The Influence of German Language, Literature, and Culture on English and American Language, Life, and Letters. (and vice versa)

David A Reibel (Tübingen and York)

MISS PRISM

[Calling.] Cecily! Cecily! ... intellectual pleasures await you. Your German grammar is on the table. Pray open it at page fifteen. We will repeat yesterday's lesson.

CECILY

[Coming over very slowly.] But I don’t like German. It isn’t at all a becoming language. I know perfectly well that I look quite plain after my German lesson. [third exchange later:]

CECILY

I wish Uncle Jack would allow that unfortunate young man, his brother, to come down here sometimes. We might have a good influence over him, Miss Prism. I am sure you certainly would. You know German, and geology, and things of that kind influence a man very much.

(Oscar Wilde. (1854-1900). The Importance of Being Ernest. 1895. Second Act. Scene [1].)

German influence on English life and culture was exercised either directly, through contact, visits and longer stays, or through the reading of German literature, usually in translation, although also in the original. The influence was felt in all aspects of English life, often mediated through the initiatives of Prince Albert (1819-1861), Prince Consort to Queen Victoria (1819-1901; reigned 1837-1901). At one time it was felt that without knowledge of German, one did not have access to the leading scientific literature of the day, a situation now reversed, with English in dominant position. In the 19thC, German universities also played a major rôle in training English and American scientists, philologists, and philosophers, one now performed by British and American universities in training scholars of developing countries, who in turn have established the foundations of science and technology in their own countries.

The items included here, apart from their intrinsic interest, have been chosen for their more or less direct links to the literary and linguistic concerns of major authors of the day. They are at the same time useful bibliographical guides in their own right. They are listed here in simple alphabetical order, with cross-references as needed. The scope of these studies reflects the lifelong work of Henry Crabb Robinson (1775-1867). The Appendix to this compilation presents a selection of editions and interpretations of the writings of this pioneering scholar.
Bibliography

Argyle, Gisela. 1979.
*German Elements in the Fiction of George Eliot, Gissing, and Meredith.*
[George Eliot, née Mary Ann, later Marian, Evans (1819-1880); George Robert Gissing (1857-1903); and George Meredith (1828-1909)].
Frankfurt am Main; Bern; Cirencester/UK: Peter Lang.

Shows how, first, Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834), and then more successfully Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881), and after him Matthew Arnold (1822-1888), succeeded in transmitting an ideal form of German culture that influenced these writers, and less directly or substantially other writers. George Eliot (1819-1880) seems to have had a special affinity for German language and culture. “I don’t know how far my impressions have been warped by reading German, but I have regarded the word ‘culture’ as a verbal equivalent for the highest results of past and present influences.” (*The George Eliot Letters*, IV, p 395. Reference due to Argyle p 195.)

George Eliot, Gissing and Meredith are the nineteenth-century British novelists who, in their fiction, made the most significant and substantial use of German material. The function of this material is twofold, relating both to the life presented and to the presentation. An elucidation of the German references adds not only to a fuller understanding of the individual novels, but also of the author’s theory and practice of fiction, and of one of the experimental tendencies in the ‘wide’ tradition of the English Novel. (*pb*)

See also Armytage 1969.

*The German Influence on English Education.*

A monograph-length work of 110 pp of text, with 11 chapters, each devoted to some salient historical, cultural or economic movement, event, figure, etc, covering the period from the founding of the University of Wittenberg, at the beginning of the 16thC, to the present day. Has 20⅞-page Bibliography, which includes many early works. Well written in a popular, sometimes even breezy or novelistic, outline style, making even basic or elementary notions unmistakably clear. No index.

One of a set of such studies by the same author, same publisher, same series, all very good capsule histories of education in the respective country as well, each with useful bibliography as before, and no index: *The American Influence on English Education* (1967); *The French Influence on English Education* (1968); *The Russian Influence on English Education* (1969).
*The German Idea. Four English Writers and the Reception of German Thought 1800-1860.*
Cambridge [etc]: Cambridge University Press.
Treats Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834), Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881), George Henry Lewes (1817-1878), and George Eliot (1819-1880).

*Little Germany. German Refugees in Victorian Britain.*

Around the middle of the last century England became the home of a group of German exiles seeking refuge from political repression in their own country. They included in their number Karl Marx [1818-1883] and Friedrich Engels [1820-1895] and they held in common the belief in, and search for, political freedom. The outcome of that search, and the exiles’ success or failure in coming to terms with it, is the subject of this book.

Marx spent his time in London at work on *Das Kapital* [1867; 1884; 1894], supported financially by Engels; other exiles found different spheres of activity. The ‘bourgeois’ refugees Gottfried Kinkel [1815-1882] and Friedrich Althaus [1829-1897] settled down to teaching and journalism; [Friedrich] Lessner [sic; also Leßner (1825-1910)] and [Johann Georg] Eccarius [1818-1889], tailors by profession, played a part in establishing the First International Working Men’s Association in the 1860s; and among the German women who fled to England, the remarkable Johanna Kinkel [née Mockel (1810-1858), Komponistin] and Malwida [Freiin] von Meysenbug [1816-1903] were forced to suffer the relative indignity of work as music teacher and governess respectively.

Rosemary Ashton charts the fortunes of this disparate group of exiles, who constantly bickered among themselves, and also examines Victorian England through their eyes, showing how the most advanced country in Europe and, in Engels’s words, ‘the freest, or the least unfree’ country in the world appeared to foreigners seeking asylum. Their views of English liberties and restraints, fairness and prejudice, tolerance and tradition in matters of politics, religion, class, and sexual relations offer a valuable insight into Victorian life.

The author has drawn on a rich store of letters, memoirs, and articles written by the exiles for German and American newspapers, and on Johanna Kinkel’s autobiographical novel about émigré life in London [*Hans Ibeles in London. Ein Familienbild aus dem Flüchtlingsleben.* 1860] to illustrate this fascinating and highly readable account of a neglected area of Anglo-German relations. (pb on inside front flap of d/w)

Intelectuals: Marx and his Party; 4. The ‘Bourgeois’ Refugees: [Arnold] Ruge [1802-1880], Kinkel, and the Journalists, Doctors, Artists, and Teachers of the Exile; 5. The Women of the Exile; 6. The Proletariat and the Lumpenproletariat of the Exile; Epilogue; 39¾ pp of Notes (annotations and references); 8-page Select Bibliography; Index.

