



www.goethesociety.org

GOETHE NEWS AND NOTES

XXIII.1, Spring 2003

Editor, Burkhard Henke
Davidson College

FROM THE EDITOR

After a one-year hiatus, the newsletter returns with many interesting notes and announcements. Chief among them is Tom Saine's resignation from the board due to health reasons. As we continue to wish Tom well, we are pleased to welcome Meredith Lee as our newly elected Vice-President. Hans Vaget has appointed a nominating committee for the next elections. Ballots will be included in the fall newsletter.

Aside from notices of upcoming meetings and important reminders regarding our annual essay prize and the Flaherty Scholarship competition for graduate students, this issue features a fascinating report by our President on the *Goethe-Wörterbuch* and the important work that is being done on that project in Berlin. Also in this issue you will find a note from your Webmaster as well as your dues notice. In 2004 the Goethe Society will begin an annual publication schedule for the *Goethe Yearbook*, which is funded by a modest increase in membership fees (the fees for student members and emeriti remain the same). As you know, members will

1. receive the *Goethe Yearbook* annually beginning in 2004

2. receive the bi-annual newsletter
3. receive regular electronic updates from the webmaster via the newly established listserv

As a member, you may also

4. organize a session at the annual meetings of the American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies, the German Studies Society and the Modern Language Association
5. present a paper in any such session
6. be nominated for the Society's Gloria Flaherty Prize or the Essay Prize

We appreciate your past support and hope that you will not only continue your membership but help us expand our base.

Burkhard Henke
Davidson College

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Not many of us who visit Berlin these days and enjoy a stroll across its magnificent Gendarmenmarkt are

probably aware that the imposing old building at the corner of Jäger- and Markgrafenstraße that serves as the headquarters of the *Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften* also houses one of the three *Arbeitsstellen* of the *Goethe-Wörterbuch*. (Two additional centers are located in Hamburg and in Tübingen, administered respectively by the Göttingen and the Heidelberg Academies of Science.) I am tempted to speak of “our *Goethe-Wörterbuch*” because, in a certain sense, this superb tool is tailor-made for all serious students of Goethe and, for that matter, of the *Goethezeit* itself. Goethe scholars have no better—no more trustworthy—friend than this truly mind-boggling dictionary that endeavors to record and to analyze the vocabulary of Goethe in its awesome entirety. In the lexicographical jargon that seems to be *de rigueur* with enterprises of such magnitude, this is an *Autoren-Bedeutungswörterbuch*.

We have dimly known all along, I suppose, that Goethe’s command of German was second to none and that his work—linguistically more fertile than anyone’s *oeuvre* since Luther—represents a seismic shift in the development of the language, whose aftershocks continue to shape and to animate the vocabulary of our own time. Still, we can’t help being surprised when confronted with the hard numbers. As the worthy lexicographers in Berlin, Hamburg, and Tübingen tell us, Goethe’s vocabulary comprises some 90,000 words, something that indeed makes him the “*wörterreichste*” author in German. When the people of the GWb will have drained that sea of words and laid it all out for us in the tightly packed

columns of their seven over-sized volumes, they will have distilled from the *Weimarer Ausgabe*, the *Schriften zur Naturwissenschaft* (the so-called *Leopoldina*), the *Amtliche Schriften* and the various bodies of conversations with Goethe no less than three and a half Million references.

On a recent visit with Dr. Michael Niedermeier, the gregarious and personable director of the Berlin team of the GWb, I was given a guided tour of the premises and an up-date on the current state of work on the dictionary. There are two pieces of good news to report, the first of which is that the GWb will be completed sooner than we had been led to believe.

The idea of a Goethe dictionary was first proposed in 1946 by Wolfgang Schadewaldt, the eminent classical philologist. What he envisioned was a long-term project with successive teams of Goethe philologists engaged in the tedious business of *Verzettelung*—the task of painstakingly collecting, sorting out, and analyzing all references. He in fact likened it to the *Dombauhütten*, those changing casts of architects and artists that built over the span of several generations the great medieval cathedrals. It is hard to miss in all of this the intellectual and pedagogical affinity between Schadewaldt’s grandly unrealistic conception and the idealistic spirit of Friedrich Meinecke’s famous book of 1945, *Die deutsche Katastrophe*, in which the venerable, liberal historian proposed a spiritual renewal of Germany through a return to Goethean humanism. In retrospect, Schadewaldt’s *Denkschrift*, published in the *Jahrbuch der Goethe-Gesellschaft* of 1950, reads like a blueprint for the foundation of the

edifice envisioned by Meinecke—the true, spiritual home of the German nation, unaffected by what happened in the land of Goethe between 1933 and 1945.

