



goethesociety.org

GOETHE NEWS AND NOTES

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Burkhard Henke, Editor
Davidson College

FROM THE EDITOR

This number of the *Goethe News & Notes* appears at a time when we again elect new officers to the executive board. As we look forward to Vice-President Catriona MacLeod acceding to the presidency at the beginning of the calendar year, it may not be premature to thank our outgoing officers for their selfless service ... *allen voran* Daniel Purdy, who served the Society so admirably as President these past three years. We could not be more grateful for his active leadership, vision, generosity, and judicious stewardship of our Society. We are also indebted to Heidi Schlipphacke and John Smith, both of whom have given generously of their time and expertise and have done an exemplary job as Directors-at-Large, as well as Christian Weber, who has brought great dedication and attention to detail to the position of Secretary-Treasurer.

We are fortunate that our nominating committee, consisting of John Lyon, Mary Helen Dupree, and Leif Weatherby, has assembled an excellent slate of candidates for this year's election. Please find their statements below, along with details on how to vote. The deadline to cast your ballot is September 25.

While the candidates' statements make up the bulk of this newsletter, I encourage you not to gloss over the news from the *Yearbook* and book series editors and to learn about our upcoming panels from the Executive Secretary, Elliot Schreiber. Those panels include a series of four connected panels that are part of a new collaborative initiative organized by Clark Muenzer and John Smith, the *Goethe-Lexicon of Philosophical Concepts*. Please see below for an invitation to contribute to this exciting project.

Burkhard Henke
Davidson College

FROM THE PRESIDENT

In 2018 the Goethe Society published the 25th volume of its *Yearbook*, demonstrating thereby the robust vitality of North American scholarship on the poet and his age. Copies of the first volume, printed in 1982, are hard to find nowadays, but thanks to [Project Muse](#), scholars can read their way through the

entire run. Such a perusal offers a diachronic sample that reveals how Germanistik on this side of the Atlantic has developed, as the seasons of scholarship are preserved in the *Yearbook*. The first essay in the first volume was written by David Wellbery; Jane Brown's essay on Act II of *Faust II* appeared in the second volume—both scholars continue their leading role in the Society. In a remarkable demonstration of continuity, Ehrhard Bahr has published research in both the first and the most recent volume. Some of us were adolescents just glancing up from our copies of *Werther* when the Society was founded. The most recent volumes show that in the twenty-first century we often contemplate the famous names from 1800 with different eyes than before, so that today's pressing issues lead readers into books and questions long forgotten. If physics had once dispelled *Naturphilosophie* as mere idealistic speculation, recent investigations make clear that the history of science is quite interlaced with poetic visions, not so different from Faust's. Twenty-first century demands to preserve and protect the environment also compel us to reconsider the eighteenth-century portrayal of "Nature," along with Goethe's organic depictions of weather, atmospheres, and clouds. This rotation of scholarly approaches to German literature will become obvious as members vote for new officers.

Assuming an office in the Goethe Society also enjoins one to absorb the full spectrum of members' scholarship. In our Society, stepping into an office automatically compels a person to take account of the legacy that precedes. When I was allowed to become the *Yearbook* editor, the task of charting the

many approaches into the eighteenth century obligated me to read through the back issues, thereby renewing my relationship to German culture by looking farther than my own strait track. This insight was guided, of course, by Tom Saine and Simon Richter, the founding and succeeding editors, who gently reminded me of my responsibility to all members of the Goethe Society. The advice to look beyond myself also included the task of fostering the next generation of scholars. Just as you feel that you have grasped the nuances of literary scholarship, the Society calls on you to consider your replacement—to make sure that beginning scholars also find their voice in the dialogue, so that they too can feel empowered and so that the study of German literature never becomes an ossified erudition. To that end, we have stepped up our financial support of younger scholars attending our tri-annual conference and we have expanded the prizes we offer for scholarly essays written in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century literature, philosophy, and science.

As I finish my term, I welcome Catriona MacLeod as the next President. I urge you all to vote for the next officers, all of whom have shown a sincere scholarly dedication to the Society. My fellow outgoing officers I wish to thank for their hard work, their friendly counsel and aid, their critical acumen, and their commitment to preserving scholarly excellence. John Smith and Heidi Schlipphacke have assiduously fulfilled many crucial functions in planning the conference and selecting the essay prizes. Christian Weber was the steady hand as Secretary-Treasurer, keeping our finances in order and offering sound expertise. Burkhard Henke has been our

indispensable webmaster, who keeps us all connected and communicating. As Executive Secretary, Birgit Tautz, followed by Elliott Schreiber, has planned the many panels and meetings we hold at other conferences—exhorting, cajoling, collecting proposals for submission elsewhere. In addition, to guiding the Book Series with Bucknell University Press, Karin Schütjer has provided the institutional memory every organization needs to preserve continuity and fairness. Our new *Yearbook* editors, Patricia Simpson and Birgit Tautz, are well on their way to compiling the next volume of the *Goethe Yearbook*, allowing us to look forward to volume 50. Sean Franzel keeps all us book reviewers honest with his overview. To Catriona MacLeod I am most grateful, not only for running the book prizes and the dissertation workshop, but even more so for her wise counsel over the last three years. I wish her great success.

