The Future of German Studies in Our Hemisphere

Stand der Auslandsgermanistik: Ein Blick auf Kanada, Lateinamerika und die USA

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Although the history, development, state, and longer view of our profession in the United States has been well documented and discussed in such compendia as The Future of Germanistik in the USA: Changing our Prospects (1996) and German Studies in the United States: A Historical Handbook (2003), there is in fact very little that we know about what is going on in German Studies in Latin America and Canada! Thus was born the idea for a session on the “Stand der Auslandsgermanistik” in the western hemisphere at the 2007 ACTFL/AATG convention in San Antonio. The three colleagues who presented—Anette Guse (Canada), Karolin Moser (Latin America / Argentina) and Lynne Tatlock (USA)—have been particularly active regarding the concerns of the profession in their part of the hemisphere and in connection with the corresponding national or transnational organizations: the Canadian Association of Teachers of German (CATG), the Asociación Latinoamericana de Estudios Germanísticos (ALEG), and the AATG. John McCarthy, also a longtime activist in the profession, functioned as commentator.

Since the session could only reach a limited audience, it was decided to rework the papers into a publication for broader consumption. In what follows, each of the representatives has addressed the trends, challenges, and prospects of German Studies in their country or region, while John McCarthy has provided some insights on how we might strengthen our ties and promote cooperation. Aside from simply providing interesting perspectives on the state of German Studies in Canada and Latin America, and by comparison with the US, the hope is, of course, that this publication will stimulate more discussion that might lead to turning the suggestions for closer cooperation into reality, thus benefiting us all as we continue passionately enjoying what we do, yet also struggling to make that enjoyment possible.

Works Cited