



GOETHE NEWS AND NOTES

XVIII.2 FALL 1997

GSNA EVENTS AT THE 1997 MLA CONVENTION IN TORONTO

BUSINESS MEETING OF THE GSNA

Tuesday, 30 December 1997
12:00 noon-1:15 p.m.
Conference Room G, Sheraton
Centre
Ehrhard Bahr, presiding

1. Reading and approval of the minutes of the last Business Meeting.
2. President's Report, by Ehrhard Bahr.
3. Treasurer's Report, by Todd Kontje.
4. Executive Secretary's Report, by Meredith Lee.
5. Yearbook Editor's Report, by Thomas P. Saine.
6. New business.

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PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE GSNA

Sunday, 28 December 1997
3:30 - 4:45 p.m.
Huron Room
Sheraton Centre

GOETHE AND THE NATION

Todd Kontje, University of California, San Diego, presiding

1. Goethes Begriff deutscher Nation.
Sean Ward, Stanford University
2. Goethe, Weimar, and the French Revolution: What the Archives Can Still Teach Us.
W. Daniel Wilson, University of California, Berkeley
3. Birth of a Nation?: Goethe Reading the Pentateuch.
Horst Lange, University of Nevada, Reno

GSNA ELECTION RESULTS

PRESIDENT (accedes)
Benjamin Bennett
VICE PRESIDENT
Hans R. Vaegt
SECRETARY-TREASURER
Martha Helfer
DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE
Waltraud Maierhofer
Simon Richter

MINUTES OF THE 1996
BUSINESS MEETING

Washington, D.C., December 28, 1996

1. Minutes of 1995 approved.

2. President's Report. Ehrhard Bahr, UCLA

-- Members rose for a moment of silence in honor of Victor Lange.

-- The Executive Committee of the GSNA has decided to use the interest from the Gloria Flaherty Scholarship Fund of \$25,000 for travel grants to support undergraduate senior theses and graduate research. The bequest should generate approximately \$1250 per year at current interest rates, of which approximately \$750-800 will be used for travel grants; the rest will be added to the principle so that the interest keeps up with inflation.

--Professor Bahr announced a prize to be awarded annually by the GSNA for the best article or book by a junior scholar on Goethe and/or the Goethezeit of approximately \$500. He will nominate a committee to appoint officers who will grant the award.

--Todd Kontje will end his three-year term as Secretary-Treasurer at the end of 1997. There was a call for volunteers which will be repeated in the next Newsletter.

--The Goethe Gesellschaft in Weimar has invited the GSNA to include a report on its activities in their *Jahrbuch*. Some 10-15 years ago the Goethe Gesellschaft made a similar request which the GSNA turned down. Now there is a consensus to accept the new offer, provided that the Goethe Gesellschaft makes it clear that the GSNA is an independent organization and not a local chap-

ter of the Goethe Gesellschaft. Comments: Hans Vaget: A good idea. We should include a history of the GSNA in the first column. Ben Bennett: yes. It might get more German university libraries to order the *Yearbook*. Jeffrey Sammons: Yes. The North American Heine Society does this, and it improves international relations.

--Report on the "*Wilhelm Meister* year." The GSNA sponsored a panel at the national ASECS meeting, and held a successful one-day symposium at the Clark Library.

--Future Symposia. A symposium is planned on *Hermann und Dorothea* at the Clark Library in October, 1997. The Clark Library has also agreed to sponsor a 1999 symposium on "Goethe and Life." There are tentative plans for a 1999 symposium at Yale University on "Goethe and Science." The Symposium will be held in conjunction with an exhibit in the Beinecke Library organized by Christa Sammons. Discussion: Bennett: The GSNA performs a service by sponsoring symposia that integrate Goethe studies into other disciplines, such as the history of science. Could Richard Rorty be invited to a symposium on Goethe and Occularity? Irmgard Wagner: Utopian settlements in Ohio is another possibility for a symposium topic. Fredrick Amrine has edited a collection on Goethe and science.

--Future panels. Todd Kontje has agreed to chair a panel on "Goethe and the Nation" at the 1997 MLA in Toronto. Waltraud Maierhofer will chair a panel at the GSA meeting (topic to be determined). Dan Wilson, who is giving a paper on the panel on Goethe and Cultural Studies at the ASECS Meeting, might be asked to chair the 1998 program at ASECS.

Treasurer's Report. Todd Kontje. The books balance. Revenue from dues was down slightly. Revenue from interest was up, due to the Flaherty bequest. The GSNA made a slight profit on the *Wilhelm Meister* Symposium. Discussion: Bennett: We should request e-mail addresses from members, and consider sending late dues reminders via e-mail.

Executive Secretary's Report: Meredith Lee. The MLA has now limited allied organizations to 2 sessions. Should we have a panel or other presentation at the business meeting? Along the lines of Hans Veget's report on the new *Faust* edition in 1995? Perhaps we could contact Tom Saine, the *Yearbook* editor, in this context. Bennett: The presentation should be informative.

