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

## GOETHE NEWS AND NOTES

XXVI.2, Fall 2006

Burkhard Henke, Editor  
Davidson College

### *FROM THE EDITOR*

Aside from the usual array of columns, notices, and reminders, this edition of the newsletter includes an important election ballot. You may vote by postal mail or online, but either way, please take the time to vote. The deadline is 15 December.

This issue of the *Goethe News and Notes* falls into a time of transition as we thank our *Yearbook* Editor, Simon Richter, and our two Directors-at-Large, Catriona MacLeod and Jonathan Hess, for years of outstanding service. Moreover, as Ellis Dye accedes to the presidency, we bid a special farewell to our outgoing President, Meredith Lee. Since she started the Society together with Ted Bahr, Tom Saine, and Hans Vaegt 26 years ago, Meredith has given generously of her time and expertise in numerous capacities. Thanks to her dedication and leadership, the Society has flourished and become one of the most respected scholarly associations in North America. As we extend our sincere gratitude to her, we wish her a happy retirement and hope that she will stay in touch.

Burkhard Henke  
Davidson College

### *FROM THE PRESIDENT*

Dear GSNA Members,

I am pleased to announce that Daniel Purdy, Pennsylvania State University, has accepted a five-year appointment as editor of the *Goethe Yearbook*. Daniel is perhaps best known for his studies of consumer culture and fashion in Weimar, including his 1998 monograph *The Tyranny of Elegance: Consumer Cosmopolitanism in the Era of Goethe* (Johns Hopkins University Press). A very active member of the profession, he impressed the search committee with his vision and intellectual breadth. He will work with outgoing editor Simon Richter to produce the next volume of the yearbook. Welcome, Daniel!

When Simon Richter announced earlier this year that he would no longer be able to continue as editor of the *Goethe Yearbook* due to a pinched nerve that limits his use of the computer, the Board accepted his pending resignation with real regret. Simon has energetically sustained a lively forum for Goethe scholarship, moved the *Goethe Yearbook* onto an annual publication schedule and, together with book review editor Martha Helfer, worked to promote outstanding intellectual exchange. On behalf of the

GSNA Board, I am very happy to recognize his achievement and thank him and Martha most warmly for their work.

The nominations for the new GSNA officers and Board members are presented in this newsletter. Many thanks to nominating committee members Martha Helfer, Birgit Tautz, and Hans Vaget! As I near the end of my term as GSNA President, I would like to recognize with appreciation the work of all who served on the Board in the past three years and especially our two Directors-At-Large, Jonathan Hess and Catriona MacLeod, whose terms are now ending. Special recognition is also due those who joined the Board in the course of my presidency and who will continue on it: Ellis Dye, Jonathan Lyon, and Astrida Tantillo. Burkhard Henke is our mainstay as webmaster and newsletter editor. Martha Helfer will continue as book review editor until Daniel Purdy completes his transition and identifies her successor. It has been a pleasure to serve with such outstanding people.

There are professional challenges for all of us in the years ahead, but we have good reason for optimism about the health of the GSNA and its programs. At the 25-Year Celebration last year we looked back with pride at what we had accomplished. I look forward with enthusiasm and curiosity to what the future will bring. Thank you for letting me serve these past three years as your president.

Meredith Lee  
University of California, Irvine

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## ***GSNA ELECTIONS***

Members in good standing are invited to vote for the Society's Vice President, the Secretary-Treasurer, and two Directors-at-Large. The current Vice President will automatically accede to the presidency.

Please 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, 2006.

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### **For Vice President:**

**Susan Gustafson**, Karl F. and Bertha A. Fuchs Professor of German Studies at the University of Rochester. "I am honored to be nominated for the position of Vice President and would welcome wholeheartedly the opportunity to work with my colleagues in the GSNA to continue its tradition of promoting the importance of Goethe, his thought, and his age both historically and for our present time. In fact, this seems especially imperative in a time of waning respect for cultural differences and of increasing intolerance for personal differences. It seems to be precisely the right time to emphasize Goethe's ideas of world literature, his cosmopolitanism, his tolerance for difference, his conceptually and geographically broad influence on philosophers, poets, artists, scientists, and scholars since his own age, and the fascinatingly modern character of his ideas in general."

