

## German Literature in Bessarabia 09—Albert Heer

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To have a better understanding of the following translation, it would serve you well if you were able to view German Literature in Bessarabia 01—Introduction.

[Note: This is to acknowledge the help provided by Elvire Eberhardt with the translation of the Schwäbisch words I was not familiar with. Comments in square brackets in the document are those of the translator.]

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[Translation Begins]

**Albert Heer. [Bb]**

What Uncle Bräsig (Karl Kräenbring) means for the *Plattdeutsche* [dialect], called *Kaschübische* by us, is what Karl Knauer the Baurabug is for the *Schwäbische* [dialect]—A. Heer. A good judge not only of the Swabian language, but also of the Swabian way. Born in Sarata in 1902, he attended, like most talented people in Sarata, the Werner School, which he left after finishing the 4th class in 1920, to then start a wandering life, as all our German teachers and writers did. First, he worked in the Steinke factory in Sarata, then he became a secretary/clerk (*Schreiber*) in the grain sector (*Getreideobor*), later a weaver. Besides this, he always helped his father in the business. Finally, he became a secretary/clerk in Gnadenfeld. Today, he works as secretary/clerk in Neu-Arzig, where he has a lot to contend with because of his good German commitment (*Einstellung*).

**a) Ans Modemädale.**

*Mädale, du Weißmehlg'sichtle*  
*Mit deem g'machta Wärzle,*

**a) To the Fashionable Girl**

Girl, you flour-white face  
With your self-made wart

*Sag amol, hasch gar am End  
Au so a g'schpräg'lt's Herzle?*

*No, no kann's mr g'stohla bleiba,  
No kannsch's andre schenka,  
Od'r au am Bändale  
Auf d Katzabälka henga!*

*Wann's au so v'rschmiert und fett isch,  
Wia doi bäbbich's Göschla,  
Od'r überall=na rumhupft,  
Wia a Wett'rfröschle,*

*And'rscht wär's, wenn's saub'r isch,  
Nex weit'r wie natürlich,  
Ohne Pulver, Salb und Scher  
Ganz oifach und manierlich.*

*No könnt's gwieß d'r neua Zeit  
Und älle Buaba g'falla  
Und wär au 'm Modeschend'r  
Meistens aus de Kralla!*

**b) D'r Ga'sg'r.**

*Nex isch ärg'r oder stärk'r  
Od'r mehner zu beführrchta  
Wie d'r Ga'sg'r, wenn'r Witwer  
Junger Vatter oder Ritter  
Um und bei de Gäns'na ischt  
Und nach älle Seit'na zischt.*

*Arg und schwer, kriegt se der,  
Wo nau so äls en Gedanka,  
Oder wenn'rs weiß  
Ihm endlich gar mit Fleiß,  
Z' nah an d'r Familie streift  
Oder sonscht sich wie vergreift.*

*Jetzt kommt d Kuah en äller Ruah  
Aus 'm Stall zum Bronna nom.  
Schwupp, — do hänt'r wia an Fäch'r*

Do tell, do you even have perhaps at the end  
Also such a colorful heart?

Now, now, it can remain stolen to me,  
Now you can grant to others  
Or also hang it on the small ribbon  
Hang on the cat beam!

If it also is so smeared and greasy  
Like your baby mouth  
Or jumping around all over the place,  
Like a weather frog

It would be different, if it is clean,  
Nothing more than natural.  
Without powder, ointment and scissor  
Totally simple and gracious.

Then you certainly would appeal to the new time  
And to all young men  
And would also to the one disgracing fashion  
Usually out of his claws!

**b) The Gander**

Nothing is bigger or stronger  
Or more to be feared  
Than the gander when he is a widower  
A young father or a knight  
Being around and with the geese  
And hisses towards all sides.

Intense and heavy, he gets it,  
who like in thought  
Or if he knows it  
Eventually on purpose  
Gets too close to the family  
Or else approaches in a wrong way.

Now comes the cow in all calmness  
Heading out of the barn toward the well.  
Whamm, — in the back like a fan

*Dean'er en de Naselöcher,  
Schlagt und staubt und blost sich groß,  
Klemmt und zwickt und laßt net los.*

*Do schlägt's Tier mit alle vier  
Überzwerch und um sich rum,  
Stellt d'r Schwanz äls kerzagräd,  
Weiß vor Angsch sich koi meh Rat,  
Kommt koi meh Schrittle weiter,  
Fallt auf d'r Bauch und 's Euter.*

*Im größte Schreck vom Kuhstall weg  
Mit Schumpfa und verheulte Auga  
Sprengt 's Marile so arg se ka  
Mit Lärma zu d'r Haustür na,  
Schreit: "Muat'r, Muat'r, jerumlee  
D'r Gasg'r macht uns d' Milchkuah hee!"*

Then on the nostrils,  
Strikes and raises dust and enlarges his body,  
Holds fast and nips and does not let go.

The animal kicks with all four  
Across and all around it,  
Tail set straight out as a candle,  
Pale with fear without any advice,  
Does not come one step further,  
Falls on its belly and utter.

Terribly afraid away from the cow barn  
With (???) and cried out eyes  
Little Marie runs as fast as she can  
With yells toward the house door,  
Screaming: "Mother, Mother, O my goodness  
The gander is killing our milk cow!"

[Translation Ends]