--There will be a symposium at the end of February at Davidson College on the "City of Weimar: Mapping Cultural Studies for the Long 18th Century." Organizer: Burkhard Henke.

--The city of Weimar has been designated the Kulturhauptstadt of Europe for 1999. Should the GSNA initiate any special contact with them?

5. *Yearbook*. The editor, Tom Saine, not present. His future presence encouraged. Discussion: Why is the *Yearbook* so much bigger this year? Presumably because the focus has been broadened from Goethe to Goethezeit. The book review section should be expanded to include all significant publications on Goethe and Goethezeit and particularly all books published in North America.

Todd Kontje
Secretary-Treasurer

CALL FOR PAPERS
MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
27-30 DECEMBER, 1998

FROM *WEATHER THEORY*
TO *STRANGE WEATHER*, OR:
DID GOETHE DO CULTURAL STUDIES?

Chair: Peter J. Burgard, Harvard University

The title of the session is meant to be allusive rather than definitive. Goethe's *Versuch einer Witterungslehre* and Andrew Ross's *Strange Weather* might, but need not, be used as points of departure for more general discussions. The session proposes to address such questions as: Was Goethe simply highly accomplished in many disciplines or is his work interdisciplinary in our contemporary sense? Do his writings bring cultural discourses and aesthetic theories to bear on other discourses (e.g., the natural sciences) in the way that what is known as cultural studies often does? Is "cultural studies" a useful term or field to think about when thinking about 18th-century Germany and "multidisciplinarians" like Goethe? Please send 1-page abstracts by March 1, 1998 to:

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12 Quincy Street
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or:

FAX: (617) 496-8240

Other inquiries may be sent by
email: burgard@fas.harvard.edu

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

My term comes to an end this December and I want to thank all members for their support and the officers of the Society for their service. It has been a privilege to serve this Society which I helped to found in 1979 and I consider myself very lucky that I had this opportunity. During my term our Society was honored by the award of the Goethe Medal of the Goethe Gesellschaft to Stuart Atkins in 1995. Last year the Society received the bequest made in honor of Gloria Flaherty to promote Goethe research by undergraduate and graduate students. Guidelines for the award of financial support for individual student projects are being finalized for approval and will be published in 1998. Attracting new and young members to the Society will be one of the major tasks of the future. It is planned that the Vice President will dedicate his major efforts to this task as chair of the awards committee.

The scholarly programs of the Society at the annual conferences of the Modern Language Association, the American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies, and the German Studies Association have become standard events, presenting innovative scholarship. The GSNA launched a new series in cultural studies at the ASECS meeting in 1997 which promises to break new ground.

I was not successful in obtaining funds for an NEH seminar on *Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre* in 1995/96, but the Goethe Society sponsored a session on *Wilhelm Meister* at the ASECS meeting in 1996. In Southern California the Goethe Society conducted a faculty and graduate student conference on the *Lehrjahre*

at the Clark Memorial Library in Los Angeles in October 1996. A conference on *Hermann und Dorothea* took place in November 1997 at the same location. The idea is to read and discuss each year a work by Goethe written two hundred years ago. Goethe scholars in other regions are invited to follow this model of regional meetings.

Plans for the Goethe Year 1999 have been discussed and individual projects are encouraged by the Goethe Society which will act as a clearing house. What is otherwise in store for 1999 is indicated by the headline of a recent article in the *Washington Post*, reprinted in the *Los Angeles Times* on September 28, 1997: "A New Look at the 18th Century's Macho, Macho Man." According to this article, a new study of Goethe, entitled *Die Liebkosungen des Tiggers* by Karl Hugo Pruys, argues that the poet's life and work were really shaped by his homosexuality. If it more than mere sensationalism, we hope that the author has read Kurt R. Eissler and the more recent book on *Outing Goethe and His Age*, edited by Alice A. Kuzniar (Stanford 1966).

The ballots for the new officers have been mailed, collected, and counted. In an election year, especially, we are reminded how important it is to keep the Society responsive to its membership. We have a good record in this respect and I wish the Society a successful new three-year term with Benjamin Bennett as our new president and with our newly elected officers, as of January 1, 1998. My special thanks and appreciation go to Scott Abbott and Irmgard Wagner as Directors-at-Large and Todd Kontje as Secretary-Treasurer -- their terms end in December -- and to Meredith Lee, Executive Secretary,

and to Thomas P. Saine, editor of the Yearbook, who both will provide continuity for the Society. You can count on me as a loyal member. "Und so fort weiter," in the Goethean sense.

Ehrhard Bahr
President

GLORIA FLAHERTY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The agenda for the 1997 Business Meeting will include the Executive Committee's recommendations for definition and administration of the Gloria Flaherty Scholarship Fund. In the Spring Newsletter details about how students may apply will be announced.

In memory of her daughter Gloria, Jean Flaherty bequeathed to the Goethe Society of North America \$25,000 for the creation of a scholarship fund "to provide financial aid to worthy undergraduate and/or graduate students who wish to further their education in areas related to the interests promoted by the society." Gloria Flaherty was a Founding Member of the Goethe Society of North America.