**Simon Richter**, Professor of German at the University of Pennsylvania. “The major challenge facing the Goethe Society in the next two years is recruitment of new and lapsed members. Our membership has remained relatively steady, but new members at the graduate student and assistant professor levels have not been signing up in adequate numbers. This is not an insurmountable problem. I will orchestrate a concerted effort to contact potential and lapsed members by phone and thus increase the membership and financial base of the GSNA. The other initiative I would like to undertake is the organization of a Goethe-focused scholarly gathering within the next two years in the hope of establishing this as an annual or bi-annual event for the GSNA. Among other things, such an event will allow us to encourage and mentor younger Goethe scholars.”

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

**Waltraud Maierhofer**, Associate Professor of German at the University of Iowa. “My research and teaching interests connect Goethe and his works with other authors, especially neglected ones, be it of his time or across centuries as well as interdisciplinary aspects.”

**Clark Muenzer**, Associate Professor of German at the University of Pittsburgh. “With two terms as Executive Secretary, I’m excited by the prospect of renewing my work for the Society, which included the initial proposal for our new monograph series. In the same spirit of creating more opportunities for scholarly exchange among as many of our members as possible, I am prepared to introduce another proposal to the board

for an annual (or biannual) meeting of the GSNA where we might gather for a few days of papers, conversations, and some good wine and food. The two at-large members of the board could assume the organizational responsibility for this event.”

**Karin Schutjer**, Associate Professor of German at the University of Oklahoma, is currently working on a book on Goethe and Judaism. “I feel very grateful for the scholarly resources and intellectual community that the GSNA provides. I would like to do my part to help sustain its intellectual diversity and vitality, its active membership base, and its administrative and material well-being.”

**Patricia Anne Simpson**, Associate Professor of German at the Montana State University in Bozeman, where she also serves as the German Coordinator. Her publications include *The Erotics of War in German Romanticism*, to be published by Bucknell University Press this winter. In addition, she co-edited a volume entitled *The Enlightened Eye: Goethe and Visual Culture*, which is also forthcoming (Rodopi). Her work on the Age of Goethe is informed by literary theory, gender studies, and cultural studies as well.

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***FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT***

Among the cultural costs of time and the 20th-century’s wars is the near obliteration from American consciousness of contributions to the United States by German-Americans,

who, according to the 2000 census, are still this country's (and certainly Minnesota's) largest ancestry group. Thus Garrison Keillor's fictitious village Lake Wobegon has a statue of the unknown Norwegian but no statue of the unknown Bavarian, and local Minnesota radio hosts season their horseplay with an affected Scandinavian accent, leaving it to neighboring Wisconsin to fess up to roots that many states have in common.

During the war of 1914-18, Minnesota Germans, like Germans elsewhere in the U.S., went underground, closing the doors of German-speaking clubs, suspending publication of German-language newspapers and anglicizing their names or changing them altogether. This is still going on: Franz becomes Frank, Peter Fröhlich becomes Peter Gay. On the other hand there have been athletes like Red Schoendienst and Tim Teufel, and there is anchorwoman Paula Zahn and an innocent acquaintance of mine named Schurke.

There remain traces of German culture throughout the United States. Examples in Saint Paul are the names inscribed in a square formed by the ceiling beams of the periodical room in the Central Library, built 1914-1916. One side of the square contains the names Leibniz, Fichte, Kant, Hegel, Wolff, Zeller, Jacobi—plus Spinoza, who may be at least a little bit at home in this row of Germans by virtue of his prominence in German 18th-century intellectual debate. These inscriptions survived a recent renovation of the library, and will remain there for the foreseeable future, blushing unseen. In Saint Paul's Como Park there is a bronze statue of Friedrich Schiller, donated in 1907 by the U.S. German Societies of Saint Paul and cast

by the sculptor Ignaz Taschner (1871-1913).

Visitors to the Como Park Conservatory and Zoo pass by Schiller, as their counterparts rush past the cage of Kafka's Hungerkünstler to marvel at the young panther. But, noticed or not, Schiller stands there in untarnished idealistic pride, a specimen of public art linked across Saint Paul with F. Scott Fitzgerald, Nathan Hale, and hundreds of statues of Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Linus and Lucy (creations of a local cartoonist named Schulz).

Ellis Dye  
Macalester College

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### ***FROM THE SECRETARY- TREASURER***

In an ongoing effort to increase the strength of the society, the GSNA is looking for new members. We ask for your assistance in this endeavor. If you know of any scholars or other interested parties who are interested in the Age of Goethe, but are not yet members, would you please encourage them to join the society? We are particularly interested in recruiting younger scholars—current and recent graduate students—to ensure the society's future for decades to come. Joining is simple—go to [www.goethesociety.org](http://www.goethesociety.org) and click on the link to "Membership." Thanks for your support in this endeavor.

