

on consensus to the extent that dissent is at best inconvenient, and at worst inimical, to their understanding of the legitimate democratic process. This theme does not persist throughout the book, but the idea of democracy offered by Martin is certainly distinct from, and in some respects superior to, the deliberative model.

Although Martin does not go far in developing an understanding of dissentient democracy for the contemporary world, this book is a good beginning and well worth reading for anyone who wants to see more in democracy than simple majority rule.

Texas State University

MICHAEL J. FABER

Citizens in a Strange Land. A Study of German-American Broadsides and Their Meaning for Germans in North America, 1730–1830. By HERMANN WELLENREUTHER. (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2013. 384 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index, \$94.95.)

Herman Wellenreuther and his research team have produced an interesting new book on broadsides, defined as sheets “*printed on a single sheet on either one or both sides irrespective of its contents*” (3). Most were printed in Philadelphia and the larger towns of the southeastern counties of Pennsylvania, where many German immigrants in Pennsylvania settled.

In chapter 1, readers gain an interesting perspective into the printing business in Pennsylvania, where 215, or 75 percent, of the German printing presses in North America were located. Wellenreuther covers who the main printers were, how their work was carried on by apprentices, and in what sorts of printing they specialized. Chapter 2 delves into the demand side for broadsides and the probable circumstances of their use. A common use of broadsides was the advertisement of real estate—land, houses, and farm animals and implements—usually following the death of a farm owner. Notably, such broadsides would not only describe the property but would also list the neighbors by surname, suggesting that these were notices intended for a relatively internal market of German speakers. Love poems, house blessings, heavenly letters (*Himmelsbriefe*), ads for medicines, descriptions of medical treatments, religious stories and songs, religious events (especially baptisms), ballads or stories reflecting political and current events, advice for farmers, and reflections on the twilight of life were also consumed via broadside.

Chapter 3 helps readers understand several of the changes organized religious groups underwent in eighteenth-century Pennsylvania. Many groups were defining why their particular denomination was different; their parishioners were trying

to figure out their own place in the world as Christians. It is striking that one of the most frequently printed religious broadsides, “Wo ist Jesus mein Verlangen?” consisted of a hymn purchased by people across a variety of denominations and that a database search on the titles and first lines of hymns shows that the most popular broadsides emphasized personal religious edification. Finally, chapter 4 delves into the broadsides related to politics, including colonial matters in the earlier period, revolutionary matters later on, and constitutional disagreements in the late 1770s and through the 1780s. These documents provide a better understanding as to what German Pennsylvanians were thinking about the English world around them and their place within it.

Citizens in a Strange Land is a beautiful book to behold. The publisher has reproduced numerous examples of broadsides, including about sixteen in color. It is also a useful volume for researchers; endnotes are easy to use, and appendices include many statistical tables. Thanks in part to the work of Wellenreuther and his team, all the broadsides from this study are housed in a digital collection at Pennsylvania State University (www.libraries.psu.edu/psul/digital/GermanLanguageBroadsides.html).

This reviewer still has questions about the ability of German Pennsylvanians to read the broadsides, which are mostly printed in Gothic typeface and often in a very small font. Although economic and social historians have described literacy rates in eighteenth-century Pennsylvania as high relative to many parts of Europe at the time—over 60 percent in Lancaster County and higher in Philadelphia (see work by Farley Grubb in *Social Science History* Winter 1990)—historians have determined literacy by whether individuals could make a signature, a rather elementary standard. It is not clear that someone who could barely sign his or her name could also read a broadside. Still, this may make more of an argument that broadsides, as opposed to books, were more suitable to the abilities and interests of many German Pennsylvanians in the eighteenth century. It is also possible that the best readers read aloud to family members.

In sum, this work is an important addition to the study of eighteenth-century German American life and society. By examining the market for broadsides, contextualizing their content, and calculating which were the most widely sold, Wellenreuther opens up the world of eighteenth-century German Americans to us by showing what they were concerned with in their daily lives and what they wanted to read and think about. It is also most helpful and generous to future scholars that the broadsides are now housed in a digital collection. Thank you, Professor Wellenreuther and team!

*College of Staten Island and
The Graduate Center, CUNY*

SIMONE A. WEGGE