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GOETHE NEWS AND NOTES

XXXV.2, Fall 2015

Burkhard Henke, Editor
Davidson College

FROM THE EDITOR

As excited as we are about our upcoming elections, we are sad to see an unusually large number of board members leave office this year. With great gratitude we bid farewell to our outgoing president, Clark Muenzer, as well as our book series editor, Jane Brown, our two directors-at-large, Heather Sullivan and Horst Lange, and our secretary-treasurer, Claire Baldwin. Stepping down with them is Karin Schutjer, who will move from her post as executive secretary to take over for Jane as editor of the book series. These colleagues have provided an invaluable service to the Society. In his final column as president, Clark has found the right words of appreciation for all of them, but if you are at the GSA next month, please help us thank them again; particularly Clark, whose vision and dedication has presented us with exciting prospects. I encourage all of you to comment on his ideas and proposals at goethesociety.org/from-the-president-fall-2015.

We would also like to thank Martha Helfer as chair, Vance Byrd, and Karin Schutjer, who formed our nominating committee this year and who have assembled a fine slate. Learn more about

the candidates and how to cast your ballot below. Please take the time to vote, it will take no more than a minute! The deadline is September 30.

If this newsletter is longer than usual, it is not only because of the election business (which runs long), and not only because I'm feeling particularly verbose today (which I am), but also because I have some good news from members to report: a book publication by Dan Wilson, a new comprehensive Goethe web site by Karl Fink, and an upcoming keynote address by Heather Sullivan. In addition, including the list of the twenty participants in our upcoming GSA seminar, "Science, Nature, and Art: From the Age of Goethe to the Present," took up some space, but we are frankly thrilled to have such a great mix of senior and junior faculty as well as graduate students. Thanks to Fred Amrine, John Smith, and Astrida Orle Tantillo for organizing and convening that seminar. It is great to see how our Society has increasingly become the right place for such collaborative and inclusive efforts.

Burkhard Henke
Davidson College

FROM THE PRESIDENT

“Die Wanderjahre sind nun angetreten”

In my March column I reflected on some of the changes we have witnessed over the past five years that have accompanied our *Bildung* as a scholarly society. And with an election upon us in a few weeks, there will be further change coming that again will poise us to explore new initiatives while sustaining what has worked so well in the past. But after more than three decades of growth and maturation, the Society might also be ready to declare the end of its *Lehrjahre*, which have been set largely on the North American stage, and plan for a future that increasingly includes “global” activities, in Goethe’s conceptual sense of the ubiquitous lexeme “world” as a utopian space of ongoing passages. “Daß wir uns in ihr zerstreuen, / Darum ist die Welt so groß.”

Toward the end of May I attended the *Hauptversammlung* of the *Goethe-Gesellschaft* in Weimar, where together with Jane Brown, who over the years has guided us through so many successful passages, I met with President Golz and Vice President Bohnenkamp-Renken, as well members of the *Vorstand*, to discuss a range of new opportunities for cooperation between our societies. I am happy to report that these conversations were very promising. Among the topics we covered were (1) establishing a joint, or reciprocal, membership option between the GSNA and the *Goethe-Gesellschaft*; (2) identifying ways for the *Goethe Yearbook* and the *Jahrbuch der Goethe-Gesellschaft* to foster scholarly cooperation; (3) considering jointly

sponsored events for younger scholars; (4) promoting opportunities for the leadership of both organizations to participate regularly in the other’s meetings and events; (5) working together and with other institutions (like the *Klassik Stiftung Weimar* and the *Freies Deutsches Hochstift*) to create opportunities for research and study in both Germany and North America; (6) working to expand current and create new study opportunities in Weimar/Jena for American undergraduates; (7) jointly sponsoring international events with a focus on Goethe and his Age.

With so many ideas on the agenda (even tentatively), we will need to set priorities and achieve a few successes. Here, then, are some of my thoughts. I invite all interested members to post their comments and suggestions on our web site. We will begin prioritizing the focus of future discussions during our executive and business meetings at the GSA meeting this October.

Reciprocal Membership Option

Jane Brown and I discussed the advantages and possibilities for establishing a reciprocal member option for both societies with Jochen Golz and Anne Bohnenkamp-Renken. I also met with the administrative staff of the *Gesellschaft* (Petra Oberhauser and Cornelia Brendel), who together with the President and Vice-President brought the matter to the *Vorstand*. In our final meeting President Golz reported that the board had backed our initiative. We are currently working out the details and will have a final proposal off to the *Goethe-Gesellschaft* by the end of the year. The key issue will be the dues

structure (which differs for the two organizations), but I expect the cost to be about €80 and \$80 for regular members and about half that for student members and retirees. Reciprocal members would receive both yearbooks, and the dues could be paid online.

