



[www.goethesociety.org](http://www.goethesociety.org)

## GOETHE NEWS AND NOTES

XXVIII.1, Spring 2008

Burkhard Henke, Editor  
Davidson College

### ***FROM THE EDITOR***

It is with great regret that we acknowledge in this newsletter the resignation of our President, Ellis Dye. Please see his message below. We thank Ellis for his many years of service to the Society and wish him all the best.

Because of Ellis's resignation we are inviting you to vote for a new Vice President. Please take the time to do so by April 30, either online or by postal mail.

This edition contains a number of important announcements. In addition to the minutes of the 2007 Business Meeting, an invitation to contribute to our new syllabus archive, as well as reminders regarding our annual essay prize and the Flaherty Scholarship competition—the deadline for the latter is March 31—we are pleased to announce details of the first GSNA Conference, “Goethe and the Postclassical,” to be held in Pittsburgh, 6-9 November 2008. The organizing committee welcomes one-page abstracts by March 31.

This issue also includes a dues notice. If you have already paid—thank you! If you have not, please send your 2008

dues to the Secretary-Treasurer, John Lyon, or go to our Web site and use the convenient PayPal feature (a modest fee will apply). As you know, dues are payable in each calendar year. The *Goethe Yearbook* is sent only once this obligation is met. We appreciate your continued support.

Burkhard Henke  
Davidson College

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### ***FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT***

Dear Colleagues and Fellow Members of the Goethe Society of North America,

I regret that health problems in my family have made it necessary for me to step aside as President of the Goethe Society of North America. I informed the Board of my need to do so on January 17, 2008.

My gratitude for your confidence in electing me and for your support is abiding and has grown over the past two years, first, in my capacity as Vice President and then as President. I remain a member of the Society and will

continue supporting it and all of you in every way that I can. Let me begin by saying how glad I am that our Vice President, Simon Richter, is going to step in as the new President and by offering him every possible support.

May I presume to offer a parting word of wisdom to those who are still young and still surveying available ways of building a career? The advice I would offer is this: Let your work speak for you, not your c.v. Serve the truth, not some ephemeral fashion. Let your genuine interests guide your research, not windows of opportunity. Be glad for journals and panels that practice a policy of anonymous submissions, and do make it your own practice to submit your work to such journals and panels. Network if you must, but don't rely too much on networking.

That's it. Again, I cannot thank you enough for your confidence and support.

All good wishes,

Ellis Dye

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### ***FROM THE PRESIDENT***

The fact that I'm writing the president's column is indicative of changes on the board of the Goethe Society. In an earlier email I announced that Ellis Dye regretfully resigned for personal reasons after three years as vice president and his first year as president. Even though his tenure was brief, Ellis left his mark on the Society. Ellis saw to it that our bylaws were brought up to date in referenda voted on by the membership.

Our thanks to Ellis for many years of faithful service to the Goethe Society in his several capacities, as director-at-large, book review editor, and most recently as vice president and president.

We also owe a debt of thanks to Ellis for making sure that a very capable individual was appointed to replace our executive secretary, Astrida Tantillo, who resigned at the conclusion of her term. We welcome Patricia Simpson, associate professor at Montana State University-Bozeman. Patty is the author of *The Erotics of War in German Romanticism* (2007) and co-editor with Evelyn Moore of *The Enlightened Eye: Goethe and Visual Culture* (also 2007). Many of you will, no doubt, find occasion to interact with Patty on matters that concern the Society.

Astrida Tantillo was honored for her distinguished service to the Society at the annual meeting in December. Goethe-era scholarship in North America owes a great debt to Astrida. In addition to representing the Society to other institutions, such as the MLA and the GSA, Astrida engineered the partnership with Bucknell University that led to the creation of our own monograph series, *New Studies in the "Age of Goethe."* I am delighted that Astrida remains the series editor and that our first book is in press, *After Jena: Goethe's Elective Affinities and the End of the Old Regime*, by GSNA member Peter Schwartz. Astrida and the members of the editorial board, Fritz Breithaupt, Jane Brown, and Robert Tobin, invite you to submit your manuscript.

This newsletter contains information about the special election to fill the

position of vice president. I am pleased to announce that Astrida is one of the candidates and Liliane Weissberg is the other. My thanks to both of these members for agreeing to run for the position. I would also like to thank the members of the nominating committee, Horst Lange, Elisabeth Krimmer, and Andrew Piper.