Daniel Purdy
Pennsylvania State University

GSNA ELECTIONS

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

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 25 September 2018. The results will be announced at our business meeting at the GSA.

Below are the statements of the candidates standing for election.

Vice President (vote for one)

- Jocelyn Holland
- Heather Sullivan

Directors-at-Large (vote for two)

- Vance Byrd
- Joseph O'Neil
- Eleanor ter Horst
- Gabriel Trop

Secretary-Treasurer (vote for one)

- William Carter

For Vice President:

Jocelyn Holland is a Professor of Comparative Literature at the California Institute of Technology, currently on leave from the University of Santa Barbara, where she is an Associate Professor of Germanic Studies.

“Since the publication of my first book, *German Romanticism and Science: The Procreative Poetics of Goethe, Novalis, and Ritter* (2009), my research has been devoted to identifying areas of interest at the intersections of literary and philosophical thinking and scientific ideas, areas compatible with Goethe's own far-reaching oeuvre. I also firmly

believe that those who have been relegated to the sidelines in the histories of literature, science, and philosophy need to be allowed a chance to speak to a contemporary audience, and that we should not just celebrate the cultural champions (case in point: my edition of Johann Wilhelm Ritter, published by Brill in 2010). I bring to the Goethe Society the perspective of someone who has a deep familiarity with the intellectual epoch we call the “Goethe era,” without necessarily advocating a Goethe-centric perspective. I have had cause to confer with Goethe on many occasions during the past years, on matters ranging from procreation and improvisation, to intellectual intuitions and neutrality. At the same time, he has also kept a respectful distance during those projects where kindly requested to take a time-out (there scarcely a trace of him in my forthcoming book, *The Lever as Instrument of Reason*). One of the great strengths I see in the Goethe Society is that it is a welcoming forum for all manner of creative research that connects to the intellectual environment in which Goethe participated.”

“As GSNA members, we look forward to the conferences for numerous reasons. Above all, we can catch up with friends and exchange ideas within a community of people that has the necessary knowledge to provide us with critical feedback on our research, in a forum where it is universally accepted that the work that we are doing is valuable and interesting. At the same time, I worry about a sense of complacency that disregards one of the greatest challenges facing the Goethe Society: its complete cultural irrelevance. I am bothered by the fact that we can no longer take for granted that the ‘idea’ of Goethe and his

intellectual milieu is interesting or even meaningful to a more general audience. It is easy to speak to each other, but more difficult to speak to other people, especially when it comes to promoting our ideas in a technocratic society where the humanities always seem to be on the defensive. At the same time, we are living in an age where it is easier than ever before to share information, and we certainly have the tools at our disposal to help us advocate for our own relevance as well as for a historical consciousness, if we choose to do so.”

“I would rather see this as an opportunity rather than a problem, and if I were elected, I would like to think more about the challenge of reaching a broader audience with the other board members and the rest of the society through email exchanges and work groups at the conference. Here are just a few ideas that come to mind *aus dem Stegreif*: We might decide, as a relatively easy starting point, to construct new kinds of collaborations with other academic groups, such as the History of Science Society, or the College Art Association. Another approach would be to consider collaborations in pursuit of research funding geared towards projects and publications (especially on non-traditional platforms) that speak directly to a non-academic audience. And finally, a further idea would be to use the resource closest to us – college students – and let the more media-savvy generation educate us and help us to brainstorm ways in which we can use the social media platforms they themselves embrace (i.e., not Facebook). For quite a few of us, this might just mean continuing or expanding upon the work we are already doing. For me, at least, it is less a matter of fixing a problem than trying to find new and interesting ways to strengthen the

wonderful community we already have while actively reaching out to others.”

Heather I. Sullivan is Professor of German and Comparative Literature at Trinity University in Texas. She received her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of Washington in 1995 and has been teaching at Trinity ever since. Besides teaching German, she is the Director of the interdisciplinary minor in Comparative Literature and a member of the Environmental Studies faculty. Sullivan served as Co-Director of the Trinity Mellon Initiative for Undergraduate Research in the Arts and Humanities, for which she helped Trinity obtain an \$800,000 Mellon grant in 2018. She is co-editor with Caroline Schaumann of *German Ecocriticism in the Anthropocene* (2017); co-editor of *The Early History of Embodied Cognition from 1740-1920* (2016); author of *The Intercontextuality of Self and Nature in Ludwig Tieck's Early Works* (1997), and co-editor of special volumes on the environmental humanities in the *New German Critique* (2016); *Colloquia Germanica* (2014), and *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and the Environment* (2012). Her ecocritical studies of Goethe, the Romantics, and environmental literature are included in numerous North American and European anthologies and special volumes including *The Routledge Companion to the Environmental Humanities* (2017), *Ecological Thought in German Literature and Culture* (2017); *Readings in the Anthropocene: The Environmental Humanities* (2017); *Ecocriticism: Eine Einführung* (2015), *Material Ecocriticism* (2014); *Ecocritical Theory: New European Approaches* (2011); and *Materie des Geistes* (expected 2018). Her

