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www.goethesociety.org

## GOETHE NEWS AND NOTES

XXIII.2, Fall 2003

Burkhard Henke, Editor  
Davidson College

### *FROM THE EDITOR*

With deep sadness we announce the passing of two long-time members of the Goethe Society, Ken Weisinger and Jill Kowalik. We are printing an obituary for Ken in this edition, a necrology for Jill will follow. Both will be sorely missed.

In addition to notices of upcoming meetings, a report on this year's GSA meeting, and reminders regarding our annual essay prize and the Flaherty Scholarship competition—the deadline is November 30—this issue includes an important election ballot. Please take the time to vote. We are particularly pleased to offer you for the first time the opportunity to vote online and hope you will do so by December 15.

Last but not least, I am hopeful that we all can help continue to expand our membership base. Please consider recruiting not only colleagues but also graduate students. I would be happy to send you brochures if you wanted to distribute them in your seminars.

Burkhard Henke  
Davidson College

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### *GSNA ELECTIONS*

Members are invited to vote for a Vice-President and two Directors-at-Large. Either mail back the enclosed ballot or vote online, using the four-digit PIN on your ballot, at

[www.goethesociety.org/election](http://www.goethesociety.org/election)

The deadline for casting your vote is December 15, 2003.

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#### **For Vice-President (vote for 1):**

**W. Daniel Wilson** is Professor of German at the University of California at Berkeley. He has published widely in literature and history of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, focusing on political and gender issues. His publications include sixteen articles and four books wholly or partly on Goethe, most recently articles in the *Cambridge Companion to Goethe*, the *Goethe-Jahrbuch*, the *Goethe-Handbuch*, *Outing Goethe & His Age*, *Unwrapping Goethe's Weimar*, and *Goethe in German-Jewish Culture*; and the 1999 book *Das Goethe-Tabu: Protest und Menschenrechte im klassischen Weimar*. He has served on the executive committee for eighteenth and early

nineteenth-century literature of the MLA, and on the editorial boards of *German Quarterly*, the *Lessing Yearbook*, the *Goethe Yearbook*, and other periodicals. In spring 2004 his edition documenting the impact of the French Revolution in Classical Weimar will be published by Böhlau.

“Those who know my scholarship and my personality better than through the lens of the German media will know that I’m not really a Goethe-basher, and that I might not do badly as an ambassador of American Goethe studies. I would hope to build on the work of my predecessors by building bridges to Goethe societies abroad, attracting new members among younger colleagues, and increasing the society’s visibility on the American scholarly scene.”

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**Karin A. Wurst** has degrees in Germanistik, Amerikanistik and Anglistik from the University of Tübingen. Her Ph.D. is from Ohio State University (1985) with a dissertation on Lessing’s Representation of the Family. She published books and articles on women and drama around 1800, Eleonore Thon’s *Adelheit von Rastenberg*, Women and the Gothic Tradition, Elise Bürger, Goethe and the tableaux vivants, J.M.R. Lenz, the concept of love in the eighteenth century, on issues of aesthetics and narration. Her recent work has focused on material culture; her book *Fabricating Pleasure: Culture and Entertainment in Eighteenth-Century Germany* will appear in 2004.

“The Goethe Society of North America is an established force in the academic

community due to the leadership of past and present officers. Given the current academic climate of retraction and realignment, it might be a suitable time to give special attention to reaching beyond the disciplinary boundaries of *Germanistik* and to forge alliances with our colleagues in other disciplines for theoretical and methodological cross-fertilization in eighteenth-century studies.”

