

STORIES · GESCHICHTEN

Faculty from Smith College at the University of Hamburg ·
Dozenten vom Smith College an der Universität Hamburg

aus:

**STORIES FROM 55 YEARS OF
A TRANSATLANTIC FRIENDSHIP**

**GESCHICHTEN AUS 55 JAHREN
TRANSATLANTISCHER FREUNDSCHAFT**

Smith College · Universität Hamburg 1961 – 2016

Edited by Jocelyne Kolb & Rainer Nicolaysen

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PREFACES ·	9	Jill Ker Conway			
VORWORTE	11	Peter Fischer-Appelt			
INTRODUCTION ·	13	Jocelyne Kolb &			
EINFÜHRUNG		Rainer Nicolaysen			
STORIES ·		Directors ·			
GESCHICHTEN		Direktoren			
	19	Hans R. Vaget			
		“Das Tor zur Welt” – Hamburg			
		1969–71			
	24	Margaret Skiles Zelljadt			
		Permanence in Change			
	27	John M. Connolly			
		Two Years Directing in Hamburg,			
		1978–79 and 2012–13			
	30	Gertraud Gutzmann			
		Begegnungen			
	36	Joseph McVeigh			
		Witnessing History’s Footnotes			
	39	Jocelyne Kolb			
		Hamburg in Silver and Gold			
	45	Joel Westerdale			
		Cultural Buoyancy: Immersion in			
		the Age of Social Media			
		Instructors in Hamburg ·			
		Dozenten in Hamburg			
	48	Jutta Gutzeit			
		You’ll Never Walk Alone –			
		Studienprogramm von Smith			
		College in Hamburg: So viele			
		Menschen!			
	52	Rainer Nicolaysen			
		Das Beste aus beiden Welten			
		Students from Smith College			
		at the University of Hamburg ·			
		Studentinnen und Studenten			
		vom Smith College an der			
		Universität Hamburg			
	57	Krishna Winston			
		Coming Full Circle:			
		Smith in Hamburg			
	59	Deanna Gaunce Nebert			
		Dreaming in German			
	61	Sarah E. Thomas			
		Luise Müllerin in Hamburg:			
		You Can Take the Girl out of the			
		Country, but You Can’t Take the			
		Country out of the Girl			
	64	Frank Lehmann			
		Culture Shock at its Best			
	66	Leslie A. Adelson			
		What the Smith College Junior			
		Year Abroad Program in			
		Hamburg Has Meant to Me			
	69	Jane L. Carroll			
		Beyond Books: How I Learned			
		to Love Germany			
	72	Michael Joseph Beiser			
		Hummel Hummel, Who’s He?			
	75	Rachel Getzoff Thoma			
		How the Smith JYA Influenced			
		My Life...			
	83	Eliza Garrison			
		Coming Home:			
		My First Year in Germany			
	85	Susannah Ewing &			
		Michelle Pucci			
		Dialogue Overheard Between			
		Two Smithies in Hamburg			
	88	Seth Peabody			
		Photos Not Taken			
	92	Bryn Savage			
		An Embarrassment of Riches			

94 **Christina Arrison**
Small Talk and Big Changes

96 **Dinah Lensing-Sharp**
Gathering

**Students from the University
of Hamburg at Smith College ·
Studentinnen der Universität
Hamburg am Smith College**

99 **Susanne Gommert**
Reflections on Paradise Pond –
What if...?

101 **Christiane Thurner &
Christine Koglin**
Zweimal C, ein Job –
und mittlerweile sieben Kinder

106 **Helga Bechmann**
So Long and Thanks for
All the Smith

108 **Ania Ferstl**
Dekonstruktion nach Smith

**Faculty from the University
of Hamburg at Smith College ·
Dozenten der Universität
Hamburg am Smith College**

111 **Andreas Kleinert &
Christoph Scriba**
Bericht über einen Lehr- und
Forschungsaufenthalt am Smith
College (1989)

116 **Marie-Elisabeth Hilger**
Vor über 25 Jahren: das Erlebnis
des Smith College

119 **Bettina Friedl**
Meeting the Adas

122 **Susanne Rohr**
Dressed to Kill on Campus

**Faculty from Smith College
at the University of Hamburg ·
Dozenten vom Smith College
an der Universität Hamburg**

125 **Joan Afferica:**
Hamburg Memories

127 **Donald F. Wheelock**
Altes und Neues in Hamburg

129 **C. John Burk**
Upstream/Downstream

132 **Låle Aka Burk**
A Tale of Two Cities

136 **Craig R. Davis**
Discovering America in Hamburg

138 **Dennis T. Yasutomo**
A Statement on the
Commemoration of the 50th
Anniversary of Smith's Study
Abroad Program at the University
of Hamburg

141 **Len Berkman**
A Universität Hamburg-Smith
College Faculty Exchange
Memoir of Sorts

Summary Lists · Übersichten

148 Smith College Directors ·
Direktoren in Hamburg

149 Long-Term Faculty Exchange ·
Langzeit-Dozentenaustausch

150 Short-Term Faculty Exchange ·
Kurzzeit-Dozentenaustausch

DOCUMENTS · 153 Editorial Preface · Vorbemerkung der Herausgeber

DOKUMENTE

- 155 • Marie Schnieders to Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst, June 9, 1960
- 157 • Marie Schnieders an Richard Münzner, 12. September 1960
- 158 • Richard Münzner an Marie Schnieders, 4. Oktober 1960
- 159 • Marie Schnieders an Richard Münzner, 10. Oktober 1960
- 160 • Richard Münzner an Marie Schnieders, 14. Oktober 1960
- 161 • Marie Schnieders an Richard Münzner, 31. Oktober 1960
- 162 • Thomas C. Mendenhall to Richard Münzner, November 9, 1960
- 163 • Vermerk Richard Münzner, 15. Dezember 1960
- 165 • Marie Schnieders an Richard Münzner, 9. Januar 1961
- 168 • Thomas C. Mendenhall to Dorothea Warburg, February 13, 1961
- 169 • Richard Münzner an Reinhard Lettau, 20. März 1961
- 170 • William A. Bodden to Brinckmann, Wirts & Co, April 13, 1961
- 171 • William E. Sexton to Marie Schnieders, April 18, 1961
- 172 • Reinhard Lettau to William A. Bodden, November 27, 1961
- 174 • Thomas C. Mendenhall to Reinhard Lettau, November 28, 1961
- 176 • Thomas C. Mendenhall to the Parents of the Students on the Smith Junior Year in Hamburg, November 30, 1961
- 177 • Parody of letter to parents sent by Thomas C. Mendenhall as a “copy” to Reinhard Lettau, November 30, 1961
- 178 • Paul G. Graham to Reinhard Lettau, January 9, 1962
- 179 • Thomas C. Mendenhall to Reinhard Lettau, January 30, 1962
- 180 • Thomas C. Mendenhall to Directors of the Junior Year Abroad, March 28, 1962 (Memorandum and Proposal)
- 183 • Klemens von Klemperer an Reinhard Lettau, 28. Mai 1962
- 185 • List of Participants in the Second Year of the Hamburg JYA Program in 1962–63/Liste der Studentinnen des zweiten Smith-Jahrgangs in Hamburg 1962/63
- 186 • Agreement concerning Faculty Exchange between the University of Hamburg, Bundesrepublik Deutschland, and Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts, USA, March 16, 1979
Vereinbarung über die Zusammenarbeit zwischen der Universität Hamburg, Bundesrepublik Deutschland, und dem Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts, USA, 16. März 1979
- 190 • Carol T. Christ to Jobst B. Mielck, April 28, 2006
- 191 • Deanna Gaunce Nebert '69: Fiftieth-Anniversary Celebration of the Program in 2011: A Report/Bericht über das 50-jährige Jubiläum des Programms 2011