Full front, spine and back of d/w have reproduction of Chappius, Aspect général de Londres, vue prise de l’Abbaye de Westminster, c.1857. Back of d/w has superimposed at top round cartouches with, from top left, b&w photographs of heads of respectively, Ferdinand Freiligrath, Gottfried Kinkel, Karl Marx (centre), Friedrich Engels, Arnold Ruge. Inside back flap of d/w has portrait photograph (full-frontal head) of a fresh-faced smiling Rosemary Ashton, with minimalist biography.

Packed with information. An enormous amount of labour must have gone into compiling and organizing the primary source material from which this smooth-reading narrative and analysis is composed. All German passages are given in idiomatic English translations, and their number and variety add to the interest, entertainment, and period feel, which is skilfully described by Ashton. The refugee experience has many parallels with that of German refugees in the Allied countries during WWII.

Not without the occasional purple patch, written in the modern durchkomponiert style, which intersperses and integrates into the text journalistic, novelistic, and dramatic and theatrical touches which make it hard to determine what is original or primary source material, what is interpretation and fair comment, or merely narrative, and what is gratuitous or anachronistic embroidery (Horace’s ambitiosa ornamenta ‘superfluous ornament’) or speculation, as some may feel.

Amsterdam/Atlanta, GA: Editions Rodopi B. V. Internationale Forschungen zur Allgemeinen und Vergleichenden Literaturwissenschaft 45.

Revised and extended in Batts 1993.


Has 17-page bibliography.

Deutsche Einflüsse auf die englische Sprachwissenschaft im 19. Jahrhundert.


Blaicher, Günther. 1992. *Das Deutschlandbild in der englischen Literatur*. Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft. Treats first stereotypes, then the Middle Ages to the mid-17thC; mid-17thC to Romanticism; mid-18thC to 1871; 1871-1918; 1918-1945; and from 1945 up to the very recent present. A treatment of English literature, and not so much German influences. Contains sympathetic and plausible interpretations of the portrayals and narratives and other accounts of Germans and Germany, as well as of other nationalities and their associated stereotypes to be found in a wide range of authors, and careful assessments of the intended literary, dramatic, and other effects and intentions.

Boyd, James (1899-1970). 1932. *Goethe’s Knowledge of English Literature*. Oxford: At the Clarendon Press. Oxford Studies in Modern Languages and Literature. [Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832)]. ‘The object of the book is to give a complete summary of Goethe’s English reading ...’; based on diaries, letters, and other primary documents. Goethe lived a very long time, through two epochs, so to speak, of German and other literature. But it is not for this reason that it would be hard to think of any English author or critic who had read or looked at a comparable range and number of German authors, except perhaps Carlyle.

Summary of Contents: Preface; Introduction; I. Shakespeare (important plays treated individually); II. Shakespeare’s Predecessors and Contemporaries; III. Writers of the Seventeenth Century; IV. Writers of the Eighteenth Century; V. Lord Byron; VI. Sir Walter Scott and Thomas Carlyle; VII. Other Writers of the Nineteenth Century; Appendix I: Minor Writers of the Eighteenth Century; Appendix II: Minor Writers of the Nineteenth Century; Appendix III: Journals. See Index (of names) for full extensive list of authors.

The individual chapters give detailed accounts of the English (also Scottish, American, and other) authors read by Goethe, either in English or in German translations, from Shakespeare on, down through the English Romantics, and others, including science, travel etc. The number of authors is considerable, the number and variety of works read even more so: at least 155 authors are listed: 64 more or less major authors, plus 36 more minor 18thC and 55 19thC authors. There are some notable gaps: no philosophers, eg David Hume, George Berkeley, John Locke; no Jane Austen; a few other notables are also absent. Of especial interest are: chapter V on Lord Byron (1788-1824), and chapter VI on Sir Walter Scott (1871-1832) and Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881). See also Zeydel 1931 on Tieck.


Now somewhat (out)dated and overtaken by more recent research, but interesting for some of the analyses and conclusions that she offers. Some consider her deductions of German influence strained, far-fetched, fanciful, or just plain wrong. However, the book is at least specifically a treatment of this topic.

The purpose of this study is to analyze the German effect upon Lawrence and his works up to May 1912. The term “effect” is used in the definition presented by Horst Rüdiger in 1971 in his study of comparative literature in Germany:

Formerly, one used to content oneself with discovering ‘influences.’ [...] I would suggest that we avoid the term ‘influence’ altogether and use, instead, ‘effect’ and ‘reception,’ which denote a dynamic attitude on the part of the author rather than a passive one, which makes him a powerless instrument (1).

[Cited from: Horst Rüdiger. ‘Comparative Literature in Germany.’ *Yearbook of Comparative and German Literature* 20. 1971:18.]

Rüdiger’s point is well taken, since an author who observes a stimulating notion from another’s work cannot help but apply to it the catalytic agent of his own consciousness and his artistic theory, thus transmuting the notion and the catalyst together into something utterly new in an essentially creative process. (Preface p 5)

This sensible interpretation of the process of the reception of ideas, and the concomitant creative process, if somewhat clumsily and imprecisely formulated, applies equally to science and other intellectual activities, and offers an alternative to the sterile tracing of lines of influence favoured by some historiographers of linguistics. Many other writers on the inspirational experience and the act of creation through the imagination (the ‘catalytic agent’?) have made the same point.
From the evidence presented in the body of this study, a discernible German effect on Lawrence and his works may be seen from his birth in 1885 until his departure from England in 1912. (p 297)

From all available evidence, it seems that Lawrence received most of these items of German effect through translations, in the case of the literature and philosophy, which seem to have been inadequate. This may account for his later lack of feeling for German and his disavowal of agreement with Nietzsche’s works in particular. (pp 299-300)

The evidence of Lawrence’s later German letters written while in Germany shows a good idiomatic if occasionally grammatically flawed command of German which any English speaker would be pleased to possess. Brunsdale’s conclusion here is one of several that seem merely speculative or based on misinterpretations of the evidence. (This information is due to Hans Schwarze, one of the editors of the new Lawrence edition.)