#### **For Directors-at-Large (vote for 2):**

**Jonathan M. Hess** is Professor of Germanic Languages at UNC-Chapel Hill, where he also serves as Director of the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies. He is the author of two books on the *Goethezeit*, *Reconstituting the Body Politic: Enlightenment, Public Culture and the Invention of Aesthetic Autonomy* (Detroit: Wayne State UP, 1999) and *Germans, Jews and the Claims of Modernity* (New Haven: Yale UP, 2002), in addition to numerous articles on eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century literature, aesthetics, and intellectual and cultural history. Hess has taught at UNC-Chapel Hill since 1993, regularly teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on the Age of Goethe, and has been active in numerous GSNA panels over the past decade. He is committed to making the GSNA a fixture of academic life in North America, both among Germanists and among the general academic public.

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**Catriona MacLeod** is Associate Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures at the University of

Pennsylvania. She is the author of *Embodying Ambiguity: Androgyny and Aesthetics from Winckelmann to Keller* (Wayne State, 1998), which contains a central chapter on Goethe's *Lehrjahre*, as well as of several articles on Goethe focusing on aspects of gender and visual culture. She currently serves on the editorial board of the *Goethe Yearbook*.

"I would like to play a role in encouraging younger scholars, and especially graduate students, to become involved in the GSNA and its activities."

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**Ellis Shookman** is Associate Professor of German at Dartmouth College. He received both his B.A. and his Ph.D. from Yale. His publications include a book about Wieland's novels and a study of *Death in Venice*. He has edited a volume of essays on Lavater, and edited and translated an anthology of eighteenth-century German prose. He has also published articles on Brecht, Wieland, Fallada, Arno Schmidt, Pückler-Muskau, Lavater, and John le Carré.

"Eines Abends sagte Jarno zu ihm: ... 'Es ist gut, daß der Mensch, der erst in die Welt tritt, viel von sich halte, daß er sich viele Vorzüge zu erwerben denke, daß er alles möglich zu machen suche; aber wenn seine Bildung auf einem gewissen Grade steht, dann ist es vorteilhaft, wenn er sich in einer größeren Masse verlieren lernt, wenn er lernt, um anderer willen zu leben und seiner selbst in einer pflichtmäßigen Tätigkeit zu vergessen.'"

**Robert Tobin** received his PhD from Princeton University and is Professor of German and Associate Dean of the Faculty at Whitman College. He is the author of *Warm Brothers: Queer Theory and the Age of Goethe* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2000) and *Doctor's Orders: Goethe and Enlightenment Thought* (Bucknell University Press, 2001), as well as numerous essays on German literature and cultural studies.

"As an officer of the Goethe Society, I would strive to keep it and its yearbook a prominent voice in 18th-century studies and in German studies. It is especially important to keep the society and its panels, conferences, and publications open to a wide variety of approaches and methodologies."

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### ***FROM THE YEARBOOK EDITOR***

Submissions for volume XIV are now being accepted. The *Yearbook* continues to be open to papers on any aspect or author of the Goethezeit, not just on Goethe. In contrast to many other publications, there is no stringent limit on the length of papers that can be considered. Please refer to the style sheet available at [www.goethesociety.org](http://www.goethesociety.org).

Simon Richter  
University of Pennsylvania

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**FROM THE  
BOOK REVIEW EDITOR**

Please send books for review and suggestions for books for review to:

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**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

MLA in San Diego, CA, 27-30  
December 2003

ASECS in Boston, MA, 24-28 March  
2004

GSA in Washington, DC, 6-10 October,  
2004

AATG-ACTFL in Chicago, IL, 19-21  
November, 2004

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**Special Events  
at the MLA in San Diego,  
December 2003**

**Special GSNA Session on Saturday, 27  
December, 5:15-6:30, in Del Mar (San  
Diego Marriott)**

Organized and chaired by Angela  
Borchert, University of Western Ontario

**Parody: Re-Visioning Goethe**

“A Lover’s Self-Parody: Discrediting  
Romanticism while Creating Its Mythos”  
(Erich Denton, Wheaton College,  
Norton)

“Constructive Parodies of Goethe’s  
Deconstructed Hero: *Egmont, Prinz  
Friedrich von Homburg*, and *Dantons  
Tod*” (Raleigh Whiting, University of  
Alberta, Edmonton)