Yearbook/Jahrbuch Cooperation

Professors Bohnenkamp-Renken and Golz agreed that we should seek ways to “link” our publications. Here are three possibilities that the editors might discuss. Some could happen quickly, while others would take more planning and time:

1. Each publication could regularly publish the “Table of Contents” for the upcoming/current issue of the other.
2. The book review sections could try to coordinate some of their work: this might involve reviewing and publishing dual reviews of “important” books. Or it could involve the *Goethe-Jahrbuch* reviewing English language books that might otherwise escape the attention of German readers.
3. The editors could discuss devoting portions of issues to topics of mutual interest. These could develop from jointly sponsored panels, conferences, workshops, or symposia, or they could focus on global issues during the Age of Goethe.

Jointly Sponsored Events for Young Scholars

Each society hosts a major event at its conference to assist younger scholars in their professional development. A next logical step would be to host a joint event in non-conference years that assembles younger colleagues from Europe and North America to share and discuss the results of their research. These events could alternate between the continents. Such events would help to establish networks of younger scholars from both sides of the Atlantic, thereby establishing a solid foundation for future cooperation.

Study Abroad

The *Klassik Stiftung Weimar* has jointly sponsored courses in Weimar and Jena for students from abroad, who in addition to EU countries, have come largely from Asia and the Near East. That program is now in transition and its sponsors would welcome our thoughts about sending advanced American undergraduates and first- or second-year graduate students to an international summer program. I had an exploratory meeting with Dr. Thorsten Falk in Weimar to discuss this and related possibilities for bringing American students to Weimar and Jena. One option would be for the GSNA to sponsor a program that assembled the “best” students from a number of our institutions in order to help assure having the numbers and quality we need for success.

Possibilities for Cooperation with Other Organizations

Many of the possibilities for scholarly cooperation that were raised with the *Goethe-Gesellschaft* are also relevant for other institutions. Both Thorsten Falk (*Klassik Stiftung Weimar*) and Anne Bohnenkamp-Renken (*Freies Deutsches Hochstift*) were receptive to such conversations. A good place to start might be around the topic “Goethe/The Age of Goethe and Globality.” It could include “Romanticism” as a global phenomenon, since Romanticism is a pressing interest in Frankfurt, where the Museum of German Romanticism will soon begin construction of its new home next to the *Goethe-Haus*.

I have already distributed these thoughts about internationalizing our mission to our current officers and board members, and I am sure we will consider ways to move ahead at our upcoming meeting. Please let us know where you think we ought to move first.

Well aware of Goethe’s reminder that true thankfulness cannot be expressed in words, I will nonetheless conclude my last official note by acknowledging the many friends and colleagues who have so happily planned and guided our activities over the past three years and more. Adrian Daub, Elisabeth Krimmer, and Birgit Tautz, I’m both delighted and relieved to say, will continue their work with the *Goethe-Yearbook*, which encloses new riches each year within its familiar blue linen covers. And Burkhard Henke, thank goodness, is still prepared to lend us his knowledge of the virtual world, as well as his talent for design and effective communication, as our webmaster and editor of the newsletter.

Along with me, however, our dedicated secretary-treasurer Claire Baldwin, whose tireless work is noticed by most only when their dues remain unpaid, will become a regular member after many years of dedicated service, as will my friends Heather Sullivan and Horst Lange, who got to know me better than most in their work as directors-at-large. No GSNA office, and especially this one, is honorific. And while I continue to receive kind words about last year’s conference, like everything we undertake, it required a collective effort, which meant countless hours for Horst and Heather. And what can I say about my two colleagues and close friends, Jane Brown and Karin Schutjer? After years of service in many roles, including the Presidency, Jane will be handing over the editorship of the book series to Karin next year. Thank you, Jane, for your willingness always to say “yes” when asked to promote the Society’s work with your administrative talent, your intellect, and your wisdom. You’ll be missed at our meetings, I’m sure, but somehow I know that when approached again, you’ll still be willing to help. And thank you, Karin, for your remarkable and selfless dedication during your years as Executive Secretary. No office of our Society is more crucial and less visible, especially when things run as flawlessly as they have under your leadership. You inspire trust, and I can imagine no one better suited to work as our book series editor than you. I’ll end my valedictory remarks by turning to Daniel Purdy, who will be leading the Society as our President through 2018. Like Jane and Karin, Daniel has served us in some of the most responsible, challenging, and time-consuming positions we have. There will be no learning curve here, only intellect and energy. Daniel, I wish

you the best over the next three years. If they are anything like the past three years have been for me, they will bring you a full measure of professional joy. I offer heartfelt thanks to all the officers and members who gave me this wonderful opportunity. I look forward to seeing many of you in October and at our gatherings next year.

