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In Appreciation of Karl J. R. Arndt

Was man in der Jugend wünscht, hat man im Alter in der Fülle. Goethe, Dichtung und Wahrheit, Part 2

A brief laudation like this cannot possibly do full justice to so dedicated and productive a life as that of Karl Arndt. Better than any commentary, the long list of important publications bespeaks his life-long devotion to the scholarly pursuit of truth in the area of German-American cultural relations. Only the highlights of his career may therefore be traced here.

Born in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1903, Karl John Richard Arndt resided in China from 1913 to 1919, where his father was a Lutheran missionary for the Missouri Synod. After attending St. John's College in Winfield, Kansas, and Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Karl Arndt in 1928 obtained his M.A. degree at Washington University in St. Louis, where Otto Heller was directing a number of substantial studies on Charles Sealsfield. At the Johns Hopkins University, Karl Arndt continued his studies in Germanistics. Under William Kurrelmeyer, whose uncompromising standards were responsible for the discovery of the so-called *Doppeldrucke*, he received the rigorous philological training for which this institution was then famous. After receiving his doctorate in 1933 (following a dissertation on Ernst Wildenbruch), Karl Arndt taught Greek and German at Hartwick College in Oneonta, N.Y. It was here, at the headwaters of the Susquehanna and in the setting of Cooper's life and works, that Karl Arndt began his continuing discovery of the fascinating field of German-American affinities. His move to the Louisiana State University in 1935 brought him into the sphere of Count Leon's American activities and initiated decades of historical research into the utopian ventures of the Harmonists from Swabia.