The first volume of the dictionary was published in 1978, a quarter of a century after the three *Arbeitsstellen* had begun their work. At that pace, the completion of the GWb would have had to wait until the twenty-second century! The pace picked up with volume 2, which was published in 1989. But then, with the upheaval of unification and the need for computerization, things slowed down yet again. The most recent *Lieferung*, the 5th for volume 3, which takes us from *Hauptunterricht* to *herandrohen*, arrived in 2002. It's good to know that there is now in effect a plan to accelerate the proceedings. If nothing unforeseen happens, the entire crew of the GWb—eight people in Berlin, five in Hamburg and five Tübingen—will enjoy a grand and well-deserved party in 2029, the anticipated date of completion, three years before the bicentennial of Goethe's death. And like Wotan in *Das Rheingold*, but with greater justification, they will sing: "Vollendet das ewige Werk!" For those of us who intend to still be around, this truly edifying prospect is reason enough to stick it out.

The second bit of good news for which many of our members have been waiting is this: the GWb is going digital—no more Spitzwegian *Zettelwirtschaft*. This involves *Retrodigitalisierung* of the work already completed—a real headache, I was told—and the digitalization of the entire thesaurus of Goethe's vocabulary. Kohlhammer, the publisher, has promised to make the two first volumes available on the Internet

and on CD-ROM as soon as the *Retrodigitalisierung* is completed; but in order to maintain a certain commercial edge, new *Lieferung* will not be uploaded to the Internet until all fascicles of a new volume have appeared.

What precisely is it that makes the GWb special? In addition to the completeness of the referencing, it is the lexicographically brilliant solutions that have been found here for the logical, easy to absorb presentation of large amounts of highly nuanced information. All entries, even the briefest, are fully documented, usually with a generous bit of context. Longer entries, or whole articles, are structured according to a clear, analytical scheme. Articles on key words and notions in Goethe's vocabulary, such as *Entwicklung*, *Farbe*, *Gestalt*, *Glück*, *Gott*, come with a *Leitbemerkung*, i.e., a concise summarizing survey of the semantic range; of the shifts in frequency and meaning from one period of Goethe's life to the next; and of the deviations from the then current usage. In the longer entries, useful background information is offered; whole *Wortfamilien* are identified; and light is shed on what is unique about Goethe's usage of a certain word. Add to this the typographically pleasing layout and print, and you have a real gem of a scholarly dictionary.

There is no need here to tell the seasoned toilers in the Goethean vineyard that the GWb is absolutely indispensable in any serious interpretation of a text by Goethe. For others, it is perhaps not redundant to summarize some of the reasons for this dictionary's extraordinary utility. Quite a few words in Goethe's vocabulary, seemingly un-

problematic, do not exactly mean what we suppose them to mean; the ground on which we operate is often shakier than we suspect. *Gewalt*, to cite a characteristic example, did not have for Goethe the overwhelmingly negative connotations that it has for us today. Similarly, *fromm* had a considerably wider range of meaning than it has now. Then there are many words with which we are no longer familiar. Instead of making a more or less informed guess, we may now make a quick check in the GWb, something that will unfailingly prove revealing. Who, for instance, would know what a *Hengstmensch* is supposed to be? A fabulous, centaur-like creature? Ingenious, but wrong. A *Hengstmensch* is a gigolo who happens to be a real stud—an *ausgehaltener Liebhaber*. The GWb simply teems with such delightful surprises. In short, while it has always been risky to embark on any elaborate reading of a poem by Goethe, or any other text, without a sure knowledge of the language in its historical context, it would now be downright foolhardy to do so without having the GWb right at your elbow.

More importantly, a close reading of an article on any of the essential key words in Goethe's linguistic universe—the *Goetheschen Grund- und Wesenswörter* (W. Schadewaldt)—takes us straight-away to the heart of the matter, to the very center of Goethe's thought. And it illuminates more sharply than any other method the subtle semantic changes that took place in those sixty five years during which—to recall a beautiful image from the bicentennial address Thomas Mann gave in Frankfurt and Weimar in 1949—Goethe played and improvised on that splendid and mighty organ that is the German language.

For additional information see

www.bbaw.de/vh/goethe/index.html and
bibliothek.bbaw.de/Goethe/home.htm.