essays have appeared in *Eighteenth Century Studies*; *Monatshefte*; *Ecozon@*; *Green Letters*, *Goethe Yearbook*; *Literatur für Leser*; *Bulletin of Science, Technology, and Society*; *1650-1850: Ideas, Aesthetics, and Inquiries*; *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture*; and the *European Romantic Review*. She has been invited to lecture on ecocriticism at a wide array of universities across the U.S., Canada, and Germany over the past few years. In 2016, Sullivan was the recipient of the annual Goethe Society of North America essay award and received Trinity University's highest award, the "Z.T. Scott Outstanding Teaching and Advising Fellowship." Her current book project, the "Dark Green: Plants, Spores, and Humans in the Anthropocene," discusses German and English texts from Goethe onwards, addressing human and vegetal "co-species" (rather than "nature/culture"). The book analyzes the "kinships" of human and nonhuman interactions producing narratives of "contaminated diversity" in the era of mass extinctions, climate change, wide-scale pollution, and rapid technological transformations. The project was featured as a keynote for the 2018 Canadian Association for Teachers in German, and versions of several chapters are forthcoming in the *Goethe Yearbook* and in *Green Letters*. She is also beginning a jointly authored ecofeminist book project with Caroline Schaumann on "Emergent Environments." As part of these collaborative efforts to bridge the humanities with environmental and scientific studies, and to link contemporary environmental studies to older 18th- and 19th-century works, Sullivan has served various organizations such as the European Association for the Study of Literature, Culture, and the Environment, for which she currently is

on the Advisory Board; and the (U.S.) Association for the Study of Literature, Culture, and the Environment as the Professional Liaison Coordinator (since 2015) and the Chair of the Translation Grants Committee (since 2013). She has also served as a Director at Large for the Goethe Society from 2012-2015.

“One of the most rewarding challenges of the service for national and international organizations I have experienced was working with the GSNA as a part of the organizing team for the 2014 Goethe conference. That project, like the overall trajectory of our society, represents to me the essential process of finding and enhancing connections in the broad and vibrant spectrum of Goethe scholarship and 18th- and 19th-century studies: in short, of highlighting existing bridges and/or creating more that unfold in new directions. The Goethe Society continues to succeed in the essential task of maintaining focus on these older periods—that are increasingly being overlooked in higher education—and demonstrating their relevance, as well as cultivating new links between them and more recent texts, media and theoretical directions. In this way, our society’s undertakings readily inspire such expansive interconnections, and, indeed, the experience of coordinating the panels led me to create my most successful German seminar, “Goethe and Beyond,” that highlighted both Goethe’s work and its connections to contemporary literature and contexts. In this context, I also note the atypical trajectory of my academic career that derives from my ongoing endeavors to create various kinds of bridges through, for example, collaborating with others (hence the large number of co-edited and co-authored projects), and working across disciplines

(hence the work in literature and science including my forthcoming essay in the *Goethe Yearbook* with my biology colleague on Goethe’s “Metamorphose der Pflanzen” as well as our linked courses on “World Literature and the Environment” and “Global Ecology”). I am also interested in bridging American and European groups, and have been working extensively with European ecocritics by serving on the board of EASLCE, co-authoring essays, organizing yearly ecocritical conference panels with European colleagues, and undertaking many reviews for European publishers and grant agencies. One of the GSNA’s greatest strengths that I would especially like to continue to enrich is its impressive record of bridging across generations (with the dissertation workshops and mentoring work), across disciplines, and across the Atlantic with the European Goethe societies. In joining the GSNA’s executive committee, I would seek to increase our society’s interactions with our fellow scholars both abroad and in related groups here in the U.S. through linked conferences and joint research publications, as I have been doing in my capacity as ASLE liaison and a member of two Trans-Atlantic research groups. I would also support collaborative pedagogical undertakings to encourage teaching the 18th- and 19th-century courses with a syllabi database and/or teaching workshops. Additionally, I would recommend panel discussions presenting the array of teaching and research opportunities for GSNA members including the large universities with graduate students and the smaller colleges like my own Trinity University; we might offer mentoring and conversations with advanced students and younger colleagues at conferences. Furthermore, I see our wide-ranging

work in the GSNA—both traditionally rich in literary insights and broad in interdisciplinary undertakings—as a counter-narrative to the educational trend of dismantling the humanities, and I look forward to working with all members of our Goethe Society to create bridges and cultivate collaborative projects enriching German and 18th-19th-century studies, expanding our interdisciplinary connections, encouraging more Trans-Atlantic exchanges, and, in particular, highlighting the significance of the humanities today.”

