



goethesociety.org

GOETHE NEWS AND NOTES

XLIII.2, Fall 2023

Burkhard Henke, Editor
Davidson College

FROM THE EDITOR

Just in time for the GSA conference, here is the fall number of the *Goethe News and Notes*, packed as always with the kind of information you don't want to do without: a timely contribution from our president, coupled with a look ahead to next year's big Atkins Conference; an impressive inventory of GSNA-sponsored panels, especially at the GSA but also at the MLA; the latest updates on where things stand with the *Goethe Yearbook* and with our book series; as well as an invitation from our secretary-treasurer, along with a bit of a nudge. Finally, please take the time to read Alice Kuzniar's tribute to Robert Deam Tobin, who passed away last summer. Alice is also co-hosting a roundtable at the GSA this Saturday in honor of Bob. "We all thought we'd have a little more time with him."

Burkhard Henke
Davidson College

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we approach the GSA this week, I very much look forward to seeing you all at the many GSNA-sponsored panels and events as well as the related panels on 18th- and 19th-century studies. I would like to celebrate all the exciting contributions of our members, especially in this time when humanities programs, particularly language and literature programs, are facing cuts nationally and internationally. We all are on the front lines now, and, from what I see, you all are doing impressive work to make the case for the significance of such programs broadly but also for the study of older texts, histories, cultures, and ideas as relevant context for contemporary cultures. If any of our members have ideas about programs or strategies for celebrating the humanities and German Studies, please find me at the conference or email me so that we can share them with our entire membership. Our greatest strength is in our collaborations and shared efforts.

We are also facing climate-change writ large this year; in Texas, we have had extreme drought, extreme heat, and, in the winter, extreme and rare arctic-air events. It's been difficult everywhere

around the planet, and I know that the situation continues as, for example, New York City is currently under water while I write this column. Yet, here, too, we find GSNA members working actively in their communities, undertaking research, writing, and publishing on all types of relevant issues in this global crisis. Come see the panels on “Planetary Thinking in the Age of Goethe,” for example, to see some of our members discuss the complex issues of scale as we try to navigate what global/planetary thinking has meant and could mean for us. As always, our GSNA colleagues offer important insights and exciting new perspectives on crucial issues.

On a completely positive note, I am excited to share again the call for papers for our GSNA 2024 Atkins conference planned for Nov. 7-9 in my own city of San Antonio, Texas to be held at Trinity University. We look forward to welcoming you all here. Please note that there will be Taco Trucks! And our Trinity German and theater students are planning a mini *Faust* performance. There will also be music, local German-Texas cultural experiences, and many panels on our topic: “Goethe’s Welt/en.” Please find below the full CFP along with the announcement of our plenary speakers including talks from two scholars and an artist’s talk. Additionally, the conference will include the following events:

- the GSNA Dissertation Workshop (look for calls for proposals from our VP, Heidi Schlipphacke, early next year)
- a workshop on working with archive materials
- the opportunity to see some of the Goetheana relating to the topic

“Welt” from the marvelous collection of our former President, Clark Muenzer

- the possibility of visiting Boerne (yes, a town named after Ludwig Boerne!) or Grün and New Braunfels, other nearby towns with German heritage. Downtown San Antonio also features the “King William district” named after King Wilhelm I from Prussia, and a “Beethoven Halle.”
- and don’t forget about the taco trucks (San Antonio is famous for its Tex-Mex food).

Heather I. Sullivan
Trinity University

**Atkins GSNA Conference
November 7-9, 2024
(with Dissertation Workshop on
Sunday, 10 November)
At Trinity University, San Antonio,
Texas**

Goethe’s *Welt/Welten* (World/s)

*Send questions to Heather I. Sullivan,
hsulliva@trinity.edu*

*Send abstracts by March 1, 2024 of no
more than 350 words to both Chunjie
Zhang and Matthew Birkhold:
chjzhang@ucdavis.edu and
birkhold.22@osu.edu*

