



goethesociety.org

GOETHE NEWS AND NOTES

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Burkhard Henke, Editor
Davidson College

FROM THE EDITOR

Fresh back from the GSA conference in Houston, some of us are already looking ahead to the MLA and ASECS conventions, where the Goethe Society will sponsor more panels. You can find panel information for all three of these conferences below. Other items of note in this number of the newsletter include the president's column, citations for this year's essay awards, the inaugural column of the new editors of the *Goethe Yearbook*, Sarah Eldridge and Eleanor Ter Horst (who, like all of us, express their gratitude to their predecessors, Patricia Anne Simpson and Birgit Tautz) as well as an update from the editor of the book series.

There is so much good work being done! We hope you will continue to support the Goethe Society in the future. You can do so in any number of ways: by organizing panels, by submitting an essay to the *Goethe Yearbook*, by submitting your manuscript to the book series, by becoming a patron of the society, perhaps even a lifetime patron. We appreciate all support.

Burkhard Henke
Davidson College

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Just returning from the GSA in Houston, I am still reveling in the afterglow of vibrant discussions and exchanges with the Goethe Society members, panels, and events as well as with many groups across the conference more broadly. From what I could see during my somewhat shorter time in Houston due to attending another conference earlier, this was a successful and invigorating meeting with a lot of new directions and energy. As a resident of Texas, I believe I speak for many when I say it is really encouraging to see our colleagues' support for those of us living and working in Southern states during these times of divisive politics. In this light, I am delighted to share with you the plan for our next Atkins Conference of the GSNA that will be held in November 2024 in my own city of San Antonio, Texas. The topic will be "Goethe's Welt/Welten (world/worlds)"; look for the full call for proposals in the next newsletter in spring and in an email coming soon. I hope to see you all here!

As part of my column, I would like to take this opportunity to thank again our amazing outgoing editors of the *Goethe Yearbook*, Birgit Tautz and Patty Simpson. Their collaboration and editing

savvy brought us many exceptional volumes. Look for their final volume for 2022 coming out soon. I know our new editors, Sarah Eldridge and Eleanor ter Horst, are already working on gathering essays for next year's volume, one which looks like it, too, will be fascinating.

Additional news that I bring is from Weimar, where I travelled in May this year with members of the Goethe Lexicon of Philosophical Concepts (GLPC) to participate in the "Goethe in/and America Tagung" held at the Goethe- und Schiller-Archiv, Klassik Stiftung Weimar. Our colleagues from Weimar presented a wide array of papers on the reception of Goethe in the past two hundred years in North America while our esteemed GLPC colleagues presented some of their most recent concepts as well as an introduction to the project; that is, current and active responses to Goethe taking place right now in North America. The members of the GSNA, in other words, continue to make an impact with such important work as the GLPC; after their impressive presentations, I foresee significant collaborations with our German colloques. It was an honor to join the GLPC in Weimar and to see future plans emerge, inspired by their work.

Finally, I also have news from Granada, Spain, where I met with European ecocritics at the triannual conference of the European Association for the Study of Literature, Culture, and Environment (EASLCE) just before the GSA. It was another important conference addressing the non-human, transcreations, and climate change (etc.) in literature and culture at a time when we see massive droughts, fires, hurricane flooding, and devastation across the world. All around beautiful Granada were signs of the

terrible drought in Europe with brown landscapes, sickly plants, smoke from nearby fires, and concern about energy. One thing that was missing from the conference for the most part (other than a few of us), however, were scholars working on texts and culture of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries or earlier. We need more analysis from colleagues studying concepts of world/nature/science/industry/energy (*Umwelt*) and the human-non-human relationships during the beginning of the massive industrial expansion that has led us to our current situation of climate change. Many ecocritics logically focus on contemporary texts at the time when we are aware of the impact of extractive activities on the world, but broader perspectives are relevant to offer insights into the long process of getting to where we are now. Of course, I hardly need to emphasize the need for more work in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries to the members of the GSNA. I hope therefore to see more of you considering such ecological and environmental questions and joining us at future EASLCE conferences (in Perpignan in 2025!), and to see more of you participating on related panels at future GSA meetings and our own next conference on Goethe's Worlds. Consider joining me also at the upcoming summer 2023 American conference in Portland, "Re-Claiming the Commons", put on by ASLE (the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment), another excellent gathering of scholars that tends to be dominated by a focus on the most recent texts. Let's continue to challenge the presentism of such work. (Send me an email with your ideas or questions!)

