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GOETHE NEWS AND NOTES XLII.1, Spring 2022

> Burkhard Henke, Editor Davidson College

FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you to those of you who voted in our recent election. Please join me in expressing our gratitude to the parting members of the executive board for their exemplary service and welcoming the new members on board.

Besides a brief retrospective of last year's fabulous Atkins Conference in Chicago (hosted by the equally fabulous Catriona MacLeod), this number of the *Goethe News and Notes* contains an update on volume 30 of the *Goethe Yearbook*, citations for our essay prizes (along with a call for nominations or self-nominations for the next round of prizes) as well as a (belated) call for papers for our sponsored panels at GSA in September. We hope to see many of you in Houston!

Burkhard Henke Davidson College

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Goethe Society Members,

Writing about the GNSA brings a ray of light into a challenging year as we follow

the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, the latest IPCC report on the closing window of time to act on climate change, and the ongoing, albeit perhaps abating. pandemic. It is thus with particular pleasure that I write my first presidential report on the marvelous reprieve in early November 2021 when many of us gathered at the University of Chicago for our delayed triennial GSNA Atkins conference. Hosted by our wonderful Catriona MacLeod, the conference focused on "Goethe's Things," a topic that inspired an array of fascinating inquiries into the materiality of the eighteenth and early nineteenth century, ranging from luxury goods, the meanings of Goethe's leaf, to elegies on ruins. We were honored to have the keynote speakers Professor Ernst Osterkamp (Humboldt Universität), on "Die Dinge und die Gelegenheiten. Die Bedeutung materieller Gegenstände für Goethes Lyrik," and Professor Carlos Spoerhase (Universität Bielefeld), on "Äußere Form.' On Goethe's Format Theory." The three-day conference provided endless opportunities for in-person conversations—a first for many of us after two years of lockdown-, excellent food at every meal, and a visit to the University of Chicago's own museum holdings of 19th-century illustrated versions of *Faust* and other works brilliantly adorned with botanical designs. On Sunday, we had another Atkins Dissertation Workshop with six extremely impressive students who not only represent our future but also inspire me with great hope as I see their writings and research directions. I hope you will all join me again to celebrate Catriona's many contributions to the GSNA over the past six years as Vice President and then President, culminating in this wonderful event in Chicago.

We have had several other changes in the GSNA board this year: we enthusiastically welcome our new Vice President. Heidi Schlipphacke, University of Illinois, Chicago, and our two new Directors at Large, Matthew Birkhold, Ohio State University, and Chunjie Chang, University of California, Davis, with whom it has already been a great pleasure to work. Our esteemed book series editor over the past years, Karin Schutjer, University of Oklahoma, stepped down after guiding the flourishing series with an impressive number of books, and began her new position as co-editor of The German Quarterly. After all of her contributions, we are delighted to report that our series remains in expert hands with our new editor, John Lyon, from University of Pittsburgh. Additionally, after many years as our accomplished Executive Secretary, Elliott Schreiber, Vassar College, stepped down to join Karin at The German Quarterly, taking on the reins of Book Review Editor. Finally, we are especially pleased to be able to have Claire Baldwin, Colgate University, return to the GSNA board after her previous work as our Secretary-Treasurer, and join us again as our Executive Secretary.

We are already in the swing of making new plans for 2022 (and beyond) and are looking forward to numerous exciting GSNA-sponsored panels at this year's GSA and MLA. I am also already putting together ideas for our next conference, which will be held in three years as per our usual cycle. I very much look forward to welcoming you all in the fall of 2024 to San Antonio, Texas in order to discuss "Goethe's *Welt/en*."

> Heather Sullivan Trinity University

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

At our recent board meeting, we formed a new committee to be led by our Vice President, Schlipphacke, and Heidi including Franzel, Matthew Sean Birkhold, and Chunjie Zhang in order to consider ways in which the Goethe Society can foster and support GSNA workshops and symposia on a regional level. As we begin to formulate options, we would be very pleased to hear of any ideas or suggestions that the members of GSNA might have. Please send any comments to heidis@uic.edu.

> Heidi Schlipphacke University of Illinois at Chicago

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The Goethe Society of North America is proud to sponsor three panels at the German Studies Association Conference in Houston, TX, September 15-18, 2022:

- Techniques and Innovations in the Novel around 1800 (deadline: 3/15/22)
- Concepts of Language in the Long 18th Century (deadline: 3/16/22)
- 3. Manuscript Cultures in the Age of Books (new deadline: 2/15/22)

Below please find the calls for papers for each of these three panels as well as contact information for each of the organizers.

