



GOETHE NEWS AND NOTES

XVI.1 SPRING 1995

ELECTION RESULTS

At the 1994 Business Meeting in San Diego Jill Kowalik, chair of the Nominating Committee, announced the results of the election for officers to serve 1995-97. Benjamin Bennett, University of Virginia, has been elected Vice President; Todd Kontje, University of California, San Diego, has been elected Secretary-Treasurer; the two new Directors-at-Large are Scott Abbott, Brigham Young University, and Irmgard Wagner, George Mason University. Vice-President Ehrhard Bahr, UCLA, automatically accedes to the Presidency. Sixty-one votes were tallied.

FROM THE EDITOR OF THE GOETHE YEARBOOK

1. *Goethe Yearbook*, volume 8. I am now accepting submissions for volume 8, which I hope can be finished and go to press at the latest in winter or early spring of 1996. If you are working on something that might be of interest to the *Yearbook*, please get in touch with me about it; if you know someone who is doing outstanding work on Goethe or the "Goethezeit" who is not a member of the GSNA, please urge that person to join the Society and consider the *Yearbook* as the place to submit first.

(cont. p. 2)

CALL FOR PAPERS AT THE 1996 ASECS MEETING IN AUSTIN

The Goethe Society Session at the 1996 ASECS Meeting in Austin, Texas, March 27-31, recognizes the bicentennial of the publication of *Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre*. It is being organized by Ehrhard Bahr, UCLA.

TWO HUNDRED YEARS: *WILHELM MEISTER*

Proposals for papers are invited on any aspect of the novel, its reception, its relationship to other works by Goethe and his contemporaries, its role in the formulation of the problematic genre category "Bildungsroman," its rewriting in modern version

Papers in English with German or English quotations.
Please send titles and one-page abstracts by August 1, 1995 to:

Ehrhard Bahr
Dept. of Germanic Langs. and Lits.
UCLA
Los Angeles, CA 90024-1539
Fax: (310) 825-9754
E-mail: ibenbho@mvs.oac.ucla.edu

(Goethe Yearbook Editor, cont.)

2. Jane Brown and I are editing a collection of Stuart Atkins's Goethe papers which will be published as a special issue of the *Goethe Yearbook* with the title *Essays on Goethe*. We expect to have it off to the publisher, Camden House, by the end of May. Camden House is already advertising the volume for this coming September. The volume contains a Preface by Jane Brown, seventeen Goethe essays spanning the years from 1948 to 1994, and a corrected and updated bibliography of the publications of Stuart Atkins. The essays are the following:

1. "The Apprentice Novelist--- Goethe's Letters, 1765--1767."
2. "J.C. Lavater and Goethe: Problems of Psychology and Theology in *Die Leiden des jungen Werthers*."
3. "On the Opening Lines of Goethe's *Iphigenie*."
4. "Goethe and Renaissance Poetry."
5. "Goethe's Nausicaa: A Figure in Fresco."
6. "*Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre*: Novel or Romance?"
7. "*Die Wahlverwandtschaften*: Novel of German Classicism."
8. "*Italienische Reise* and Goethean Classicism."
9. "Goethe's Last Play: *Die Wette*."
10. "'Das Leben ist ein Gänsespiel.' Aspects of Goethe's *West-östlicher Divan*."
11. "Goethe's *Novelle* as Pictorial Narrative."
12. "The Mothers, the Phorcides, and the Cabiri in Goethe's *Faust*."
13. "The Visions of Leda and the Swan in *Faust*."

14. "Goethe, Aristophanes, and the Classical Walpurgisnacht."
15. "Goethe, Calderón and *Faust: Der Tragödie zweiter Teil*."
16. "Irony and Ambiguity in the Final Scene of Goethe's *Faust*."
17. "The Evaluation of Romanticism in Goethe's *Faust*."

All GSNA members who have paid their 1995 dues by the time the volume appears will receive it free of charge and therefore should *not* order it from Camden House (where the list price will be over \$50). I urge you, however, to spread the word about this publication to all the friends of Stuart Atkins and encourage them either to join the GSNA or to order the volume for themselves. I also urge you to see to it that your library orders the volume, especially if it already owns the 1981 Festschrift edited by Gerhart Hoffmeister.

Thomas P. Saine
Editor, *Goethe Yearbook*

CALL FOR PAPERS

Illinois Wesleyan University invites paper proposals, 800-1000 words, for a two-day conference on **History and the Arts in Germany and Austria, 1815-1848**, to be held March 30-31, 1996. Proposals should be directed toward one of the following sessions: (1) Music and Literature; (2) Music and the Visual Arts; (3) Politics and the Arts. Sent two copies of the proposal by 30 September 1995 to: Prof. John Michael Cooper, Illinois Wesleyan University, School of Music, P.O. Box 2900, Bloomington, IL 61702-2900.