“Parodies, Pastiche or Deconstructive  
Plays? Botho Strauß’ *Der junge Mann*  
and W. G. Sebald’s *Austerlitz* as  
homages to *Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre*  
(Helen Finch, Trinity College, Dublin)

**GSNA Business Meeting on Sunday,  
28 December, 3:30-4:45, in Torrey 1  
(San Diego Marriott)**

“The Birth of Goethe’s Classicism from  
the Spirit of Self-Censorship”  
(Horst Lange, University of Nevada,  
Reno)

(Followed by the UC Irvine, German  
Department, Cash Bar in the San Diego  
Marriott, 5:15-6:30)

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**Special GSNA Session  
at ASECS in Boston,  
March 2004**

Organized and chaired by Patricia A.  
Simpson, Montana State University  
(Bozeman)

## **German Orientalisms in the 18th Century**

“Epistolary Orientalism: German Missionary Reports from Eighteenth-Century East India” (Gita Rajan, Hunter College, [gita\\_rajan@hotmail.com](mailto:gita_rajan@hotmail.com))

“Goethian Islam” (Kamakshi P. Murti, Middlebury College, [kmurti@middlebury.edu](mailto:kmurti@middlebury.edu))

“Identity, Idolatry and Nation: Goethe Reads Moses” (Karin Schutjer, University of Oklahoma, [kschutjer@ou.edu](mailto:kschutjer@ou.edu))

Respondent:  
Eric Denton, Wheaton College  
([edenton@wheatonma.edu](mailto:edenton@wheatonma.edu))

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## **Call for Papers: MLA in Philadelphia, December 2004**

The Goethe Society of North America invites proposals for a special session on Goethe and Schiller at the Modern Language Association Convention, 27-30 December 2004 (tentative) in Philadelphia, PA.

### **Goethe and Schiller Revisited**

2005 marks the 200th anniversary of Schiller’s death. This panel aims to bring together new and revisionist work on the relationship of Goethe and Schiller and its impact on the works of both authors as well as its representation in biographical and fictional writing from a

broad range of theoretical orientations and methodological approaches.

Panelists must be MLA members. Please submit 1-2 page proposals

**by March 15, 2004 to:**

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Phone and Fax: (319) 335 2114

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## ***PAST MEETINGS***

Report on the special GSNA session at the GSA in New Orleans, September 2003, submitted by Anthony Krupp (University of Miami).

### **Childhood in Central Europe: 1749-1832**

“Children On Stage: Goethe, Büchner, and Beyond” (Eric Denton, Wheaton College, Norton)

The paper explored the use of children on stage, especially babies—dead, alive, imaginary—as transitional objects in plots and character development. Denton postulated and explored the following truisms: (1) There are few, if any, children, on the eighteenth century stage: there are sons and daughters, but even these plays are really about fathers (and, less commonly, mothers). (2) If children are introduced on stage in the eighteenth century, they will be dead and buried by the end of the play. But a shift in sensibility is legible in Büchner’s

*Woyzeck*, where children are onstage in the midst of murder and preludes to an execution. We hear of babytalk circa 1820: "He Bub! Sa ra ra ra!" (Scene 2). And one of the first ways that Marie notices Woyzeck's onset of dementia is his neglect of his usual paternal, affective relationship with his child: "Er hat sein Kind nicht angesehen." (3) From Wedekind on, theater (in competition with film) has focused more and more on subjective, childhood experience to the exclusion of adult experience. (4) on the contemporary stage, in Marius von Mayenburg's *Feuergesicht* (1997), children destroy their parents with a ferocity that belies any superficial reference to Oedipal or Electra responses.

