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GOETHE NEWS AND NOTES

XXXII.1, Spring 2012

Burkhard Henke, Editor
Davidson College

FROM THE EDITOR

In this number of the *Goethe News and Notes* we are happy to announce our latest essay prize winner, a new, upcoming title in our book series, and several stimulating panels at the next annual ASECS and MLA conventions. As we thank Dan Purdy for his many years of fine service as the *Goethe Yearbook's* editor, please join us in welcoming Adrian Daub and Elisabeth Krimmer as they take on the task together, beginning in 2013.

2013 will be one of those years in which we will *not* hold a Goethe conference. What a pity! After a successful meeting in Pittsburgh set the tone in 2008, many of us attended and enjoyed the Atkins Goethe Conference in Chicago last fall, entitled *Metamorphoses: Goethe and Change*. Serious thanks go to the organizers, Elisabeth Krimmer, Andrew Piper, and especially our President, Astrida Tantilillo, for putting on such a wonderful event. It was a pleasure to be there and reconnect with colleagues. We hope to see you all again at the 2014 conference in Pittsburgh.

Please note that this fall we will elect a new Vice President and two Directors-at-Large. The deadline for nominations

(and self-nominations) is rapidly approaching – March 15 – so please take the opportunity to contact our nominating committee if you are interested in serving or would like to see someone else serve in one of these important offices. Find more information below.

Last but not least, I would like to remind you to pay your 2012 dues, if you have not already done so. Our rates are among the lowest in the profession, and we depend on your timely contributions. Volume 19 of the *Goethe Yearbook* will be mailed to you in just a few weeks, but only if you are a paid-up member.

Burkhard Henke
Davidson College

FROM THE PRESIDENT

For those of you who heard my welcoming remarks at the *Metamorphoses: Goethe and Change* conference, you will recall that I spoke about how Chicago is Goethe's kind of town: we have Goethe and Schiller streets (in the best part of town, no less!), a Goethe school, a Humboldt park and statute, and perhaps most

remarkably of all, a 1913 statute not *of* Goethe but *to* Goethe, “the mastermind of the German people.” Chicago is now even more so Goethe’s kind of town now that we have had a successful conference examining a myriad of perspectives on his work and its legacy as well as on the work and influence of his contemporaries. Times have certainly changed since the Goethe Monument Association of Chicago dedicated an Adonis-like statue to “the mastermind of the German people” – but that is, of course, how it should be. There should be change and controversy and a revisiting of earlier assessments. That is what helps keep our field vibrant and relevant.



It was exciting to feel the energy during the conference – not only within the many excellent panels and during our wonderful keynotes, but also during the social times where I heard many interesting debates and conversations. The Goethe Society is flourishing. Many

colleagues have told me how exceptional the Society is because of the dedication of its membership, and the attendance at the conference testifies to this: nearly half of our entire membership attended the conference. One of the reasons that our conference was such a success is that the Society is quite fortunate in having strong supporters. We received generous support from Mr. Stuart Atkins who has set up a fund to endow the conference in honor of his parents, Lillian and Stuart P. Atkins. We are also grateful to the Max Kade Foundation, the DAAD, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at UIC for their sponsorship. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who helped with the conference. I would especially like to thank Elisabeth Krimmer and Andrew Piper who co-organized it, Claire Baldwin for handling all of the registration and financial details, Burkhard Henke for his work on the website and all technical aspects of registration, and to all who participated in the dissertation workshop and to Clark Muenzer for organizing it. I would like to offer special thanks to the UIC contingent – to the graduate students, and to Michelle Reyes, Agnes Herget, and Rachel Leamon whose hard work ensured a smoothly run conference. Our next conference will take place in Pittsburgh in 2014. Let’s see if we can beat the Chicago record and get more than half of our members to attend!

I am very pleased to announce that Elisabeth Krimmer and Adrian Daub have agreed to be co-editors of the *Goethe Yearbook*. The board was very excited about their plans and vision for the future of the *Yearbook*. We are also very grateful to Daniel Purdy for his wonderful work on the *Yearbook* for the last five years. The *Yearbook* is a very

strong reason the Society is doing so well and has such a vibrant intellectual presence. We owe a great deal to Daniel for his hard work and his leadership.