Hans Rudolf Vaget
Smith College

GSNA ELECTIONS

A new Nominations Committee has been appointed by Hans R. Vaget: Gail K. Hart (Chair), Jocelyne Kolb, and Jill Kowalik, have been charged to come up with a slate of candidates for vice-president, to succeed Meredith Lee, and for two Directors-at-Large positions to replace Ellis Dye and Waltraud Maierhofer. Please send nominations to gkhart@uci.edu by June 1st. Ballots will be included in the fall newsletter.

FROM THE YEARBOOK EDITOR

Submissions for volume XII, the one honoring Tom Saine, have been received. I will be in touch with contributors to this volume over the next several months. Submissions for volumes XIII and XIV are now being accepted. The *Yearbook* continues to be 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. Please

refer to the style sheet available at www.goethesociety.org.

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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FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

Minutes of the Business Meeting 30 December 2002

President Hans Rudolf Vaget called the annual business meeting to order on Monday, 30 December, at 12 noon at the MLA Convention in New York. President Vaget welcomed the members and delivered the following President's Report.

I. Elections

A. Election of a New Vice President

Tom Saine, University of California, Irvine resigned due to health reasons.

The nominating committee consisting of Ted Bahr, Ben Bennett, and Astrida Tantillo proposed two candidates, but one withdrew. When there were no nominations from the floor, Meredith Lee, University of California, Irvine was elected new Vice President. She takes office 1 January 2003 and will assume the Presidency on 1 January 2004. Congratulations!

B. Elections of the next Vice-President and of both Directors-At-Large.

The Nominating Committee will be formed this spring. Solicitations for nomination from all members to the Nominations Committee will be on our Web site and in the Spring Newsletter. Ballots for the election will be mailed with the Fall Newsletter. The new Vice President and the new Directors-at-Large will be announced at the next MLA in San Diego.

II. Finances

Angela Borchert, University of Western Ontario, serves as new Secretary-Treasurer as of January 2002. She submitted a detailed financial report to the Executive Committee. The finances are healthy. She recommended a membership drive. Webmaster Burkhard Henke will create a brochure. Angela Borchert and Executive Secretary Clark Muenzer also recommended a small increase of \$5 in membership fees for active and senior members. Emeriti and students are not affected.

C. Yearbook

Simon Richter, the *Yearbook* Editor, has sent the Volume 11 out to the members. The *Yearbook* has received a discrete

face-lift with new information distributed throughout. Volume 12, a *Festschrift* for Tom Saine, first founding editor of *Yearbook*, will include abstracts in English or in German.

With Volume 13 the *Yearbook* begins an annual publication schedule funded by the modest increase in membership fees. Instead of using the dues of two years to produce one volume, the dues of one year will fund one volume. This annual *Yearbook* will not be of the same dimensions as Volume 11. The Book Review Editor, Martha Helfer, might be able to give more space to the reviews of works on Goethe and the *Goethezeit*.

D. Prizes

Tom Saine chaired the Prize Committee for the Gloria Flaherty Prize and the Essay Prize. Anne Schreiber of University of Iowa won the Gloria Flaherty Prize. She is working on the topic of theatricality in Goethe's Wilhelm Meister novels. The Essay Prize was not awarded this year. The Executive Committee considered awarding the Prize to an essay to be published in the *Yearbook*. Both prizes are advertised on the Web site and in the newsletter.

III. Papers and Panels

E. Panels for 2003 at the ISECS, GSA, MLA

Clark Muenzer asked the following members to organize upcoming sessions of the Goethe Society. Astrid Tantillo organized a panel "Framing Goethe's Science" ISECS in August. Anthony Krupp is organizing one or more panels

on "Childhood in Central Europe: 1749-1832" at the Annual GSA Meeting in New Orleans (September 2003). Angela Borchert is organizing a panel on "Parody: Re-visioning Goethe" at the MLA in San Diego (December 2003).

