



GOETHE NEWS AND NOTES

XXI.2 Fall 2000

Editor, Clark S. Muenzer
University of Pittsburgh

FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND EDITOR

As most of you know, Ben Bennett will conclude his term as our president at this year's MLA meeting in December. I want to thank Ben for his years of "official" service to the organization. We have all benefited from his intelligence, irrepressible wit, and managerial acumen over the years and look forward to his continuing presence at our gatherings.

I urge eligible members to return their election ballots. Details appear below.

The results of the election will be announced at the December meeting.

Clark S. Muenzer
University of Pittsburgh

GSNA ELECTIONS

Please remember to participate in the Society's election this year by returning your ballot **before December 23** to:

Clark Muenzer
617 S. Linden Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15208

Ballots have been sent in a separate mailing to all members whose dues are paid.

Hans Vaget (Smith College), our current vice-president, will accede to the presidency in January, 2001.

The slate of candidates for our next vice-president (who will succeed Hans to the presidency after his three-year term) follows with brief biographies and statements.

Also on your ballot will be a slate of two candidates for Director-at-Large.

Vice-President

Judith Ryan is the Robert K. and Dale J. Weary Professor of German and Comparative Literature at Harvard University. She is the author of numerous articles and several books on twentieth-century literature, most recently "Rilke, Modernism and Poetic Tradition" (1999). She also has a special interest in Goethe, especially intertextual relations between Goethe and later writers. Her essays on Goethe have mainly appeared in *the Goethe Yearbook*. She is the translator of *Die Wahlverwandtschaften* for the English-language edition of Goethe's Collected Works (Suhrkamp, 1988), now reprinted by Princeton University Press.

"Thanks to the stewardship of past and present presidents, the Goethe Society of North America has established itself firmly in the academic community and consistently published a high-quality yearbook since its inception. Now is a good time to win even more new converts to the cause, and someone who once gave a lecture facetiously titled "I Hate Goethe" may be just the person to do it. Goethe should be less a hallowed name among Germanists than an author read even be-

yond the academy, and I would like to see us work to achieve this goal."

Thomas Saine studied at Yale both as an undergraduate and as a graduate student, receiving his Ph.D. in 1968 with a dissertation on Karl Philipp Moritz. After teaching at Yale for seven years, he moved to the University of California, Irvine in 1975, where he has been ever since. He has published monographs on Moritz and on Georg Forster and co-edited, with Jeffrey Sammons, the three volumes of autobiographical writings in the Suhrkamp edition of Goethe's Collected Works in English (now republished by Princeton). He has also published studies on German intellectual history and the problem of coming to grips with modernity, and on the reactions of German intellectuals to the French Revolution; and, finally, he has been the editor of the *Goethe Yearbook* since the founding of the GSNA (now to be relieved by Simon Richter).

"It is the task of the Vice-President (President) not only to lead the GSNA during his or her term of office, but also to represent Goethe, the *Goethezeit* and the GSNA in the wider world of scholarship and society. It is my special interest to nurture a diversity of perspectives and to attract more younger people, who are full of innovative ideas, to the cause and give them a voice."

Director-at-Large

Ellis Dye (Macalester College)

Bob Tobin (Whitman College)

GOETHE YEARBOOK

Goethe Yearbook X is currently in press. Volume XI is rapidly filling up and may well be published within a year of Volume X's appearance. I will attempt to issue the *Goethe Yearbook* annually, but

this will, of course, depend on a steady flow of submissions.

Ellis Dye has resigned as book review editor, and we would like to thank him for his faithful service to the Yearbook. *Goethe Yearbook X* features many reviews of significant Goethe-Year publications, including the second volume of Boyle's Goethe-biography. A new book review editor will soon be appointed.

Tom Saine continues as co-editor for one more year as *Goethe Yearbook XI* is prepared. I'm grateful to Tom for all of his mentoring and editorial wisdom.

