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## GOETHE NEWS AND NOTES

XXXV.1, Spring 2015

Burkhard Henke, Editor  
Davidson College

### *FROM THE EDITOR*

Aside from important announcements and updates, this number of the *Goethe News and Notes* looks back on our highly successful Atkins Conference last fall, honors Patty Simpson, and calls for GSNA office nominations—by the end of March!

Four offices will be vacated at the end of the year. We urge you to consider nominating a colleague or yourself. Our nominating committee, led by Martha Helfer, would like to receive your suggestions by April 1.

We are also looking for a new editor of our book series, a position that Jane Brown has so ably filled these last five years. The deadline for self-nominations is, again, April 1.

To round things off, April 1 is also the deadline for panel proposals for the next ASECS meeting in spring 2016 in Pittsburgh.

Enjoy your spring semester!

Burkhard Henke  
Davidson College

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### *FROM THE PRESIDENT*

*“Das Gebildete wird sogleich wieder umgebildet, und wir haben uns, wenn wir einigermaßen zum lebendigen Anschauen der Natur gelangen wollen, selbst so beweglich und bildsam zu erhalten, nach dem Beispiele mit dem sie uns vorgeht.”*

Over the coming months, we will be seeing a number of changes: we will be selecting new officers and a new book series editor; inaugurating a new prize to promote research on Goethean science; and convening a new GSA Seminar on “Science, Nature, and Art.” The following record of the Society’s recent events and activities suggests the challenge of change for our organization should be understood, in true Goethean fashion, as part of a process of transformation that flexibly adapts the past and keeps it moving into the future.

### **2014 Atkins Conference at the University of Pittsburgh**

For those who were unable to attend the conference, I would like to begin my summary with two announcements that I

made during our Annual Business Meeting in Pittsburgh.

Our Essay Prize for 2013 was awarded to Professor Patricia Simpson for her article “Sacred Maternity and Secular Sons: Hölderlin’s Madonna as Muse.” Read Daniel Purdy’s *laudatio* below. Congratulations on your accomplishment, Patty, and many thanks to Daniel Purdy and the other two judges, Peter Höyng and Gail Hart, for their hours of work.

I was also extremely pleased to announce the establishment of a new prize that has been made possible through the generosity of one of our most dedicated and active members, Dr. Elizabeth M. Powers. Further details will be worked out over the coming months, but the Richard Sussman Memorial Prize, named to honor Elizabeth’s late husband, will promote research on Goethe’s scientific writings and activities, including his correspondence and contacts with important figures in the scientific community of his day.

Thank you again, Elizabeth. We are touched by your generous support and the trust you have placed in the Society to further knowledge in fields that were very dear to Richard and you.

Here is a record of our four days in Pittsburgh last October:

- About eighty-five people attended the conference from across the United States and five European countries.
- Generous financial and material support was provided by the following individuals, institutions, and organizations: Mr. Stuart Atkins

(who has endowed the conference since 2011 in honor of his parents, Lillian and Stuart P. Atkins; the Max Kade Foundation (New York); the Andy Warhol Museum (Pittsburgh); the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences, the Humanities Center, the University Library and the Department of Special Collections, and the Departments of English and German (all of the University of Pittsburgh).

- Twenty panels were organized.
- The panels included fifty-seven presentations on the conference topic: “Aesthetics and its Institutions During the Age of Goethe.”
- A lively Presidential Forum, with talks by Ellis Dye, Simon Richter, and Astrida Tantillo, addressed issues around Goethe and the humanities today.
- Two keynote addresses were offered by Jane K. Brown (University of Washington, Seattle) and Anne-Bohnenkamp Renken (Freies Deutsches Hochstift). Both speakers were honored with lifetime memberships in the Society. The title of Jane Brown’s address was “Building Bridges: Goethe’s Fairy-Tale Aesthetics.” Anne Bohnenkamp-Renken’s address was entitled “Mignon—Suleika—Helena: Museale Erkenntnis.”
- In addition to an opening reception, we held a reception for an exhibition of rare books, manuscripts, and other Goetheana in the University Library that more than fifty participants attended. The title of the exhibition was “Reading Goethe: The Most Composite of all Creatures.” A separate catalogue is being prepared.
- Our last public event was the banquet at the Andy Warhol

Museum. All seven floors of the museum were opened exclusively to conference participants. In addition to an original animation based on *Faust* that was commissioned for the event, the museum displayed all four of Andy Warhol's Goethe serigraphs. Following dinner, the museum's chief archivist spoke about these works and answered questions.

