President
Katherine Roper (2005-06)
St. Mary's College of California

Vice President
Sara Lennox (2005-06)
University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Secretary-Treasurer
Gerald A. Fetz (2005-08)
University of Montana

Executive Director
David E. Barclay
Kalamazoo College

Executive Committee:
Volker Berghahn, Columbia University (2006)
Gary Cohen, University of Minnesota (2007)
Carol Anne Costabile-Heming, Missouri State University (2008)
Sabine Hake, University of Texas at Austin (2006)
Mary Hampton, Air Command and Staff College (2007)
Dagmar Herzog, Graduate Center, City University of New York (2008)
Suzanne Marchand, Louisiana State University (2007)
Patricia Herminghouse, University of Rochester (2006), ex officio
Diethelm Prowe, Carleton College, ex officio
Letter from the President

Dear GSA Colleagues,

You all are long since aware that the transition from our founding Executive Director, Gerald Kleinfeld, to his successor, David Barclay, took place on January 1. As David reports in his letter below, the transition has been carried out with generous assistance from Gerry and, as we of the Executive Council have seen, with avid commitment by David to hit the ground running. This moment in the life of the GSA thus marks the transmission of a 29-year process of building and development to a new management and also the opportunity to assess where we are and to discuss possible new directions. I will be attempting, as I prepare my presidential address for this fall’s 30th-anniversary conference in Pittsburgh, to take stock of our achievements and to describe the challenges we face at this important juncture in the life of the GSA.

In this newsletter, David and I are reporting on the initial stages of this process, many of which took place at the mid-January meeting of the Executive Council in Oakland (a city that we are also considering as a conference site for 2010). Over two intense days we tackled a lengthy agenda, involving virtually every element of the GSA’s activities, all of which elicited intense discussion and abundant ideas about where we are now and where we might be going.

Foremost among our concerns was the question of how we can expand our membership to ensure that the GSA remains financially sound and, even more important, a leading institution for fostering the vitality of German studies within rapidly changing scholarly and academic realms on both sides of the Atlantic and, indeed, throughout the world. Our outreach to solidify our existing membership and attract new members will take several forms. As a first step, the Executive Council instructed me to form two task forces to address ways in which the GSA can appeal to the next generations, and in March, after consultation with the members of the Executive Committee, the GSA Task Force on Graduate Students and the GSA Task Force on Recent PhDs were officially launched. Two members of the Executive Committee, Stephen Brockmann and Suzanne Marchand, enthusiastically agreed to act as liaisons between the respective task forces and the Executive Committee, to whom they will report at our meeting in Pittsburgh. All nine of the GSA members who were invited to join the two groups also enthusiastically signed on. As of now, these groups are discussing concerns, outreach possibilities, and long-term goals for building their constituencies as an important base for the future of the GSA. Other potential initiatives might address under-represented constituencies (the declining numbers political science was a concern that involved several meetings at the Milwaukee conference); attracting German studies scholars from heretofore barely represented disciplines like art history and musicology; paying closer attention to the needs of our scholarly colleagues in Europe—particularly in Germany—to encourage their participation in the Association; and finding ways to sustain the active participation of our “elder” members after they become emeriti in
their institutions. We invite your suggestions about other constituencies that need our attention.

In my first President’s letter, a year ago, I mentioned that the Executive Committee would be discussing long-range plans for the Association. We of the Executive Council realized during our discussions in January 2006 that this will be an ongoing process. Our immediate goals are to solidify our relationship with neighboring organizations concerned with German studies; to continue to develop the web site and make it as user-friendly as possible; to work on the membership drive; and to increase communication both within the various committees and with the membership at large. Concrete steps have already been taken for each of these concerns. Underlying all of this will be a long-term commitment to a continual evaluation of the state of the Association; an examination and reassessment of the 30 years of accumulated policies, both formal and informal; thinking collectively about new directions our Association should take; and the establishment of goals and actions for the forthcoming years. On behalf of the Executive Council, I urge you to e-mail David or me, or any other officers or members of the Executive Committee, about your hopes, expectations, and grievances. We of the Executive Council and Executive Committee are staunchly committed to sharing these processes with the entire membership and to soliciting its approval for the long-range plans that emerge.