Simon Richter, Editor

CALL FOR PAPERS

German Studies Association

Arlington, VA
October 4-7, 2001

GOETHE EFFECTS

The GSNA seeks abstracts and papers on the topic for next year's GSA-conference. Possible panes include:

Phenomena, Phantasms, Phantoms

Cult, Culture, the Occult

Inscriptions, incorporations, imagination

Abstracts should be submitted by **January 15, 2001**, to:

Volker Kaiser

Dept. of Germanic Lang. and Lit.

Cocke Hall 108

University of Virginia

Charlottesville VA 22903

**North American Society for the
Study of Romanticism**

University of Washington, Seattle
August 16-19, 2001

ROMANTIC SUBJECTS

The ninth annual meeting of the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism will take place on the University of Washington campus in Seattle, Aug. 16-19, 2001. We invite submissions of papers to be presented at the conference. The deadline for submissions is January 15, 2001. Submissions should be either 500-word proposals or papers not longer than 2500 words. To facilitate handling, we would appreciate electronic rather than mail submissions.

The conference topic is "Romantic Subjects." This topic is intended to encourage a non-exclusive focus on three areas: subjectivity, ideas and ideologies, and subject positions. A list of special sessions appears below; full descriptions and e-mail addresses can be found at the NASSR 2001 Web site: <http://depts.washington.edu/nassr01/>. Proposals for these sessions should be sent directly to the session organizer. All other proposals for conference papers should be sent directly to the conference organizers at:

nassr01@u.washington.edu

If you submit to more than one session, please inform both session leaders. Do not submit simultaneously to the special sessions and to the Seattle organizing committee; session organizers have an earlier decision date and have been asked to forward to us any proposals they cannot use.

Conference Organizers

Marshall Brown, Department of English
(mbrown@u.washington.edu)

Gary Handwerk, Dept. of Comparative Lit.
(handwerk@u.washington.edu)

Jane Brown, Department of Germanics
(jkbrown@u.washington.edu)

Richard Will, School of Music
(rjwill@u.washington.edu)

Special Session Topics

"Romanticism and the Culture of Business": Rob Anderson, Oakland University, Rochester, MI

"Operatic Subjects": Michael Eberle-Sinatra, Victoria University, Toronto

"Theatrical Subjects in the Romantic Period": Colin Harris and Jonathan Mulrooney, Boston University; Adriana Cracium, University of Nottingham

"Rethinking Failure": Mary Robinson and the Subject of Politics: Christine Cooper, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA

"Romantic Disease": Don Creighton, University of California, SF

"Romantic Anatomy": Peter Kitson, University of Dundee

"Other Selves/Selves as Other": Stuart Curran, University of Pennsylvania

"Zionism and British Romanticism": Sheila Spector, Marietta, GA

"Monstrous Subjects": Denise Gigante, Stanford University

"Gothic Subjectivities": Diane Long Hoveler, Marquette University

"Copyright and Readers' Rights in the Romantic Century, 1750-1850": Bonnie Gunzenhauser, Millikin University, Decatur, IL

"Portraiture and the Romantic Subject": Elizabeth Fay, University of Massachusetts, Boston; Christopher Rovee, Princeton University

"The Subject of Education": Gary Handwerk, University of Washington, Seattle

"Music and Literature": Cyrus Hamlin, Yale University

"Libidinal Subjects": Richard Sha, American University, Washington, DC

"Subjectivities Against Themselves": Karen Weisman, University of Toronto

"Romanticism and Buddhism": Mark Lussier, Arizona State University

"Community Subjects": Jan Plug, University of Wisconsin, Madison

"Romanticism's Most Wanted: Criminals, Forgers, Fakes, Frauds, Imposters, and Embezzlers": Debbie Lee, Washington State University, Pullman

"Subjects, Citizens, Exiles, Icons: Experiences of National Identity in Romantic-Period Travel": Jeanne Moskal, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

"British Emigration and America: 1770-1820": Tilar Mazzeo, Oregon State University, Corvallis

East Central ASECS

Cape May, NJ
October 18-21, 2001

CONSUMING PASSIONS OF THE EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY

Proposals for panels (by **March 1**) or individual papers (by **May 1**) should be e-mailed to Geoffrey Sill and Lisa Rosner at:

ecasecs@camden.rutgers.edu

Please contact for further details regarding the topic.