Clark Muenzer
University of Pittsburgh

GSNA ELECTIONS

All paid-up members are invited to vote for the Society's Vice President, who will automatically accede to the presidency in two years, two Directors-at-Large, and the Secretary-Treasurer, who is running unopposed.

Within the next 24 hours, you will receive an email message containing a direct link to the election page. Note that the message will be sent to the email account you used to register with the Goethe Society, so be sure to check that account, also your junk mail folder. If you did not receive the message, contact webmaster@goethesociety.org.

The voting deadline is September 30, 2015.

Standing for election are:

Vice President

- Catriona MacLeod
- Karin Wurst

Directors-at-Large

- Mary Helen Dupree
- Joseph O'Neil
- Heidi Schlipphacke
- John H. Smith

Secretary-Treasurer

- Christian Weber

For Vice President (vote for one):

Catriona MacLeod is Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn Term Professor of German at the University of Pennsylvania, where she is beginning a second term as Chair of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures. She received her Ph.D. in German from Harvard in 1992, and after spending a year as Randall McIver Junior Research Fellow at St. Hugh's College, Oxford, became Assistant Professor of German at Yale. Since 1999 she has been at the University of Pennsylvania, where she is a member of the graduate groups in Comparative Literature and History of Art, and is also affiliated with Cinema Studies and Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies. MacLeod is the author of *Embodying Ambiguity: Androgyny and Aesthetics from Winckelmann to Keller* (Detroit, MI: Wayne State U P, 1998) and *Fugitive Objects: Sculpture and Literature in the German Nineteenth Century* (Evanston, IL: Northwestern UP, 2014) – the latter was awarded the 2014 Jean-Pierre Barricelli Prize for best book in Romanticism Studies. She has co-edited two collected volumes in Word and

Image Studies, and with her Penn colleague Bethany Wiggin is co-editor of the forthcoming book *Un/Translatable: New Maps for Germanic Literatures* (Northwestern UP). Since 2011 MacLeod has been Senior Editor of the journal *Word & Image*. She is currently working on a new book project that combines her interests in aesthetics, art, intermediality, genre, and gender: provisionally titled *Romantic Scraps*, the book is an interdisciplinary study of the role of small, fragmentary, shadowy, and obsolete remainders (to use Francesco Orlando's term) in German literary and visual culture of the first half of the nineteenth century. Most recently, her writing on paper cuts in the Weimar salon of Johanna Schopenhauer has appeared in the *DVjs*.

"I owe a huge personal and professional debt to the Goethe Society and its members, with whom I have been connected since my first years on the tenure track. Over those years, I have had the opportunity to serve as Director-at-Large and as Book Review Editor of the *Goethe Yearbook*, and have been extremely happy to take part twice in the workshop for dissertation writers that is such a fruitful part of the Atkins Conferences. The integrity and inclusiveness of the Society are values that I would strive to uphold and further, while maintaining a focus on the daring diversity of intellectual interests and approaches that is, not least, a hallmark of Goethe's own career. Today, the humanities continue to be under scrutiny in North American higher education. And within the humanities, foreign language education has been subject to particular retrenchment. When we teach Goethe's *Divan*, his theories of

translation, and his concept of *Weltliteratur*, we have in our hands a powerful tool that can be deployed to show the importance of multilingualism in an age of homogenized Global English. Goethe's manifold explorations of the natural world have never seemed more relevant for the humanities (or indeed humanity) at large, or for opening up dialog with our colleagues in the sciences. I can put my own international, strongly interdisciplinary profile to good use for the Society. I would like to deepen our ties with our associated societies in Germany and elsewhere, as well as facilitate exchanges with groups in other disciplines such as history of art. As a Romanticist too, I am especially interested in collaborating productively with the Frankfurter Hochstift. Above all, I see it as vital, within the Goethe Society, to foster the intergenerational networks that will continue to sustain and invigorate our field as well as German Studies more broadly."

