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[www.goethesociety.org](http://www.goethesociety.org)

## GOETHE NEWS AND NOTES

XXXIII.2, Fall 2013

Burkhard Henke, Editor  
Davidson College

### *FROM THE EDITOR*

As always, this newsletter contains scintillating contributions you do not want to miss, including the president's column, updates on the *Goethe Yearbook* and the book series, important announcements, and some preliminary information on next year's Atkins Goethe Conference, something we're very excited about.

As you will have noticed, this number of the *Goethe News and Notes* is the first to be disseminated exclusively by electronic means. The board felt that switching to electronic delivery was not only environmentally friendly but also made good sense economically. It allows us to keep our membership dues among the lowest in the profession (if you have not already done so, please [renew your membership here](#)) while continuing to provide the kinds of services you have come to expect from the Goethe Society—from our publications, conferences, panels, and prizes to the support of young scholars, like-minded organizations, and worthwhile causes. We appreciate your understanding and hope you agree that this move is in the best interest of our Society and our field.

Speaking of electronic dissemination, we

are also working on redesigning the Society's web site, the first real overhaul in over a decade. The redesigned site will have a more modern look, should be easier to read and navigate, and will feature more interactive elements. We expect to launch the new site by the end of the year.

Burkhard Henke  
Davidson College

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### *FROM THE PRESIDENT*

I am now on my way home from this year's GSA meeting in Denver, where many of us gathered and had opportunities to connect again both inside and outside of panel sessions, meetings, cash bars, and banquets. Returning from my Rocky Mountain High to the gentle hills of Pittsburgh, I feel excited by what I just heard and saw and am energized by the work that the Society will continue to do over the next year.

As many of you know, Denver was good for the GSNA. While our panel, organized by David Wellbery and moderated by Chadwick Smith, was awkwardly scheduled for the late

morning on the last conference day, almost forty of you packed the room to enjoy three wonderful papers by Joel Lande, Christian Weber, and Helmut Schneider on “Goethe’s Apprehension of the Social.” Their presentations, along with David’s commentary and the questions and comments that followed, were engaging and suggestive of new directions that investigations into Goethe as a social theorist could profitably take. I am certain that our two MLA panels in Chicago on “Sacrifice” (organized by David Wellbery) and “(Trans)national Epic” (organized by Charlton Payne and cosponsored with the Heine Society) will be equally successful in exploring and staking out important fields of inquiry within American Goethe Studies, so do please attend those sessions, too.

In addition to the GSA panel and in line with its theme, we sponsored a social festivity that gathered the “throng” from our “Cash Bar” into the Annual Business Meeting, the highlight of which was the naming of the Annual Essay Contest Winner. She is Professor Eleanor ter Horst, of Clarion University, whose “Masks and Metamorphoses: The Transformation of Classical Tradition in Goethe’s *Römische Elegien*,” appeared in the *German Quarterly* in the fall of 2012. Eleanor was in attendance to receive her award, and I want to congratulate her again for this important achievement and remind you that our Vice President, Daniel Purdy, who chairs our selection committee, will be happy to receive self-nominations for next year’s prize. Daniel’s column in this newsletter also includes Eleanor’s *laudatio*.

Of course your officers and directors are always at work with the planning and

organizing of our diverse activities, and I want to thank them in the name of the entire membership for their ongoing commitment, enthusiastic participation, and meticulous attention to the Society’s programs through all phases of their execution. They are both the invisible hand of the GSNA and, just as importantly, its heart. In this regard, nine of us gathered multiple times in Denver to go over budgets, reflect on policies, and exchange ideas about the various domains that each of us oversees, including *The Goethe Yearbook*, *Goethe News and Notes*, our web site, the monograph series with Bucknell, the essay competition, and our sponsorship of panels at scholarly meetings. As is the case every third year, moreover, we spent considerable time discussing the next Atkins Conference, which will take place in Pittsburgh from October 23-26, 2014, so, mark your 2014 Calendars today!

Here is what I can already report about this important and popular event. The topic for the meeting will be “Imagining Worlds.” A CFP will be posted on our website on December 1, and proposals must be submitted by April 1, 2014. The goal of the program committee, which consists of Heather Sullivan and Horst Lange in addition to myself, is to offer a series of interrelated panels on the various ways that Goethe and his contemporaries systematically understood and practically expressed through a wide range of cultural, scientific, and socio-political practices not only the nature of art, but also the “art” of nature and science, self and society, culture and politics, etc. In addition to the usual array of sessions, we will feature two eminent keynote speakers, Jane Brown (University of

Washington, Seattle) and Anne Bohnenkamp (Freies Deutsches Hochstift, Frankfurt). Additionally, we shall continue, for the third time, our highly successful Dissertation Workshop and the Presidential Forum. The deadline for participating in the workshop competition, which Daniel Purdy will be organizing, is also April 1, 2014, so please alert your students to contact Daniel about this opportunity, which will engage them in conversation by senior scholars in their fields.

