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GOETHE NEWS AND NOTES

XXVI.1, Spring 2006

Burkhard Henke, Editor
Davidson College

FROM THE EDITOR

There is much exciting news to report in this issue of the newsletter. We are delighted to announce the society's sponsorship of a new UP book series and are grateful to Astrida Tantillo and others for brokering that deal. Thanks also to our President, Meredith Lee, who is forwarding a special call for papers to a German Goethe Symposium and who, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Society, has compiled a list of past officers and founding members without whose singular dedication and hard work the Goethe Society would not be where it is today. That list is attached at the end of the newsletter.

You will also find in this issue the minutes of the last business meeting, information on a sponsored panel, and some important announcements. Of particular significance is an invitation to nominate members to three positions on the board. We ask that you to do so by September 1.

Once again I am including brief abstracts of new books by members. I would like to continue the practice of announcing monograph publications in the newsletter, so please drop me a note when your new book is coming out.

More importantly, perhaps, make sure that we know about your monograph on the Age of Goethe so that we may enter it into our bibliography (see details in this issue).

I am also grateful to our Vice President, Ellis Dye, who contributes a piece on Goethe and Nietzsche which, I hope, may spark some discussion on the listserv. That listserv, [goethe-1@davidson.edu](mailto:goethe-1@ davidson.edu), has provided us with a means of disseminating calls for papers and other such announcements but it has been underused as a forum for lively scholarly discussion.

If this issue also  includes a dues notice, it means that we have not yet received payment from you. If that is the case, please send your 2006 dues to the Secretary-Treasurer, John Lyon, or go to our web site at www.goethesociety.org and use the convenient PayPal feature (a modest fee will apply). As you know, dues are payable in each calendar year. The *Goethe Yearbook*, now appearing annually, is sent only once this obligation is met. We appreciate your continued support.

Burkhard Henke
Davidson College

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear GSNA Members,

The 25th Anniversary Celebration, which we celebrated at the Modern Language Association meeting in Washington, D.C., provided an opportunity to reflect on the many people who have made major contributions to the Society. The names of officers and those who have served in other formal capacities are listed here in the newsletter. In the last 25 years the GSNA has sponsored over 90 panels involving some 175 different people. The annual meetings of the Modern Language Association, the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies and the German Studies Association are now the standard venues for GSNA panels and we remain very appreciative of our affiliation with these organizations. The *Goethe Yearbook* is well established with an excellent critical reputation. A new monograph series is being launched. A vital and committed Board of Directors assures a productive future. We have much to be proud of.

In December Dr. Jochen Golz, president of the Goethe Gesellschaft in Weimar, sent congratulations on behalf of the members of the Goethe Gesellschaft to the GSNA. I will be reporting on GSNA activities and our first 25 years at the next board meeting of the Goethe Gesellschaft in May, 2006, in Weimar. In addition to a summary of our panels and other programs, I would like to showcase the monographs written by GSNA members in the last 25 years. A call inviting you to send titles to our Executive Secretary is repeated in this

newsletter. Please do take time to send off an email and help us out!

The current GSNA officers are already in their third year of service to the society. It is time once again to begin the process of nominating new leadership. Martha Helfer has agreed to serve as the chair of the 2006 nominating committee. Together with Birgit Tautz and Hans Vaget, she will put together a slate to identify our next Vice President and two new members of the Board who are elected at large. As you know, the Vice President Ellis Dye will accede to the presidency in 2007. John Lyon, our Secretary-Treasurer, has graciously agreed to stand for re-election. The election will take place in the fall. Please see the separate notice and invitation for nominations below.

Cordially,

Meredith Lee
University of California, Irvine

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The nominating committee, comprised of Martha Helfer (chair), Birgit Tautz, and Hans Vaget, requests that you submit nominations for three offices: Vice President and two Directors-At-Large. Elections will be held in the fall. Further election details, along with brief statements by the nominees, will appear on the web site and in the fall issue of the newsletter.