- Daniel Purdy organized two dissertation workshops with five graduate students for Sunday morning. Congratulations to the students who were chosen to participate: Mathew Birkhold (Princeton University); Lauren Nossett (University of California, Davis); Daniel Di Mossa (University of Pennsylvania); Jonathan Blake Fine (University of California, Irvine); and Joseph Rockelmann (Purdue University). Thanks also to the faculty who responded with comments and questions: John Noyes (University of Toronto); Daniel Purdy (Pennsylvania State University); John Smith (University of California Irvine); Thomas Beebee (Pennsylvania State University); Catriona MacLeod (University of Pennsylvania); and Fritz Breithaupt (Indiana University).
- In addition to our Vice-President, I would also like to acknowledge and thank many times over our other officers, whose tireless work over the past two years made the conference possible. They include our Directors Heather Sullivan (Trinity University) and Horst Lange (University of Central Arkansas), who spent countless hours with me on the program; our Secretary-Treasurer Claire Baldwin (Hamilton College),

who kept our finances and registrations in order; our Webmaster and Newsletter Editor Burkhard Henke (Davidson), who designed and managed the conference website and facilitated all of our communications; and our Executive Secretary Karin Schutjer (University of Oklahoma), who was always available with advice when we needed it and helped make things work when they were broken.

Two people at my own University, whom most will not know, deserve special mention. Thank you Alana (Dunn) and Samantha (Shipeck) for your dedication and skill in making the event happen.

With just thirty months now left until the next Atkins Conference, I want to extend my best wishes to Daniel Purdy, who will be organizing our tri-annual gathering in the Fall of 2017. Please mark your calendars. I'm certain your ideas and suggestions will be welcome, as will be your participation. Good luck, Daniel!

### **Elections and Nominations**

We are now in the process of organizing our next election and appointing a successor to Jane Brown as editor of our book series. Let me therefore remind you to make your nominations by April 1. Details are included below.

### **International Initiatives**

Over the coming years, I would like our Society to find ways to cooperate with Goethe institutions abroad on a more regular basis. I will therefore renew conversations at the end of May with

members of the *Vorstand* of the Goethe-Gesellschaft in Weimar. At the top of my list of topics will be joint membership options for our societies and jointly organized *Studienaufenthalte* in Weimar/Jena. Following my stay in Weimar, I will be at the Freies Deutsches Hochstift in Frankfurt, where I will explore additional possibilities for cooperation, including jointly sponsored conferences and research projects.

To assist me in these exploratory conversations, I would ask interested members to send me their ideas and comments. And if you have professional contacts with colleagues who are active in organizations abroad, please let me know.

I will update you on these conversations in my final column as President next fall, as well as at our Annual Business Meeting, which will take place at the German Studies Association in Washington, D.C. in October.

Clark Muenzer  
University of Pittsburgh

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### *NOMINATIONS SOUGHT*

Dear Members,

Since all of our officers began the final year of their terms on January 1, I have constituted a nominating committee in accord with the Society's By-Laws. Martha Helfer ([mhelfer@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:mhelfer@rci.rutgers.edu)) has kindly agreed to serve as the committee's chair, along with Karin Schutjer ([kschutjer@ou.edu](mailto:kschutjer@ou.edu)) and Vance

Byrd ([byrdvl@grinnell.edu](mailto:byrdvl@grinnell.edu)) as members. The committee will nominate eight members for the following four offices: Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and two Directors-at-Large. The Vice-President will succeed to the Presidency after her or his three-year term in 2019.

We have extended the deadline for nominations to April 1, 2015. Please contact Martha with your suggestions as soon as possible. If you are willing to be considered yourself, please also let Martha know.

Clark Muenzer  
University of Pittsburgh

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### *NEW EDITOR SOUGHT FOR BOOK SERIES*

Jane K. Brown has informed us that after completing five years as the editor of our book series, *New Studies in the Age of Goethe*, she plans stepping down at the end of 2015. We plan to announce the Board's choice of a new editor at the GSA in October. I am therefore asking any member who wants to be considered for this important position to send me a letter of interest, along with a current *CV*, which I will submit to the Society's Board of Directors.

The series editor solicits manuscripts, does preliminary screening of proposals, selects manuscripts for consideration (in consultation with his/her own advisory committee as he/she prefers), chooses and solicits outside reviewers, selects manuscripts for publication, works in

consultation with the acquisitions editor at Bucknell University Press, and offers editorial advice to authors as appropriate. This position is a wonderful way to see what people are up to. Anyone who wants more detail about the activity should contact Jane at [jkbrown@uw.edu](mailto:jkbrown@uw.edu).

Please have your letters to me by April 1, 2015.