Finally, I am happy to report that my fellow officers and board members have given me “Mut zu neuen Liedern und Tänzern,” which—if I am successful—will include one or more of the following events: a roundtable discussion on “Globalizing Goethe” that would gather the leadership of international Goethe Societies to discuss and propose concrete projects of cooperation; a “Museum Project” that would assemble representatives of cultural institutions (museums, libraries, archives, internet projects) to exchange views on their mission as mediators of Goethe and his Age in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and across national borders; and a Warhol-inspired celebration—in the city of Andy’s birth—that will conclude our three-day event on a properly festive note.

More details about the 2014 Atkins Conference will follow by the end of the year, so please look for the launch of the conference web site, which will soon be announced on [goethesociety.org](http://goethesociety.org).

Clark Muenzer  
University of Pittsburgh

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## 2012 ESSAY PRIZE



Congratulations to Eleanor ter Horst on her award-winning article, “Masks and Metamorphoses: The Transformation of Classical Tradition in Goethe’s *Römische Elegien*,” *German Quarterly* 85.4 (2012): 401-19.

Professor Horst (Clarion University) has written a learned and spirited essay which expertly draws links between Goethe’s *Römische Elegien*, and the French Renaissance poet Joachim de Bellay, Horace’s Odes, Ovid’s *Erotic Arts*, and Aeschylus’s *Oresteia*, among other Classical fore bearers. Professor Horst elucidates the dialogue between these many poets to contemplate the lifespan of erotic poetry when compared to the decayed monumentality of Roman antiquity. Without ever overtly referencing “dialectical logic,” the essay’s argument shifts gently back and forth, balancing between Goethe’s sensitive appropriation of Latin poetry and his Modernist sense of distance from the ancient world.

As Goethe scholars, we are always challenged by our more contemporary colleagues to explain what possible new topics one can find in the old man’s work. The answer lies not in extracting some sliver of a previously unnoticed insight, but to synthesize the already

well-established and well-read commentary on Goethe, in order to combine it with new theoretical questions in a style that makes the eighteenth century come to life in our own present. Professor Horst has done just that.

She traces the scholarly and poetic discussion of the elegy as a genre. Her argument follows Goethe's self-reflection on the division between the public and private. She is particularly attuned to the poem's representation of intimacy in the media age of hyper sensationalism and the best seller. Professor Horst argues with speed and grace. Her learned article displays her thorough research into two centuries of commentary on the *Römische Elegien* without ever falling into a ponderous pace. Her style remains light and nimble, even at its most canonical moments of explication. She structures her argument along a rapidly shifting succession of oppositions, constantly substituting one familiar contrast for a surprising juxtaposition: north-south, ancient-modern, barbaric-civilized, always with an eye to the sexual resonance of each. In a surprising turn, Professor Horst explains the cross-gender, castrating connotations of the word "Gallier." Even Luther's Biblical German makes an unexpected appearance in her discussion of Goethe's mythic sexual politics. The allusions in Professor Horst's essay are so rich and so deftly intertwined, they leave the reader exhausted and in wonder at her writerly dexterity and editorial skill in composing such a finely crafted essay.

Daniel Purdy  
Pennsylvania State University

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## **2013 ESSAY PRIZE**

### **Call for Submissions**

The executive committee seeks nominations or self-nominations for its annual essay prize, which carries an award of \$500. Please submit a copy of the essay (electronic version preferred) for the best essay published in the year 2013 on Goethe, his times, and/or contemporary figures by March 31, 2014 to the Society's Vice-President.

The following articles are eligible:

1. articles written by a North American scholar (defined by institutional affiliation at the time of publication); or
2. articles written by a current member of the GSNA; or
3. articles published in the *Goethe Yearbook*.

NB: Articles by current GSNA board members are not eligible. GSNA members are encouraged to submit their own articles for consideration.

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## **FROM THE YEARBOOK EDITORS**

Volume 21 of the *Goethe Yearbook* is well on its way. It contains eleven original articles that reflect the diversity of our society: there are contributions by several generations of German scholars, including pieces by David Wellbery and Katharina Mommsen, as well as innovative articles on women writers

(Unger, Günderode) and several fascinating interdisciplinary pieces, ranging from an analysis of illustrations of Goethe's works to a discussion of contemporary psychological and medical theories of ill humor in relation to Goethe's *Werther* and an economic reading of Goethe's *Faust*. In addition, the volume features sophisticated theoretical approaches to Goethe's works, including an article on concepts of space in *Alexis und Dora* and one on notions of sacrifice in *Faust*. Finally, there is a study of Goethe reception around 1900 and a discussion of Albrecht von Haller's works. We would like to use this opportunity to express our gratitude to Stanford University whose generous financial support made it possible to hire a copyeditor and thus has expedited the process considerably.

We are delighted to announce that volume 22 of the *Goethe Yearbook* will feature a special section on Goethe and ecocriticism. The editors of this section, Dalia Nassar and Luke Fisher, invite contributions on environmental aesthetics, ethics, and philosophy, ecopoetics, Goethe's legacy in the environmental movement, and environmental activism. Find the Call for Papers below. The deadline is March 31, 2014. Please note that, in addition to this special section, we will continue to publish contributions on all aspects of Goethezeit literature and culture in the next yearbook. We hope to hear from many of you and particularly welcome contributions by younger scholars. Please direct all correspondence to Adrian Daub at [daub@stanford.edu](mailto:daub@stanford.edu) and Elisabeth Krimmer at [emkrimmer@ucdavis.edu](mailto:emkrimmer@ucdavis.edu). Manuscript submissions should follow the *Chicago Manual of Style* and confine themselves to less than

35 pages. For specific questions about scholarly citations, please consult the *Yearbook's* style sheet on our web site.

