

# German-Canadian Studies Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 2

October 2002

For Your Calendar:

**P**ost-Election Forum with German Consul and Politics Professors: **Tuesday, 12 Nov. 2002 7 p.m.** Univ. of Winnipeg, Room 2M70

**S**lide-Show By German-Canadian Photographer: **Thursday, 5 Dec. 2002 7 p.m.** Univ. of Winnipeg, Room 2M70

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## After the German Elections: German Consul General And Political Scientists To Discuss Results—Public Forum

**All readers and the interested public are invited to attend the discussion forum “After the German Elections: Results and Prognoses for Germany, Canada, and Transatlantic Relations.” It will take place at the University of Winnipeg, Room 2M70, at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 12 November 2002.**

On 22 September 2002, Germany’s ruling left-of-centre coalition narrowly won the federal elections, defeating the conservative opposition. The German Consul General, Klaus Rupprecht, and two professors of German politics, Henry Milner and Paul Buteux, will discuss the deci-

sive factors in the election campaigns, the results of the vote, and the consequences for Germany, Europe, Canada, and transatlantic relations.

### The Panelists

This will be Klaus Rupprecht’s first visit to Manitoba. He took up the post of Consul General in Toronto in August 2002. Trained in law in Germany and the United States, he holds a Ph.D. from the University of Tübingen. In 1972, Dr. Rupprecht entered the German Foreign Service and worked in Lisbon (Portugal), Brasilia (Brazil), Beijing (China), and Los Angeles (USA). He held various portfolios at the Federal Foreign Office in Bonn, inclu-

ding the Directorate of the East Asia Division (1996-99). Most recently, he was a fellow at Harvard University’s Weatherhead Center for International Affairs (1999-2000) and the Director General of the German Institute Taipei (Taiwan, 2000-02).

Henry Milner specializes in comparative European Politics. He is Professor of Political Science at Vanier College, Visiting Professor at Umeå University (Sweden), and Adjunct Professor and Senior Researcher at Université Laval. Dr. Milner has studied electoral systems in different countries and has argued in a number of recent publica-

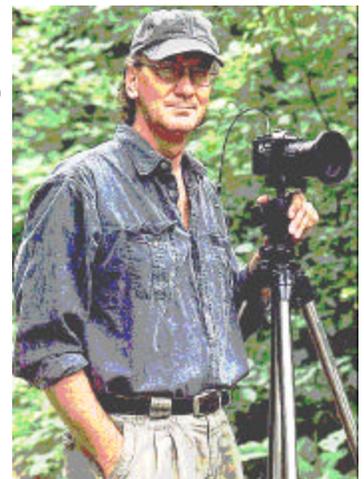
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## Wish You Were Here ... A German-Canadian Approach to Photography: UW Presentation

Hans-Ulrich Arnold was born in Lüneburg, Germany, in 1949. At age ten, his family moved to Winnipeg. When his father gave him a second-hand camera in 1968, Arnold’s photography career began. By the late 1970s, he had his own photography

studio. In the late 1980s, he discovered his passion for the Canadian landscape and began to travel extensively and photograph the land. In February 2002, he published his photos of Canada in a book titled *Wish You Were Here*.

*(Continued on page 4)*



## New Research On 1920s Immigration



Tina Willms and Nic Martens corresponded between 1926 and the 1950s.

The German-speaking immigration to Canada during the 1920s has so far been hardly researched. This is true also for the great exodus of 20,000 Mennonites coming from the Soviet Union. Katherine Martens and Brigitte Diop took an important step in this effort on 19 September 2002 (see GCS Newsletter 5/1, page 4) with their lecture at the University of Winnipeg Faculty Club.

The Manitoba-born Martens and the German-born Diop presented the correspondence of Tina Willms and Nicolai Martens. The two Mennonites had immigrated from the Ukraine during the 1920s. They began an extensive exchange of letters after they had met in

Manitoba in 1926. To give the audience an understanding of the intricacies of translating letters that were sometimes very poetic and in German, English, and Russian, Martens and Diop read the letters in German and English. They also provided the historical and family contexts within which the letters were written.

After the reading a lively discussion ensued. Dr. Anne Adkins, Professor of Biology at the University of Winnipeg, pondered the presenters' interpretation of Tina Willms and Nic Martens as exceptionally progressive and wondered if the 1920s were not at least as progressive as our current times. Aurise Kondziela explored some of the differ-

ences and similarities in Mennonite and German immigrants' experiences. Dr. Dieter Roger, Professor emeritus of Architecture, also explored the great diversity of Mennonite and German-Canadian lives and offered insights into this diversity by examining the regional ethnic architecture.

Katherine Martens is the author of *All in A Row: The Klassens of Homewood* (Winnipeg: Mennonite Literary Society, 1988). She received a Research Grant from the Chair in German-Canadian Studies in 1998 in support of her translation. She hopes to publish the work soon.

## New Research On German-Canadian Relations and Return Migration

Dr. Grant W. Grams has recently returned from Germany, where he had done extensive research in the field of German-Canadian Studies. He is now working on various articles dealing with relations between Germany and Canada. This includes an examination of the German Catholic emigration to Canada. Grams also works on an article about Rev. F. Gleiss and his work as the first representative of the Lutheran Immigration Board in Canada, prior to Hermann Wagner.

From his home in Calgary Grams writes: "The research that is closest to publication involves a German national, Max Otto, who emigrated to Canada in 1913 and returned to

Germany in 1921. In Germany he wrote four books of his adventures as a big game guide, trapper and hunter in the Canadian Rockies. The author sounds like a Canadian version of Karl May. Not surprisingly he was accepted in Germany as an authority on Canada. His first book, *In kanadischer Wildnis*, sold 75,000 copies.

