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GOETHE NEWS AND NOTES

XXVII.2, Fall 2007

Burkhard Henke, Editor
Davidson College

FROM THE EDITOR

One of the first things you might notice about this mailing is the enclosed ballot. What may appear to be mundane-looking technicalities are, in fact, significant bylaw changes, so please take the time to return the ballot to the newsletter editor by December 10.

Aside from the usual compilation of news and notes, you will find in this newsletter an announcement of the first GSNA Conference, to be held in Pittsburgh, November 14-16, 2008. Save the date! We hope to see many of you there.

We are also delighted to announce that Astrida Tantillo, whose service as Executive Secretary has been invaluable over these past three years, will continue as book series editor. If you have a book manuscript ready for publication, please see her note below and consider submitting it to the book series.

Burkhard Henke
Davidson College

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Goethe Society of North America has been seeking during the last several years to advance from an organization created and led by the established and distinguished professionals of its founding generation toward a more broadly based and expansive association in which scholars of every career stage, every affiliation, and every critical purpose or orientation may interact to promote increased understanding of Goethe and his contemporaries, their circumstances and intellectual debts, and, in a new millennium, their legacy to posterity. As Professor Thomas P. Saine—co-founder of the Society with Professor Meredith Lee—said in response to my request for advice on governance, “It is clear that your presidency has fallen in a time of transition between the easier-going ways of the older GSNA leadership and the necessity of achieving clarity of line.”

In hopes of maintaining the upward direction of the Goethe Society’s development as well as in recognition of a variety of developments since its founding twenty-seven years ago this month, I would like to propose a few technical changes in the Society’s bylaws. Additional changes, including a

more detailed definition of the responsibilities of officers of the Society, may be in order and may be proposed by members of the Society for consideration by the entire membership. The following proposals seem necessary and sufficient at present. I present them to you with the approval of the members of the Board of Directors.

The changes in the bylaws of the Society proposed here will allow for electronic balloting and will change the requirement that a member of the Board reside in California to read that the Board will appoint a representative to the State of California. On the agenda for our December business meeting will be a proposal for a discussion of titles and terms of service of officers heretofore not recognized in the bylaws. In a subsequent electronic ballot, assuming the technical changes proposed in this edition of the newsletter, are approved, the membership will be asked to approve of a change of wording in Section III of the bylaws which will record that the Webmaster and Editor of the Newsletter is an ex officio member of the Board. The membership will be asked only to approve a rewording of the bylaws in such a way as to acknowledge the status quo ante. The fact of the Webmaster and Newsletter Editor's ex officio status on the Board was made official in 1991 and is in no need of further approval, but the bylaws have never been revised to record this addition. Other possible changes in the bylaws and the composition of the Board may be proposed and discussed at our December meeting. The present bylaws recognize two ex officio members of the Board—the Executive Secretary and the Editor of the *Yearbook*. Any changes in the bylaws, which are posted on the

GSNA website, must be approved by “a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those responding to the mail ballot.”

Please record your vote on the enclosed ballot and return it via U.S. Mail to Professor Burkhard Henke, Editor of the GSNA Newsletter, Davidson College, Davidson, NC 28035-6956.

I am happy to report that the three sessions sponsored by Goethe Society of North America at the recent German Studies Association convention in San Diego and directed by Dr. Angus Nicholls of the University of London were a great success—well attended, despite two of them being scheduled back-to-back early on Saturday morning, and stimulating lively discussion. The next edition of the *Yearbook*, vol. 15 is expected to come out in January, and Editor Daniel Purdy is now accepting manuscripts for possible inclusion in vol. 16.

Finally, let me add a word of thanks and praise for the work of Astrida Tantillo, who has decided not to stand for reappointment when her current term as Executive Secretary comes to a conclusion at the end of this year. Astrida has done the bulk of the administrative work of the Society for the past three years and has maintained close and conscientious contact with the membership of the Society, the Board of Directors, and the various societies with which we are affiliated, the GSA, the MLA, and the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. She has been on top of every issue and has promptly and efficiently communicated with all concerned in a spirit of the utmost cordiality. She stays in office, of course, until the end of 2007 and will

remain in her position as Editor of the GSNA book series thereafter. An exemplary officer and member of the profession, she will be hard to replace as Executive Secretary. You will find below a job description for the Executive Secretary, and you are invited to submit nominations for this position (including your own name) to a nominating committee composed of Vice President Simon Richter, Director at Large Karin Schutjer, and myself. A new Executive Secretary will ultimately—and soon, necessarily—be appointed by the board of the Society as a whole.