JOAN AFFERICA



b. 1932, B.A. Barnard College 1953, M.A. Radcliffe College 1955, Ph.D. Harvard University 1967 · L. Clark Seelye Professor Emeritus of History, Smith College · Short-term faculty exchange, University of Hamburg, 1990, long-term faculty exchange, University of Hamburg, 1992, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2003.

HAMBURG MEMORIES

What a challenge to confine to two pages the rich experience of the faculty exchange between Smith College and the University of Hamburg on the fifty-fifth anniversary of their collaboration. What to include? The eagerness of students to delve into an unaccustomed and demanding form of colloquia that required time, intellectual team work, and development of analytical speaking and writing skills?

The stimulation and courtesies of colleagues like Professor Norbert Angermann and discussions with his loyal gathering of present and past students? The view from Professor Peter Borowsky's dining table as container ships moved along the Elbe? Forays into Hamburg's neighborhoods and acquaintance with the broader professional community thanks to the generosity of Professor Marie-Elisabeth Hilger? The warm welcome of Anna-Maria Karl and her predecessors at the University's Guest House? The extraordinary conceptual power of John Neumeier at the Oper? The fragrance of bountiful chestnut blossoms in spring bloom?

I was especially privileged to enjoy multiple visits to the University, from the first short-term experience in 1990 to entire spring semesters in 1992, 1996, 1998, 2000, and 2003. Indeed, the final semester of my professional teaching took place here. Rather than dwelling on classroom experience with students who continue to favor me in the United States with emails, letters, and visits, I should prefer to recall the unanticipated and extraordinarily beneficial opportunities for research that the Hamburg experience afforded me.

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Could I have expected to encounter at the Guest House a Russian-speaking member of the “team” who invited me deep into Siberia, to settlements along the Yenisei River where the subject of my writing, the artist Eva Rozengolts, had languished long years in exile? There I was able to photograph before the new post-Soviet wealth obliterated the bleak physical memory of the post-war period, the infamous anti-cosmopolitan campaign that, among other victims, carried off the Jewish intelligentsia and where today thousands of acres are being consumed in uncontrollable wild fires.

And even more significant for my professional understanding of Europe’s eastern borderlands, long taught but unseen, was Professor Frank Golczewski’s invitation to accompany his students on three expeditions to these sorely-contested “bloodlands” – to southeastern Poland and western Ukraine in 2001, to Belarus in 2004, and to western Ukraine in 2010. Together with Professor Golczewski and his students, under conditions often far from comfortable, we deepened our knowledge not only of present conditions but as well of the legacy of a centuries-long history of imperial contention. We explored sites that recalled the Habsburg and Russian imperial past in Galicia and Volhynia, the remains of Majdanek and Sobibor, the partisan fighting grounds now commemorated in the new Ukraine, towns and lands too numerous to mention. These expeditions to once remote areas which hitherto I had been unable to observe, either at the time of my early diplomatic service or in later exchanges with the Soviet Academy of Sciences, brought to a proper close my long professional journey of teaching and scholarship.

I close with a strong salute to those who initiated, shaped and executed student and faculty exchanges between Smith College and the University of Hamburg, experiences that vastly benefited several generations and, sadly, will be denied to others in future.

DONALD F. WHELOCK



b. 1940, A.B. Union College 1962,
M.Mus. Yale University School
of Music 1966 · Irwin and Pauline
Alper Glass Professor
Emeritus of Music · long-term
faculty exchange, University
of Hamburg 1997.

ALTES UND NEUES IN HAMBURG

Ich bin Komponist. Als ich 53 Jahre alt war, begann das interessanteste Abenteuer meines Lebens. Im Herbst 1994 hatte ich meine erste Deutschstunde. Ein Semester später reiste ich nach Berlin zur Aufführung meines Stücks „Music for Seven Players“, gespielt von einer neuen Musikgruppe: EnsembleUnitedBerlin. 1997, nachdem ich vier Jahre lang so viel Deutsch wie möglich gelernt hatte (während ich meinen Beruf als Lehrer und Komponist am Smith College ausübte), bewarb ich mich um den Smith-Hamburg-Austausch. Leider gab es ein Problem: Als Komponist konnte ich eigentlich nicht am Musikwissenschaftlichen Institut der Universität Hamburg untergebracht werden, und mit der Musikhochschule in der Milchstraße unterhielt Smith College kein Austauschprogramm.

Durch die Großzügigkeit und den Einsatz einer Kollegin, Annette Kreuziger-Herr, die im Jahr meiner Bewerbung am Dozenten austausch teilnahm und am Smith College tätig war, konnte eine Lösung gefunden werden. Weil ich damals das Streichquartett für die interessanteste Form von Kammermusik hielt – bis zu diesem Zeitpunkt hatte ich vier Quartette komponiert –, wurde entschieden, dass ich eine Lehrveranstaltung über die amerikanische Kammermusik anbieten sollte, vertreten durch Komponisten des 20. Jahrhunderts – unter anderen Charles Ives, Elliott Carter und Aaron Copland.

Nach einem Treffen in Hamburg mit Professor Peter Petersen, der viel zu Béla Bartók und Hans Werner Henze veröffentlicht hat und mein Interesse für das Konzept vom späten Stil teilt, beschlossen wir, eine gemeinsame Lehrveranstaltung

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über die späten Quartette von Beethoven (Op. 127, 130, 131, 132, 133 und 135) anzubieten. Das Format der Lehrveranstaltung, bei dem die Studierenden Referate hielten, war für mich eine besondere Bereicherung. Dadurch konnte ich mit jedem einzelnen Studierenden einen Dialog zu einem besonderen Thema führen.

