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GOETHE NEWS AND NOTES

XXV.1, Spring 2005

Burkhard Henke, Editor
Davidson College

FROM THE EDITOR

With a new Secretary-Treasurer and an almost new Executive Director on board, the Goethe Society has been off to a fabulous start this year. Some of the Board's plans for 2005 you will find outlined in this newsletter, along with the usual array of reports, announcements, and information on upcoming conferences and panels. Also enclosed in this issue is your dues notice. As you know, we are one of the few professional organizations that do not request dues payment ahead of the calendar year. We therefore very much appreciate your prompt payment.

I am pleased to include two letters of thanks in this edition of the *Goethe News and Notes*; one from Hellmut Seemann, President of the Weimar Classics Foundation, the other from Ron Patkus, the driving force behind the "American Friends of the Anna Amalia Library." Both gentlemen express their gratitude not only for the Society's solidarity but also for the kind generosity so many of you have shown individually. Please continue to support the Library and its conservation efforts in any way you can.

Burkhard Henke
Davidson College

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear GSNA Members,

As most of you know from the business meeting at the MLA and the email announcement last month Secretary-Treasurer Angela Borchert recently informed the GSNA Board that she would like to conclude her service to the society in early 2005. The Board accepted her resignation with gratitude for her years of engagement and hard work on behalf of the membership. I am pleased to inform you that the Board has named a new Secretary-Treasurer, John Lyon of the University of Pittsburgh. Even as we are working to make the necessary changes in the accounts, John is plunging right in to manage our finances. Welcome, John, and thank you for assuming these important responsibilities!

Before the GSNA contacts libraries and institutes in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics about receiving copies of the *Goethe Yearbook*, we thought that we should offer our members the opportunity to purchase volumes to supplement their own personal collections. For members only,

we can offer any of the earlier yearbook volumes (except volume 1) and either of the two edited collections, *Interpreting Goethe's Faust Today* and the collection of Stuart Atkins essays, for \$25 each. Please send a check made out to GSNA to Meredith Lee, Dean, Division of Undergraduate Education, 256 Administration, University of California, Irvine, CA 92697-5675, and indicate the volume(s) you are purchasing. We have limited numbers of each volume.

When the Goethe Gesellschaft holds its biannual meeting May 18-21, 2005, in Weimar, 200 years after Schiller's death, the scholarly program will quite appropriately focus on the Goethe-Schiller friendship. Again this year a symposium of younger Goethe scholars will open the meeting. Because this welcome symposium is becoming a regular feature, very advanced graduate students and assistant professors should already think ahead to 2007. "Junge Goetheforscher" seems to encompass both groups. Unlike the older and larger scholarly program, the day-long session for younger scholars has no specific theme or topic restrictions. Selection is highly competitive and the paper quality is high. The organizers, Thorsten Valk and Wolf Gerhard Schmidt, have promised to notify the GSNA in a timely manner about their next call, so that North American scholars can compete for a program slot. Based on this year, I anticipate a winter 2006 deadline for the May 2007 conference.

That's it for the big updates. I hope you will be pleased to learn that the Board has voted to donate 2500 Euros to the restoration of the Anna Amalia Library. The sum will allow for recognition of the Goethe Society of North America on

the *Gedenktafel* that is being planned as a part of the reconstruction project.

Cordially,

Meredith Lee
President, GSNA
University of California, Irvine

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year, the Goethe Society of North America is celebrating its 25th anniversary. We will commemorate this event at the MLA with both our panel and our business meeting. The details will follow shortly, but we will be honoring the society's founders and officers as well as examining the past and future directions of Goethe scholarship in North America.

The other panels for this calendar year have already been organized. Eric Denton's panel at ASECS this spring will re-examine the early Goethe, while Karin Schutjer's panel at the GSA, in commemoration of the Schiller anniversary, will explore Goethe and Schiller at war. I strongly encourage members to contact me about ideas for next year's (2006) panels. What kinds of panel topics would you like to see? Are there topics that have been overdone? Is there an anniversary that is coming up that we should recognize? Do you have suggestions for interdisciplinary panels? Please let me know if you would like to organize a panel at the MLA, GSA, or ASECS.

