



GOETHE NEWS AND NOTES
XVII.2 FALL 1996

**GSNA EVENTS
AT THE 1996 MLA
CONVENTION IN
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

BUSINESS MEETING OF THE GSNA

Saturday, 28 December 1996
10:15 - 11:30 p.m.
Edison Room, Washington Hilton
Ehrhard Bahr, presiding

1. Reading and approval of the minutes of the last Business Meeting.
2. President's Report, by Ehrhard Bahr.
3. Treasurer's Report, by Todd Kontje.
4. Executive Secretary's Report, by Meredith Lee.
5. Yearbook Editor's Report, by Thomas P. Saine.
6. New business.

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PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE GSNA

Saturday, 28 December 1996
8:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.
Monroe Ballroom East
Washington Hilton and Towers

GOETHE: THE POET AS PARODIST

**Gabrielle Bersier, Indiana
University-Purdue University at
Indianapolis presiding**

1. The Esther Dramas in Goethe's *Jahrmarkstfest zu Plundersweilern*
Sean Ward, Stanford University
2. *Der Triumph der Empfindsamkeit: Goethe as Self-Parodist.*
Astrida Orle Tantillo, University of Illinois at Chicago
3. Goethe's *Faust* as Parodia Christiana.
Ehrhard Bahr, University of California, Los Angeles
4. The parodic device of Goethe's *Wahlverwandtschaften*.
Gabrielle Bersier. Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis

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**MINUTES OF THE 1995
BUSINESS MEETING**

Chicago, December 29, 1995

The meeting of the Goethe Society of North America was called to order at 12:00 p.m. President Bahr welcomed members and noted that in the future we may have to consult our newsletters for the place and time of the business meeting since it will likely not be listed in the MLA program.

The minutes were approved unanimously without discussion.

President's Report: President Bahr noted the passing of member Marilyn Torbruegge and a moment of silence was observed.

President Bahr reported on the meeting of the Goethe Gesellschaft in Weimar, "Goethe und seine Zeitgenossen," at which the Goethe Medal was presented to member Stuart Atkins. He expressed appreciation for former president Jane Brown's efforts to establish contact with the Goethe Gesellschaft.

The Society is working on establishing a prize for junior scholars (=scholars who have received the Ph.D. within the last four years) for a dissertation, published book or article. The announcement and the regulations will be published soon. The prize will be about \$500.

Looking forward to 1999, the 250th anniversary of Goethe's birth, the GSNA may serve as a clearing house for planned, conferences, sessions and memorials.

There was some discussion of the topic for next year's MLA sessions and the suggestion from Gabrielle Bersier, "The Poet as Parodist," was accepted. It was also suggested that the panel be advertised widely in order to draw on as large a pool of potential participants as possible. Professor Bersier will organize the panel.

Treasurer's Report: Secretary-Treasurer Todd Kontje was not present and Executive Secretary Meredith Lee reported in his place. The written report was circulated and discussed. Yearbook Editor Thomas Saine was praised for doing much of the clerical work himself and thereby keeping yearbook costs down. A contribution to the Wittkowski festschrift was explained as a result of a decision to contribute to the festschrifts of founding members. The report was accepted.

There was a question about the previously discussed publication of a facing-pages edition of both versions of *Werther* and it was decided that this would only duplicate the Münchner Ausgabe's presentation of the novel(s). This edition is prohibitively expensive for students but it is expected that a paperback version may be published. In the meantime, Goldmann puts out the first version in paperback and dtv the second.

Executive Secretary's Report: MLA has now limited allied organizations to 2 sessions, 1995 being the last year in which 3 were possible. We keep the business meeting and the GSNA session and hope that the business meeting will appear in the "Special Listings" section, which was not the case this year.

The GSNA will sponsor a session at the next GSA conference in Seattle. Scott Abbott will organize this session. GSA encourages GSNA members to join the GSA.

A planned series of one-day conferences on work done by Goethe 200 years previously will begin this Fall at the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library in Los Angeles. The topic will be *Wilhelm Meister* and the Bildungsroman. The date has not yet been set. Peter Reill, UCLA, Director of the Clark Library, has offered that organization's sponsorship.

Rayond Burt of Loyola University will be constructing a GSNA Home Page and we will be able to post new items on that web

site, thus making it easier for GSNA members to remain current with events and deadlines that the Newsletter cannot always accommodate.

