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GOETHE NEWS AND NOTES

XXIX.2, Fall 2009

Burkhard Henke, Editor
Davidson College

FROM THE EDITOR

There is much to be excited about these days in the Goethe Society. Last year's international conference in Pittsburgh was a resounding success, the quantity and quality of *Yearbook* submissions is extraordinary, and our new book series is taking off (see the enclosed flyer). It all goes to show that we have established ourselves as a major forum for constructive research within the international community of scholars of the Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Century. And we continue to go strong! In this number of the *News and Notes* you will see that we have again arranged some attractive panels at the major annual meetings. Of course we hope to see many of you there, especially in Philadelphia where Simon Richter will preside over the Society's business meeting for the last time before handing over the presidency to Astrida Tantillo.

I am delighted to announce that you may now peruse online a bibliography of Goethe dissertations compiled by Ehrhard Bahr and Walter K. Stewart. Entitled *North American Dissertations 1886-2008: One Hundred Twelve Years of Goethe Research in North America*, the compilation used to appear in the *Yearbook* at fairly regular intervals. We

are grateful to Ted Bahr and Walter Stewart for allowing us to post the list on our web site instead and hope that it finds an even wider audience there. Have a look!

Speaking of the *Goethe Yearbook*, many of you have already heard of—and have taken advantage of—our big sale for all paid-up GSNA members. Volumes 2-10, as well as the special volumes on *Faust* and Stuart Atkins' essays, can be had for only \$5. Volumes 11-15 are being sold for \$10. Prices include shipping and handling, there are no taxes or hidden fees. This is your chance to complete your collection! Order online under the *Yearbook* tab or contact any member of the Board. But hurry, some volumes are going fast and the sale ends soon.

If you are a paid-up member of GSNA, this mailing also includes your ballot for the upcoming elections. NB: If you did not receive a ballot it means that we did not receive your 2009 dues at the time I am writing this (if our records are in error, please contact the Secretary-Treasurer). So long as we receive your dues by October 10, however, you will still be able to vote, if only online.

Thanks to the fine work of the nominating committee (comprised of

Mary Helen Dupree, Matt Erlin, and Gail Hart as chair), we are able to present to you a slate of outstanding candidates for the offices of Vice President, Director at-Large, and Secretary-Treasurer. More information of the candidates, incl. their brief personal statements, can be found below, as well as online.

Also on the ballot are four proposed changes to the bylaws. The first concerns the new book series. Since we have language in place governing the publication of the *Goethe Yearbook*, it seemed appropriate to introduce the same for the book series and codify the functions of Book Series Editor, Editorial Board, and Advisory Board. With the other three amendments the Board is seeking to establish the International Goethe Conference as a regularly scheduled event and redefine the responsibilities of the President, Vice President and Directors at-Large regarding their respective involvement in the conference (as well as in the essay contest).

We hope you agree that these are important and sensible changes. Know that, in order to pass, the amendments require a two-thirds majority of those responding to the mail ballot or to the electronic ballot. Please take the time to vote by October 15.

Burkhard Henke
Davidson College

FROM THE PRESIDENT

In my last column, I threatened to create a Facebook page for the Goethe Society. For better or worse, the official GSNA page now exists and Facebook users from across the world can all show their allegiance by becoming fans of the Goethe Society of North America.

I sometimes think that one of the things the GSNA does is to create and maintain new spaces for “Goethe,” for that complex body of work, thought and feeling that goes by his name. Goethe is a signpost, a license plate (Jane! Tom!), a neighborhood, a city name, a country, perhaps even a world. In one way or another, he’s a place where we reside.

Did you know that nineteenth-century maps show that once upon a time there was a place called Goethe, South Carolina? It’s gone now, without a trace. I learned this fact from Boudewijn Büch, a Dutch novelist and TV personality, who died in 2002. Büch was extravagantly obsessed with Goethe and followed him all over the world. He not only took Dutch television audiences on a sixteen-part pilgrimage to all the holy sites, kissing relics and reveling in material remains, he also made a point of finding Goethe in the form of street signs and other geographical signifiers in all regions of the world. For Büch, all the world was Goethe and Goethe was the world.