You should have received *Goethe Yearbook* Vol. 15 by now. Daniel Purdy was my co-editor for that volume and now assumes full responsibility as editor. Martha Helfer edited the book review section of Vol. 15 and has handed over that duty to Catriona MacLeod. We owe Martha a debt of thanks for her excellent service.

In sum, the board has undergone considerable change, but the level of energy and devotion to the Goethe Society remains the same. The GSNA is in good hands.

Speaking of energy, a real measure of the vibrancy of North American Goethe studies today, especially among young scholars, has been the initial response to the CFP for the Goethe Society's first ever conference. Let me remind you that we began the process of organizing this conference by first asking members to fill out an online questionnaire. Many of you responded and your preferences and suggestions became the basis for "Goethe and the Postclassical: Literature, Science, Art, and Philosophy 1805-1815," set for 6-9 November at the University of Pittsburgh. You will find the detailed call in this newsletter, but I'd like to mention our two splendid keynote speakers. I am delighted that Ulrich Gaier of the University of Konstanz will open the conference with

a talk on Faust. All of us are familiar with his many important contributions to Herder, *Faust*, and Hölderlin scholarship. Professor Gaier has been a close friend of the GSNA since the 1980s and has participated wholeheartedly in transatlantic dialogue. I am further delighted to announce that Robert Richards, the Morris Fishbein Professor of Science and Medicine and Professor of History, Philosophy and Psychology at the University of Chicago, author of *The Romantic Conception of Life: Science and Philosophy in the Age of Goethe*, will speak on "Theories of Species Evolution in Goethe and Schelling." In addition to a full array of panels with paper presentations by our members, old and new, we will also be holding workshops for graduate students writing Goethe-era dissertations, all in an effort to cultivate and support the next generation of Goethe scholars. My co-organizers, Karin Schutjer and Clark Muenzer, and I are extremely excited by the prospect of our conference and encourage you to submit a proposal by March 31. Many of the past GSNA presidents have already committed to attending. This may well prove to be the largest convocation of Goethe scholars on North American soil ever. Certainly you too want to be in that number. Conference details will be announced shortly after the March 31 deadline, but rest assured that we have already reserved rooms in a nearby hotel at conference rates.

Because of the 200th anniversary of the publication of *Faust* Part I, the board agreed that we would attempt to organize a rousing panel for the MLA, the sort of event that actually draws people from the other MLA hotel. I teach *Faust* to approximately 100

students every year, not in order to make Goethe or *Faust* popular, not in order to preserve a tradition or to transmit humane values. I teach it because it's a text that takes great risks, makes a huge wager. My students seem to understand that. They feel that way about their own lives and the world they live in. They want to look the risks and dangers in the face. My hope was to find three scholars of stature also willing to confront Goethe's *Faust*. And I'm very pleased to announce that Gayatri Spivak of Columbia University, Michael Holquist, emeritus of Yale University and past president of the MLA, and our own Jane Brown have agreed to speak. This will be a signal event.

Our next business meeting will be at the MLA as usual. This year the honor of delivering the presidential address goes to Arnd Bohm, Carleton University in Ottawa, whose "big book" on *Goethe's Faust and European Epic: Forgetting the Future* was published in 2007. Arnd also has an astonishing article called "Naming Goethe's Faust: A Matter of Significance" in *Deutsche Vierteljahresschrift* (2006). In his address at the MLA Arnd will speak on "Goethe's Reception of Stoicism: Elective Affinity." The MLA bunches most Society business meetings together in the last session of the conference. As the MLA's grinchlike holiday habits draw to an end, I ask you to consider booking your flight and hotel in such a way that you'll be able to attend the business meeting (which we keep very short) and the presidential address (which is a great occasion).

I'm looking forward to seeing many of your proposals for the GSNA conference. And I also wish you a

pleasant remainder of the semester and a refreshing and productive summer.

Simon Richter  
University of Pennsylvania

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## ***GSNA ELECTIONS***

Members are invited to vote for the Society's Vice President. Either mail back the enclosed ballot or vote online, using the four-digit PIN on your ballot, at

[www.goethesociety.org/election](http://www.goethesociety.org/election)

The deadline for casting your vote is April 30, 2008.