John Lyon  
University of Pittsburgh

**FROM THE  
YEARBOOK EDITOR**

Members can expect volume 14 in February. Volume 15 is in the works and will be prepared for distribution in fall of 2007. We are currently accepting submissions for volume 16. For the time being, those should be sent to both Daniel Purdy and Simon Richter.

Daniel Purdy, Simon Richter  
Pennsylvania State University,  
University of Pennsylvania

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**FROM THE  
BOOK REVIEW EDITOR**

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

**Professor Martha B. Helfer**  
Department of Germanic, Russian, and E.  
European Languages and Literatures  
Rutgers University  
64 College Avenue  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
Telephone: (732) 932-7201  
Fax: (732) 932-1111  
Email: [mhelfer@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:mhelfer@rci.rutgers.edu)

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**NEW BOOKS BY MEMBERS**

John B. Lyon. *Crafting Flesh, Crafting the Self: Violence and Identity in Early Nineteenth-Century German Literature*. Lewisburg, PA: Bucknell University Press, 2006.

This study analyzes wounded human bodies in early nineteenth-century German literature and traces their connection to changing philosophical models of the self. It argues that literary representations and metaphors of violence against the body not only offer powerful physical referents for a concept of self, but that they also define violence as an integral component of the self. In contrast to the rational models of the self found at the end of the eighteenth century, the literature of early nineteenth-century Germany turns away from the body as object and towards the body as subject. This turn reflects the shift in philosophy from transcendental idealism towards materialism, from the rational to the embodied self. The close readings of literary texts that comprise the main chapters of the book highlight four moments along this philosophical trajectory. Individual chapters analyze Hölderlin's *Hyperion*, Brentano's *Godwi*, Kleist's *The Broken Pitcher*, and Büchner's *Danton's Death* and draw on theoretical insights from Freud, Benjamin, and Žižek to situate these nineteenth-century texts within modern and postmodern debates about the self, the body, and violence.

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**KUDOS**

Congratulations to Anthony Krupp (University of Miami) whose course on "Philosophies of Childhood in the Eighteenth-Century" was awarded the 2005-2006 ASECS Prize For Innovative Course Design.

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## ***SPECIAL SESSION REPORT***

### **Minor Debates? Goethe and His Time: Minor Figures, Minor Genres, Minor Discourses**

*Two Special GSNA Sessions at ASECS,  
Montreal, 2006; organized and chaired  
by Birgit Tautz, Bowdoin College*

(Organizer's note: In choosing the topic, I deliberately sought a wide array of interpretations, themes, and approaches in order to invite a large number of contributions and thus to increase the visibility of the North American Goethe Society at ASECS. I received a large number of high-quality proposals that explored one or several of the following aspects of Goethe and his time: minor figures in Goethe's writings and/or in his environment; minor genres/ small forms in his oeuvre and/or works by his contemporaries; discourses that unfold parallel or in competition to the dominance of Goethe's literature and poetics, philosophical and historical thought. Thanks to ASECS's executive office, we were permitted to schedule two panels. Nevertheless, I could not consider all of the fine suggestions, but invite continued dialogue on the topic. Interested members should contact me at [btautz@bowdoin.edu](mailto:btautz@bowdoin.edu) – B.T.)

Arnd Bohm (Carleton University) opened the discussion with a new look at Valentin, a supposedly "minor character" in Goethe's *Faust*, claiming that it has never been considered in depth why Goethe had to provide Margarete with a brother (when, in fact the plot device of a crime that compels Faust to flee could have been accomplished with the killing of anyone). Bohm showed that this choice

or requirement was imposed on Goethe by the exigencies of the context in which *Faust* is embedded, namely the system of European epic. Valentin is connected to a series of male figures from epic, namely Apsyrtus (Medea's brother), the Minotaur (Ariadne's half brother), and Turnus (who dies resisting the Trojan invasion of Italy). The complex cluster sheds important light on why Valentin must be there as Margarete's brother, on the events in the scene, and ultimately on the work as a whole. Far from being minor, then, the figure of Valentin, seen in a more intense light, turns out to be charged with significance.

