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GOETHE NEWS AND NOTES

XXIV.2, Fall 2004

Burkhard Henke, Editor
Davidson College

FROM THE EDITOR

It is not often in our profession that one enjoys being proven wrong. We were absolutely delighted, however, to receive the following letter from Peter Boerner.

From the recent *Goethe News and Notes* I learned to my surprise that I was one of the members of our Society who were remembered by a minute of silence at the San Diego annual meeting. I would like to respond to this news by quoting our patron's grandmother, who witnessed his delivery: when the seemingly stillborn baby started to blink his eyes and breathe, she exclaimed excitedly, "Er lebt!" With these words, preserved by Bettina Brentano who recorded the reminiscences of Goethe's mother, I submit my annual dues check.

Sincerely,
Peter Boerner

Aside from that good news, this edition of the newsletter includes a call for donations to help restore the Anna Amalia Library and its holdings; a warm welcome to our new Executive Secretary, Astrida Tantilto; a report on the Faust conference in Toronto; as well as the usual offerings of information on the *Yearbook*, upcoming meetings, and

calls for papers. Also included is a brief abstract of Ellis Dye's new Goethe book. I would like to continue the practice of announcing member publications in the newsletter, so please drop me a note when and if your new book is coming out.

Burkhard Henke
Davidson College

FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the last newsletter I informed you that GSNA Executive Secretary Clark Muenzer will be ending his term of service in December 2004. I am pleased to announce that the Board has appointed Astrida Orle Tantilto to succeed Clark as Executive Secretary. Well known to GSNA members, Astrida is an Associate Professor of Germanic Studies and also of History at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She serves as Associate Dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at UIC and currently also as divisional dean in the humanities. Her scholarship has focused on *Die Wahlverwandtschaften* (Goethe's *Elective Affinities*) and the Critics;

Rochester, 2001) and on Goethe's scientific writings (*The Will to Create: Goethe's Philosophy of Nature*; Pittsburgh, 2002). Astrida has been active in the GSNA since her early days as an Assistant Professor, regularly attending GSNA sessions and giving papers; she served in 1997 and again in 2002 on the GSNA Nominating Committee. Congratulations, Astrida!

We have all read with horror and dismay about the tragic fire in the Anna Amalia Library in Weimar that destroyed some 25,000 books and manuscripts and left another 40,000 damaged by water and smoke. On behalf of the Board and the members of the GSNA, Vice President W. Daniel Wilson wrote immediately to Hellmut Seemann, president of the Stiftung Weimarer Klassik und Kunstsammlungen, expressing our society's distress at the great loss and our intention to participate in the call for help in rebuilding the library and restoring the damaged books. When I returned from vacation, where I had been completely out of touch and unaware of the tragedy, I was gratified by the Board's response under Dan's leadership. If you would like to assist in the rebuilding of the library, a donation can be made to the "American Friends of the Anna Amalia Bibliothek" (soon to be a corporate member of the "Gesellschaft Anna Amalia Bibliothek e.V."). Please forward your check to the address below.

American Friends of the Anna Amalia Library
c/o Ronald D. Patkus
Vassar College Box 20
124 Raymond Avenue
Poughkeepsie, NY 12604

In 2005 the Goethe Society of North America will be 25 years old. We've begun talking about appropriate ways to celebrate our anniversary. Your ideas are welcome!

See you in Philadelphia at our annual business meeting, which will feature a talk by Jeffrey Sammons, professor emeritus, Yale University, anticipating the Schiller Year of 2005!

Cordially,

Meredith Lee
University of California, Irvine

FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT

Faust in the 21st Century: Modernity, Myth, Theatre

Report on the International Symposium and Festival at the University of Toronto, September 17-22, 2004

Your GSNA was well represented at this fine conference by three officers: Angela Borchert, Simon Richter, and myself. Twenty-five academic speakers from Canada, the United States, and Germany combined with music and theater for five days of a unique experience with Goethe's *Faust*.

The conference was accompanied by a showing of F. W. Murnau's silent film, a superb reading of scenes from the play by one of the most illustrious theaters in Italy, the Piccolo Teatro di Milano, two

impressive vocal performances by students and faculty of the Faculty of Music at the University of Toronto (songs in one concert, and in another some scenes from Boito's opera *Mefistofele* and Gounod's *Faust*), and highly original theatrical sketches of various moments from the play by students from the University College Drama Program.

