in front of an orange and green landscape, in promotions for the exhibit. However, the collection at MAM presents a diverse portrait of the movement:

Some, like Käthe Kollwitz and Lovis Corinth, emerged out of the Impressionist tradition. Younger artists Erich Heckel, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Emil Nolde, Max Pechstein, Otto Mueller, and Karl Schmidt-Rottluff formed the group "Brücke" (Bridge) in 1907. Others, like Max Barlach and Max Beckmann, followed highly individual paths.

After World War I, several artists, including George Grosz and Otto Dix, adopted a style known as "Neue Sachlichkeit" (New Objectivity) a form of Expressionism characterized by precise draftsmanship rather than emotional gesture."

MAM is publishing "German Expressionist Prints: The Marvin and Granvil Specks Collection" a 279-page hardcover featuring essays by noted scholars and a fully illustrated catalogue of 475 prints, which is available at the Milwaukee Art Museum Store.

In addition, pieces from the collection are rotated three to four times a year in installations which the Specks conceive and implement themselves.

Special thanks to MAM for providing the information and images for this article.

Oberammergau: The Original Passion of the Christ

[Passion, from Page 1]

In the 17th century Oberammergau was little more than a market village and rest station along the Alpine road linking Munich to the north with Venice far to the south. The commercial benefit of the trade route also transmitted its hazards as was demonstrated in 1630 when the Black Death, having entered Europe through Venice (and carried away a quarter of its population), raced through the high mountain villages of Austria towards Germany.

The Council of Twelve and Council of Six, representing the artisans and laborers of Oberammergau, respectively, undertook to protect the village and its rural valley from the pestilence through armed vigilance. Throughout 1630 and 1631 no stranger was allowed to enter the area and all goods and chattels were thoroughly searched.

In ironic parallel to the story they would later dramatize for the world, the villagers of Oberammergau were undone by one of their own.

Goethe House of Wisconsin is a non-profit German-American cultural institute serving Wisconsin since 1958. Our mission is to serve as a statewide resource for information about the past and present culture of all German-speaking people - especially those in the Federal Republic of Germany. Goethe House of Wisconsin invites the financial support of individuals, companies and organizations who share our mission and recognize the value of this important cultural exchange. Goethe House of Wisconsin is a not-for-profit (501) (c) (3) organization. Donations are tax deductible as the law allows.

**Goethe House of Wisconsin
is now online.**

**Visit us and send
your friends to:
www.goethehousewis.com**

Information on Goethe House events, membership and other resources. Satisfy your need for German culture 24 hours a day.

Use our web site or e-mail address to send Letters to the Editor to comment or make suggestions on PERSPEKTIVEN

Kaspar Schisler, a local man employed in the town of Eschenlohe, proved to be Oberammergau's Judas Iscariot. Though obviously stricken with plague, Schisler evaded the town's guards and slipped into his house under cover of darkness. He brought his last month's wages and the dreaded bacterium home with him. In less than six months half the village was dead.

In July, 1633, the Councils met in the parish church with a different defense strategy on their agenda. Quoting the counsel of Psalm 118, "it is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man," the town elders solemnly vowed before the altar "henceforth to keep the tragedy of the Passion every 10 years." According to extant records, from that day onward no one succumbed to the Plague in Oberammergau.

A Modest Production in a Field

Starting with a modest production in a field in 1634, the "Oberammergau Passion Play" has been performed faithfully by the descendants of the survivors every decade. Though postponed in 1920 due to the chaos following the First World War (and rescued through the efforts of the American Red Cross), for 370 years Oberammergau has kept its promise.

The 2000 performance season recorded over 500,000 visitors watching 2,155 Oberammergäuers reenact the pathos of Good Friday.

As with most aspects of German culture, the "Oberammergau Passion Play" came to Wisconsin with faithful 19th century immigrants. Until 1921 the Oberammergau version of the Gospel drama was performed in German each Lent at St. Joseph's Church on 11th Street in Milwaukee. Translated into English by Fr. Joseph Berg, the strength and beauty of "Oberammergau at the shores of Lake Michigan" led one observer to comment "your Passion Play in the main is even more effective than (the) Oberammergau. It must have a wholesome effect on all who are privileged to see it." What the Plague could not do, urban progress accomplished. St. Joseph's Church was demolished in 1962 to make room for the freeway.

Contemporary Wisconsinites must travel to Bavaria to experience the living drama of "the tragedy of the Passion."

**Dr. Samuel Scheibler, a clergyman,
is an ecclesiastical, educational and social
leader, who specializes in German folk culture.**

Goethe House of Wisconsin

We would like to thank our friends who have generously supported us.

Ein herzliches Dankeschön

Ted E. Wedemeyer Jr.
Life

Seemann, Harold * United Seniors of Wisconsin *
Wedemeyer, Ted E. Jr. *
Silberg, Barry, Rabbi * James Keyes * Technischer Verein Milwaukee.

Patron

LaJoie, Wil.