Lawrence eloped to Germany in 1912 with Frieda Weekley (1879-1956), née von Richthoven, a cousin of the WWI German air ace, Baron Manfred von Richthoven (1882-1918). She was the wife of Lawrence’s teacher at Nottingham University College, Ernest Weekley (1865-1954).


Woolf’s reception, still in its first century, has been remarkably diverse, as analyst of consciousness, as a decadent (censored and banned), as stylistic innovator of ‘Modernism’, as crusading feminist and socialist, and perhaps most of all as a current model for a wide range of other writers across Europe. (pb)


Inspired by the Imperial German (Prussian) capture of Paris. See the annotation under Haines 1969.


My study has been an exploratory topographical survey of a period when German literary and cultural influences in England were said to have been non-existent. Enough evidence, however, has been assembled to indicate that the literary and general cultural stimuli from Germany in the early eighteenth century were not only constant and plentiful, they were also significant for certain developments and changes in English literature. (chapter VII. Conclusion. p 109)

Treats the period from the Thirty Years War (1618-1648) to the end of the 18thC, taking in the translation, reception, and influence of the German hymn on English hymnology and lyric poetry (chapter II); religious influences (chapter III); chapter IV. German Residents in England: Musicians, Artists, and Germans in the Royal Society; and many other matters. Very interesting and original material in 109 pp. The Notes, Chronological Bibliography, and Bibliography of Sources Relating to This Study (pp 134-139), which take in the 19thC, provide further useful information.


Panizzi Lectures. 1991. (Sir Anthony Panizzi aka Antonio Genesio Maria (1797-1879); some-time librarian of the British Museum.)


A selection of reprints of Fabian’s essays, in German and English, on the theme: What 19thC Germany was to England — a fountain of culture and learning — 18thC England had been to Germany. Includes bibliographical references.


(The Steuben Society of America: “Founded May 1919.” *Steuben:* Baron Friedrich Wilhelm Ludolf Gerhard Augustin von Steuben (1730-1794), emigrated to America in 1777, trained the Continental Army etc, contributing to the winning by the newly-formed United States of America of the American Revolutionary War of Independence.)

This book won, not one, but two prestigious prizes. An encyclopaedic account of the importation, adoption, adaptation, influence, and effect of German institutions on the formation of American culture from the 17thC on.


Das ungewöhnlich breite und kontroverse Echo, das James Joyces Oeuvre bereits zu Lebzeiten des Autors im deutschen Sprachbereich gefunden hat, ist bislang nirgends bibliographisch vollständig erfasst, geschweige denn editorisch erschlossen und in Anthologieform bequem zugänglich gemacht worden. Diese flagrante Informationslücke


For the eighteenth century, Ossian was the great discovery of a Northern epic poet equal to Homer, whose oral tales had survived from bardic times. In Europe he was everywhere translated and imitated — whereas in England he was dismissed by influential commentators as a forgery by the Scottish writer James Macpherson. (pb)


Inhalt des ersten Bandes (summary): Vorwort. Siglen (abbreviations); Einleitung; Die Dokumente (from the Tagebücher and Briefe for the years 1779 &1774-1775); Anhang (8 letters and other documents): Verzeichnis der Abbildung; Abbildungen (clear facsimiles of contemporary documents).

Inhalt des zweiten Bandes: Siglen; Chronologische Übersicht; Erläuterungen zu den Dokumenten; Zu den Anhängen; Literaturverzeichnis (4-page bibliography omitting major known categories); Register (classified indexes).
The influence of German literature on English literature reached its first highpoint in the narrow period of the twenty years between the beginning of the 90s of the 18thC and 1810. Matthew Gregory aka Monk Lewis (1775-1818) is the first and the most significant representative of the first wave of German influence which attained literary historical and aesthetic relevance. He is perhaps best known today for his Gothic novel *Ambrosio, or the Monk* (1796), which earned him the nickname of “Monk” Lewis. This study treats Lewis as a mediator of German literature through his translations, so-called, rewritten, to suit the English taste, with Lewis’ improvements, additions, and excisions, as well as his obvious failure to understand the plain meaning of the original German text. The comparisons between the German exemplars (German Vorlagen) and Lewis’ fanciful (re)creations are quite entertaining.

Deals one after the other in individual chapters with: German influence on *The Monk*; Lewis’ stay in Weimar (27 July 1792 - end February 1793); Lewis and the following: Christoph Martin Wieland (1733-1813), August (Friedrich Ferdinand) von Kotzebue (1761-1819), Friedrich Maximilian von Klinger (1725-1831), Heinrich von Kleist (1777-1811), Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832), Johann Gottfried Herder (1744-1803), Johann Christoph Friedrich von Schiller (1759-1805, Johann Karl August Musäus (1735-1787), (Christiane) Benedicte (Eugenie) Naubert (1756-1819), and Johann Heinrich (Daniel) Zschokke (1771-1848). Lewis seems to belong to the category of those “die, der Mode und dem Bedürfnis des Tages folgend, Übersetzungen aus dem Gebiet der deutschen Literature ins Volk warf, das sie rasch aufnahm, aber auch rasch wieder vergaß”. (Pfeiffer 1925:25 below).
Surgeons on the Staff of the Manchester Royal Infirmary, c. 1752-1830, showing their English, Scottish, or continental place of training. There is a useful Index of Names.

This work, and its companion volume, Haines 1969, which complement each other, are not so concerned with literature or language as such; they point out that it was rather the superordinate image of Germany as a successful, progressive innovator in all fields of science, the arts, philosophy, literature, and education which made it such a powerful model, even if the image became somewhat clouded after 1870, and underwent a complete revision and reversal with the advent of WWI, as documented by other items listed here.


A complement to Haines 1957 above.