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### **For Vice-President (vote for 1):**

**Astrida Orle Tantillo** has published extensively on Goethe, especially upon the relationship between his scientific and literary works. Her publications include *The Will to Create: Goethe's Philosophy of Nature* (2002) and *Goethe's Elective Affinities and the Critics* (2001). She has also published pieces in the popular press (*Slate Magazine* and *The Chicago Tribune*.) She is head and associate professor of the Department of Germanic Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago and also holds a joint appointment with the Department of History. While associate dean for five years in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, she oversaw the Humanities Division and the revision of the general education program. Her Ph.D. is from the Committee on Social

Thought at the University of Chicago. Currently, she serves as the editor of the Society's book series and is completing a book that explores Goethe's thought in the context of contemporary social and intellectual issues.

"For the last three years, I served as Executive Secretary of the Goethe Society. I am very proud of the achievements of the Board during this time: our membership increased, especially among graduate students; we launched a book series, *New Studies in the "Age of Goethe,"* and made arrangements for the *Goethe Yearbook* to be available online; and we made plans for our first conference in November. If I were elected, I would seek to continue to broaden the reputation of the Society and increase its membership. I would also make fundraising a priority, in the hope of achieving other goals for the Society, such as expanding the future scope of our conference and underwriting some of its costs."

**Liliane Weissberg** is the Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor in Arts and Science at the University of Pennsylvania. She holds degrees from the Freie Universität Berlin and Harvard University, and taught at The Johns Hopkins University before joining the programs in German and Comparative Literature at Penn in 1989. She held visiting appointments at Princeton, Bochum, Hamburg, Potsdam, Heidelberg, and Berlin. She has published numerous articles on Goethe and the literature and culture of the Goethe Age. Among her more recent book publications are a critical edition of Hannah Arendt's *Rahel Varnhagen* (1997), *Cultural Memory and the*

*Construction of Identity* (with Dan Ben-Amos, 1998), and *Romancing the Shadow: Poe and Race* (with J. Gerald Kennedy, 2000). Weissberg is currently completing a book entitled, *Approaching Gentility: German-Jewish Autobiography and the Quest for Acculturation*. Weissberg has also been the editor of *Kritik: German Literary Theory and Cultural Studies*, a series that has published many books on Goethe and his Age.

"Much work still needs to be done to improve our understanding of eighteenth-century culture, that of Frankfurt or Weimar, and of Europe at large. In particular, we have to learn more about the literary and artistic production of writers and artists that have not entered our "canon" (yet). I would like to think about new venues of pursuing interdisciplinary and comparative work on Goethe and his Age, of publishing it, and of integrating it into the classroom. I believe that the Goethe Society can play an important part of reimagining German Studies for the new century."

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## **AWARDS AND PRIZES**

The **GSNA Essay Prize** is awarded annually to an outstanding piece of scholarship on Goethe and his times which has been published during the previous year. This year's award goes to Andrew Piper for his article "Rethinking the Print Object: Goethe and the Book of Everything," *PMLA* 121.1 (2006): 124-138. Congratulations to Andrew! Submission deadline for 2008 is May 31. See our Web site for details.

The **Gloria Flaherty Scholarship** is awarded to graduate students conducting research or presenting a paper on a Goethe-era topic. Since we haven't been receiving nominations, the board has decided to award this year's Flaherty Scholarship to the top 3-4 applicants for our dissertation workshop to be held at the "Goethe and the Postclassical" Conference. Graduate students writing a Goethe-era dissertation have until March 31 to send Clark Muenzer, Karin Schutjer, and Simon Richter a copy of their dissertation prospectus along with a letter of nomination from their dissertation advisor.

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### ***FROM THE YEARBOOK EDITOR***

Members in good standing should have received Volume 15 of the *Goethe Yearbook* earlier this year. The *Yearbook* continues to accept manuscript submissions for the next issue, Volume 16. We welcome articles on a wide range of topics relevant to a scholarly understanding of the Goethezeit. Please send article submissions to the editor, Daniel Purdy, at [dlp14@psu.edu](mailto:dlp14@psu.edu) and all book review requests to Catriona MacLeod at [cmacleod@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:cmacleod@sas.upenn.edu). The current issue of the *Goethe Yearbook* (Volume 15) is now available online through Project Muse, provided your library subscribes to it.

Daniel Purdy  
Pennsylvania State University

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### ***FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER***

#### **Minutes of the Business Meeting, 30 December 2007 – MLA Convention, Chicago**

President Ellis Dye opened the meeting.

#### **Report from the President**

Ellis Dye announced that Astrida Tantillo will be stepping down as Executive Secretary, but will continue as Editor of the Book Series. He was glad to announce that Patricia Simpson will assume the duties of the Executive Secretary and he welcomed her to the board.