In Hamburg habe ich selber Vorlesungen gehalten, in denen ich Beobachtungen sammeln konnte, die ich über die Jahre zu den gesamten Beethoven-Quartetten gemacht hatte, zu ihren Merkwürdigkeiten, Varianten, Störungen und Ausbrüchen. Auch habe ich einen kleinen Vortrag über die Verbindung zwischen meinem Werk und der Gattung des Streichquartetts gehalten, besonders über den Einfluss von Beethovens Streichertechnik auf meine eigenen Kompositionen.

Nach fast 50 Jahren als Lehrer in den USA kann ich mit Bestimmtheit sagen, dass das Semester an der Universität Hamburg, das meine Frau und ich im Gästehaus an der Rothenbaumchaussee verbrachten, ein Höhepunkt in unserem Leben bildete. Dass ich vor 30 Studierenden stehen würde, die sich für die tiefsten Gedanken der musikalischen Welt begeistern konnten, hätte ich mir vor dem Aufenthalt in Hamburg nie vorstellen können, und das werde ich nie vergessen. Auch war die musikalische Kultur innerhalb und außerhalb der Universität für uns unvergesslich. Und die Freundschaften, die wir da geschlossen haben – mit den Professoren Peter Petersen und Wolfgang Dömling aus dem Institut und mit Gerhard Lohse von der Altphilologie –, vermissen wir sehr.

Dass der Dozentenaustausch nun eingestellt worden ist, scheint mir ein besonders trauriger Fehler. Mit Kollegen aus einem anderen Land zu lehren und zu forschen und sich zu unterhalten, ist viel wertvoller als jedes Budget.

C. JOHN BURK



b. 1935, B.A. Miami University (Oxford, Ohio) 1957, M.A., Ph.D. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill 1959, 1961 · Elsie Damon Simonds Professor of the Life Sciences Emeritus, Smith College · short-term faculty exchange, University of Hamburg, 2006.

UPSTREAM/DOWNSTREAM

Sometime during the spring of 2005, I received an odd communication by email from a Hamburg University address. It was sent by someone I didn't know, and the message box was blank. My wife Lâle Burk has been for some years researching the lives of scientists who took refuge in Turkey during the Nazi era and made significant contributions to Turkish science and science education. We had arranged to visit Hamburg as part of her work in June, 2006, and I guessed that the missing text might be related to our travel plans. A second identical message followed and then perhaps a third. Upon investigation and the resolution of technical problems, the intended texts were retrieved. They had come from Kai Jensen, a young botanist at Biocentre Klein Flottbek who was teaching courses in plant ecology and systematics much like those I teach at Smith College. He was applying to come to Northampton the following September on the month-long short-term faculty exchange and asking me to serve as his host at Smith. After some discussion with colleagues in German Studies I agreed to do so, thinking that I might be able to join some of Professor Jensen's field trips with his classes in the Hamburg countryside the following summer.

Kai arrived in Northampton at the end of August. He had been en route from Germany via Baltimore just as the news media were reporting the destruction wrought by Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, and the overcast unsettled weather here resulted from the remnants of Katrina moving northward, inland from the coastline. As we talked over dinner that evening, it soon was clear that his research interests were very similar to mine. We both studied plants, landscapes, and their

interactions, and we both were concerned with environmental problems, including catastrophes such as Katrina and the great Elbe flood of 1962. There were similarities on both sides of the Atlantic but also some surprising differences, and in the course of four busy weeks we visited restored grasslands, agricultural fields in the Connecticut Valley, a series of abandoned beaver ponds, and Plum Island, a barrier island on the Massachusetts Atlantic coast. We also attended a seminar at Harvard forest, and Kai on his own explored the Holyoke Ridge and went with a marine ecology class to coastal Maine. He presented a colloquium for the Biological Sciences Department and a lunch-time talk for the science honorary Sigma Xi. During this short visit Kai also applied to return to Smith College the following year, this time on the long-term exchange, and shortly after his return to Hamburg, we learned his application was approved.

The following June, Kai met us at the Hamburg airport with a complex calendar of possible activities. Lâle and I had a flat in the University guesthouse and immediately began to explore and enjoy the city, as we have on subsequent visits – the gardens, the walks along the Alster, opera at the state theater, and the art museums. Lâle searched out places associated with the scientists who had come back to Germany from Turkey at the conclusion of World War II, and she also joined Kai and me on reciprocal explorations to look at grassland restorations near Kiel, a barrier island on the North Sea (Sylt), and pastures “reclaimed” as tidal marsh. On perhaps our most important expedition, I joined one of Kai’s classes for a field trip from a floodplain forest on an island near Hamburg down through the estuary of the Elbe, stopping at various sites along the way and ending at the North Sea tidal marshes. Pliny visited this part of the German coast around 77AD and complained that because of the shallow water and the deeply layered muck, the Roman ships were unable to find a landing. Used to the firmly packed sands of the Cape Cod beaches, I, too, found the squelchy footing disconcerting.

At the end of June, we all returned to Northampton, Kai with his family: wife Birte and three children, Janne (then age 14), Jorun (11), and Lennart (4) to a College house on Kensington Avenue, adjacent to the campus. Kai began an ambitious project, sampling identifying plants and estimating their abundance in a series of marshes, following the same gradient we had followed on that Saturday trip with the class along the Elbe. At the same time, Gesina Engels, Kai’s Ph.D. student, was sampling the Elbe marshes, and Marjorie Holland, one of my former students, now a full professor at the University of Mississippi, had come back to resample the freshwater marshes she had studied for her dissertation. The result of all this effort was a data bank of information which Kai and I expanded by looking at a group of oxbows near Magdeburg in 2011.

We are now trying to finish a project we’ve been working on since shortly after his arrival in Northampton. In our concluding paragraphs, we will argue that, in this time of concerns about accelerated climate change and more frequent events

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such as Hurricane Katrina, and the more recent Elbe floods of 2013, studies like ours are particularly important. They function as records of the plant communities and the vegetation they support at a particular time in history, in this case 2006–2011, and they can serve as benchmarks for comparison and the assessment of changes should these occur. At the time of our study, evidence for the similarities of the two river systems is more compelling than evidence for their differences; we are not sure that this will always be the case.

Looking back now on our time in Hamburg from the perspective of a decade, Lâle and I are increasingly impressed by the riches of the city, the diversity of experiences even a short walk from the university. We have gained many things, including a greater appreciation of our colleagues in German Studies here at Smith; and in Kai of course a perceptive colleague, a lively companion, and a valued friend. Nonetheless, on some things Kai and I will never agree, including the proper way to pronounce certain Latin names. For the giant reed *Phragmites*, he insists on “Frog meeties”. I say “Fragg mighties” but now am aware of my midwestern accent as I do so.