This was the time of Prussian expansionism, culminating in the overrunning of France in 1870. It was also a period of general alarm in Britain about the readiness and competence of the country’s armed forces—particularly its soldiers. It was this mood of alarm which set the scene for Colonel Chesney’s [Sir George Tomkyns (1830-1895)] phenomenally successful invasion fantasy, *The Battle of Dorking* [*Blackwood’s Magazine*, May 1871], in which the Prussians are shown doing to London what they have just done to Paris.


Presents parallel passages from Coleridge and Schlegel, tending to lend credence to Coleridge’s claim that these parallels were the result of convergent thinking, and not plagiarism. See also Winkelmann 1933, below.

As the number of reprints shows, despite the modesty of the contents, the material is thought to be of some interest still today.

Horne, Richard Henry [or Hengist] (1803-1884). 1844
*The New Spirit of the Age.* Two Volumes (1844), a personal reconsideration of the work of 25 contemporary writers; cf also: *The Spirit of the Nation* by the writers of the *Nation* journal (second edition, Dublin: James Duffy, 1844), mainly a pseudonymous collection of Irish political ballads and songs.

*German Visitors to English Theaters in the 18th?/Eighteenth? Century.*
A study of the enthusiasm for the English drama shown by German visitors to England, a reciprocal or complementary interest to that shown in German literature by later English and American audiences.

*The Reception of James Joyce in Europe.*
London: The Athlone Press. The Reception of British Authors in Europe.

Joyce’s reception in Europe has been of remarkable scope, impact and creative power. He figures as leading Modernist, experimentalist and stylistic innovator, as a new breed of Realist, as producer of a new kind of ‘text’ influential on critical theory, and everywhere as the progenitor of adventurous translations, imitations and free re-inventions shaping European Modernist writing. 

Liptzin, Solomon. (b 1901). 1924.
*Shelley in Germany.* [Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822)]
A detailed, closely-researched study of the reception of Shelley’s work in Germany, which stood for so long in the shadow of Byron’s. Important for this aspect of English-German literary relationships. The footnotes and 4-page Bibliography are a useful source for, among others, some of the German periodicals, writers, and critics who followed the English literary scene.

*Essays in the History of Ideas.* Foreword by Don Cameron Allen (1903-1972)

Reprints 16 articles selected and revised by the author (‘the founder of the club’), published on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the History of Ideas Club at Johns Hopkins University in 1923. ‘The purpose of the club was for “the historical study of the development and influence of general philosophical conceptions, ethical ideas, and aesthetic fashions, in occidental literature, and of the relations of these to manifestations of the same ideas and tendencies in the history of philosophy, of science, and of political and social movements.” ’ (Foreword p vii) See article I, The Historiography of Ideas. Besides the important articles II and III on ‘The Supposed Primitivism of Rouseau’s *Discourse on Inequality*’, and ‘Monboddo [1773-1792] and Rousseau’ (pp 14-61), articles IX-XII (pp 166-276) treat ‘Herder and the Enlightenment Philosophy of History’ (IX), and German and English Romanticism, the
relation of the English Romantics to their German sources, and so forth. The very full footnotes give the main references. There is also a Bibliography of the Published Writings of Arthur O. Lovejoy 1898-1951, comprising 272 items.

*Our German Cousins.* Anglo-German Relations in the 19th and 20th Centuries.  
London: John Murray (Publishers) Ltd.  
Written in an entertaining, irreverent, readable interpretive style that is just as informative as anything more detailed, and just as valuable. A good introduction to the whole topic, even if the perspective is different from that of other more conventional studies.

After treating the beginnings from 1750 in Section I, ‘The Discoverers’, including Madame Anne Louise Germaine de Staël, baronne (Baronesse) de Staël-Holstein (*née* Necker, 1766-1817), in Chapter Two, which he entitles ‘Kultur-Walküre’; then treats Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881) in Section II, ‘The Road from Ecclefechan’; in Section III Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834) and ‘The Coleridgeans’; treats in Section IV, ‘A Family Quarrel’, Prince Albert (1819-1861) and Queen Victoria (1819-1901; reigned 1837-1901), and other Royals and their German connections, especially Queen Victoria’s eldest daughter Victoria (‘Vicky’, 1840-1901), who in 1858 married Frederick (1831-1888), the son of Kaiser Wilhelm I (1797-1888) and the father of Kaiser Wilhelm II (1859-1941); and finally John Maynard Keynes [1st Baron Keynes (1883-1946)], Bloomsbury, WWI and its aftermath in Section V, ‘The Political Consequences of John Maynard Keynes’, which takes the treatment up to the post-WWII era. These last two Sections are important historically, although they may not say so much about literary concerns.

*Deutsche und Englische Romantik.* Zweite, durchgesehene und erweiterte Auflage. The ‘Nachwort zur ersten Ausgabe’ is dated October 1959.  
Göttingen: Vandenhoek & Ruprecht. Kleine Vandenhoek-Reihe 85 S.  
Mason was Professor of German at the University of Edinburgh. His book contains interesting material on Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834), as well as on other leading English Romantics, especially Henry Crabb Robinson (1775-1857), who played a central rôle in the mediation and transmission to the English literati and public of German literary and cultural values in the first half of the 19thC, thus making up for what Mason says was Coleridge’s failure in this regard, and thus also mediating the transition from the interest of the Romantics in Germany and the ‘Stürmer und Dränger’, to the admiration of the Victorians for German accomplishments in the arts and sciences, including the new philology. Coleridge’s command of German may be inferred from the following remark of August Wilhelm von Schlegel (1767-1829), made on the occasion of a meeting between him, Coleridge, and William Wordsworth (1770-1850) in Godesberg in July 1828, the first time that the ‘three surviving Romantics of leading rank’ (Mason p 67) had come together.

Es scheint auch eine der ganz wenigen Gelegenheiten gewesen zu sein, bei denen Coleridge die ihm sonst immer (auch 1817 von Tieck) willig zugestandene führende Rolle im Gespräch nicht mehr behaupten konnte, denn „es ist Schlegel bald gelungen, sich zum Mittelpunkt des Interesses zu machen“. Wie dies zuging, ist aus der schroffen
Aufforderung zu erraten, die er an den unglücklichen Coleridge richtete:


[It seems also to have been one of the very few occasions on which Coleridge could not assert the leading rôle always conceded to him (also in 1817 by Tieck [Johann Ludwig Tieck (1773-1853)]) in conversation, for “Schlegel soon succeeded in making himself the centre of interest”. How this went is to be inferred from the curt request which he directed to Coleridge:

My dear Sir, may I ask you to speak English? English I understand, but I cannot follow your German.]

