

German-Canadian Studies Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 2

October 2003

For Your Calendar:

Die Deutschen in Québec, Vortrag von Prof. Manuel Meune (*Université de Montréal*) am **Donnerstag, den 6. November 2003 um 19 Uhr im Faculty Club (Wesley Hall), Universität Winnipeg.**

Grove's "Obsession" Presentation by Dr. Gaby Divay (University of Manitoba) on **Thursday, 4 December 2003, 7 p.m., Faculty Club (Wesley Hall), University of Winnipeg.**

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Die Deutschen in Québec

Wege und Umwege einer vergessenen Gemeinschaft

Mehr als 100 000 Menschen berufen sich in Québec auf eine deutsche Abstammung. Wer sind diese „Deutsch-Québecer“? Die späten Nachfahren der Söldner des 18. Jahrhunderts, die die Briten seinerzeit für den Kampf gegen die amerikanischen Rebellen angeheuert hatten und die seitdem in der frankophonen Masse aufgegangen sind? Nachkommen der aus Osteuropa stammenden Deutschen, die sich in den zwanziger Jahren des vergangenen Jahrhunderts in Montréal niedergelassen ha-

ben und die die Erinnerung an ein untergegangenes deutsches Viertel wach halten? Oder aber Vertreter der Einwanderungswelle der fünfziger Jahre: entweder geprägt von den Erfahrungen des Dritten Reichs – ob als Anhänger oder Gegner seiner Ideologie – oder, sofern sie von den Sowjets aus ihrer Heimat ausgewiesen wurden, Zeugen des durch Flucht und

Vertreibung zerrissenen Europas?



Meune: Vergessene Gemeinschaft

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“Grove’s Obsession”

“Frederick Philip Grove’s Obsession With His Former ‘Wife’, the Dadaist Else von Freytag-Loringhoven: Two Early Canadian Novels (1925 and ca. 1921) and the 1904/5 ‘Fanny Essler’

complex” is the descriptive title of a presentation by

Divay, which will take place on **Thursday, 4 December 2003, at 7 pm in the Faculty & Staff Club in Wesley Hall at the University of Winnipeg.**



1879

1902, DLA Maarbach



1906 U.M. Archives



1948

1921, U.M. Archives

Grove/Greve expert Gaby

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Deutsche in Quebec

(Continued from page 1)

Mit diesen Fragen befasst sich Manuel Meune in einem Vortrag am **Donnerstag, dem 6. November 2003, um 19:00 Uhr im Faculty & Staff Club (4. Stock, Wesley Hall) der Universität Winnipeg.**

Seit 1664 sind Deutsche in Québec

Meune behandelt die verschiedenen Perioden, in denen seit 1664 Deutsche unterschiedlicher sozialer, religiöser und geographischer Herkunft nach Kanada und Québec eingewandert sind. Um die Entstehungsbedingungen und den Wandel dieser facettenreichen Bevölkerungsgruppe darzustellen, hat er Diskussionen in der deutschsprachigen Presse ausgewertet und Interviews mit zahlreichen Angehörigen verschiedener Generationen analysiert.

Manche Deutsche in Québec verneinen jegliche Zugehörigkeit zu einer deutschen „Gemeinschaft“, aber kaum einer entgeht der Bezugnahme auf den Nationalsozialismus. Die Konfrontation ihrer Erfahrung der deutschen Geschichte mit ihrer Wahrnehmung der besonderen Situation Québecks oder des kanadischen Multikulturalismus führt allgemein zu einem Überdenken der Begriffe von Nation und Nationalismus und, je nach Einzelfall, zur Identifikation als Deutscher, Québecer

oder Kanadier. Auch wenn sich an ihrem Beispiel die exemplarische Integration einer als „unsichtbar“ geltenden Bevölkerungsgruppe studieren läßt (die in Kanada ja die drittgrößte ethnische Gemeinschaft darstellt), so schließt das nicht aus, daß etliche von ihnen eine größere Anerkennung der historischen Leistungen der Deutschkanadier und ihrer jahrhundertealten reichen Kultur wünschen.

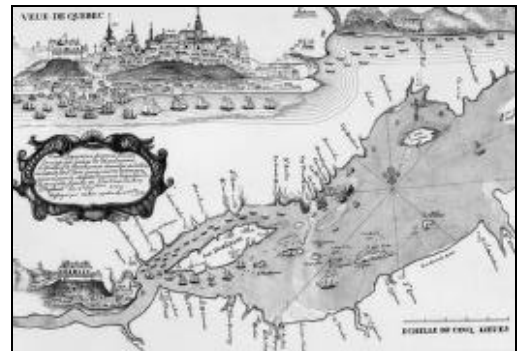
Auch diese „vergessenen Deutschen“ sind Zeugen des Reichtums und der Komplexität des gegenwärtigen Québecks. Sie laden uns zu einer Vergegenwärtigung einiger kaum bekannter Aspekte seiner Vergangenheit ein.

Der Vortrag wendet sich gleichermaßen an die an der Geschichte Kanadas und Québecks Interessierten wie an all diejenigen, die die Rolle kultureller Minderheiten in modernen pluralistischen Gesellschaften besser zu verstehen suchen.

Manuel Meune, geboren 1966 in Bourg-en-Bresse (Frankreich), studierte in Lyon, Paris, Hamburg und Berlin und promovierte in Germanistik an der Marc Bloch-Universität Straßburg. Er unterrichtete in Frankreich und Québec, und ist jetzt Professor für Literaturwissenschaft und Deutschlandstudien am Département

de littératures et langues modernes der Université de Montréal. Meune forscht auch zur Schweizer Geschichte und Gegenwart, deutsch-kanadischen Beziehungen und der Kulturpolitik in der DDR.