There was no Yearbook Editor's report. Members were referred to the announcements in the newsletter including the invitation to submit to volume 8 and to observe the Chicago Manual of Style's regulations.

The meeting concluded at 12:45 p.m.

Submitted by *Gail Hart*, GSNA Member

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**GLORIA FLAHERTY SCHOLARSHIP FUND
ESTABLISHED THROUGH \$25,000 BEQUEST**

In memory of her daughter Gloria, Jean Flaherty has bequeathed to the Goethe Society of North America \$25,000 for the creation of a scholarship fund "to provide financial aid to worthy undergraduate and/or graduate students who wish to further their education in areas related to the interests promoted by the society." The scholarship fund will be administered by the GSNA Board of Directors, who will define the awards and criteria for the selection of students. Gloria Flaherty was a Founding Member of the Goethe Society of North America.

IN MEMORIAM

**Victor Lange
Frank Ryder**

**In Memoriam
VICTOR LANGE (1908 - 1996)**

Victor Lange, founding president (1980-89) of the Goethe Society of North America, died on June 29, 1996, in Princeton, New Jersey, two weeks before his eighty-eighth birthday.

Victor was born in Leipzig on July 13, 1908. There he attended the historic Thomas-Schule and went on to the university, from which in 1934 he received his Ph.D. (in *Anglistik*). Already as a student Victor displayed a lively interest in the world outside Germany. Following semesters at Oxford, the Sorbonne, and Munich, he was the first German exchange student at University College, Toronto, where he took his M.A. in 1931. Returning to Leipzig, he served for a year as director of the university's *Akademische Auslandsstelle*. But the lure of the New World brought him back to Toronto as a lecturer in German. Following Hitler's election in 1933 Victor chose to remain in Canada, where he taught for several more years and participated actively in amateur theatrics.

In 1938 Victor moved to Cornell University, where he quickly rose through the ranks to professor. In 1957 he was called to Princeton to chair what was then the German Section in a Department of Modern Languages and, a year later, the newly established Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures. Victor quickly put his fledgling department on the map through several bold coups. In 1966, at his invitation, *Gruppe 47* met at Princeton. As president of the Internationale Vereinigung der Germanisten, Victor hosted its 1970 meeting, which brought four hundred leading scholars of German literature to the United States.

Following his retirement in 1977 as John N. Woodhull Professor of Modern Languages, Victor continued what seemed to be a tireless schedule of teaching at universities around the world, from the

Free University of Berlin, where he had been an Honorary Professor since 1963, by way of La Jolla and Davis, to Australia and New Zealand.

Victor was noted above all for his studies of eighteenth-century German literature, culminating in his now standard volume on *The Classical Age of German Literature* (1982) -- and particularly for his scholarship on Goethe. His first contributions appeared in the Goethe Year of 1949: a general appreciation in *Saturday Review of Literature*, an essay in *Yale Review* on "Goethe: Science and Poetry," and his translation of Goethe's *Sorrows of Young Werther*. These early works reflect Victor's recognition of the need to function as a mediator of German culture in the United States -- an initiative that later led to his editorship of such influential projects as the Prentice-Hall Twentieth-Century Views collection of essays on Goethe and the twelve-volume Suhrkamp edition of Goethe in English. At the same time, over a period of forty years he expanded our critical understanding of Goethe with some two dozen scholarly articles, many of which were gathered in his volume of *Goethe-Studien* (1990), as well as two volumes in the Munich edition of *Goethes Werke* and a biography of Goethe (Reclam, 1992). For these impressive accomplishments he was awarded the Gold Medal of the Goethe Institute (1966) and the Gold Medal "for lifetime achievement" from the Weimar Goethe Gesellschaft (1993). The *Festschrift* presented to him on his retirement was appropriately entitled *Aspekte der Goethezeit*.

However, Victor's interests were wide-ranging. An early student of literary sociology, he wrote his dissertation on *Die Lyrik and ihr Publikum im England des 18. Jahrhunderts*. Ten years later he published one of the earliest introductions to *Modern German Literature* (1945). His criticism, characterized by a style that was clear, forceful, and elegant in English as well as German, continued to move between those two centuries.