GSNA WWW PAGE

The Society will soon be in the process of re-designing its WWW page. We would welcome input from members on what they would like to see included (or not) on the redesigned page.

GSNA ESSAY PRIZE

The first recipient of the new essay prize will be announced at the annual business meeting in December.

GOETHE ON CD-ROM

Electronic Goethe is a Folio Views based program which contains the writings of Goethe in the Hamburg Edition. The user can either go to the Table of Contents to find any of the texts or use the search function to locate words, parts of words, and exact phrases. Using boolean arguments, it is possible to construct a complex search; *e.g.* all occurrences of *Vater* AND *Mutter* within the same field. Among the features available are: immediate access to any text; advanced search functions; limited domain searches; the possibility to export text to the printer or a file; bookmarks, a highlighter, and a notepad. For ordering (\$29.95 plus S&H) go to:

<http://humanities.byu.edu/GermSlav/Germweb/Folders/faculty/FacList.htm>

MINUTES OF 1999 BUSINESS MEETING

Chicago, 27 December 1999

Minutes of the Business Meeting of the
Goethe Society of North America

The annual business meeting was called to order by President Benjamin Bennett.

on December 27, 1999 at 5:15 p.m. at the MLA convention in Chicago.

The minutes of the previous years business meeting were read and approved.

President Bennett reported that no applications have been received for the Flaherty Prize, which funds research and conference travel for graduate students. Details of the award will be printed in the Newsletter.

President Bennett announced that the Executive Committee has voted to offer a prize of \$250 for the best essay on Goethe appearing in 1999. Nominations and self-nominations should be sent to Clark Muenzer by October 1, 2000. The competition is open only to members of the Goethe Society of N. America.

President Bennett presented Jefferson cups to Tom Saine and Meredith Lee in gratitude for their long service to the Goethe Society.

Martha Helfer presented the Treasurer's report. The Society's finances are stable.

Tom Saine presented the Yearbook Editor's report. Simon Richter has been appointed Yearbook Editor. He and Tom Saine are working together on Volume 10, which is due to go to the publisher in April. New submissions to the Yearbook should be sent to Simon Richter.

Clark Muenzer presented the Executive Secretary's report. The Newsletter will be published in November and June. The Society is soliciting proposals for designing a Web page; a \$500 stipend is available. Details will be published in the Newsletter. The Goethe Society session at ASECS 2000 in Philadelphia will be organized by Catriona MacLeod. Irmgard Wagner will organize the Goethe Society session for MLA 2000. Those interested in organizing upcoming Goethe Society sessions at GSA, ASECS, and MLA should contact Clark Muenzer. The nominating committee for Society elections will be headed by Jane Brown.

Jane Brown presented a paper entitled "When is Conservative Modern? Reflections on the 250th Birthday."

Martha Helfer, Secretary-Treasurer
University of Utah

RECENT GSNA EVENTS

**German Studies Association
Annual Meeting
Houston, Texas**

October 5-8, 2000

Goethe and the Ego

What is "the self"? Do I own my self or am I my self? How did I acquire this self? Does it possess me? Is it actually good to have a self, or should I try to flee its limitations? Finally, is the notion of selfhood altogether misleading, a phantom that haunts an age once it invents the nominalized version of "das Ich" around 1770?

These are some of the questions that were posed when panelists addressed one of the most peculiar cultural phenomena of Goethe's lifetime, namely the rise of the "Ich." Whereas the Enlightenment notion of the subject relied on some counterpart, some object, this new "Ich" existed merely in its own claim of existence. At the end of the 18th century, the concept of the self emerged everywhere in German thought, science, and fiction. Starting with pietist confessional narratives and pedagogical treatises, many disciplines and discourses (re)centered themselves around a notion of "das Ich": Fichte's and Hegel's philosophy; Herder's and later the Grimm brothers' idea of *Volk* as an individual; Blumenbach's biology; Fichte's and Adam Müller's politics with the state as self; K. Ph. Moritz' shaping of the new discipline of psychology; and, of course, the literature of autobiography and the new modes of love and friendship.