Techniques and Innovations in the Novel around 1800

One of Friedrich Schlegel's witty aphorisms states that all of us have a novel inside of us. (KSA, II:156), but not all of us should write it down. What tools were necessary to those who did compose successful novels around 1800? Possibly: narrative. narration. exposition, characterization. irony, suspense, allusions, dialogue, motifs, theme, rhetorical devices, and ?

A number of novelists of the period promote themselves as innovators while others write in a path-blazing style or select unprecedented subjects. Of course, the origins of the novel, as well as travel narratives and other prose fiction genres, can be traced back to well before the 'Age of Schlegel,' and consequently most of the techniques are borrowed or familiar. Moreover, concomitant publishers, market-trending readers, and journal critics also impacted the art of the novel at the time. Recent studies of the novel of this long period examine its political import or the rise of nationalism, its gendered identity constructions or constraints, its development of the bildungsroman or its refusal to develop; nevertheless, one may ask more directly: in what ways is the novel "novel"?

This panel seeks contributions that explore the construction of the German novel by reflecting on its innovative forms, techniques, prescriptions, proscriptions, and self-statements. Papers that explore recent theoretical discussions are welcome as are papers that offer provocative analyses of the form or techniques employed in specific 18thcentury or 19th-century novels.

Please send one-page proposals to Margaretmary Daley (<u>daley@case.edu</u>). Deadline: March 15, 2022.

Concepts of Language in the Long 18th Century

Concepts of language and the history of linguistics as an academic field in the 19th century are well documented and described; Jochen Bär, for instance, demonstrates the linguistic significance of early romantic thought, and Tuska Benes reconstructs the extensive links between linguistics and ideology in the 19th century, to mention just two key points of the discussion. The evolution of concepts of language in the 18th century, by contrast, has not enjoyed such a comprehensive treatment, even though a multitude of aspects have been elaborated on. One reason for this may be that language was discussed as a key issue in a wide variety of cultural and academic practices, rather than being the defining object of an individual field of research. This panel seeks to find common threads in the various discourses on language during the long 18th century, in order to define the major parameters that resulted in the German language as becoming a differentiated medium for literature and sciences alike, and to better understand the intersections between language and ideology between 1750 and 1800.

The guiding questions for this panel are: What continuities and discontinuities can be drawn between earlier rhetoric and late 18th-century epistemology? How and why are concepts repurposed, and how did concepts change in this process (in the sense of "Umbesetzung")? What was the role played by aesthetics in general, and poetic practices in particular in this process? How did the encounters with other European and non-European languages shape ideological underpinnings of aesthetics and poetics ("Sprachnationalismus", imperialism, and racism)? Proposals on individual authors and poetic practices, as well as aspects of 18th century specific comparative linguistics, or contextualizations (relationship between literature and visual arts / sciences / theology: French or English influences on German thought; intersection of language and early concepts of anthropology) are especially welcome.

Please send a brief abstract (350 words) and a short bio to Jan Jost-Fritz (jostfritz@etsu.edu). Deadline: March 16, 2022.

Manuscript Cultures in the Age of Books

The long 18th century is known as the "age of books" (Friedrich Schlegel) for unprecedented production and its proliferation of the printed word and as the origin of modern-day philology. Current scholarship is exploring the links between book history and literary study to reconsider the printed book in its interrelated literary and cultural, social, material, and technological aspects (Spoerhase 2018). The growing interest in 18th and 19th century book history and culture is accompanied by renewed attention to what has long been regarded as the printed book's precursor and counterpart: the manuscript (Benne 2015)—an attention that has been facilitated by the immense growth of openly accessible digital archives. Already the Hölderlin editions by Sattler that combine facsimiles with textual reconstruction shifted the view of a manuscript, prevailing since the 19th century, as basis of a printed text to an understanding of handwritten versions as a works in their own right. Yet, these editions still aimed to enrich textual analysis and interpretation. The same goal has largely guided the publication of previously unpublished manuscripts, including poetic works, letters, notes, commentary, and excerpts, often by female authors (e.g., Karsch, Rahel Levin Varnhagen. Günderrode). or or professional writings (e.g., Goethe or Novalis). In the framework of recent praxeological approaches to literature, manuscripts are also being studied as social and cultural practices (Piper 2009; Spoerhase 2018), building on previous historical studies of orality and literacy, and of script and manuscript cultures (Ong 1982; Havelock 1988; Jan Assmann

2002). Furthermore, manuscripts have been shown to be crucial not only in the editing process of literary works (Thomalla 2021) but also in the formation of their themes and structures (Stingelin/Giuriato/Zanetti; Benne 2015; Spoerhase 2018). Remarkably, more than half a century after Jacques Derrida has proclaimed (Of Grammatology, 1967) the "death of the book" and the "beginning of writing", the study of manuscripts has attracted renewed а theoretical. philological, and historical interest, albeit not in opposition to a 'metaphysics of the book,' but in view of the complex interrelationships and interdependencies between writing and print.