For Director-at-Large:

Vance Byrd is the Frank and Roberta Furbush Scholar in German, Associate Professor, and Chair of the Department of German at Grinnell College. He was elected Chair of the Humanities Division and appointed as Interim Director of the Center for the Humanities at Grinnell. He received his Ph.D. in Germanic Languages and Literatures from the University of Pennsylvania. His research investigates how eighteenth- and nineteenth-century literary and print history intersect with the history of visual media. His book *A Pedagogy of Observation: Nineteenth-Century Panoramas, German Literature, and Reading Culture* was published in 2017 in the GSNA series *New Studies in the Age of Goethe* at Bucknell University Press. He has published articles in the *German Studies Review*, *The Journal of Austrian Studies*, *Seminar: A Journal of Germanic Studies*, *The Germanic Review*, and *The Journal of Austrian Studies*. He is also the co-editor, together with Sean B. Franzel, of the forthcoming special issue of *Colloquia Germanica* titled *Periodical Literature in the*

Nineteenth Century. He has presented research at the Atkins Goethe Conference on eighteenth-century visual media in Friedrich Justin Bertuch’s *Modejournal* and most recently on family in A.W. Iffland’s forester dramas. He is currently at work on projects on scientific forest management and German literature from the late eighteenth century to National Socialism, as well as on panoramas and commemorative culture. He was recently elected to positions on the MLA Executive Committee and Delegate Assembly; serves on the selection committee for National Endowment for the Humanities Global Book Histories Initiative Fellowships at the Rare Book School; and has served on the Elections Nominating Committee of the GSNA.

I would be honored to serve as a Director-at-Large of the Goethe Society of North America. I am eager to give back to a community of scholars that has generously supported my intellectual growth and professional development with its conferences, book series, and mentorship networks. I have the experience needed for this position: I have served as a reader for the DAAD/GSA book prize, over the years I have had the pleasure of organizing panel sessions for professional meetings with members of the Society, and I will bring considerable administrative experience planning and running interdisciplinary conferences due to my current leadership role as a humanities center director. At a time in which the defunding and disregard of higher education threaten the ethical and intellectual core of society, the field of German Studies shifts toward more contemporary matters, and foreign language instruction is increasingly eliminated from our campuses, it is incumbent on the Society to continue

providing an intellectual haven for innovative interdisciplinary eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century research by scholars of all backgrounds and at all stages of their careers. If elected, it would be central to my role as a Director-at-Large to help cultivate the next generation of scholars in our field. I would look forward to planning our society's dissertation workshop, pushing for new sessions on professional development for junior and mid-career colleagues, welcoming a panel on pedagogy and curricular design, as well as arguing for the inclusion of advanced undergraduate researchers at our meetings. Finally, I would continue to cultivate our relationships with organizations and societies in the humanities. It truly would be a privilege to serve the Goethe Society in this capacity.

Joseph O'Neil is Associate Professor of German Studies at the University of Kentucky. He holds a Ph.D. from Indiana University, Bloomington, and focuses broadly on the *Goethezeit* as well as its connections to Modernism and twentieth-century political and social thought. He is the author of *Figures of Natalivity: Reading the Political in the Age of Goethe* (Bloomsbury, 2017). In addition to a contribution to the *German Quarterly* forum on Romanticism and a review essay on recent publications on war, he is the author of articles in *Angelaki*, the *Goethe Yearbook*, and *Seminar*. He has also published on other interests, including world literature and Brecht's learning plays. His current project, provisionally entitled *The Fate of Thersites: Poetics, Aesthetics, and Revolution in Germany circa 1800*, explores those themes in the work of

Goethe, Schiller, Forster, Kleist, and Hegel. He has also edited an issue of *Colloquia Germanica* on Heinrich von Kleist. For the GSNA, he has organized panels at annual meetings of the American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies, the GSA, and most recently the MLA. He has also introduced GSNA-sponsored panels at the event formerly known as the Kentucky Foreign Languages Conference (now KFLC: The Languages, Literatures, and Cultures Conference).

If elected, I would have two priorities, which I think are broadly shared among the GSNA membership: to encourage younger scholars to become active in our field and to join the Society; and to focus on interdisciplinary efforts and innovative meeting formats in order to maintain the Society's role in the field of eighteenth-century studies. As officers and other members have also argued, a capacious understanding of the nature and role of the Society should not preclude rigorous work focused on the intrinsic good of preserving knowledge and advancing scholarship on Goethe and his age.

It's probably not news to anybody that our common enterprise depends on striking a balance between growth and sustainability, encouraging new colleagues while facing the reality of shrinking programs and enrollments. As I think many colleagues of my generation can testify, the GSNA is a welcoming home for graduate students and junior scholars in a sometimes-hostile environment. My work in organizing panels at the KFLC that mix graduate student presenters and regular faculty, particularly in recent years through GSNA-sponsored panels, has brought

younger scholars into the Society's orbit in spite of our lack of bizarre initiation rituals. The special issue of *Colloquia Germanica* I edited showcased the work of scholars on the cusp of earning the Ph.D., and I anticipate becoming more involved in editorial activities that can effectively advance work in our field by younger scholars.

I would like to use the resources at my disposal in Lexington—the journal *Colloquia Germanica* and the KFLC (kflc.as.uky.edu), one of the oldest comprehensive foreign-language and culture conferences in the United States—to create opportunities for discussion and publication that would complement our existing offerings. Given Lexington's location within a six-hour drive of Chicago, Pittsburgh, Bloomington, and other locations where Society members are active, as well as easy flight connections from Chicago, Washington, and Atlanta, I would like to be able to host the Atkins conference on my campus or organize an event parallel to the KFLC that would connect the Society to other networks and organizations. Following up on John Smith's suggestions in his statement of three years ago, a workshop or colloquium format would be ideal to revitalize discussion in place of the frontal paper-reading model, and I would at least like to have the next GSNA-sponsored KFLC event take place in a more open format. I think that this kind of activity and institutional presence in the broadest sense will be essential to professional survival in the context of attacks on public education and higher learning. It's important that we see our work in that context as well and anticipate rather than react to changes in the landscape of higher education.