The Society has changed its policy on awarding the annual essay prize and now meets at the GSA conference to determine the recipient. This allows the recipient time to make plans to attend the MLA and receive the prize in person.

The Society is in the process of changing its bylaws. Some changes were approved this year (including electronic balloting and the appointment of a representative in California for tax purposes), but more will be forthcoming in a future ballot.

#### **Report from the Secretary-Treasurer**

The Society's finances are sound and its capital increased at a modest rate this year. Membership is at its highest level in at least 10 years, and our dues intake was notably higher this year thanks to the suggestion that tenured faculty pay dues at the senior member rate. The Society invested money in a socially responsible equities fund and a smaller portion in a conservative hedge fund this

year. Returns on these long-term funds have been modest, at best, but since these are long-term investments, we will wait a while longer to evaluate whether or not to continue with these funds.

### **Presentation to Astrida Tantillo as outgoing Executive Secretary**

Secretary-Treasurer John Lyon thanked Astrida on behalf of the Society for her exceptional service which included not only the professional manner in which she handled the traditional responsibilities of this position, but also for the extra initiatives she undertook, including the compilation of data for our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (now available on the Web site) and for founding the GSNA book series with Bucknell University Press. On behalf of the Society, he presented Astrida with a small token of its appreciation.

### **Report from the Executive Secretary**

Upcoming panels: Kamal Haque will arrange the GSNA panel at the ASECS conference. The topic will be “Authors and their Admirers.” Simon Richter will arrange the GSNA panel at the MLA conference. The topic will be “Faust at 200.” Stefani Engelstein will arrange the GSNA panel for the upcoming GSA conference. The topic will be announced in a call for papers by email.

GSNA Book Series: The series is receiving more and more proposals, and has accepted its first monograph.

### **Report from the Yearbook Editors**

Volume 15 (Simon Richter’s final volume) will be sent out before the end of January, after which Daniel Purdy

will take over as editor. Daniel thanked Simon for his generous help and mentoring in editing the *Yearbook*. He announced that he has received many submissions for Volume 16, but that it is not yet complete. Starting with Volume 15, online versions of the *Yearbook* will be available through Project Muse and ProQuest. We are hoping to make back issues available online in the future, although at present only Volumes 15 and higher will be available.

### **GSNA Conference in Pittsburgh**

Simon Richter reported on the upcoming GSNA conference. It is scheduled for November 6-9, 2008, and will focus on the years 1805-1815. A call for papers will appear shortly. Simon thanked all who contributed to the online surveys, as these surveys helped determine the time and location of the conference. The conference will include a workshop for dissertating students, postdoctorates, and new assistant professors working on the *Goethezeit*. If the conference goes well, we hope to sponsor another one in a year or two.

### **Annual Essay Prize**

Ellis Dye announced that Andrew Piper is the recipient this year’s essay prize, for his article “Rethinking the Print Object: Goethe and the Book of Everything” (*PMLA* 2006). Ellis read a letter praising Andrew’s contribution and congratulating him on the prize.

### **Speaker**

Ellis Dye introduced the speaker, Professor Judith L. Ryan of Harvard University, who presented an engaging paper titled “‘Pfeile mit Widerhaken’:

On the Aphorisms in Goethe's *Wahlverwandtschaften* and *Wanderjahre*."

After the presentation, President Ellis Dye adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

John Lyon  
University of Pittsburgh

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### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

#### **Goethe and the Postclassical: Literature, Science, Art, and Philosophy 1805-1815**

*A conference organized by the Goethe Society of North America, November 6-9, 2008, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

The decade in which Goethe turned 60 was marked by tremendous upheaval at home and abroad as well as extraordinary productivity in Goethe's own life. In this war-torn period, bracketed by the battles of Austerlitz (1805) and Waterloo (1815), Goethe experienced the plundering of Weimar, met personally with Napoleon, and witnessed a rising wave of patriotic, militaristic fervor among a younger generation of German poets and intellectuals. This period is also of course defined by the death of Schiller in 1805. From the decline of the Classical project in the wake of Schiller's death to the nascent development of the *Divan* in 1814-15, Goethe engaged in far-ranging cultural and intellectual exploration and experimentation. Possible areas that

