



www.goethesociety.org

GOETHE NEWS AND NOTES

XXV.2, Fall 2005

Burkhard Henke, Editor
Davidson College

FROM THE EDITOR

This edition of the newsletter contains a number of important announcements. In addition to reminders regarding our annual essay prize and the Flaherty Scholarship competition—the deadline is November 30—this issue includes an important election ballot. Following Dan Wilson's resignation, we are inviting you to vote for a new Vice President. Please take the time to do so by December 15. We are again pleased to offer you the opportunity to vote online, though you may of course choose to return the enclosed ballot instead.

We are also delighted to present to you a new and convenient option to pay your dues through PayPal. Please see our Secretary-Treasurer's column for details.

In the following you will find notices of upcoming meetings as well as the usual offerings of information on the *Yearbook* and upcoming meetings. Also included is a brief abstract of Waltraud Maierhofer's new 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. Last but not least, I should remind you that back numbers of the *Yearbook* and Special

Issues No. 1 and No. 2 are still available at special member's prices.

We hope to see all of you at the MLA in Washington to celebrate the Society's twenty-fifth anniversary!

Burkhard Henke
Davidson College

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear GSNA Members,

At the MLA this year we will celebrate a significant milestone in the life of the Goethe Society of North America: 25 years of scholarly exchange. Two events will mark the anniversary of the GSNA. At the sponsored session Executive Secretary Astrida Tantillo has organized a roundtable to probe the controversies of the past and future in Goethe scholarship. Chaired by former GSNA president Jane K. Brown, the panel features Gabrielle Bersier, Simon Richter, and Robert Tobin. At the business meeting we will turn to the life of the society itself. Hans Vaaget and Thomas P. Saine promise reflections on the founding of the GSNA and its early

years. With as many former officers and board members present as possible, we'll offer an overview of our past scholarly activity and the work of our members. A look at future plans and new possibilities will complete the program. I look forward to seeing you at both programs, which promise to provide lively exchanges about our past and future as scholars and teachers.

With a sense of loss for the work of the GSNA, but also happiness for his future, the GSNA has accepted the pending resignation of Vice President W. Daniel Wilson. Dan has recently accepted the position of Professor of German and Head of the School of Modern Languages at Royal Holloway, University of London, and will be moving to the United Kingdom – and the English Goethe Society. Congratulations, Dan! Because the Vice President typically accedes to the presidency of the GSNA, a nominating committee was formed to identify candidates for a special election. We are grateful to the committee for nominating two outstanding candidates and we are delighted that Ellis Dye and Liliane Weissberg agreed to stand for election.

The Board is actively exploring ways to encourage and support publication of books on Goethe and his time by North American Goethe scholars. Even a cursory glance at the MLA book exhibit and publisher's catalogues tells the tale. Astrida Tantillo and Clark Muenzer will be reporting on the sub-committee's work at the business meeting.

See you in Washington, D.C.!

Meredith Lee
University of California, Irvine

GSNA ELECTIONS

Members are invited to vote for the Society's Vice-President. Either mail back the enclosed ballot or vote online, using the four-digit PIN on your ballot, at

www.goethesociety.org/election

The deadline for casting your vote is December 15, 2005.

For Vice-President (vote for 1):

Ellis Dye, Ph.D. Rutgers, is DeWitt Wallace Professor of German at Macalester College in Saint Paul, Minnesota, where he chaired (and next spring will again chair) German Studies and Russian and, among many other College-wide assignments, served a term as Presiding Officer of the Faculty. He and a colleague founded the Macalester German Study Abroad Program and helped fifty-six of the program participants to win Fulbright Fellowships for further study in Germany. He is a recipient of the Burlington-Northern Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Professor Dye has served as Book Review Editor of *The Goethe Yearbook*, as Director at Large of the Goethe Society of North America (2000-20003), and twice as a member of the MLA Delegate Assembly. He has published essays and reviews in the premier journals of the profession, including *PMLA* and *The Goethe Yearbook*. Recent publications include "Figurations of the Feminine in Goethe's *Faust*" (in *A Companion to Goethe's "Faust"*); a book: *Love and Death in Goethe: "One*

and Double” (2004); and articles in the online *Literary Encyclopedia*.