Please send your nominations **by September 1, 2006** to

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FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Ausgelebt?

Invited by our valiant editor to send a short piece to *Goethe News and Notes*, I would like to endorse what Barker Fairley proclaimed seventy-two years ago—that Nietzsche is “soaked in Goethe” (“Nietzsche and Goethe,” *Bulletin of the John Rylands Library*, Manchester, 18 [1934]: 302). I am currently teaching a course on Nietzsche, cross-listed in German and Philosophy. Although I have taught courses on Nietzsche before, I have never before been so impressed with how far-reaching Fairley’s remark is. Nietzsche is truly “soaked in Goethe”: “Über Goethe hat uns neuerdings jemand belehren wollen, daß er mit seinen 82 Jahren sich ausgelebt habe: und doch würde ich gern ein paar Jahre des ‘ausgelebten’ Goethe gegen ganze Wagen voll frischer hochmoderner Lebensläufe einhandeln, um noch einen Anteil an solchen Gesprächen zu haben, wie sie Goethe mit Eckermann führte, und um auf diese Weise vor allen zeitgemäßen Belehrungen durch die Legionäre des Augenblicks bewahrt zu bleiben” (“Vom Nutzen und Nachteil der Historie”). To be sure, Nietzsche also said, “Alles Unvergängliche—das ist nur ein Gleichnis! Und die Dichter lügen zuviel”

(*Also sprach Zarathustra*), but he knew that Goethe shared his love for the forms and colors of human life, however fleeting. He also learned from Goethe how our inherited modes of conceptualization shape and limit our understanding. What better statement of Nietzsche’s so-called perspectivism than Goethe’s remark as a twenty-five-year-old: “Jede Form, auch die gefühlteste, hat etwas Unwahres, allein sie ist ein für allemal das Glas, wodurch wir die heiligen Strahlen der verbreiteten Natur an das Herz des Menschen zum Feuerblick sammeln”? (*DjG*, 5 [1973], 352). Nietzsche’s version of this, against the claims of logical positivism, is: “Gerade Tatsachen gibt es nicht, nur Interpretationen” (Schlechta ed., 3: 903).

There may be a fertile field out there awaiting cultivation by Goethe scholars who feel that the class-gender-race fashion is “ausgelebt” and who may be inclined to dig a bit deeper into the ways in which writers and thinkers are “always already in the world,” as Heidegger puts it—that is, the way in which Nietzsche’s world was informed by Goethe. This, of course, presupposes an understanding of Goethe’s world and an appreciation of how the poet Goethe collected the holy rays of widely dispersed nature and brought them to a focus in our hearts.

Ellis Dye
Macalester College

AWARDS AND PRIZES

The **GSNA Essay Prize** is awarded annually to an outstanding piece of

scholarship on Goethe and his times which has been published during the previous year. This year the committee recommended that two essays be recognized and two separate awards given. The first recipient is Edgar Landgraf (Bowling Green State University) for his essay "Romantic Love and the Enlightenment: From Gallantry and Seduction to Authenticity and Self-Validation," *German Quarterly* 77.1 (2004): 29-46. The second recipient is Karin Schutjer (University of Oklahoma) for her essay "Beyond the Wandering Jew: Anti-Semitism and Narrative Supersession in Goethe's *Wilhelm Meisters Wanderjahre*," *German Quarterly* 77.4 (2004): 389-407. Congratulations to both!

The Society's **Gloria Flaherty Scholarship** is awarded annually to a graduate student in support of travel required either by a research project or a presentation. This year's recipient is Kamaal Haque of the Washington University in Saint Louis who delivered his paper, "Dynamic Plants: Goethe's Botanical Theories and Their Repercussions For His Poetry," at the International Conference on Romanticism in Colorado Springs, 15 October 2005. Congratulations!

Again, please encourage your best students to apply for this scholarship. Details and guidelines for submission can be found on our web site.

