Adopt a Rare Book Catalog

Winter, 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 volumes highlighted in this catalog, 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.

This past September, Andrea Wulf’s wonderful book talk on Magnificent Rebels: The First Romantics and the Invention of the Self, presented the opportunity to look at the Horner Library’s holdings with Ms Wulf’s list of dramatis personae as our inspiration. While the Library officially got its start in 1817, the German Society itself dates to 1764, so it is not surprising to find 18th and early 19th century titles on its shelves – and after more than 200 years, almost all of them show signs of their age … sadly, it won’t be possible to restore every one of them, but this iteration of the Library Committee’s Adopt a Rare Book catalog will strive to shine a light on the fact that many thousands of miles away from Jena, all of those Magnificent Rebels are represented in the Horner Library, and in themselves tell a fascinating story of the migration not just of people, but also of ideas.

When you adopt one of these books, 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
No. 132.
Goethe’s Werke. Zwölfter Band.

Inhalt: Die Leiden des jungen Werther. Briefe aus der Schweiz

Stuttgart/Tübingen: J.G. Cotta, 1817

So this is the novel with which it all began – Goethe’s fame, and with it the whole story about Weimar and Jena. The Horner Library does not hold this as an individual title, but as part of an early edition of Goethe’s Collected Works – he’d been famous for so long already – Werther had originally been published in 1774 ... and in case you’re wondering about the ‘Letters from Switzerland’: Goethe wrote this part after Werther, but purports them to result from a journey the protagonist undertook before he met Lotte ... so we get a glimpse of the Werther that could have been – a kind of playfulness we do not immediately associate with Goethe today? The spine has almost completely detached from the text block, and tape should be removed from the call number.

Price: $175  ADOPTED!
If Werther was the fictional character that defined the Romantics, Novalis was the real-life person who best represents the time period – he was a nobleman but also had a profession, his love affair was doomed, and he died young – but his friends from the Jena set made sure that his literary fame lived on by publishing his works posthumously. By adopting these books, you will make it possible for future visitors to the Horner Library to peruse the pages that made ‘die blaue Blume’ to the symbol of longing for eternal love and the lost unity with nature that we continue to associate with Novalis’ name. Part of their spines is lost and was replaced by tape in an earlier repair, and both tape and the front covers have gotten detached from the text block.

Price: $150 per volume  ADOPTED!
Next, we feature one of those members of the Jena set who were maybe less famous as authors themselves, but crucial for the development of German literature and theater – starting with Friedrich Schlegel, Novalis’ best friend. Schlegel’s output as a literary critic was immense, and he was the co-founder of the journal *Athenaeum* – the kind of literary forum that the founders of our very own *Athenaeum* here in Philadelphia might have thought of in 1814 when they were looking for a name?? Both volumes are in need of new spines.

**Price: $180 each, or $350 for both volumes**
Aside from their own works and their literary criticism, translation was the area where the Jena circle left the biggest imprint. August Wilhelm Schlegel, Friedrich’s older brother, and Ludwig Tieck are the names on the title pages of their translation of the works of William Shakespeare, but it is important to mention here the role of Caroline Schlegel, Wilhelm’s wife. Given the conventions of the time, it was difficult for women to be considered as authors, but Andrea Wulf makes a convincing case that Caroline’s name should have been on that title page as well! Because of the outstanding quality of the Schlegel/Tieck translation, Shakespeare became enormously popular on the German stage, making it all the more important to emphasize that Caroline was responsible for the high level of those translations just as much as her male collaborators. The front cover and spine will have to be reattached to the text block.

Price: $205   ADOPTED!
As Andrea Wulf so vividly describes in *Magnificent Rebels*, the female members of the Jena set were very important on many levels, but they were not allowed to become visible as authors. As much as Caroline Schlegel might have contributed to those Shakespeare translations, her name is not on the title page, and this is mirrored by the fact that a collection of her letters – edited by a man - is the only holding of the Horner Library related to her. All the more important to have the book’s broken and partly detached spine repaired, so that readers can at least enjoy her letter writing again!
No. 137.


Here is a volume that represents the role of the Jena circle for the German stage in general, aside from its embrace of Shakespeare. Tieck gives an overview of the whole history of German-language plays, beginning in the Middle Ages. This is only fitting if we think how influential the authors of the Jena set were for the future of German theater – Friedrich Schiller and Johann Wolfgang von Goethe are still the bedrock of the German theater scene – there is no season without their plays being performed by companies large and small. This book’s spine is damaged and a previous repair attempt with duct tape needs to be reversed.

**Price: $235**
Alexander von Humboldt was not an integral part of the Jena set, but Andrea Wulf gives you a lively impression of the way he rounded out the intellectual interests of the group. So it will be a fitting tribute to his influence to repair the bindings of the Horner Library’s two volume edition of *Ansichten der Natur*, a holding that also serves as a representation of the wide range of the Library’s collections. Detached covers need to be re-attached while also restoring lost parts of the spines.

**Price: $200 per volume VOL. 1 ADOPTED!**
Last but not least, a work by an author who did not belong to the Jena set, but carries on the spirit of the early Romantics into a later time: Ernst Theodor Amadeus Hoffmann. It is astounding how much he published, given that for most of his life, he worked as a jurist within the Prussian civil service. He’s the rare German author an American audience first encounters as children – at Christmastime, when ballet productions of The Nutcracker are everywhere. Hoffmann was probably the most inventive of the authors assembled here, and maybe also the most ‘readable’ for today’s audiences – so it is only fitting to end this edition of the Horner Library’s Adopt-a-Rare-Book Catalog with one of his works, expressing the hope that future readers will get a chance to experience firsthand how wildly imaginative he was, and how ‘modern’ a story from more than 200 years ago can be. The spine of this volume is becoming detached, and previous repair attempts by duct tape need to be reversed.

**Price: $ 200  ADOPTED!**
Adoption Instructions

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

The Library Committee updates 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 Bettina Hess (librarian@germansociety.org) to confirm that your book of choice is still available, and so that she 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 Bettina Hess (librarian@germansociety.org) to assure that your book of choice is still available, and so that she 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. If your group or organization would like to adopt a book, please contact Bettina Hess to coordinate.
Testimonials

...from a Library Researcher

“I was so surprised and excited when I arrived at the Horner Memorial Library as a Research Fellow in the summer of 2021 to discover one of the most comprehensive collections of German Mesmerism in North America. First editions of groundbreaking works by Franz Anton Mesmer himself are held here, alongside exciting applications of Mesmer’s theory and therapy by 18th and 19th century magnetic theorists in Germany. The Horner’s collections allow us to trace the development of magnetic theory and psychical research straight into the eventual twentieth-century psychoanalysis of Freud and Jung.

The Horner Library’s collection of German Mesmerism and animal magnetism is a truly unique and precious archive of this fascinating area of study.”

— Dr. Timothy Grieve-Carlson, Assistant Professor of Religion Westminster College
“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

Thank you for your support of our Adopt a Rare Book Program!