This series of panels invites contributions that reflect and expand on recent studies of manuscripts in the long 18th century, or that examine the relevance of manuscripts for earlier. often hermeneutic approaches to literary texts. We also welcome research that moves beyond the boundaries of current studies that frequently focus on the literary and canonical, to include more socially and culturally diverse languages and cultures, media, or forms of writing, or to establish connections to other, earlier, or later, periods. Presentations may also discuss individual manuscripts or literary works, reflect on concepts of the manuscript, or explore the impact of digitization and digital humanities approaches on the study of handwritten texts.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- theoretical and historical reflections on the methods and aims of studying manuscripts
- manuscripts and philology
- the ontology of the manuscript

- the sociology of writing
- physiological, psychological, or material conditions of manuscript production and circulation
- the figure and status of the producer of manuscripts (scribe, secretary, commentator, friend, editor, author)
- relations of gender in manuscript production and editing processes
- types of manuscripts (letters, annotations, notes, excerpts, comments, drafts, and others)
- the material form of literary production (e.g., writing, copying, printing, commenting, revising, editing) and their impact on the themes and structures of literary texts
- relationships between manuscript and print, and their traces in letters, comments, notes, etc.
- private, local, and international manuscript circulation
- manuscripts as archives, manuscripts and memory, the destruction, reconstruction, and preservation of manuscripts
- anonymous manuscripts, or manuscripts written under a pseudonym
- posthumous publication of manuscripts
- writing and related practices, e.g., drawing, etching, or sketching
- scenes of writing, editing, or copying
- 18th-century concepts and publications of ancient and medieval manuscripts
- insights of manuscript study for existing notions of the literary and political public sphere

• the impact of digitization and digital humanities for the study of manuscripts

Please submit an abstract of 250 to 500 words, a paper title, and a brief bio to May Mergenthaler, <u>mergenthaler.4@osu.edu</u>, and Dennis Schäfer, <u>dennis.schaefer@princeton.edu</u>. New Deadline: February 15, 2022.

2020 GSNA PRIZES

The Goethe Society of North America is delighted to announce the winners of the GSNA Prizes awarded for essays published in 2020. The Awards Committee this year was comprised of Heather Sullivan (Vice President) together with Matthew Birkhold and Mary Helen Dupree.

Congratulations to the winners, and heartfelt thanks to the members of the Awards Committee!

RICHARD SUSSMAN ESSAY PRIZE IN SCIENCE

Michael Saman, "Towards Goethean Anthropology: On Morphology, Structuralism, and Social Observation," in the *Goethe Yearbook*

Michael Saman's compelling essay connects Goethe's scientific morphological studies to the practice of systematically observing human culture, thereby expanding our understanding of Goethe's interdisciplinary methodology. Saman analyzes three key Goethe

passages describing mass events (the coronation in Dichtung und Wahrhheit, the Roman Carnival, and the St. Roch festival in Bingen); these passages Goethe's morphological delineate paradigm and prefigure a number of 20thcentury anthropologists such as Tzvetan Todorov and Claude Lévi-Strauss. Saman writes: "Though his principles of observation will most prominently be developed in reference to natural phenomena ... Goethe holds that, in effect, ... such that phenomena outside of nature, including human culture and society, can be interpreted in analogous morphological terms." In fact, as Saman notes. Goethe claims in "Zur "Ich Morphologie": verstehe die menschliche Gesellschaft" (MA 12:69; I understand human society)." While Saman notes that Goethe "never explicitly expounded a theory of social observation," this essay nevertheless provides significant insight into how Goethe extends and morphs the science of observation throughout his studies of the natural world, art, and human society.

