

TWELFTH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM OF THE FRIENDS OF THE GHI AND AWARD OF THE FRITZ STERN DISSERTATION PRIZE

Symposium at the GHI, November 21, 2003. Convener: Gerald D. Feldman (President, Friends of the GHI) and Christof Mauch (GHI). Participants: Jeffrey T. Zalar (Valparaiso University), Chad Carl Bryant (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill), Keith D. Alexander (GHI), and Charles E. Closmann (GHI).

The Friends of the German Historical Institute organized their twelfth symposium, chaired by Gerald D. Feldman, in Washington on November 21. The morning session featured the presentation of the Fritz Stern Dissertation Prize, awarded annually for the two best dissertations in German history at a North American university. This year, the Stern Prize Selection Committee awarded prizes to Jeffrey T. Zalar, who earned a Ph.D. at Georgetown University, for his dissertation, "Knowledge and Nationalism in Imperial Germany: A Cultural History of the Association of Saint Charles Borromeo, 1890–1914," and to Chad Carl Bryant, who earned a Ph.D. at the University of California at Berkeley, for his dissertation, "Making the Czechs German: Nationality and Nazi Rule in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, 1939–1945." This year's awards were generously funded by the German Marshall Fund of the United States. The Stern Prize Selection Committee consisted of Professor Celia Applegate (University of Rochester), Professor Jonathan S. Wiesen (Southern Illinois University at Carbondale) and Professor Jerry Z. Muller (Catholic University), who chaired the committee.

The committee's prize citations commended Zalar for a gracefully written study that "challenges existing historiographical paradigms, providing a rich portrait of Catholic life fully intertwined with German social and cultural life as a whole," and Bryant for using "newly accessible primary resources" to provide a "nuanced portrait of the difficulties and paradoxes of defining national identity along Czech/German lines." The presentations by Professors Zalar and Bryant are featured, in revised form, in the "Stern Prize" section of this *Bulletin*.

In the afternoon, Keith D. Alexander and Charles E. Closmann summarized their dissertation research in talks entitled, respectively, "The Transformation of the Left in West Berlin, 1945–1990," and "Modernizing the Waters: Pollution and Politics in Hamburg and Frankfurt, 1900–1970."

Keith Alexander's research examined the origins and evolution of the Alternative Liste für Demokratie und Umweltschutz (AL), West Berlin's Green Party affiliate. His presentation focused on the AL to show how, from the late 1970s through the end of the 1980s, a significant segment of the radical West German Left grew to accept and embrace parliamentary democracy. Charles Closmann's presentation is featured in the "GHI Research" section of the *Bulletin*.

Charles E. Closmann