

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

**ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS REINHOLD GRIMM**

Reinhold Grimm, professor emeritus of the Department of German, died on March 5, 2009, in Riverside, California, from complications following a stroke. His work in Madison over nearly a quarter of a century contributed greatly to the prominence of his department and to the University of Wisconsin as a whole.

Born on May 5, 1931, in Nuremberg (Germany), Grimm studied German literature at the University of Erlangen and spent a year as a Fulbright scholar at the University of Colorado at Boulder. At the age of twenty-five, he earned his PhD *summa cum laude* from the University of Erlangen with a dissertation on Gottfried Benn. After teaching for a decade at the universities of Erlangen and Frankfurt, he emigrated to the United States, first as a visiting professor at Columbia University, and, beginning in 1967, as the Alexander R. Hohlfeld Professor of German at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In 1980 he was awarded a prestigious Vilas research professorship in German and comparative literature. Grimm received various prizes and awards, including a Guggenheim fellowship (1969–70), an honorary doctorate from Georgetown University (1988), and the Hildale Award of the University of Wisconsin (1988). He was a member of the International P.E.N. Club; he served as the national president of the American Association of Teachers of German (1974–75); and he was chosen the founding president of the International Brecht Society (1980). In 1990 he accepted a distinguished professorship at the University of California, Riverside, where he taught until his retirement in 2003. He was a visiting professor at Columbia University, New York University, and the University of Virginia, and he traveled on lecture tours worldwide (to Turkey, Nigeria, South Africa, and Australia, and throughout Europe).

Grimm's fields of research, teaching, publishing, and editing were German and comparative literature from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries and literary translations in German and English. He published fifteen monographs, edited ten volumes, co-edited thirty-five more, and published over 200 articles and essays. His books and articles were translated into many languages, and his essays appeared in prominent journals and newspapers. His regular contributions to Marcel Reich-Ranicki's "Frankfurter Anthologie," a series of interpretations of modern poetry in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, were widely known. His talent for languages and his love of poetry made him a leading translator and interpreter of modern poetry, and he published extensively on Gottfried Benn, Hans Magnus Enzensberger, Günter Kunert, Felix Pollak, and others.

Reinhold Grimm made his name as one of the early Brecht scholars in West Germany, with books such as *Bertolt Brecht: Die Struktur seines Werkes* (1959, 6th edition, 1971, Spanish edition 2008), *Bertolt Brecht und die Weltliteratur* (1961), and *Bertolt Brecht* (Metzler 1961, 3rd edition 1971). He published monographs on authors such as Benn (1958 and 1962), Büchner (1985), Nietzsche (1979), Rilke (1981), Enzensberger (1984), and Felix Pollak (2002). His interests included genre theory, and he edited handbooks on *Episches Theater* (1966, 3rd edition 1972), *Zur Lyrik-Diskussion* (1966 and 1974), *Deutsche Romantheorie* (1968 and 1974), and *Deutsche Dramentheorie* (1972 and 1980). He contributed substantially to the theory discussions of the 1970s with *Methodenfragen der deutschen Literaturwissenschaft*, which he co-edited with Jost Hermand (1973). Indeed, there is hardly a topic in modern literature on which he did not publish.

Together with Jost Hermand, Grimm established the Wisconsin Workshop in 1969 (now in its 42nd year!), and they published 25 volumes of its proceedings on topics such as *Die Klassik-Legende* (1971), *Exil und innere Emigration* (1972), *Popularität und Trivialität* (1974), *Realismustheorien* (1975), *Blacks in German Culture* (1986), *Our Faust* (1987), and many more, which were influential in changing the course of German studies in the United States. Between 1970 and 1980, they also published the *Brecht-Jahrbuch* and *Basis*, a yearbook for contemporary German literature. We called them Castor und Pollux, and because of their ideas and productivity, the German department was ranked as number one in the country in 1985. Madison was a must for visitors from abroad, writers as well as scholars, and among others Hans Magnus Enzensberger, Martin Walser, Uwe Johnson, Heiner Müller, and Volker Braun came. From 1979 to 1990, Grimm also served as editor of the Department of German's journal *Monatshefte*, adding to its attractiveness by including a new section on recent German poetry.

Grimm was an energetic and generous colleague, a superb teacher, and a compassionate and supportive friend. He will be missed by his former colleagues, students, and friends. He is survived by his wife, Anneliese Grimm, his daughter and son-in-law, Sabine and Gary Goldberg, and two grandsons, Daniel and Matthew Goldberg, all of Riverside.

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