

PREFACE

In recent months, East German spy Günter Guillaume has been ingratiating himself anew with Chancellor Willy Brandt eight times a week as hundreds of rapt witnesses look on. Michael Frayn's play *Democracy*, now running on Broadway, uses the scandal that drove Brandt from office to explore the boundaries of trust, identity, and betrayal. At a program organized by the German Historical Institute in the fall of 2004, Frayn explained his interest in creating theater from history; excerpts from his comments appear in this issue of the *Bulletin*. Frayn, an acclaimed novelist, translator, and playwright, shows himself to be a diligent amateur historian as well. He explains how he drew upon the documentary record in dramatizing the Guillaume affair, but he acknowledges that he felt free to fill in where the record is silent. The figures in his play, he makes clear, are born of both research and imagination.

Research and imagination also stand behind the essay "Europeanizing German History" that Yale historian Ute Frevert presented as the GHI's 2005 Annual Lecture. How, she asks, can we look beyond national borders and rediscover neglected "European" dimensions of Germany's past? Frevert, like Frayn, challenged the members of her audience to reconsider what they think they know about history. That challenge was taken up with brio by David Blackbourn of Harvard University, whose comment appears in this issue of the *Bulletin* together with Frevert's lecture.

"Putting history on stage" has a rather different meaning for the GHI than for a dramatist like Frayn. We are pleased to have provided a stage for a number of noted public figures in recent months. W. Michael Blumenthal, the founding director of the Jewish Museum Berlin and U.S. Secretary of the Treasury under President Jimmy Carter, delivered the fifth Gerd Bucerus Lecture sponsored by the Ebelin and Gerd Bucerus ZEIT Foundation. By happy coincidence, the ZEIT Foundation was represented at the lecture by Blumenthal's erstwhile German counterpart, Manfred Lahnstein, Finance Minister in the cabinet of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and now the chair of the foundation's board of trustees. Against the background of a presidential election campaign in which foreign policy figured prominently, Blumenthal offered an incisive commentary on recent developments in German-American relations, and Lahnstein briefly took the stage to offer some observations of his own. A similar transatlantic dialogue between public figures had taken place at the GHI two weeks earlier. David Eisenhower, a scholar who has written extensively on the career of his grandfather, Dwight David Eisenhower, and

Michael Naumann, Germany's former Federal Commissioner for Cultural and Media Affairs and currently editor of *DIE ZEIT*, delivered the public keynote lectures for the conference "Access-Presentation-Memory: The American Presidential Libraries and the Memorial Foundations of German Politicians." In lively and engaging fashion, Eisenhower and Naumann outlined the extra-scholarly considerations and practices that shape the documentary record upon which historians depend. The conference itself brought together archivists, librarians, and scholars to compare the ways the U.S. and Germany preserve and shape the memory of their political leaders.

Time to write is all too often a luxury for historians. For that reason, the GHI is pleased to be able to offer two fellowships aimed at historians who are just setting out on their scholarly careers. The Kade-Heideking Fellowship, funded by the Annette Kade Charitable Trust, and the Thyssen-Heideking Fellowship, funded by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation, pay tribute to the memory of the historian Jürgen Heideking (1947–2000). The Kade-Heideking Fellowship enables a German doctoral student to spend a year in the United States; the Thyssen-Heideking Fellowship is open to American postdocs. Heideking published widely in both American and German history, and he would have been delighted by how very different the research topics of the two current Heideking fellowship holders are. Michael Lenz, a doctoral student at the University of Cologne, reports in this issue of the *Bulletin* on his inquiry into the cultural foundations of the right to bear arms—the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Dorothee Brantz, who was awarded the PhD by the University of Chicago in 2003, is using her time in Germany as the Thyssen-Heideking Fellow to work on her study of the rise of municipal slaughterhouses in Paris, Berlin, and Chicago.

The sponsors of the Kade-Heideking and Thyssen-Heideking Fellowships are two of roughly forty foundations, universities, and cultural institutions that have made our recent programs and activities possible. Individuals, too, have contributed importantly in many ways to the GHI. This winter, for example, the family of the late John Weitz donated his library to the GHI. Best known as a fashion designer, Weitz was also a skilled writer and historian. His biographies of Hjalmar Schacht and Joachim von Ribbentrop stand as important contributions to the scholarly literature on Nazi Germany. We are grateful to the Weitz family and all our friends and partners for their support.

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