Heather I. Sullivan
Trinity University

FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

There were six panels sponsored by the GSNA at the German Studies Association Conference in Houston, TX, September 15-18, 2022:

“Techniques and Innovations in the Novel around 1800”

Margaretmary Daley, Organizer and Moderator. Christopher Chiasson, Commentator.

- a) Clemens Kafka, “Novel Experiments in the Eighteenth-Century Enlightened and Multilingual Prague”
- b) Sigmund Jakob-Michael Stephan, “The Birth of Early Romanticism from Incurable Schwärmerei”
- c) Francien Markx, “Feline Fantasies and Compositional Craft: Configurations of Genre and Media in E.T.A. Hoffmann’s *Kater Murr*”
- d) Nathan Drapela, “The Novelty of Well-Trodden Paths: Adalbert Stifter’s *Die Mappe meines Urgroßvaters*”

“Concepts of Language in the Long 18th Century”

Jan Jost-Fritz, Organizer

1. Aesthetics, Gender and Origins

Dennis Schäfer, Moderator. Tove Holmes, Commentator.

- a) Jan Oliver Jost-Fritz, “Affecting Words. Charging Language with Energy in the Long 18th Century”
- b) Oliver Roughton, “The Anthropological and Aesthetic Importance of Non-Cognitive Language in Johann Gottfried

Herder’s “Fragmente über die neuere deutsche Literatur”

- c) Sophie Salvo, “Gendered Origins: Inventing the Invention of Language in the Late Eighteenth Century”

2. Identity and Feelings between Universalism and Relativism

Claire Baldwin, Moderator. Elliot Schreiber, Commentator.

- a) Chloe Vaughn, “Der Genius der Sprache”: The Linguistic Constitution of Herder’s Volksbegriff”
- b) Nina Rastinger, “Alternating between Antiqua and Fraktur in Early Modern Newspapers. What the Study of a Typographical Practice can tell us about Concepts of Language in the Long Eighteenth Century”
- c) Dirk Weissmann, “Between Universalism and Relativism. On Goethe’s Conception of Language”
- d) Margaret Strair, “Facility, Feeling and Semiosis: Herder between the Enlightenment and Early Romanticism”

“Manuscript Cultures in the Age of Books”

May Mergenthaler and Dennis Schäfer, Organizers

1. Interactions of Manuscript and Print

Caroline Jessen, Moderator and Commentator

- a) Helga Muellneritsch, “Parallels of Manuscript and Print in Eighteenth-century Cookery Books”
- b) Alexander Weinstock, “Handwritten Theater. Promptbooks from the Late

- Eighteenth Century (Kotzebue, Schiller, Shakespeare)”
- c) Daniel Ehrmann, “The Use of Letters. Hierarchy and Topology in Collective Writings around Friedrich Schlegel”
 - d) Maximilian Kloppert, “Das Drama um die Handschrift. Schiller 1782 - 1856”

2. *Constructing Authors and Literary Traditions*

Alexander Weinstock, Moderator. May Mergenthaler, Commentator.

- a) Giulia Baldelli, “The making of Jacob Böhme? Reflections on Material Representation and Authorship in an Early Modern Case”
- b) Martin Baeumel, “Function and Material Presentation: The Case of Canitz”
- c) Caroline Jessen, “The Temporality of Manuscripts and Archival Politics. Collecting and editing Novalis”

3. *Practices of Collecting, Printing, and Copying*

Giulia Baldelli, Moderator. Martin Baeumel, Commentator.