Although he is no longer mentioned in one breath with Homer, Dante and Shakespeare, Goethe’s influence on Western literature and thought remains pervasive and productive. I see it as a continuing task of the Goethe Society to interpret Goethe’s writings with growing understanding and to make his influence and the value of his achievements more visible to students and other readers in North America. Our society should not only cultivate established links to other learned societies, it should also do its part to reverse the decline of German studies in our colleges and universities and to recommend aggressive outreach programs to the Foreign Office of the German government.

Liliane Weissberg is the Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor in Arts and Science at the University of Pennsylvania. She holds degrees from the Freie Universität Berlin and Harvard University, and taught at The Johns Hopkins University before joining the programs in German and Comparative Literature at Penn in 1989. She held visiting appointments at Princeton, Bochum, Hamburg, Potsdam, Heidelberg, and Berlin. She has published numerous articles on Goethe and the literature and culture of the Goethe Age. Among her more recent book publications are a critical edition of Hannah Arendt’s *Rahel Varnhagen* (1997), *Cultural Memory and the Construction of Identity* (with Dan Ben-Amos, 1998), and *Romancing the Shadow: Poe and Race* (with J. Gerald Kennedy, 2000). Weissberg is currently completing a book entitled, *Approaching*

Gentility: German-Jewish Autobiography and the Quest for Acculturation. Weissberg has also been the editor of *Kritik: German Literary Theory and Cultural Studies*, a series that has published many books on Goethe and his Age.

Much work still needs to be done to improve our understanding of eighteenth-century culture, that of Frankfurt or Weimar, and of Europe at large. I would like to think about new venues of pursuing interdisciplinary work on Goethe and his Age, of publishing it, and of integrating it into the classroom. I believe that the Goethe Society can play an important part of reimagining German Studies for the new century.

FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

This is a gentle reminder to pay your 2005 dues if you have not already done so. 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
institution	\$40

The Goethe Society now offers two ways to pay your dues:

1) mail a check to John Lyon at 1409 Cathedral of Learning, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260;



2) go to the website, click the link to membership, and pay your dues with any major credit card. There is a small surcharge for this service to cover the processing fees charged by PayPal.

Please note that we are testing the online dues payment option and will assess its effectiveness at the December business meeting. If you have any suggestions or comments about this service, please forward them to a member of the board.

John Lyon
University of Pittsburgh

FROM THE YEARBOOK EDITOR

A trimmer volume 13 is in the mail or already in members' hands, more or less a year since volume 12. Expect volume 14 around the same time next year. We are currently accepting submissions for volume 15. My thanks to members of the editorial board and the GSNA who have read manuscripts for me.

Simon Richter
University of Pennsylvania

FROM THE BOOK REVIEW EDITOR

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

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NEW BOOKS BY MEMBERS

Maierhofer, Waltraud. *Hexen – Huren – Heldenweiber. Bilder des Weiblichen in Erzähltexten über den Dreißigjährigen Krieg*. Köln: Böhlau, 2005, 451 S.

Auch nach über 350 Jahren ist der Dreißigjährige Krieg noch fest im kollektiven Gedächtnis der Deutschen verankert. Unser Bild ist dabei in erster Linie durch tragische Gestalten wie Wallenstein oder durch plündernde Söldnertruppen geprägt. Die Rolle der Frau hingegen wird in der Erinnerungskultur weitgehend ausgeblendet oder auf die der namenlos leidenden Mütter und Ehefrauen oder der Soldatenliebchen und Huren reduziert. Worauf ist dies zurückzuführen? Die Autorin geht in ihrem Buch am Beispiel des Dreißigjährigen Krieges der Frage nach, ob die traditionell einander zugeordneten Begriffspaare Männer/ Krieg, Frauen/ Frieden in zeitgenössischen und späteren Erzähltexten, vor allem in historischen Romanen, aufgebrochen und unterwandert oder vielmehr begünstigt und verfestigt wurden. Denn in der Tat zeigt die Literatur von Grimmelshausen über Friedrich Schiller, Annette von Droste-Hülshoff, Ricarda Huch und Alfred Döblin bis Günter Grass zwar

zahlreiche weibliche Einzelschicksale, selten jedoch Frauen als ruhmreiche Heldinnen und Kämpferinnen. Vielmehr werden diese vor allem als Opfer des Krieges und auffällig oft im Zusammenhang mit den Hexenverfolgungen während der Kriegsjahrzehnte dargestellt.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Call for Panel Proposals: MLA and GSA