"In Canada the truth slowly emerged through German Canadian newspapers that Otto did not live out the adventures he claimed. Primary documents found in the National Archives of Canada heap even more scorn on Otto. Basically Otto lied his way to financial gain by fabricating some stories! This included dressing up his stories

to make him look like a hero."

Once Grams has published these articles, he plans to write a book about the German return migration from the United States and Canada between 1933 and 1941. "The research has been done, I only need the time to sit down and write!" notes Grams.

Grant Grams is the author of *German Emigration to Canada and the Support of Its Deutschtum During the Weimar Republic: The Role of the Deutsches Ausland-Institut, Verein für das Deutschtum im Ausland and German-Canadian Organisations* (Frankfurt am Main: Lang, 2001).

*"Max Otto lied his way to financial gain by fabricating some stories!"*

## New Research On German Migrations To Canada During the Nazi Period

The German-speaking migration to Canada in the shadow of National Socialism is the topic of Dr. Annette Puckhaber's dissertation, which she completed at Trier Universität in 2000. The research results have been available online since dissertation defence, but the study is now being published by German publishing house LIT.

Puckhaber is a recipient of the Government of Canada Award and of the Manitoba Research Grant, which is awarded by the Chair in German-Canadian Studies. Currently, she is a junior teacher (Studienreferendarin) at Bochum Teachers College (Studienseminar) and teaches at a local Gymnasium.

"Between 1933 and 1945 the right to asylum did not exist," Puckhaber states in the abstract of her study. "The decisive factor for a successful escape from National Socialism was finding

a country offering refuge. Although Canada had a long history of immigration from German-speaking regions to look back on, it generally kept its doors closed to these refugees."

The book focuses on the few German-speaking refugees who were let into Canada. They included some Jews, about one thousand Social Democrats from the Sudetenland, and those refugees deported from Britain in 1940.

Puckhaber examines the circumstances within which these migrants came to and settled in Canada. She uses three biographical accounts to illustrate the subjective experience of the flight.

The author juxtaposes these personal accounts with a discussion of the specific Canadian immigration policies that led to the admittance of the few refu-

gees. Canada admitted these refugees for a number of reasons, among them economical considerations and the hope to protect its international reputation.

For the refugees, acceptance into the country was a matter of survival. The government in Ottawa, however, considered immigration to Canada - regardless of the personal circumstances - as a privilege in itself: a privilege extended to the few.

Annette Puckhaber, *Ein Privileg für wenige: Die deutschsprachige Migration nach Kanada im Schatten des Nationalsozialismus* (Studies in North American History, Politics and Society; 20) (Hamburg: LIT, 2002) [Also: Trier, Univ., Diss, 2000]; ISBN 3-8258-6219-4; EUR 25.90; order information: LIT Verlag (Fax: 0251 231 972; Email: vertrieb@lit-verlag.de).

"For refugees, acceptance into Canada was a matter of survival."

## New Research: Aussiedler in Germany

Hans Werner

The past August I was to travel to Germany to continue my research on the history of the migration of ethnic Germans (*Aussiedler*) from the Soviet Union to Germany. In particular, the focus of my research has been their integration experience in the City of Bielefeld in northern Germany. The Bielefeld Mennoniten Gemeinde is particularly prominent in the city and has expanded from one location built in the late 1970s to a community that now worships in seven locations—all bursting at the seams.

My focus has been the integra-

tion experience of the first newcomers who began arriving in the 1960s and 1970s. During my stay I visited the City Archives, interviewed *Aussiedler*, visited some of them in their homes and attended their church services.

My aim for this trip to Germany was to get a clearer understanding of Bielefeld society's view of these, and other newcomers such as guest workers, who began arriving in large numbers in the 1970s. Newspapers conveyed both the intense desire of Bielefelders to be a tolerant receiving society and

their struggle with *Aussiedler* and guest worker 'otherness'. Towards the end of my stay I was also able to visit the Institut für Migrationsforschung und Interkulturelle Studien in Osnabrück and the Mennonitische Forschungsstelle near Mainz. The trip was a part of my year as Interim Chair in German-Canadian Studies for the 2001-02 year. It was both enjoyable and productive.

Hans P. Werner's 2002 dissertation (University of Manitoba) is entitled, "Integration in Two Cities: A Comparative History of Protestant Ethnic German Immigrants in Winnipeg, Canada and Bielefeld, Germany 1947-1989".



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*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.

# Elections Panel

*(Continued from page 1)*  
that Canadian democracy would be improved by adopting the German system of elections. He was an observer of the German federal election in 1998 and 2002. This year he commented on the election in *Le Devoir*. In 1998 he analyzed the campaign in *Inroads*, a Canadian journal of opinion and policy, which he co-edits. Dr. Milner is the author of six books and numerous articles both scholarly and popular. His most recent book is *Civic Literacy: How Informed Citizens Make Democracy Work* (University Press of New England; distributed in Canada by UBC Press, 2002). The book marshals a wealth of data from the U.S., Canada, western Europe, Australia, and New Zealand to show how widespread civic literacy—the knowledge and capacity of citizens to make sense of their political world—is, and how it is a key factor in creating and maintaining effective democracies.

Paul Buteux is Director of the Centre for Defence and Security Studies, and Professor in

# Photographer

*(Continued from page 1)*  
Arnold will present photos from his book in Room 2M70 (University of Winnipeg) at 7 p.m on Thursday, 5 December 2002. He will interweave his slide-show with an informal talk about his involvement as a photographer and other aspects

of his life that are attached to his work. "I have very rarely exposed my life to groups of people, so this will be very different," says Arnold, "but I am looking forward to sharing my experiences and presenting some visual images of our land in the way I see it." For a preview of the book, visit <http://www.TheWishYouWereHere-Book.ca>. Refreshments and snacks will be served.

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