papers and panels could address include

- **Faust I.** To mark the 200th anniversary of its publication, we are particularly interested in receiving abstracts on any aspect of *Faust I.*
- **Goethe's Literary Projects Large and Small** (e.g. *Die Wahlverwandtschaften*, *Dichtung und Wahrheit*, *Wilhelm Meisters Wanderjahre*, *West-östlicher Divan*, assorted essays and poems)
- **Goethe and the Visual Arts** (e.g. relationships to O. Runge, C.D. Friedrich, S. Boiserée)
- **Goethe and Science** (e.g. *Die Farbenlehre*, Botanical Studies, Galvanism, Geology, Mineralogy, Astronomy, *Mittwochsgesellschaft*)
- **Goethe and Philosophy** (e.g. Schelling, Hegel, Spinoza, Kant)
- **Nationalism and World Literature** (e.g. Goethe's Orientalism, his study of Medieval German literature, Germanic and Norse legend, *Volksdichtung*)
- **Goethe and the Weimar Theater** (e.g. Goethe's staging of Kleist, Calderon, Shakespeare)
- **Goethe and Music** (e.g. Beethoven, Zelter, Eberwein, Goethe's cantatas)
- **Women in Goethe's Life and Work** (Christiane Vulpius von Goethe, Bettina von Arnim, Marianne von Willemer, Johanna and Adele Schopenhauer)
- **Goethe and Politics** (e.g., Napoleon, Wars of Liberation, Metternich and the Vienna Congress)



Send 1-page abstracts on these or other pertinent topics by March 31 to Simon Richter ([srichter@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:srichter@sas.upenn.edu)), Clark Muenzer ([clark.muenzer@gmail.com](mailto:clark.muenzer@gmail.com)), and Karin Schutjer ([kschutjer@ou.edu](mailto:kschutjer@ou.edu)). Conference papers should not exceed 20 minutes. All participants should be current members of the Goethe Society of North America by the time of the conference.

### **Writing a *Goethezeit* Dissertation: A Workshop**

*A conference organized by the Goethe Society of North America, November 6-9, 2008, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

The Goethe Society of North America invites graduate students writing dissertations that involve Goethe and/or the Age of Goethe to apply to participate in a workshop with Goethe scholars at the Society's upcoming conference. To apply, please submit a copy of your dissertation prospectus and a letter of recommendation from your dissertation advisor by March 31, 2008.

Those who are selected will be asked to supply a dissertation chapter by September 1 for distribution to the Goethe scholars involved in the workshop.

This is an outstanding opportunity for young scholars to get important feedback and to become acquainted with scholars in their field.

Successful applicants will receive a GSNA Gloria Flaherty Award in the amount of \$250 and have their conference registration fee waived. We hope that the home institutions of the

participants will be able to subsidize travel and accommodations.

Send cover letter and supporting material by email to Simon Richter ([srichter@mail.sas.upenn.edu](mailto:srichter@mail.sas.upenn.edu)), Clark Muenzer ([clark.muenzer@gmail.com](mailto:clark.muenzer@gmail.com)), and Karin Schutjer ([kschutjer@ou.edu](mailto:kschutjer@ou.edu)).

Membership in the GSNA for graduate students is \$10 per year and includes the *Goethe Yearbook*.

### **MLA 2008**

*18th- and Early-19th Century German Literature Division*

### **Interiors and Exteriors**

Theoretical, practical or pedagogical approaches welcome on any aspect of interiors (salon spaces, decorative arts, etc.) or exteriors (landscape paintings, gardens, architecture, etc.). 1-page proposals by 14 March to Astrida Tantillo, [tantillo@uic.edu](mailto:tantillo@uic.edu).

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:

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

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## ***NEW SYLLABUS ARCHIVE***

Following an initiative by Matt Erlin of Washington University at St. Louis, the GSNA has decided to host an online syllabus archive for courses that address aspects of eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century German culture. The archive is intended to foster intellectual exchange on topics related to our teaching and pedagogy. Members are invited to submit syllabi for past, present, and future courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Courses that treat any aspect of the cultural and intellectual history of the period, whether as their sole focus or as part of a broader investigation, are welcome. The syllabi will be made available at [www.goethesociety.org](http://www.goethesociety.org).

Please send your syllabus, either in the form of a Word document or a PDF file, to [buhenke@davidson.edu](mailto:buhenke@davidson.edu). Be sure to include contact information on the syllabus, in case colleagues are interested in getting in touch to ask questions or exchange ideas.

The success of this endeavor depends on the participation of as many members as possible, so please contribute to what we hope will become a valuable teaching resource!

Burkhard Henke  
Davidson College

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