Faust declares in the scene “Vor dem Tor” that he has two souls living in his breast, one of which is holding fast to “the world,” “Die eine hält, in derber Liebeslust, / Sich an der Welt...” (“The

one holds fast with joyous earthly lust, /Onto the world...”), while the other soul wants to fly away. Faust also complains earlier of his desire to know “was *die Welt* Im Innersten zusammenhält” (“what holds the core of the world together”). These versions of “world” reflect a kind of materiality yet also potentially an idealist or spiritual sensibility; they also suggest a sense of the vast cosmos as a scale for the human writ large, or even a political and cosmopolitan perspective on power. The historical context for Goethe’s *Faust*, however, was the era when explorers, botanists, colonizers, and slave traders were traveling around the world and depicting these experiences in various versions of global travels, as a *Reise um die Welt*, (Alexander von Humboldt; the Forsters, Adelbert von Chamisso, among others). We find in their accounts wildly different usages of the scalar, spatial, and categorical term “*Welt/world*,” as well as usages of the term in literary, geographical, philosophical, scientific, social, anthropological, and other discourses inflected by racist, gendered, and colonial views during this era of expansion, travel, industrialization, and increasingly destructive human activities (in environmental terms). How, then, do we contextualize Hegel’s “*Weltgeist*,” and Schelling’s “*objektive Welt*,” Goethe’s “*Weltliteratur*,” or Schiller’s rejection of “*Weltgeschichte*” in favor of the still broader term, “*Universalgeschichte*” in his famous 1789 inaugural lecture at the University of Jena in terms of the various meanings of “*Welt/world*” in this era? Furthermore, how do the categorical designations of *Innenwelt*, *Frauenwelt*, *Kinderwelt*, or *Pflanzenwelt* pertain to world as a kind of scale in this era at the beginning of the world-changing cultural and environmental practices of the

Anthropocene that radically shift global powers and the sense of planetary scale?

The 2024 Atkins conference topics centers arounds concepts of *Welt/en-World/s* with the questions of how the human (and non-human) relationship to the “world” is portrayed; whether “*Welt*” is understood to be material or otherwise; and whether it is the world around us as *UmWELT*, or as cosmopolitan expanse and colonial space for imperialism. On the one hand, such a focus on “*Welt*” reveals an awareness of the limitations of parochial perspectives and an interest in forging broader networks and understandings; and, on the other hand, “*Welt*” points to an array of categories plagued by dualisms or racist, sexist, and classist connotations as the Europeans experience or imagine other peoples, other places, other species, and other forms of knowledge. Conceptions of “world/s” might resonate in terms of, or in contrast to, the planet, globalism, nation, continent, “nature,” or realms that designate gender, class, race, psychological states, etc. The GSNA welcomes abstracts that look at the wide array of meanings of (the) world/s, on any scale or for any categories, during Goethe’s lifetime.

The plenary speakers are:

Prof. Dr. Stefan Höppner, author of the 2022 volume: *Goethes Bibliothek: Eine Sammlung und ihre Geschichte*. Stefan was at the Klassik Stiftung Weimar and is now in Münster as Geschäftsführer der Literaturkommission im Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe. He will discuss Goethe’s collection broadly and its relation to *Welt* and *Weltliteratur*.

Prof. Dr. Marion Schmaus, Philipps-Universität Marburg, author of the interdisciplinary books and articles with a focus on the Romantics, *Die poetische Konstruktion des Selbst: Grenzgänge zwischen Frühromantik und Moderne: Novalis, Bachmann, Christa Wolf, Foucault* and *Psychosomatik: literarische, philosophische und medizinische Geschichten zur Entstehung eines Diskurses (1778-1936)*. She will speak on the Romantics and music with a broader sense of “Welt” in early romanticism and modernity.

Jeanette Schäring, a Swedish trans-disciplinary environmental artist and scholar of color and dyes who will talk about the world of colors in the 17th- early 19th century, a significant global industry built on botanical knowledge. She works especially on indigo and blue and will bring in Goethe’s color theory. See her website:
https://old.jeanettescharing.net/portfolio_page/the-beauty-of-a-dead-language-photography/

FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The GSNA is sponsoring numerous exciting sessions at the GSA in Montreal this year: 2 panel series (with 6 panels all told), a seminar and a special roundtable in tribute to our colleague Bob Tobin. It will be wonderful to see many GSNA members at these events. In addition, we hope to see many of you at our annual cash bar on Friday at 6:30, and at the business meeting directly following. On Saturday from 12 -1 p.m. we will host a

special reception at the GSNA table (in the Ballroom Foyer of the conference hotel, at the book fair) with author Heidi Schlipphacke to celebrate the publication of her book *The Aesthetics of Kinship*, the most recent entry in the “New Studies in the Age of Goethe” line. Here is the full line-up:

Sessions Sponsored by the GSNA at the GSA 2023

I. Roundtable (Session 209: Saturday, October 7, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m., Salon Hémon)

Thirty Years Queer German Studies: A Tribute to Bob Tobin, co-sponsored by the Goethe Society of North America and the Trans and Queer Studies Network, organized by Alice Kuzniar and Heidi Schlipphacke

Moderator: Heidi Schlipphacke, U of Chicago Illinois
Participants: Alice Kuzniar, U of Waterloo
Jennifer Evans, Carleton U
Peter Rehberg, U of Cincinnati

II. Panel Series: Planetary Thinking in the Age of Goethe, organized by Daniel Carranza and Bryan Norton

Panel 1: Routes (Session 204: Saturday, October 7, 2:00-3:30 p.m., Salon C)

Moderator: Daniel Carranza (Harvard U)
Commentator: Bryan Norton (Stanford U)

Joanna Raisbeck (Oxford), “Planetary Awareness in Adelbert von Chamisso”

Tove Holmes (McGill), “Humboldt’s Planetary Hermeneutics”

John Noyes (Toronto), “Mapping the Planetary Imagination”

Panel 2: Orbits (Session 237: Saturday, October 7, 3:45-5:45 p.m., Salon C)

Moderator: Bryan Norton (Stanford U)
Commentator: Heather Sullivan (Trinity U)

Stephen Klemm (Occidental), “Herder’s Cosmology and the Transformation of Subjectivity”

Ella Wilhelm (Chicago), “Language and World in Novalis’s *Heinrich von Ofterdingen*”

Bryan Klausmeyer (VA Tech), “‘Wir Sternseher und Kalendarmacher:’ Hebel’s Planetary Poetics”

III. Panel Series: Configurations of Patriarchy, organized by Sophie Salvo and Horst Lange

Configurations of Patriarchy Panel (I): Journals and Letters (Session 9: Friday, October 6, 8:00-10:00 a.m., Suite 722)

Moderator: Horst Lange, U of Central Arkansas
Commentator: Catriona MacLeod, U of Chicago

Yulia Mevissen, U of Massachusetts-Boston: “Daß die Frauenzimmer oft natürlichere Briefe schreiben, als die Mannspersonen ...” Letters as a ‘Female’ Genre?

Monika Nenon, U of Memphis: Briefe an Mariane: Zwei Patriarchat-konzeptionen. Friederike Helene Ungers Julchen Grünthal als Antwort auf Sophie von La Roches Rosaliens Briefe an ihre Freundin Mariane von St**

Eleanor ter Horst, U of Southern Alabama: Approaching Art: Sophie Mereau and the Patriarchal Practices of Literary Journals

Jan Jost-Fritz, East Tennessee State U: Shepherding the Dictators. Caroline Schlegel’s Idea of Criticism

Configurations of Patriarchy Panel (II): Schiller and Bachofen (Session 36: Friday, October 6, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Suite 722)

Moderator: Monika Nenon, U of Memphis
Commentator: Peter Höyng, Emory U

Gail K. Hart, U of California, Irvine: “Weib, wo ist mein Vater?”: Schiller’s Sexism and Reproductive Priority

Rebecca Stewart-Gray, Concordia C: “Sobald dem Brite keine Wahl mehr bleibt”: The Gendered Conflict of Sovereign Subjectivity and Sublime Vulnerability in Maria Stuart

Yahya Elsaygh, U of Berne: Schillers Wilhelm Tell, mit Johann Jakob Bachofen gelesen

Sophie Salvo, U of Chicago: The Father is Always Uncertain: The Epistemology of Patriarchy in Bachofen

**Configurations of Patriarchy (III):
Goethe (Session 129: Saturday,
October 7, 8:00-10:00 a.m., Suite 716)**

Moderator: Jan Jost-Fritz, East
Tennessee State U

Commentator: Karin L. Schutjer, U of
Oklahoma

Horst Lange, U of Central Arkansas:
Werther and the Reinvention of
Masculinity

Christian P. Weber, Florida State U:
Goethe's Re-Sisters of Patriarchy

Andrea Meyertholen, U of Kansas,
Lawrence: Monstrous Mothers and
Saintly Specters: The Eternal Feminine
as Challenge to the Patriarchy in
Frankenstein and Faust

**Configurations of Patriarchy (IV):
Campe, Kleist, Clausewitz, Stifter
(Session 255, Sunday, October 8, 8:00-
10:00 a.m., Salon C)**

Moderator: Claire Baldwin, Colgate U
Commentator: Eleanor ter Horst, U of
Southern Alabama