The profile picture of our Facebook page is of a statue in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, near the Japanese Teahouse. Across the way, not quite in view, a Schiller statue stands. In our Facebook photo album there are pictures of the Goethe-Schiller statue in Golden

Gate Park, San Francisco. My family visited the city this past spring break. The statue used to be in front of what is now the Asian Museum, near City Hall, but was moved sometime after the 1920s. It's close to the California Academy of Science newly encased in Renzo Piano's brilliant cathedral of glass. The Academy's new architecture is spectacular, but it came at a price. The Museum's "Goethe Room," honoring Goethe's scientific endeavors, was sacrificed. After we returned from SF, my son Sam made a copy of the statue in clay and gave it to me for my birthday. That statue now proudly stands in Wyndmoor, PA.

I wonder if members and fans of the Goethe Society would help me in collecting a photographic record of all the traces of Goethe around the world for our Facebook page? Not just the Goethe statues in Syracuse, Chicago, and elsewhere, but also signs of Goethe Street (*straat, calle* or *vie*). If you cross Goethe's path in your travels round the world, if you climb Mt. Goethe in California, pass through Weimar, Texas, or stroll through Lincoln Park, take a picture of the sign or the monument and send it to me.

Goethe really doesn't need our help to stay on the map. He's already there. In fact, he helps *us* get on the map. We took an important step, I think, when we mounted our first international Goethe conference. With over 100 participants from Europe and North America, including the director and associate director of the Goethe Museum in Düsseldorf, we put ourselves on the map. (Next time we should be sure to invite members of the Klassik Stiftung Weimar.) We provided a space for

young and seasoned scholars to meet in focused discussion and debate about Goethe. I am extremely pleased that the membership and the board embraced the idea of holding a Goethe conference in conjunction with the term of each successive president. Astrida Tantillo, who will accede to the presidency on January 1, has already indicated that our next conference will likely be in Chicago, home of Frank Lloyd Wright, Barack Obama, Mike Ditka and . . . Goethe. I believe that our conference has the potential to become THE Goethe conference with a fan-based devotion to rival the GSA (easy) and even the crazy Kalamazoo medievalists. In addition to the conference, the GSNA has launched a book series with Bucknell University Press (thanks, Astrida!) and the *Goethe Yearbook* is available online through Project Muse (thanks, Daniel!). Beginning in January, Jane Brown will become the new Book series editor (thanks, Jane!). I am very excited about our Society's place in the world.

This is my last column as president. It's been a privilege and a source of unusual and unexpected satisfaction, one of the most gratifying experiences of my career. It has been a huge pleasure to work with all the members of the board. The board doesn't meet often (at the GSA and the MLA), but we remain in virtual contact throughout the year. A real sign of the congenial and constructive atmosphere, cultivated by previous presidents and board members, is what I call the email flurry. Something needs discussion (most recently the sale of past issues of the *Goethe Yearbook*) and within no time everyone has not only chimed in, but contributed a useful idea, revised language, volunteered to do a task, or created a web page (thanks,

Burkhard!). I am very grateful to all of the members of the board.

One last thing. In October, the first book in our Goethe Society/University of Bucknell Press series, Peter Schwartz's *After Jena: Goethe's Elective Affinities and the End of the Old Regime*, will be available. You will find the details about the special discount for GSNA members elsewhere in the newsletter. The book will stand on its own merits—I've read it in manuscript and it's brilliant. But it's imperative for the success of our series that people buy it. Please, if you have the financial wherewithal, make a principled decision to buy the book and order it for your institution's library. One of the major motivations for initiating the book series was to provide outstanding young *Goethezeit* scholars with a respected publication venue and a chance at tenure. Let's keep this *Goethestraße* on the map.

Simon Richter
University of Pennsylvania

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

We have already begun to plan the next Goethe Society Conference which is scheduled to take place in the beginning of November of 2011 in Chicago. Please let me know if you have any suggestions for this conference, including overall theme, plenary speakers, etc.

Astrida Tantillo
University of Illinois, Chicago

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). Members also have the opportunity to vote on four bylaw changes proposed by the Board of Directors.

You can find the proposed amendments as well as the current bylaws on the web.

Please mail back the enclosed ballot or vote online, using the four-digit PIN on your ballot, at

www.goethesociety.org/election

The deadline for casting your vote is October 15, 2009.