LÂLE AKA BURK



b. 1943, B.S. American College for Girls (ACG, presently Robert College) Istanbul 1962, M.A. Smith College 1964, Ph.D. University of Massachusetts 1968 · Senior Lecturer Emerita in Chemistry, Smith College. Short-term faculty exchange, University of Hamburg, 2006.

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

In 1962, when I arrived in the United States from Istanbul to pursue my graduate education in chemistry, I took a course at Smith College called “Organic Reactions” that emphasized synthetic procedures named for their discoverers. One assignment was to write on the “Arndt-Eistert” synthesis and in doing so, I noted a brief biographical footnote in Fieser and Fieser’s *Advanced Organic Chemistry* which read: “Fritz Arndt, b. 1885 Hamburg; Ph.D. Freiburg (Howitz); Univ. Breslau; Istanbul; Hamburg.” The chemical reaction was clearly significant, but what impressed me more was Arndt’s Turkish connection, and I promised myself to look into this at some time in the future. During my long teaching career at Smith my research interests expanded from bio-organic chemistry to projects in history of science and Turkish-German intercultural studies. The question I had hoped to investigate evolved into a study of the German intellectuals and professors who left their homeland because of Nazi persecution in the 1930s to find refuge in the Republic of Turkey at the invitation of the Turkish government, then under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. Arriving with their families and often with their assistants, the refugee professors affected Turkish higher education profoundly. Researching the lives of three of these individuals with Istanbul-Hamburg connections, Fritz Arndt, Curt Kosswig, and Leonore Kosswig, proved to be one of my most enriching, rewarding, and productive undertakings.

Fritz Arndt (1885–1969) was a native of Hamburg who helped establish the first chemistry department in Turkey at the Dar-ül-Fünun (Istanbul University) in 1915,

under the Ottoman regime. At the end of World War I he returned to Germany and at Breslau made significant contributions to synthetic methodology, resonance theory, and the emerging field of physical organic chemistry. When Arndt lost his position in Breslau in 1933, he went back to Turkey to head the department he had founded two decades earlier. He taught there for more than twenty years, and when he retired in 1955, he returned to Hamburg. Made an Honorary Professor at Hamburg University, he remained professionally active until his death.

In the early phases of my research I focused on Fritz Arndt's life in Turkey. A very useful resource at the time was a memorial by Wolfgang Walter and Bernd Eistert published in 1975 in the journal *Chemische Berichte*. I was unaware then of the connection between Wolfgang Walter and the Smith-Hamburg Program. On various trips to Istanbul I met with Arndt's former colleagues, students, and assistants at Istanbul University and learned much about his contributions there. I also visited and photographed Arndt's Chemistry Institute and the Imperial Mint, where his first books in Ottoman Turkish were printed. I found his house in Ortaköy, on the Bosphorus, and even interviewed the tobacconist in the neighborhood, who remembered the "professor with the pipe".

A conversation with my sister, Esin Atil, an art historian, revealed that the editor of one of her articles had been Robert Arndt, Fritz Arndt's grandson. Pursuing this connection, I began an exchange with Arndt's older son at Australian National University, the well-known economist Heinz Wolfgang Arndt, whose extensive private memoir on the life of his father was an invaluable resource. I also visited Arndt's younger son Walter Arndt, renowned translator and linguist at Dartmouth College, and his wife Miriam, and communicated with Professor Thomas Jessell, Fritz Arndt's grandson and a prominent neuroscientist at Columbia University. The kindness and generosity of the Arndt family profoundly enriched my research.

In 2002 I wrote on "Fritz Arndt and His Chemistry Books in the Turkish Language" for the American Chemical Society's *Bulletin for the History of Chemistry*, and in 2004 contributed a chapter "An Open Door: German Refugee Professors in Turkey" to the volume *The Dispossessed – An Anatomy of Exile*, edited by Peter I. Rose. I presented my findings in professional and in popular talks. However, I felt there was a gap in my research – it was not quite complete. Arndt had spent most of his life in two cities, Istanbul and Hamburg. I knew Istanbul well but had learned about Arndt's city of birth and where he spent his later years only from the Arndt family memoirs and from Walter and Eistert's memorial essay. I needed to visit Hamburg, to have the experience of both cities.

The opportunity came in 2005 when Smith College provost Susan Bourque provided funding that allowed me to spend June 2006 in Hamburg. My husband John accompanied me on this trip; he had started a collaboration with University of Hamburg botanist Kai Jensen, who was at Smith College on both the short-term and long-term Faculty Exchanges. Kai's assistance has since proved invaluable in

pushing my project forward. John and I stayed at the University of Hamburg's *Gästehaus* for four weeks. To my dismay I learned that Professor Wolfgang Walter, the co-author of Arndt's memorial article, and a member of the Board of the *Gästehaus*, had died the year before. However, we were able to establish other contacts, some by chance and some as planned. At a reception at the *Gästehaus*, we met Professor William Stickler who remembered Fritz Arndt well. With Kai we traveled to Kiel to meet with Professor Gunter Schiemenz, who told us about Arndt's early career there. At the University of Hamburg I visited the *Institut für Chemie und Pharmazie* and its library, where the staff was invariably helpful. In tracing Arndt's early years, we visited Blumenau 79 in Wandsbek. On the site of his childhood home is a new and well-kept apartment building with masses of roses blooming in front. Across the street were older homes that had survived the destruction of war; Arndt's childhood home was not among them. Arndt had received his *Abitur* in 1904 from the *Matthias-Claudius Gymnasium* at Witthöfstraße 8, also in Wandsbek. He would be honored by the *Gymnasium* in his later years; from pictures I had seen of this occasion I recognized the building immediately and two young students happily posed for photographs, obviously proud to be associated with their school. We visited the State Archives on Kattunbleiche 19, where we found documents pertaining to Arndt's later years. When Arndt retired from Istanbul University he lived in Hamburg near the Alster, in Kellinghusenstraße 12. We got there via the Alster ferry to Winterhuder Fährhaus: the building is beautifully kept with a garden in front.

Our first trip to Hamburg was followed by others in the summers of 2008, 2009, and 2011 as the focus of my research turned to the lives of Curt and Leonore Kosswig. Curt Kosswig (1903–1982) left his position at the Technical University of Braunschweig in 1937 to head the Zoology Institute at Istanbul University. In addition to helping build the zoology program there, Kosswig, a geneticist, also became a field scientist, studying the inland Anatolian waters with their genetically unique fish populations. He established on the Bosphorus the nation's first Hydrobiology Institute and in addition to his contributions to the zoogeography of Anatolia, he and his wife Leonore (1904–1973), also a biologist who would later publish on aspects of Anatolian anthropology, helped establish the country's first bird sanctuary (Kuş Cenneti) at Lake Manyas. Much of this field work was carried out in collaboration with Turkish colleagues, and many of Kosswig's students and assistants, German and Turkish, eventually became prominent field biologists themselves. In 1955 Curt Kosswig was invited back to Hamburg University to build the zoology program and to establish a zoological museum. Leonore remained in Turkey where she pursued her anthropological research until her death in 1973. Curt and Leonore Kosswig both are interred at Aşiyan Cemetery on the Bosphorus in Istanbul, near their home in Bebek.