Alle Interessierten sind herzlich zum Vortrag eingeladen. Es wird um **Voranmeldung** unter Tel. (204) 786-9009, Fax (204) 774-4134 (An: German-Canadian Studies) oder gcs@uwinnipeg.ca gebeten.



Québec 1729 (NAC, A/312/1729(1893))

GCS Prize Winners

The winners of the 2003 German-Canadian Studies Prizes are Robyn Dyck and Lars Sigurdson. The Prizes are awarded each year to the two University of Winnipeg students who obtain the highest standing in at least two courses related to German civilization and literature, or German-Canadian Studies. Last year's recipients were Megan Bradshaw and Christine Froese.

Facettenreiche
Bevölkerungsgruppe

Grove's Obsession

Gaby Divay is a Full Librarian with the University of Manitoba's Archives & Special Collections. She obtained a Ph.D. in French Renaissance Literature from L'Université Laval, Québec, with a dissertation on Montaigne.

In 1993, Divay earned an M.A. in German literature from the University of Manitoba with a comprehensive edition of the poetry of Frederick Philip Grove/Greve (FPG), which included 14 newly discovered German poems. She has published extensively on

the University of Manitoba's comprehensive archival collections of Greve/Grove and Freytag-Loringhoven (FrL). For more information, visit the UM website at: <http://www.umanitoba.ca/libraries/archives/collections/fpg/>.

For more information on Dr. Divay's research on Grove/Greve and Freytag-Loringhoven, visit her website at: <http://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~divay/gd/>

Everyone interested is welcome to the presentation.

Please let us know if you are planning to come. You can reach us by phone at (204) 786-9009, Fax (204) 774-4134 (Att: German-Canadian Studies) or by Email: gcs@uwinnipeg.ca.



FrL Death Mask (UM)

Les Allemands du Québec

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Swiss.... If the Germans have often been called an "invisible community", their presence is nonetheless voiced through various institutions that sometimes underline, sometimes bridge cultural differences. One group particularly emerges – the Danube-Swabians from Rumania.

The second part deals with how German-Quebecois (mainly post-war immigrants) narrate and reflect about the problematic German past. Here, attitudes and discourses create a complex network of identifications, as they vary between pain, anger, incomprehension, and the attempt to re-write history. Instead of a serene identity-building reference, the past becomes the negative common denomina-

tor for a community that aims at positioning itself. Identity appears as both chosen and ascribed. German-Quebecois navigate between nostalgia of the lost "Heimat" and identification with the new homeland. But where exactly is the new homeland: in Canada or in Quebec?

In the third and last part, Meune retraces the achieve-

Germans in Quebec face problem of multiple allegiances

ments and contradictions of multiculturalism and its consequences for the German-Quebecois. While German-Canadian heritage was being celebrated, a set of fixed categories of identity was also being created, which did not fit everyone – especially in Que-

bec. The Quebecois specificities and debates are put to the fore, as the Germans in Quebec are particularly facing the problem of multiple allegiances.

Voicing the numerous identification processes of German-Quebecois caught between high and popular culture, between nostalgia of the "Heimat" and Canadian politics, this book certainly contributes to deconstructing the master narrative about this community. The "Germans" are neither a mythical third force in the building of modern Quebec – nor are they merely a silent and invisible minority.

Patrick Farges is a PhD-candidate in German Studies at the University of Paris 8, France.

"The 'Germans' are neither a mythical third force in the building of modern Quebec – nor are they merely a silent and invisible minority."

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New Website!
germancanadian.uwinnipeg.ca

The Chair in German-Canadian Studies was established in 1989 with grants from the Secretary of State's Program for Canadian Ethnic Studies and a group of private philanthropists within the German-Canadian community of Winnipeg. It is located in, and affiliated with, the History Department at the University of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The Chair promotes the teaching of, and research into the history and culture of German-speaking immigrants and their descendants in Canada. It interacts with the German-Canadian community in Winnipeg, Manitoba and the rest of Canada through public lectures and the newsletter. The Chair promotes regional, national and international research through conferences, grants and publications.

Editor/Producer: Alexander Freund

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(Unless otherwise stated, all articles were written by Alexander Freund)

Submissions of articles, news, reports, and reviews as well as artwork and photos for publication in this newsletter are welcome.

Book Review:

Les Allemands du Québec

Patrick Farges

Manuel Meune : *Les Allemands du Québec – Parcours et discours d'une communauté méconnue*, Montreal, Editions du Méridien, 2003, 322 p.

The literature about Germans in Quebec is relatively small. Manuel Meune's book is thus an important contribution to German-Quebecois and, more generally, German-Canadian history. It is the updated version of Meune's dissertation in German Studies at University of Strasbourg (France). He is now Professor of German at the University of Montreal.

The analysis is centred on the various discourses produced by this heterogeneous community in the second half of the 20th century. The main sources are the careful study of letters to the editor of the *Kanada Kurier*, detailed questionnaires, and oral history interviews with members of the German-Quebecois community, covering three generations, thus giving the study a dynamic perspective. The originality of Meune's approach is the focus on cultural and identity issues. In the context of separatism and multiculturalism, the Germans in

Quebec have keenly felt the need for stable representations of an identity that is neither linguistic, nor national. Although about 100,000 people in Quebec claim their German 'ethnicity', it is difficult to define that "little-known community".

The first part of the book retraces the history of the German presence in Quebec – from the pioneers to the post-



German immigrants in Québec, ca. 1911 (NAC, PA-010264)

Second World War immigrants – and maps it. Most Germans in Quebec reside in the Montreal area. As for German-Canadians, it appears that German-Quebecois are extremely diverse in their social, religious and geographic origin: descendants of Hessian mercenaries, "Reichsdeutsche", "Volksdeutsche", Austrians,

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