



The Goethe Society  
of North America

## GOETHE NEWS AND NOTES

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### The Goethe Society of North America: 1979-1989:

In December 1979, the Goethe Society of North America was founded in San Francisco as a non-profit organization dedicated to the encouragement of research on Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and his age.

As a learned society, the organization has been engaged for the past ten years to:

1. stimulate a reappraisal of the pertinence of Goethe's thought in modern times;
2. foster scholarly lectures and symposia about Goethe and his age;
3. promote the development of research facilities for the study of 18th-century literature and culture; and
4. re-emphasize Goethe's concept of world literature and his continuing importance throughout the world.

Since 1982 the Goethe Society of North America has published the Goethe Yearbook, which has become a respected organ of 18th-century studies in diverse disciplines and which is recognized as a vital compendium of current research both in its articles and its extensive review section. Four volumes have appeared and volume 5 is in press, to be published in 1990.

The impact of the work of the Goethe Society of North America has been considerable and demonstrates that in its relatively brief career it has become a major forum for research within the international community of scholars of the Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Century.

The Goethe Society of North America has allied organization status with the Modern Language Association (MLA) and the American Society for 18th-Century Studies (ASECS). The Society regularly arranges sessions on Goethe at the annual conventions of both the MLA and the ASECS.

Annual Business Meeting at the MLA Conference in Washington, D.C., Friday, 29 December 1989, 9:00-10:14 p.m., Map Room, Washington Hilton:

Presiding: Christoph E. Schweitzer, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Introductory Lecture: "Mit Goethe leben," Victor Lange, Princeton University

Business Meeting: Agenda

1. Approval of the Minutes of the 1988 Meeting;
2. Announcements by the President;
3. Report of the Secretary-Treasurer;
4. Report of the Editor of the Goethe Yearbook;
5. New Business.

Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting 1988:

The 1988 business meeting of the Goethe Society of North America was held on the evening of December 27 in New Orleans at the MLA convention, following the GSNA-sponsored MLA session on new approaches to Goethe's dramas. Hans R. Vaget delivered a report on the new competing Goethe editions to open the session (a longer version of the paper will appear in Goethe Yearbook, volume 5).

Attendance was sparse, approximately 15 persons, due at least in part to the fact that it was the first evening of the MLA convention and weather conditions in the Midwest had made it difficult for many MLA members to arrive in New Orleans on schedule.

President Victor Lange was unable to attend. Vice-President Christoph E. Schweitzer presided in his stead. Frederick Amrine, chair of the nomination and elections committee, was unable to attend the meeting because of the Midwest weather conditions, but Executive Secretary Ehrhard Bahr was able to report that Schweitzer had agreed to succeed to the presidency, Jane K. Brown had been elected the new Vice-President, and Cyrus Hamlin and Hans R. Vaget had been elected Directors of the Society. [Election results were published in Goethe News and Notes, Spring 1989.]

The minutes of the 1987 business meeting were approved as printed in the fall, 1988 Newsletter. Vice-President Schweitzer read a letter from President Lange and reported on Lange's contacts with the Goethe-Gesellschaft in Weimar. Executive Secretary Bahr reported on efforts to invite a representative of the Weimar Goethe-Gesellschaft, possibly President Karl-Heinz Hahn, to attend the 1989 GSNA business meeting in Washington to help mark the tenth anniversary of its founding. Thomas P. Saine, acting as Secretary-Treasurer in the absence of Meredith Lee, distributed and discussed the 1988 financial report.

There was considerable discussion of ways to expand the sales of the Goethe Yearbook. It was suggested that one way of making the publication better known in Europe would be to give away copies to European institutes and libraries. The meeting adjourned about 10:00 p.m.

Thomas P. Saine, Acting Secretary-Treasurer

From the President:

I am pleased to have begun my term as President of the GSNA and am looking forward to serving you to the best of my abilities.

