Adopt a Rare Book Catalogue

A photo of Book Restorer Ruth Scott-Blackson’s work to repair an historic volume.

Winter, 2021 – 2022

Library Committee
German Society of Pennsylvania
A Note from the Library Committee

At the Horner Memorial Library of the German Society of Pennsylvania, preservation is a top priority. We strive to take care of our holdings so that future generations can learn about German-American heritage and enjoy our remarkable, thought-provoking artifacts.

By adopting one of the precious volumes highlighted in this rare book adoption catalogue, you will help us achieve our goal of German-American cultural heritage preservation across the generations. Your generous contribution will pay for Philadelphia-based Book Restorer Ruth Scott-Blackson to repair the book and return it to the Library for readers to study.

All the books chosen for this adoption catalogue connect to topics that have been, and will again be, covered in the Library Committee’s new Library Treasure Tour public program series, and the other public programs we sponsor. Watch German Society communications for further details about upcoming tours!

When you adopt a book, you become a part of our thoughtful community of collection stewards. We look forward to seeing you at the Library very soon. Also, remember that adopted books make wonderful gifts during the Holiday Season. Thank you for supporting this effort!

The Library Committee
German Society of Pennsylvania
Special Offer!

Anyone who adopts a book from the Winter, 2021 – 2022 Catalogue will receive one free ticket to a Library Treasure Tour.

The German Society of Pennsylvania’s Library Committee is preparing the second season of its new, hands-on, small-group public program: Library Treasure Tours. These exciting programs are led by recognized experts in German history, literature, and culture who have done research in the Library’s collection and curated sets of materials for tour attendees to study together. Participants handle and learn from rare books and manuscripts in the Library’s collection in our beautiful 19th-century reading room! Tour topics cover a variety of subjects, time periods and fascinating people from the past.

When you adopt a book, we will reserve a free seat for you in the second season of these exciting tours!
No. 109.

German Society of Pennsylvania Account Book, 1766-1781

Some of the most important records held at the Library today are archival documents that illuminate the history of the German Society itself. We’ve made good use of materials like this in recent programs to showcase the history of the Society and the people who supported it in years past. This large, narrow leather-bound ledger is in poor condition but could be made more usable if it were housed in a simple, corrugated cardboard box for protection. Because of this volume’s dimensions, a special box will have to be made.

Group Adoption Opportunity!

We seek three installments of $50 each for a quality box to be made to house this object.
No. 110.


The Library’s collections contain many volumes that reflect German interest in America, and recent Library Treasure Tours have showcased this kind of material. In this book, the author describes his “discovery” of America through his travels. Its first three pages have broken off and need to be reattached.

**Price: $150**
No. 111.


This fascinating book describing the author’s adventurous travels through the U.S., China and Japan is a paperback with a homemade cover, but the front piece has broken off. We will use the funds from its adoption to re-attach the dust jacket, which has a very nice graphic. The German Society’s collection includes numerous oddities such as this volume that reveal the kind of interesting reading done by the Society’s members in years past.

**Price: $185**
No. 112.


Recent *Library Treasure Tours* at the German Society have highlighted themes of immigration, travel, and our collection’s global connections. This volume certainly speaks to those topics! Unfortunately, the book is in rough shape: it has duct tape inside the front and back covers, and a previous spine repair is cracking. Please adopt it today to get it looking a bit better than it does now!

**Price: $195**
No. 113.

Leipzig: Brockhaus, 1839.

Attendees of *Library Treasure Tours* know that the German Society Library’s shelves are full of books that record how German and American culture interacted, communicated, and influenced each other. In fact, the collection’s rich documentation of transatlantic connections is one of the Library’s great strengths. This book, in two volumes, is just one example. The leather spines on both volumes are detached and need to be repaired. Also, the leather corners are chipped and could be touched up. Otherwise, the books are in pristine condition on the inside, so your adoption will have these volumes in good working condition in no time!

**Price: $150 each, or adopt both for $300**
No. 114.


Carl Manthey-Zorn, a German-born Reformed minister in the Midwest, describes his move to Wisconsin in this volume, a follow-up to his previous book about his missionary work in India. The book’s front cover is detached and needs to be repaired—a relatively simple fix that will make the volume more useable on upcoming tours!

**Price: $175**
No. 115.


The Pennsylvania pilgrim in the title of this work refers to Francis Daniel Pastorius, leader of the first Germantown settlement. The book is being featured in a fall Treasure Tour on Pastorius. The cover has become loose and some front pages detached. Adopt this book so it can be safely handled on future tours!

Price: $185 ADOPTED!
No. 116.


New York : S. Zickel, 1876.

Though we may be the German Society of Pennsylvania, our library’s shelves are filled with many books about New York, including this one, describing its criminal underworld. Its back cover is detached, and the front cover is loose.

**Price: $ 200**
No. 117.


This paperback, another example of German publishing about America, is in an unsightly library cover that should be removed, and the binding is loose. What is more, some of its pages are detached. Your adoption funds will pay for the book to be removed from its old binding and put in a box.

