



GOETHE NEWS AND NOTES

XXII.1, Spring 2001
Editor, Clark S. Muenzer
University of Pittsburgh

FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND EDITOR

There is much to report in this issue of our newsletter. In addition to the usual array of announcements—including a “Call for Papers” for next year’s ASECS meeting in Colorado, there are important reminders for our annual essay prize and the Flaherty Scholarship competition for graduate students. You will also find a message from our first Webmaster, Burkhard Henke, whom we welcome to our hardworking group of officers and directors, and an announcement of last year’s election results. Congratulations to Tom Saine, Ellis Dye, and of course, Hans Vaget, whose first column as our new president offers a number of interesting reflections on the status of the worldwide “conversation” about Goethe.

At this year’s “Hauptversammlung” in Weimar, two persons who are not Goethe scholars were awarded the golden “Goethe Medaille”: Peter Stein, for his historic production of the entire, uncut version of *Faust* at “Expo 2000” in Hannover; and Daniel Barenboim, for his work with the “West-östlicher Divan Orchester.” The “Laudatio” for Barenboim was offered by GSNA member Katharina Mommsen.

Finally, some of you might already have seen the current issue of *Deutsche Vierteljahrsschrift* (75. Jahrgang, Heft 1/März 2001), which includes eight essays in cultural studies on:

“Augenmensch: Zur Bedeutung des Sehens im Werk Goethes”—the topic of a symposium organized by David E. Wellbery and Dorothea von Mücke and held at Columbia University, November 7-9, 1999. The essays are by Kenneth Calhoun, Eckart Förster, Barbara Hahn, Rainer Nägele, Helmut J. Schneider, Hans R. Vaget, Klaus Weimar, and Fay Zika.

Clark S. Muenzer
University of Pittsburgh

PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

It is with a deep sense of gratitude and pride that I write this first letter as the new president of the Goethe Society of North America. It is a privilege to have been elected to follow in the footsteps of so distinguished a group of scholars, of whom there have so far been six: Victor Lange, Christoph Schweitzer, Jane Brown, Stuart Atkins, Ehrhard Bahr, and Benjamin Bennett. Their dedicated service no less than their scholarly accomplishments have contributed decisively to the success of the GSNA. And it is comforting to know that many of them continue to stand ready to serve as sources of advice and inspiration.

There are good reasons for taking pride in the existence and in the accomplishments of our lively society. I remember well when it all began, in the mid- and late-seventies. At that time, the original gang of four—Meredith Lee, Tom Saine, Ted Bahr, and I—began to talk, late at night at various conferences, or sitting around Merry's pool in Santa Ana, about founding a new American Goethe Society that would be dedicated to scholarship rather than to folklore. Success at that time was neither assured nor even likely.

Today, thanks to our *Yearbook* and to the impressively large number of sessions that members of the GSNA organize at the annual meetings of the MLA, the GSA, and the ASECS, offering as they do a chance for younger colleagues to introduce their ideas, we represent a highly visible and vital sector within the field of German Studies in America as we continue to encourage and to support new scholarship on Goethe and the *Goethezeit*. The number of our *Goethe Yearbooks* now stands at ten. Next to the venerable *Goethe-Jahrbuch*, our *Yearbook* enjoys the worldwide reputation of being the second most important periodical publication devoted to the study of Goethe. It has put us on the national and international map. How satisfying to see that today members of our Society turn out some of the most interesting and provocative Goethe scholarship produced anywhere in the world.

These past few years alone have seen a remarkable number of publications that testify to the vitality of Goethe scholarship in North America. I am thinking of *Outing Goethe and His Age*, a volume to which several of our members have contributed; of *The Specular Moment*, David Wellbery's innovative study of Goethe's poetry; of Cyrus Hamlin's revised Nor-

ton edition of *Faust* containing several new essays on Goethe's *magnum opus* that originated at a GSNA sponsored symposium on the challenges of "Interpreting Goethe's *Faust* Today." I am also thinking of Dan Wilson's *Das Goethe-Tabu* and his *Unterirdische Gänge: Goethe, Freimaurerei und Politik*, which continue to stir up what I consider to be fruitful controversies both in Europe and in America. And I am thinking of Meredith Lee's long-awaited book on Goethe and Klopstock, a study that is likely to be definitive; or my predecessor Benjamin Bennett's provocative takes on Goethe and his work—*Goethe as Woman: The Undoing of Literature*. The list goes on.