For Vice President:

Horst Lange is Associate Professor of German and Core Humanities and Adjunct Professor of Philosophy at the University of Nevada - Reno. He is the author of a dissertation on Goethe, a book on Kant and Wittgenstein, received the 2003 essay prize of the Goethe Society, and has published articles on philosophy, film, literary theory, and 18th-century German literature with an emphasis on Goethe. His most recent publication, "Isaac, Iphigeneia, Christ: Human Sacrifice and the Semiotics of Divine Intentions in Goethe" is

forthcoming in *Publications of the English Goethe Society*.

“I would like to further strengthen the Society’s support for young scholars (not the least because my own career was helped so much by it), and would like to reach out to other Goethe Societies around the globe.”

Clark Muenzer is an Associate Professor of German at the University of Pittsburgh. He is author of the monograph *Figures of Identity: Goethe’s Novels and the Enigmatic Self*. Recent articles include “Goethe’s Metaphysics of Immanence,” (also the title of a book-length study nearing completion), “Fugitive Images and Visual Memory in Goethe’s Discourse on Color,” and “Das Buch Hiob und Goethes Naturbegriff.” He has edited (or co-edited) a collection of essays for the *Goethe Yearbook* from last year’s GSNA conference, as well as *Remembering Goethe: Essays for the 250th Anniversary* and *Wegbereiter der Moderne: Festschrift für Klaus Jonas*.

“Over the past decade, I’ve contributed with enthusiasm to the many transformative initiatives undertaken by GSNA leadership, with six years as Executive Director, three as Editor of the newsletter, and three as Board Member (including last year as co-organizer of the Pittsburgh Conference). With my election to the Vice-Presidency, I would hope to use my broad organizational knowledge by building upon important recent successes (growth in membership, book series, conference, dissertation workshop). Among our priorities should be to expand the scholarly conversation, especially between younger and older members, by supporting additional

mentoring events, including web-based activities, and to explore international cooperation with other Goethe societies.”

For Director at-Large:

Heide Crawford is an Assistant Professor at the University of Kansas. She is the editor of *Der Vampyr oder die Todtenbraut* (by Theodor Hildenbrand (1828); forthcoming with Udolpho Press) and author of several articles, incl. “Poetically Visualizing *Urgestalten*. The Union of Nature and Art in Goethe’s ‘The Metamorphosis of the Plants’” in *The Enlightened Eye: Goethe and Visual Culture*, ed. Evelyn K. Moore and Patricia A. Simpson (Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2007).

“In my research and teaching of the Age of Goethe, I have sought to demonstrate the breadth of Goethe’s and his contemporaries’ influences on culture, science and literature and the impact of their works on international trends in these fields. As Director-at-large, I plan to continue this emphasis on the global relevance of works from the Age of Goethe.”

Elisabeth Krimmer is an Associate Professor of German at the University of California, Davis. She is the author of *In the Company of Men: Cross-Dressed Women around 1800* (Wayne State UP, 2004), *The Representation of War in German Literature: From 1800 to the Present* (Cambridge UP, forthcoming) and co-author of *Hollywood Divas, Indie Queens and TV Heroines: Contemporary Screen Images of Women*. (Rowman & Littlefield, 2004). Her articles have

appeared in journals such as *PMLA*, *The German Quarterly*, *Seminar*, *German Life and Letters*, and *Eighteenth-Century Fiction*. Her most recent project is a co-edited collection entitled *Enlightened War: Theories and Cultures of Warfare in Eighteenth-Century Germany*.

“If elected, I would seek to promote interdisciplinary work in eighteenth-century studies and increase the visibility of eighteenth-century German literature in the profession.”

Andrew Piper is an Assistant Professor in the Department of German Studies at McGill University. He is the author of *Dreaming in Books: The Making of the Bibliographic Imagination in the Romantic Age* (U Chicago P, 2009) as well as recent articles on Goethe and paraphrasis (*Goethe Yearbook*, forthcoming), Goethe, cartography, and the novel (*Spatial Turns*, ed. Fisher and Mennel, Rodopi, forthcoming), and Goethe and the book (*PMLA* Jan. 2006).

“As a young scholar I am committed to continuing to expand the society’s outreach to the next generation of *Goethezeit* scholars, including graduate students, undergraduates, postdocs and other junior faculty, by drawing attention to the role of new methodologies and new media in shaping our teaching and research.”

Peter J. Schwartz is Assistant Professor of German at Boston University. He is the author of *After Jena: Goethe’s Elective Affinities and the End of the Old Regime* – the first book in the GSNA series “New Studies in the Age of Goethe,” to be released in October by

Bucknell University Press – and of articles on Goethe and the *Goethezeit*, Aby M. Warburg, and the films of Michael Haneke.