In general, the Society is thriving: we are in great shape financially and have especially benefitted from the royalties that we are receiving for the electronic version of the *Yearbook*. Our membership numbers, most notably from graduate students, are strong. Our book series has resulted in important new books in the field. In short, the Society is in great shape and ready for a new set of officers with new ideas and plans so that the Society can continue to grow. I encourage you to nominate (and self-nominate) for the open board positions. It is very rewarding to serve on the board – the new board will not only organize the next conference and all of the other Society panels and activities, it will also set the stage for the future direction of the Society. Please do contact one of the members of the nominating committee if you are interested in serving or know of someone who would be a good board member.

Astrida Tantillo
University of Illinois, Chicago

*FROM THE EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY*

Call for Nominations

This year we are due to hold elections for the following GSNA officers, who will serve for a three-year term beginning 1 January, 2013.

- Vice-President (who accedes to the presidency after three years)
- 2 Directors-at-Large

(Our current Secretary-Treasurer Claire Baldwin is willing to serve another term and so will stand unopposed for this position, for which continuity is especially important).

A special nominating committee, consisting of Simon Richter, Stefani Engelstein and Christian Weber, has been appointed to prepare a slate of candidates for each of the offices. The committee welcomes nominations, including self-nominations, from the membership. The GSNA seeks active, dedicated officers who are willing to organize our triennial conference as well as to participate in other Society activities (essay prize selection, dissertation writer's workshop, etc.). Please email your suggestions to one or more of the committee members by March 15, 2012.

Simon Richter, srichter@sas.upenn.edu
Stefani Engelstein, engelsteins@missouri.edu
Christian Weber, cweber@fsu.edu

Many thanks for your support and involvement!

Karin Schutjer
University of Oklahoma

FROM THE YEARBOOK EDITOR

Volume 19 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.

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 at dlp14@psu.edu. 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

FROM THE FUTURE YEARBOOK EDITORS

We, Elisabeth Krimmer (UC Davis) and Adrian Daub (Stanford), will jointly take over editorship of the *Goethe Yearbook* in 2013. Elisabeth's research has focused on eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century German literature, gender studies and cultural representations of war. She is the author of *In the Company of Men* (2004), *The Representation of War in German Literature from 1800 to the Present* (2010), and co-editor (with Patricia Simpson) of the volumes *Enlightened War* (2011) and *Religion, Reason, and Culture in the Age of Goethe* (in progress). Adrian specializes in the literature of the long nineteenth century, and works on music, philosophy and political theory, and their relationship to literature. His first book, *Zwillingshafte Gebärden* (2009), is largely focused on the early nineteenth century, while his second book, *Uncivil Unions* (2012), deals primarily with the *Goethezeit*. We hope that Elisabeth's background in gender studies and social history and Adrian's expertise in

intellectual history, music, and art history will enable us to respond competently to a wide variety of submissions.

We sought this editorship not because we thought the *Goethe Yearbook* needed to change dramatically, but rather because we wanted to support what we both felt was a journal of unique verve and rigor. Consequently, we see our role going forward as strengthening and supporting those aspects of the *Goethe Yearbook* we've found most successful in the past. One of the most attractive features of the Goethe Society of North America is its ability to offer a home to both traditional Germanists and to scholars who are influenced by recent trends including Cultural Studies, gender studies, poststructuralism, and many more. We feel strongly that the *Yearbook* should reflect this diversity of opinions, yet continue to function as a communication tool for the far-flung yet familial network of specialists for Goethe and his time. We imagine a *Yearbook* that insists on the highest academic standards but is open to a variety of different approaches ranging from deconstruction to psychoanalysis and from research on intellectual history and philosophy, such as in the recent volume on idealism edited by John Smith and Elizabeth Millan, to ecocriticism, such as in Heather Sullivan's recent article on *Faust*.