I write these words while flying home from Weimar, after the 77th *Hauptversammlung* of the Goethe-Gesellschaft, where I had the opportunity to talk with colleagues from all over the world. The Weimar Goethe Society will soon be renamed the "Internationale Goethe-Gesellschaft" to reflect the fact that some 36 non-German Societies are now associated with the mother of all Goethe Societies. Weimar, to me, seemed more charming and attractive than ever. For the first time, the meetings took place in the new "Congresszentrum Neue Weimarahalle," an architecturally conservative and pleasant multi-purpose facility just five minutes on foot from Goethe-Platz; also for the first time, an international "Symposium junger Goetheforscher" was held on the day before the opening of the "Hauptversammlung."

I very much liked the new Goethe and Hafis monument, by the German sculptor Ernst Thevis, which was officially unveiled last year by President Khatami of Iran at Weimar's Beethoven Platz: two elegantly simple throne-like

chairs hewn from two granite blocks face each other and invite us to sit on their polished seats and to come face to face with other cultures, as Goethe did in his incomparable *Divan*. If the 1999 commemoration, which generally received rather poor reviews in the press, has sent out any lasting signal beyond the immediate circle of Goethe scholarship, it is most likely the message so admirably articulated by this new monument, for it seems that at this historical juncture Goethe's *West-östlicher Divan* and the related notion of "Weltliteratur" represent to the world at large the intellectually most attractive and inspiring aspect of his legacy.

A moving reminder of this has been provided by Maestro Daniel Barenboim, who in the past three summers has brought together in Weimar (and Buchenwald) a group of young Israeli and Arab musicians, to offer them musical training and, more importantly, to demonstrate that intercultural dialogue is not only desirable but also possible when it is undertaken in Goethe's own spirit of transnationalism. Fittingly, this group is named the "West-östlicher Divan Orchester."

Perhaps the most lasting impression with which I come away from Weimar results from the strength—in their numbers and in their intellectual achievements—of colleagues from Eastern Europe. In that part of the world, as we all know only too well, the German language and German culture continue to occupy a position stronger than they do in the US and in Canada. These colleagues need and deserve our support. I should like to propose that we, i.e. the GSNA, make a very tangible gesture of support by donating a dozen or so subscriptions to the *Goethe Yearbook* to institutions in Poland, Bulgaria, Armenia,

and elsewhere, attempting ideally to choose institutions that have a flourishing program of Goethe studies, but are not be in a position to purchase subscriptions to our *Yearbook*. I expect to put this on the agenda of the Board and also of our Business meeting in New Orleans in December. In the meantime, I would welcome thoughts and suggestions regarding such an initiative from any member of the Society.

Hans Rudolf Vaget
Smith College

GSNA ELECTIONS

President

Hans Vaget (Smith College) acceded to the presidency in January 2001.

Vice-President

Thomas P. Saine (University of California, Irvine) was elected vice-president.

Director-at-Large

Ellis Dye (Macalester College) was elected director at large.

FROM THE YEARBOOK EDITOR

I am pleased to announce that Martha Helfer has agreed to assume the position of book review editor. We appear to have a sufficient number of essays to begin formatting volume XI, thanks in part to the submissions generated by the

panels on Goethe and the Ego organized by Fritz Breithaupt, who is also lending editorial assistance. Volume XI will also include an essay completed by Stuart Atkins before his death entitled "Renaissance and Baroque Elements in Goethe's *Faust*: Illustrative Analogues," as well as essays on Grillparzer, *Werther*, film adaptations of *Faust*, an adaptation of Goethe's poetry by the DDR cabaret group Karls Enkel, and Wilhelm Müller. Members are invited to submit essays for volume XII. (Simon Richter, University of Pennsylvania)

FROM THE BOOK REVIEW EDITOR

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

Professor Martha B. Helfer
Department of Languages and Literature
255 S. Central Campus Dr., Room 1400
University of Utah
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

CALL FOR PAPERS

ASECS (April, 2002)
Colorado Springs

**From Alchemy to Ecology:
Re-evaluating the Goethean
Idea of Nature**

For Goethe, the idea of nature was inseparable from its experience, as his account of his first meeting with Schiller suggests. The diversities of discourses associated with nature (science, art, culture) suggest that nature was also a global phenomenon for him. Proposals are invited that address either the various modalities of Goethe's idea of nature (as science, art, culture, etc.) or Goethe's

representation of nature as a global phenomenon, force, etc. Papers with particular relevance to the conference location are welcome (Goethe's studies in geology, for example). Please send proposals by **September 15, 2001**, to:

Professor John B. Lyon
Dept. of Germanic Languages and Literature
1409 B Cathedral of Learning
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Telephone: (412) 624-5839
Fax: (412) 624-6328
E-mail: jblyon@pitt.edu

Abstracts must be submitted by **January 15, 2001**.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

North American Society for the Study of Romanticism

University of Washington, Seattle
August 16-19, 2001

Romantic Subjects

The ninth annual meeting of the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism will take place on the University of Washington campus in Seattle, Aug. 16-19, 2001. Its topic is intended to encourage a non-exclusive focus on three areas: subjectivity, ideas and ideologies, and subject positions. A list of special sessions can be found at the NASSR 2001 Web site:

<http://depts.washington.edu/nassr01/>

East Central ASECS

Cape May, NJ
October 18-21, 2001

Consuming Passions of the 18th Century

Please contact Lisa Rosner at:

ecasecs@camden.rutgers.edu

Annual Meeting of the GSA

Washington, D.C. (Arlington, VA)
October 4 - 7, 2001

Special GSNA Session

Fri 2:00 PM-4: 30 PM (Manassas)

Goethe-Effects

Moderator: Volker Kaiser, University of Virginia

The Otilie-Effect: Contradistinctions of Class-Specific 'Habitus' in Goethe's Elective Affinities (Peter J. Schwartz, Columbia University)

Dining Out: Walter Benjamin Meets Goethe (Liliane Weissberg, Univ. of Pennsylvania)

Die stumme Forderung des Bandes: Zur Funktion des Fetischs in Goethes Wilhelm Meister (Jörg Kreienbrock, New York University)

The Work of Art in Wilhelm Meister's Lehrjahre (Sean McIntyre, Stanford)

Commentator: Erhard Bahr, University of California at Los Angeles

Other Sessions of Interest

Fri 10:30 AM-12:15 PM (Manassas)

Life into Literature, Literature into Life

Moderator: John A. McCarthy (Vanderbilt)
Rousseau's Autobiography: Goethe's Life (Jane K. Brown, University of Washington)

Self-Blame in the Confessions of Young Goethe (Ellis Dye, Macalester College)

'To Write is to Be is to Write': Goethe, Life, and Literature (Deirdre Vincent, University of Toronto)

Commentator: Waltraud Maierhofer, University of Iowa

Sun 8:30 AM-10:15 AM (Salon E)

The Power of Money in the Nineteenth Century

Moderator: Andreas Daum, German Historical Institute, Washington, DC

Assignaten in Goethes Faust II: Pros und Cons (Gerlinde Ulm: Stanford, Syracuse University)

Sun 10:30 AM-12: 15 PM (Salon F)

Cultural Memory and Historical Representation in Early Nineteenth-Century Germany

Moderator: Arne Koch, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

In Defense of Hellas: K. O. Müller and the Orientalization of German Nationhood, 1806-30 (Kveta E. Benes, University of Washington)

Der letzte Ritter: Goethe's Goetz von Berlichingen (Yasser Derwiche, Stanford)

The Middle Ages and the Orient in German Romantic Literature (Todd Kontje, Univ. of California at San Diego)

Commentator: Brent Peterson, Ripon College

Sun 10:30 AM-12: 15 PM (Manassas)

**Aesthetics and Politics
in Eighteenth Century
Literature and Culture**

Moderator: Jonathan Hess, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

The Goethe Society in Weimar during the NS-Period (Erhard Bahr, University of California, Los Angeles)

Wie realistisch ist ästhetisches Denken? Zu den Entstehungsbedingungen von Schillers ästhetischer Theorie (Franz Futterknecht, University of Florida)

'Hüte dich vor dem Spielmann:' The Male Muses of Romanticism (Martha Helfer, University of Utah)

Commentator: Nicholas Vazsonyi, University of South Carolina

**GSNA PAPERS AT THE
2000 MLA CONVENTION
NEW ORLEANS**

The Mind's Eye in Goethe's Italienische Reise (Martina Kolb, Yale)

True Lies: Making Sense of the Witch's Riddle in Goethe's Faust (Karin Barton, Independent Scholar, Waterloo, Ontario)

Truth Transposed (Ellis Dye, Macalester College)

Trauma and Memory in Goethe's Novels (Jill Kowalik, UCLA)

**GLORIA FLAHERTY
SCHOLARSHIP**

For the past two years, the Gloria Flaherty Scholarship, which the society offers to help fund research and conference travel for graduate students in our field, was not awarded, due to a lack of applications. I am therefore urging members to encourage their best students to apply. The guidelines appear below.

