



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

## GOETHE NEWS AND NOTES

XXXI.1, Spring 2011

Burkhard Henke, Editor  
Davidson College

### *FROM THE EDITOR*

The Executive Board of the Goethe Society is excited to bring you our second international conference, entitled “Metamorphoses: Goethe and Change,” to be held in Chicago in early November. In this newsletter you will find more information about the conference, including a registration form, but for full details please visit us at [www.goethesociety.org/conference2011](http://www.goethesociety.org/conference2011). Following the success of our 2008 conference, this promises to be a well-attended event, so book early!

Aside from a number of other news and notes, this issue also includes a dues notice. If you have already paid—thank you! If you have not, please send your 2011 dues to our Secretary-Treasurer, Claire Baldwin, or pay with PayPal through our Web site. Remember that paid-up members also have the opportunity to become members of the English Goethe Society at the discounted rate of USD 40.00. Members are entitled to attend the Society’s meetings in London and receive the Society’s journal, *PEGS*. For more information see [www.goethesociety.org/membership](http://www.goethesociety.org/membership).

Burkhard Henke  
Davidson College

### *FROM THE PRESIDENT*



It is with deep gratitude and with a great deal of excitement that I am able to announce that Mr. Stuart Atkins has inaugurated a generous endowment in honor of his parents, Lillian and Stuart P. Atkins, to support our triennial Goethe Society conferences. Our conference will henceforth be called “The Atkins Goethe Conference.” Specifically, the Atkins Fund, in supporting the conference, will allow us both to maintain our stability as an

academic organization and increase our commitment to engaging new scholars into a supporting community. In short, this support will ensure that we will be able to continue and expand our outreach. The board will work to use these conference resources especially to expand the support of students and junior faculty. Moreover, we have agreed with Mr. Atkins that we would use the funds to support younger scholars in the field should we ever decide in the future to discontinue our triennial conference. As Mr. Atkins wrote of the arrangements that we have planned, "it is the kind of project my parents would have supported." The board welcomes further donations to the Atkins Fund, and we have included a means of doing so on the enclosed conference registration form.

Planning for our 3-6 November 2011 Chicago conference is well underway. Please remember to submit proposals by 7 March, register for the conference by 25 April and reserve a room in the GSNA hotel by 15 May. We have been receiving a steady stream of proposals and are very excited to see how the program will take shape. As you already know, our keynote speakers will be David Wellbery and Dieter Borchmeyer, and we once again will have a presidential panel of former GSNA presidents. In addition to our dissertation workshops which we began at our last conference, members of the editorial boards of both our book series and *Yearbook* will hold "office hours" for anyone that would like to get advice on particular projects. More specific information will be forthcoming.

I hope to see a great many of you at our conference, and I especially look

forward to welcoming you to my campus, the University of Illinois at Chicago. UIC is just west of the Loop (downtown Chicago) and is nestled among great neighborhoods, including Greektown, Little Italy, and Pilsen. I hope you will have some time to explore the area and campus, including the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum which is just steps away from our conference location and our new Sandi Port Errant Language and Culture Learning Center. Our banquet will take place at a Greek restaurant located very close to the conference hotel. Opa!!! For those of you who do not know what this term means, you are in for a Mephisto-like surprise as we partake in the Second City's version of Classicism.

Astrida Tantillo  
University of Illinois, Chicago

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### *NECROLOGY*

Cyrus Hamlin (1936-2011)



Cyrus Hamlin, Professor Emeritus of Comparative Literature and German at Yale University, where he chaired both departments at various times, and former

chair of Comparative Literature at Toronto, died January 19, 2011 in New Haven. He was a beloved mentor and friend for many of us in our society.

No one who encountered Cy Hamlin will ever forget the twinkling blue eyes over the bow tie, the friendliness, the interest, the intense curiosity, the sharp intelligence, the enthusiasm, and above all, the abiding love for all of the arts of the word—literary, musical, and theatrical. “What are you working on now? Tell me about it ...” And then, “Let me tell you what I’m working on...,” and off we’d go for as long as we had. Whether one was his beginning student or a friend and colleague of decades it was always the same. But it was also always different, because whenever you saw him there was some new idea, some new set of material, some whole new area of interest, some whole new field in which he was co-teaching with its leading expert (religion, philosophy, Shakespeare, *Lieder*, opera, theater), or some new academic program or exchange program he was setting up. Like Faust he was always underway intellectually, never resting in a single moment. Unlike Faust, however, he was a deeply moral, humane, and considerate individual, intensely loyal to friends, institutions, and his favorite authors, Goethe and Hölderlin above all.