Our 30th-anniversary conference in Pittsburgh should be a wonderful chance to celebrate where we are and to envision our future. We shall also use it as an occasion to recognize those long-term members who have been with the German Studies Association since its origins as the Western Association of German Studies (WAGS). We hope that you will take part and especially encourage you to join us at the business meeting on Friday afternoon. Our three-river conjunction at the Hilton Pittsburgh will be a lovely venue for launching our next 30 years. See you there!

Sincerely,

Katherine Roper
President
From the New Executive Director

Dear Members and Friends of the German Studies Association,

On 1 January 2006 I officially succeeded Professor Gerald R. Kleinfeld as Executive Director of the GSA. Many of you wrote or phoned me when I assumed this daunting task, and I would like to thank you for your kind words—and for your expressions of sympathy and condolence! Above all, though, I would like to thank Gerry Kleinfeld for his tireless support and his constant encouragement. Only after one has served in this office can one truly appreciate what Gerry has meant to the GSA, to the study of the German-speaking world, and to the academic profession as a whole. The complexities of administering an academic association are vast, and for 29 years Gerry built this organization—sometimes almost single-handedly—with a unique mixture of aplomb, diplomacy, directness, tenacity, vision, and intellectual toughness. His achievements are truly staggering, and his legacy is assured. I can only hope that in my own tenure as Executive Director I can do justice to that legacy.

“Ich hab’ hier bloß ein Amt und keine Meinung.” Although I would certainly not accept Schiller’s remarks in their entirety, I do agree that, as Executive Director, it is my main job not to advance my personal agenda but to represent you, to listen to your ideas and opinions, and to do all I can to make sure that your collective views are reflected in the decisions and actions that the Association undertakes. This is your Association, and if it is to thrive and grow in the future we need your active participation. As you know, we have a democratically elected group of officers and a democratically elected Executive Committee. In addition, many of you have taken the time to serve on some other committees, including the Nominating Committee, the Program Committee, the selection committee for the Berlin Program (Berlin Prize Committee), the Archives Committee, and our various book and article prize committees. This is time-consuming work, and we are grateful to all of you who make this kind of contribution to our profession. But we also want to hear from each of you individually. So I hope that you will free to contact me at director@thegsa.org with your concerns, worries, suggestions, criticisms, and even compliments! Please rest assured that I will take your feedback very seriously indeed. As I have remarked to several people, I have found that Learning Curve Mountain is very steep indeed. I am bound to make mistakes along the way, and I ask in advance for your advice as well as your forbearance.

The rest of this newsletter will differ somewhat both from past newsletters and, I suspect, from future ones. Not only will we bring you up to date on recent developments in the GSA—many of them connected with the transition from Gerry to me—but we will also describe a number of our plans for the future. I have written several of these articles, while Katherine Roper devotes her President’s letter to reporting on some new initiatives that emerged from the January meeting of the Executive Council.

We are committed to ensuring that, for the next thirty years and beyond, the German Studies Association will continue to serve as a congenial, vital, vibrant
intellectual community of which you can all be proud. I look forward to working with each and every one of you.

Mit herzlichem Dank,

Euer David

David E. Barclay
Executive Director

2006 GSA Election Results

The GSA announces the following results for elections to the Vice Presidency and three two-year terms on the Executive Committee. The Association thanks those who voted and is especially grateful to all those members who were willing to serve as candidates.

Vice President-Elect: Celia Applegate (History, University of Rochester). Prof. Applegate will succeed Prof. Sara Lennox as Vice President at the beginning of 2007 and then succeed her as President of the GSA at the beginning of 2009.

Executive Committee (terms to expire in 2009): Doris Bergen (History, University of Notre Dame); Barbara Koska (German Studies, University of Arizona); Helmut Walser Smith (History, Vanderbilt University).

