

*The German-Language Press in America.* By Carl Wittke. (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1957. Pp. vi, 311. Index. \$6.50.)

Immigration fanned the kindled coals of freedom and aided in the establishment of American newspapers in foreign languages. The immigrant could more readily become acclimated to his new and strange surroundings by reading the news in his native tongue and thereby be in a better position to comprehend the social, political, and economic pattern in America. Among the foreign-language publications in the United States, German-language newspapers were more numerous, usually better edited, and more influential than those of other nationalities.

"The present volume is not so much a complete chronicle of the German press in the United States, in the sense that it tries to follow the individual fortunes of hundreds of papers, but rather the story of their importance in the history of German immigration to the United States." In fourteen chapters the author relates the story of the German-language press, beginning with the colonial period and ending with a brief chapter after World War I. Chapters twelve and thirteen covering the period of World War I stand out as highlights.

Although Benjamin Franklin published the first German newspaper, the *Philadelphische Zeitung*, on May 6, 1732, the German-language press did not take root until Christopher Saur, an immigrant from the Palatinate, issued his paper in 1739. As the number of immigrants increased more German papers were issued, some meeting their demise within a relatively short time while others were more successful. The last twenty-five years of the nineteenth century may be referred to as the era of prosperity for many German-language papers. In 1885, 75 per cent of all foreign language papers in the United States were published by the German-language press. The zenith, however, was not reached until 1893-1894 when nearly eight hundred German publications were issued. In 1895 the number declined to 714, in 1900 to 613, and in 1956 to about 24, only four of which were dailies—Chicago *Abendpost* with a reported circulation of 13,287; the Rochester *Abendpost*, with 13,546; the *New Yorker Staatszeitung und Herold*, with 22,014; and the Philadelphia *Gazette-Democrat*, with 1,250.

In the chapter on "Official Organs" this reviewer noted the omission of *Der Friedensbote*, an official organ of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, which has been published continuously since its founding in January, 1850, with a circulation of over 3,500 in 1957.

*The German-Language Press in America*, which contains a wealth of facts, is an unusually well written study that enriches an important phase of history.

Indiana University

Elfrieda Lang

*A Crossroads of Freedom: The 1912 Campaign Speeches of Woodrow Wilson*. Edited by John Wells Davidson. With a preface by Charles Seymour. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1956. Pp. xviii, 570. Frontispiece, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$6.00.)

*Wilson: The New Freedom*. By Arthur S. Link. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1956. Pp. ix, 504. Illustrations, bibliography, index. \$7.50.)

In a Presidential campaign speech delivered at Detroit on September 19, 1912, Woodrow Wilson reminded himself and his audience of the impossibility of escape from history: "I think of that quiet jury sitting in those rooms surrounded by nothing but shelves and books and documents. I think of the anticipated verdict of another generation" (p. 212). Here in these very different volumes are two of the ways in which historians contribute towards that anticipated verdict. In the one, Wilson's own words are the weights placed carefully onto the historian's balance; in the other it is the matured judgments of a historian himself that are laid upon the scales. How far both of these incline the pointer towards greatness is for posterity to decide.

Mr. Davidson's meticulous edition of the recovered texts of Wilson's 1912 campaign speeches represents the editor's craft at its best. His prefatory settings for each speech are not only informative but entertaining, fitting introductions to speeches which are still surprisingly alive—something that is explained not only by the breadth of Wilson's mind, but also by his habit of speaking extemporaneously. In these speeches—from that of August 7 accepting the nomination, to the touching impromptu by torchlight delivered to the massed