Victor's accomplishments as a scholar over some sixty years and his contributions to German-American cultural relations brought him many honors: two Guggenheims as well as an NEH Fellowship; a Fulbright Senior Lectureship as well as appointment as Phi Beta Kappa visiting scholar. From Germany he received in 1959 the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit for his "role in building a new and lasting era of German-American friendship and partnership" and the Friedrich Gundolf Prize of the Darmstadt *Akademie* (1966).

Victor was in every sense a "statesman of learning," as Hans-Jürgen Schings called him in a recent *Nachruf*. More than any scholar of his generation, he shaped the image of German studies in postwar United States. The Chancellor's Citation that he received in 1975 from the University of California at Davis accurately designated him as our "Dean of German Studies." But we shall miss more than his scholarship and cultural statesmanship. We shall miss, above all, his wise, ironic counsel, his selfless efforts for our profession, his genial collegiality, and his warm friendship.

Theodore Ziolkowski
Princeton University

**FROM THE EDITOR
OF THE GOETHE YEARBOOK**

At this time I am inviting submissions to be considered for inclusion in volume nine of the *Goethe Yearbook*. The *Yearbook* is open to papers on any aspect or author of the "Goethezeit," not just on Goethe. In contrast to many other publications, there is no stringent limit on the length of papers that can be considered. We adhere more or less to the Chicago Manual of Style rather than to the MLA Style Sheet.

Thomas P. Saine
Editor

GOETHE WEIMARER-AUSGABE ON CD-ROM

In response to Meredith Lee's request in *Goethe News and Notes* 17/1 (Spring 1996), I send this report on the new Chadwyck-Healey database *Goethes Werke auf CD-ROM*. One feature of the recent annual conference of the Canadian Association of University Teachers of German (CAUTG), held in May 1996 at Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, was a session on this database. Five Goethe scholars volunteered to participate in an in-lab demonstration and test (Linda Dietrick, University of Winnipeg; Marianne Henn, University of Alberta; Christoph Lorey, University of New Brunswick; Gisela Brude-Firnau and David John, University of Waterloo). The open session was attended by many other interested colleagues. Several weeks beforehand, the five participants were asked to submit a list of "Goethe-research" questions they would like to pose to the database and its demonstrator, Daniel Boivin of Chadwyck-Healey. The brave and charming Mr. Boivin (a Montrealer), who is not a Germanist and speaks no German, used his knowledge of the database and training in library science to prepare answers to these questions in advance, in consultation with contracted Germanists in London, England. He then produced them as part of his demonstration of the software, documenting both questions and answers in a handsome package of materials for attendees to study later. Further questions, discussion and an opportunity for hands-on exploration followed.

Participants' questions were wide-ranging, including general inquiries about the nature and power of the system's search engine, links between words or passages and the critical apparatus, length of search strings, the collection of citations, problems of orthographic variants, relationship to the *Goethe-Wörterbuch*, comprehensiveness (the database contains more than the WA alone), comparisons to the Frankfurter- and Münchener-Ausgaben, and the representation of images. There

were also many detailed, specific requests, such as "Produce a list of places in the text where 'Hunger, Weiblichkeit, Frau, Nichtessen, Schweigen, Schreiben' appear in close proximity....Make a comparison between Goethe's use of the words 'heiter' and 'trübe', with all lexical variants."

On the whole the questions were answered and the scholars' inquiries satisfied. Four months later they were asked to provide a brief evaluation of the session and the database. All of the responses were positive. Here is a sampling: "An excellent product, produced to high scholarly standards and with the various needs of scholars in mind. The search engine is of course what's revolutionary: it makes the old concordances obsolete... The session gave us a glimpse into how much more we may be able to learn about the works and their contextual and temporal framework with the help of CD-ROM. We may get immediate answers to many more questions about the intricacies of texts and thus will learn more about their aesthetic and notional wealth...Very useful, and I can only say that I hope some will actually buy it and then let me use it...wishful thinking." The price tag around \$6,000 seems to be the only major impediment to further use.

*David G. John, University of Waterloo
(for Gisela Brude-Firnau, Linda Dietrick,
Marianne Henn and Chris Lorey)*

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GOETHE HOLDINGS ONLINE

Last year the Beinecke Library catalogue for printed materials went online. All catalogued printed books and pamphlets, including those in the William A. Speck Collection of Goetheana, now have Orbis records. Finding aids for the main series of manuscripts in the Speck collection are also available online via the Beinecke homepage at www.library.yale.edu/beinecke/

brblhome.htm. Not yet catalogued on line are manuscript scores in the Speck Collection, the Alica Raphael papers, and the Winckler archive (correspondence of Theodor Hell). The same url provides access to the latest information about the Beinecke Visiting Fellowship Program and an online version of the guide to the Beinecke collections, which includes an overview of the German Literature Collection. There is also a Beinecke link on the GSNA homepage.