The GSNA has been my professional home since I was an MA student in Bloomington almost twenty years ago. As a director, I would strive with my co-director and alongside friends and colleagues old and new to continue our good work and maintain the Society's successful combination of intellectual appeal, institutional solidity, and evolution to articulate the needs of a changing field and to meet the challenges of the coming years.

Eleanor ter Horst received her B.A. from Yale University, and her M.A. and Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of Michigan. She is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literature at the University of South Alabama. Her research interests include the reception of the classics in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century literature, and the intersection of gender, sexuality and religion in the *Goethezeit*. She is the author of a book, *Lessing, Goethe, Kleist and the Transformation of Gender: From Hermaphrodite to Amazon*. Her article, "Masks and Metamorphoses: The Transformation of Classical Tradition in Goethe's *Römische Elegien*" was the winner of the GSNA Essay Prize in 2012.

"I would be honored to serve as Director-at-Large for the GSNA, an organization that I have long admired for its support of younger as well as more established scholars, and for its promotion of intellectual dialogue. I would look forward to participating in the planning of the GSNA conference and in strengthening ties with other scholarly organizations. Since my undergraduate and graduate degrees are in comparative

literature, I feel that I am well positioned to make the interdisciplinary character and global reach of the *Goethezeit* more apparent to scholars in a variety of disciplines. I would facilitate the GSNA's sponsorship of a seminar/panel at the ACLA (American Comparative Literature Association), and I would collaborate with other board members to build upon the outreach to related organizations such as the *Goethe-Gesellschaft* and the English Goethe Society. As a department chair, I have become aware of the need to encourage more focus on pre-twentieth-century topics in undergraduate and graduate German (and other language) programs, and I believe that the GSNA has an important role to play in making scholarship in the field more visible. The dissertation workshops at the Atkins Goethe Conference are an excellent start. The Society could also consider sponsoring panels or speakers at graduate student conferences and/or awarding one or more dissertation or graduate-student essay prizes."

Gabriel Trop is Associate Professor of German at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. He earned his Ph.D. in German and Medieval Studies from the University of California at Berkeley. His research tends to focus on the relationship between literature, philosophy, and science, with a special emphasis on poetics and aesthetics. These interests were reflected in his book *Poetry as a Way of Life: Aesthetics and Askesis in the German Eighteenth Century*, which was published in 2015 by Northwestern University Press. Most recently, he co-edited the volume *Posthumanism in the Age of Humanism: Mind, Matter, and the Life Sciences after*

Kant with Edgar Landgraf and Leif Weatherby, appearing in 2018 as part of the "New Directions in German Studies" series published by Bloomsbury Press. He has written articles about Goethe, Hölderlin, Novalis, Schelling, Hegel, E. T. A. Hoffmann, Wieland, Else Lasker-Schüler, and others. He has also served on the advisory board of the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism (NASSR).

"It would be an honor to serve as one of the directors-at-large for the GSNA and to work with the other director-at-large and the rest of the executive board. Below I will list some of my primary goals and ideas as I envision this position, some of which are exploratory:

- Continuing to promote a diverse, inclusive environment that welcomes all backgrounds, disciplinary interests, interdisciplinary tendencies and scholarly investments in this period of study.
- Continuing to guarantee that the tri-annual conference reflects the inherent heterogeneity of individual perspectives since this heterogeneity constitutes one of the Goethe Society's greatest strengths.
- Exploring the possibility of less frontal and more collaborative presentation formats that would reach out to scholars of different levels (graduate students, independent scholars, faculty members at every stage) and could take place either during the conference itself or, as John Smith recommended previously in his statement for this position, before or after the conference. Such formats would ideally have a de-hierarchizing effect as well as encourage active participation and an

exchange of ideas among conference members.

- Using the collective resources of Goethe Society members to establish graduate student and faculty networks that would support current and novel directions in scholarship and provide support to scholars at all stages of their careers. Such networks could also serve as an impetus to organize events at other annual conferences (GSA, ASECS, ACLA, etc.).
- Continuing to explore sources of funding to help graduate students attend the conference and continuing the tradition of active support for the dissertation workshop.

My experiences as a member of the Goethe Society of North America have been nothing short of transformative. As a director-at-large, I would work towards the goal of casting the net of this organization as far and as wide as possible so as to ensure the continued vitality of scholarship engaging with the rich fields of study represented by our members' interests."

For Secretary-Treasurer:

William H. Carter is Associate Professor of German Studies in the Department of World Languages and Cultures at Iowa State University. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His research interests begin in the *Goethezeit* and include: the *Faust* tradition; intersections of literature, philosophy, and economic thought from the eighteenth century to the present; Austrian studies; film; and, most recently, finance and society. He has published articles in the *Goethe Yearbook*, *Herder Jahrbuch/Yearbook*,

Colloquia Germanica, *Monatshefte*, and *German Studies Review*. He has co-edited special issues for *Finance and Society* and the *Journal of Financial Counseling and Planning*, both on the topic "Ethics of Debt," and founded the research exchange portal "Critical Engagements with Economic Thought" (economicthought.ceah.iastate.edu). He is the president of the Iowa Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German, and his teaching experience ranges from core German classes to an online Holocaust course.