Benefactor

Pustejovsky, Dr. John *
Rohr, Gerhard * Schmidt, Dr. W.A. * Haas-Baumann, Jill * Kreilein, Dr. Sy.

Educator

Beenen, Laura *
Guth-Degner, Erika *
Krueger, Doreen *
Michelson, Kristen *
Pederson, Kathy * Rixmann, Ingolf * Flaig, Herbert *
LaJoie, Alexis * Nemmers Kathryn * Riniker, Robert *
York, Erin * Pederson, Kathy * Rixmann, Ingolf.

Family

Atherton, Margaret and Schwartz, Bob * Berger Family * Buchholz, Ken & Lucy * Haines, Marc & Chang, Sae-hee * Langer Family * Wadzinski Family * Cavallini, Katia *
Kuglitsch, Paul/Kelly *
Scheibler Family *
Delmenhorst, Herman Family * Grunwaldt Family * Maier, John Michael Family * Meyer, William/JoAnne Family *
Mueller, Jochen/Jennifer

Family * Scharpf, Christiane Family * Watson Family * LeDenmat Family.

Friend

Arnhold, Stephen * Benz, James * Eschweiler, Gabriele * Fishman, Marvin * German Immersion Foundation * Grunwaldt Family * Johannsen, Eileen * Klauser, James * Kringel, Jerry * Lade, Michael * Lauritzen, Raquel * Moore, Detlef * Prinsen, Rod *

Sponsor PERSPEKTIVEN

Sponsorships are available for a minimum of \$100. We welcome business, family and individual sponsorships. Help tell the story of contributions of German-speaking immigrants to the United States of America, particularly Wisconsin.

Write or call:

Executive Director
Goethe House of Wisconsin
814 W. Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53233
(414) 276-7435

Renew memberships and send gift memberships to family and friends. Use the convenient form on Page 12 of this issue.

Thank you!

Stinson, William * Wedemeyer, Susie * Charleston, Ilse * Giese, Heiner * History Sunshine F. * Hoffmann, Lorraine * LaJoie, William * Moore, Detlef * Prinsen, Rod * Kessler, Frederick * Ross, Dr. Ronald.

Individual

Ahrens, Paul A. * Baughn, Diane * Black, Kenneth * Breier, Frank * Breu, George * Buschmann, Dieter * Carlson, F. John * Casper, Rick * Connerton, Byron * Cuje, Peter J. * Daley, Ron * Dick, Gerlinde * Fintak, Ron * Fox, Vicki * Frake, Erika * Frisch, Robert * Goldmann, Paul * Gommermann, Theresa * Guth-Degner, Erika * Haas-Baumann, Jill * Harrington, Bradford * Hefferan, Erika * Hentzen, Wm R. * Jankowski, Mark * Kraus, Rudi * Larsen, Jeff * Loh, Joseph * Lohmeier, Mary * Milwaukee Public Library Serials Section * Mueller, F.W. * Nickel, David * Nielsen, Michelle * Nikolic, Helga

* Otzelberger, Thomas * Pawlak, Farand * Peppard, Terry F. * Puhalla, John E. * Romeis, Ken * Ruppert, Carl * Simons, Dave * Speckhard, Rebecca * Stinebrink, Jeff * Sweeney, Dan * Grauert, Christiane * Watson, Andy * Wolpert, Werner X * Veit, Jerald.

Senior

Ankel, Else * Barboriak, Gertrude * Boehlke, Norman * Brumder, E.J. * Drufenbrock, S. Diane * Franzen, Ernst * Gruning, Wm F. * Hanley, Dan * Janz, Penny * Kalupa, Bob/Eileen * Kannstein, Hans * Keller, Friedrich * Kent, Richard * Levis, Diane * Koch, Cecilia * Luetzow, Joan * Lukow, Kenneth * Maroti, A. Bela * Meyer, William H. * Miller, Gudrun * Moen, Bridget * Navarro, Ursula * Phelps, Edward * Rauscher, Gerhard * Ritsche, Marita * Rosing, Gretchen * Rupp, Johann * Schatzman, Erna * Schwark, Hans * Smith, Helga I. * Speckhard, Angelika * Stolberg, Vera * Strauss, Karl * Treu, Benno * Wiesian, Robert W. * Wilde, Susan * Wollitzer, Siman * Zarse, Mary * Jung, Gabriele * Strauss, Karl.

Student

Courtney, Michael * Darling, Elisabeth * Darling, Wayne * Dillon, Candace * Jackson, Justin * Mravik, Kari * LaJoie, Nicholas * Ley, David * Melbye, Kristal * McMullen, Robert * Niemczewska, Agnieszka * Poltrock, James * Riess, Susanne * Streckel, Antje * Westlake, Jeremy.

Club

Austrian American Society * Club der Pommern * Milw. Schwaben Unterstuetzungs-Verein * Schlesier Verein Milw * Milwaukee Turners * Carl Schurz Park * Pommerscher Tanzdeel Club.