The GSA Turns Thirty! Pittsburgh, 28 September–1 October 2006

We hope that as many members—and, for that matter, non-members—as possible will join us for our thirtieth-anniversary conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The conference venue will be the Hilton Pittsburgh, spectacularly located next to the confluence of the three rivers—the Allegheny, the Monongahela, and the Ohio—that have defined the city for two and a half centuries. The Hilton includes some of the most attractive conference rooms that we have ever seen; and Pittsburgh itself promises to be one of our most interesting and varied conference locations.

The City of Pittsburgh

Located on the first shuttle stop from the airport, the Hilton Pittsburgh is immediately adjacent to downtown Pittsburgh, which has brilliantly recovered and redefined itself since the decline of the steel industry several decades ago. It is located several blocks from Heinz Hall, home of the Pittsburgh Symphony, which has been led over the decades by such musical luminaries as Victor Herbert, Otto Klemperer, Fritz Reiner, André Previn, Lorin Maazel, Mariss Jansons, and Sir Andrew Davis. Conference goers can also easily walk from the Hilton to the Andy Warhol Museum. Containing over 4000 objects by Warhol, the museum is the largest in the world dedicated to this Pittsburgh native. The various Carnegie museums, the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center, and other museums can also be reached quite easily. For information, go to the Web site of the Greater Pittsburgh
Convention and Visitors Bureau (www.visitpittsburgh.com).

Pittsburgh contains many other sites that will be of special interest to scholars of Central Europe. Several papers at this year’s conference will reconsider the Seven Years War on its 250th anniversary; given its strategic location, the French-controlled Fort Duquesne and its successor, the British Fort Pitt, figured prominently in that conflict. Not too far from Pittsburgh is Old Economy Village, which preserves a number of buildings erected in the 1820s by utopian Christian communitarians known as the Harmonists, a German group led by the Württemberger Georg Rapp. The Deutschtown district of Pittsburgh attests to the impact of German immigrants on the city during its oil- and steel-based industrial boom of the late nineteenth century. Adjacent to Deutschtown are the original H. J. Heinz factories, one of the finest ensembles of late nineteenth-century industrial architecture in the world, and the Penn Brewery, located in a building that has served as a German brewery since the 1840s. All its products are brewed according to the Reinheitsgebot of 1516. Visitors to Pittsburgh should also take note of another celebrated brewpub, the Church Brew Works. Many of our members will almost certainly pass the site of the 1918 Pittsburgh Agreement that gave birth to modern Czechoslovakia. Finally, on a more “touristy” note, who can resist the ride up the Mt. Washington Incline, visible from the Hilton, and the magnificent view of the city that it affords?

Local Arrangements
Pittsburgh’s successful reinvention of itself has been helped by the presence in the area of many leading colleges and universities, several of which are assisting us with local arrangements. An informal committee composed of Professors Stephen Brockmann (Carnegie-Mellon University), Clark Muenzer (University of Pittsburgh), and Michael Shaughnessy (Washington and Jefferson College) has helped us develop a number of activities and programs that will be new at this year’s conference. Among other things, we will be inviting high school German and social-studies teachers from the western Pennsylvania area to attend the conference at a reduced rate. We will also be organizing bus excursions on Thursday and Sunday to places of interest in western Pennsylvania. Possibilities include Old Economy Village, described above, and Fallingwater, where you can visit one of Frank Lloyd Wright’s most celebrated architectural achievements, built for the family of the German-American entrepreneur Edgar Kaufmann. Please check our Web site (www.thegsa.org) throughout the summer and early fall for details.

Conference and Hotel Registration
By the time you are reading this, information on conference registration and hotel reservations will be available on the GSA Web site (www.thegsa.org). Conference registration fees are as follows:

- Members: $85 ($90 after 10 September)
- Non-members: $140 ($150 after 10 September)
- Spouse/companion: $35
- Student: $20
- Unemployed: $20
Conference participants will need to register online for the conference before they can reserve a room at the Hilton Pittsburgh at our guaranteed conference rate. After registering for the conference, you will be able to link directly to the Hilton reservation system, where a special web page has been reserved for the GSA. Please do not attempt to reserve a room directly through the Hilton system before paying conference registration, as you won’t be able to access the special page that Hilton is creating for us and you will have to pay non-conference rates for a room. Again, please check the Web site for updates and more detailed information.