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"A Professor in the History of Myself. The Autobiography of Childhood in Goethe and Jean Paul" (Paul Fleming, New York University)

This paper compared Goethe's *Aus meinem Leben. Dichtung und Wahrheit* and Jean Paul's *Selberlebensbeschreibung*, two texts that negotiate the problems that confront autobiographers who write about their early childhood. In a letter to Zelter, Goethe admits to making use of "einer Art von Fiktion." By attempting "das eigentliche Grundwahre . . . möglichst darzustellen und auszudrücken," one must necessarily allow imagination to work alongside memory. "[S]o ist es klar, daß man mehr die Resultate und, wie wir uns das Vergangene jetzt denken, als die Einzelheiten, wie sie sich damals ereigneten, aufstellen und hervorheben werde." Whereas Goethe is a bit worried about the intrusion of

fiction, Jean Paul welcomes it, much as he welcomes the non-self-possession of the autobiographer—one can see this in the confusion between first and third persons, present and past times. Their differing views of childhood help illuminate their differential autobiographical praxes. For Goethe, the child is a pure potential that can only partly actualize; children promise so much and deliver so little. A disciplined education is necessary to ensure healthy growth, so that something can survive and be delivered. For Jean Paul, the child is a pure potential, and any non-delivery of promises is the world's fault rather than the child's. The only education the child needs is an "unfolding" (rather than a shaping) one. Fleming also posed the question: what does one see when one returns to childhood? Where Goethe saw "wiederholte Spiegelungen," traces of genius whose unfolding is visible in retrospect, Jean Paul saw "eine vorgespiegelte Unendlichkeit," which does not unfold as one matures, but rather remains occluded in the past, which nonetheless appears to be the only source of hope.

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"'Natural Palingenesis': Childhood and Continued Existence in Herder and Jean Paul" (Kelly Barry, Columbia University)

This paper isolates an idea within the proliferating debates about reincarnation in the later eighteenth century where two different discourses on childhood meet in an unlikely intersection: childhood newly conceived as a distinctive sphere of affective and imaginative experience that occurs within an unfolding of

individual development, and childhood as a potentially recurring state, a point of return within a continuum of existence that extends beyond individual histories. I argue that Herder's idea of "natural palingenesis," as it is presented in "Ueber die Seelenwandlung" (1782), finds a distinctive refraction in Jean Paul's work. While in his literary and non-literary writings, Jean Paul contributed to both psychological-pedagogical discussions of childhood and to the debates on reincarnationism and immortality, he also presents an unusual blending of elements from these two ongoing discussions by adapting the idea of palingenesis, a model of transindividual cyclical existence, to the sphere of individual development. Through an analysis of his early work *Leben des vergnuegten Schulmeisterlein Wutz in Auenthal* (1793), I suggest that Jean Paul turns palingenesis into a specific technique of memory that recasts how childhood functions as the origin of a personal history.

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"Können wir werden, was wir waren? Über die Kindheitsvorstellung und die frühromantische Poetologie in Ludwig Tiecks *Der blonde Eckbert* und Dorothea Schlegels *Florentin*" (Lanlan Xu, Georgetown University)

This paper examined two works (Ludwig Tieck's *Der blonde Eckbert* and Dorothea Schlegel's *Florentin*) as contradicting Schiller's and early Romanticism's *geschichtsphilosophisch* dictum that we should become what we once were. In Tieck, the childlike trust that would be necessary for Eckbert or Bertha to assume, in order to then pass into a second childhood, is missing and

is never recovered. In Schlegel, the notion of childhood as a happy period is problematized by Florentin's tale of abuse: "Aus meiner Kindheit weiß ich mir nichts so bestimmt zu erinnern, als den Zwang und das Unrecht, das mir geschehen ist, und das ich schon damals sehr klar fühlte." Florentin adopts a philosophy of life opposed to both the linear developmental model of the Enlightenment *Bildungsroman* as well as the circular, regressive model of early Romanticism; for Florentin, everything is a *Lebensreise* or a *Reiseleben*, but without clear origin or goal. Xu answers the question in the negative: we cannot become that which we were.