Last but not least, congratulations also to our Vice President Ellis Dye whose book *Love and Death in Goethe: One and Double* (Rochester, NY: Camden House, 2004) won **Choice's Outstanding Academic Titles Award**.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

New Book Series

I am very pleased to announce that the Goethe Society is sponsoring a new book series that will be published by Bucknell University Press. The Society has been seeking ways, in light of the ever-narrowing publishing possibilities, to support research on Goethe/eighteenth-century studies. We are therefore very excited about our collaboration with Bucknell. On average, we will publish about 1-2 books a year in the series. We are very fortunate that Bucknell already has a strong reputation in eighteenth-century studies generally and has already published significant monographs of several of our colleagues in the field. The goal of this series is to publish innovative research that contextualizes the "Age of Goethe," whether within the fields of literature, history (including art history and history of science), philosophy, art, music, or politics. We encourage the submission of high-quality manuscripts and welcome all approaches and perspectives. We are especially interested in interdisciplinary projects, creative approaches to archival or original source materials, theoretically informed scholarship, work that introduces previously undiscovered materials, or projects that re-examine traditional epochal boundaries or open new channels of interpretations. Authors should send manuscript proposals (only) to Astrida Tantilto, Dept. of Germanic Studies (MC 189), University of Illinois at Chicago, 601 S. Morgan Street, Chicago, IL 60607; 312-413-9466; fax:

312-413-2511; tantillo@uic.edu.
Electronic versions are preferred.

Astrida Tantillo
University of Illinois, Chicago

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

Karin Wurst. *Fabricating Pleasure: Fashion, Entertainment, and Cultural Consumption in Germany, 1780–1830*. Detroit, MI: Wayne State University Press, 2005.

Entertainment, defined as occasions for creating pleasure, added an important dimension to the lifestyle and self-definition of the German middle class around the turn of the nineteenth century. Modern forms of culture and consumption appearing around this time not only enhanced pleasure in physical sensations but also enabled imaginary sensations in the absence of actual stimuli. Desiring, rather than having, became an important mode of cultural

consumption, linking products and practices with self-image, serving to express social identity in an increasingly more anonymous society—a society where the modern freedom of choice brought with it a loss of tradition and the stability attached to it. *Fabricating Pleasure* traces the creation of this unique form of domestic culture, showing how the bourgeoisie of late-eighteenth- and early-nineteenth-century Germany fused consumption with high culture.

Nicholas Rennie. *Speculating on the Moment: The Poetics of Time and Recurrence in Goethe, Leopardi, and Nietzsche*. Göttingen: Wallstein, 2005.

In this study, Nicholas Rennie examines the development of the “moment” as a poetic motif and theoretical construct in Nietzsche, and in two writers whose contrasting poetics of time serve him as models: Johann Wolfgang Goethe and Giacomo Leopardi. Rennie shows how Nietzsche's conception of eternal recurrence can be properly understood only by means of this relation to two key literary predecessors. Each provides Nietzsche the conception of a moment that is an act of poetic speculation: to affirm the “beautiful moment” (as in *Faust*) or momentary flashes of genius-like vision (a recurrent theme in Leopardi's writing) is at once to gamble on, and repudiate, a Romantic aesthetic of unmediated intuition. Nietzsche's essay “On the Uses and Disadvantages of History for Life,” and the subsequent texts in which he develops his idea of the “eternal recurrence of all things,” are shaped by this speculation and make clear the significance of a late 18th and early 19th-century poetics of gaming for modern theories of language.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

In honor of the 25th anniversary of its founding, the Goethe Society of North America is seeking to create a bibliography of monographs on Goethe or his age published by its members. Please send the bibliographic information (books only) to Ms. Rie Sumitani (rsumit1@uic.edu). If you have any questions about this project, please contact Astrida Tantillo (tantillo@uic.edu).

FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

Minutes of the Business Meeting 30 December 2005

President Meredith Lee called the annual business meeting to order on Friday, December 30, at the MLA Convention in Washington, DC. President Lee welcomed the members and delivered the following President's Report:

I. Report from the President

The President approved last year's minutes without correction. It was a year of transition: Astrida finished her first year and John Lyon replaced Angela Borchert as Secretary-Treasurer. There was some confusion during this transition—please contact John if you have any questions or concerns. Dan Wilson resigned as Vice President due to his move to the University of London. A

special election was held to replace him, and Ellis Dye is now the Vice-President of the society for 2006. He will accede to the presidency for 2007-2009.

Prizes. The Prize Committee awarded the Gloria Flaherty Prize and the Essay Prize (see the note on awards elsewhere in the newsletter). President Lee thanked the Prize Committee for their work.

List of Member Publications. Needed. President Lee informed the society that she will make a presentation to the *Vorstand* of the Goethe Gesellschaft in Weimar this May. She will give them a summary of our activity during the past 25 years. In this context, members of the GSNA have received e-mails asking for titles of books published by members of society. We need more responses, otherwise President Lee won't go ahead with this aspect of the presentation. Please respond with these to Astrida (see the announcement in this newsletter).

Old Yearbooks. President Lee also announced that the society has committed to distribute excess yearbook stock to Eastern European and former Soviet nations. We will send out 50 sets of vols. 2-13. Vol. 1 is almost gone. Clark Muenzer suggested making a .pdf file of the first volume and reproducing copies from it.

Other Issues. The President then raised several issues.

1) *Financial planning:* The board will need to model the financial health of the society, and it may need to raise dues, in great part due to increased frequency of *Yearbook* publication. This will be discussed at the 2006 board meeting. 2) *Nominating Committee:* This next year

will complete the cycle of elected officers, and so the society will need to contact individuals to serve on a nominating committee. 3) *Periodization and GSA*: One of the lively debates on the goethe-l listserv this year was how to respond to the issue of periodization in the German Studies Association (one category for all periods before 1800). This issue was raised at the meeting and President Lee suggested that we write a letter to the GSA and thank them for the cooperation over the years. In this letter we would ask how we can help enhance the participation of 18th-century scholars. Gail Hart has arranged a panel at the upcoming GSA to discuss this issue. Titled “When was the 18th Century?”, it will include contributions from Daniel Purdy, Peter Reill, and Ruth Klüger. Martha Helfer will moderate and Meredith Lee will be the commentator. The Goethe Society is grateful to Gail for arranging this, and for the productive approach of framing the debate within this intellectual context. 4) *Programming*: Marjorie Perloff, incoming MLA President, has invited selected allied organizations to participate in a theme-organized grouping of panels at the 2006 MLA titled “Sound and Poetry,” in which all workshops and presentations will be about poetry. Special pamphlets will be published announcing these sessions. Meredith Lee has volunteered to chair this special group, which would bring special visibility to our organization. A volume will appear linked to this (although not all papers will be included). More information will be forthcoming

II. Report from the Secretary-Treasurer

The society’s finances are sound—everything balances, and we have added capital (due to a generous royalty check, and fruitful CD investments). The society donated 2,500 € to the *Spende* for the Anna Amalia Bibliothek in Weimar, which recently suffered a devastating fire. The society’s name will be noted on a plaque in the library listing significant donors.

We closed out the German account this year – all accounts are now US-based. US Accounts are in the process of being transferred from Wells Fargo Bank in California to PNC Bank in Pennsylvania.

We began using an online dues payment service (PayPal) this year, for which users pay the associated fee. After reviewing this arrangement, the board decided to continue with this arrangement.

Printing costs for the *Yearbook* were significantly less than before, reflecting the smaller volume to be published more frequently. Membership is strong, with a healthy graduate student component, but could still be increased. Please invite others to join the society.

III. Report from the Executive Secretary

Astrida announced forthcoming panels sponsored by the Goethe Society (see the note in this newsletter). Please contract Astrida to propose panels at future conferences.