Marjorie Perloff, who will assume the MLA presidency in 2006, is organizing a Year of Poetry for the Association. As part of this endeavor, she has written to the chairs of all of the divisions and allied organizations and requested that we dedicate a time slot to poetry at next year's MLA conference. We have decided to participate and are soliciting panel proposals that focus in some way upon poetry and Goethe for next year's MLA. In addition, the Goethe Society is also interested in receiving conference proposals for next year's GSA (2006). If you are interested in organizing a panel for any of these conferences, or for any of the annual (incl. regional) meetings of ASECS, please send your proposed topic to

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

AATG-ACTFL in Baltimore, MD, 17-20
November 2005

MLA in Washington, DC, 27-30
December 2005

ASECS in Montreal, Canada, 30 March-
2 April 2006

GSA in Pittsburgh, PA, 28 September -1
October 2006

Annual Business Meeting and Presidential Address at the MLA in Washington, DC

Celebration of 25 Years: Goethe Society of North America

Friday, 30 December, 12 noon - 1:15
p.m., Map, Washington Hilton

Presiding: Meredith Lee (University of
California, Irvine)

Speakers:

1. Meredith Lee (University of
California, Irvine)

2. Thomas P. Saine (University of
California, Irvine)

3. Hans R. Vaget (Smith College)

**Special GSNA Session
at the MLA in Washington, DC**

**Controversies in Goethe Scholarship:
Looking Backward and Forward**

Wednesday, 28 December, 12:00 noon–
1:15 p.m., Farragut, Washington Hilton

Roundtable Speakers:

1. Gabrielle Bersier (Indiana University
– Purdue University, Indianapolis)
2. Simon Richter (University of
Pennsylvania)
3. Robert D. Tobin (Whitman College)

**Special GSNA Session
at ASECS in Montreal,
March 30- April 2, 2006**

Organized and chaired by Birgit Tautz,
Bowdoin College

**Goethe and His Time: Minor Figures,
Minor Genres, Minor Discourses
(Panel I)**

1. “No Minor Figures in *Faust*: The Case
of Valentin” (Arnd Bohm, Carleton
University)
2. “Elise in Weimar: ‘Minor’ Women
Writers, Theater and the Resistance to
Classicism” (Mary Helen Dupree,
Columbia University)
3. “From Werther Cult to Goethe Cult:
Goethe as a Character in the Literature
of ‘Minor’ Authors” (Susanne Kord,
University College London)

4. “Goethe’s ‘Philostrats Gemälde’ and
his resistance against the Romantics”
(Claudia Mattos, Campinas State
University)

**Goethe and His Time: Minor Figures,
Minor Genres, Minor Discourses
(Panel II)**

1. “Goethe’s ‘Bride of Corinth’: The
Vampire as a Minor Figure?” (Heide
Crawford, University of Kansas)
2. “Mapping Fictions: (Minor?)
Cartography and the Novel” (Andrew
Piper, McGill University)
3. “A Minor Matter? Goethe playing
Author” (Angela Borchert, University of
Western Ontario)
4. “Goethe’s Strategies of Positioning
himself as the Central Literary Figure”
(Peter Höyng, Emory University)

ESSAY PRIZE

The executive committee seeks
nominations or self-nominations for its
annual essay prize, which carries an
award of \$250. For more information see
www.goethesociety.org. Please submit
four copies of your choice for the best
essay published in the year 2004 on
Goethe, his times, and/or contemporary
figures

by November 30, 2005 to

Professor W. Daniel Wilson

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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, 2005 to

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