Hans-Christian Riechers, Universität
Basel: "Vater wird's ja wol wissen."
Poetics of Patriarchy in J. H. Campe's
Pedagogical Novels

Luka Arens, Columbia U: Vulgar
Bodies: Kleist's Käthchen, Thon's
Adelheit

Peter Erickson, Colorado State U:
Fictions of Patriarchy in Clausewitz's
On War

Jan Hohenstein, Texas Tech U:
"Beschreibe den Augenblick, wenn ich
todt auf der Bahre liegen werde":

Patriarchy and the Crisis of Reason in
Adalbert Stifter's Turmalin

**IV. Seminar: "Goethe as Theoretical
Touchstone"**, organized by Daniel
Carranza, Joel Lande, and David
Wellbery (Sessions 22, 140, 263, Friday,
Saturday and Sunday 8:00 a.m. - 10:00
a.m., Salon 8)

Conveners:

Daniel Carranza, Harvard U
Joel Lande, Princeton U
David Wellbery, U of Chicago

Participants:

Nicholas Andes, U of Chicago
Kyle Baasch, U of Minnesota
Laurens Boomsma, Princeton U
Simon Friedland, U of Chicago
Wolfgang Hottner, U of Bergen
Peter Makhlof, Princeton U
Muenzer, U of Pittsburgh
Angus Nicholls, Queen Mary U of
London
Maxwell Phillips, Yale U
Jessica Resvick, Oklahoma State U
Ross Shields, Institute for Cultural
Inquiry, Berlin
John Smith, U of California, Irvine
Xuxu Song, Princeton U
Margaret Strair, Bryn Mawr C
Yingqi Tang, Yale U

The GSNA is also well-represented at the
MLA convention, January 4-7, 2024, in
Philadelphia, with two panels organized
by Eleanor ter Horst on "Collective
Storytelling and Philosophizing in 18th-
and 19th-century Germany." In addition,
please note the MLA 18th- and early
19th-century German Forum organized

by Heather Sullivan: “Energy.” Here are the details on the GSNA panels:

105. Boccaccio’s Progeny: The Decameron’s Afterlife in German Literature and Film

THURSDAY, 4 JANUARY 5:15 PM-6:30 PM, 407–409 (MARRIOTT)

Story Collections, Frame Narratives, and Schwänke: From the Late Middle Ages to the Early Modern Age, Albrecht Classen (U of Arizona, Tucson)

Aesthetic Healing of Divisiveness or Aesthetic Evasion of Politics: Goethe’s Unterhaltungen, Donald R. Wehrs (Auburn U)

Collective Kritik: Deutschland im Herbst and the Trauma of 1977, Harry Louis Roddy Jr. (U of South Alabama)

Presiding: Claire Baldwin (Colgate U)

410. Collective Storytelling and Philosophizing in Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Germany

SATURDAY, 6 JANUARY 8:30 AM-9:45 AM, FRANKLIN 4 (MARRIOTT)

Collective Storytelling and Gazes: Perception and Alterity in Hoffmann’s *Das öde Haus*, Margaret Strair (Bryn Mawr C)

Felix Mendelssohn’s Reworking of J. S. Bach’s *St. Matthew Passion* for the Berlin Singakademie, Tekla Babyak (independent scholar)

Fragmentary Ingenuity, Logical Geniality: Early Romantic Witz and

Social Poetics, Austen Hinkley (Princeton U)

Translation, Ancient Greek Poetic Remnants, Kritik: *Sympoesie* and *Symphilosophie* in the *Athenaeum*, Xuxu Song (Princeton U)

Presiding: Eleanor E. ter Horst (U of South Alabama)

At the 2024 ASECS conference in Toronto, the GSNA will be represented by a panel on “Figures and Figurations of the Real: Life, Poetry, History,” organized by Christian Weber and Christine Lehleiter.

Thank you to all the organizers and participants of these excellent sessions! And please look ahead and consider submitting GSNA-sponsored sessions and papers for upcoming conferences! Proposals for sessions should be sent by email to cmbaldwin@colgate.edu by the dates below and will be reviewed by the Board.