The conference opened with a stimulating plenary address by Ulrich Gaier, author of the exhaustive and groundbreaking commentary in two volumes from Reclam. His reflections on "virtual reality" in *Faust* were overshadowed somewhat by the challenges to his (misunderstood) assertion that Goethe at first opposed attempts to stage the play. The first part of the conference was devoted to performance issues and especially the reception of the play – in Germany, France, Italy (with a focus on Giorgio Strehler), Canada (a particularly well-conceived paper by Jörg Esleben), the United States (Simon Richter's masterly paper on Wilhelm Dieterle's film *The Devil and Daniel Webster* and other works), Brazil, South Africa, India, and China. Then, on Sunday evening, Peter Stein came directly from the airport to a reading of Act Five of *Faust II*; the next day, he spoke about his career and his famous uncut production of both parts of the play and answered questions in what turned out to be an immensely informative and sometimes provocative discussion.

After Stein's appearance, the conference turned from reception to textual analysis of *Faust*: Hans-Jürgen Schings uncovered traces of Cagliostro and Saint-Simon, Wolf-Daniel Hartwich

gave a challenging paper on memory, Angela Borchert gave a panoramic account of the grotesque, Martin Swales spoke brilliantly on "Tragedy, Theatre, Meta-Theatre," Ernst Osterkamp and Gisela Brude-Firnau took on aspects of antiquity, Rolf-Peter Janz, Peter Huber, and I spoke on aspects of Mephistopheles, Dieter Borchmeyer's paper (read by Martin Swales) on comic features of the play met with some resistance, while Helmut Schanze gave a thoughtful presentation on rhetoric and poetics, and Paul Malone rounded out the conference with an entertaining account of rock music versions of the play. On the side, the participants were treated to a scrumptious dinner by the German ambassador and a reception by the German, French and Italian consuls general.

It is heartening to know that a great deal can apparently still be said about Goethe's most closely examined work. Both the visual technology at the conference and the musical and theatrical performances added a great deal to the experience of *Faust*. The organizers, Deidre Vincent (who has since moved to Ireland and thus was only responsible for the initial conception), Hans Schulte (McMaster University), John Noyes and Pia Kleber (University of Toronto) are to be congratulated for a memorable event. A volume of essays, including some from invited non-participants, is planned.

W. Daniel Wilson
University of California, Berkeley

FROM THE YEARBOOK EDITOR

Members should have received volume twelve by now. If you have not received your copy, please let me know (srichter@sas.upenn.edu). New members received copies of volume eleven and twelve. Volume thirteen is full and should be sent out at approximately this time next year. Volume fourteen, which includes a special section on childhood in the age of Goethe co-edited with Anthony Krupp, is well underway. If you have an idea for a special section (a cluster of essays on a single topic), don't hesitate to let me know. In general we are receiving submissions on a regular basis. My thanks to members of the editorial advisory board and others for their willingness to serve as readers.

Simon Richter
University of Pennsylvania

FROM THE BOOK REVIEW EDITOR

Please send books for review and suggestions for books for review to:

Professor Martha B. Helfer
Department of Germanic, Russian, and E.
European Languages and Literatures
Rutgers University
64 College Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
Telephone: (732) 932-7201
Fax: (732) 932-1111
Email: mhelfer@rci.rutgers.edu

NEW BOOKS BY MEMBERS

Dye, Robert Ellis. *Love and Death in Goethe: One and Double*. Rochester, NY: Camden House, 2004. 333 pp.

Dye's new book examines Goethe's use of the *Liebestod* topos, other themes related to love and death (the *vagina dentata*, *Frau Welt*, the *femme fatale*, venereal disease, the *Lustmord*), and related embodiments of the paradox of unity in duality ("Geeinte Zwienatur," "Gingo biloba," Goethe and Hafiz as "Zwillinge"), and shows how Goethe led the way for the Romantics in ironically foregrounding and interrogating the structures and concepts informing our writing and thinking—what he called our "Vorstellungsart[en]."

Love and Death contains chapters on the main Goethean works as well as on truth, paradox, and irony; and on Goethe's virtuosity, which Dye sees as related to Goethe's epistemological skepticism—his belief, for example, that "das Unendliche . . . oder die vollständige Existenz kann von uns nicht gedacht werden. Wir können nur Dinge denken die entweder beschränkt sind, oder die sich unsre Seele beschränkt" ("Studie nach Spinoza," FA 1, 25: 14). Acceptance of our only limited, indirect access to ultimates is liberating—it leaves us free to play.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

AATG-ACTFL in Chicago, IL, 19-21
November 2003

MLA in Philadelphia, PA, 27-30
December 2004

ASECS in Las Vegas, NV, 31 March-3
April 2005

GSA in Milwaukee, WI, 29 September -
2 October 2005

Annual Business Meeting and Presidential Address at the MLA in Philadelphia

Thursday, December 30, 2004, 12:00
noon-1:15 p.m. Commonwealth Hall B,
Loews

Presiding: Meredith Lee (University of
California at Irvine)