"I joined the Goethe Society in 2005 and have perfect attendance at the Atkins Goethe conference. Throughout my early career, Goethe Society members have welcomed me and provided me with extraordinary intellectual stimulation, steadfast encouragement, and genuine friendship. I am truly honored to be considered for Secretary-Treasurer. While I do not have the banking experience of Christian Weber, I am very interested in banking, finance, and accounting. I also know I can draw upon the guidance of members who have held this important position. I look forward to serving the Goethe Society and contributing more to an organization that has helped me in countless ways."

FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

I am delighted to announce two GSNA-sponsored sessions at the 2018 German Studies Association Conference in Pittsburgh and the 2019 Modern

Language Association Convention in Chicago. Clark Muenzer has organized a series of four panels for the GSA entitled “Heterodox Thinking: Goethe and the Invention of Philosophical Concepts.” This panel series launches the lexicon of Goethe’s philosophical concepts that Clark first announced at the 2017 Atkins Goethe Conference, and promises to be a milestone event. See below for an invitation to contribute. For the MLA in January, Joseph O’Neil is convening a fascinating and timely panel on “Goethe’s International Relations: Imagining the *Ausland*, 1770-1832.”

I am very grateful to both Clark and Joe for putting together these amazing panels. If you would like to organize a GSNA-sponsored session at the 2019 GSA or the 2020 MLA, please contact me as soon as possible. Even if at this point you just have an idea that you would like to run by me, I would love to hear from you!

Elliott Schreiber
Vassar College

Heterodox Thinking: Goethe and the Invention of Philosophical Concepts

German Studies Association Conference
Pittsburgh, 27-30 September 2018

Signature Concepts

Friday 10:30-12:15 (Grand Ballroom 3)
Moderator: Michael Lipkin (Columbia University)
Commentator: Michael Saman (New York University)

1. Sebastian Meixner (Universität Zürich)
Urphänomen
2. Andree Hahmann (University of Pennsylvania)
Dialektik
3. Margaret Strair (University of Pennsylvania)
Gefühl, Empfindung, Einbildung

Concepts and Theories of Language

Saturday 10:30-12:15 (Grand Ballroom 2)

Moderator: Margaretmary Daley (Case Western Reserve University)

Commentator: John McCarthy (Vanderbilt University)

1. Dennis Johannssen (Brown University)
Schrift/Writing
2. Clark Muenzer (University of Pittsburgh)
Begriff
3. John H. Smith (University of California, Irvine)
Geist and Buchstabe

Concepts and Prosody

Saturday 4:15-6:00 (Grand Ballroom 2)

Moderator: Jan Oliver Jost-Fritz (East Tennessee State University)

Commentator: Horst Lange (University of Central Arkansas)

1. Simon Friedland (University of Chicago)
Blank Verse
2. Karin Schütjer (University of Oklahoma)
Distich
3. Charlotte Lee (University of Cambridge)
Iambics

Surprising Concepts

Sunday 12:30-2:15 (Grand Ballroom 2)
Moderator: Robert Norton (University of Notre Dame)
Commentator: Alice Kuzniar (University of Waterloo)

1. Christian Weber (Florida State University)
Wunderlich, Unheimlich, Ungeheuerlich
2. Jennifer Caisley (University of Cambridge)
Gipfel
3. Jane Brown (University of Washington)
Irrlichtilieren

Goethe's International Relations: Imagining the *Ausland*, 1770-1832

MLA Convention
Chicago, 3-6 January 2019

Organizer: Joseph D. O'Neil (University of Kentucky)
Presider: John H. Smith (University of California, Irvine)

1. Chunjie Zhang (University of California, Davis)
"Voltaire's *The Orphan of China* (1753) and Schiller's *Turandot* (1801)"
2. Julie Koehler (Wayne State University)
"Frau Holle Defeats King Arthur: A Conflict of Cultural Values in Naubert's 'Der kurze Mantel'"
3. Joseph D. O'Neil (University of Kentucky)
"Goethe with Sade? Principles of Republican Narratology"

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A NEW COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECT

The *Goethe-Lexicon of Philosophical Concepts* is a collaborative research initiative investigating the central role played by concepts and their re-invention in Goethe's development as a philosopher. Guided by the writer's estimation of his own approach to philosophical problems as "heterodox," the project's international team of cross-disciplinary collaborators will identify, collect, and explicate a wide range of philosophical concepts that, when taken together, allowed Goethe to reformulate central questions of traditional metaphysics within the practices of literature, science, aesthetics, and cultural history. Drawing on digital technologies, the lexicon will position users to connect Goethe to an exemplary line of predecessors and successors in philosophical conceptualization. It will also facilitate "reading" and systematically organizing the vast Goethe-database, thereby putting the each of the writer's discrete disciplinary practices into a virtual dialog with all the others on the basis of shared philosophical investments.