The remaining two papers of the morning session addressed questions of gender, canon formation, and "minor" (female) writers. Mary Helen Dupree (Columbia University) discussed the relationship between gender discourses and "minor" literatures in the Age of Goethe via an analysis of the actress-writer Elise Bürger's unsuccessful attempt to gain access to Goethe and his circle in Weimar. Bürger's encounter with Goethe and his circle lays bare some of the social and discursive forces at work in the exclusion of women writers such as Bürger from "major" literatures and "high" art. The talk illustrated in impressive ways how Schiller, Kirms, and Vulpius acted as filters, screening out Bürger from productive contact with Goethe. Dupree argued that it was above all Schiller's ideas about women and theatrical performance that prevented Bürger from establishing herself in Weimar; her argument resists the traditional categorization of Bürger's literary works as "minor" or "trivial" by initiating a critique of the discourses and social structures that ensured such a dismissal.

Susanne Kord (University College London) investigated the elevation of Goethe as a dramatic character in Charlotte von Stein's *Rino* (1776) and *Dido* (1794), as well as in Elise Henle Levi's (1832-92) comedy *Aus Göthes lustigen Tagen* (1878). She chronicled the ways in which the Goethe-character in these plays is created, perceived or rejected as a 'major' author, and how this homage (or refusal to pay homage) relates to the authors' self-image as authors (either "major" or "minor"). As a result, Kord was able to discuss the effects of Goethe's portrayal on literary history and canon formation, which she aptly described as the "Werther cult" during the eighteenth and "Goethe cult" during the nineteenth century.

The afternoon session struck a somewhat parallel tone with its lines of inquiry. In the first presentation, which was devoted to a minor literary motif, Heide Crawford (University of Kansas) discussed the vampire. Arguing that the emergence of Kantian aesthetics in the *Third Critique* and Goethe's own aesthetic premises assured that the vampire would forever play a minor role in German literature, Crawford observed the figure's demise - despite its presence in late eighteenth-century German literature (including Goethe's *Bride of Corinth*) and the major success it had in British literature. Andrew Piper (McGill University) drew our attention to a new way of reading Goethe's novels. Using the correspondence between a minor geologist and map-maker, Christian Keferstein, and Goethe as a point of departure, Piper suggested that cartography can help understand larger representational problems that, around 1800, confronted writers as well as non-writers. The paper explored how

Goethe's *Wilhelm Meisters Wanderjahre* addresses the problem of moving between the axes of time and space that was at the core of both the geological survey and the genre of the novel. Piper showed that such a reading repositions literary production away from a privileged activity of the singular spirit and within a larger social matrix. In the final presentation, Peter Höyng (Emory University) detailed Goethe's efforts to write a second part of *Die Zauberflöte*. Goethe not only wanted to emulate the critical and popular success of Mozart's opera but also intended this project to move to the center of his life and oeuvre. By illustrating the ways in which Goethe developed key aesthetic principles (*Steigerung, Metamorphose*) in the fragment, Höyng laid out how Goethe's *Zauberflöte*—although remaining a minor piece when compared to Goethe's novels, dramas, and autobiographical writing—can indeed hold a key to Goethe's work.

Both morning and afternoon session were followed by productive, and at times provocative, discussions. Regrettably, Claudia Mattos and Angela Borchert could not present their work due to illness. Their respective papers, entitled "Goethe's 'Philostrats Gemälde' and its resistance to the Romantics" and "A Minor Matter? Goethe playing Author," promised to enrich our debate – and I consider myself fortunate to have learned about these two projects. But ultimately I hope that we all can read more of and about the fascinating scholarship devoted to (not so minor) questions surrounding Goethe and his time.

Birgit Tautz  
Bowdoin College

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## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

MLA in Philadelphia, PA, 27-30  
December 2006

ASECS in Atlanta, GA, 22-25 March  
2007

GSA in San Diego, CA, 4-7 October  
2007

AATG-ACTFL in San Antonio, TX, 15-  
18 November 2007

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### **Special Notice**

80. Hauptversammlung der Goethe-  
Gesellschaft, Weimar, Germany, 30 May  
- 2 June, 2006

I would like to call the attention of GSNA members to the upcoming bi-annual meeting of the Goethe-Gesellschaft. The conference is being organized around the theme of "Goethe und die Natur." The plans include scholarly presentations by Germanists and natural scientists addressing the conference theme, special exhibits in the Weimar museums, a symposium of younger Goethe scholars reading papers on a range of topics, a theater evening, an outing on Saturday, June 2, to Jena that will focus on the natural sciences, and sufficient leisure time to tour Weimar and socialize with members of the society. Membership information is available on the website [www.goethe-gesellschaft.de](http://www.goethe-gesellschaft.de) or from the

Geschäftsstelle der Goethe-Gesellschaft,  
Postfach 2251, 99403 Weimar, Germany  
or [goetheges@aol.com](mailto:goetheges@aol.com). Members  
automatically receive an invitation to  
register for the conference, hotel  
information and the like, as well as the  
*Goethe Jahrbuch*. Annual dues are €40  
(€ 20 for students). An unfortunate  
drawback for those without easy access  
to a German bank account, dues still  
cannot be paid by credit card.

