

Library Committee Set to Unveil New “Adopt a Book” Program

Fundraising initiative will preserve holdings while celebrating library’s treasures

The German Society of Pennsylvania’s Library Committee will soon unveil a new program designed to raise money for the preservation of the Society’s historic collection of books, while celebrating some of the Library’s little-known treasures.

The “Adopt a Book” program will enable German Society members and other interested parties to support the conservation of Library books that have become damaged over the years. Common repairs needed on the books include front and back cover reattachment, fixing bindings, building small enclosures for volumes to keep the books safe, and other basic repairs that will help preserve the books for future generations.

Founded in 1817, the German Society’s Library is home to remarkable treasures that document the literary culture of German readers in Philadelphia and beyond for over two centuries. After so many years, some of the Library’s books are in need of conservation treatment in order to preserve them for future study and use. As books age, their pages tend to become brittle, and bindings begin to deteriorate. This is especially true for nineteenth-century volumes, meaning that many of the Library’s books require attention from professional conservators.

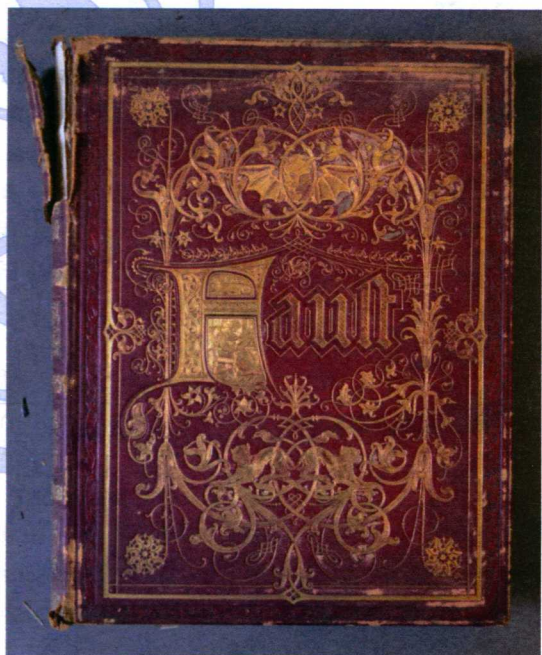
The Library Committee has been working for months to select volumes in need of care that are also likely to be of interest to prospective adoptive “parents,” who will pay for the conservation treatments. This in-depth effort has involved searching the library’s shelves for items in need of repair and conferring with respected Philadelphia book conservator Ruth Scott Blackson, who will perform the treatments. Items slated for adoption include a pamphlet about beer published in 1894, a guide to fire-works published in 1823, an 1865 copy of a eulogy to Abraham Lincoln that was preached after his assassination, as well as some of the library’s oldest volumes, including works published in the 1600s and 1700s.

An exhibition sampling the initial forty books to be put up for adoption will soon open in the reading room of the German Society’s Library, and the Library Committee is preparing a catalogue of adoptable books, which will be distributed shortly. Books will be available at multiple price points. Adoptive parents will receive an official Certificate of Book Adoption from the Committee, listing the name of the book they selected, as well as what treatments their donations will support. If they so wish, the parents’ names will be listed in the books’ online Library catalogue records, so that future researchers will know who sponsored repairs on the books in question. This program is designed so that donors may adopt books on their own behalf, or do so in honor of a friend or loved one.

The Library Committee is planning an exclusive event to be held later this year for the books’ adoptive parents, to focus on methods of book conservation and exploration of the Library’s holdings. The Committee is finalizing its plans for its initial roster of adoptable books, and German Society members should look for further communications on this project in the near future. In the meantime, any questions can be forwarded to the Library Committee’s Adoption Coordinator, Dr. Alex L. Ames, at alames@udel.edu.



This music book, published in Philadelphia by Schäfer und Koradi in 1883, will also be made available for adoption.



This large edition of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's *Faust*, published in Stuttgart and Tübingen in 1854, will be one of the books put up for adoption by the German Society of Pennsylvania's Library Committee.



Published in Nuremberg in 1678, this book by Georg Andream Böckler titled *Nützliche Haus- und Feld-Schule* is one of the oldest up for adoption.

- Dr. Alex L. Ames

Strategic Planning at the GSP

Effective short- and long-term planning is the hallmark of all successful institutions, including nonprofits like the German Society. Our short-term planning centers around the annual Business Plan that we produce every year in the late summer. This plan has two main parts: the first section gives the big picture - our Mission, history, governance, highlights of the past year, key challenges etc.; and a second section contains all the one-page detailed action plans contributed by the committee and program leaders (11 to 13 of these).

Long-term planning focuses on the Strategic Plan, which was last updated in the 2012-13 time period. This plan looks ahead at least five years and provides the framework for the annual plan and all other key decisions. In addition, it continues to be a part of our funding requests to governments, foundations, and other granting organizations.

We have assembled a Core Team consisting of Bill Hardham, Tony Michels, Hajo Oltmanns, and Ernie Weiler that has created sub-teams to address different areas of our focus. The teams and their leaders are:

- Membership, finances, building maintenance/renovation, capital plan – Core Team
- Library – Maria Sturm
- Cultural Programs — Hans Mueller
- Student-oriented Programs — Marwan Kreidie
- Related Businesses & Programs – Lew Volgenau

Your help is also needed – the team has created a survey to capture your ideas. Please either go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/G6PPY7B> and complete the survey online, or return the survey enclosed with this issue. Your input is vital to planning for a viable and exciting future for our beloved institution; please complete the survey one way or another by May 1.

- Bill Hardham