“Schiller versus Goethe: Revisiting the
Conflicting Reception Vectors of Heine,
Boerne, and Menzel” (Jeffrey L.
Sammons, Yale University)

Special GSNA Session at the MLA in Philadelphia

Organized by Waltraud Maierhofer,
University of Iowa

Goethe and Schiller Revisited

Moderator: Waltraud Maierhofer
(University of Iowa)

1. “The Impact of Natural Science on the
Work of Friedrich Schiller: A Critical
Reappraisal of the Letter of August 23,
1794 to Goethe” (Steven Martinson,
University of Arizona)

2. “‘Personal Offense’ and German
Evolution: The Political Program of the
Xenien” (Jeffrey L. High, California
State University)

3. “‘Geistesantipoden’? Goethe &
Schiller, or: The Importance of Being
Different” (Werner Frick, Georg-
August-Universität Göttingen)

Special GSNA Session at ASECS in Las Vegas

Organized by Eric Denton, Wheaton
College (Massachusetts)

The Early Goethe: Revisiting, Resisting, Embracing

Moderator: Eric Denton, Wheaton
College

1. “The New God: The I On Nature and
Subjectivity in Goethe’s *Satyros oder
Der vergötterte Waldteufel* and Friedrich
Heinrich Jacobi’s *Eduard Allwills
Papiere*” (Monika Nenon, University of
Memphis)

2. “Reading Moritz Reading Goethe (via
Herder)” (Elliott Schreiber, Vassar
College)

3. “Mimesis and Imagination in

Goethe's Poetry" (Christian Weber, Indiana University)

4. "De-Naturalizing the Natural Daughter: A Dramaturg's Notebook" (Amy S. Holzapfel, Dartmouth College)

Respondent: Eric Denton, Wheaton College

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 new Executive Director.

Professor Astrida Tantillo
Assistant Dean
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
University of Illinois at Chicago
601 S. Morgan Street
Chicago, IL 60607
Phone: (312) 413-9466
Email: tantillo@uic.edu

CALL FOR PAPERS

Fourth Bloomington Eighteenth-Century Workshop

The Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies at Indiana University is pleased to announce the fourth Bloomington Eighteenth-Century Workshop, to be held on 11-14 May 2005 at Indiana University. The workshop is part of a series of annual interdisciplinary events that has been running since 2002, with 20-30 scholars presenting and discussing pre-circulated papers on a broad topic in a congenial setting.

Our topic for 2005 is Custom, Ritual, Habit, Fetish: The Idols of the Eighteenth Century. Religious ritual, pagan fetishes, the customs of the unwashed, the habits of the unlettered: these were the idols eighteenth-century men and women sought to cleanse from human society and culture, at times by force of conquest. However, it was precisely in this period that the very modes of description Western observers developed to represent others, were reimported into the West so that custom, habit, and ritual became crucial elements of social and mental life. In so doing, they raised a host of questions about everyday life in the domestic sphere, habit in the operations of the mind, custom and tradition as the essence of nations, and ritual as a structure of religious belief, among others.

Papers might address questions such as:

—What drove this eighteenth-century obsession with custom and ritual?

—How are the categories of ritual, habit, custom, and fetish produced in the first place, in ethnology, travel writing, and so on?

—How is the eighteenth-century concern with ritual and custom distinct from that of earlier and later centuries? or is it?

—What habits and rituals are identified as central for society and sociability?

—How do habit, custom, ritual, and fetish shape social and cultural experience?

—How did representations of custom and habit inflect notions of popular culture and class?

—Under what circumstances does custom become resistance?

—What happens when these categories cease to be fixed and travel between cultures?

—How are notions of the fetish integrated into ethnographies of consumer society and even into accounts of aesthetic response?

—In what ways do ritualistic practices persist within discourses such as pedagogy and gender formation?

—What rituals or customs are invented for utopian societies, and why?

—To what extent did the formation of the disciplines influence these descriptions and their value?

The workshop format, which has proven to be extraordinarily fruitful, will consist of intense discussion of 4-6 pre-circulated papers a day, amidst socializing and refreshment. The workshop will draw both on the wide community of eighteenth-century scholars and on the large and growing group of scholars in this field at Indiana University-Bloomington. Papers will be selected by an interdisciplinary committee. The workshop will cover most expenses of those scholars chosen to present their work: accommodations, travel (up to a certain limit) and most meals.

We are asking for applications to be sent to us by 4 January 2005. The application consists of a two-page description of the proposed paper as well as a current CV. Please email or send your application to Dr. Barbara Truesdell, Ashton-Aley West, Room 264, Bloomington, IN 47405 (voltaire@indiana.edu). For further information see www.indiana.edu/~voltaire/cfp05.html or contact Dror Wahrman, Dept. of History (dwahrman@indiana.edu) or

Fritz Breithaupt, Dept. of Germanic Studies (fbreitha@indiana.edu).