- a) Hannah Hunter-Parker, “Vanishing with a Trace: Medieval Manuscripts in the Age of Lithography”
- b) Stefan Hoepfner, “From Book Manuscript to Autograph and Back? Handwritten Texts in Goethe’s Library”
- c) Helene Kraus, “Abstract: Anonymity of Books”
- d) Dennis Schäfer, “From Print to Script: The Scales of Handwriting”

Upcoming Conferences

Modern Language Association Conference, January 5-8, 2023, San Francisco

The GSNA will sponsor a panel at the MLA 2023 under the title “Goethe by the Numbers,” organized by Matt Erlin. This panel aims to explore how computational, statistical, and empirical approaches can enhance our understanding of the work of Goethe and his contemporaries as well as situate them in their historical and cultural contexts.

- a) Thorsten Ries, “Authorship Verification/ Attribution: Goethe’s Contributions to the Frankfurter gelehrte Anzeigen”
- b) Stefan Höppner and Ulrike Trenkmann, “Reading by the Numbers: What Quantitative Analysis and Visualizations Tell Us about Goethe’s Library”
- c) Mesian Tilmatine, “Understanding Goethe’s Mélange of Narrative Poetry”

American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, March 9-11, 2023, St. Louis

There are two GSNA-sponsored panels at the 2023 ASECS Conference in St. Louis, March 9-11 2023. ASECS has extended the paper proposal deadline to October 24. All proposals must be submitted through the [ASECS submission website](#).

I. Session no. 70, “Musical Responses to Goethe’s Works: Texts, Contexts, Genres,” organized by Tekla Babyak (tbb8@cornell.edu) and sponsored by the GSNA

II. Session no. 47, “Gambling in the Age of Goethe”

Organized by Waltraud Maierhofer, University of Iowa (waltraud-maierhofer@uiowa.edu) and William Carter, Iowa State University (wcarter@iastate.edu) and sponsored by the GSNA.

Future Panel Proposals

Please consider organizing GSNA panels for upcoming conferences! Queries or panel proposals with a title and brief description that could serve as a Call for Papers should be sent by email to the Executive Secretary, Claire Baldwin (cmbaldwin@colgate.edu) by the dates below and will be reviewed by the GSNA Board.

Deadlines

November 15, 2022 for the GSA conference, October 5-8, 2023 in Montreal, QC

December 1, 2022 for the MLA conference January 4-7, 2024 in Philadelphia, PA

March 15, 2023 for the ASECS conference, April 4-7, 2024 in Toronto, ON

Claire Baldwin
Colgate University

FROM THE EDITOR OF THE BOKS SERIES

The book series is doing well thanks to your interest and contributions. We would like to grow even stronger, though, and to do so, we need your help in two ways.

First, please support the series by purchasing our books yourself and asking your library to acquire them. All GSNA members receive a 40% discount with the code BUPSOCIETY. Some current books you should add to your collection:

Daniel Di Massa’s *Dante in Deutschland: An Itinerary of Romantic Myth* was just published. It is a beautifully written, well-researched volume.

Scheduled for December/January is another important contribution to our field, Heidi Schlipphacke’s *The Aesthetics of Kinship: Form and Family in the Long Eighteenth Century*. This is likewise a well-researched, insightful study.

Congratulations to both Daniel and Heidi!

Second, we would welcome more authors and submissions. At the recent GSA conference, I spoke with a number of prospective authors with intriguing projects; based on those conversations I sense that our line has a promising future. I look forward to their contributions, but also hope that you will consider contributing. If you have a monograph in the works, are interested in proposing an edited volume of essays, or simply have the beginnings of an idea for a publication, please reach out to me at jblyon@pitt.edu. All inquiries are

welcome. All books are peer-reviewed and appear simultaneously in cloth and paperback editions. No subventions are required. After the 40%-member discount, your GSNA friends and colleagues can purchase and read your book for only \$24! Please spread the word and encourage colleagues to submit to the series.