Taken from Mason’s account p 68, based on a letter of August 1828 between Coleridge’s and Wordsworth’s host and Henry Crabb Robinson. Von Schlegel’s claim to a knowledge of English is easily supported by his masterful translations of Shakespeare.


(William; sc Kaiser Wilhelm II (1859-1941).) A substantial work (322 pp), in contrast to his better known short stories; presumably the threat or prospect of subjugation by the hated Hun concentrates, or at least inspires the artistic mind wonderfully, which only needs a suggestion to compose an appropriate complete work.


Sterne’s novel Tristram Shandy has become a key text for a variety of critics, including the Russian Formalists, linguistic and structural critics in Eastern Europe and France and Reception theorists in Germany. (pb)


Really does start from Kapitel I. Das angelsächsische, altsächsische und althochdeutsche Schrifttum, down through Kapitel VIII. Shakespeare in Deutschland,
and Kapitel IX. Der Englische Roman des 18. Jahrhunderts in Deutschland, in the first volume. The second volume is more relevant to the end of the 18thC and the beginning of the 19thC, the Romantics, the Victorians, the turn of the century etc, concluding with the most recent developments, not forgetting the DDR.


A valuable and original investigation into Coleridge’s indebtedness to the German philosophers, his claims to originality etc, all thoroughly documented and meticulously argued; clearly written and easy to read.


Contains a 36-page Introduction giving a compact history and critical account of Shakespeare’s reception in Germany, followed by c42 German extracts (130 pp) from critical texts, letters etc, some very short, some more extensive, by at least 26 different writers, followed by 23 pp of short extracts from German translations of well known passages by 13 different translators. A very handy compact guide to this topic for those who can read German. Also very informative are: The Short Bibliography, and Chronological Table of Shakespeare in Germany 1700-1815. The secondary sources may be out of date, but the extracts can never lose their inherent interest.


The author says that this English-language original is to be preferred to the German translation of 1988.


Even though the author says that the English-language original is to be preferred, the German translation, evidently prepared under his supervision, has the advantage that all primary source material is given in the original German. There is a list of abbreviations of sources cited, and 41 pp of notes (*Anmerkungen*), but unfortunately no index. See also Paulin 1987, which he himself recommends.

The great bulk of High German etyma evidently moved into English as spontaneous transfers, rather than as deliberate insertions, like the inkhorn terms borrowed into English from the classical languages during the Renaissance. Few if any of our German items replaced existing English words; instead, they simply [enriched and] expanded the English lexicon. (Linguistic overview p 113)

Contents: Primary sources (pp xi-xiii): list (bibliography) of 28 General English dictionaries (of various kinds), and of Other works (other dictionaries and lexicographical studies on English, German, Yiddish, and so forth); list of Abbreviations (pp xv-xvi); alphabetical list of 68 Semantic field labels (p xvii); detailed Introduction (pp xix-xxxiv).

Part I: An historical overview [?< German Übersicht; not listed] by semantic fields; has introductory discussion (Semantic field tables, pp 3-7), with 2 complementary tables of the semantic fields arranged alphabetically (Table 1, p 4) and by diminishing number of borrowings (Table 2, p 5), each with numbers of items in each field, and Table 3, chronological summary of number of borrowings by fifty-year periods from 1501 to 1951; 606 remain undated (p 6). Also has Index to semantic fields by subject (pp 5-7), and Alphabetical index to semantic fields (p 7).

Then follows Alphabetical index to semantic fields (pp 8-110). The individual semantic fields with the lists of borrowings in them are grouped and arranged alphabetically within the following superordinate semantic fields, as given in the first Index to semantic fields by subject: Sciences (pp 8-56; 29 fields); Social sciences (pp 56-76; 12 fields); Arts (pp 76-85; 7 fields); Others (pp 85-110; 20 fields). The entries for each field, which may be several pages in length, contain detailed introductory discussion and analysis, and both undated and dated lists of borrowings in that field (93% of items are dated). The dated items are themselves arranged chronologically within fifty-year periods.

Part II: Linguistic overview (pp 113-132, is a discussion of Phonology and graphemics, Grammar, Word formation processes, Semantics, [differences in] Degree of naturalization, Dialectal items, and so forth.

Part III: Dictionary of German loanwords in English (pp 135-353). Aside from the not unexpected preponderance of scientific terms, the number of what would be regarded as ordinary English words, even if a bit technical, e.g. historicism (undated), which have a German provenance is not only large but surprising. Others, such as angst (1849), which in German simply means ‘anxiety’, ‘worry’, or ‘fear’ (Angst haben ‘be afraid’), whose special meaning in English puzzles German speakers, have taken on a life of their own and become (the designation of) independent concepts in their own right through their use as technical terms in English.
Part IV: Appendix of supplementary loanwords; has additional useful list of Secondary sources used in the appendix of supplementary loanwords (pp 357-358); alphabetical list of Supplementary loanwords (pp 359-378), and list of Supplementary loanwords arranged by semantic field (pp 379-381).

Even the educated layperson is aware of the predominant French, also classical (Latin and Greek) nature of the English vocabulary. But a considerable German element in English is evidence of the strong German influence on British and American life, letters, and science and technology. This work is very nearly an ideal witness to the fact. Far more than just a dictionary, treating not just loan words as such, as the term is generally understood, but also numerous loan translations (calques), collocations, phrases, and so forth; the introductory matter (Parts I-III, c 150 pp) forms c30% of the text; the dictionary proper of 5,380 items, both words and other lexical units, dating from about 1340 (snorkel) to 1990, with Appendix, takes up the remainder. The authors have obviously been stimulated by the wide range of material that they have turned up to a detailed analysis of the processes of lexical transfer. The editorial matter can usefully be used as an introduction to the study of the processes of lexical borrowing into English in particular and from and into other languages in general.