Let me, first of all report on my activities on behalf of the Society this year. It had been the wish of the members that Karl-Heinz Hahn, President of the Goethe-Gesellschaft in Weimar, be invited to the Business Meeting in Washington in connection with the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Society. With the help of Executive Secretary Bahr I was able to get a positive response from Hahn, but found out to my dismay that despite having tried DAAD, the GDR embassy in Washington, IREX, MLA, and Max Kade foundation I could not raise the money to make his visit possible. The fact that he could come only for a few days made it impossible to secure speaking engagements for him at various universities. At the same time, I did not want to deplete the meager resources of the Society. I trust you will understand my decision to tell him that we were very sorry but that we could not pay for his trip. I think he understood the problem, especially since I stressed the point of our wanting to see him in this country for a longer period of time.

Victor Lange, our outgoing President, came to the rescue by volunteering an address on "Mit Goethe leben" to take the place of Hahn's talk. I am most grateful to Victor and I am looking forward to his address. I don't know of anyone in our profession who has kept as admirably active after retirement as Victor. As you know, a good part of his activities had to do with Goethe. For one thing, he was our President ever since the founding of the Society. But his involvement with Goethe scholarship goes back many decades: truly a life with Goethe.

Early on in the year, Ted Bahr expressed to me his desire to step down as Executive Secretary and editor of the Newsletter. He has, after all, served in that position ever since the founding of the Society. In that capacity he has done a splendid job and put a great amount of time and effort into the publication which kept us informed about as much Goetheana as possible. He has scheduled the Goethe sessions of the Society at the conventions of the Modern Language Association and the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. He deserves a great deal of gratitude from all of us for his work during the crucial first ten years of the Society.

Your Executive Committee unanimously came to the decision to ask Fred Amrine (University of Michigan) whether he would take on the position of

Executive Secretary, including the editorship of the Newsletter. To our delight he accepted: please keep him informed about events connected with Goethe or plans about arranging a Goethe session at the annual conventions of the MLA or the ASECS.

Otherwise we are fortunate in having both Meredith Lee (as Secretary-Treasurer) and Tom Saine (as editor of the Yearbook) continue in their positions. Both have given freely and abundantly of their time and thought to make the Society a go. We are fortunate in having them.

Jane Brown, now at the University of Washington, Seattle, is Vice-President and the Review Editor of the Yearbook.

Please let me know if there is something that you think the Society could/should do. Write to me or phone (919) 966-1641. It is your Society: your input is crucial to its success.

Goethe Seminar: Goethe's Die Wahlverwandtschaften and Problems of Narrative" (MLA Session 36)

In addition to the annual business meeting at the 1989 MLA Convention, there will be a session, arranged by the Goethe Society of North America, on Wednesday, 27 December, 7:00-8:15, Monroe West, Washington Hilton.

Presiding: Cyrus Hamlin, Yale University

1. "Interpolations in Die Wahlverwandtschaften," J. Hillis Miller, Univ. of California, Irvine
2. "The Community of Memories in Die Wahlverwandtschaften," Werner Hamacher, Johns Hopkins University

Respondent: Judith Ryan, Harvard University.

European Poetry Translation Prize 1989 Awarded for Translation of Goethe's Faust I:

David Luke, editor and translator of the Penguin Poets Goethe, and of the Oxford World's Classics Faust Part One, was awarded the 1989 European Poetry Translation Prize for his translation of Faust. The European Poetry Translation Prize is awarded for a collection of poetry translated into English from any European language and published during the past two years. It honors and acknowledges longstanding work of a translator in this field. An earlier award has gone to Michael Hamburger in 1985 for his translation of Peter Huchel's poetry. The judges for the 1989 Prize were D.J. Enright and Sir Stephen Spender.

The Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library: Visiting Fellowships 1990-1991:

Visiting Fellowships are offered to support visiting scholars pursuing post-doctoral or equivalent research in the German literature collection (Baroque, Goethe, Thomas Mann, Broch) of the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale University. There is no special application form. Applicants are asked to submit a résumé and a brief research proposal (not to exceed three pages) to the Director, Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Box 1603A Yale Station, New Haven, Connecticut 06520-1603. The proposal should emphasize the relationship of the Beinecke collections to the project and state the preferred dates of residence. The applicant must also arrange to have two confidential letters of recommendation sent to the Director. All applications must be received by January 15, 1990. Awards will be announced in March 1990 for the period September 1990 through May 1991.

Goethe Museum in Tokyo:

The Goethe Memorial Museum in Tokyo, founded by Tadashi Kogawa in 1949, will be the site of an exhibit, entitled "Goethe's Faust in the Far East," from August 28 to September 28, 1990. The exhibit will be arranged in conjunction with the 8th congress of the International Society for the Study of Germanic Languages and Literatures (IVG) in Tokyo from August 26 to September 1, 1990. The museum was reopened in a new building in April 1988, located in the Kita district of Tokyo. The address is: Goethe Memorial Museum, Nishigahara 2-30-1, Kita-ku, Tokyo 114.

Goethe Museum in Düsseldorf:

The Goethe Museum in Düsseldorf mounted the following exhibitions during 1989: "Faust in der Oper: Dokumente aus der Sammlung Theens" (January 22-February 26); "Reineke Fuchs: Ein europäisches Epos" (January 29-March 12); "Udo Mölders Zeichnungen zu Goethes Märchen" (April 23-May 21); "München Herzlieb und der Sonettenkrieg" (May 28-July 2); "Johann Friedrich Reichardt (1752-1814): '... Singe- und Instrumentalkomponist, theoretischer, historischer und kritischer Schriftsteller...'" (June 25-August 6). The Goethe-Museum in Düsseldorf is now housed in Schloß Jägerhof, 2, Jacobistraße, (D-4000) Düsseldorf.

New Books by Members:

Hoelzel, Alfred. The Paradoxical Quest: A Study of Faustian Vicissitudes, New Yorker Beiträge zur Vergleichenden Literaturwissenschaft, 1. Berne, Frankfurt/M., New York: Peter Lang, 1988.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: Roman Elegies and The Diary. Verse transl. (with German original on facing page) by David Luke, introduction by Hans R. Vaaget. London: Libris 1988.

North-American Goethe Dissertations in 1988:

Alden, Maria Parasidou. "Der griechische Mythos in Faust II: Eine Studie zum Einfluß von Karl Philipp Moritz Götterlehre und zu Goethes 'Arbeit am Mythos' in Akt II und Akt III." Diss. University of California, Los Angeles 1988. [DAI 49/07-A: 1813]

Bradshaw, Martin John. "The Principle of Polarity: A Philosophical Study of Blake and Goethe." Diss. University of Guelph (Canada) 1988. [DAI 49/05-A: 1165]

Kirby, Margaret Anne. "The Concept of 'Tätigkeit' in Goethe's later Writings." Diss. University of Toronto 1988. [DAI 50/01-a: 152]

Liddle, Mary Susan. "The Letter and Identity in Eighteenth-Century Fiction (Goethe, Laclos, Richardson, Rousseau)." Diss. Stanford University 1988. [DAI 49/06-A: 1472]

Lundgren, Neale Powell. "Breaking Down the Neurotic-Psychotic Artifact: The Subversive Function of Myth in Goethe, Nietzsche, Rilke, and Walter Benjamin." Diss. Emory University 1988. [DAI 49/10-A: 3049]

Maertz, Gregory George. "England's 'Goethezeit': Romantic and Early Victorian." Diss. Harvard 1988. [DAI 49/10-A: 3034]

Wilson, Marion Jean. "Reappropriation in the Drama of Goethe, Kleist, and Hofmannsthal." Diss. University of Toronto 1988. [DAI 50/01-A: 134]