Ellis Dye

Nominations Invited Executive Secretary, Goethe Society of North America

The Board of the Goethe Society of North America invites nominations for the position of Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary provides administrative and programmatic leadership for the GSNA and serves as an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors. An appointment will be made by the Board for a renewable three-year term, beginning January 1, 2008.

The position of Executive Secretary is responsible for sustaining GSNA programs and programmatic links with our affiliate organizations: the Modern Language Association, the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, and the German Studies Association. The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the board, arranges panels at the annual meetings of these organizations and monitors the development of

convention programs. Other administrative matters, such as the periodic MLA recertification, require exceptional attention and a timely response. Attendance at the annual MLA meeting in December is mandatory. Attendance at the annual meetings of the ASECS meeting in March/April and the GSA meeting in October is also highly desirable. The MLA hosts the annual executive board meeting of the society, but board meetings may be called at the other annual conventions, e.g. to confirm the selection of winners of the annual essay prize and of Gloria Flaherty awards to graduate students, as well as to conduct other urgent business. The Executive Secretary drafts the agenda for the annual meeting, in consultation with the President and other members of the board.

The Executive Secretary facilitates communication among and between the society's officers, the Board of Directors, and the members, and responds to queries and requests from outside organizations. Communications with the Webmaster and Editor of the Newsletter and with the Secretary-Treasurer, who oversee the dissemination of society news and its financial/legal matters respectively, are especially important, as are the ability and willingness to facilitate conversations from a distance about matters pertinent to the mission of the organization.

Please send your nominations to the nominating sub-committee, composed of Ellis Dye, rdye695716@aol.com, Simon Richter, srichter@sas.upenn.edu, and Karin Schutjer, kschutjer@ou.edu. Self-nominations are welcome.

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

GSNA Conference Update

Many thanks to the many members who responded to the online survey. The results were instructive for the committee (consisting of the Vice President and two Directors-at-Large) now planning a 2008 GSNA conference. At this point we would like to announce the dates and place for the conference so that you can mark your calendars: Please plan to be in Pittsburgh Nov 14-16, 2008. Full conference details and a call for papers will be announced in January.

Simon Richter
University of Pennsylvania

***FROM THE
YEARBOOK EDITOR***

We are currently accepting submissions for volume 16. Please send manuscripts to Daniel Purdy, who will assume the responsibilities of editor.

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

***FROM THE
BOOK REVIEW EDITOR***

As you may know, I have recently taken over as book review editor from Martha

Helfer. I would like to thank Martha for the help she has given me in the transition. Also, I encourage you to let me know if there are particular areas of research that you are interested in reviewing for the *Goethe Yearbook*. Please send books for review and suggestions for books for review to:

Professor Catriona MacLeod
Department of Germanic Languages
and Literatures
745 Williams Hall
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6305
Telephone: (215) 898-7334
Fax: (215) 573-7794
Email: cmacleod@sas.upenn.edu

***FROM THE
BOOK SERIES EDITOR***

We encourage the submission of high-quality manuscripts and welcome all approaches and perspectives. We are especially interested in interdisciplinary projects, creative approaches to archival or original source materials, theoretically informed scholarship, work that introduces previously undiscovered materials, or projects that re-examine traditional epochal boundaries or open new channels of interpretations. Authors should send manuscript proposals and one sample chapter (electronic versions are preferred) to the editor of the book series,

Professor Astrida Tantillo
Dept. of Germanic Studies (MC 189)
University of Illinois at Chicago
601 S. Morgan Street
Chicago, IL 60607
Phone: 312-413-2370
Fax: 312-413-2377
Email: tantillo@uic.edu

NEW BOOKS BY MEMBERS

Adele Schopenhauer, *Florenz. Ein Reiseführer mit Anekdoten und Erzählungen* (1847/48). Edited from the autograph with an introduction by Waltraud Maierhofer. Weimar: VDG, 2007.

