

**OPENING OF THE BECHSTEIN  
GERMANIC LIBRARY:  
ADDRESSES, UNIVERSITY OF  
PENNSYLVANIA, MARCH 21,  
1896**

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OPENING

OF THE

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ADDRESSES

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University of Pennsylvania

March 21, 1896

PRESS OF AUSTIN C. LEEDS  
817 FILBERT STREET  
PHILADELPHIA

## SPEAKERS

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PROVOST CHARLES C. HARRISON

JOS. G. ROSENGARTEN, ESQ., *Chairman*

HON. GEO. F. BAER, of Reading, Pa.

REV. DR. ADOLPH SPAETH, of Mt. Airy Theological Seminary

DR. GOTTLIEB KELLNER, of the "Philadelphia Demokrat"

DR. M. D. LEARNED, Professor of German in the University

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## THE BECHSTEIN GERMANIC LIBRARY

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The nucleus of the Bechstein collection consists of the library of the late Professor Reinhold Bechstein, of the University of Rostock. Professor Bechstein's early associations with his father, Ludwig Bechstein, for many years the Librarian at Meiningen, gave him a peculiar schooling in the art of collecting books, and his library bears marks of this training.

The collection made by Professor Bechstein has been supplemented by the purchase of other valuable works relating to German, and contains, in its present enlarged form, about 15,000 volumes and 3,000 pamphlets, classified as follows :

1. Periodicals, Works of Reference, Collective Series
2. General Works relating to German Philology and Literature
3. Histories of German Literature in general
4. German Antiquities, Culture and Folk-lore
5. German Language, Dialects, Metrics, and Names
6. Gothic, Norse, Old High German and Middle High German Literature
7. German Literature from 1500 to 1750
8. Modern German Literature

The collection is rich in standard and critical editions of German writers of all the periods, in great works of reference, in large library series, such as the *Bibliothek des Litterarischen Vereins in Stuttgart*, and in rare old prints, such as the Heussler Folio Edition of Hans Sachs, and contemporaneous prints of Luther's works, with the Reformer's autograph. The literature of the classical period of the eighteenth century is well represented, comprising the Weimar edition of Goethe, Suphan's Herder, and others.

Two special features of the collection make it peculiarly valuable as a working library, viz :

1. A full series of periodicals relating to Germanic studies, consisting of about *fifty complete sets* of reviews and publications of learned societies.
2. The unique *Handapparat* of Professor Bechstein, containing about three thousand pamphlets treating of German philology and literature.



## ADDRESS

OF

PROVOST CHARLES C. HARRISON.

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*Ladies and Gentlemen :*

It is my happy lot, this afternoon, not to make an address, but to introduce the Chairman of the meeting, Mr. Rosengarten, who will take charge of the proceedings. But before doing so, I may be allowed to say a few words.

We are indebted for the Bechstein Library of Germanic languages and literature not only to the liberality of the contributors; but, it is reasonable to say, to the interest and energy of Professor Learned. After he had been called from Johns Hopkins University to the Chair made vacant by the death of Dr. Seidensticker, and before he had entered upon his duties, Professor Learned was upon the alert to secure adequate library facilities. It was his earnestness and interest which at the start drove us to undertake the purchase of this library.

Of course the equipment of one Department will throw upon us the duty and necessity of taking up and supplying the needs of other Departments, for we are weak at many points. We are all members of the same body, and growth in one direction

means growth in another, if there is a true proportion to be maintained. It will not do to be strong in Germanics and weak in Romance Philology, or in English. This is evident of itself, but the need of symmetrical development is seen to be a pressing one when we consider that graduate students work for their degree upon three subjects. We must also face the practical fact that those who go from our Graduate School to teach, do not always, and do not often, find positions where they have charge of but one subject. In the Colleges and Schools, two and sometimes more subjects are put in the charge of a single teacher, and he must have fit preparation for the entire field of his work. We must, therefore, look forward to the acquisition of new libraries on special subjects, following the purchase of the Bechstein collection.

It seems to me peculiarly appropriate that there should be in Pennsylvania, and permanently housed at the University of Pennsylvania, a great Library relating to the German peoples. Of the thirteen colonies, the State of Pennsylvania was the only one where the knowledge of two languages was necessary to understand the life and the history and to take part in the affairs of the colony. At one time, three-fifths of the population of Pennsylvania were German. For seven years, the ancient languages were taught at the University of Pennsylvania through the medium of German. We of Pennsylvania are indebted to the Germans not only for help in our agriculture, but we are indebted to them for many of our industrial habits and pursuits; for at the time of the first immigration,—which, indeed, was influenced by the direct invitation of

William Penn,—Germany was a farming country ; and we have profited by their aid not only in these directions, but we are indebted to the Germans for much of our early scholarship. These are but few of many reasons, to which, doubtless, reference will be made by those who are to speak to-day, of the fitness of the proposed work at the University of Pennsylvania in Germanics.

Every one of us must have observed within the last few years the great interest which Universities and Colleges are arousing in the public mind. More and more are Universities becoming the object of private benefaction ; and this is due to the fact that more and more are communities beginning to see that of all institutions, Universities are the most permanent, excepting only the church. It is curious and interesting to know that this Library comes from the University of Rostock, which was founded before America was discovered. This enduring character of our Universities affords at the same time the evidence of their necessity and the absorbing purpose of those who work for them.

I wish, on behalf of the University of Pennsylvania, to bid a most cordial welcome to our German-American citizens. We ask you to take part with us in the life and purposes of the University of Pennsylvania ; and to help it to do its share in directing and controlling the social energies of the nation in which we are placed.

Can we appeal to any body of men who have nobler traditions ? Is there any epoch in history more stimulating than the re-creation of Prussia, with education as its corner-stone, after the desolating wars of Napoleon ? A movement started