The *Biozentrum und Zoologisches Museum* lies across the courtyard from the *Institut für Chemie und Pharmazie* on the Martin-Luther-King Platz, and Kosswig's extensive

archives are housed in the library there. Both Professors Wolfgang Villvock and Michael Dzwillo, former students of Curt Kosswig, were incredibly helpful and generous, sharing information and materials, and through Professor Villvock, we established contact with Curt and Leonore's son, Dr. Klaus Kosswig, and his wife Erika. Kai drove us to visit them in Schiffdorf, where we enjoyed their warm hospitality and recollections of their parents. Before we left Schiffdorf, Erica Kosswig gave me reprints of Leonore's Turkish anthropological publications and clippings from Turkish and German newspapers commemorating Curt Kosswig's life and career.

In the summer of 2009 I spoke about my research in the Kosswig-Saal, the lecture hall named in honor of Curt Kosswig at the University of Hamburg. In the audience were some of Kosswig's former students and colleagues and a bust of the great zoologist himself. I ended the talk by projecting a group photograph, taken in the 1950s, of Kosswig and his Turkish and German students and assistants, posing in front of Atatürk's memorial (Anıt Kabir) in Ankara. After the talk and a lively discussion, someone asked to see that last photograph again. There was a buzz of conversation in the room and then a small group from the audience gathered in front of the projection screen. I joined them to hear memories and stories pouring out from those identifying themselves in the picture. It was a truly amazing moment, and I felt elated and fortunate to be in Hamburg being a part of this story through my research. We plan to visit again and cannot wait to return to the city we have come to love in order to continue our projects, visit good friends, and enjoy Hamburg's rich music and cultural offerings.

CRAIG R. DAVIS



b. 1952, B.A. College of William & Mary 1974, M.A. University College of Wales Aberystwyth 1980, Ph.D. University of Virginia 1983 · Professor of English Language and Literature and Comparative Literature, Smith College · Director of Medieval Studies at Smith 1993–96, 1998, 2004, 2007–09, 2010–12, and 2015–16 · long-term faculty exchange, University of Hamburg, 2007, 2008, 2011.

DISCOVERING AMERICA IN HAMBURG

I had the delight and honor of being the Smith College exchange professor at Hamburg University during their spring semester in 2007, 2009, and 2011. I taught in the *Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik* and came to love my Hamburg colleagues and students very much, as well as the few Smith students who found their way into my courses over there in early language and literature: Old English, *Beowulf*, Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, and Arthurian Literature in its Celtic Context. On my last visit, I was asked by my friend and colleague Astrid Böger, the *Direktorin* of the *Institut* at the time, if I might not offer a course in American Studies as well. I replied, "But I'm a medievalist, for crying out loud! I don't know anything about American Studies." She persisted, however, and I finally relented, developing a new course entitled "Viking Diaspora: The First 'New World' of the North Atlantic," adapting my own interest in Old Norse language and literature into a kind of "prehistory" of American Studies.

This new seminar explored the premise that the Viking colonies of Iceland and Greenland, and the attempted settlement of the Gulf of St. Lawrence among Native Americans, were the first experimental European societies of the New World, revealing patterns of cultural adaptation and development that anticipated the British colonization of the mid-Atlantic seaboard some seven centuries later. These independent colonists had rejected the rule of kings and central governments that were consolidating their political authority back in Europe and Scandinavia. We compared the strengths and weaknesses of the medieval Icelandic Commonwealth, which

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lasted for over three centuries from 930 to 1264 CE – longer than the American republic, so far! – with the 1787 Constitution of the United States, both systems facing serious crises within only two generations of their founding due to unresolved issues at the heart of their polity: religion in Iceland, slavery in America. The way these crises were resolved became the focus of our discussion, as well as an analysis of the eventual failure of the Icelandic Commonwealth as a window on and prognosis for the success of the American system. I have taught this same seminar to overenrolled classes twice now at Smith College since my return, so one of the greatest benefits of the Hamburg-Smith faculty exchange for me has been the creation of an exciting new field of study that I hadn't anticipated.

I expressed this theme at the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Smith JYA program and faculty exchange at Hamburg in June of 2011, speaking on a panel with Peter Fischer-Appelt, former President of Hamburg University, and Bettina Friedl, emerita in *Amerikanistik* from Hamburg, who had twice been to Smith for the long-term exchange. Both Bettina and I spoke of the very great value of the program to us personally as teachers and scholars, how it shook us out of our curricular, pedagogical, and even intellectual ruts, and gave us new perspectives on our own work as scholars. We agreed that participating in this exchange has been one of our finest professional experiences, an enrichment of our knowledge and an enhancement of our relationships with students and colleagues in both countries.

DENNIS T. YASUTOMO



b. 1946, B.A. San Francisco State University 1968, M.A. San Francisco State University 1971, M.A. · M.Phil. Columbia University 1975, Ph.D. Columbia University 1981 · Esther Cloudman Dunn Professor of Government · short-term faculty exchange, University of Hamburg 2011.

A STATEMENT ON THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SMITH'S STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAMBURG

In June of 2011, I had the honor of serving as Smith College's short-term Hamburg Fellow during the 50th anniversary of the Hamburg Junior Year Abroad Program. The timing enabled me to attend the official reception honoring the exchange relationship and also to attend the symposium in the Program's honor.

The symposium in particular had special meaning for me because of my own experience serving on the Board of Directors of a study abroad program and as a Resident Director of the Associated Kyoto Program. The panel that featured Hamburg Program alums who shared their experiences from decades ago echoed many of the concerns we have with Junior Year Abroad experiences today. These alums traveled to Hamburg by ship and were basically separated from their country, families and classmates, forced to "survive" without social media and easy access to the goings-on back home. The depth of their commitment to the experience was inspiring, and it was a lesson I had shared upon my return home during orientation sessions for the Kyoto Program.

The Hamburg experience came at a perfect moment for my research interests at the time. I had first visited Germany in 2006, drawn by a research project that compared German foreign policy with that of Japan, the country of my specialization as a Political Scientist. I enjoyed a short stay in Berlin, affiliating with the German Council on Foreign Relations and the German Institute for Security and International Affairs, both great bases to establish relationships with German policymakers and academics.