Clark Muenzer  
University of Pittsburgh

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### 2013 ESSAY PRIZE



The Goethe Society awarded the 2013 best prize to Patricia Anne Simpson for her article, "Sacred Maternity and Secular Sons: Hölderlin's Madonna as

Muse." I join my colleague Gail Hart and Peter Höyng in congratulating her for her superb scholarship. Patricia Simpson is Professor of German at Montana State University and her essay appeared in the Camden House anthology, *Religion, Reason, and Culture in the Age of Goethe*, which she edited along with Elizabeth Krimmer.

Patricia Simpson's essay moves from broadest imaginable intellectual history to a very close reading of an exemplary poem. Her opening paragraph follows the fine German academic tradition of synthesizing as many ideas as possible in one very complex statement, in other words, it shows off just how smart the author is. She situates her argument within eighteenth-century debates over philosophy and theology, the place of the divine in secular modernity, as well as the importance of pantheism, polytheism, and paganism within poetry. In its broad sweep, the essay reasserts the prominence of religion in our understanding of German intellectual history. She surveys the shifting boundaries between religion and philosophy from Spinoza to Habermas, without becoming so lost in abstraction that she ignores the real life consequences heterodox thinkers faced when they offend the reigning institutions. After a forceful overview, Professor Simpson then winnows her argument down from the accusations of atheism Fichte faced to a tightly focused reading of Hölderlin's neglected fragmentary ode, "An die Madonna." Simpson demonstrates how Hölderlin attention to maternity, religion and poetic epiphany stood dramatically apart from that of his contemporaries.

In choosing Professor Simpson's work in a year rich with North American *Goethezeit* scholarship, the committee characterized it as "a beautiful reading of Hölderlin's poetry, explaining the murky dynamics of the Madonna figure and its references to gendered parents with great clarity while disrupting the very basic assumptions about modernity and secularism." In the end we all agreed that it was "thoroughly researched, broad in scope, shedding new light on Hölderlin, with a sophisticated argument, all the while elegantly presented. *Ein kleines Meisterwerk.*"

Daniel Purdy  
Pennsylvania State University

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*FROM THE YEARBOOK  
EDITORS*

We are still looking for original contributions to Vol. 23 and would like to invite submissions on all aspects of eighteenth-century and early nineteenth-century German literature and culture. We are particularly interested in articles written by advanced graduate students and assistant professors, and would like to use this opportunity to encourage them to contact us about potential publications.

In addition to our general section, we are planning a special section on "Goethe and the Visual Arts" and welcome contributions on drawings, painting, tableau vivant, sculpture, printmaking, design, and architecture in the long eighteenth century. We are also interested in critical readings of films

about Goethe and his contemporaries as well as filmic adaptations of eighteenth-century works.

Submissions should reach us by late May, preferably earlier. Manuscript 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.

Remember, the entire run of back issues is available on Project MUSE.

Adrian Daub  
Stanford University

Elisabeth Krimmer  
University of California at Davis

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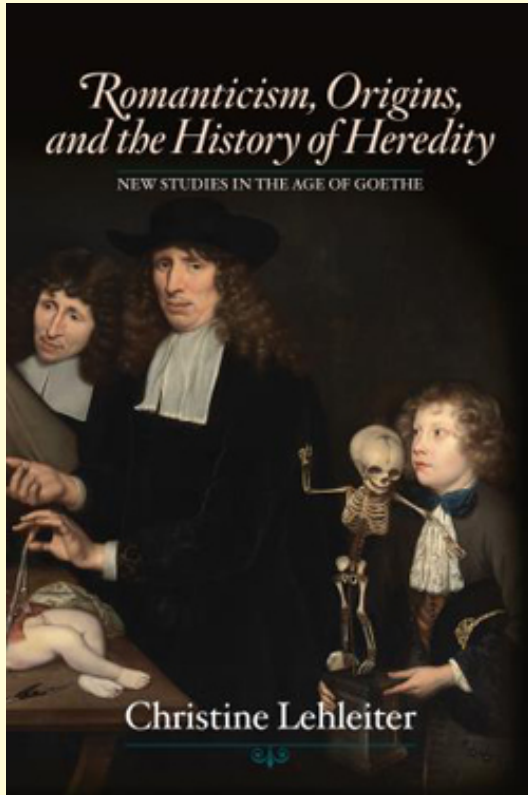
*FROM THE  
BOOK REVIEW EDITOR*

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:

**Professor Birgit Tautz**  
Department of German  
Bowdoin College  
7700 College Station  
Brunswick, ME 04101-8477  
Telephone: (207) 798-7079  
Fax: (207) 725-3348  
[btautz@bowdoin.edu](mailto:btautz@bowdoin.edu)

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FROM THE EDITOR  
OF THE BOOK SERIES



*Romanticism, Origins, and the History of Heredity* by Christine Lehleiter is now out. From Bucknell's web site:

At the turn of the eighteenth century, selfhood was understood as a “tabula rasa” to be imprinted in the course of an individual’s life. By the middle of the nineteenth-century, however, the individual had become defined as determined by heredity already from birth. Examining novels by Goethe, Jean Paul, and E.T.A. Hoffmann, studies on plant hybridization, treatises on animal breeding, and anatomical collections, *Romanticism, Origins, and the History of Heredity* delineates how romantic authors

imagined the ramifications of emerging notions of heredity for the conceptualization of selfhood. Focusing on three fields of inquiry - inbreeding and incest, cross-breeding and bastardization, evolution and autopoiesis - Christine Lehleiter proposes that the notion of selfhood for which Romanticism has become known was not threatened by considerations of determinism and evolution, but was in fact already a result of these very considerations. *Romanticism, Origins and the History of Heredity* will be of interest for literary scholars, historians of science, and all readers fascinated by the long *durée* of subjectivity and evolutionary thought.

Our next book, *Pretexts for Writing: German Prefaces around 1800*, by Seán Williams, is scheduled to enter production this summer, and additional promising projects are currently being revised.

We continue to encourage submissions from our members, their friends, and those who find us in other ways.

Jane K. Brown  
University of Washington

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PANELS

Special GSNA Sessions at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in Los Angeles, March 19-22, 2015

## **Creation and Procreation in Eighteenth-Century German Literature**

Chair: Lauren Nossett, University of California, Davis

1. "Ich will mir eine Mißgeburt vorstellen": Miscarriages of Imagination in Eighteenth Century German Aesthetics (Lydia Butt, Carleton College)
2. "Die Knochen als einen Text": Sperata's Story in *Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre* (Sonja Andersen, Princeton University)
3. Body Politics and Political Bodies: Birth Narratives and the Emergence of German National Identity (Julie Koser, University of Maryland)
4. Creating Things: Automata and Androids in the Long Eighteenth Century (Wendy C. Nielsen, Montclair State University)

## **The Idea of Europe in the *Goethezeit***

Chair: John H. Smith, University of California, Irvine

1. "A Kind of Political Chemistry": The Search for Ideal Government in Christoph Martin Wieland's *The History of Agathon* (1766 / 1772 / 1794) (John A. McCarthy, Vanderbilt University)
2. German Romantic Europeanism: Union or Diversity? (John B. Lyon, University of Pittsburgh)

3. Herder, the French Revolution, and Europe (Greg Moore, Georgia State University)
4. Georg Forster and the Emergence of a New Europe (Charles A. Grair, Texas Tech University)

We are soliciting panel proposals for the next ASECS meeting March 29-April 3, 2016 in Pittsburgh. Please send me a brief topic description. The deadline has been extended until April 1.

If you are going to be at this year's GSA in Washington, DC, please plan on joining us for our annual business meeting and cash bar, where we'll be saying a fond farewell to many of our current officers and announcing incoming ones.

**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:

2016 GSA, 15 November 2015  
2017 MLA, 1 December 2015  
2017 ASECS, 15 March 2016

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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, just visit the Membership page on our web site. Thanks for your support in this endeavor.

Claire Baldwin  
Colgate University

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## DUES

*If you have not done so already, please send your 2015 dues to the Secretary-Treasurer, Claire Baldwin, or use PayPal on our web site (a modest fee will apply). Dues are payable in each calendar year according to 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 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)

### Vice President

**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)

### 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)  
[gsna.membership@gmail.com](http://gsna.membership@gmail.com)

### Directors-at-Large

**Professor Horst Lange**  
Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures  
Irby Hall 207  
University of Central Arkansas  
Conway, AR 72035  
Telephone: (501) 450-5585  
[hlange@uca.edu](mailto:hlange@uca.edu)

**Professor Heather I. Sullivan**  
Department of Modern Languages and  
Literatures  
One Trinity Place  
Trinity University  
San Antonio, TX 78212  
Telephone: (210) 999-7535  
[heather.sullivan@trinity.edu](mailto:heather.sullivan@trinity.edu)

### **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)

### **Editors of the *Yearbook***

**Professor Adrian Daub**  
Department of German Studies  
Building 260, Room 212, 450 Serra Mall  
Stanford University  
Stanford, CA 94305-2030  
Telephone: (650) 723-9079  
Fax: (650) 725-8421  
[daub@stanford.edu](mailto:daub@stanford.edu)

**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)

### **Book Review Editor**

**Professor Birgit Tautz**  
Department of German  
Bowdoin College  
7700 College Station  
Brunswick, ME 04101-8477  
Telephone: (207) 798-7079  
Fax: (207) 725-3348  
[btautz@bowdoin.edu](mailto:btautz@bowdoin.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 Studies  
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)