Karin A. Wurst is Professor of German Literature and Culture at Michigan State University. She received her *Staatsexamen* from the University of Tübingen and her Ph.D. from The Ohio State University. Her books have focused on representations of the family, women's drama, cultural consumption in 18th-century Germany, and narration: *Das Schlaraffenland verwilderter Ideen. Narrative Strategien in den Prosaerzählungen von J.M.R. Lenz* (Würzburg: Königshausen & Neumann, 2014); *Fabricating Pleasure: Fashion, Entertainment, and Consumption in Germany (1780-1830), German Literary Theory and Cultural Studies* (Wayne State University Press, 2005). Karin A. Wurst and Alan Leidner, *Unpopular*

Virtues: J. M. R. Lenz and the Critics. A Reception History (Columbia, S.C.: Camden House, 1999). She edited and introduced *Eleonore Thon's "Adelheit von Rastenberg,"* Texts and Translation Series. (New York: MLA, 1996). Edited and introduced *J.M.R. Lenz als Alternative? Positionsanalysen zum 200. Todestag* (Köln, Wien, Weimar: Böhlau, 1992). Other book publications include *Frau und Drama im achtzehnten Jahrhundert* (Köln, Wien: Böhlau, 1991). "*Familiale Liebe ist die wahre Gewalt.*" *Zur Repräsentation der Familie in Lessings dramatischem Werk*" (Amsterdam: Rodopi, 1988). Her articles focus on 17th- and 18th-century Germany and issues of gender, cultural and aesthetic representation. They have appeared in *German Quarterly*, *Daphnis*, *German Studies Review*, *Lessing Yearbook*, *Text + Kritik*, *Seminar*, *Women in German Yearbook*, *Goethe Yearbook*, and the *Lenz Jahrbuch*. She has been active in concerns of the profession and is deeply involved with the reform of Graduate Studies in German in particular, and the Humanities, in general. She has served as President of the Society for German Baroque and Renaissance Studies, and has experience as the two-term book review editor for the *German Quarterly*. Her teaching interests include literary and cultural theories, feminist theory, women's literature, and material culture. From 2006 to 2014 she served as Dean of the College of Arts and Letters at Michigan State University; she currently serves as Special Advisor to the Provost on Intercultural Learning and Student Engagement.

"Vibrant professional organizations continue to be an important nexus for professional development, innovative

research, and for nurturing the next generation of students, graduate students, and other professionals with a passion for literary and cultural studies. The Goethe Society of North America has a strong track record of vitality that I would be very excited to build on. Recent innovations by the previous leadership to place the *Goethe Yearbook* in Project Muse and JSTOR, the linkages to other professional societies and the introduction of a dedicated book series, and the stellar triennial conferences positioned the Goethe Society of North America well. My commitment as officer of the Goethe Society would be to continue best practices in fostering state-of-the-art scholarship and also provide a forum to serve the needs of the next generation of teacher-scholars so that they are able to make Goethe and his time come alive for our students. A historical frame of reference will continue to be important for a strong liberal arts education, where understanding the cultural past serves as another marker of providing depth to arguments, offering another way to look at an issue, breaking the tyranny of the commonsensical. Furthermore, one of the roles of a professional society is to assist the often beleaguered Graduate Programs in German who might be tempted to (or might be under pressure to) focus on the contemporary. Offering relevant fora for scholarly and pedagogical exchange and discussion under the auspices of the Goethe Society can counteract the potential isolation of faculty and graduate students without a community of scholars in 18th-Century Studies at their home campus through formal and informal mentoring opportunities. I would be particularly interested in discussing with the membership what kinds of interventions

to these marginalizing developments we could envision or which new activities the Goethe Society of North America should engage in to assure an energetic and lively future during this time of significant retrenchment in the Humanities and the shrinking of German Programs. In particular, I would be interested in connecting the fine, innovative and often quite interdisciplinary scholarship on Goethe and his time by our members and foster more explicit connections to cutting-edge pedagogies in literary and cultural studies to assure that our graduate students will be highly competitive candidates in a changing job market where student-centered learning is becoming increasingly more important. While honoring the scholarly tradition of the Goethe Society, I would continue to build networks not only among scholars around the world but on our own campuses to better align ourselves with campus concerns and demonstrate our relevance to intercultural learning and other strategic priorities of our colleges and universities. I would support expansion of Goethe scholarship into the Digital Humanities to expand research methods and visualization enhancements. Most importantly, I would see it as one of the most urgent task to engage the membership in productive conversations about the meaningful role of German in general and Goethe Studies in particular in the academy and how to inspire students to engage in our field as an important area of the liberal arts. I would be honored to help us think through these complex issues with a sense of proactive optimism.”

For Director-at-Large (vote for two):

Mary Helen Dupree is Associate Professor of German at Georgetown University. She holds a Ph.D. in German Literature from Columbia University. Her book *The Mask and the Quill: Actress-Writers in Germany from Enlightenment to Romanticism* was published in 2011 by Bucknell University Press as part of the GSNA-sponsored series, *New Studies in the Age of Goethe*. Her research focuses on intersections of literature and performance culture in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, with particular emphasis on gender; more recently, she has been working on questions of sound, the voice, and auditory history from 1750 to the present. Her work has appeared in the *Goethe Yearbook*, the *German Quarterly*, and the *Lessing Yearbook*, as well as several edited volumes. She is also the co-editor, together with Sean B. Franzel, of the forthcoming volume *Performing Knowledge, 1750-1850* (De Gruyter, 2015). In 2009, she organized a series of panels at ASECS on Goethe’s *Wahlverwandtschaften* on behalf of the Goethe Society, and has since organized and participated in numerous panels and conferences on Goethe and his contemporaries. Currently, she is Treasurer of the Lessing Society and Vice President of the American Goethe Society, a D.C.-based organization committed to promoting German culture in the area. Her current book project is focused on the theory and practice of literary declamation around 1800.