Although these were relatively brief visits, I was inspired to incorporate Germany into my teaching as well as my research, converting a Japanese foreign policy course into a comparative Japan-Germany course. It was my stay in Hamburg that enhanced the significance of those visits and put them into both personal and professional perspective.

Academic year 2010–2011 was a sabbatical year, but I applied for the short-term Faculty Exchange with the University of Hamburg at the end of that year because of the opportunity to blend my research with my teaching when I returned to the classroom. In the spring of 2012, I co-taught a Presidential Seminar with Professor Joseph McVeigh of the Department of German Studies on how Germany and Japan have often been used as prototypes for visions of the future, ranging from pacifist non-military great powers to “soft power superpowers.” This was an inspiring experience that served as a reward for me personally but also a chance to contribute to Smith College’s curriculum and my own research interests. Smith provided support for me to use part of my stay in Hamburg to gather materials as well as the experience needed to teach that course.

The Hamburg experience greatly deepened my scholarly life. During that month, two faculty members in particular opened doors for me and served as mentors. Professor Cord Jakobeit of the Political Science Department hosted me at his home, where I had an opportunity to spend a pleasant afternoon with his family. Professor Jakobeit invited me to attend a session at the Hamburg World Economic Institute on a day when a Trans-Atlantic Council report had been unveiled by its three co-authors, including Professor Hanns Maull, whom I had met before and with whom I was able to reconnect for further consultation on my research. Professor Jakobeit also made it possible to participate in a panel discussion at the German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA), where I met Asia specialists. In addition, thanks to Professor Jakobeit, I had managed to obtain interviews with personnel at the Institute for Peace and Security Policy (IFSH), an independent research institute at Hamburg University, and at the Armed Forces University (now *Helmut Schmidt Universität*).

Professor Gabriele Vogt, a fellow Japan specialist in the Africa-Asia Institute, immediately reached out to me upon my arrival and arranged a guest lecture to a group of graduate students interested in Asia. It was wonderful establishing a professional relationship with a fellow Japan specialist in the same field, with a chance to exchange views. Coincidentally, a leading British Japan expert, Hugo Dobson of Sheffield University, had been invited to the University for a short research stay, and we overlapped by one day, allowing us to meet for lunch and a great discussion. In essence, June was a full month in which I could not have had a more perfect time deepening my knowledge of my specialization and broadening my circle of professional colleagues.

I would be remiss in not highlighting the personal benefits of the stay in Hamburg. As mentioned, I had been making short visits to Germany since 2006, but the

Hamburg Faculty Exchange offered me the opportunity actually to live for a time in a German environment. Hamburg was an ideal location for this acculturation. The city commemorates its history, both the good (as Europe's commercial center and yes, the birth of the "real Beatles") and the difficult (e.g., the "stumbling stones" that are a sobering reflection on the past). The many open air markets and flea markets, the shopping areas, the new waterfront, the various museums, the Afghanistan Museum and spice market, the walks along the lake, the German bakeries, and the ethnic restaurants made this a culturally rich experience with its own unique flavor.

My life in Hamburg revolved around the Smith Junior Year Abroad Program. At the hub of my research and cultural experience was Resident Director Jocelyne Kolb, whose management of the Program served as another model for how study abroad programs should be run. I now understand why our students return from Hamburg so fluent in German and especially knowledgeable about German culture and academic culture. The lessons in German etiquette and customs were invaluable for my research as well as personal interactions. The gracious hospitality of Professor Kolb and her family made this experience especially memorable.

And it was a coincidental bonus that the Smith Program office is located in the Guest House, which had such a welcoming international flavor with a general manager and staff that were unbelievably warm and helpful during my stay. Their monthly reception enabled me to establish friendships with fellow residents from other nations, and also with a member of the International Office, resulting in one instance in an informal field trip that four of us took together to Bremen. And ironically, a fellow colleague from Smith, Craig Davis, a Hamburg Faculty Exchange veteran, also greatly enhanced my understanding of the university and its environs.

One final observation: As a result of my interaction with Professor Jakobeit, he expressed an interest in spending a semester at Smith on the long-term Hamburg Faculty Exchange. This came to fruition a year later, when he taught a seminar for the Department of Government. This was a tremendous boon for our students, who now had an opportunity to study Europe through one German senior professor's perspective, an opportunity not usually available to them. Not to mention an opportunity for him to contribute to the intellectual life of the Department and College through his interaction with the German Studies Department and our Global Studies Center.

In sum, Smith in Hamburg – both the Junior Year Abroad Program and the Faculty Exchange – have been critical for Smith's curriculum and students, as well as for our faculty. The mutual benefit of these programs must be measured not on the basis of what happened during a month or a semester but by the ripple effect they have on our institutions and our two countries over decades. This is an exchange in the truest sense, and my wish is for the commemoration of over a half century of friendship to usher in the beginning of a new half century of even greater accomplishments.

LEN BERKMAN



b. 1938, B.A. Columbia University 1960, M.F.A. Yale University 1963, D.F.A. Yale University 1970 · Anne Hesselstine Hoyt Professor of Theater, Smith College 1969 to present · long-term faculty exchange, University of Hamburg 2008, 2012 · Guest Professor at the University of Hamburg 2016 · Fulbright Senior Specialist Professor at the University of Hamburg 2010, 2014.

A UNIVERSITÄT HAMBURG-SMITH COLLEGE FACULTY EXCHANGE MEMOIR OF SORTS

I should say at the outset that I have been on the long-term *Universität Hamburg*/Smith College faculty exchange for the Spring/Summer 2008 and 2012 semesters. I have also been a Fulbright Senior Specialist offering *Uni-Hamburg* three- and six-week “Block Seminars” for full course credit during the Spring/Summer 2010 and 2014 semesters. This past spring of 2016, I conducted a series of workshops on contrasting modes of new play development in the U.S., Canada, England, and Germany, culminating in particular focus on Zayd Dohrn’s *The Profane*, scheduled to premiere in New York City in March 2017. It is possible that certain of my recollections will inadvertently fuse or confuse these individual time zones and contexts. Certainly, though, my most vivid experiences in Hamburg have an energized coordinate impact, one that makes imperative to me my return to *Uni-Hamburg* under whatever aegis I can shape in the immediate years ahead.

Most useful here – given this volume’s sane need for a relatively brief account when the richness of events, of responsibilities, and of people associated with Hamburg could well warrant a novel – might be to pack my memories inside five discreet jacket pockets: culture, community, ambassadorship, academics, and professional enterprise. The interwoven fabric of these groupings, however, spurs me to refrain from such a bordered structure.