John Lyon
University of Pittsburgh

FROM THE YEARBOOK EDITORS

Eleanor ter Horst (University of South Alabama) and Sarah Eldridge (University of Tennessee-Knoxville) are the new editors of the *Goethe Yearbook*. We would like to thank the previous editorial team, Patricia Simpson and Birgit Tautz, for their enthusiastic encouragement and assistance with the transition. We also recognize Sean Franzel's excellent work as book review editor and we are excited to announce the new book review editor, Joseph O'Neil (Miami University), who brings to the role a wealth of editorial experience.

The production of volume 30 is well underway, and we are excited to be accepting submissions for our first volume as editors, volume 31. Please send us your manuscripts! We welcome manuscripts on any and all aspects of Goethe, his contemporaries, and the 18th century broadly conceived, including the century's legacy in later epochs. Comparative and/or interdisciplinary approaches, proposals for special

sections, and new forms and genres of scholarly writing are appreciated. We particularly encourage women, underrepresented minorities, junior scholars, and contingent faculty scholars to submit pieces. The submission deadline is January 15, 2023. Please see the *Yearbook's* website at <https://www.goethesociety.org/yearbook> for more information on preparing and submitting manuscripts.

Sarah Eldridge
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Eleanor Ter Horst
University of South Alabama

2021 PRIZES

2021 GSNA Essay Prize

Stefan Höppner and Ulrike Trenkmann, "World on a Shelf: Submissions of *Weltliteratur* in Goethe's Private Library - A Quantitative Approach," *PEGS* 19.1 (2021): 13-30.

In their essay "World on a Shelf: Submissions of *Weltliteratur* in Goethe's Private Library," Stefan Höppner and Ulrike Trenkmann present the groundwork for a potential paradigm shift in how we understand Goethe's conception of "Weltliteratur." Goethe's notion of "world literature" was a product of a "vibrant communication" (14) between a variety of actors who created together an "intellectual commerce" via letters, reviews, manuscripts, books, and personal meetings. Höppner and Trenkmann point out that books play the most fundamental role in this exchange of

ideas, and Goethe received a great deal of books over the course of his life from authors, translators, editors, and others hoping for Goethe's stamp of approval that might lead to literary success.

In order to gain a better picture of the ways in which the "material exchange of books" helped shape Goethe's notion of world literature, Höppner and Trenkmann took an inventory of as broad a selection as possible of books submitted to Goethe, primarily between 1800 and 1832, that might fall into the category of "world literature" – foreign literature and German works translated into foreign languages. This macroanalysis (the authors cite Franco Moretti's "distant reading" methodology here) was conducted by the authors in connection with the *Goethe Bibliothek Online* (GBO) project, "a digital catalogue that comprises both Goethe's personal library and his borrowings from the ducal library in Weimar." The authors give a clear picture of their painstaking efforts to catalogue the transcultural nature of Goethe's book holdings. Indeed, they trace both spatially and temporally the limits of "worldliness" of Goethe's literary commerce.

One of the many important findings from this research is that Goethe was frequently *not* communicating directly with foreign authors but instead with translators and other intermediary figures. This complicates our understanding of the global international exchange between Goethe and non-German authors. As Höppner and Trenkmann put it, "'direct intellectual commerce' between Goethe and others was the exception rather than the rule" when it came to world literature. Höppner and Trenkmann then map book

submissions in order to show the locations from which non-German literature was sent to Goethe. They reveal that very few volumes were sent from outside of the area of the Holy Roman Empire, and later the German Confederation. Notable exceptions were the expected ones: London, Paris, and Milan.

The authors conclude with a number of compelling trends they have uncovered. For instance, intellectual commerce between Goethe and others was largely a domestic affair, "even when it concerned world literature." And direct contact between Goethe and other authors was rare when it came to foreign literature and German literature in translation. These fascinating findings simultaneously open up and limit our picture of Goethe's conception of "world literature," charting potentially new paths for future research on Goethe and the non-Germanic world.

2021 Richard Sussman Essay Prize in Science

Nicolaas Rupke, "Humboldt and Metabiography," *German Life and Letters* 74.3 (2021): 416-38.