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GOETHE HOLDINGS ONLINE

Two years ago the Beinecke Library catalogue for printed materials went online. All catalogued printed books and pamphlets, including those in the William A. Speck Collection of Goetheana, now have Orbis records. Finding aids for the main series of manuscripts in the Speck collection are also available

online via the Beinecke homepage at www.library.yale.edu/beinecke/brblhome.htm. The same url provides access to the latest information about the Beinecke Visiting Fellowship Program and an online version of the guide to the Beinecke collections, which includes an overview of the German Literature Collection. There is also a Beinecke link on the GSNA homepage.

Christa Sammons
Yale University

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LOOKING AHEAD TO THE 1998 ASECS CONFERENCE AT NOTRE DAME

The Goethe Society Session at the 1998 ASECS conference at Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana April 1-5 will be chaired by **Astrida Orle Tantillo, University of Illinois, Chicago Circle**

GOETHE AND THE VISUAL ARTS

1. "...zu groß für unsere nordischen Wohnungen." Self-Image and Portrait in the *Italienische Reise*.

Waltraud Maierhofer, University of Iowa

2. Erasing Laocoon: Goethe Rereading the Laocoon Statue.

Geoffrey Atherton, University of Cincinnati.

3. Goethe's Parody of "Nazarene" Iconography: The Joseph Story in *Wilhelm Meisters Wanderjahre*.

Gabrielle Bersier, Indiana University-Purdue University

FROM THE EDITOR
OF THE GOETHE YEARBOOK

At this time I am inviting submissions to be considered for inclusion in volume nine of the *Goethe Yearbook*. The *Yearbook* is 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. We adhere more or less to the *Chicago Manual of Style* rather than to the *MLA Style Sheet*.

Thomas P. Saine
Editor

WEB SITE

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

For the *Goethe Yearbook*:
<http://www.hnet.uci.edu/tpsaine/gyb.html>

CASH BAR AT THE MLA

Monday, 29 December, 5:15-6:30 p.m.
Dominion Ballroom North, Sheraton
Centre

Members of the Goethe Society of North America are cordially invited to join their colleagues for drinks and conversation on Monday, December 29, at 5:15 p.m. The Cash Bar is organized by the German Department of the University of California, Irvine.

OTHER NEWS AND NOTES

RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS

Herbert Rowland, *Matthias Claudius: Language an "Infamous Funnel" and Its Imperatives*. Madison & Teaneck, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1997.

Waltraud Maierhofer, " 'Heilsamer Stachel'. Goethe und Immermann," in *Epigonentum und Originalität: Immermann und seine Zeit -- Immermann und die Folgen*, ed. Peter Hasubek. Frankfurt/Main: Lang, 1997, 35-58.

GSNA PROGRAMS

The second annual Southern California regional meeting of the GSNA took place on November 8, 1997 at the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library. Some 30 people gathered to discuss *Hermann und Dorothea*. Papers were read by Irmgard Wagner, George Mason University: Neo-classicism and Revolution; and Victor Terras, Emeritus, Brown University: The Russian Reception of *Hermann und Dorothea*. The program concluded with a reception hosted by Peter Reill, Director of the UCLA Center for 17th- and 18th-Century Studies. A 1998 meeting is planned, with *Dichtung und Wahrheit* selected as the core text.

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**A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY AND EDITOR**

Thank you to the nominating committee for identifying such excellent candidates in the recent election and thank you to all who stood for election. On behalf of Jane K. Brown and Astrida Tantillo, Karl Fink (Chair) reports that 84 ballots were cast. The newly elected officers will serve in the calendar years 1998, 1999, and 2000.

In the Via del Corso in Rome, on the corner of Via della Fontanella, stands the house where Goethe lived together with Johann Heinrich Wilhelm Tischbein and other artists during his Roman stay. After acquiring the apartment on the first upper level in 1990, the German government has restored it and installed the first German museum outside the Federal Republic: the Casa di Goethe. The museum includes a library with 7000 volumes and manuscripts, paintings, drawings, and Andy Warhol's original portrait based on Tischbein's "Goethe in der Campagna." There is also a small apartment for fellowship holders. The announcement in the *Deutschland Nachrichten* (6 June 1997) did not provide information about how scholars might apply for use of the apartment, but it did include an address for the German Information Center: 950 Third Avenue, New York 10022, e-mail: gic2@ix.netcom.com.

The deadline for the Spring issue of *Goethe News and Notes* is April 15. I would like to continue the practice of listing any significant publications on Goethe by GSNA members, as well as completed dissertations, and would be grateful to receive such information regularly from you.

Members are encouraged to propose special sessions at regional meetings of the MLA and ASECS. If you would like to propose a session sponsored by GSNA at any other regional meeting, contact me for assistance with publicity and mailing lists.

Meredith Lee
Executive Secretary

DUES SCHEDULE

The dues for membership in the Goethe Society of North America are as follows:

active members	\$20
senior members	\$30
members paying in DM	DM 50
patrons	\$100
emeriti	\$10
students	\$10
institutions	\$30

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

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OF NORTH AMERICA**

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