“I believe that the Goethe Society has a critical role to play in promoting diverse and rigorous scholarship and helping to make sense of the many challenges

facing our field of study today. I have been particularly pleased with the consistent way in which the Society has supported new and innovative scholarship and has reached out to up-and-coming scholars in the field, for example through the dissertation workshops at the Atkins conference. However, the future of Goethe scholarship depends on our ability not only to connect with the next generation of graduate scholars, but also to maintain a strong presence in undergraduate curricula and research. As Director-at-Large, I would look forward to working together with the other members of the Executive Committee to promote this goal, for example by sponsoring an undergraduate research panel at the Atkins conference. I would also be very excited to help the Society identify new areas of collaboration with other organizations, such as the MLA and the Lessing Society.”

Joseph O’Neil studied German, French, and Spanish as an undergraduate student, earned his M.A. in Comparative Literature from Indiana University (Bloomington) and his Ph.D. in Comparative Literature and Modern German Literature and Culture from Indiana. His studies in Germany include an undergraduate year in Mainz and a dissertation year in Berlin under the auspices of the DAAD. He has taught German language, literature, and culture at all levels, first as a lecturer at Southwestern University (Georgetown, TX) and now as an assistant professor at the University of Kentucky. He has published articles in *Angelaki: A Journal of the Theoretical Humanities*, the *Goethe Yearbook*, and *Seminar*. His manuscript *Figures of Natality: Reading*

the Political in the Age of Goethe is under contract with Bloomsbury Press.

“My purpose as a director-at-large of the GSNA would be to continue the good work done by the current and former officers of the Society. I appreciate and embrace the diversity of the GSNA, which I think is exemplary for our profession, whether in German or the humanities in general. My own work is broadly *Goethezeit*-oriented; it brings aspects of the work of Goethe, Lessing, Kleist, and Schiller into a different focus through twentieth-century literary, cultural, and political theory. I think that it is important to recruit younger members from the dwindling ranks of those focused on the *Goethezeit* while we continue to grow our revenues from sources other than dues through online accessibility. Very recently, I have tried to expand the presence of the GSNA for younger scholars by proposing a GSNA-sponsored panel at the Kentucky Foreign Languages Conference, which attracts graduate students and junior faculty especially in German. My experience of the GSNA even before I became a member has been that the Society provides the strongest and most supportive foundation for professional life. Fritz Breithaupt, Martha Helfer, and Horst Lange were crucial to my moving from an initial interest in the twentieth century to Goethe, and so I want my commitment to the Society to reflect what I see as its commitment to me in the connections I have made and the wealth of knowledge and insight our members provide about Goethe and his age for junior scholars. As one sometimes involved in the editing of *Colloquia Germanica* and a regular organizer of panels in our period at the KFLC, I have some insight into the

complexity of the fantastic editorial and organizational work of my colleagues who are responsible for the *Goethe Yearbook*, the Atkins conference, and the book series. I think this equips me at least to understand how much I don't yet understand about the positions for which the Board is responsible and would allow me to work constructively and productively with the *Yearbook* editors and the editor of the *New Studies in the Age of Goethe*, and to do my part in organizing the conference. I would look forward to the privilege of serving the Society in any way I can while becoming more involved in and knowledgeable about its workings."

Heidi Schlipphacke is Associate Professor of Germanic Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She has been a member of the Goethe Society since 2000. Her research focuses on kinship, gender and aesthetics in the German Enlightenment and in post-fascist Austrian and German literature and film. She has published essays on 18th-century literature and thought (Goethe, Lessing, Gellert) as well as on 20th-century literature, film and critical theory. Her monograph on nostalgia appeared in 2010 (Bucknell University Press). She is a member of the editorial board of the *Goethe Yearbook*, of the *Journal of Austrian Studies*, of *Pacific Coast Philology* and of the series "New Directions in German Studies," published by Bloomsbury Press. Her current work on polygamy and surface reading in eighteenth-century literature combines a reflection on approaches to reading literature with an attention to eighteenth-century debates about monogamy and polygamy.