**Price: $205  ADOPTED!**
No. 118.


*Berlin: Georg Stilke, 1904.*

This beautiful book underscores the cultural power of international expositions in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Its spine is partially detached, and edges are chipped. This volume is a wonderful teaching tool, so we hope to have it preserved for use on future tours.

**Price: $210**
No. 119.
Streckfuss, Adolf. *Der Amerikaner : Roman.* (Heimat und Fremde series)
Philadelphia : Morwitz & Co., [18--?]

Philadelphia’s historic German publishing scene is famous for a reason, and of course, many Philly-published books sit on our Library’s shelves today. This one is covered in duct tape, and its front cover detached. Help us get it looking in good shape!

**Price: $190**
No. 120.

Hageboeck, August, lithographer. Emancipations Proklamation [broadside]

Davenport, Iowa, 1865. (35 x 25 cm.)

The Library Committee has been proud to sponsor lectures by Dr. Leroy Hopkins, which have studied the connections between African Americans and German Americans. The Library recently discovered this beautiful, calligraphic treatment of the Emancipation Proclamation in our holdings, and we would love to have it restored and made suitable for use in public programs and other outreach opportunities. Its paper is torn in several places, and the document could use a cleaning.

Price: $250 ADOPTED!
Adoption Instructions

If you wish to adopt your book via credit card...

The Library Committee plans to update the online Adoption Catalogue regularly, to prevent the same book from being adopted by more than one supporter. However, it is recommended that you call or e-mail Adoption Coordinator Dr. Alex L. Ames (320-282-9345, alames@udel.edu) to confirm that your book of choice is still available, and so that he can reserve it for you.

Visit https://www.germansociety.org/donations/. Click on the yellow “Donate” button at the bottom of the page. Enter the full amount of your book of choice in the “Other Amount” button. Then click the “Add special instructions to the seller” button and type in the number of the book you wish to adopt. Provide all of your billing information in the boxes provided, and click “Donate Now.”

If you wish to adopt your book by mailing a check...

Please call or e-mail Adoption Coordinator Dr. Alex L. Ames (320-282-9345, alames@udel.edu) to assure that your book of choice is still available, and so that he can reserve it for you. Once your item is confirmed and reserved, mail a personal check, made out to the German Society of Pennsylvania, to:

Bettina Hess
Librarian
German Society of Pennsylvania
611 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123

Please indicate in the memo line of the check the number of the book you have adopted.

Remember: You may adopt a book in honor of a loved one! Inform us of what name should go on the Certificate of Adoption and send someone a special surprise.
Testimonial
From an Adoptive Parent

“When the Adopt-a-Rare-Book program began, I welcomed the opportunity to participate. The Horner Memorial Library is, to me, the jewel in the crown of the German Society, and I am always in awe when I am there and consider the many treasures it contains. When I think of the long history of the library, I realize there may be many books in need of repair. And I have a friend who I know will be delighted when she learns that a rare book will be rescued as a birthday gift to her.”

—Doris MacPherson, adoptive parent of 3 German Society of Pennsylvania Library rare books
Testimonial
From an Adoptive Parent

“As a literary scholar, I cherish books—and the libraries and archives that house them. I have had the privilege of doing research in archives from Buenos Aires to Berlin—and Philadelphia. As I write this, I am remembering taking a short break in the Horner Library and, uncharacteristically, looking up from the pages. I had been reading a manual for women, published in the early 19th century, a text that became central for my own work on the play world. The steamy humidity of a Philadelphia summer seemed quite distant from the world in which mothers were learning clear lessons about how to deal with drafts in the children’s room. I remember thinking, ‘This is my happy place.’

In the age of digitized books, I also feel deep gratitude to those who make otherwise inaccessible sources from the past available for posterity. I feel equally grateful to those who preserve the books themselves, the pages that have not yet found their way to the scanner. When I sat in the library with the books before me, I read the inscriptions and imagine these objects as gifts given a century ago and the light by which the pages were read; or the voices raised in song from hymnals that carried the cadences of faith across the
Atlantic. I’m neither a particularly sentimental nor religious person, but for the scholar in me, the words on the page opened aperçus into lives I can only imagine more vividly for having read them.

Few things make my heart sing more than a book that has been cared for. I’ve had the experience of turning a brittle, yellowed page, and no matter how gingerly I do so, sometimes with literally baited breath, the paper disintegrates between my gloved fingers. Sometimes a book comes to me with a delicate ribbon tied around it to keep the binding together. No matter how gently I might rest the book between the supporting sponges, bits of the book’s spine break off. All the while, I remain cognizant of the fact that as a reader, I am privileged. Adopting books, for me, is just one small way of paying that privilege forward.”

—Prof. Dr. Patricia Simpson, Library researcher, author, and rare book adoptive parent
About the Horner Memorial Library, German Society of Pennsylvania

Mission:

The purpose of the German Society of Pennsylvania Library and the Library Committee is to nurture the study of German-American history, literature, and culture, for the benefit of GSP members, scholars, and the general public. The Library and Committee do this by guaranteeing the physical sustainability of our collections, enhancing discoverability of our collections via cataloguing and interpretation, and building a community equipped with the language abilities, paleography skills, research expertise, and enthusiasm for intellectual inquiry to make use of our holdings.

Core Values:

Sustainability
Discoverability
Community