As always, the entire run of back issues is available on Project MUSE.

Adrian Daub  
Stanford University

Elisabeth Krimmer  
University of California at Davis

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### ***FROM THE BOOK REVIEW EDITOR***

As always, I encourage you to let me know if there are particular areas of research that you are interested in reviewing for the *Goethe Yearbook*. Please send books for review and suggestions for books for review to:

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### ***FROM THE EDITOR OF THE BOOK SERIES***

Our latest book, *Aesthetics and Secular Millennialism* by Benjamin K. Bennett, was announced in the spring newsletter. Since then we have accepted one manuscript, pending approval by the Bucknell Press board, another about to

go out for review, and several projects that claim to be waiting in the wings from scholars at a variety of ranks.

We continue to encourage submissions from our members, their friends, and those who find us in other ways. We welcome all approaches and perspectives. Please contact me if you are interested in submitting a manuscript.

Jane Brown  
University of Washington

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### ***FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY***

Please note the upcoming deadlines for panel proposals.

2014 GSA, 15 November 2013  
2015 MLA, 1 December 2013  
2015 ASECS (2 panels), 15 March 2014

Karin Schutjer  
University of Oklahoma

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### ***CALL FOR PAPERS***

**CFP for a Special Section of the 2014  
*Goethe Yearbook***

#### **Goethe and Environmentalism**

Guest Editors: Dalia Nassar and Luke Fischer

Over the past few decades, new movements have emerged in literary studies and philosophy (ecocriticism, ecopoetics, environmental philosophy etc.) that are concerned with the relationship between humanity and the natural environment, and the cultural dimension of the environmental crisis. While much attention has been given to the environmental legacy of romanticism, only a small amount of scholarship has focused on Goethe. In light of the central significance of nature in Goethe's literary, theoretical and scientific texts, it could be argued that Goethe was a major forerunner of the environmental movement and that his ideas continue to be relevant in the present context. The aim of this special section of the *Goethe Yearbook* is to bring together various perspectives on Goethe's relevance for environmental thought and, more specifically, to shed light on the environmental significance of Goethe's legacy and on the potential of his ideas to contribute to contemporary debates in the environmental humanities. We welcome the submission of articles on Goethe's significance for the following topics:

- Environmental aesthetics
- Ecocriticism
- Ecopoetics
- Environmental philosophy
- Environmental ethics
- Environmental management
- Goethe's legacy in the environmental movement
- Environmental activism

Submission deadline: March 31, 2014  
Please send submissions to the guest editors, [dalia.nassar@sydney.edu.au](mailto:dalia.nassar@sydney.edu.au) and [lukefisch@gmail.com](mailto:lukefisch@gmail.com).

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Modern Languages Association  
Annual Convention, Chicago, 9-12  
January 2014**

### The Sacrificial Dynamic in Goethe

Thursday, 9 January, 5:15–6:30 p.m.  
Program arranged by the Goethe Society  
of North America

*Presiding:* David Edward Wellbery,  
University of Chicago

1. “Goethe’s Concept of Sacrifice in  
‘Der Gott und die Bajadere,’”  
Dorothea Elisabeth von Mücke,  
Columbia University
2. “*Opferdampf* and Chosen  
Blindness,” Marcus Paul Bullock,  
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
3. “Sacrificing Religion in *Dichtung  
und Wahrheit*,” Daniel Anthony  
DiMassa, University of Pennsylvania

### (Trans)National Epic

Friday, 10 January, 3:30–4:45 p.m.  
Program arranged by the Goethe Society  
of North America and the North  
American Heine Society

*Presiding:* Charlton Payne, University of  
Erfurt

1. “Readings of National Idiosyncrasies  
in Karl Philipp Moritz’s Sketches  
from England and Prosody,” Nils  
Plath, University of Erfurt

2. “Marianne Tamed: The  
Transnational Iconography of  
Goethe’s *Herrmann und Dorothea*,”  
Gabrielle Bersier, Indiana  
University–Purdue University,  
Indianapolis
3. “Epic and Nation in Heine’s  
*Wintermärchen* and Stifter’s ‘Der  
Kuß von Sentze,’” Nathan  
Magnusson, University of  
Washington, Seattle

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## DUES

*If you have not done so already, please  
send your 2013 dues to the Secretary-  
Treasurer, Claire Baldwin, or pay online  
using PayPal (a modest fee will apply).  
Dues are payable in each calendar year,  
see the schedule below. The GYB is sent  
only once this obligation is met.*

junior member (non-tenured faculty)	\$25
senior member (tenured faculty)	\$35
patron (please consider becoming a patron)	\$100
emeritus	\$10
student	\$10
institution	\$40

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