Although, since my teen years, I have esteemed contemporary German drama, fiction, poetry, music, dance and visual arts (and, after arriving at Smith, offered

seminars in German theatre, lectured on theatre of the Weimar Republic at our erstwhile Alumnae College, etc. etc.), I did not set foot on German soil until 2005 during my sabbatical year, when my wife Joyce, UMASS/Amherst Professor of History, taught as Senior Professor at Free University in Berlin on her own semester-long Fulbright Grant Award. Germany's determination to face its horrific history, its embrace of artistic adventure and societal challenge, went far beyond what I had ever imagined possible on a city-wide, much less a national, basis. Gertraud Gutzmann was Smith's JYA Director that year. When I told her of Joyce's and my eagerness to visit Hamburg, she enthusiastically offered to guide us around the University campus and its neighborhood. What an indelible impression just those two days in Hamburg made on us! Walking through a windswept energetic campus, meeting an array of warmly welcoming faculty and students, striding past one bookshop after another on Grindelallee, seeing large sidewalk-column posters for serious music and dance, poking around the Abaton's multi-screen art-film house and student hang-out restaurants on the campus perimeter, I swiftly felt – fatuous as I know this can sound – on the gritty edge of a hidden heaven. Assessing my remarkable good fortune more calmly, I realized that the treasures I'd found at Smith across my four decades of teaching here had impishly led me to this magical space I instantly saw as another home.

Still, I assumed the blessings of Hamburg were emphatically linked to its proximity to Berlin (90 minutes by ICE, the Inter-City Express). Yet, though friendships and professional events in Berlin were to spark my periodic ICE skating throughout my first (and subsequent) *Uni-Hamburg* semesters, Hamburg quickly loomed beyond Berlin as my major lure. I came to compare Berlin – and other German and European cities, towns, and campuses Joyce and I explored – unfavorably to Hamburg and its University campus organically located smack near Hamburg's center and thriving on such proximity. In the University *Gästehaus* where we resided (during each exchange) at Rothenbaumchaussee 34, I could “tumble out of bed” and walk five minutes to my classes and meetings with students and colleagues; walk five minutes in a different direction to the *Dammtor Bahnhof* and, shortly past that train station, to extraordinary *Hamburger Ballett/Staatsoper*, *Thalia-Theater*, and *Laeiszhalle* performances; walk ten minutes in yet another direction to Lake Alster and its surrounding park walkways, then cross either of two bridges over the Alster to the city's remarkable three-building *Kunsthalle* and Hamburg's other world-class theatre – besides the *Thalia* – the *Schauspielhaus* (hardly exhausting a further array of Hamburg's lively adventurous theatres within walking range). The *Thalia* was where I became astounded by Michael Thalheimer's startling, award-winning, “Hamlet,” and by the likewise mind-and-heart blasting premiere of Dea Loher's “Das letzte Feuer” and Peter Handke's “Immer noch Sturm.” The *Schauspielhaus* introduced me to the wildly inventive plays of Roland Schimmelpfennig, well before Loher and Schimmelpfennig plays – and even the Handke – were

available in English translation (a flood of them, finally, these past few years). As I more than expected with John Neumeier's extraordinary choreography and dancers for the *Hamburger Ballett* (a number of whom became dear friends), sheer directorial/actor brilliance in movement and gesture on the German stage communicated powerfully beyond my pathetic grasp of German. When I told my German friends (and, later, an extraordinary Thalia actor who also reached out to us) what I understood to have happened or been expressed in a given play, several not only affirmed my comprehension (to my amazement) but claimed I caught aspects they'd missed but had now realized (yet more to my astonishment).

As became increasingly apparent, the arts in Hamburg were intrinsic to a wider community dynamic. *Hamburger Ballett* soloists to whom I'd written in detail of their performances asked to have dinner with us and nurtured lasting friendships, as did Lera Auerbach, composer of Neumeier's "The little Mermaid" as well as his latest work, "Tatjana". I've met "strangers" of worth in other large cities, too, also with enduring relationships the result, but Hamburg manifests a magical and inordinately safe ease in this regard. In no other city have I had a known performer literally run after me after his superb ballet performance because he'd spotted me talking with another member of his company and wanted to let me know of his and my mutual friend (a past *Uni-Hamburg* student). Nor in another city might my wife and I likely find ourselves in full conversation with a fellow Courbet admirer in the city museum elevator (a woman who turned out to be a Smith Social Work School alumna of the 1970s) and become friends with her by the time the three of us moved on from the 19th Century holdings to high tea in the *Hamburger Hafen*. Nor in another city might people phone me "out of the blue" because they'd "heard" of my teaching a particular playwright or spotted "a professor crossing campus in t-shirt, shorts, and Converse sneakers," learned who I was, and wanted to find out more of what I thought and felt. (This may be a recurrence in Amherst/Northampton but not an urban commonplace.) Less random: that we could comfortably phone the Hamburg cousins of Smith's former legal counsel, Georgia Yuan, and not only be invited for dinner but come to know their entire family (extending into Frankfurt), who have now been our dear friends for seven years. And that we could contact the Swedish-German aunt of one of my recent Smith MFA playwrights' best friends (yes, Hamburg fosters loop upon loop) who, year after year now, remains a veritable fund of local political and literary anecdotes. "Only in Hamburg" might we encounter one of my earliest *Uni-Hamburg* students in the Thalia lobby (the first week of my classes in 2008) and have that chance meeting evolve into my co-advising his *Magister* thesis on a spectrum of production approaches to "Hamlet" in and beyond Germany... and then into his bringing us to meet public Hamburg figures that he (a professional journalist while continuing his studies) had interviewed and himself turned into friends – most exciting among these, a social-activist minister in Hamburg's St. Pauli "red light" district, who had turned his parish house into a

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haven for North African refugees still seeking legal status, employment, and homes of their own in Germany.

We ourselves felt treated as honored U.S. ambassadors, and indeed were twice invited to scrupulously-screened official celebrations at Hamburg's American Consulate. Twice, too, as Fulbright scholars and guest professors, we were hosted attendees at the annual Fulbright Conferences in Berlin. Most relevant to our respective areas of expertise, we were also invited participants at the International Theatre and History Conference on Theatre and History, held at a historic estate in the Hamburg country suburb of Blankenese. On the *Uni-Hamburg* campus itself, I was asked to mentor the University Players, a talented and dedicated student group performing plays with international substance, more in English than German. I continue even from the States to serve as a consultant for ongoing University Players productions and for individual students in pursuit of professional stage and film (and translation!) careers in and outside of Germany. (It is a distinct pleasure, too, each time one of my *Uni-Hamburg* faculty colleagues or graduate students is granted residence and research facilities at Smith.)