It is hard for me to remember Cyrus without a large pile of books—whether in his office, at the seminar table, at home, they were always there. And unlike some of us who surround ourselves with books—me for example—he read them all. His two-volume dissertation, *Romantic Studies of Greek Tragedy*, already set the pattern of his interest in broad topics that require expertise over several languages

and across theoretical and literary boundaries, but it hardly does justice to his amazing capacity always to see what else still had to be done. Monographs were simply too limiting for the range and the richness of every field he touched. So he wrote copious essays, taught, organized major conferences and edited collections of essays that grew from them. You couldn’t be around him without feeling you had to run out and read the Classics, Shakespeare, Kant, Hegel and Schelling (and all the others); and then, of course, Hofmannsthal, Strauss and Wagner. And Mozart. Goethe scholars will know him best for his major commentary, later expanded, on *Faust* (the Norton Critical Editions of 1976 and 2001), for his general editorship of the Suhrkamp edition of Goethe’s works in English, and of course for his many essays. They may be less aware of his work behind the scenes in getting a full translation of both parts of *Faust* into existence, and of getting Princeton University Press to take over the Suhrkamp edition. He has made Goethe visible to American readers and at the same time made Goethe’s cosmopolitanism unavoidably obvious to German scholars.

As commentator, editor, conference organizer and founder of programs Cy was a teacher to the profession. He was also an inspiring teacher of individuals, as all of us who studied with him can readily testify. His seminars were a wonderful mix of debriefing on all the amazing things he had read in preparation for the class (that enormous stack of books he brought along) and at the same time of intense, sometimes almost violent discussions. To this day I cannot understand how someone as pleasant, kind, genial and friendly as Cy

managed to get us all arguing intensely about texts as apparently unthreatening as “Hermann und Dorothea.” But he did and we all came away the richer for it. Without preaching he convinced students for generations how much there was to care about in literature and theater. The moment that burned most indelibly in my consciousness—the moment that remains my model for great teaching—was a discussion of *Faust* in which Cyrus was proposing his new inspiration for understanding the organization of Faust’s opening monologue. I had had my own inspiration on the same subject the night before, and after a few minutes burst out, “Cy, you’re absolutely wrong!” Silence, then the very proper reprimand from a fellow graduate student: “It’s rude to tell a professor he’s absolutely wrong.” To which Cyrus answered, “Wait a minute, I want to hear what she has to say.” I promised myself at that moment that I would be that kind of listener. I haven’t always succeeded, but then I haven’t succeeded in emulating most of Cy’s virtues as a reader, teacher and colleague either. It was that capacity to listen and then make discussion happen that made Cy such a great writer, teacher and organizer. Tradition was an important word for him, but it did not mean what most of us always assume. It did mean looking back—to the classics of the Romantic period in Germany, to the Renaissance, to the Greek Classics—but it also meant carrying forward to make new use of, and live in the present with what one had learned. He was interested in everything from the Greeks to modern theory. Tradition for him really meant carrying over and “hinar.”

Jane K. Brown  
University of Washington

## *FROM THE YEARBOOK EDITOR*

Volume 18 of the *Goethe Yearbook* is currently in the production stage and will ship in late March. As always, the entire run of back issues is available on Project Muse. The next *Yearbook* issue will go to editorial review this summer. Authors wishing to confer about article submission to the *Yearbook* will have an opportunity to do so at the Atkins Goethe conference in November.

We continue to welcome articles on topics broadly understood within the *Goethezeit*, written according to any number of divergent methodologies. Please send manuscripts to Daniel Purdy, [dlp14@psu.edu](mailto:dlp14@psu.edu), by April 30. Submissions should follow the Chicago Manual of Style and confine themselves to less than 35 pages. For specific questions about scholarly citations, please consult the *Yearbook’s* style sheet.