In his article "Humboldt and Metabiography" Nicolaas Rupke sketches out the ways in which Alexander von Humboldt has been reinvented via a variety of "avatars" over the course of the "nearly 200-year tradition of Humboldt biography." In highlighting a number of Humboldt's significant contributions to science, Rupke shows how we have moved through a plethora of narratives about Humboldt to arrive at our current "Green Humboldt" who speaks to our

“contemporary anxieties about climate change and environmental degradation.”

Rather than taking sides vis-à-vis the plethora of historical narratives about Humboldt’s contribution to science, Rupke shows, via a metabiographical frame, how the figure of Humboldt has become a cipher for diverse cultural concerns within and outside of Germany. As Rupke writes, “Thurs, the literature about Humboldt reveals a striking plasticity of the historical record in the form of a plurality of differing and in some instances opposing representations of him, each expressive of the interests of biographers in a particular world of German political history.” For instance, German nationalists have frequently downplayed or ignored Humboldt’s travels and French-language writings, thereby Germanizing and nationalizing him *avant la lettre*. The national hero Humboldt has served as a “forum for defining significant aspects of Germanness, enabling Germans to deal with national ambitions, shortcomings, guilt complexes and the like.” Rupke likewise shows how the British and French have utilized Humboldt for their own national ends, even charting the length of reviews of Humboldt’s books in British, French, and German periodicals (the English wrote the most about Humboldt!). Indeed, as Rupke points out, Humboldt was celebrated in Equador in 2019 with the slogan: “We not only have one Humboldt, but many.”

Particularly refreshing is that Rupke engages in debates about the writing of the history of science with a truly open mind, arguing that the diverse Humboldt representations in biographies are generally equally valid and “based on sound biographical scholarship.” As

Rupke writes, this does not mean that “anything goes” in historical biography, but it does suggest that the biography of the scientist does not signify any more “factually” than the biography of any other historical figure.

FROM THE SECRETARY- TREASURER

Minutes of the Business Meeting Saturday September 17, 2022 German Studies Association Conference in Houston, Texas

Board Members in Attendance:

Heather Sullivan (President), Claire Baldwin (Executive Secretary), Bill Carter (Secretary- Treasurer), Eleanor Ter Horst Goethe Yearbook Editor), John Lyon (Book Series Editor, *New Studies in the Age of Goethe*), Chunjie Zhang (Director-At-Large)

Board Members unable to attend:

Heidi Schlipphacke (Vice President), Burkhard Henke (Newsletter Editor), Sarah Eldridge (Goethe Yearbook Editor), Sean Franzel (Goethe Yearbook Book Review Editor), Matthew Birkhold (Director-At-Large)

I. Reports from GSNA Officers

1. President’s Report: Heather Sullivan

- a) Preparations for the Atkins 2024 “Goethes Welt/en” conference, hosted by Trinity University in San Antonio, are underway.
- b) The sub-committee on supporting research groups in new ways

(Heidi Schlipphacke, Matt Birkhold, Chunjie Zhang, Sean Franzel) is considering regional symposia or other innovative forms of scholarly collaboration and ways the Goethe Society can support them. Suggestions are welcome!

- c) The GSNA mourns the death of Bob Tobin and we intend to commemorate him as a society in future venues such as conference panels in recognition of his work.

2. Executive Secretary's Report: Claire Baldwin

The GNSA sponsored a total of 6 panels in 3 rubrics at this year's GSA. These were:

I. Techniques and Innovations in the Novel around 1800, organized by Margaretmary Daley

II. Concepts of Language in the Long 18th Century (2 panels), organized by Jan Jost-Fritz

- a) Aesthetics, Gender and Origins
- b) Identity and Feelings between Universalism and Relativism

III. Manuscript Cultures in the Age of Books (3 panels), organized by May Mergenthaler and Dennis Schäfer.

- a) Interactions of Manuscript and Print
- b) Constructing Authors and Literary Traditions
- c) Practices of Collecting, Printing, and Copying

The GSNA-sponsored panel at the MLA 2023, January 5-8 in San Francisco, will

be on "Goethe by the Numbers," organized by Matt Erlin. This panel aims to explore how computational, statistical, and empirical approaches can enhance our understanding of the work of Goethe and his contemporaries as well as situate them in their historical and cultural contexts. Paper authors are: Thorsten Ries on "Authorship Verification/ Attribution"; Stefan Höppner and Ulrike Trenkmann on "Reading by the Numbers"; and Mesian Tilmatine on "Understanding Goethe's mélange of Narrative Poetry".