Membership Issues in the GSA: The Challenge and How to Meet It

There can be no doubt that, as the German Studies Association moves into its fourth decade, sustaining and expanding our membership represents our single greatest challenge. If the GSA is to remain an intellectually dynamic and relatively inexpensive association of scholars, we cannot afford to be complacent about our membership base or take any of our existing members for granted in any way. It is critically important that, in view of declining membership figures in recent years, we gain 250 new members in the next two or three years. We can only do so by serving our members as efficiently and effectively as possible, while also maintaining stringent academic and intellectual standards.

Beginning in the fall of 2005, the Executive Committee and Executive Council were asked to undertake a “homework” assignment for David Barclay, the incoming Executive Director. Each member was asked to identify what he or she regarded as critical issues facing the GSA and suggest responses to those issues. All problems and concerns—from conference registration fees to the role of graduate students to the problem of “no-shows” at our annual meetings—were legitimate topics of discussion. But underpinning those discussions was the question of how to increase membership and revitalize the Association without jettisoning the traditions of three decades. As part of our strategy to deal with the membership issue, the GSA is undertaking several initiatives. We would welcome your response to these initiatives, and any ideas you may have regarding other fruitful membership-related activities.

1) **The “Fugate Project.”** Professor Joe K. Fugate, long-time GSA member, emeritus professor of German, and veteran director of study-abroad programs at Kalamazoo College, has agreed to undertake systematic membership surveys for the GSA. He will do two things. First, he will look at membership figures for 2000 and 2005 to get us a better sense of where our membership losses have come from. Then he will attempt to determine our potential recruitment field by reviewing lists of relevant recent PhDs, the membership of affiliated and related organizations, and the like. We hope that the “Fugate project” will provide us with useful data that can be employed in our membership drive.

2) **Underrepresented and Expanding Constituencies in the GSA: New Plans and New Directions.** As President Katherine Roper notes in this issue, the GSA
wants to reach out to new constituencies even as it strengthens established ones. To that end, President Roper and Executive Director-designate David Barclay met in Milwaukee with different groups of political scientists to discuss the declining “presence” of political science at our meetings, and to consider how—in view of disciplinary shifts in political science and the realities of the academic reward system—it might be possible to gain new members from that discipline. Of critical importance to these efforts is the new cooperative agreement between British and North American specialists on Central European politics.

Moreover, as Kathy also notes, the GSA wishes to reach out to other scholars of Central Europe—e.g., art historians, medievalists, scholars of the Reformation, musicologists—who have not been as strongly represented in the organization as we would like. Thus we are establishing closer links with groups like Historians of German and Central European Art and Architecture (HGCEA), and we are gratified by the presence at our conference of the Young Medievalist Germanists in North America (YMAGINA).

Many of our members are, of course, themselves residents of the German-speaking countries. We want to do all we can to increase our membership outside the US, and especially in Central Europe, and ensure that our non-North American members are actively involved in the Association and its activities. Accordingly, the GSA is interested in establishing a Europe-based *Beirat* for our non-North American members. It would be composed of five or six members plus the GSA Executive Director and would focus on issues of special concern to our members outside North America. We welcome your suggestions and responses.