Christa Sammons
Yale University

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LOOKING AHEAD TO THE 1997 ASECS CONFERENCE IN NASHVILLE

The Goethe Society Session at the 1997 ASECS conference in Nashville, Tennessee April 9-12 will be chaired by Burkhard Henke, Davidson College, and Simon Richter, University of Maryland, College Park

THE CITY OF WEIMAR: MAPPING CULTURAL STUDIES

1. Weimar Fashion and the Fear it Provoked.

Daniel Purdy, Columbia University

2. Digging up Weimar's Classical Skeletons.

W. Daniel Wilson, University of California, Berkeley

3. Weimar II: The Revival of Goethe's Weimar in the 1840;s: A Study in Cultural archeology.

Ehrhard Bahr, University of California, Los Angeles

CASH BAR AT THE MLA

Sunday, 29 December, 5:15-6:30 p.m.
Jefferson Ballroom East, Washington Hilton
and Towers

Members of the Goethe Society of North America are cordially invited to join their colleagues for drinks and conversation on Sunday, December 29, at 5:15 p.m. The Cash Bar is organized by the German Department of the University of California, Irvine.

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OTHER NEWS AND NOTES

RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS

Steven D. Martinson. *Harmonious Tensions: The Writings of Friedrich Schiller*. University of Delaware Press, 1996. \$55.

Christoph Schweitzer. "Goethe's *Iphigenie auf Tauris*: 'Gleich Opfergerüchen' ('Parzenlied') in *Life's Golden Tree: Essay in German Literature from the Renaissance to Rilke*, ed. Thomas Kerth and George C. Schoolfield, Columbia, SC: Camden House, 1996, 141-52; also some 200 Goethe Quotations, in: *The Columbia World of Quotations* on CD-ROM, ed. Robert Andrews et al. New York: Columbia University Press, 1996.

Forthcoming:

Peter R. Erspamer. *The Elusiveness of Tolerance: The "Jewish Question" from Lessing to the Napoleonic Wars*. Chapel Hill and London: University of North Carolina Press, 1997 (Studies in Germanic Languages and Literatures, vol. 117).

GSNA PROGRAMS

The GSNA sponsored two sessions at the annual meeting of the German Studies Association in Seattle, October 10-13, 1996. When the last newsletter went to print, we were still awaiting word about whether both sessions would be given program slots. Consequently, we only named half the participants. In the end, five papers were read on Goethe and Philosophy in panels chaired by **Scott Abbott, Brigham Young University:**

Eric Williams, Texas A&M University, "Eros and the Philosophy of the Mirror: Goethe's Mimetic Desire"; **Nicholas Rennie, Yale University,** "Untimely Recollections of Goethean Time: Nietzsche and the Moment as 'umfassendes Symbol' "; **William Davis, Colorado College,** "The Return of the Material in Weimar Classicism: Goethe and Schiller"; **Geza von Molnar, Northwestern University,** "Literature as Experiment?"; **Armin Westerhoff, Yale University,** "Art and Experience in Plotinus and in Goethe's *Wilhelm Meisters Wanderjahre oder die Entsagenden.*"

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In the Spring 1996 newsletter the report on the GSNA session "Goethe as Theater Director (1791-1817)" at SEASECS held in Tallahassee, Florida in March 1996 omitted one of the four program participants: **Erich-Oskar Wruck, Davidson College** made a slide presentation on "The Eighteenth-Century Theater Building in Lauchstädt."

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The first Southern California regional meeting of the GSNA took place on October 26, 1996 at the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library. Some 30 people gathered to discuss *Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre*. Papers were read by **Jane K. Brown, University of Washington:** The Rake's Calling and **Ehrhard Bahr, UCLA:** Problems in *Wilhelm Meister Lehrjahre* Scholarship. The program concluded with a reception hosted by **Peter Reill, Director of the**

UCLA Center for 17th- and 18th-Century Studies. A 1997 meeting is planned, with *Hermann und Dorothea* selected as the core text. The 200th anniversary of its publication serves as the occasion for its reassessment.