"It would be an honor to serve as a director-at-large for the Goethe Society, an organization that has long held an important role in my intellectual and professional development. Were I to serve as a director-at-large for the Goethe Society, I would look forward to working with the President, the Vice President, and the other members of the board further to promote dialogue amongst scholars from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds in Goethe Studies. I am also particularly keen on encouraging graduate students and young scholars to approach the eighteenth century with new eyes. I would be very interested in helping expand funding opportunities for graduate students working on eighteenth-century topics to attend the tri-annual conference as well as the various Goethe Society sessions at conferences throughout the year. The Goethe Society is a uniquely welcoming and intellectually exciting community, and I would hope to help encourage young scholars across the disciplines to discover this fact for themselves."

John H. Smith is a professor of German in the Department of European Languages and Studies at the University of California, Irvine. From January 2012 until June 2013 he held the Diefenbaker Memorial Chair in German Literary Studies at the University of Waterloo, Ontario. His scholarship has focused for 30 years on German intellectual and literary history. He has published studies on Hegel (*The Spirit and Its Letter: Traces of Rhetoric in Hegel's Philosophy of Bildung*) and philosophies of agency (*Dialectics of the Will: Freedom, Power, and Understanding in Modern French and German Thought*).

His most recent book is *Dialogues between Faith and Reason: The Death and Return of God in Modern German Thought* (Cornell UP, 2012). He is currently working on the creative place of the infinitesimal calculus in the German philosophical and literary tradition.

“As Director-at-large I would look forward to working in tandem with my co-director, as I am an exceedingly collaborative academic. (Consider the seminar I am co-organizing with Fred Amrine and Astrida Tantillo at the GSA conference in D.C.) Together we might entertain the following kinds of enterprises:

- Extend the creativity and excitement of the tri-annual conference by encouraging pre- and post-conference workshops of smaller groups of scholars working on related fields of Goethe scholarship. Not only are such intense, discussion-based meetings themselves stimulating and productive, and not only might they generate coherent essay-volumes, but they can also prove invaluable for those early in their careers. One model for these workshops is the one that Elizabeth Millán (Philosophy, DePaul University) and I organized after the first GSNA conference and which led to the special section of the *Goethe Yearbook XVIII* on “Goethe and Idealism.” [N.B. I would *not* encourage the *growth* of the conference itself, since bigger is not necessarily better.]
- Continue to foster work on Goethe that intersects with other

disciplines, from philosophy to the sciences, from classics to the other literary traditions with which Goethe’s own work conversed.

Some possible directions for a future conference could be: Goethe(zeit) and Problems of Periodization (how to fit Goethe into different periods, *Goethezeit* as a period, recent periodization studies, etc.); Human(ism) and the Non-Human in the *Goethezeit* (on the one hand, the notion of *Humanität* looms large around 1800, but on the other, there are important reflections on nature, animals, organic and inorganic forces, etc.); Dialogues: Goethe and ... (placing Goethe in conversation with his contemporaries or other figures). These are just some ideas that come to mind. I would enjoy brainstorming with my co-director to find a capacious and relevant conference theme.”

For Secretary-Treasurer:

Christian Weber received an M.A. from the University of Bonn and a Ph.D. from Indiana University, with intermezzi also at Oxford University and Ohio State University. Since 2008 he has been Assistant Professor of German at Florida State University, where he was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure this year. His overarching research project concerns a critical and phenomenological investigation of the imagination. Goethe’s poetry offers a great resource for the study of processes of the productive imagination, as Weber argues in his book *Die Logik der Lyrik: Goethes Phänomenologie des Geistes in Gedichten* (Freiburg: Rombach, 2013). He is currently working on a second part

that deals with the poetologic of later Goethe poems. In articles, he explored the interplay of the senses and imagination in the formation of language, the world-transforming power of metaphors, and how the imagination turns ideological in the form of nationalism.

“One of the first things I did when moving to the U.S. and commencing my graduate studies at Indiana University was to join the GSNA. What a great decision this was. Over the years, the society has truly become my academic home. I have attended many GSNA organized panels at different venues and organized some of them myself. Those who met me at conferences know that I am very passionate about Goethe’s poetry and *Weltanschauung*, and I feel lucky to have gotten to know so many of you who are sharing this passion. Now that my *Lehrjahre* have ended after receiving tenure at Florida State University, I am more than happy to return the favors and services that I have enjoyed from many members of this great society. It feels a bit ironic, though, that I was nominated for the post of GSNA Secretary-Treasurer, which uncannily returns memories of my way past banking career that I have successfully repressed until now. But hopefully I will be able to make good use of those experiences in this position. I look very much forward to contributing my ideas to further increase the welfare of the GSNA, which includes an advertising campaign to attract also more international members.”