ESSAY PRIZE

The Society seeks nominations or self-nominations for its annual essay prize, which carries an award of \$250. Please submit four copies of your choice for the best essay published in the year 2003 on Goethe, his times, and/or contemporary figures

by November 30, 2004 to:

Professor W. Daniel Wilson

Department of German

University of California

Berkeley, CA 94720-3243

Tel.: (510) 642-2973

Fax: (510) 642-3243

Email: danw@socrates.berkeley.edu

GLORIA FLAHERTY SCHOLARSHIP

The Society offers a scholarship in honor of the late Gloria Flaherty, the accomplished scholar and founding member of the Goethe Society, “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.”

Guidelines

Several years ago, the GSNA Board of Directors drafted guidelines for the Gloria Flaherty Scholarship and appointed the Directors-at-Large as the scholarship committee. One or two prizes of up to \$500 each in travel funds will be given annually to students working on Goethe and/or the Age of Goethe. There are two categories for the competition: 1) Money for travel required by a research project on Goethe and/or the Age of Goethe; 2) Money for travel to present a paper on Goethe and/or his Age. The Society is not bound to present a prize in either category in any given year. "Age of Goethe" has its normal, relatively narrow range of meaning. It refers not merely to a specific period of historical time, but also to the existence of reasonably clear paths of association with Goethe's person, works, interest, or activities. Students who will either deliver a paper or complete a research project before receiving a doctoral degree are eligible.

Application procedure

The applicant seeking travel money to deliver a paper should send: 1) a copy of the paper to be read, or of the most complete available draft; 2) evidence that the paper has been accepted for presentation by a reputable scholarly organization or institution. The applicant seeking travel money for research should send: 1) a detailed description of the research project, including a reasonable selection of supporting materials. If the project description exceeds two pages (ca. 600 words) in length, it must be accompanied by a synopsis or summary not exceeding that length; 2) One letter of recommendation from a scholar who

is familiar with the applicant's earlier work in either courses or research.

N.B. One letter of recommendation means "only one." No letters of recommendation should accompany applications for money to present a paper. Letters of recommendation should be sent by the recommenders directly to the committee. Any materials that the candidate wishes to have returned must be accompanied by postage and an appropriate and pre-addressed mailing container. Send completed application

by November 30, 2004 to:

Professor W. Daniel Wilson

Department of German
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720-3243
Tel.: (510) 642-2973
Fax: (510) 642-3243
Email: danw@socrates.berkeley.edu

DUES

If you have not done so already, please send your 2004 dues to the Secretary-Treasurer, Angela Borchert. Dues are payable in each calendar year, see the schedule below. The GYB is sent only once this obligation is met..

active member	\$25
senior member	\$35
patron	\$100
emeritus	\$10
student	\$10
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GSNA OFFICERS

President

Professor Meredith Lee
Dean, Division of Undergraduate Education
256 Administration
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, CA 92697-5675
Tel/Fax: (949) 824-7761
Email: malee@uci.edu

Vice-President

Professor W. Daniel Wilson
Department of German
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720-3243
Telephone: (510) 642-2973
Fax: (510) 642-3243
Email: danw@socrates.berkeley.edu

Secretary-Treasurer

Professor Angela Borchert
Dept. of Modern Languages and Literatures
University of Western Ontario
London, Ontario, N6A 3K7, Canada
Telephone: (519) 661-2111-82210
Fax: (519) 661-4039
Email: borchert@uwo.ca

Directors-at-Large

Professor Jonathan Hess
Department of Germanic Languages
438 Dey Hall, CB# 3160
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3160
Telephone: (919) 966-1641
Fax: (919) 962-3708
Email: jmhess@email.unc.edu

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
Email: cmacleod@sas.upenn.edu

Executive Secretary

Professor Clark S. Muenzer
Dept. of Germanic Lang. and Literature
1409 Cathedral of Learning
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Telephone: (412) 624-5840 (o)
(412) 361-1220 (h)
Fax: (412) 624-6318
Email: muenzer@pitt.edu

Editor of the Yearbook

Professor Simon Richter
Dept. of Germanic Languages and Literature
745 Williams Hall/CU
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6305
Telephone: (215) 898-7332 (o)
Email: srichter@sas.upenn.edu

Book Review Editor

Professor Martha Helfer
Department. of Germanic, Russian, and E.
European Languages and Literatures
Rutgers University
64 College Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
Telephone: (732) 932-7201
Fax: (732) 932-1111
Email: mhelfer@rci.rutgers.edu

Webmaster and GNN Editor

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