Meredith Lee  
University of California, Irvine

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### **Special GSNA Session at the MLA in Philadelphia, 27- 30 December 2006**

*Friday, 29 December, 9:00–10:15 p.m.,  
Adams, Loews*

Presiding: Meredith Lee, University of  
California, Irvine

#### **Sounds like Goethe**

1. "Travels of the Sorcerer's  
Apprentice," Hans Rudolf Vaget, Smith  
College
2. "Sounds like a Man: Masculine  
Cadences in Goethe's Poetry,"  
Margaretmary Daley, Case Western  
Reserve University
3. "Beethoven Sounds unlike Goethe,"  
Peter Höyng, Emory University

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## **Annual Business Meeting and Presidential Address at the MLA in Philadelphia**

*Saturday, 30 December, 12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Lescaze, Loews*

Presiding: Meredith Lee, University of California, Irvine

“Goethe, Judaism, and the Problem of Evil,” Karin Lynn Schutjer, University of Oklahoma

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## **Special GSNA Session at ASECS in Atlanta, 22-25 March 2007**

Organized and chaired by Peter Höyng, Emory University

### **Goethe’s Stage and Staging Goethe**

1. Mary Helen Dupree, Rice University: “From Ackermann to Aurelie: Re-Reading Theatrical Doubles in the Wilhelm Meister Novels.”
2. Heide Crawford, University of Kansas: “Goethe’s ‘Theatrical Torment’: The Difficulty of Staging Both Entertainment and an Idealist Aesthetic in Weimar.”
3. James Rasmussen, Indiana University: “Staging Goethe’s *Zauberflöte*.”
4. Arnd Bohm, Carleton University: “Getting from Heaven to Hell: Exits and Entrances in Goethe’s *Faust*.”

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## **Call for Papers: 2007 MLA in San Diego**

### **The Poetics of Architecture**

How do Germans writing around 1800 represent the experience of constructed space? How is the perception of architecture related to travel? What aesthetic aspirations do Goethe and his contemporaries associate with idealized buildings? How does Goethe help construct a history of architectural styles? What is the relationship between Classicist aesthetics and German architectural histories written in the nineteenth century? Please submit 200 word proposals to Daniel Purdy ([dlp14@psu.edu](mailto:dlp14@psu.edu)) by 15 March 2007..

NB: If you are interested in organizing a panel sponsored by the Goethe Society at any of the annual (incl. regional) meetings of ASECS, GSA, or MLA, please contact our Executive Secretary.

#### **Professor Astrida Tantillo**

Dept. of Germanic Studies (MC 189)  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
601 S. Morgan Street  
Chicago, IL 60607  
Phone: 312-413-2374  
Email: [tantillo@uic.edu](mailto:tantillo@uic.edu)

At this time in particular, we are looking for individuals to organize panels for the 2007 GSA and the 2008 ASECS.

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## ***ESSAY PRIZE***

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 four copies of your choice for the best essay published in the year 2005 on Goethe, his times, and/or contemporary figures

**by November 30, 2006 to**

**Professor Robert Ellis Dye**  
1305 Fairmount Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55105  
Email: [rdye695716@aol.com](mailto:rdye695716@aol.com)

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## ***GLORIA FLAHERTY SCHOLARSHIP***

The executive committee invites applications for its annual scholarship in honor of the late Gloria Flaherty, the accomplished scholar and founding member of the Goethe Society. One or two prizes of up to \$500 will be given to students working on Goethe and/ or the Age of Goethe. For application guidelines and further details see [www.goethesociety.org](http://www.goethesociety.org). Send completed application

**by November 30, 2006 to**

**Professor Robert Ellis Dye**  
1305 Fairmount Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55105  
Email: [rdye695716@aol.com](mailto:rdye695716@aol.com)

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## ***DUES***

*If you have not done so already, please send your 2006 dues to the Secretary-Treasurer, John Lyon, or go to [www.goethesociety.org](http://www.goethesociety.org) and use PayPal (a modest fee will apply). Dues are payable in each calendar year, see the schedule below. The GYB is sent only once this obligation is met.*



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

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## ***GSNA OFFICERS***

For a complete listing of all officers and their addresses visit our web site at [www.goethesociety.org](http://www.goethesociety.org).