By publishing the lexicon in English and online as an open-access research tool with a cross-disciplinary focus, we will be fulfilling several important goals. Firstly, the lexicon will make Goethe available beyond the German-speaking world to a global readership. Secondly, it will serve as a resource for scholars outside the disciplinary confines of German Studies to connect their work to a thinker who—despite Emerson's

portrait of Goethe in *Characteristic Men* (1850) as the exemplary “philosopher” of “modern life” and its “rolling miscellany of facts”—remained largely unacknowledged for his philosophical achievements until recently. Thirdly, the lexicon’s digital platform will allow users to re-organize the sequence of entries with the stroke of a key and so empower them, as never before, to experience the basic building blocks of Goethean thought across a dynamic network of contextual fields. The term *Geist* (spirit), for example, would be searchable within individual literary works or genres, and these, in turn, could be linked to Goethe’s scientific or aesthetic works, as well as to works in metaphysics from ancient Greek philosophy through 20th and 21st century revisionists like Whitehead and Deleuze. Lastly, the lexicon’s online format will enable a production and distribution process that is flexible and interactive. Each (subsequent) year of work will produce about 25 new entries that will be immediately available and integrated into the work of previous years. And users will be equipped to respond to the entries with suggestions for emendation in an interactive process of revision.

The first major event for the project will be the four panels at this year’s GSA Annual meeting in Pittsburgh (see the Executive Secretary’s column above), as well as a “working” dinner following the GSNA business meeting. More details about activities this year will be sent to our members through our list-serve as they become available. Early in May, 2019, the Lexicon Project will be hosting its first annual three-day workshop at the University of Pittsburgh, and we invite all who might want to participate in the project as authors to contact either Clark Muenzer or John H. Smith, so they we are

sure to send them details about this event, as well as a second workshop in England in May 2020. Both the GSNA and the English Goethe Society are serving as sponsors of the project, which will be generously funded over the next two years by a sizable seed-funding grant from the University of Pittsburgh, which is its institutional home. Again, we urge interested members to contact us as soon as possible. Many editorial decisions of substance will be made this year. We imagine this as a truly collaborative project and would welcome your input.

Clark Muenzer (muenzer@pitt.edu)
John H. Smith (jhsmith@uci.edu)

FROM THE YEARBOOK EDITORS

Volume 26 of the *Goethe Yearbook* features a special section on Goethe’s narrative events, edited by Fritz Breithaupt, with contributions from Christopher Chiasson, “Much Ado about Nothing? The Absence of Events in *Die Wahlverwandtschaften*”; Christian P. Weber, “Narrating (Against) the Uncanny in Goethe’s ‘Ballade’”; and Lisa Anderson, “Countering Catastrophe: Goethe’s *Novelle* in the Aftershock of Heinrich von Kleist.” This issue also showcases work presented at the 2017 Atkins Goethe Conference (Re-Orientations around Goethe), hosted at Penn State, including presentations by Eva Geulen on morphology and W. Daniel Wilson on the Goethe Society of Weimar in the Third Reich. The volume has a range of articles by emerging and established scholars on Klopstock, Schiller, Goethe and objects,

dark green ecology, and texts of the *Goethezeit* and beyond through the lens of world literature.

As always, we welcome manuscripts on any and all aspects of Goethe, his contemporaries, and the 18th century broadly conceived, including the century's legacy. We also are interested in broadening the discussion, in organizing special sections, and experimenting with new forms and genres of scholarly writing. Please contact us with any and all suggestions at editors@goethesociety.org!

Note that the *Goethe Yearbook* is a double-blind, peer-reviewed publication, widely indexed, and published with DOIs. All manuscripts should be prepared in MS Word, and in accordance with the *Yearbook's* style sheet – published on our web site – and anonymized for review. Manuscript submissions should be no longer than 8,500 words.

Patricia Anne Simpson
University of Nebraska

Birgit Tautz
Bowdoin College

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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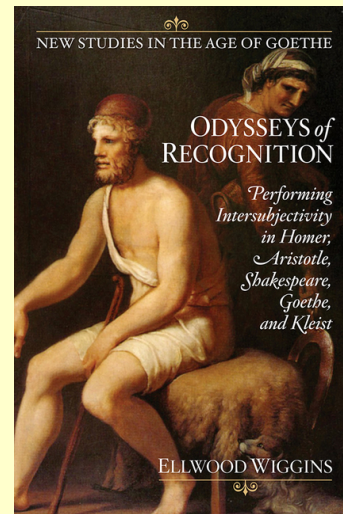
FROM THE EDITOR OF THE BOOK SERIES

Our big news is that we're awaiting the arrival of two superb new volumes, both slated to come out in February 2019.