F. Since Katharina Mommsen could not attend, Clark Muenzer read her manuscript entitled „Islam in the Eyes of Goethe.“

Angela Borchert
Secretary-Treasurer

UPCOMING MEETINGS

ASECS/International Congress on the Enlightenment in Los Angeles, CA, 3-10 August 2003

GSA in New Orleans, LA, 18-20 September 2003

AATG-ACTFL in Philadelphia, PA, 20-23 November 2003

MLA in San Diego, CA, 27-30 December 2003

Special GSNA Sessions at the GSA in New Orleans

Organized by Anthony Krupp,
University of Miami

Childhood in Central Europe: 1749-1832 (I)

Moderator: Anthony Krupp, U of Miami

"Childhood onstage: J. W. Goethe, G. Büchner and beyond" (Eric Denton, Wheaton College)

"Naive modernity: J. H. Campe's aesthetics of Enlightenment childhood" (Angela Borchert, U of Western Ontario)

"The child as pedagogical victim: K. P. Moritz's project for educational reform" (Robert Weston, Columbia U)

Commentator: Andreas Gailus, U of Chicago

Childhood in Central Europe: 1749-1832 (II)

Moderator: Angela Borchert, U of Western Ontario

"Palingenesis in Print: Juvenalia, Rebirths, Sequels in J. G. Herder and Jean Paul" (Kelly Barry, Columbia U)

"Professor of the History of Myself: The Autobiography of Childhood in J. W. Goethe and Jean Paul" (Paul Fleming, New York U)

"Können wir werden, was wir waren? Concepts of childhood in L. Tieck and D. Schlegel" (Lanlan Xu, Georgetown U)

Commentator: Anthony Krupp, U of Miami

Goethe-Museum Düsseldorf 2003 Talks

(For additional information see www.goethe-museum.com)

- 21 May 2003, Winfried Woesler (Universität Osnabrück). Goethes "Heidenröslein". "Moderne" und gültige Interpretation.
- 18 June 2003, Hans R. Vaget (Smith College). Goethe und die Julirevolution (1830).
- 24 September 2003, Dieter Martin (Universität Freiburg). Goethes geplante "Zauberflöten"-Fortsetzung.
- 22 October 2003, Burghard Dedner (Universität Marburg). "in Goethe manchmal ..." Büchner als kritischer Schüler Goethes.
- 12 November 2003, Arno Schilson (Universität Mainz). Toleranz als Botschaft von Lessings "Nathan"?
- 10 December 2002, Dorothee von Hellermann (Maastricht). Gerhard von Kügelgens "Galerie berühmter Zeitgenossen".

GLORIA FLAHERTY SCHOLARSHIP

For the past two years, the Gloria Flaherty Scholarship, which the society offers to help fund research and conference travel for graduate students in our field, was not awarded, due to a

lack of applications. I am therefore urging members to encourage their best students to apply. The guidelines appear below.

Flaherty Scholarship Guidelines

Four years ago, the GSNA Board of Directors drafted guidelines for the Gloria Flaherty Scholarship and appointed the Vice-President of the GSNA and 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 award 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 qualified to comment on the project; 3) 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

October 15, 2003 to:

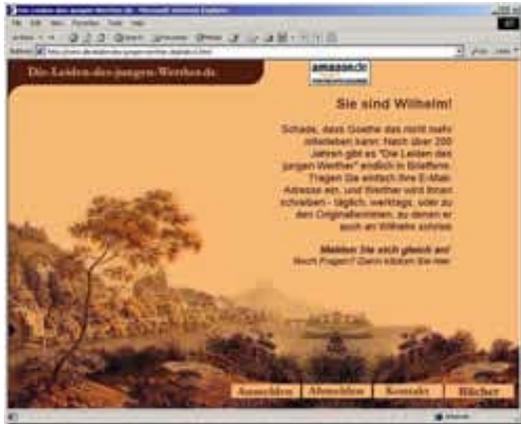
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FROM THE WEBMASTER

In order to help facilitate the exchange of ideas and information among its members, the GSNA has established a listserv,

goethe-l@davidson.edu.

All paid-up members whose current email address is on file have been automatically subscribed. If you changed your email address, or if you are unsure about your status, please contact webmaster@goethesociety.org. Once subscribed, all members may post to the list by sending mail to the address above.



On another note, you may be interested to learn that *Die Leiden des jungen Werther* has entered the Digital Age. Courtesy of Thilo von Pape and Gerhard Rolletschek, Werther will now send you his letters by email—even substituting Wilhelm’s name with yours! Just visit <http://www.die-leiden-des-jungen-werther.de>; also available in English at <http://www.the-sorrows-of-young-werther.com/>.

Burkhard Henke
Davidson College

DUES

Members who have not yet paid their 2003 dues are gently reminded to send them to Angela Borchert. The GYB is sent only once this obligation is met.

Please see the schedule below. Dues are payable in each calendar year.

active member	\$25
senior member	\$35
patron	\$100
emeritus	\$10
student	\$10
institution	\$40

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