In light of the growing difficulties in publishing monographs in our field, the Goethe Society has formed a committee to explore ways in which it could assist scholars, especially less-established ones, in their publication efforts. For example, we are looking into the possibility of creating a special fund that could be used as a publication subvention. Please let me know your thoughts on this endeavor. Are there other avenues that we should be exploring? Do you have contacts at presses that you would be willing to share? The committee is just beginning to look at options, and any feedback would be greatly appreciated.

Astrida Tantillo
University of Illinois, Chicago

FROM THE YEARBOOK EDITOR

Volume 13 should be in members' hands by early fall, 2005. We are finally on track to produce the *Goethe Yearbook* annually. Volume 14 has space for two or three more essays. Two are currently being evaluated by readers. Volume 14 will include a special section of four essays on Childhood in the Age of Goethe, with guest co-editor Anthony Krupp. If other members would like to propose a cluster of essays or other themed unit, I am certainly receptive.

Volumes 11 and 12 were my first solo efforts after my *Lehrjahre* with Tom Saine. Since the *Goethe Yearbook* is your publication, funded by your membership fees, I am very interested in

your feedback. Please let me know what you think of the volumes you've seen. Do you have ideas for subsequent issues? Are the *Yearbook* and I doing our jobs?

My thanks to members of the editorial board and the GSNA who have read manuscripts for me.

Simon Richter
University of Pennsylvania

Get Them While They Last!

Except for volume 1, members may order any back copies of the *Goethe Yearbook*, incl. *Interpreting Goethe's Faust Today* and the collection of Stuart Atkins essays, for \$25 each (see the President's column in this newsletter).

Please make your check out to GSNA and mail to

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FROM THE BOOK REVIEW EDITOR

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

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FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

Minutes of the Business Meeting 30 December 2004

President Meredith Lee called the annual business meeting to order on Thursday, December 30 at 12 p.m. at the MLA Convention in Philadelphia. President Lee welcomed the members and delivered the following President's Report:

I. Minutes

Professor Lee corrected the error from last year's minutes: she was happy to report that Peter Boerner is alive and well.

II. Treasurer's Report

President Lee reported that the Society began the year with \$82,198. \$32,500 of that amount is in the Gloria Flaherty endowed scholarship fund. Last year's major expense was the publication of the *Goethe Yearbook* (\$7353). Last year, the Society took in \$4450 in dues. Because the *Yearbook* will now be published annually, the Society will need to build up its finances. The Board decided not to raise membership dues at this time, but

to renew its efforts to increase the overall number of members, currently around 225. The Society ended the year with a balance of \$79,104.84.

The Society has maintained a German bank account of € 1530. This account was created when we had more members from Germany. Because this fund is no longer active, it was decided to donate the entire amount to the Anna Amalia Library. The Board will, however, explore ways in which to reach out to German members again.

III. Changes in Board Membership

Clark Muenzer stepped down after serving for two terms as Executive Secretary. Astrida Tantillo will now serve in this position.

Angela Borchert has announced her intentions to step down as Secretary-Treasurer, and the Board is looking for nominations for this position. President Lee stressed that we continue to need someone with integrity and a strong sense of responsibility. She also noted that this position is a wonderful way to get to know people in the Society and the profession at large.

IV. Plans for Back Issues of the *Goethe Yearbook*

Except for Vol. 1, the Society has back issues of the *Goethe Yearbook* for sale to members for \$25 a volume. After members have had a chance to purchase back issues, the Board will assemble sets of the *Yearbook* and send them to libraries in Eastern Europe.

V. Prize and Awards

This year's essay prize was awarded to Karin Barton, for her article, "Apum Rex/Regina: Goethes Bienenlehre als Schlüssel zu *Wilhelm Meisters Wanderjahren*," in *Body Dialectics in the Age of Goethe*, ed. Marianne Henn and Holger A. Pausch (Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2003): 117-67.

No submissions were received this past year for the Gloria Flaherty Scholarship. The Prize Committee will rethink how this prize is advertised and awarded.

VI. Publication Subventions

A subcommittee was formed to explore ways in which the Society could assist younger scholars in their efforts to publish monographs. Following up on one such option, the committee members will contact publishers to explore the possibility of publication subventions. The committee will report its findings to the Board at next year's MLA. Members should contact Astrida Tantillo with their ideas and suggestions.