GSNA ESSAY PRIZES

Sarah Vandegrift Eldridge, "Karl Philipp Moritz as Cognitive Narratologist: Travel Writing, Visualization, and Literary Experience," in the *Lessing Yearbook*

In her article, Sarah Vandegrift Eldridge makes several exciting contributions to Goethezeit scholarship and Germanistik more broadly, bringing new understanding to travel writing of the 18th-century. First, in lucid prose, Eldridge synthesizes a variety of theories to devise an illuminating cognitive literary-historical lens through which to

analyze works of literature. In so doing, she creates new opportunities for examining the ways in which literature exposed readers to new objects, peoples, and ideas and created possibilities for reflecting on one's own and others' cultures. Eldridge turns her deft attention to Moritz's Reisen eines Deutschen in England (1783). In addition to modeling an innovative approach to literary analyses, she thus provides new insights into Mortiz's text, a travel narrative both dismissed as an artistic mistake and celebrated as a literary success. She "Perspective writes: encompasses questions of perception and spatial location as well as opinion and representation; description combines the novel and the familiar in varying degrees to evoke more or less vivid visualization: experience involves interaction between the interior self and the exterior environment and can apply either to a character (fictional or not) or to readers, who experience the text itself as they read." Through meticulous close readings and carefully situated arguments, Eldridge highlights author's the awareness of the mental processes at work as he tours England: the interplay of his preconceived ideas and new experiences, the role of language, the interrelation of his mood and impressions. In so doing, she uncovers how eighteenth-century writers and readers conceived of these processes. Eldridge further enlivens the genre of travel writing and expands the ways we might fruitfully approach these texts by showing the value of the specificity and richness of literature to cognitive science. Eldridge's case Ultimately. study emphasizes the value of literature in the study of cognition. And Eldridge-thanks to her rigorous scholarship and sharp

prose—ensures this is a credible contention.

Hannah Vandegrift Eldridge, "Aural Enlightenment: Friedrich Gottlieb Klopstock's Contributions to New Enlightenment Aesthetics," in *The Germanic Review*

Hannah Vandegrift Eldridge's exploration of the "Aural Enlightenment" offers a marvelously erudite close reading of Klopstock in crystalline and engaging prose; as one of our committee members noted, in fact, even the footnotes are lovely and detailed. She reads Klopstock's privileging of the aural in his poetry and poetics in the context of a more expansive reading of (late) Enlightenment of in terms "an anthropological understanding of the whole range of human access to the world." According Eldridge, to Klopstock's writings on declamation, orthography and metrics participate in the re-sensualization of language ("Versinnlichung der Rede") postulated by Dirk Oschmann. The essay centers on a close reading of Klopstock's poem "Das Gehör" in which she shows how the poem privileges orality (and its sociable and emotional dimension) both on the content level and on the level of language itself. Importantly, she acknowledges the need for approaches that deal with the racist implications of theories of language in the 18th century (at the beginning and end of the essay) and she acknowledges the attention that Klopstock gives to the anatomical processes of hearing in the poem. Indeed, Vandegrift Eldridge does not ignore the violent legacies of the Enlightenment, but rather confronts them head-on, and in this sense, provides a good model for others working on the period more broadly.



Sarah, Heather, and Hannah at the Atkins Goethe Conference in Chicago

Honorable Mention:

Karin Wurst, "Weimar: An Experiment in Creativity" in the *Goethe Yearbook*

Karin Wurst's exciting essay focuses on things, on collections of objects, and the spaces that they occupy, all of which not just represent but rather cultivate creativity. Wurst describes such collections, in fact, as "dynamic state of becoming," or modes of convergence and nodes of productive encounters. She thereby produces an inspired and very thoroughly researched essay that builds some of the findings on ,EreignisWeimar' to sketch out a portrait of Weimar circa 1800 as a "convergence" of knowledge, objects, and people in

which creativity flourished, in part due to the establishment of institutions and spaces (e.g., the Zeichenschule, the *Freitagsgesellschaft*) where interdisciplinary conversations could take place outside of traditional disciplinary frameworks. She elaborates Goethe's ideas of artistic freedom and the "inner conceptual workings of creativity and the ways they produce novelty" as material empirical innovation. Wurst's fascinating focus on the popular Lifestyle magazine of the era, Journal des Luxus und der Moden, expand our sense of Weimar's new organization of systems and perception in terms of economic, material, and intellectual innovation.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2021 GSNA ESSAY AND SUSSMAN PRIZES

The executive committee seeks nominations or self-nominations for two annual GSNA Essay Prizes that honor the best essays on Goethe, his times, and/or contemporary figures, published in the year 2021. Each prize carries an award of \$500.