IV. Report from the *Yearbook* Editors

Vol. 13 of the *Yearbook* has now been sent out, despite a delay from the publisher. We are now an annual

publication. Vol. 14 is full and will be prepared for press over summer. Vol. 15 is filling up. We receive regular submissions, we do not accept all of them, and are grateful for help in evaluating them. One of consequences of going to annual publications requires that we have to reduce page numbers, both of the volume as a whole and of individual articles. Longer articles may be considered, but will come at a cost (30 pages is still acceptable, 50 pages is too long.). In many cases, authors may be asked to shorten longer articles. This concern about length also applies to book reviews. We may opt to join several book reviews together into a review essay. Annual publication brings with it an additional cost, but it also brings increased sales and increased income.

V. Book Series

Astrida, with assistance from Meredith Lee, Clark Muenzer, and John Lyon, has been exploring publishing opportunities for works on Goethe. The result is a possible opportunity with Bucknell University Press, which is considering a book series on the Age of Goethe, publishing one or two books per year at no cost to the GSNA. In selecting books, we would like to cast the net broadly with the term "Age of Goethe," but a primary concern will be to support beginning scholars. If members have suggestions, they should contact Astrida. Astrida will begin as acting editor. Co-editors and/or an editorial board will need to be named. A number of members raised the following concerns: Could the GSNA seal/imprimatur appear somewhere on each book in the series? If Bucknell would like financial support for the series, could we arrange reduced

prices on the books for GSNA members? Can we balance the emphasis on younger scholars with some works by more established scholars, as we don't want the series to appear as a venue for unrevised dissertations? Astrida will discuss these and other issues with Bucknell as negotiations proceed (see her announcement in this newsletter)

VI. New Business

None.

VII. Program

The meeting concluded with a program celebrating 25 years of the GSNA. minutes of this portion of the meeting are written up separately.

Special GSNA Session at the GSA in Pittsburgh, 28 September – 1 October 2006

Organized and chaired by Andrew Piper,
McGill University

Goethe and His Collaborators: Literary, Philosophical and Political Reflections on Collaboration and Collectivity in the Eighteenth Century

1. "Goethe's Collaboration with the Shakespeare Translators of his Time" (Friederike von Schwerin-High, Pomona College)
2. "Goethe and His Kind" (Raul Delgado-Rodriguez, Wells College)

3. "Collaborative Art: Bettine von Arnim's *Goethe's Correspondence with a Child* and Johann Wolfgang Goethe's Sonnets" (Catherine Sprecher, University of Chicago)

4. "Commission or Collaboration? Goethe and Vulpius" (Waltraud Maierhofer, University of Iowa)

Commentator: Margaretmary Daley
(Case Western Reserve University)

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 Executive Secretary.

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SPECIAL CALL FOR PAPERS

Dear GSNA Members,

In conjunction with the Goethe Gesellschaft Hauptversammlung in late May, 2007, in Weimar, a special symposium will once again provide an outstanding opportunity for the presentation of papers by younger Goethe scholars. Eight papers will be chosen for 30-minute talks. In the past, the papers have been highly polished and

demonstrated significant scholarship. Papers and discussion are in German.

The original invitation from the organizer, Dr. Wolf Gerhard Schmidt, was circulated on the listserv and is posted on our web site. I would like to promote a broad and open call. Because Dr. Schmidt also invites direct submissions, I urge you to contact him at the address below. The deadline given is simply "Ende April 2006." Based on my sense of how the review process has worked in the past, I would caution applicants to submit earlier. Please note that for the purposes of this symposium, "young" is defined as 37 years or below. Many past participants have been in the "Assistenten" ranks, preparing their "Habilitationen." In other words, this is a call to share especially with junior faculty and lecturers, although advanced graduate students are not excluded. Travel costs and symposium expenses will be covered for the scholars selected for the program.

I forward this information to you with high hopes that we will have North American representation in 2007. Please send your proposals to

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Cordially,

Meredith Lee
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Founding Members

The first volume of the Goethe Yearbook lists the founding members who each contributed \$100 to launch the society:

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