VII. Yearbook Report

Simon Richter reported that vol. 12 of the *Goethe Yearbook*, a Festschrift for Tom Saine, was sent out to members. Vol. 13 will appear next fall. Vol. 14 is on its way to filling up, but he is still accepting articles. He noted that the *Yearbook* will continue its recent practice of including a special section that clusters several articles thematically together. He encouraged members to contact him for suggestions for future issues and to give him feedback on previous ones.

Martha Helfer encouraged members to inform her of their publications and to let her know if they have particular books that they would like to review.

VIII. Thank you

President Lee thanked Clark Muenzer for his dedicated service to the Society over the last six years. She presented him with a gift, an eighteenth-century journal, as a token of the Society's appreciation.

IX. Presentation

Professor Jeffrey L. Sammons, Yale University, presented, "Schiller versus Goethe: Revisiting the Conflicting Reception Vectors of Heine, Börne, and Menzel." A lively discussion followed.

Astrida Tantillo
University of Illinois, Chicago

NEW BOOKS BY MEMBERS

Wittkowski, Wolfgang. *Goethe. Homo homini lupus - Homo homini deus. Über deutsche Dichtungen 2*. Frankfurt a. M. et al.: Peter Lang, 2004. 532 S.

Beachtet man die lange vernachlässigten Phänomene ethischer Natur, befreien sich zentrale Werke Goethes von weitergeschleppter altväterischer wie neumodisch-ideologischer Verfälschung. Sie geraten auf die Füße und erweisen Goethes menschliche, ästhetische und politische Weisheit als so allgemeingültig, daß sie heute eher noch aktueller, unentbehrlicher erscheint.

Äußerlich angepaßt und diplomatisch, opponierte der Dichter subversiv. So rebelliert *Iphigenie* gegen religiösen und weltlichen Autoritätsmißbrauch, desgleichen die unerhört analytische Liebestragödie *Tasso* gegen Hofdünkel. Angeblich unpolitisch, bewährt *Egmont* ethisch-politisches Genie in Anlehnung an Machiavelli. Der schlichte Hermann übertrifft Dorotheas imponierenden ersten Verlobten und Sympathisanten der Revolution. *Die natürliche Tochter*, *Faust* entlarven Betrug und Machtwillen hinter schönklingenden Parolen. Mit umsichtiger Diätetik der Seele, der Ethik und seiner polar ausbalancierten Kunst warnt Goethe vor dem Menschen, der an anderen zum Wolf, und rühmt ihn, wo er an ihnen zum Gott, zur Göttin wird.

Aus dem Inhalt: Hinrichtung einer Kindsmörderin 1783: Goethes verkannte Rolle dabei und sein Gedicht Das Göttliche - Polarität in Goethes Ethos, Seelen-Diätetik, Auffassung von Schuld und Vergebung, Kunstautonomie und Wirkung - Unkonventionelles Interesse an Cellini, Machiavelli - Interpretationen von Egmont: politisches Genie - Iphigenie: Humanität macht göttliches Ausrottungskomplott zunichte - Tasso: höfische Unzulänglichkeit verursacht subtile Liebestragödie - Hermann und Dorothea: der neue Verlobte humanpolitisch-ethisch dem toten überlegen - Die natürliche Tochter: Betrug vs. Ehrlichkeit in der Politik - Faust: Das Ende im Zusammenhang mit Schuld und Sorge, Gretchen, Helena, dem Kaiser, dem Ewig-Weiblichen, Mephisto und der Forschung - Ein Brief Zelters.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

ASECS in Las Vegas, NV
31 March-3 April 2005

GSA in Milwaukee, WI
29 September -2 October 2005

AATG-ACTFL in Baltimore, MD
18-20 November, 2005

MLA in Washington, DC
27-30 December 2005

Special GSNA Session at ASECS in Las Vegas

The Early Goethe: Revisiting, Resisting, Embracing

Moderator and Respondent: Eric Denton, Wheaton College (Massachusetts)

1. "The New God: The I On Nature and Subjectivity in Goethe's *Satyros oder Der vergötterte Waldteufel* and Friedrich Heinrich Jacobi's *Eduard Allwills Papiere*" (Monika Nenon, University of Memphis)

2. "Reading Moritz Reading Goethe (via Herder)" (Elliott Schreiber, Vassar College)

3. "Mimesis and Imagination in Goethe's Poetry" (Christian Weber, Indiana University)