While it has been a common place for scholarship to discuss the "subjectivity" of the young Goethe, Goethe's own reflection on modes of subjectivity and selfhood have been discussed less often. And when they have been discussed, the assumption has usually been that Goethe is part of a larger trend in German thought that was better represented by Lenz, Kant, Schiller, or Hölderlin. However, at the annual meeting of the German Studies Association in Houston eleven participants and three respondents offered alternative readings to the so called "subjectivity" of Goethe. Goethe, many argued, not only remained skeptical about the self, but also critically challenged the concept's validity. Accordingly, some of Goethe's later texts were discussed to analyze the strange forms of behavior that human beings take not because they have an ego or self, but because they think they have to demonstrate that they have an ego or self. Even those papers that examined Goethe's earlier works cast doubt on his unreflected use of notions of selfhood.

Fritz Breihaupt (Indiana University)

"Other Relations: The Pre-History of the I in Rousseau and Moritz" (Anthony Krupp, Johns Hopkins Univ.)

"Pressing Matters: Moritz's Models of the Self in *Das Magazin zur Erfahrung-sseelenkunde*" Elliott Schreiber, Indiana Univ.)

"Goethe's Ego and the Subject of Poetry" (Volker Kaiser, Univ. of Virginia)

"'Der Helden Söhne werden Taugen-ichtse': Goethe's Children and the Fear of Fatherhood" (Karin Schutjer, Univ. of Oklahoma)

"Weisligen: Goethe's Politics of the Ego" (Horst Lange, Univ. of Nevada, Reno)

"The Wounded Subject in Goethe's Classical Dramas" (Clark Muenzer, Univ. of Pittsburgh)

"*Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre*: Recreating the Subject and the Novel" (Ingrid Rieger, Oakland University)

"'Lebenskunst': Das sich selbst schreibende Ich in Novalis' Gespräch mit Goethe" (Marion Schmaus, Universität Tübingen)

"Self-Positing Selves: Autonomy and Artistic Creativity in Goethe and Moritz" (Edgar Landgraf, Bowling Green Univ.)

"Die Kindesmörderin und 'Das Göttliche': Des grossen Ego geheime Offenbarung in Form des Allgemeinmenschlichen" (Wolfgang Wittkowski, Syracuse Univ.)

"Goethe and the Ongoing Quest for the Self: Stage III (1786-1806)" (Deirdre Vincent, Univ. of Toronto)

UPCOMING GSNA EVENTS

2000 MLA CONVENTION IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Annual Meeting of the GSNA

Thursday, 28 December (3:30-4:45 p.m.)
Washington Hilton (Georgetown East)

Presiding
Benjamin Bennett, Univ. of Virginia

Guest Speaker
Fritz Breithaupt, Univ. of Indiana

"Goethe and the Ego"

Special GSNA Session

Saturday, December 30 (12-1:15 p.m.)
Washington Hilton (Conservatory)

Weltliteratur: Goethe's Cross-Cultural Projects

Moderator

Irmgard Wagner, George Mason Univ.

"The Paradox of the Translator:
Goethe and Diderot" (Susan Bernofsky, Bard College)

"Goethe's Multi-cultural Masquerades" (Tod Kontje, Univ. of California, San Diego)

"Cultural Appropriation and its Discontents" (Gregory Maertz, St. John's Univ., N.Y.)