“I greatly enjoyed the first GSNA conference and would like to fulfill the role of Director-at-Large in helping to plan the second one and in supporting the organization’s varied initiatives. I feel I have benefited in many ways over the years from the GSNA as a social and intellectual network, and would like to contribute actively to maintaining its liveliness and cohesion for us all.”

For Secretary-Treasurer:

Claire Baldwin is an Associate Professor at Colgate University. She is the author of *The Emergence of the German Novel: Wieland, La Roche, and Sagar* (2002) and co-editor of *The Construction of Textual Authority in German Literature of the Medieval and Early Modern Periods* (2001). She was a participant in the GSNA conference last fall and has served on the editorial board of *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture*.

“I have benefited from the generous collegiality of the GSNA in many ways and am grateful for the opportunities and intellectual energy the society provides. I would welcome the chance to contribute in turn by serving as Secretary-Treasurer and I would be pleased to work with colleagues on the board to ensure the continued strength and vibrancy of the GSNA.”

Edgar Landgraf is Associate Professor of German at Bowling Green State University. He is the author of articles on Lessing, Moritz, Goethe, Kant, and Nietzsche.

“I am supportive of innovative and interdisciplinary approaches to the study of Goethe and his age and believe it is important to continue to speak to a wider audience. Personally grateful for the wonderful work the GSNA has done, I’d be honored to put my organizational skills and experience with budgets and recruitment to use in serving the organization.”

FROM THE YEARBOOK EDITOR

Many of the papers in the next *Goethe Yearbook* were developed from papers given at the Society’s November 2008 conference. The special section co-edited by Clark Muenzer and Karin Schutjer presents a first sample of the exciting work presented in Pittsburgh. We expect more conference papers in future volumes. Two hundred years after the publication of *Faust I* in 1808, eight essays offer fresh views of this epic masterpiece, often through novel and surprising connections. Authors link for example Faust’s final ascension and the circulation of weather, verse forms in the drama and the performance of national identity, the fate of Gretchen and the occult politics of Francis Bacon. Additional papers explore epistemological structures and taxonomies at work in Goethe’s prose, essays and scientific writings.

Our dedication to cover the fullest range of topics from the *Goethezeit* shows itself in essays ranging from the early Enlightenment, on the young Lessing and J.E. Schlegel’s comedies, to Beethoven’s place in nineteenth-century music. As always, the *Goethe Yearbook* seeks to present the newest scholarship on German literature and culture through the “long eighteenth century.”

The book review section, edited by Catriona MacLeod, includes new internet material, films, as well as the latest theoretical and historical scholarship on the period. Volume 17 will be mailed out to Society members in March 2010.

Submissions for volume 18 of the *Goethe Yearbook* should be sent to the editor, Daniel Purdy, dlp14@psu.edu. Please make sure to consult the editorial guidelines on the Society webpage.

Daniel Purdy
Pennsylvania State University

FROM THE BOOK REVIEW EDITOR

As always, 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:

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FROM THE BOOK SERIES EDITOR

The first book in our series, Peter Schwartz's *After Jena: Goethe's Elective Affinities and the End of the Old Regime*,



is about to be published. Please see the enclosed flyer for more information. The list price is \$75, but Bucknell will offer it to Goethe Society members for a discounted price of \$49.50 + \$3.95 for

shipping. When ordering, members need only to identify themselves as such to receive the discount. The Goethe Society of North America has been working to establish closer collaborations with the English Goethe Society, and Bucknell's English distributor has also agreed to offer the English Goethe Society a significant discount as well.

I am very pleased to announce that the second book in our series will be Brian Tucker's, *Reading Riddles: Rhetorics of Obscurity from Romanticism to Freud*. To quote from the book's introduction: "This is a book about how the theory of literature in early German Romanticism lays the groundwork for Sigmund Freud's approach to the psyche." The manuscript has just been turned into the

press, and we will let you know as soon as we have a publication date.