4. "De-Naturalizing the Natural Daughter: A Dramaturg's Notebook" (Amy S. Holzapfel, Dartmouth College)

Special GSNA Session at GSA in Milwaukee

Goethe and Schiller at War

Organizer and Moderator: Karin
Schutjer, University of Oklahoma

1. "The Erotics of War in Goethe's
'Kriegsglück'" (Patricia Simpson,
Montana State University)
2. "The Theater of War: Goethe's
Wartime Journalism and the Staging of
Schiller's *Wallenstein*" (Eric Denton,
Wheaton College, Massachusetts)
3. "War Play: Friedrich Schiller and the
Battles of History" (Jan Mieszkowski,
Reed College)

Commentator: Elisabeth Krimmer,
University of California at Davis

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 new Executive
Director.

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DUES

If you have not done so already, please
send your 2005 dues to Clark Muenzer
(see enclosed notice).

Professor Clark Muenzer
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University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Dues are payable in each calendar year
according to the schedule below. The
Goethe Yearbook 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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Sehr geehrter Herr Prof. Wilson,

für Ihre aufmunternden Worte, die Sie mir nach dem verheerenden Brand in der Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek haben zukommen lassen, danke ich Ihnen ganz herzlich. Auch wenn seit dem Brand bereits über sieben Wochen verstrichen sind, ist in Weimar noch lange kein Alltag eingekehrt. Bitte entschuldigen Sie, dass ich deshalb erst jetzt die gebotene Ruhe finde, um Ihnen zu schreiben.

Es ist in so schweren Zeiten ein besonders schönes Gefühl, nicht alleine gelassen zu werden. Die Welle der Solidarität, die uns aus ganz Deutschland und aller Welt erreicht, ist überwältigend.

Für Ihren Spendenaufruf bin ich besonders dankbar.

Seit einigen Tagen kennen wir neben der Höhe der Verluste zumindest annäherungsweise auch den Finanzierungsbedarf für Sanierung, Restaurierung und Wiederbeschaffung. Die Bilanz ist erschreckend: 50.000 Bücher sind verbrannt, über 60.000 Bände beschädigt. Auch das Gebäude und sein herrlicher Rokokosaal haben schwer gelitten. Die alleine für die Sanierung des Gebäudes benötigten 11 Mio. € werden zwar zum großen Teil von öffentlicher Hand aufgebracht, doch für die mit über 60 Mio. € veranschlagte Restaurierung und Wiederbeschaffung der beschädigten bzw. verbrannten Bücher sind wir sehr stark auf private Hilfe angewiesen.

Gerne möchte ich Sie darauf hinweisen, dass Sie unter www.anna-amalia-library.com bzw. www.anna-amalia-bibliothek aktuelle Informationen über die Bibliothek, den Brand und die Folgen abrufen können.

Sie bieten uns dankenswerter Weise Ihre Hilfe über Ihren Spendenaufruf hinaus an. Darauf komme ich gerne in einigen Wochen zurück. Wir planen für das kommende Jahr eine *Charity Tour* für Anna Amalia in den USA. Dabei könnten Sie für uns sicherlich ein sehr wichtiger Kooperationspartner mit lokalem know-how sein.

Für heute verbleibe ich mit freundlichen Grüßen


Hellmüt Seemann

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KTO 301 023 000

Dresdner Bank Weimar
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KTO 0932 339 900

Dear Professor Lee and Professor Wilson,

Recently a number of checks from members of the Goethe Society of North America have been sent to me as donations to the Duchess Anna Amalia Library, and I have also noticed that the GSNA webpage prominently features a call for donations to the "American Friends" group. I wanted to take a moment to thank you both for your collaboration in the effort to assist the library. I greatly appreciate this.

Our initial efforts to contact colleagues around the country have been fruitful, and to date about \$7,500 has been raised. I am happy that we have been able to express our support for Weimar in this way, but at the same time, I feel obliged to try to do more. Michael Knoche, the library's director, has spoken of his concern that as time passes it will be difficult to keep the library and its needs in the public eye. In coming weeks I will be giving a talk at Yale University and also publishing a short article in the newsletter of the Western European Studies Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries. If you or other board members, or indeed other members of the GSNA have other ideas for broadening support, I would love to hear them.

In any case, please accept again my sincere thanks for your kind efforts on behalf of the library.

Sincerely,

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