In his journalistic work and novels, both English and German, Charles Sealsfield (1793-1864) opened up the American scene for the German public, displaying not only first-hand knowledge of the American frontier but a command of character and a grasp of social and political forces.

Professor Sammons is an internationally renowned scholar of German literature and the recipient of numerous international distinctions. Among his more than a dozen book publications are: The Shifting Fortunes of Wilhelm Raabe (1992), Imagination and History (1988), Wilhelm Raabe: The Fiction of the Alternative Community (1987), Heinrich Heine: A Modern Biography (1979), Literary Sociology and Practical Criticism (1977), and Heinrich Heine: The Elusive Poet (1969). One of Professor Sammons’ many strengths is his ability to make accessible to non-specialists and non-readers of German the complexities and intricacies of nineteenth-century German culture.