

## UPCOMING EVENT

### ***QUEDLINBURG - From 1989 to 2012*** by Prof. Meredith McClain

Sunday, March 11 at 4:00 p.m.

Home of Arend and Joke Koch

4218 Brookview Drive, Dallas. 214.350.2865

*Very few people in the United States would have recognized the word Quedlinburg two years ago. Yet suddenly, it appeared in articles and editorials nationwide, sparking an intense debate about the ownership of works of art, about war “booty,” and about cultural patrimony. Lost in the righteousness and fury of the debate was the town itself. Its 10th century church was known to a few specialists of Ottonian architecture, and its beautifully preserved medieval streets were unfamiliar to our many aficionados of picturesque German towns. Its location, on the “wrong” side of the border insured its contemporary obscurity, and, while the investigative reporting and news releases raged, the town and its church had little more meaning for us than a dot on a map in The New York Times.*

— Opening statement by Richard R. Brettell, Director,  
Dallas Museum of Art, in his Introduction to  
“The Quedlinburg Treasury,” published 1991.

Very few people in the United States today—in 2012—know about the totally unique position which the UNESCO World Heritage Cultural Site Quedlinburg, Germany, occupies. This town of 20,000 inhabitants is one of the very few towns on our planet remaining intact since it’s development began in the 10th century. It never burned during the middle ages, as did so many half-timbered towns like London. It survived the 30-years war (1618-1648) and, in contrast to the surrounding towns, like its magnificent neighbors Magdeburg and Halberstadt, it was never bombed in WW II. Quedlinburg, on the Northern edge of the Harz mountains, is a living, breathing example of urban development, sometimes revealing half-timbered houses representing in one, chronological row the architectural developments of six centuries, and always teaching us lessons of alternative living styles.

The largest group of Americans who do recognize the name of Quedlinburg are many residents of Dallas, Texas, and the entire population of the small Northeast Texas town of Whitewright, where priceless Quedlinburg treasures, stolen by a Texas soldier, were hidden for decades in the family vault, After the discovery in Whitewright, the treasures were moved to the Dallas Museum of Art for safe-keeping during the 6 months of litigation between

America and Germany concerning the return of the “booty” to its original place of adoration since the early 10th century. The famous “Dallas” TV series, which so captivated German audiences that streets in West Berlin were noticeably empty when the show was running, had delivered a stereotype to Europe, but the return of the Quedlinburg Treasures from Dallas endeared Texas to many Germans at a personal, lasting and meaningful level.




The next group of Americans who know and love Quedlinburg through their personal experience of the place and its people for 15 weeks of academic work at the Texas Tech University Center in Quedlinburg are about 175 students and 10 faculty who have come and gone during the past six and one half years. The success of this experiment to allow students from the Llano Estacado in Northwest Texas to immerse themselves in a living situation so vastly different from anything they have ever known and in a language they had not yet studied is the topic of Dr. McClain’s lecture

She will deliver a letter to Dr. Tillmann Hein and one to the DGC membership from Oberbürgermeister Dr. Brecht, inviting participation, once again in the future of Quedlinburg, as the legacy of the Texas Tech’s successful infusion of young Americans into the medieval streets and into German homes moves to a higher level of international campus. This comes at a crucial time for us all, as German programs across America falter and are closed or redesigned.

She brings you glad tidings of a golden opportunity to join together to cement German-Texan relations at a dynamic level in a town destined to surpass Salzburg, Austria, as a destination for international students.

### ***German Language School***

The Dallas Goethe Center German Language School was highlighted in a lovely article in the Dallas Morning News’ “Neighborsgo”, weekly community newspaper on February 15. To access the article online and see photos from the school, click here: [neighborsgo.com/stories/79992](http://neighborsgo.com/stories/79992)

**DALLAS  
GOETHE  
CENTER**  **MARCH 2012**  
**NEWSLETTER**

*The Dallas Goethe Center, Inc., is a cultural and educational organization founded in 1965 to foster an appreciation of German art, drama, music, language, literature, history, and current affairs, and to cultivate mutual understanding between the people of German-speaking countries and those of the United States of America.*

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