

THE GERMAN AMERICAN COLLECTION

The German American Collection was founded in 1867 by Oswald Seidensticker (1825–1894). Impressed by the German-American collection that had been compiled by Abraham Harley Cassel, Seidensticker decided to collect German-American books and documents. With respect to printing, Seidensticker's goal was "to publish the first bibliography of German printing in America . . . [which he published in] 1893 under the title *The First Century of German Printing in America, 1728–1830*."¹ As a result of Seidensticker's efforts, the German American Collection is a mine of German-American printing (containing books from the press of the celebrated Sauer family, as well as Benjamin Franklin). Most notable of the holdings are the three editions of Christopher Sauer's Bible (1743, 1763, and 1776). Sauer's Bible was the first in America to be printed in a European language. Seidensticker collected widely within German-American print culture. In addition to books, he gathered journals, magazines, and newspapers. Seidensticker did not set out to preserve only German-American printed works, but German-American culture as a whole. To this end, he collected materials pertaining to German-American associational life. The fruit of these efforts is a German-American pamphlet collection that contains newsletters, bylaws, and reports of countless associations. Immigration scholars could not ask for a richer resource. The primary geographic focus of the collection is Pennsylvania (and Philadelphia, in particular). Nevertheless, the researcher will find ample material on other states as well.

The electronic catalog can be accessed at the following web site: http://www.germansociety.org/library_catalog.html.

Sections of the German American Collection:

1. German American Collection—Books
2. German American Collection—Pamphlets
3. German American Collection—Oversized
4. German American Collection—Manuscripts
5. German American Collection—Manuscripts (Flat-Oversized)

The classification system for the German American Collection:

- A Zeitschriften—Kalender (Periodicals—Calendars)
- AA United States of America

¹Frank Trommler, "The Library of the German Society of Pennsylvania."

- Aa Periodicals
- AB Pennsylvania
- Ab Kataloge—Nachschlagewerke (Catalogs—Reference Works)
- AC Philadelphia
- AD Expositions, Fairs, etc.
- AE German Societies
- AFa German Hospitals
- Afb German Homes (old age, etc.)
- AG Singing Societies, Theatre
- AH Individual States of USA and Canada
- AI Central and South America
- AJ Immigration
- AK Indians
- AL Black History
- AM Biographies of German Americans
- AN Denominations
- AO Bibles
- AP Hymn Books
- AQ Catechisms
- AR Devotional Literature
- AS Education, Schools, Universities
- AT Educational Books
- Ata Language Text Books
- AU Catalogs
- AV Miscellaneous Biographies
- AW Scientific Publications
- AWA German Americans in Germany, Americans on Germany
- AX German American Writers
- AXA Literature
- AY Yearbooks
- AZ Magazines, Serials, Newspapers, etc.