



North American Heine Society

January 30, 2022

Dear Members,

The Germans have a saying that you can still offer wishes for the New Year provided none of the involved parties has had Sauerkraut since the start of the new year. Hoping very much that this is true for all of you, I would like to wish you all a happy, healthy, and great New Year! In the case anyone, indeed, might have had partaken of that food, I hope my wishes are still received well.

The first nine months of serving as president of NAHS have been a rewarding time. Working with you on the first few initiatives has been an inspiring experience showing me on how much support I am able to rely.

I am happy to inform you that the Memorial Tribute to Jeffrey L. Sammons was well attended. A recording of the event is accessible via a link on the homepage of the [NAHS website](#).

This online event was co-organized with the German Department at Yale. The speakers were Peter Demetz, Jocelyn Kolb, Frank Trommler, Meike Werner, Wynfrid Kriegleder, Joseph Kruse, Mary

Paddock, mark H. Gelber, Abigail Gillman, Jeffrey Grossman. The event was introduced by Kirk Wetters (Yale) and me.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kirk Wetters for his enthusiastic support and co-operation and all the speakers for their wonderful contributions. It was indeed a very moving event.

We doubtlessly will miss Jeff and his unassuming but clear-eyed vision. But it was a heart-warming experience to see how much Jeff's legacy continues to live on and affect the lives of so many of us, Heine devotees and others.

This year's NAHS sponsored panel "Heine and the Human Rights" – this too conducted via Zoom – brought a group of presenters together to discuss Heine and the Human Rights in a round table format with each speaker starting with a 10 minute "lightning" talk as the MLA calls it which allowed enough time for a genuine discussion between speakers and the audience. The presenters included Helge Dedek (Law, McGill), Claudia Nitschke (Durham, UK), Christoph auf der Horst (Düsseldorf), Sebastian Wogenstein and me.

As a result of a close co-operation with the Heinrich-Heine-Institut in Düsseldorf, we are planning an international conference in Düsseldorf that will bring speakers from North America and Germany together to deepen the discussion on Heine and Human Rights. Organized in co-ordination with the institute's annual *Forum Junge Heine-Forschung*, the conference will continue to examine the theme of Heine's contribution to, and critique, of the discussion around Human Rights in an interdisciplinary setting. The conference will take place in November 2022. Stay tuned for further details.

We need to start thinking about the NAHS sponsored panels at this year's German Studies Association and next year's MLA. Deadlines are approaching soon and the board is looking forward to vetting proposals. If you are interested in organizing a panel at the GSA or MLA please let me know within the next ten days!

Free Graduate Student Membership

Remember that the recruiting season never stops and that we continue to offer free membership to graduate students. I would like to encourage all members to direct students interested in becoming members to the Secretary/Treasurer for registration: wogenstein@uconn.edu

Dissertation Mentoring Program

Please direct any students writing their dissertation on Heine or a Heine-related subject and interested in mentoring support to me so we can match them with an experienced colleague for support and mentoring.

Jeffrey L. Sammons Heine Essay Prize

We are now in the process of establishing The Jeffrey L. Sammons Heine Essay Prize for papers published or accepted for publication by graduate students and emerging scholars (pre-tenure). We have raised enough funds to make this possible and any nominations and self-nominations for papers published in the years 2020-2022 should be directed to me and Sebastian Wogenstein along with a PDF of the paper.

Research opportunities at the Heinrich-Heine-Institut

Graduate students interested in doing research at the Heinrich-Heine-Institut in Düsseldorf might be eligible for financial support. Please contact me so I can put you in touch with the person in charge of this program at the institute.

NAHS Website

To keep our list of recent publications by members updated we ask you to please send information about any recent publication on Heine or related to Heine research to Sebastian Wogenstein.

Finally,

I would like to get not only your view and opinions but would also appreciate to hear from you if you are interested in taking a more active role in the Society. Please feel free to write to me with any ideas, suggestions, or concerns.

At last, those who have not paid their annual membership fees yet, please do so at your earliest convenience!

With best regards and wishes,
Willi Goetschel