Odysseys of Recognition: Performing Intersubjectivity in Homer, Aristotle, Shakespeare, Goethe, and Kleist

By Ellwood Wiggins (University of Washington, Seattle)

<https://www.rutgersuniversitypress.org/odysseys-of-recognition/9781684480371>



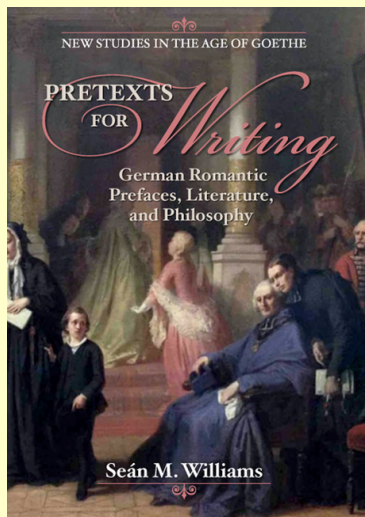
Literary recognition is a technical term for a climactic plot device. *Odysseys of Recognition* claims that interpersonal recognition is constituted by performance, and brings performance

theory into dialogue with poetics, politics, and philosophy. By observing Odysseus figures from Homer to Kleist, Ellwood Wiggins offers an alternative to conventional intellectual histories that situate the invention of the interior self in modernity. Through strategic readings of Aristotle, this elegantly written, innovative study recovers an understanding of interpersonal recognition that has become strange and counterintuitive. Penelope in Homer's *Odyssey* offers a model for agency in ethical knowledge that has a lot to teach us today. Early modern and eighteenth-century characters, meanwhile, discover themselves not deep within an impenetrable self, but in the interpersonal space between people in the world. Recognition, Wiggins contends, is the moment in which epistemology and ethics coincide: in which what we know becomes manifest in what we do.

Pretexts for Writing: German Romantic Prefaces, Literature, and Philosophy

By Seán M. Williams (University of Sheffield, UK)

<https://www.rutgersuniversitypress.org/pretexts-for-writing/9781684480524>



Around 1800, print culture became a particularly rich source for metaphors about thinking as well as writing, nowhere more so than in the German tradition of *Dichter und Denker*. Goethe, Jean Paul, and Hegel (among many others) used the *preface* in order to reflect on the problems of writing itself, and its interpretation. If Sterne teaches us that a material book enables mind games as much as it gives expression to them, the Germans made these games more theoretical still. Weaving in authors from Antiquity to Agamben, Williams shows how European—and, above all, German—Romanticism was a watershed in the history of the preface. The playful, paradoxical strategies that Romantic writers invented are later played out in continental philosophy, and in post-Structuralist literature. The preface is a prompt for playful thinking with texts, as much as it is conventionally the prosaic product of such an exercise.

As always, we're eager to hear about your proposals, whether a single-authored monograph or a collection of essays. With Bucknell's new publishing partnership with Rutgers, the series is now more attractive than ever. Cover prices have come way down: both of our forthcoming volumes are priced at \$34.95 for the paperback edition. So if you're at the GSA please come by the cash bar to chat. We hope to have books and flyers on display.

Karin Schutjer
University of Oklahoma

NEW BOOKS BY MEMBERS



Wilson, W. Daniel. *Der Faustische Pakt. Goethe und die Goethe-Gesellschaft im Dritten Reich*. München: dtv, 2018.

www.dtv.de/buch/w-daniel-wilson-der-faustische-pakt-28166/

Goethes Leben ist so reich dokumentiert, sein Leben so vielschichtig, dass er leicht von allen möglichen Meinungsmachern vereinnahmt werden konnte. Für die Goethe-Gesellschaft etwa, 1885 in Weimar gegründet, war er schon vor der „Machtergreifung“ 1933 weniger der aufgeklärte Humanist als vielmehr der konservative Nationalist, danach transportierte sie das Bild eines betont „braunen“ Goethe noch vehementer. Schließlich wurde der Olympier breitspurig für Regimezwecke eingespannt. Die Privilegien einer vorgesehenen „Weltmission“, gepaart mit zunehmenden Verstrickungen, ergeben eine spannende dramatische Kurve.

FROM THE WEBMASTER

As some members may have noticed, our web site was recently hacked. That resulted in traffic being conditionally redirected to another site (the condition being met by search engines, such as Google's, that were making the referral to goethesociety.org). Rest assured, the server was not compromised. No personal data were stolen. The attack was limited in scope but aggravating and damaging nonetheless.

It will be a work in progress, but we have taken steps to improve security. Those steps include acquiring an SSL certificate so that data are transmitted via secure hypertext transfer protocol. Our new URL is <https://goethesociety.org>.

Note that the site can now be accessed regardless of prefix. It doesn't matter whether you enter the address with or without www, with https or http. You will always be directed to our web site. (Note also that the protocol *per se* was not the vulnerability that was exploited this summer). As we continue to make our site more secure, I welcome suggestions on how to improve the web site to better serve you and the GSNA.

Burkhard Henke
Davidson College

FROM THE SECRETARY- TREASURER

In an ongoing effort to increase the strength of the society, the GSNA is

looking for new members. If you know of any scholars or other interested parties who are interested in the Age of Goethe, but are not yet members, would you please encourage them to join the society? We are particularly interested in recruiting younger scholars – current and recent graduate students – to ensure the society’s future for decades to come. Joining is simple, just visit the Membership page on our web site. Thanks for your support in this endeavor.

Christian Weber
Florida State University

DUES

If you have not done so already, please send your 2018 dues to the Secretary-Treasurer, Christian Weber, or use PayPal on our web site (a modest fee will apply). Remember that the next *Goethe Yearbook* will be sent only to members who paid their dues for 2018. If you are uncertain about your current dues status, please contact me at cweber@fsu.edu.

junior member (non-tenured faculty)	\$25
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institution	\$40

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