(George Eliot, née Mary Ann Evans, later Marian; 1818-1880). A detailed account of George Eliot’s concern with German literature and all things German, at a time, the author says, when German influence was at its height. Begins with a useful historical survey, from the 16thC on.


A selection of 29 of her critical, journalistic essays, each with a helpful introductory note by Pinney, also useful footnote annotations. For a full list of the items with a German connection, see my article: ‘George Eliot (1819-1880), Daniel Deronda (1876). The 19C Context of Klesmer. A Bibliographical Essay & Reference Guide’, on this web page.


Nineteen contributions ‘selected from papers delivered at a symposium on English and German Romanticism at the University of Houston in 1981’.


A thorough, almost exhaustive, encyclopedic account (492 pp of text; 305 pp of Notes), as befits the subject, with the following sections: Book One. German Thought in America: Early Interest in German Culture, Thought Currents of the Nineteenth Century, The Transcendental Writers, The Spread of Interest in German Philosophy; Book Two. German Literary Influence: Some Areas and Lines of Influence, Germanic [sic] Materials and Motifs in the Short Story, Nineteenth-Century Poets, Novelists, and Critics. Treats all major German and American figures: politicians and statesmen, philosophers, authors, poets, writers etc and their works.

O'Sullivan, Emer. 1990. 

An original and thorough study, from the general theory of cultural and national stereotypes (chapters 1-4) to a detailed examination (chapters 5-19) of 245 texts (see chapter 5.4. The corpus. 72% novels, 8% short stories, 10% tales, 7% anthologies, 3% other) from 12 or so different genres (war stories, adventure stories, spy stories, boys’ and girls’ stories, fantasy, and so forth), analysed for 14 themes (military, war; family relationships, love and friendship, nature and animals, race, nationality, education, religion, and so forth), for location, German appearance (physical stereotypes), German characteristics (psychological stereotypes), German names, use or non-use of German language, also English, characteristics of spies, the image of Berlin, and so forth. This is followed by the analysis of the appearance of these themes, characteristics, and stereotypes etc in 4 representative pieces of children’s fiction (chapters 20-24), with final Summary and Conclusion (chapter 25). There are numerous charts, graphs, tables and other types of graphic presentation of summaries of findings, statistics, and so forth; see list of 25 Figures and 2 Tables (pp [6-7]). Has 9½-page Bibliography of British children’s books which are either set in Germany or in which German characters appear, which is in fact the list of the 245 texts analysed in this study, also very useful 11-page list of Other works cited.

In order to compile the list of texts studied, an enormous amount of bibliographical research in the most diverse sources, involving much letter-writing, catalogue searching, and so forth, had to be undertaken; see the very instructive account in chapter 5.2. Locating the texts (pp 49-52). Anyone who thinks that the Internet and other electronic information sources etc have obviated such library-by-library, catalogue-by-catalogue, list-by-list, item-by-item searches, should read this passage to see how unhelpful eg initially promising key-word searches can turn out to be.

As illustrations of the topic of this book, see Chesney 1871 and Munroe 1914.

Coal-smoke and Englishmen. A Study of Verbal Caricature in the Writings of Heinrich Heine. [1797-1856].
Bithell Memorial Lecture, 1983.

*Breeches and Metaphysics: Thackeray’s German Discourse.*
Oxford: Legenda. Published in Association with the British Comparative Literature Association by the European Humanities Research Centre.
Studies in Comparative Literature, 1. xi + 529pp.
Has a Bibliography: p 503-509. Includes index.

Rees, Graham; Fattori, Marta, edited by. 2003. 
*The Reception of Francis Bacon in Europe.*
London: The Athlone Press. The Reception of British Authors in Europe.

Bacon’s reception as befits a man whose work spans philosophy and history of science, law, politics, and literature (via his essays and poems) takes a dazzling variety of courses through European thought from the Renaissance to the present. (pb)

*George Eliot and Goethe: An Elective Affinity.*
Amsterdam/Atlanta, GA: Editions Rodopi B.V. Text 13.

In the first half of the nineteenth century in England there was a strong interest in German literature and German scholarship. George Eliot studied German and German literature from the age of twenty. Her first publication, in 1846, was a translation of [David] Friedrich Strauss’s [1808-1874] *Das Leben Jesu* (1835); followed, in 1854, by the translation of Ludwig [Andreas] Feuerbach’s [1775-1833] *Das Wesen des Christentums* (1841). That same year George Eliot left England with George Henry Lewes on her first visit to Germany. During the next three months they visited Frankfurt, Weimar and Berlin to collect material for Lewes’s biography of Goethe. In this study, [the author] explores the impact of Goethe on George Eliot, whose “elective affinity” with Goethe was both ethical and artistic, and analyses George Eliot’s responsiveness to Goethe’s moral vision and the literary uses she makes of her familiarity with Goethe’s work. [The book] concentrates on *The Mill on the Floss* (1860) and *Daniel Deronda* (1876), showing how the intertextual relationship with *Die Wahlverwandtschaften* (1809) holds the key to an understanding of the latter part of *The Mill on the Floss*, while the first part of *Faust* (1898) and *Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre* (1796) throw new light on Daniel Deronda. This study, with its close analysis of a range of works by George Eliot and Goethe, is essential reading for anyone interested in both or either of these authors or in Anglo-German literary relations. (pb lightly edited)

*Der Einfluß der deutschen Literatur auf die Englische im 19. Jahrhundert.*
Halle/Saale: Max Niemeyer Verlag. ix + 165 pp

A very useful survey of all the major and not so major figures, by a life-long student of English literature with many publications on this general topic. See Stockley 1929 below.

Has very useful 4½-page synoptic Inhalt (Contents) and comprehensive Namensverzeichnis (Index of Names, by Dr. Ruth Imhoff, later Schirmer-Imhoff). Densely printed in Antiqua (roman), so that the amount of text is about twice as much as one would expect from the pagination.


