

Michael Keresztesi and Gary R. Cocozzoli. *German-American History and Life: A Guide to Information Services*. Ethnic Studies Information Guide Series, Vol. 4. (Detroit: Gale Research Company, 1980) xvii, 372 pp., \$28.00.

This work consists of over 1,200 entries on German-Americans, compiled and evaluated by librarians Michael Keresztesi and Gary R. Cocozzoli. The major objective is "to stimulate interest and facilitate research in German-Americana" (p. xvi) by presenting "penetrator works, basic treatises, landmark writings, and documents which constitute the best available sources of information on their respective topic areas. . . ." (p. xv) Only English-language books have been described and assessed in terms of their "research value and information-yielding capacity." (p. xv) Periodical and journal articles were omitted for reasons of space and because of their accessibility through standard abstracts and indexes. The guide also includes a glossary, a "complete and analytical" listing of the writings of the Pennsylvania German Society, the Pennsylvania German Folklore Society Yearbooks, and the Americana Germania Series, identification of specialized periodicals, and a census of archival and library collections dealing with the German experience in America.

Entries are presented in numerical order by category, e.g., references, immigration, histories of special groups, education, language and literature, and, except for biographies, are fully annotated.

It is the Glossary, with its definitions *in toto* comprising a brief historical account of the German-American experiences, which constitutes the major strength of this reference guide. For purposes of facilitating social science or ethnic studies research, however, the guide has a number of shortcomings. The compilers are librarians whose qualifications to evaluate German-American ethnohistorical and sociocultural content and accuracy are not indicated. There is a strong historical and political orientation to the categories identified.

There are two major criticisms of this guide: first, the omission of periodical and journal articles. Many important and valuable contributions in German-American studies are in journals and periodicals, and in some cases these are the only sources of such materials. Second, each book is assigned a number and is entered only once in the guide. No effort has been made to cross-reference materials which are relevant to other categories. Someone

wishing to research Germans in North Carolina, for instance, must look under "Special Groups," "Religious," and "Moravians," the only place these books are listed. Most entries under folk art, music, architecture, language and literature deal with Pennsylvania Germans, but they are not listed under this category. The lack of cross-referencing makes it necessary for a researcher to go through each section of the guide, a time-consuming process, or use the title or author index, which requires familiarity with the works and defeats the purpose of a research guide or resource.

Category or topic headings are also sometimes misleading. Entries under the "German-American" experience, for example, are entirely political. The same is true of "Social and Political Aspects," while "Cultural Life," implying data on life-styles and social customs, contains materials on contributions of German-Americans to American culture. "Social Life and Customs," which suggests such topics as marriage and the family, the life cycle, and religion, here includes works on "Domestic Life," "Beliefs and Superstitions," "Christmas," "Easter," and "Wills." There is no category for anthropological monographs or ethnographies which describe entire sociocultural systems. Hostetler's contemporary ethnographies of Amish and Hutterite communities are found under "Domestic Life."

Biographical references are not annotated, and there is no rationale for their inclusion, their significance, or value. Although the introduction to the guide claims that the three major series are analyzed, they consist only of a listing.

Finally, the majority of references relate to the Pennsylvania Germans. This is due, in part, to the fact that a great many books have been written on this group. Many of these entries probably should have been included in the category of Pennsylvania Germans, since they are the only entries in these various categories and since journal articles on these topics on other German groups in America are not included.

In summary, the compilers have attempted to pull together major books on the German-American experience, but the weaknesses of this guide outweigh its strengths. The Glossary is extremely helpful and might stimulate interest. Many of the annotations may be useful, although they do not assess content accuracy and merit. As a reference tool to facilitate research on German-Americans, it is the opinion

of this reviewer that although the guide has potential, it falls far short of its stated objectives.

Rachel A. Bonney
University of North Carolina, Charlotte