ASECS NEW ORLEANS

GSNA Sponsored Panel

April 18-22, 2001

Goethe and the Writing of Literary History

Panel Chair

Claudia Brodsky Lacour
Princeton University

"The Non-Writing of Literary History. Friedrich Heinrich Jacobi's Elimination." (Monika Nemon, The University of Memphis)

"The Currency of the Color Theory" (Andrea Ryan, Princeton University)

"Literary and Natural History in Goethe's Autobiographical and Scientific Writings" (Bernhard Kuhn, Union College)

NECROLOGY

A Tribute to Stuart Atkins (1914-2000)

"Jedes Pathos läuft Gefahr, daß
man lacht" (Stuart Atkins)

With great sadness and a profound sense of loss we report the passing of Stuart Atkins, former president of the MLA (1972) and pre-eminent American Goethe scholar for over fifty years. Born in Baltimore, he received his BA (1935) and his Ph.D. from Yale University (1938), taught at Dartmouth until he moved to Harvard (1941). After serving in the Army Air Force for three years, he returned to Harvard to teach and chair the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures (1952-57; 1960-65). He moved to UC Santa Barbara in 1965, where he taught until his retirement in 1984.

Generations of graduate students and colleagues learned to see Goethe through Stuart Atkin's eyes, in class and through his books, which include the still unsurpassed *The Testament of Werther in Poetry and Drama* (1949), a goldmine for comparatists; *The Age of Goethe* (1969), an anthology that has served teachers and students well over three decades; *Goethe's Faust: A Literary Analysis* (1958), the first important unitary reading of the entire play; his translation of *Faust I and II* (1984) in contemporary English that reproduces the formal and rhythmic variety of the original; and *Essays on Goethe* (1995). In addition he published an excellent two-volume edition of Heine's works with commentary (1973-87). For his outstanding scholarship in Goethe studies Stuart was awarded two Guggenheim fellowships, the Gold Medal of the Goethe-Institut (1968), the Friedrich Gundolf-Preis of the Deutsche Akademie für Sprache und Dichtung (1984), the Gold Medal of the Goethe-Gesellschaft in Weimar (1995), and membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Although Goethe remained the center of his research, Stuart's scholarly interests ranged far beyond to include the traditions that merged and flourished in the Age of Goethe—antiquity, the renaissance, the baroque. He was able to draw on Aristophanes, Dante, Tasso, Calderon and innumerable other figures because of his astounding command of modern and ancient languages, and also because of his life-long love of philology as a tool to appreciate literary texts. Paradigmatic of his position is his *Faust*-analysis; "What is said in *Faust*, and what the technique of its saying contributes to *Faust's* effectiveness as a poetic statement, are the only themes of the following pages" (*Goethe's Faust*, p. vi). Nevertheless Stuart had a profound sense of historical and comparative connections, as his essays on "Zeitalter der Entdeckung" and "Aufklärung" (*Das Fischer-Lexikon: Literatur II* [1965]) richly demonstrate. He was much too judicious a scholar to neglect any circumstance that could shed light on the text under discussion and on its place in a larger context. His combination of *Akribie* and common-sense was surely unique in our profession.

It would be hard to speak of an "Atkins School" or even of a succession. This fact is itself a symptom of the extraordinary humility of a great teacher, who never forced his point of view on anyone, especially not his own students. Nevertheless he leaves behind a remarkable number of scholars in many fields and of many critical persuasions, who, whether or not they wrote with him, yet speak of him with reverence as their teacher and as a formative influence in their education. Everyone who knew him was aware that this most distinguished scholar, who took such passionate and well-informed interest in literature and the arts in Europe from antiquity to the present, was the most humble, modest and gracious person imaginable. His inimitably dry, self-deprecating irony was indeed a "sehr ernster Scherz."

Gerhart Hoffmeister
Jane K. Brown

WWW SITES

GSNA

<http://www.hnet.uci.edu/tpsaine/gсна.html>

GOETHE YEARBOOK

<http://www.hnet.uci.edu/tpsaine/gyb.html>

DUES SCHEDULE

Dues are payable in each calendar year. For further information, please contact the Secretary-Treasurer.

active member	\$20
payment in D-Marks	\$50
senior member	\$30
patron	\$100
emeritus	\$10
student	\$10
institution	\$30

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Book Review Editor

Please contact Simon Richter until the
new book review editor is an-
nounced.

Please Vote!