4) *Bridging the Generations.* Elsewhere in this newsletter President Roper describes the new GSA Task Forces that have been established to address the professional concerns of graduate students and recent PhDs in our association. At the same time that we are reaching out to our younger colleagues, we are equally committed to those senior members who have formed the bedrock of the GSA for three decades. We cannot and we will not overlook their past contributions, and we look forward to their future contributions as well. One possibility that we are considering is the introduction of *Generationsgespräche*, either at the conference or in the newsletter or both, in which younger scholars join more senior scholars to discuss recent trends, issues, and controversies in German Studies. Again, we would be interested in your response to this notion, and we would welcome any other ideas that you may have about ways in which the Association can effectively serve the needs of *all* its members while expanding its membership base.
The GSA Web Site

Most of you will have received the global e-mail that we sent to the members in January describing the complexities we encountered with our Web site as a result of the shift in late 2005 to a new domain host. By now, everyone should know that we have a new URL (www.thegsa.org). A great deal of code had to be rewritten, among other things after a crash on the domain host in late November 2005 eliminated a lot of data as it was being uploaded. And we temporarily lost our secure SSL layer; but our indefatigable webmaster quickly restored it, and it is more secure than ever. So members can make online payments with the full confidence that all transactions are as safe as possible.

Der langen Geschichte kurzer Sinn: We really had to scramble to get the online parts of the Web site into reasonable working order. The result was a work in progress, and thus we encountered glitches that we had hoped to have eliminated last year. We know that this has been frustrating for many of you, but we are convinced that we are well on the way to creating an up-to-date, intuitive, and user-friendly Web site. Again, our webmaster has been absolutely tireless in his efforts, and we are immensely grateful to him for his patience. Similarly, our superb Tech Support Desk (techsupport@thegsa.org) is always ready to assist you. We hope you know that behind the technology are real human beings, and we are ready to help however we can.

Although we are committed to improving the site, we do want to emphasize the positive. Our Web site and our online system enable us to do things that would have been unimaginable a few years ago. Among other things, our online conference submission system enables us to post the tentative program on the site in the spring and make necessary revisions before its final publication in printed form.

In the summer, when we finally have a bit of a hiatus, we are going to start thinking systematically about concrete ways to improve the Web site. Among the ideas we have in mind:

- A redesigned and simplified homepage.
- A commitment to Zweisprachigkeit on the Web site, with the entire site ultimately being available, by the click of a button on the homepage, in German as well as in English.
- Simpler and more intuitive procedures for online submission of papers, partial sessions, complete sessions, and roundtables.
- The timely online publication of Executive Committee minutes.
- The possibility of publishing this newsletter online, either as a substitute for or supplement to the traditional hard copy.
- Electronic elections.
- Even more extensive links to other organizations’ sites.
- Links to German-language media sites?

We also plan to introduce a number of “forums” or discussion groups on the site to provide opportunities for members of the Executive Council and the Executive Committee to communicate with each other and with the membership, make sug-
gestions for improvements, and the like. Please visit the Web site during the next few months to learn about these innovations.

Most importantly, to improve the Web site we need your feedback. We really need specific, concrete comments and suggestions. It is not helpful to say, “I can’t get the Web site to work.” The more specific you can be, the more responsive we can be. Thanks in advance!

Berlin Program Announces Fellows for 2006–07

The Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies—administered in partnership between the Freie Universität Berlin and the German Studies Association—has announced the results of the selection process for 2006–07. Ten young North American scholars have been nominated for Berlin Fellowships for the coming two academic year, and, at the time of writing in mid-March 2006, five had accepted. They are:

- Emily Carter (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Department of Anthropology): “The Semiotics of Diaspora: Coptic Texts and Language Ideologies in Berlin, Germany”
- Steven Gummer (Georgetown University, Department of History): “Imperial Dreams and Religious Fury: Germany and Religious Violence in the Ottoman Balkans in the Age of Nationalism, 1875–1914”
- Jennifer Miller (Rutgers University, Department of History): “Gendered Border Crossings: The First Generation of Turkish Guest Workers in Germany, 1961–1973”
- Nicholas Schlosser (University of Maryland, College Park, Department of History): “Radio in Cold War Berlin and the Shaping of Political Culture in Divided Germany, 1945–1961”

The German Studies Association congratulates these new Berlin Fellows and wishes them the best of luck in Berlin! The GSA also thanks Professor Peter Fritzscbe (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) and Professor Elizabeth Heineman (University of Iowa), who represented the Association on this year’s advisory committee.