*German-American Relations and German Culture in America: A Subject Bibliography*, 1941-1980. Two Volumes. 
Millwood, N.Y: Kraus International Publications.

Shaffer, Elinor, Series Editor. 
*The Reception of British Authors in Europe*. 

The volumes in this Series explore the reception of British authors in Europe, documenting processes involved in the dissemination of ideas and of texts across linguistic, national and cultural boundaries and over time. The authors are literary, political, historical, philosophical scientific figures who have been influential on the cultural life of Europe, in ways sometimes surprisingly divergent from their reception and reputation in Britain. We cannot fully assess the intellectual scope and cultural impact of British writers without being aware of their European ‘fortunes’ and the volumes in this Series are designed to provide just such an account. (pb)

*Matthew Arnold and Goethe*. 
Matthew Arnold (1822-1888) and Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832).

[Spieckermann, Marie-Luise, Redaktion.] 1983. 

Inhalt: Einführung (Bernhard Fabian [b 1930]); Les Saisons anglaises de Voltaire [François Marie Arouet de Voltaire (1694-1778)]: l’exil, le voyage, le témoignage (René [sic; se René] Pomeau); Aspects of Eighteenth Century Travelling Conditions (Derek H[oward] Aldcroft) (Plates I-III: 6 18C road maps of England); Was der deutsche Baron in England auch sehen konnte: Agrarrevolution und ökonomische
Reise’ (Gotthardt Frühsorge); German Entrepreneurs and Technicians in England in the Eighteenth Century (Hans-Joachim Braun) (Plates IV-VI: 5 illustrations of various products and goods); Goethes ’Englische Reise’ oder Gedanken zur Physiognomie des nicht-reisenden Reisenden (Peter Boerner); Reisen eines Deutschen in England im Jahr 1782: Karl Philipp Moritz [aka Carl Philipp Moritz (1756-1793)] (Gerhard Sauder); Londoner Imaginationen. William Hogarths [1697-1764] ’modern moral subjects’ und Georg Christoph Lichtenbergs [1742-1799] ’eigene Welt’ (Monika Lengelsen [b 1943]) (Plates VII-IX: 3 street scenes); Der reisende Fürst: Fürst Hermann Pückler-Muskau [Graf Ludwig Karl Johann Erdmann Pückler-Muskau (1754-1811)] in England (Rainer Gruenter); [Heinrich] Heine [aka Christian Johann Heinrich (1797-1856)], England und die Englander (Renate Schusky); A Tour of Oxford in the Mid Eighteenth Century (Giles Barber) (Plates X-XXIV: 27 engravings of architectural views of 18thC Oxford and its Colleges + 2 documents).

Each contribution has footnote annotations and references. No index.


Treats loans from German (Germanisms) and the diachronic process of borrowing from the 16thC as well as the synchronic processes of phonetic/graphemic, morphological, and semantic assimilation, their varying degrees of integration, and the stylistic effects of their use.


Illustrated; has contributions in English and German; c571 pp.


Useful detailed information, as in Schirmer 1947 above, on the major and not so major figures.

Philologie (‘English Language and Literature’), in Wilhelmine Prussian Germany; cf Baldick 1983.

The first paragraph of the Anhang goes:

§ 32. Offizielle Anforderungen. Im Jahre 1894 wurde in Preussen die Ordnung der Wissenschaftlichen Prüfung der Lehrerinnen veröffentlicht; seit 1896 sind genügend vorgebildete Frauen an den Preussischen Universitäten als Zuhörerinnen wenigstens nicht mehr grundsätzlich ausgeschlossen. Wir dürfen daher das Englische auch als Fach des Frauenstudiums betrachten. (p 88)

[§ 32. Official Requirements. The Regulations for the Scientific Examination for Female Teachers were published in Prussia in 1894; since 1896 there has been a sufficient number of women with [the requisite] prior training at the Prussian universities who have now no longer been excluded in principle as auditors. We may therefore view English as a women’s educational subject.]

The fourth edition is also of interest:

Viëtor, Wilhelm, Dr., Professor der englischen Philologie an der Universität Marburg. 1910.
Einführung in das Studium der Englischen Philologie als Fach des höheren Lehramts. Vierte umarbeitete Auflage.
Marburg in Hessen: N. G. Elwertsche Verlagsbuchhandlung.
How much progress had been made in the meantime may be judged by the following remark:

Dank der veränderten Stellung der Frauen zum Universitätsstudium habe ich auf den seitherigen Anhang („Das Englische als Fach des Frauenstudiums“) nunmehr verzichten können und dies um so lieber getan, als ich die Sondereinrichtungen auf diesem Gebiete aus eigner Erfahrung nicht kennen gelernt hatte [!]. (Vorwort zur vierten Auflage. p IX)

[Thanks to the altered position of women with respect to university study I have now been able to dispense with the previous Appendix (‘English as an Educational Subject for Women’), and have done this all the more willingly, as I had not learned about the special institutions in this area from personal experience.]

Well written and well documented. Records in sad detail the effects of the collapse of British-German relations as a consequence of WWI, a process that had started in 1870. The anti-German hysteria that gripped and swept over Britain during
this period, in which the academic community cooperated and conspired, is well
portrayed, and not less saddening for its recent remoteness. Good bibliographical
resource for this era and topic. See in this regard Sullivan 1990.

*German Influence on American Education and Culture.*
Philadelphia, Pa.: Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation, Inc. Reprinted Freeport, N.Y.:

Weineck, Kurt. 1938.
*Deutschland und der Deutsche im Spiegel der englischen erzählenden Literatur seit
1830.*

Winkelmann, Elisabeth. 1933.
*Coleridge und die Kantische Philosophie. Erste Einwirkungen des deutschen Idealismus
in England.* ['Coleridge and Kantian Philosophy. First Influences of German Idealism
in England.]
Leipzig: Mayer & Müller, G. m. b. H. Palaestra 184. Untersuchungen und Texte aus
der deutschen und englischen Philologie. Band 223.
A study of the history and effect of Coleridge’s stay in Germany, his contacts with
Kantian philosophy, his sources, and so forth (pp 1-47), followed by a detailed treatment
(pp 48-255) of his Auseinandersetzung with (‘critical stance vis-à-vis’) German
idealistic philosophy. Well written and well documented. The principal purpose of the
investigation is to try to establish the degree of indebtedness of Coleridge to German
philosophers; he always maintained that “all the elements ... of my present opinions
existed before I had ever seen a book of metaphysics later than Wolf and Leibniz
[Gottfried Wilhelm (1646-1716)] ...” (cited p 49 from: E. H. Coleridge [Ernest Hartley
(1846-1920), STC’s grandson], edited by. Letters of Samuel Taylor Coleridge.
STC’s nephew].) The other problem is that, according to general agreement, Coleridge
never brought his philosophical views together into a unified system, and never
published them in a coherent form (pp 50-52).