Daniel Purdy  
Pennsylvania State University

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## *FROM THE EDITOR OF THE BOOK SERIES*

The goal of this series is to publish innovative research that contextualizes the “Age of Goethe,” whether within the fields of literature, history (including art history and history of science), philosophy, art, music, or politics. We continue to welcome all approaches and perspectives, and I look forward to speaking with anyone interested in

submitting a manuscript at the Atkins Goethe Conference in Chicago.

Jane K. Brown  
University of Washington

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*FROM THE  
SECRETARY-TREASURER*

Minutes of the Business Meeting  
7 January 2011  
MLA Convention, Los Angeles

1. President's Report

President Astrida Tantillo opened the business meeting by welcoming the Goethe Society members and giving an update on the plans for the second triennial Goethe Society conference in Chicago, November 3-6, 2011. The conference topic is "Metamorphoses: Goethe and Change". Paper submissions are encouraged, and are due March 7. Registration through the conference website will open soon. The conference will include a dissertation workshop, as was the case in Pittsburgh, and applications for the workshop are also due March 7.

Stuart Atkins has generously pledged a major gift to the Goethe Society in honor of his parents, Stuart and Lilian R. Atkins. The gift will underwrite our triennial conference, which will be called "The Atkins Goethe Conference" in recognition of this sponsorship. A further purpose of the fund will be to support younger scholars. A portion of the annual gift from Stuart Atkins will go towards building an endowment fund, and individual members will also have

the opportunity to contribute to that fund.

Sara Eigen Figal (Assistant Professor of German, Vanderbilt University) is the winner of the 2009 GSNA essay competition, with her article "When Brothers are Enemies: Frederick the Great's Catechism for War," *Eighteenth-Century Studies* 43: 1 (2009): 21-36. Astrida Tantillo announced the prize and read the following congratulatory comments:

*Sara Eigen Figal's article "When Brothers are Enemies: Frederick the Great's Catechism for War," analyzes the close association of concepts of brotherhood and enmity in the Age of Enlightenment. Eigen reminds us that in the eighteenth-century wars were fought by European monarchs who were interrelated and thus, quite literally, brothers. Through references to a wide range of texts by Gleim, Moser, and Zedler, and a close reading of a catechism for young officers written by Frederick the Great, Eigen demonstrates that the language of brotherhood functions as a "potent conveyor of both unity and rivalry." Because brotherhood and enmity are conceived as compatible, and not mutually exclusive, the concept of the brother-enemy necessitates a different notion of warfare: war is not total but circumscribed and enemies may be defeated, but not eradicated.*

*Eigen's article, which promises to inform all future work on the subject, is mellifluous, sophisticated, and erudite. The author is not only intimately familiar with eighteenth-century German literature, but also well-versed in Rousseau, Voltaire, and Shakespeare. Her argument combines attention to*

*detail, including etymological issues, and a firm grasp of large-scale political and social developments.*

To conclude, Astrida Tantillo thanked Patty Simpson for her excellent work as the Executive Secretary of the GSNA and presented a gift from the Society in recognition of her service, as she concludes her term.

## 2. Book Series Editor's Report

Jane Brown reported that the book series with Bucknell University Press continues to welcome manuscript submissions. There will be an opportunity at the Chicago conference to speak with her about the series and manuscript submissions, and she looks forward to those conversations.

## 3. Treasurer's Report

Claire Baldwin presented the Treasurer's Report and made copies available to interested members. The Goethe Society finances are strong, with increased royalties for the *Goethe Yearbook* from Project Muse providing income that allows us to keep our dues low. The new gift from Stuart Atkins will provide regular income for our triennial conference. GSNA members will have the opportunity to donate to this fund as well, if they so wish.

## 4. Executive Secretary's Report

Patty Simpson discussed the plans for upcoming conference panels sponsored by the GSNA. Margaretmary Daley is organizing the panel at the GSA on

"Eighteenth-Century Class". Elisabeth Krimmer and Monika Nenon are organizing the 2012 MLA panel on "Money, Money, Money: Debt and Speculation in the Literature of the Goethezeit" co-sponsored by the Lessing Society. Patty reported that we plan to hold next year's business meeting at the Chicago conference, which will allow us to sponsor a full session of papers at the MLA in Seattle.