The GSA’s involvement with the Berlin Program in Advanced German and European Studies is evidence of its continued commitment to Nachwuchsförderung. To that end, all Berlin Fellows will receive special recognition from the GSA at the annual conference.

Established in 1986, the Berlin Program is a residential program that supports young scholars in history and the social sciences as well as Germanists interested in related issues. Fellowships are awarded for doctoral dissertation and postdoctoral research leading to the completion of a monograph. The program offers its Fel-
GSA Relations with Affiliated and “Neighboring” Organizations

As an inter- and multidisciplinary organization devoted to the study of the German-speaking world, the German Studies Association naturally maintains close ties with a variety of affiliated and “neighboring” organizations. Given the current situation of German studies in American secondary and higher education, the GSA strongly believes that it is in our individual and collective interest to work as closely as possible and as fruitfully as possible with as many related groups as possible. To that end, President Katherine Roper and then Executive Director-designate David E. Barclay met with representatives of several groups at the Milwaukee meeting in the fall of 2005. During those conversations we explored a number of possibilities for future collaboration, and we would vigorously encourage continued discussion, ideas, criticism, and suggestions from members of these and other groups. Please contact President Roper (kroper@stmarys-ca.edu) or Executive Director Barclay (director@thegsa.org) with your thoughts.

Among other things, the GSA encourages reciprocal Web site links with organizations and groups, private and public, which share our interests and goals. If you visit our Web site, please note our links to the following. If you represent a group that would like to be added, please let us know!

* American Association of Teachers of German
* American Council of Learned Societies
* American Institute for Contemporary German Studies
* Austrian Cultural Forum, New York
* Austrian Embassy
* Center for Austrian Studies
* DAAD
* German Embassy
* German Historical Institute, Washington, DC
* Goethe-Institut
* H-German
* Historians of German and Central European Art and Architecture
* Swiss Embassy
* SwissStudies.org
* Women in German
In Memoriam

This is a new feature of the Newsletter. It is to mark the passing of prominent colleagues and to honor and celebrate their contributions as scholars and teachers. The German Studies Association encourages its members and friends to send us obituaries in memory of their distinguished colleagues in German studies as e-mail attachments or on a disk/CD to the GSA address on the inside cover. As always, we will be happy to receive essays in English or German. They should generally not be longer than 500, in exceptional cases 1,000 words. The inaugural tribute below exceeds these limits. It is based on an earlier, longer version, published on December 9, 2005, by H-German, whose initiative and permission to reprint the author hereby gratefully acknowledges.

Gordon A. Craig (1913–2005)

On October 30, 2005, Gordon A. Craig, a towering figure among scholars of German history, literature, and culture passed from us. His was a strong, always supremely eloquent and judiciously reasoned voice of authority. He was still treating readers of the New York Review of Books to incisive review essays in his impeccable magisterial style until his ninetieth year, when the reading blindness forced him into what he peevishly called “deep retirement.” He personally spanned twentieth-century Germany from his first term of study there as a Princeton University undergraduate in the post-Weimar-Republic years, with much of the cultural splendor and political arrogance and angst of the old Germany still intact, to post-Holocaust, post-division Berlin as honorary professor at the Free University.

He made his first mark in the history and practice of statecraft, which was the focus of Craig’s first major publication, The Diplomats, 1919–1939, published in 1953 together with Felix Gilbert. The volumes made a powerful statement against ideological mass politics in the wake of the fascist holocaust and at the peak of the cold war. Readers could identify with the fascinating and often highly cultured personalities in the collection; and Craig clearly did as well. In his own mind and in the view of his students, he was intrinsically part of that world. His correct, elegant bearing, his profound Bildung in all areas of high culture, his honed rhetoric, his fine writing style, even his penmanship suggested this kinship.

While his scholarship always remained anchored in aspects of statecraft, Craig was never just a historian and theoretician of statecraft. From the earliest years of his career at Yale and then as a faculty member at Princeton, he worked as an advisor for the Office of Strategic Services with so many of the brightest scholars of the day. Later he was a consultant for the State Department, where one of his closest friends from his Rhodes years at Oxford, W. W. Rostow was serving, as well as for the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. He was an informal advisor to many prominent American and German statesmen and enjoyed meeting in their circles into his late 80s.

