The appeal of the American West is universal, but many Americans might be surprised to learn that the most successful practitioner of the literary genre was not born in the United States. One of the best-selling authors of all time, German novelist Karl May (1842-1912) sold more than 200 million books during the course of his career, eclipsing even such well-known American novelists as Zane Grey.

On Wednesday, October 27, the Transatlantic History Student Organization and the Center for Greater Southwestern Studies will host a screening of “Karl May and the West,” at 2:30 p.m. in the Central Library Parlor, sixth floor. Transatlantic Ph.D. student Pawel Goral will provide a brief introduction to Karl May’s life and works. Texas Tech University professor Meredith McClain, who served as a consultant for the film, will answer questions following the screening.

May described a world of Indians and cowboys that he had never seen; indeed, he did not set foot in the U.S. until 1908 (when he was 66), and he traveled only as far west as Niagara Falls. Heavily influenced by the *Leatherstocking Tales* of James Fenimore Cooper, which were translated into German in the 1850s, May tried his hand at writing stories about Native Americans when still in his teens. Adopting the Romantic ideal of the "noble savage," May usually portrayed Native Americans as innocent victims of white exploitation, and eschewed the gunplay so ubiquitous in the so-called dime novels popular in the United States during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. His most successful Western novel was *Winnetou, der rote Gentleman* (Winnetou, the Red Gentleman), which appeared in 1893. In the 1960s, the Winnetou novels were adapted for the screen in West Germany and East Germany, where they became a hugely successful franchise. The films preceded the so-called “spaghetti westerns” of the mid-1960s, popularized by Italian film director Sergio Leone.

**Date:** Wednesday, October 27th  
**Time:** 2:30-4:30 pm  
**Location:** Central Library 6th Floor Parlor

**Light refreshments will be served**

For More Information Contact: The Center for Greater Southwestern Studies  
817-272-3997