Additionally, the executive committee seeks nominations or self-nominations for the annual Richard Sussman Essay Prize for the best essay published in 2021 on Goethe's contributions to the sciences and on Goethe in the history of science. The Sussman Prize also carries an award of \$500.

Please submit a copy of your essay (electronic version preferred) by April 30, 2022 to the Society's Vice President,

Professor Heidi Schlipphacke

Department of Germanic Studies University of Illinois at Chicago 601 S. Morgan Sdt, MC 315, 1516 UH Chicago, IL 60607 heidis@uic.edu

The following articles are eligible:

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

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

FROM THE YEARBOOK EDITORS



With volume 29 out this spring, we are planning volume 30, the last one under our co-editorship. Most contributions are still under review, but we expect to publish our customary range of

scholarship, including work by established scholars in the field as well as graduate students. Lile many of you, we enjoyed animated conversations about "Goethe's Things" late last year, as we gathered in Chicago for the Atkins Goethe Conference. We will feature several essays engaging Goethe's

"Gespräch mit den Dingen," his dialogue with objects, and hope to accommodate a few more. We will have a forum on "Unexpected Bodies," continuing our discussion from the most recent MLA in Washington, DC. That most, if not all, articles in the volume under development grow out of conference presentations in 2021 is perhaps a distinguishing feature. As we are in the midst of vetting and compiling, we want to extend our sincere thanks not only to actual and prospective contributors but especially to our colleagues reviewing manuscripts and supporting our work in these invisible ways – and to Sean Franzel, who works tirelessly commissioning and editing our always impressive book review section.

> Patricia Anne Simpson University of Nebraska

> > Birgit Tautz Bowdoin College

FROM THE BOOK REVIEW EDITOR

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:

Professor Sean Franzel

Department of German and Russian Studies University of Missouri 428 Strickland Hall Columbia MO, 65211 Telephone: (573) 882-4328 Fax: (573) 884-8456 franzels@missouri.edu

FROM THE EDITOR OF THE BOOK SERIES

As the incoming editor of the GSNA book series, New Studies in the Age of Goethe, I'd like to thank the outgoing editor, Karin Schutjer, for the excellent work that she, her advisory board, and editorial board performed and for the high bar that they set in publishing quality monographs that advance our field. I'm grateful that she has agreed to stay on as a member of our editorial board and hope that you'll join me in wishing her well with her new co-editorship of the *German Quarterly*.

I would also like to welcome the new editorial board and the new advisory board and thank each member for agreeing to serve:

Editorial board:

- Martha Helfer, Rutgers University
- Karin Schutjer, University of Oklahoma
- Astrida Tantillo, University of Illinois, Chicago

Advisory board:

- Jane Brown, University of Washington
- Adrian Daub, Stanford University
- Mary Helen Dupree, Georgetown University
- Stefani Engelstein, Duke University
- Elisabeth Krimmer, University of California, Davis
- Nicholas Rennie, Rutgers University

- Heidi Schlipphacke, University of Illinois, Chicago
- Birgit Tautz, Bowdoin College
- Gabriel Trop, University of North Carolina
- Brian Tucker, Wabash College
- David Wellbery, University of Chicago
- Ellwood Wiggins, University of Washington

I look forward to working with them and am grateful for their expertise and insight, which is certain to benefit the series.

Karin left us in a strong position, with two manuscripts slated for publication this year.

- Daniel Di Massa's *Dante in Deutschland: An Itinerary of Romantic Myth*, is scheduled for publication in July of 2022.
- Heidi Schlipphacke's *The Aesthetics of Kinship: Form and Family in the Long Eighteenth Century*, is scheduled for publication in December of 2022.

These two highly original, deeply researched, and beautifully written monographs are sure to make a strong impact on our field. As always, GSNA members can receive a 40% discount on our volumes here with the code BUPSOCIETY.

We look forward to these publications and to your contributions to the series, as well. 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 John Lyon at <u>jblyon@pitt.edu</u>. All books are peer-reviewed and appear simultaneously in cloth and paperback editions. After the member discount of 40%, 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. All inquiries are welcome.

John Lyon University of Pittsburgh

FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

If you have not yet paid your 2022 dues, please renew your membership as soon as possible. Current members should have received an email reminder from me.

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, 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.

William Carter Iowa State University

junior member (non-tenured faculty)	\$25
senior member (tenured faculty)	\$35
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institution	\$40
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lifetime patron	\$1,500

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