ESSAY PRIZE

The 2014 Essay Prize will be announced at the GSA Conference in Washington, DC. For the 2015 Prize, we now invite submissions.

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 2015 on Goethe, his times, and/or contemporary figures by March 31, 2016 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.

FROM THE YEARBOOK EDITORS

Vol. 23 of the *Goethe Yearbook* is currently being copy-edited and will be on its way to the printer soon. It features a special section on the visual arts with

contributions on the visual aesthetics of Goethe's 1815 *Proserpina* production by Gabrielle Bersier; on Goethe's *Farbenlehre* by Joel Lande; on the relationship between J.W. Goethe and C.G. Carus and their respective views on the representation of nature in art and science by Beate Allert; and on visual and verbal bricolage in Clemens Brentano's *Gockel, Hinkel und Gackeleia*. by Catriona MacLeod.

In addition, there are also original contributions on Goethe and ancient mystery religions by Fred Amrine; on Goethe's fairy-tale aesthetics by Jane Brown; on virginity and maternity in Goethe's *Werther* by Lauren Nossett; on motherless creations in Goethe's *Faust* by Wendy Nielsen; and on the concept of the mathematical infinite in Kant by John H. Smith.

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 now accepting contributions to Vol. 24. We hope to hear from many of you and particularly welcome contributions by younger scholars.

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

Adrian Daub
Stanford University

Elisabeth Krimmer
University of California at Davis

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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Bowdoin College
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FROM THE EDITOR OF THE BOOK SERIES

I announce with pleasure that Karin Schutjer will take over as editor of our monograph series effective January 1, 2016. Until then I continue to welcome proposals as always.

Jane Brown
University of Washington

FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Please note the upcoming deadlines for panel proposals.

November 15, 2015 for GSA 2016
December 1, 2015 MLA 2017
March 15, 2016 for ASECS 2017

With the annual meeting of the German Studies Association fast approaching, know that we will once again be hosting a cash bar in conjunction with our annual business meeting. If you're attending the GSA, please plan to join us at 6:30 pm on Saturday evening in the Arlington Ballroom Salon 2 Foyer. The business meeting will begin around 6:50 pm in Salon 2. We'll be saying a fond thank you to the officers who are ending their terms this year, will announce our election results, honor the recipient of the 2014 Essay Prize, and report on exciting new ventures and ideas for the future.

Karin Schutjer
University of Oklahoma

UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Special GSNA Sessions at the Annual Meeting of the German Studies Association
Washington, DC, October 1-4, 2015**

Goethe's Integration of Art and Science

Moderator: Clark Muenzer, University of Pittsburgh
Commentator: Frederick Amrine, University of Michigan

1. "Goethe's Epistemology of Love,"
Arthur Zajonc, Amherst College

2. "Organicist Aspects of Schenkerian Thought," Jeff Swinkin, University of Oklahoma

3. "Spiel der Phantasie: Trauer, Tanz und Therapie in Goethes Lila,"
Ferdinand Bubacz, New York University

Science, Nature, and Art: From the Age of Goethe to the Present Seminar

Conveners: Frederick Amrine, John Smith, and Astrida Orle Tantillo

Seminar Participants:

1. Yvonne Al-Taie, Kiel University
2. Jeffrey Champlin, Bard College at Alquds University
3. Daniel DiMassa, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
4. Sally Hatch Gray, Mississippi State University
5. Martha Helfer, Rutgers University
6. Jennifer Hoyer, University of Arkansas
7. Samuel Kessler, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
8. Rita Krueger, Temple University
9. Alice Kuzniar, University of Waterloo
10. Marcus Lampert, University of Chicago
11. Charlotte Lee, University of Cambridge
12. Seth Elliott Meyer, University of California, Berkeley
13. Elizabeth Millan, DePaul University
14. Howard Pollack-Milgate, DePaul University
15. Sebastian Rand, Georgia State University

16. Michael Saman, College of the Holy Cross
17. Elliott Schreiber, Vassar College
18. Alexis Smith, University of Oregon
19. Gabriel Trop, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
20. Johannes Wankhammer, Cornell University

**Special GSNA Sessions at the Annual Convention of the Modern Language Association
Austin, TX, Austin, 7–10 January 2016**

Goethe and Cognitive Science, Cognition and Goethe

Presiding: Charlotte Lee, University of Cambridge, Murray Edwards Coll.