Deadlines

- November 15, 2023 for the 2024 GSA conference, Atlanta, GA (Sept. 26-30)
- December 1, 2023 for the 2025 MLA convention, New Orleans, LA (9–12 January)
- April 1, 2024 for the 2025 ASECS conference, to be held virtually, dates TBD

Claire Baldwin
Colgate University

*FROM THE EDITOR
OF THE BOKS SERIES*

At the upcoming GSA conference in Montreal, we will celebrate this year's publication of Heidi Schlipphacke's *The Aesthetics of Kinship: Form and Family in the Long Eighteenth Century*. Please join us at the business meeting, where there will be a drawing for a copy of the book, as well as at the book fair on Saturday from 12-1 pm, where there will be a coffee break reception to meet the author. Please take a look at the book, encourage your library to acquire it, and purchase a copy yourself. Remember that all GSNA members receive a 40% discount with the code BUPSOIETY.

Although there are no immediate book publications on the horizon, there is now a strong cadre of authors who have been working with me and who plan to submit book proposals. There are very strong projects in the group, which tells me that our series has a promising outlook for future publications.

We are still always looking for more high-quality works, though. So if you have a monograph in the works, are interested in proposing an edited volume of essays, have the beginnings of an idea for a publication, or know of a colleague who is working on a project that merits publication, please reach out to me at jlyon38@gatech.edu (note the new e-mail address). 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 and Sarah Vandegrift Eldridge have sent the *Goethe Yearbook* Volume 31, our first volume as co-editors, to the copy editor, and it will appear in early 2024. Volume 31 includes submissions on topics ranging from the reworking of *Iphigenie auf Tauris* in GDR theater to Goethe's and Hegel's differing interpretations of the Persian poet, Rūmī. There is also a Forum section on Race and Imperialism in the Age of Goethe, and a collection of book reviews assembled and edited by Joseph O'Neil.

We are currently accepting manuscripts for Volume 32. Please send us your work! 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. Submissions are evaluated on a rolling basis; the latest submission date for consideration for Volume 32 is January 15, 2024. Please

see the [journal's website](#) for more information on preparing and submitting manuscripts.

Sarah Eldridge
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Eleanor Ter Horst
University of South Alabama

IN MEMORIAM

Robert Deam Tobin (1961-2022)



It is with great sorrow that we mourn the passing of Robert Deam Tobin. Bob Tobin was the Henry J. Leir Chair in Literature, Language and Culture at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts from 2008 to 2022. Having received his doctorate in 1990 from Princeton University, writing with Stanley Corngold, Bob Tobin first taught at Whitman College in Washington. There he came to hold the Cushing Eells Professorship of the Humanities. He was a Rockefeller Fellow in the Program for the Study of Sexuality, Gender, Health and Human Rights at Columbia University (2004-5) and a guest lecturer

at the University of Vienna (2013). In recognition of his curatorial work on LGBTQ+ history in Worcester MA he received the keys to the city. Bob Tobin was as committed to public engagement as to academic excellence at the crossroads of literature and history.

Bob Tobin was well known in Goethe studies for his books *Warm Brothers: Queer Theory and the Age of Goethe* (2000) and *Doctor's Orders: Goethe and Enlightenment Thought* (2001). In the former, he argued that queer desires, which Goethe called both in and against nature, repeatedly come to represent nature itself throughout Goethe's writings, so that the binarisms of homo- and heterosexuality, natural and unnatural, collapse into each other. *Doctor's Orders* examined the various medical practices echoed in *Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre*, in particular, the homeopathic principle of *similia similibus curentur* which infuses the Tower Society's healing methods.

Having first observed in *Warm Brothers* that Goethe connects homosexuality to the trope of writing, Bob Tobin continued in his scholarship to link aesthetics and LGBTQ+ history. He has pointed to the centrality of literature in the study of sexualities, as with 18th- and 19th century readings of Greek, Roman, and Persian texts; Krafft-Ebing's literary sources; Blüher's and Brand's fantasized realities; and Thomas Mann's queer reception of Schiller. As well as literary conceptions of sexuality, Bob Tobin has explored, especially in *Peripheral Desires: The German Discovery of Sex* (2015), their political, colonial, and medical dimensions.

Bob Tobin will be remembered as a perennially youthful and ebullient colleague and a leading scholar in LGBTQ+ studies.

Alice Kuzniar
University of Waterloo

*FROM THE SECRETARY-
TREASURER*

It is not too late to pay 2023 dues. The 2023 membership comes with *Goethe Yearbook* 31 (Spring 2024). If you plan on attending the 2024 Atkins Conference, you must be a current member, so why not take care of that now with a discounted, multi-year membership or perhaps a very reasonable Lifetime membership, which comes with no more pesky renewal emails?

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 & 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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