Johann Wolfgang Goethe, Christian August Vulpius. *Circe. Oper mit der Musik von Pasquale Anfossi. Übersetzung und Bearbeitung des italienischen Librettos für das Weimarer Theater*. Edited with and introduction by Waltraud Maierhofer. (Theatertexte 12.) Hannover: Wehrhahn, 2007.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Special GSNA Session at the MLA 2007 in Chicago

*Saturday, 29 December, 10:15-11:30
a.m., Colorado, Sheraton Chicago
Hotels and Towers*

434. The Poetics of Architecture

Presiding: Daniel Purdy, Pennsylvania State University

1. "Architecture and the Theatrical Baroque: Bellotto in Dresden," Kenneth Scott Calhoun, University of Oregon
2. "Goethe's Architectural Idea and Kant's Schematicism," Clark S. Muenzer, University of Pittsburgh
3. "The Dome of the Mind," Susan Bernstein, Brown University

Annual Business Meeting and Presidential Address at the MLA 2007 in Chicago

*Sunday, 30 December, 1:45–3:00 p.m.,
Parlor G, Sheraton Chicago Hotels and
Towers*

772. Goethe and Aphorisms

Presiding: Robert Ellis Dye, Macalester College

1. "President's Report and Business Meeting," Robert Ellis Dye
2. "'Pfeile mit Widerhaken': On the Aphorisms in Goethe's *Wahlverwandtschaften* and *Wanderjahre*," Judith L. Ryan, Harvard University

Special GSNA Session at ASECS 2008

Organized and chaired by Kamaal Haque, Pacific Lutheran University

Authors and Their Admirers in the Age of Goethe

1. "Hyperbole versus Restraint: The Private and Public Faces of Praise among Gleim and his Circle," David Lee, University of Tennessee
2. "Memories, Images, and Text: Goethe's Confessional Autobiography *Aus meinem Leben: Dichtung und Wahrheit*, with Reference to His Representations of Eighteenth-Century German Authors," Steven Martinson, University of Arizona

3. "Un/Critical Admiration: Bettine von Arnim's Goethe Monument," Catherine Sprecher, University of Chicago

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: 312-413-2370
Email: tantillo@uic.edu

Deadlines for submission of panel proposals

2008 MLA, 15 November 2007
2008 GSA, 1 December 2007
2009 ASECS, 15 March 2008

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 and click on the link to "Membership." Thanks for your support in this endeavor.

John Lyon
University of Pittsburgh

DUES

If you have not done so already, please send your 2007 dues to the Secretary-Treasurer, John Lyon, or go to 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

GSNA OFFICERS

President

Professor Robert Ellis Dye
1305 Fairmount Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55105
Email: rdye695716@aol.com

Vice President

Professor Simon Richter
Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, 745 Williams Hall
University of Pennsylvania

Philadelphia, PA 19104-6305
Telephone: (215) 898-7332
Email: srichter@sas.upenn.edu

Secretary-Treasurer

Professor John B. Lyon
Department of Germanic Languages and
Literatures, 1409 Cathedral of Learning
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Telephone: (412) 624-5839
Email: jblyon@pitt.edu

Directors-at-Large

Professor Clark Muenzer
Department of Germanic Languages and
Literatures, 1409 Cathedral of Learning
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Telephone: (412) 624-5909
Email: muenzer@pitt.edu

Professor Karin Schutjer
Department of Modern Languages,
Literatures and Linguistics
202 Kaufman Hall
University of Oklahoma
Norman, OK 73019
Telephone: (405) 325-6181
Fax: (405) 325-0103
Email: kschutjer@ou.edu

Executive Secretary and Editor of the Book Series

Professor Astrida Tantillo
Dept. of Germanic Studies (MC 189)
University of Illinois at Chicago

601 S. Morgan Street
Chicago, IL 60607
Telephone: (312) 413-2370
Fax: (312) 413-2377
Email: tantillo@uic.edu

Editor of the *Yearbook*

Professor Daniel Purdy
Department of Germanic and Slavic
Languages and Literatures
311 Burrowes Building
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA 16802
Telephone: (814) 865-1353
Fax: (814) 863-8882
Email: dlp14@psu.edu

Book Review Editor

Professor Catriona MacLeod
Department of Germanic Languages and
Literatures, 745 Williams Hall
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6305
Telephone: (215) 898-7334
Fax: (215) 573-7794
Email: cmacleod@sas.upenn.edu

Webmaster and GNN Editor

Professor Burkhard Henke
Department of German and Russian
Davidson College
Box 6956
Davidson, NC 28035-6956
Telephone: (704) 894-2269
Fax: (704) 894-2782
Email: buhenke@davidson.edu
Email: webmaster@goethesociety.org