Patty Simpson also delivered the report for Daniel Purdy, *Goethe Yearbook* editor. The *Yearbook* (volume 18) is currently in proof stage and will ship in March. Back issues are on Project Muse. The next *Yearbook* issue will be in editorial review this summer. Authors wishing to confer about article submission to the *Yearbook* will have an opportunity to do so at the November Goethe conference.

Finally, Patty Simpson expressed her appreciation to the GSNA Board and especially to Astrida Tantillo and wished the Society well as she ends her term as Executive Secretary.

## 5. Presidential Address

Astrida Tantillo introduced Dennis Sepper, who presented a stimulating paper "Saving the Urphenomena: Goethe's Work with Nature's Forms."

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Baldwin  
Colgate University

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## PANELS

Special GSNA Sessions at ASECS  
17-20 March 2011, Vancouver, BC,  
Canada

Organized by Christian Weber, Florida  
State University

### **Goethe's Figures and the Poetics of Configuration -- I**

Chair: Christian Weber, Florida State  
University

1. Hellmut Ammerlahn, University of  
Washington, "Configurations of Creative  
Self- Transformation: Goethe's Wilhelm  
Meister and His 'Doubles'"

2. Michael J. Sosulski, Kalamazoo  
College, "Character, Meaning and its  
Making: On the Notion of Vocation in  
Goethe's *Wilhelm Meister*"

3. Ursula Baer, University of British  
Columbia, "Wilhelm's Little Sister"

### **Goethe's Figures and the Poetics of Configuration -- II**

Chair: Hellmut Ammerlahn, University  
of Washington

1. Rebecca Elaine Steele, University of  
Wyoming, "Goethe's Amazon vs. the  
French Amazon: The Configuration of  
Women's Emancipation in the *Natural  
Daughter Eugenie*"

2. Seth Berk, University of Washington,  
"The Ontological Function of the  
Feminine in Goethe's "Euphrosyne""

3. Christian Weber, Florida State  
University, "The Eternal Return of

Tragic Love: Werther's Career in  
Goethe's Poetry"

4. Charlotte M. Craig, Rutgers  
University, "None But the Lonely  
Heart': The Aging Goethe's Lyric  
Poetry: From Affection to Passion to  
Resignation"

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.

#### **Professor Karin Schutjer**

Department of Modern Languages,  
Literatures & Linguistics  
202 Kaufman Hall  
University of Oklahoma  
Norman, OK 73019  
Telephone: (405) 325-1907  
[kschutjer@ou.edu](mailto:kschutjer@ou.edu)

Deadlines for submission of panel  
proposals:

2012 ASECS, 15 March 2011  
2013 MLA, 15 November 2011  
2012 GSA, 1 December 2011

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### **ESSAY PRIZE**

The executive committee seeks  
nominations or self-nominations for its  
annual essay prize, which carries an  
award of \$500. Please submit a copy of  
the essay (electronic version preferred)  
for the best essay *published in the year  
2010* on Goethe, his times, and/or  
contemporary figures by May 31, 2011  
to Professor Clark Muenzer at  
[clark.muenzer@gmail.com](mailto:clark.muenzer@gmail.com).

## *GLORIA FLAHERTY PRIZE*

In order to encourage and support research in the Age of Goethe, the Goethe Society of North America organized a very successful dissertation workshop at our first international conference in Pittsburgh in 2008. The participating students, who were selected on the basis of their dissertation prospectus and a letter from their adviser, were all awarded a Gloria Flaherty Prize of \$250 plus a waiver of the conference fee. More importantly, they participated in panel discussions, where they were engaged in conversation by senior scholars in their field who directed comments and questions to their projects.

The GSNA plans to organize a similar dissertation workshop at the Atkins Goethe Conference in Chicago. Subsequently, we hope to offer workshops about every 18 months: i.e., in 2013 (ASECS); 2014 (GSNA ); 2016 (ASECS); 2017 (GSNA); and so on.

Our deadline for applications for the Chicago Dissertation Workshop is March 7, 2011. Interested students should send their dissertation prospectus as email attachments to Professor Clark Muenzer at [clark.muenzer@gmail.com](mailto:clark.muenzer@gmail.com). We are additionally requiring a letter of recommendation from their dissertation advisers, which can be sent to me as a separate attachment. A committee of GSNA members will review all of the completed applications and inform the applicants of their decisions around April 4. Each winner will be expected to submit a completed chapter or two of their dissertation by September 15. Each will also receive a Flaherty Prize in the

amount of \$500, as well as a waiver of the conference fee.