Furthermore, we hope to attract articles with interdisciplinary interests, a focus that seems all the more appropriate since Goethe's work itself encompassed disciplines as diverse as literature, religion, and science. Similarly, since Goethe's interests extended far beyond the German realm, we would like to

reach out to scholars of eighteenth-century French, English and other national literatures who explore links to eighteenth-century German culture, literature, and thought. Both of us have done extensive interdisciplinary work, and have written on periods from 1750 to the present. We hope that this range positions us well to inspire, solicit and assess submissions from fields outside of literature.

We both look forward to our time as editors and to reading and engaging with many stimulating and innovative articles on Goethe and his contemporaries.

Adrian Daub
Stanford University

Elisabeth Krimmer
University of California at Davis

FROM THE BOOK REVIEW EDITOR

As always, I encourage you to let me know if there are particular areas of research that you are interested in reviewing for the *Goethe Yearbook*. Please send books for review and suggestions for books for review to:

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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. Our next title will be: *Secular Millennialism: The Trail of Aesthetics from Baumgarten and Kant to Walt Disney and Hitler* by Benjamin Bennett.

Jane K. Brown
University of Washington

PANELS

Special GSNA Session at the ASECS
Annual Convention in San Antonio
22-25 March 2012

Goethe and Ecocriticism

Chair and Moderator:
Heather I. Sullivan, Trinity University

1. “Shaping the Land in Goethe’s *Faust II*”
Loisa Nygaard, University of California, Santa Cruz
2. “Connecting Science and Nature – Goethe and the Supernatural”
Johannes Schmidt, Clemson University
3. “Goethe and Ecocriticism: Translation Theory”
Kevin Boyd, University of Virginia

4."The Puzzle at Pozzuoli"
Karl Fink, St. Olaf College

The Goethe Society is also sponsoring two panels at the 2013 MLA Convention in Boston, January 3-6, 2013:

Goethe "als Vermittler": Writing and Mediation

Special GSNA Session organized and chaired by Claudia Brodsky, Princeton University

and

Mathematics in the *Goethezeit*

Special Session co-sponsored by the GSNA and the MLA Executive Committee for the Division of 18th- and Early 19th-Century German Literature, organized and chaired by John Smith, University of California at Irvine.

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:

2013 ASECS, 15 March 2012
2013 GSA, 15 November 2012
2014 MLA, 1 December 2012

ESSAY PRIZE

2010 Award

Congratulations, Dalia!

Dalia Nassar, "From a Philosophy of Self to a Philosophy of Nature: Goethe and the Development of Schelling's *Naturphilosophie*," *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie* 92.3 (2010): 304-321.

Dalia Nassar's groundbreaking essay argues that Goethe's natural-scientific work played a pivotal role in the history of German Idealism. Nassar revisits the crucial turn in the late 1790's from Fichte's radical Idealism, which grounds all objects in a self-positing "I" to Schelling's philosophy of nature, which grounds the self in a prior "not-I," i.e. nature. She zeroes in on a period of intense, regular contact between Schelling and Goethe in the fall of 1799, as Schelling was editing his *Einleitung* to the *Erster Entwurf einer Philosophie der Natur*. In careful detail she outlines how Goethe's notion of metamorphosis inspired Schelling's breakthrough: it allowed him to account for an original, internal duality in nature that enables nature's self-productivity and therefore its independence from the human mind. A model of clarity and precision, Nassar's article is poised to have a significant impact both on the study of German Idealism and on Goethe Studies, where it enriches our understanding of the scope and depth of Goethe's natural science contributions.

2011 Award – Call for Submissions

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 2011 on Goethe, his times, and/or contemporary figures by May 31, 2012 to Professor Clark Muenzer at clark.muenzer@gmail.com.

The following articles are eligible:

1. articles written by a North American scholar (defined by institutional affiliation at the time of publication); or
2. articles written by a current member of the GSNA; or
3. articles published in the *Goethe Yearbook*.

NB: Articles by current GSNA board members are not eligible. GSNA members are encouraged to submit their own articles for consideration.

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 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 2012 dues to the Secretary-Treasurer, Claire Baldwin, or go to 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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