The book that established Gordon Craig as a leading historian almost instantly was The Politics of the Prussian Army, 1640–1945, first published in 1955. It was an
extraordinary feat, which spanned not only all of the history of Brandenburg-Prussia, but also demonstrated a mastery military policy, general strategy, and tactical issues as well as the politics and culture of this remarkable state. Right at the start of the book Craig engaged with the nature of German history and the German nation, when he asserted that “authoritarian government, militarism, and aggression … are not inherent in the German character.” The vision of this grand opus was to understand the genesis of the power of modern Germany, which transpired through the rise of Prussia achieved, almost incredibly, through “the political will and sagacity of Hohenzollern rulers after 1640 and the effectiveness of the army which they created.” The book also established him as the premier historian of Prussia, at least outside of Germany. He remained a favorite guest and sophisticated lecturer on the topic. Not only outside of Germany, but just as importantly within that country, no one contributed more to the reevaluation of Prussian history, which had been roundly condemned and rejected as solely authoritarian, militaristic, and primarily responsible for Nazism.

As a proud U.S. Marine, he was a sophisticated military historian, superbly demonstrated in his masterpiece battle history, The Battle of Königgrätz. This battle, which established the superiority of modern general-staff directed strategy and lifted von Moltke from an unknown to a leading strategist of the nineteenth century, was ideally suited to Craig’s conception of history: There was high battle drama and surprise, interplay between a gifted statesman (Bismarck) and the talented military strategist, both whom were supremely cultured aficionados of fine literary style. The book was not only a great success but also close to Craig’s heart to the end of his life. He finished the third and last edition just two years ago. Craig personally valued no award he received in his long, brilliant career more highly than the order Pour le mérite, the highest Prussian-German officers’ award, established by Frederick the Great in 1740, and amended Frederick-William IV in 1842 with a Pour le mérite for the arts and sciences. Until his last years, as long as he could still travel at all, he savored going to the meetings of this august group.

For the students in his supremely popular lecture classes and seminars at Princeton, Stanford, and Berlin his love of and virtuosity in German and world literature was proverbial. After he moved from his alma mater of Princeton, where taught from 1941 to 1961, to Stanford (1961–1979), he developed a close relationship with several colleagues of the excellent German department there, and he took particular delight in at least one seminar he taught with the Germanist Müller-Vollmar. He wrote several articles on German writers and their relationship to politics, including “Friedrich Schiller and the Problems of Power” (in: The Responsibility of Power: Historical Essays in Honor of Hajo Holborn, Leonard Krieger and Fritz Stern, eds. [Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Company, 1969], 135–56). But it was in his retirement years that he published his key books in cultural history and literature. The first of these, The Germans, became the work with which he was identified in the general reading public. It has been more widely quoted than any of his books or those of any other authors on Germany. What had been an ambition of his first book—to paint a different, fairer and more genuine picture of (Prussian) Germans—the much-matured historian achieved after almost 70 years.
From a rich palette of German intellectual and cultural life and history (plus the “honorary German” Mark Twain) he drew a new, fuller, and more multifaceted image of Germans—no longer so much perceived as a nation, but its people beyond “that corrosive nationalism that has in the past distorted the German spirit.” The book went through a second, larger edition and, like all of his major books, it also appeared in German, where it became a kind of mirror from outside—without a raised finger—recalling Tocqueville’s outsider’s mirror for nineteenth-century America and Madame Staël’s for nineteenth-century Germans.