This ever-widening community of acquaintances and friends inevitably integrated with how I approached my *Uni-Hamburg* courses in dramatic literature, script analysis, and writing for stage and screen. My Hamburg class make-up most closely approximated what a Smith class mostly of Ada Comstock fellows would be: the wide range of student ages and experiences, the span of socio-economic backgrounds, the integration of job and family life with academics, and the presumption of life-long (not just early-career) struggle thrust students into the fictional worlds they explored not as spectators but as participants. Most tellingly, my Hamburg students took to the material of my Contemporary Canadian Drama course as planetary "outsiders," as one of the disenfranchised multitudes of our human population, needing hardly to re-orient to the Canadian "norm" of the un-empowered as do those U.S. artists and students who identify with their national identity as a World Power and with "America's" familiar differentiation between "mainstream" and outcast. At Smith our students need practically to develop a new language to grasp Canadian playwrights' portrayal of situations in which, to quote Canadian playwright/satirist Erika Ritter, "everyone is a woman." My Hamburg students deem that concept basic, with no need to have it explained.

In short, the excitement of language and translation incorporates and goes beyond the convergence of German, English, and the host of other tongues spoken by faculty and students alike. I had the benefit of sharing an office with a member of the Linguistic Department (our corridor of faculty nearly all in Linguistics), which led to splendid daily investigations of how certain idioms crossed or failed to cross national borders, of the relationships between song lyrics or poems and their musical setting, and of the thought structures that impact upon angles of viewing "ordinary" daily behaviors no less than fictional or imagined events. Again, but

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this time at a more advanced academic level than with my “Hamlet” student, I was invited to mentor and officially co-advise a doctoral candidate (an “Assistant to the Professor” as that Germanic “instructor” designation has it) through to his completion of his dissertation on the poetry and poetics of Amiri Baraka (Le Roi Jones) and of Bruce Andrews within the context of mid-20th Century English language conventions and revolts against these in the U.S. Here, I gained an unexpected opportunity to see how my German professorial cohorts handled their academic offspring. The capper came at my student’s oral defense of his completed doctoral thesis several years later. After his Committee’s triple round of hurled questions, when the *Uni-Hamburg* professor who had unconventionally signed me on as thesis co-adviser surveyed the roundtable of us to make sure no one present (there were invited observers, including my wife) had anything further to ask, Joyce raised her hand. “You can’t speak,” my co-Dissertation Advisor told her, “but you can whisper your question in your husband’s ear, and then he can ask it for you.” (Subsequently, we were told that no such policy would have been enforced at either *Freie Universität* or *Humboldt Universität* in Berlin.) My tonal calibration was that for the Hamburg professor, the moment had a mix of discipline, warped humor, and self-discomfort. In his long experience, it was unprecedented, without a model of formal or informal response to deal with it, especially as regards our present-day era of gender-role transition.

That said, I turn to extol the remarkable array of my *Uni-Hamburg* English Literature and North American Studies Institute colleagues, most particularly my two Institute Chairs, Susanne Rohr and Astrid Boeger, alongside the generosity, intelligence, humor, warmth and support I also found day after day from Susanne Rupp (University Vice-President), Ute Berns (Chair, English Literature), Felix Sprang, Arne Lohmann, Dennis Buecher-Ulbrich, Lars Schmeink, Jan Kucharzewski, and yet others. At the University *Gästehaus*, Joyce’s and my “second home” in Hamburg was also hugely indebted to my Smith “neighbors” in the JYA apartment and offices: Jocelyne Kolb and her wonderful Konrad and Jonathan, Joe McVeigh, Judith Keyler-Mayer, Gertraud Gutzmann, and Jutta Gutzeit, as well as to the beyond-helpful *Gästehaus* team spirits. Anna-Maria Karl, Natalie, Sonja, and Meike. Were I to attempt an adequate tribute to these exceptional individuals, my detailed gratitude alone would run longer than this entire memoir.

Finally, as writer and dramaturge in a land as startlingly akin to my instincts as new to my bearings, I found stimuli for fiction, reportage, drama and the riches of research wherever I turned. Among my shorter outpourings was a story, “Five Minutes and a Lifetime,” set along the Lake Alster esplanade above the boat docks and then both within and outside the *Staatsoper*. It centers around a street wanderer who spots a young woman’s partially unzipped backpack and steals her wallet. To his dismay, he pulls from the wallet not cash but a ticket to the ballet. At a loss for how to make the most of his false assumption, he attends the designated performance,

never having seen the likes of this before, and its impact upsets his entire sense of being. As he exits from the (suggested but not identified Neumeier) ballet and sees the young woman alone and weeping outside the theatre, what he grasps of himself and of his victim raise questions he has never asked himself before.

More extensive is the full-length script my life in Hamburg spawned. From the moment I set eyes on three Philipp Otto Runge self-portraits in the Hamburg *Kunsthalle*, their charting of an open-hearted, frail young man's journey toward a wary, postured, subtly bitter self-consciousness, a play centered on divergent masculinity began to take root. The layers of this forming drama grew more intricate as I read of the relationship of the artist's intense marriage and rapid body of work to his older brother, Daniel, a successful shipping merchant who funded Philipp's studies and, despite a period of his own economic collapse, remained essential to his brother's output of portraits, visual fantasies, and theoretical essays, and even introduced Philipp to prominent figures in the very world that Philipp's talent qualified him to enter. Such was the synchronicity of my being drawn to this trio in Hamburg's history (Philipp Otto Runge's dates are 1777–1810) that, initially titling my play *We Are Three*, I was mid-way through my first draft (of what are now five) when, through my ongoing research, I discovered what Runge called a "self-portrait" of himself, his wife Pauline, and his brother Daniel, a portrait destroyed in a fire in 1933 during its tour to Germany's other major city museums. In setting and mode, this painting echoed a scene I'd just completed before coming upon the photograph that survives of it. Runge's title for his painting, "We Three," immediately compelled me to shorten my play title, to underscore the unattainable ideal for which Runge strove: his "self-portrait" of himself and the two with whom he was closest. We three. When we visited Runge's burial site in the huge cemetery on the outskirts of Hamburg, I was startled to see Runge's later, pained and intense, self-portrait carved into his grave stone, as though the climax of his journey on earth spoke for his life as a whole. I was startled, too, to see his burial site's isolation: neither Pauline nor Daniel (nor anyone else, in fact) are anywhere near. I could not keep myself from hugging his grave stone. Never have I had such an impulse to act like that.

As I end this compressed account of Hamburg's place in my life and in my heart, I am haunted by a lyric in R.E.M.'s now classic pop song, "Losing My Religion": The unsettled lyric goes, "I've said too much. I haven't said enough." I truly most want to say, to all who created and sustained the Smith/*Uni-Hamburg* Faculty Exchange, thank you. And may it revive.