**FLAHERTY SCHOLARSHIP
GUIDELINES**

Two years ago, the GSNA Board of Directors drafted guidelines for the Gloria Flaherty Scholarship and appointed the Vice-President of the GSNA and the Directors-at-Large as the scholarship committee. 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. There are two categories for the competition: 1) Money for travel required by a research project on Goethe and/or the Age of Goethe; 2) Money for travel to present a paper on Goethe and/or his age. The Society is not bound to award a prize in either category in any given year. "Age of Goethe" has its normal, relatively narrow range of meaning. It refers not merely to a specific period of historical time, but also to the existence of reasonably clear paths of association with Goethe's person, works, interest, or activities. Students who will either deliver a paper or complete a research project BEFORE receiving a doctoral degree are eligible.

Application Procedure: The applicant seeking travel money to deliver a paper should send: 1) a copy of the paper to be read, or of the most complete available draft; 2) evidence that the paper has been accepted for presentation by a reputable scholarly organization or institution. The

applicant seeking travel money for research should send: 1) a detailed description of the research project, including a reasonable selection of supporting materials. If the project description exceeds two pages (ca. 600 words) in length, it **MUST** be accompanied by a synopsis or summary not exceeding that length; 2) **ONE** letter of recommendation from a scholar qualified to comment on the project; 3) **ONE** letter of recommendation from a scholar who is familiar with the applicant's earlier work in either courses or research.

N.B. **ONE** letter of recommendation means "only one." No letters of recommendation should accompany applications for money to present a paper. Letters of recommendation should be sent by the recommenders directly to the committee. Any materials that the candidate wishes to have returned must be accompanied by postage and an appropriate and pre-addressed mailing container. Send completed application by

October 15, 2001 to:

Professor Thomas P. Saine
Department of German
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, CA 92697-3150

GSNA ESSAY PRIZE

Congratulations!

Pres. Benjamin Bennett announced that the Society had chosen Professor Elizabeth Powers of Drew University as the first recipient of the GSNA Essay Prize. Professor Powers' article, "The Artist's Escape from the Idyll: The Relationship of *Werther* to *Sesenheim*," appeared in volume IX of the *Goethe Yearbook*.

Call for Submissions

The executive committee seeks nominations or self-nominations for its annual essay prize, which carries an award of \$250. Please submit eight copies of your choice for the best essay **published in the year 2000** on Goethe, his times, and/or contemporary figures by

October 1, 2001 to:

Professor Thomas P. Saine
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FROM THE WEBMASTER

Greetings! As the Society's webmaster I look forward to designing the new website and maintaining it for the next three years. During that time, the pages will be hosted by my home institution, Davidson College, under a special domain name. Until the new website goes live sometime this fall, please continue to point your browser to:

<http://www.hnet.uci.edu/tpsaine/gsna.html>

The new website will combine the contents of the old website and the newsletter to provide a continuously updated resource for members and interested visitors. Rubrics will include the Society's mission statement; business information, such as membership, dues schedule, and the minutes of the business meetings; the *Goethe Yearbook*; special news, notes, and necrology; upcoming events and calls for papers; the Flaherty Scholarship and the GSNA Essay Prize; Goethe links; a listing of officers and members with their e-mail ad-

dresses and websites; an archive; and a site map. As a special service, members will also receive news and notes by email on a monthly basis. While the website will be designed to enhance the Society's role as a major forum for research within the international community of scholars of the Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Centuries, I would also like to augment our online offerings with some teaching materials, such as reading questions, handouts, and syllabi. If you have any you would like to share, please submit them to me at your convenience. If you have any suggestions, or would like to preview the pages once they are deployed on a test server, feel free to contact me at:

buhenke@davidson.edu

Finally, if you are not comfortable with your e-mail address and a link to your website being posted, please let me know and I will omit that information.

Burkhard Henke, Davidson

WWW SITES

GSNA

<http://www.hnet.uci.edu/tpsaine/gsna.html>

*A new address will be available shortly. It will be published in the fall newsletter.

GOETHE YEARBOOK

<http://www.hnet.uci.edu/tpsaine/gyb.html>

DUES

Members who have not yet paid their 2001 dues are gently reminded to send them to Martha Helfer. The GYB is sent only once this obligation is met. Please see the schedule below. Dues are payable in each calendar year.

active member	\$20
payment in D-Marks	\$50
senior member	\$30
patron	\$100
emeritus	\$10
student	\$10
institution	\$30

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