SEMINAR PROPOSAL FOR THE 1996 ASECS MEETING IN AUSTIN

For the 1996 ASECS meeting in Austin Thomas P. Saine has proposed a seminar under the title 'Rethinking the German 'Spätaufklärung.' ' The description of the proposed seminar is as follows:

The 'Spätaufklärung' or late German Enlightenment (roughly the 1780s and 1790s, including the impact of the French Revolution on German intellectuals) is receiving more attention in recent years as a discrete sub-period, partly as a result of German reunification and the re-establishment of access to many resources in eastern Germany (especially concerning Berlin and Prussia) which had been under-utilized or unavailable since the end of World War II. While Prussian developments under Frederick II and Frederick Wilhelm II represent a large part of the 'Spätaufklärung,' other North German areas are involved as well, and it is necessary to try to establish its boundaries by discussing not only Enlightenment philosophy, but also the political, religious, and cultural history of the times. This would be an interdisciplinary seminar involving (I hope) both literary scholars and historians.

Tom Saine writes: If the proposal is accepted I will hope to hear from people who would like to participate. While I am not sure that Goethe himself is central to 'Spätaufklärung,' there are certainly other Weimar figures (e.g. Herder, Knebel, Wieland) about whom one could think productively in this context.

ESTABLISH A GOETHE PRIZE?

At the 1994 business meeting in San Diego I brought up the question whether or not the GSNA should consider instituting a prize competition to encourage work on Goethe or the 'Goethezeit,' and I was asked to use this issue of the newsletter to initiate discussion of the idea. Various prize scenarios and competition guidelines can be imagined: one could offer a prize for the best paper in a volume of the *Goethe Yearbook*, for the best paper on Goethe or the 'Goethezeit' published anywhere within a certain time period, for the best book on Goethe published within a certain time period, etc. Papers or books could be nominated by a committee, by third parties, or self-nominated by the authors themselves. One could even think in terms of offering both an essay and a book prize. I personally would be especially interested in a prize for a best graduate student or junior faculty paper, the prize being a small but still significant monetary award (perhaps \$250) and publication of the winning paper in the *Yearbook*, with provision that a runner-up and/or honorable mention paper might also be published (that is, I am thinking of a competition as a means of raising the number and quality of submissions to the *Yearbook*).

I invite anyone who has comments or ideas in this connection to communicate with Meredith Lee or me in the near future so that we might be able to offer some proposal for discussion at the 1995 business meeting at the Chicago MLA.

Thomas P. Saine

**GSNA AT THE
SOUTHEASTERN ASECS**

"Goethe's Historical Imagination" was the topic of the GSNA session at the Southeastern ASECS in Mobile, Alabama, 15-19 February 1995, chaired by Burkhard Henke, Davidson College.

Peter Höyng, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, hopes to organize a panel for the 1996 meeting. Please contact him for further information.
e-mail: hoeyng@utkx.utk.edu

The following abstracts of the papers read at the 1995 SEASECS panel have been provided by Nicholas Rennie and Peter Höyng.

Goethe's Historical Imagination and the Poetic Moment
Nicholas Rennie, Yale University

Taking its point of departure from Faust's last lines, this paper examined the role of the moment (*Augenblick*) as a principle by which Goethe attempts to make the structuring of historical time possible. As in Augustine's *Confessions*, Goethe conceives of time as narrative time, in which past and future are gathered by recollection and anticipation with a "triple present" (Ricoeur). The *prägnanter Augenblick* chosen as the subject of a sculpture can allow its viewer to extrapolate backwards and forwards in time to reconstruct the sequence of events that the work represents ("Laokoon"). Similarly, the human self that achieves the formal unity of a work of art (*Kunstwerk*) comes to occupy a present moment "in which past and future are embraced" ("Winckelmann"). Using this aesthetic model of the "moment," Goethe seeks to overcome

the arbitrariness of history by constructing it in the mode of biography: as a symbolic "moment" can inform the life of an exceptional individual, this life may itself become the historical center of an age. Where this attempt at narrative structure fails, Goethe confronts the limits of his symbolic conception of every *Augenblick* as "representative of a whole eternity" (Eckermann).

Goethe's Appreciation of Walter Scott and His Ignorance of the Historical Novel
Peter Höyng, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Goethe followed closely new literary trends in Europe up to his death in 1832. In his remarks on Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832), one of the most read authors in Germany in the 1820s, Goethe denounces Scott's mass production, which decreases in its literary value the more Scott's income increases. I therefore suggest to rephrase Gundolf's statement of Goethe's "Bewunderung und Hochschätzung" for Scott as "Verwunderung," to imply some kind of irritation in regard to Scott's success, and "Wert-schätzung," to suggest that Goethe evaluates Scott's writing not only because of its literary merits, but mainly in relationship to his success on the literary market.