*Ludwig Tieck and England. A Study in the Literary Relations of Germany and England
During the Early Nineteenth Century.*
Princeton: Princeton University Press for the University of Cincinnati. London:
Humphrey Milford. Oxford University Press.
(Johann) Ludwig Tieck (1773-1853), “the acknowledged father of English studies in
Germany.” “... he was the first German to take Shakespeare’s contemporaries seriously
and to study Shakespeare not as an isolated phenomenon but against the background of
his times ...” (Chapter One. Tieck and English Literature. pp 1 & 35) On the other
hand George Edward Bateman Saintsbury (1845-1933) says that Johann Gottfried
Herder (1729-1781) was “undoubtedly the main agent in inoculating [sic] the Germans
with Shakespeare.” Saintsbury also mentions Georg Christopf Lichtenberg (1742-
1799), of whom he says: “... he is prophetically, as well as actually, notable in the
process of commenting and translating Shakespeare.” (Saintsbury 1904:359; 354)
A detailed study, giving full accounts of Tieck’s interest in English literature, his translations, especially of Shakespeare, his visit (in 1817) to and visitors from England, the reception of Tieck and Tieck’s works in England, their English translations, and so forth. He amassed a very considerable library. “Roughly speaking, between one-fourth and one-third of Tieck’s 30,000 volumes were written in, or concerned, England.” (Chapter Four, Tieck’s Library, p 132; see Appendix B for a representative list of its extensive range of English authors: at least 440, plus numerous anthologies and collections etc; over 30 different editions of Shakespeare, not counting individual plays, plus c47 commentaries and annotations; and so forth.) After selling this library at auction in December 1849, he then proceeded to compile a new one of over 11,000 volumes, which he sold to Hans David Ludwig, Graf Yorck (later York) von Wartenburg (1759-1830) in 1852; at the time of writing, this library was said to be preserved in Schloß Wartenburg, Klein-Oels (or Öls), Silesia, but subsequently dispersed. See Chapter Four for details. See also Boyd 1932 on Goethe. For an accessible biographical treatment of the life of Ludwig Tieck, see Paulin 1985.

*German Romanticism and its Institutions*.
APPENDIX

Henry Crabb Robinson (1775-1867) and his Engagement with the German Literature and Ideas of the 19th Century


Much more than a mere complement to Morley 1938 below, it reproduces much previously unpublished English and German correspondence and other important material in Robinson’s papers in Dr. Williams’s Library by and between Robinson and “seine deutschen Freunde”, in a critical biographical setting that assesses Robinson’s importance and significance. Thorough and comprehensive; contains 339 (Band I) and 546 (Band II) pp of text, plus 6 appendices and an index of names (Personenregister) at the end of Band II. The book, which is enlivened with well-reproduced portraits of some of the protagonists, is set in a small but relatively legible typeface, so that the amount of material is considerable. Both volumes have an appendix with an extensive list of letters received by Robinson from German correspondents from 1800-1867. Of special interest also is Anhang B of Band II., Robinsons Urteile [in English] über deutsche Literatur [’Robinson’s Judgements/Critiques of German Literature’] 1811-Jan. 1837 (pp 567-590).


Morley, Edith J [Edith Julia], edited by. 1929. Crabb Robinson in Germany 1800-1805. Extracts from his Correspondence. London [etc]: Oxford University Press. London: Humphrey Milford. Extracts from the correspondence between Robinson and his brother Thomas, with Appendices, including his expenses (£540) during his five years away.


Morley, Edith J [Edith Julia], edited by. 1938. Henry Crabb Robinson on Books and Their Writers. Three Volumes. Volume One: [Extracts from Crabb Robinson’s diary and remeniscences, 1775-1834]; Volume Two: [Extracts from Crabb Robinson’s diaries and reminiscences, 1835-1867]; Volume Three: [Contains seven Appendices of letters to and from Robinson; Index to mentions of writers and books in Crabb Robinson’s correspondence in Dr. Williams’s Library. This includes letters written to him by English authors. General Index].

(‘Dr Daniel Williams (1643?-1716), “non-conformist divine and benefactor” [DNB], whose collection of books formed the library at its foundation shortly after his death.’) While concentrating almost exclusively on England and English writers, the list of whose names includes every well-known major and numerous minor figures of the first half of the 19thC (see General Index), from John Horne Tooke on, there are many mentions and references to Robinson’s German friends, correspondents, and acquaintances, and the milieu in which he moved and worked is vividly evoked through his eye-witness accounts, anecdotes and reports.

Norman, Frederick. 1930-1931.  
Henry Crabb Robinson and Goethe. Part I (1930); Part II (1931).  

Not just on Robinson and Goethe (Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, 1749-1832), but covers the whole of Robinson’s German travels and his relations and correspondence with numerous other notable German literary figures, quoting copiously from original documents in English and German. The study opens with an historical survey of the reputation of things German before Germany, German literature, and German philosophy had begun to exert any influence. The following observation deserves to be cited in this regard: “Influence can only arise when a new message or a new hope instils life into worn-out literary creeds, and neither politics nor the Court ... could have effected a change [at the beginning of the 19thC], had not a change of outlook set in.” (Part I, p 2)

Diary, Reminiscences, and Correspondence of Henry Crabb Robinson, Barrister-at-Law, F.S.A.  
London: Macmillan and Co.  

Considered today an inadequate, amateurish job, but still a useful source.