1. “The Sunlike Eye: Historicizing Cognition in Goethe and Uexküll,” Joseph D. O’Neil, University of Kentucky
2. “Discovering the *Urpflanze*: Depictions of Empirical Observation in Goethe’s Botanical Writings,” Yevgenya Strakovsky, Stanford University
3. “Cognitive Problems in *Faust*,” Christian Peter Weber, Florida State University
4. “Otilie’s Learning Disability and the Uncanny Saintliness of Deficient Social Cognition in *Die Wahlverwandschaften*,” Donald R. Wehrs, Auburn University, Auburn

Cognitive Science in the *Goethezeit*

Presiding: John H. Smith, University of California, Irvine

1. “Goethe and Schiller as Pioneers of Embodied Cognition,” Frederick Amrine, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
2. “Phantasy and Cognition: Johannes Müller Reading Goethe,” Edgar Landgraf, Bowling Green State University
3. “‘Des bildenden Geists werdender Werkstatt’: Hölderlin and the Plasticity of Poetry,” Charlotte Lee, University of Cambridge, Murray Edwards College

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Narratologist

Cooperative panel arranged by the International Society for the Study of Narrative and the Goethe Society of North America

Presiding: Birgit Tautz, Bowdoin College

1. “Goethe, the Novel, and the ‘Secret Quest for Meaning,’” Karin Anneliese Wurst, Michigan State University
2. “Narrative Solipsism in *Die Leiden des jungen Werthers*,” Christopher Chiasson, Indiana University, Bloomington
3. “A School of Fiction or the Limits of Narrative: Goethe’s *Unterhaltungen deutscher Ausgewanderten*,” Sebastian Meixner, University of Tübingen

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Former president, **W. Daniel Wilson**, recently published *Goethes Erotica und die Weimarer „Zensoren.“*



Wehrhahn-Verlag,
2015, 256 Seiten, mit
Abb., Hardcover.
ISBN 978-3-86525-
451-1. Preis: 19,80 €

From the publisher's web site:

“Nach seinem Aufenthalt in Italien schrieb Goethe erotische Dichtungen, die auch seine Freunde schockierten. Schiller übte ›freundschaftliche‹ Zensur, und der Herzog Carl August von Weimar wies sogar sein Geheimes Consilium an, über ein Protestgedicht Goethes zur Kritik an seiner erotischen Dichtung zu verhandeln. Fortan hielten Freunde und Herausgeber den Dichter zum Selbstschutz an; er durfte nicht den Eindruck erwecken, er sei einer jener verruchten, sexuell und religiös freizügigen Libertins jener Zeit. Jetzt zensierte Goethe sich selbst und schrieb *Erotica* nur für den vertrauten Freundeskreis. Er hob sie aber zur posthumen Veröffentlichung auf, da er von künftigen Generationen mehr Liberalität erwartete.

Genau vor hundert Jahren, 1915, wurden die obszönsten Werke Goethes endlich vollständig gedruckt. Davor schlugen sich 120 Jahre lang all jene, die Zugriff auf die Manuskripte hatten (nach Schiller: Eckermann, Riemer, Kanzler

Müller, Goethes Enkel, Großherzogin Sophie und die an Sophies großer ›Weimarer Ausgabe‹ Beteiligten), mit dem „Problem“ dieser obszönen Texte herum. Und irgendjemand kratzte, schnitt und radierte die anstößigsten Stellen aus den Handschriften. Aber wer?

Dieses Buch ist ein philologischer Krimi, der nach den Tätern fahndet und den verschlungenen Wegen der obszönen Manuskripte durch Weimar folgt. Eckermann deponierte sie in der Bibliothek, Müller versteckte sie auf dem Dachboden, das Großherzogliche Hausarchiv verbarg sie in einer verschlossenen Kiste mit irreführender Aufschrift. W. Daniel Wilson erzählt erstmals auf breiter Quellengrundlage die Geschichte dieser wohlwollenden Zensur Goethes. Die besprochenen Texte werden mit abgedruckt.”

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville will be celebrating a Goethe Festival November 12-13, 2015 and **Heather Sullivan** has been invited to give the keynote lecture on “Goethe and the Anthropocene.”

Karl J. Fink has recently completed a [website](#) that highlights eleven video clips created with seventy images from Goethe archives at the Klassik Stiftung Weimar.



Using new digital technologies, Fink presents Goethe's discovery of morphology as visual narratives of form in motion. From hundreds of sketches and drawings in Goethe's collection of graphics, Fink selected images that demonstrate Goethe's study of form in bones, plants, rocks, colors, clouds, faces, tools, and buildings. These images are documented by artist, location, and owner, and are transformed into quick-time movies that follow Goethe's claim that "Nothing stands still" (Nichts ist stillstehend, LA I.6.vii). User interactive, the website illustrates Goethe's way of doing science by art and for the first time gives the viewer access to Goethe as a visual thinker who often sketched his ideas in images before he wrote them with words.

DUES

If you have not done so already, please send your 2015 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.

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senior member (tenured faculty)	\$35
patron (please consider becoming a patron)	\$100
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