There are 2 GSNA-sponsored panels at the 2023 ASECS Conference in St. Louis, March 9-11 2023. ASECS has extended the paper proposal deadline to October 24. All proposals are to be submitted through the ASECS submission website.

- a) Session no. 70, "Musical Responses to Goethe's Works: Texts, Contexts, Genres," organized and chaired by Tekla Babyak (tbb8@cornell.edu) and sponsored by the GSNA
- b) Session no. 47, "Gambling in the Age of Goethe," organized by Waltraud Maierhofer, University of Iowa (waltraud-maierhofer@uiowa.edu) and William Carter, Iowa State University (wcarte@iastate.edu) and sponsored by the GSNA.

Please consider organizing GSNA panels for upcoming conferences! Panel Proposals should be sent by email to cmbaldwin@colgate.edu by the dates below, and will be reviewed by the Board.

3. Secretary-Treasurer's Report

William Carter reported that the Goethe Society currently has 173 members, including 15 life members, and 27 student members. He announced that the Goethe Society will start a new graduate student network. The finances are sound, and the board looks forward to supporting new initiatives.

II. GSNA Essay Prize Announcements

Chunjie Zhang announced that the winners of the 2022 Essay Prize were Stefan Höppner and Ulrike Trenkmann for "World on a Shelf: Submissions of *Weltliteratur* in Goethe's Private Library - A Quantitative Approach," *PEGS* 19.1 (2021): 13-30.

Nicolaas Rupke was awarded the 2022 Richard Sussman Prize for "Humboldt and Metabiography," *German Life and Letters* 74.3 (2021): 416-38.

III. Reports on Publications

1. Goethe Yearbook Editors' Report: Eleanor Ter Horst reported that she and Sarah Eldridge have begun as *Goethe Yearbook* editors. They thanked outgoing editors Patty Simpson and Birgit Tautz as well as Book Review Editor Sean Franzel for their work and their support in making the transition to the new editorship. Their first volume will be the 2023 edition. Joe O'Neill will be taking over from Sean Franzel as Book Review Editor, beginning Jan. 2023.

2. Book Series Editor's Report, *New Studies in the Age of Goethe*: John Lyon promoted the book series and encouraged submissions.

3. Book Drawing: 4 volumes from the *New Studies* series were shared with the lucky winners from the book drawing.

IV. Other Business: none

FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

If you have not yet paid 2022 dues, please renew your membership before the end of the year. Current members should have received email reminders from me. The 2022 membership comes with the *Goethe Yearbook* 30 (Spring 2023).

When renewing please consider the discounted three-year membership options in all categories as well as Lifetime (\$500) and Lifetime Patron (\$1,500) memberships. To pay for the membership level that's right for you, we encourage you to visit our website at www.goethesociety.org/membership. Use the drop-down menu to select a membership category, then click the Pay Now button. You do not need a PayPal account. You may use the secure PayPal Guest Checkout and enter your credit card information there.

Of course, we still accept checks, payable to "Goethe Society of North America." They can be mailed to: William Carter,

World Languages and Cultures, Iowa State University, 505 Morrill Road, 3102 Pearson Hall, Ames, IA 50011.

Should you have a *change of mailing or email address* or a question about the status of your membership, please let me know: wcarter@iastate.edu.

Finally, if you are interested in planned giving and wish to support the mission of the Goethe Society of North America with a bequest or other substantial contribution, please contact the Secretary-Treasurer. The GSNA is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501 (c)(3).

William Carter
Iowa State University

DUES

junior member (non-tenured faculty)	\$25
senior member (tenured faculty)	\$35
patron (please consider becoming a patron)	\$100
emeritus	\$10
student	\$10
institution	\$40
lifetime	\$500
lifetime patron	\$1,500

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