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## OBITUARY

### Ken Weisinger dies at age 60 after battle with cancer

(By Kathleen Maclay, UC Berkeley Media Relations, 5 August 2003; abridged; see [www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2003/08/05\\_weisinger.shtml](http://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2003/08/05_weisinger.shtml))

Kenneth Dean Weisinger, director of Berkeley's Education Abroad Program and professor emeritus of German and comparative literature, died at his San Francisco home on Monday (July 28) after battling cancer for the past year. He was 60.

Weisinger, who had taught at UC Berkeley since 1970, was best known for his research on Weimar classicism and the German poets Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and Friedrich Hölderlin. His interests ranged from Goethe and the Brothers Grimm, Chinese opera and Italian cooking, to lyric poetry, fine chocolate and traveling. Weisinger was

said to enjoy teaching students how to appreciate literary and musical forms that were new to them, such as classical Greek and German verse, German operas of the 18th and 19th centuries and the American musicals that were the basis of his course in the American Cultures program.

Weisinger “radiated cultivation, enjoyment, and cheerfulness,” said Barbara Spackman, summer chair of the Department of Comparative Literature, who added that she was speaking on behalf of his colleagues there.

“His stunning erudition in classical philology, literature and music has been a great inspiration for me and many of us over the years,” said Tony Kaes, chair of Berkeley’s German department.

Although Weisinger retired from teaching in June, he had remained the acting director of UC Berkeley’s Education Abroad Program (EAP), where he had been a strong advocate as its director since 1998. He twice served as chair of UC Berkeley’s comparative literature department.

Weisinger’s book, *The Classical Façade: A Non-Classical Reading of Goethe’s Criticism*, was published in 1988 by Pennsylvania State UP. At the time of his death, Weisinger was working on a book on Schiller and another on the collaboration between German male authors during the 19th century, such as the Brothers Grimm, Clemens Brentano and Ludwig Achim von Arnim, and Goethe and Schiller. An essay on the last two, “Fathering the Canon: The correspondence between Goethe and Schiller,” was published in 1996.

A memorial service is being planned for the late fall at UC Berkeley’s Faculty Club. His ashes are to be scattered in the Texas hill country near his birthplace.

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### ***ESSAY PRIZE: CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS***

The executive committee seeks nominations or self-nominations for its annual essay prize, which carries an award of \$250. For more information see [www.goethesociety.org](http://www.goethesociety.org). Please submit eight copies of your choice for the best essay published in the year 2001 and 2002 on Goethe, his times, and/or contemporary figures by

**November 30, 2003 to:**

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### ***GLORIA FLAHERTY SCHOLARSHIP: CALL FOR APPLICATIONS***

One or two prizes of up to \$500 each in travel funds will be given annually to students working on Goethe and/or the Age of Goethe. See the Web site for guidelines and application procedure. Please send complete application by



**November 30, 2003 to:**

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## **CONGRATULATIONS**

to Hellmut Ammerlahn on the publication of his new book, *Imagination und Wahrheit. Goethes Künstler-Bildungsroman* Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre. *Struktur, Symbolik, Poetologie*. For more information see [www.koenigshausen-neumann.de](http://www.koenigshausen-neumann.de).

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## **FROM THE WEBMASTER**

As a reminder, in order to help facilitate the exchange of ideas and information among its members the GSNA has established a listserv, [goethe-1@davidson.edu](mailto:goethe-1@ davidson.edu). All paid-up members whose current email address is on file have been automatically subscribed. If you changed your email address, or if you are unsure about your status, please contact [webmaster@goethesociety.org](mailto:webmaster@goethesociety.org). Once subscribed, all members may post to the list by sending mail to the address above (no attachments!).

Burkhard Henke  
Davidson College

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## **DUES**

*Members who have not yet paid their 2003 dues will find a gentle reminder attached to send their checks to Angela Borchert. The GYB is sent only once this obligation is met. Please see the schedule below. Dues are payable in each calendar year.*

active member	\$25
senior member	\$35
patron	\$100
emeritus	\$10
student	\$10
institution	\$40

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