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DID GOETHE SAY IT? IF SO, WHERE?

The greater visibility of the GSNA on the WEB has brought a steady flow of inquiries about Goethe, the Goethe Institute (!), and Goethe quotations. Some we answer immediately ("What Goethe poem has a father holding a child, but the child dies in his arms?"); some we refer to specialists in our organization; some we save for the newsletter.

If you have the time and expertise to respond here are some recent inquiries. Please feel free to respond directly to the person seeking assistance. I would appreciate a copy of your answer, either by e-mail or regular mail.

1. "We are here to be human -- not perfect." Geoffrey Pearce, a psychology student in New South Wales, Australia, who is writing a dissertation on perfectionism, would like assistance in identifying the quotation: gdp01@uow.edu.au or c/o Psychology Department, University of Wollongong, Northfields Avenue, Wollongong 2522, New South Wales, Australia.

2. "I am an Architecture student at Cal Poly and interested in possible correlations between Goethe's views of industry and the consequences of human separation from the natural world through architectural means. Could you suggest further reading or sources, and locations where these may be found?" L. J. Kelsey; e-mail: lori_kelsey@eee.org

3. "I am looking to the derivation of a quote attributed to Goethe. The quote is: 'We look for what we know, we find what we look for'." Demosthenes Lorandos, Ph.D.,

J.D. 7465 Valley Forge Road, Brighton,
Michigan 48116-8834; drd@tir.com

4. "I am hoping you can help me with a rather unusual problem. I am looking for a poem by Goethe, but I am at a significant disadvantage. I know only that the poem is about two birds that are from different places but hear the same song. There is a reference to that poem in the movie 'Only You'. If the poem exists, I am hoping to use it in my plan to propose to my girl friend. The details of my significant disadvantage are this: I am living in central Japan with no access to English sources on the subject and by conventional search methods. I would be at a loss as I know neither the title nor the first line of the poem. It is my hope to obtain the full English text of this poems. If this is not possible, I would be content with even a title that might allow me to pursue other means of obtaining this work. I cannot stress the importance of this matter to me. Albeit, at the same time I understand the request I am making of your time and knowledge. I can offer no compensation short of my deepest gratitude. If you are able to lend any assistance in this search, I would appreciate a reply through any media. My name is Derek Smith. My tel./fax. number is +81-263-34-8952; my e-mail: esidcs@po.cnet.or.jp; my mailing address: Derek Smith, 1-4-13-101 Uzuhashi, Matsumoto-shi, Nagano-ken, Japan 390

5.. "I am the editor at Celestial Seasonings Teas. I am responsible for reprinting quotations on our tea boxes. I have frequently seen the following essay attributed to Goethe. But I have been unable to track down an original source for it. Would someone affiliated with your organization know where this came from? I'd be happy to send some tea in exchange for your help. I may also be interest in commissioning a new English translation of it. The essay is:

Until one is committed, there is hesitancy, the chance to draw back....Concerning all acts of initiative (and

creation), there is one elementary truth that ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans: that the moment one definitely commits oneself, then Providence moves too. All sorts of things occur to help one that would never otherwise have occurred. A whole stream of events issues from the decision, raising in one's favor all manner of unforeseen incidents and meetings and material assistance, which no man could have dreamed would have come his way. Whatever you can do, or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it. Begin it now.

Ellen Kresky
e-mail: ekresky@ctea.com

Editor's Note: The Goethe Society has received some 10 inquiries about the closing sentences in Ellen Kresky's quotation. This is the first time a larger context has been provided. Did Goethe write it?

Meredith Lee
Executive Secretary

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The deadline for the Spring issue of *Goethe News and Notes* is April 15. I would like to continue the practice of listing any significant publications on Goethe by GSNA members, as well as completed dissertations, and would be grateful to receive such information regularly from you.

Members are encouraged to propose special sessions at regional meetings of the MLA and ASECS. If you would like to propose a session sponsored by GSNA at MWASECS or any other regional meeting, contact me for assistance with publicity and mailing lists.

Meredith Lee
Executive Secretary

WEB SITE

For GSNA:
<http://www.hnet.uci.edu/tpsaine/gсна.html>

For the *Goethe Yearbook*:
<http://www.hnet.uci.edu/tpsaine/gyb.html>

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.

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