With this continuing commitment, the GSNA hopes to contribute to the academic and intellectual success of graduate students engaged in Goethe studies and quite possibly to identify new talent for the *Goethe Yearbook* and our Book Series.

We look forward to hearing from the dissertating students. They can also easily and inexpensively join the GSNA (for just \$10!) by clicking on the “Membership” link on our web site. Membership includes the Society’s newsletter twice each year, as well as a copy of the *Yearbook* of the Goethe Society of North America.

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## *FROM THE SECRETARY- TREASURER*

In an ongoing effort to increase the strength of the society, the GSNA is looking for new members. 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](http://www.goethesociety.org) and click on the “Membership” link. Thanks for your support in this endeavor.

Claire Baldwin  
Colgate University



## DUES

*If you have not done so already, please send your 2011 dues to the Secretary-Treasurer, Claire Baldwin, or go to [www.goethesociety.org](http://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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## GSNA OFFICERS

### President

**Professor Astrida Tantillo**  
Interim Dean  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
(mc228)  
601 S. Morgan Street  
Chicago, IL 60607  
Telephone: 312-413-7329  
Fax: 312-413-2511  
[tantillo@uic.edu](mailto:tantillo@uic.edu)

### Vice President

**Professor Clark Muenzer**  
Department of Germanic Languages and  
Literatures, 1409 Cathedral of Learning  
University of Pittsburgh  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260  
Telephone: (412) 624-5909  
[muenzer@pitt.edu](mailto:muenzer@pitt.edu)

### Secretary-Treasurer

**Professor Claire Baldwin**  
Department of German  
Colgate University  
13 Oak Drive  
Hamilton, NY 13346  
Telephone: (315) 228-7281  
Fax: (315) 228-7176  
[cmbaldwin@colgate.edu](mailto:cmbaldwin@colgate.edu)

### Directors-at-Large

**Professor Elisabeth Krimmer**  
Department of German and Russian  
411 Sproul Hall  
University of California, Davis  
Davis, CA 95616  
Telephone: (530) 752-4999  
[emkrimmer@ucdavis.edu](mailto:emkrimmer@ucdavis.edu)

**Professor Andrew Piper**  
Department of German Studies  
McGill University  
688 Sherbrooke St. West, Suite 425  
Montreal, QC H3A 3R1  
Canada  
Telephone: (514) 398-2044  
[andrew.piper@mcgill.ca](mailto:andrew.piper@mcgill.ca)

### Executive Secretary

**Professor Karin Schutjer**  
Department of Modern Languages,  
Literatures & Linguistics  
202 Kaufman Hall  
University of Oklahoma  
Norman, OK 73019  
Telephone: (405) 325-1907  
[kschutjer@ou.edu](mailto:kschutjer@ou.edu)

### **Editor of the *Yearbook***

**Professor Daniel Purdy**  
Department of Germanic and Slavic  
Languages and Literatures  
311 Burrowes Building  
The Pennsylvania State University  
University Park, PA 16802  
Telephone: (814) 865-1353  
Fax: (814) 863-8882  
[dlp14@psu.edu](mailto:dlp14@psu.edu)

### **Book Review Editor**

**Professor Catriona MacLeod**  
Department of Germanic Languages and  
Literatures, 745 Williams Hall  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6305  
Telephone: (215) 898-7334  
Fax: (215) 573-7794  
[cmacleod@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:cmacleod@sas.upenn.edu)

### **Editor of the Book Series**

**Professor Jane Brown**  
Department of Germanics  
Box 353130  
University of Washington  
Seattle, WA 98195-3130  
Telephone: (206) 543-4580  
Fax: (206) 685-9063  
[jkbrown@u.washington.edu](mailto:jkbrown@u.washington.edu)

### **Webmaster and GNN Editor**

**Professor Burkhard Henke**  
Department of German and Russian  
Davidson College  
Box 6956  
Davidson, NC 28035-6956  
Telephone: (704) 894-2269  
Fax: (704) 894-2782  
[buhenke@davidson.edu](mailto:buhenke@ davidson.edu)  
[webmaster@goethesociety.org](mailto:webmaster@goethesociety.org)