However appreciative Goethe was of Scott's novels he seemed to be oblivious to Scott as the founder of the historic novel. Scott's first historical novel *Waverly or 'Tis Sixty Years* (1814) implements a double mirror towards the past and therefore reflects the dialectic of modernity; it is also

a decisive and deliberate turn from 'drum and trumpet history'. Ironically Scott 'learned' this new approach towards representing history from Goethe's *Goetz von Berlichingen* (1773) which he translated very poorly in 1799. Goethe distanced himself from historical particularities and, therefore, he could only praise Scott's literary talents as long as he ignored his new approach towards representing history.

OTHER NEWS AND NOTES

RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS

Irmgard Wagner, George Mason University, has completed her study of Goethe's three major classical plays. Her book, *Critical Approaches to Goethe's Classical Dramas: "Iphigenie," "Torquato Tasso," and "Die natürliche Tochter"* will be published by Camden House in the fall of 1995.

Christoph E. Schweitzer, University of North Carolina, calls attention to *Analogon Rationis. Festschrift für Gerwin Marahrens zum 65. Geburtstag*, edited by Marianne Henn and Christoph Lorey, Edmonton, Alberta: 1994. The volume contains Schweitzer's essay "Dorothea Schlegel's Clementina (Florentin) and Goethe's Makarie (Wilhelm Meisters Wanderjahre)" as well as Goethe essays by **Helmut Ammerlahn, University of Washington** and **Arnd Bohm, Carleton University**.

LOOKING AHEAD:

GSNA AT PAMLA

**THE PACIFIC ANCIENT AND
MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION
(formerly PAPC)**

**UC SANTA BARBARA,
NOVEMBER 3-5 1995**

**CRIME AND PUNISHMENT
IN THE GOETHEZEIT**

Chair: **Gail K. Hart, University of California, Irvine**

1. The Discourse of Blood and the Locus of Jurisdiction in Schiller's *Maria Stuart*.
Christina Swanson, University of California, Irvine
 2. The Crime of Punishment and the Psycho-dynamics of Child Abuse in Keller's *Green Henry*: Little Meret.
Ursula Mahlendorf, University of California, Santa Barbara
 3. My Heart Belongs to Daddy: The Penal, the Penis and the Problem of the Homosocial in Schiller's Early Dramas.
Stephanie Barbe Hammer, University of California, Riverside
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IN MEMORIAM

Lieselotte Dieckmann
Died on October 28, 1994

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The deadline for the Fall issue of *Goethe News and Notes* is October 1.

I would like to continue the practice of listing any significant publications on Goethe by GSNA members, as well as any dissertations on Goethe in progress, and would be grateful to receive such information regularly from you.

I also would like to encourage members to propose GSNA sessions at regional conferences of the MLA or ASECS. Please contact me about how to proceed. I can offer support in terms of mailing labels and other publicity.

Meredith Lee
Executive Secretary

DUES SCHEDULE

The dues for membership in the Goethe Society of North America are as follows:

active members	\$20
senior members	\$30
members paying in DM	DM 50
patrons	\$100
emeriti	\$10
students	\$10
institutions	\$30

Dues are payable in each calendar year. For further information, please contact the Secretary-Treasurer.

OFFICERS OF THE GOETHE SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

President: Ehrhard Bahr,
Department of Germanic Languages,
UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1539.
(310) 825-3955/0980 (o); (310)
825-9754 (fax). e-mail:
ibenbho@mvs.oac.ucla.edu

Secretary-Treasurer: Todd Kontje,
Literature Department, 0410,
University of California, San
Diego, La Jolla, CA 92093-0410.
(619) 534-3210.

Director-at-Large: Scott Abbott,
Department of Germanic and Slavi
Languages, 4094 JKHB, Provo, UT,
84602. (801) 378-4923 (o); (801)
378-4649 (FAX).

Director-at-Large: Irmgard Wagner,
Department of Foreign Languages
and Literatures, 4400 University
Drive, George Mason University,
Fairfax, VA 22030. (703) 323-2231
(o); (703) 993-1245 (FAX); e-mail:
iwagner@gmu.edu.

Editor of the Yearbook: Thomas P.
Saine, Department of German,
University of California, Irvine,
CA 92717. (714) 824-6406 (o); e-
mail: TPSAINE@uci.edu.

Executive Secretary: Meredith Lee,
German Department, University of
California, Irvine, CA 92717.
(714) 824-6406 (o); (714) 836-7970
(h); e-mail: MALEE@uci.edu.