Astrida Tantillo
University of Illinois, Chicago

NEW BOOKS BY MEMBERS

Stefani Engelstein. *Anxious Anatomy: The Conception of the Human Form in Literary and Naturalist Discourse*. Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2008. Engelstein reconstructs the late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century human body to offer startling new readings of major works by Goethe, Blake, Heinrich von Kleist, E.T.A. Hoffmann, Mary Shelley, and Jane Austen.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Special GSNA Session at ASECS 2010

Goethe's Voices

Though the end of *Faust I* prominently features the call of two voices from off-stage, little critical attention has been paid to the status of the 'voice' in Goethe's work. This is all the more striking if one considers the amount of attention that critics have devoted to the significance of voice in nineteenth century German literature and philosophy—cf., for instance, Bettine Menke's investigation of voice in Hoffmann and Brentano, or Derrida's

critique of 'phonocentrism' in Hegel. In an attempt to explore the neglected pre-history, or perhaps even the alternate history of voice in the eighteenth century, this panel is interested in papers that examine the status of 'voice' in Goethe's work and/ or time.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to, the relation between writing and orality (cf. Wellbery's notion of 'primordial orality'), the legacy of the rhetorical tradition, close readings of particular texts or passages that explicitly or implicitly reflect on or (re)present the human voice, the ambiguous status of voice as a medium between materiality and immateriality, or the narrative techniques employed for the description of voices.

Please send proposals (400-600 words) by September 15, 2009 to Markus Wilczek at wilczek@fas.harvard.edu.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Special GSNA Sessions at GSA 2009

The Emergence of Modern German Literary Studies out of Goethe Philology (1)

Moderator: Bernd Hamacher, Goethe-
Wörterbuch

Commentator: Frederick
Amrine, University of Michigan

1. "Goethe und Goethe-Philologie als
Muster der neugermanistischen
Editionswissenschaft," Rüdiger Nutt-
Kofoth, Akademie der Wissenschaften
zu Göttingen/ Bergische Universität
Wuppertal

2. "Constructions of Goethe vs.
Constructions of Kant in German
Intellectual Culture, 1915-1925,"
Michael Saman, Harvard University

3. "Zwischen 'Lebens'- und
'Dichtungs'wissenschaft. Günther
Müllers 'morphologische Poetik' im
Kontext der 1940er Jahre," Gerhard
Kaiser, Georg-August-Universität
Göttingen

The Emergence of Modern German Literary Studies out of Goethe Philology (2)

Moderator: Stefan Börnchen, Université
du Luxembourg

Commentator: Bernd
Hamacher, Goethe-Wörterbuch

1. "The Birth of Germanistik out of the
Spirit of Wagnerism," Frederick
Amrine, University of Michigan

2. "'Man sucht den Mittelpunkt, und das
ist schwer und nicht einmal gut' –
Figurationen der Verdopplung in
Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre," Lavinia
Meier-Ewert, Universität Zürich

3. "'...aus dieser fingierten Welt in eine
ähnliche wirkliche versetzt'? Die
Theorie der Autobiografie und ein
postmoderner Goethe," Robert
Walter, Freie Universität Berlin

Annual Business Meeting and Presidential Address at the MLA 2009 in Philadelphia

Monday, 28 December, 10:15 - 11:30 a.m., Loews Philadelphia

Presiding: Simon Richter, University of Pennsylvania

1. "President's Report and Business Meeting," Simon Richter, University of Pennsylvania
2. "Civic Attachments and Sibling Attractions: The Shadows of Fraternity," Stefani B. Engelstein, University of Missouri, Columbia

Special GSNA Session at the MLA 2009

Monday, 28 December, 12:00 - 1:15 p.m., Loews Philadelphia

Program arranged by the North American Heine Society and the Goethe Society of North America

Die Memoiren Göttes: Goethe, Heine, and the Bible

Presiding: Richard Owen Block, University of Washington, Seattle

1. "The Happy Misfortune of the Poet: Heine's Schlemiel," Rochelle Tobias, Johns Hopkins University
2. "Enlightenment and the Bible in Heine's and Goethe's Poetry," Ruth Klüger, University of California, Irvine

3. "Goethe's Modernity and the Hebrew Bible," Karin Lynn Schutjer, University of Oklahoma

4. "Dark Revelations," Frederick R. Amrine, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

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.

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Deadlines for submission of panel proposals

2010 MLA, 15 November 2009
2010 GSA, 1 December 2009
2011 ASECS, 15 March 2010

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 2009 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.

junior member (non-tenured faculty)	\$25
senior member (tenured faculty)	\$35
patron (please consider becoming a patron)	\$100
emeritus	\$10
student	\$10
institution	\$40

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