His last book was a labor of love dedicated to a writer whose work had been very special to him for the greatest part of his life and who had been his personal intellectual companion during this extended times in Berlin: Theodor Fontane, Germany’s greatest novelist of the nineteenth century. As an inveterate walker, Craig hiked along all the paths Fontane had followed on his *Wanderungen durch die Mark Brandenburg*. No one knew and portrayed the range of social types of Bismarckian Prussia more thoroughly than this journalist and social critic turned novelist in his retirement years—a Prussian Balzac or Dickens in many ways. He would have been the ideal conversation partner for Craig. Both Craig and Fontane were eminent and incisive critics of Prussia and Germany because they were so deeply committed to and cared so strongly about that part of Germany. Craig’s *Theodor Fontane* reflects the dual view of nineteenth-century Germany’s seemingly golden years of unity, growing prosperity, power, and cultural blossoming, especially in the shining cultural beacon of Berlin, yet with its growing fissures of arrogant militarism and caesarism emerging, which climaxed under Kaiser Wilhelm II. For Craig this book was a natural last labor of love, crowning an extraordinary scholarly career.

When Gordon Craig joined the historical profession, the field of German history was dominated in the United States by a richly talented generation of German emigrants, who had fled their country to escape Nazi antisemitism, political persecution, and the Holocaust. Naturally many of them became his closest associates and friends, including Hajo Holborn, Felix Gilbert, Hans Rosenberg, Hans Kohn, Fritz Stern, Peter Gay, Theodore Hamerow. Steeped in German history and culture, the Holocaust had meant great personal tragedy for them as well as a profound disillusionment about German history and culture. Many of them sought to find the sources of the Nazism, antisemitism, and Judeocide specifically in German history. More generally the question of moral responsibility became central in the teaching and scholarship in the field. Reflections about moral responsibility also mark all of Craig’s writing, especially for those in positions of political power, but for writers of prose and fiction as well. But he never regarded the Holocaust as a defining characteristic of German history that had to be a part of all broader investigations at least in modern German history, as many in the next generation of scholars on both sides of the Atlantic have assumed. For Craig, Nazism and the Holocaust always remained a catastrophe of Germans, as Friedrich Meinecke argued, which remains a part of their history, but does not define it. Yet he also acknowledged that: “one and a half generations after his death in the bunker, … Hitler was like the little man upon the stair in the old song. He wasn’t there, but
he wouldn’t go away.”

As a teacher at Yale, Princeton, Stanford, and the Free University of Berlin, Craig leaves a remarkable legacy. He was an extraordinary lecturer. His reputation among students of all levels was legendary. They listened enraptured by his erudition and the splendid story unfolding. No one dared not disturb the flow of his finely tuned rhetoric delivered with scarcely a glance at his notes. His adroitly free delivery completely concealed the fact that all of his lectures were crafted and written down in his near-calligraphic hand word for word, and updated and recrafted for every class and public lecture. He essentially spoke his lectures by heart. He tolerated nothing short of perfection in his presentations and was proud to have been admitted as still a young scholar to the American Philosophical Society. He had little sympathy for extended theorizing about teaching methods. The quality of the ideas, the precision of the argument, and the clarity and force of the delivery defined for him the best teaching. His extraordinary success and enormous popularity as a lecturer is convincing confirmation.

In the restive Berlin of the sixties, he played a very special role. In contrast the other great intellectual visiting with and listening to the Free-University students in those years, Herbert Marcuse, Craig played a quiet role. After teaching his mammoth Hauptseminar of a hundred students at the Friedrich-Meinecke-Institut, he would regularly invite students to chat at the beer garden next door over a Berliner Weiße or Bier mit Schuss. He deeply sympathized with the students about the authoritarian structures and impersonal large classes, especially seminars, which confronted the students everywhere, even at this university, which had been founded by a small number of students and professors working intimately together in their quest for learning in freedom.

In one respect Craig was the classic traditional historian par excellence: his starting point was the individual actor. His works literally begin with an outstanding individual’s thoughts or perspective and work out from there to the larger problematic and actions. The story is skillfully interwoven with incisive analysis and rich, scrupulous documentation, but he always transports the reader back into the flow of the narrative without strain, thanks to his masterfully gracious writing style. This ability to clad incisive analysis in narrative style and to bring the focus always back to individual actors undoubtedly explains the appeal his books and essays held for a broad reading public and helps make clear the extent to which Gordon A. Craig’s impact has been felt far beyond his students in the formal sense.

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