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GOETHE NEWS AND NOTES

XLIII.1, Spring 2023

Burkhard Henke, Editor
Davidson College

FROM THE EDITOR

Aside from the usual array of scintillating updates, this number of the *Goethe News & Notes* includes a couple of important calls for papers: one for sessions at the 2024 ASECS conference in Toronto, the other for next year's international Atkins Conference on "Goethe's Welt/Welten," to be held in San Antonio, Texas. The latter promises to be a real highlight for many of us.

Also in this issue, the executive committee seeks nominations or self-nominations for the GSNA Essay Prize, which honors the best essay on Goethe, his times, and/or contemporary figures, published in the year 2022. Additionally, we seek nominations or self-nominations for the annual Richard Sussman Essay Prize for the best essay on Goethe's contributions to the sciences and on Goethe in the history of science.

Volume 31 of the *Goethe Yearbook* is coming together nicely under the new leadership of Sarah Eldridge and Eleanor ter Horst, with Joseph O'Neil serving as the new book review editor. Like their predecessors, they welcome members' manuscripts on any and all aspects of Goethe, his contemporaries, and the long eighteenth century.

Last but not least, Bill Carter, our secretary-treasurer, is reminding those of us who have not yet paid their 2023 dues to renew our membership as soon as possible.

Burkhard Henke
Davidson College

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Having had the pleasure of seeing numerous GSNA plans and panels for our upcoming conferences, the GSA 2023 and the MLA 2024, I am impressed to witness yet again the vibrancy of ongoing discussions and work emerging from our members. The wide array of well-attended topics in the eighteenth and nineteenth-century German panels, and those sponsored by the GSNA give at the GSA last fall, the MLA in January of this year, and ASECS this spring are inspiring. In this era of the decline of the humanities in terms of numbers of students and programs across the United States and in Europe, too (and the related decline in the health of many democratic systems), I particularly want to celebrate all of your contributions that change the shape of our thinking and that also

include and encourage younger scholars and graduate students. The large number of exciting panels for upcoming conferences that are sponsored by the GSNA and by our members more broadly, as well as the new books and recent journal articles, all provide ample evidence of how important and relevant studies in the eighteenth and early nineteenth century continue to be. If I wrote in my last column about the tendency in the environmental humanities to focus more frequently on contemporary texts, I am encouraged by the broad-ranging publications and areas of study in our own field and timeframe that are as crucial as ever, including ecocriticism, science studies, colonial/postcolonial perspectives, posthumanism, race and gender studies, disability studies, the new materialisms and object oriented ontology, the interchanges between philosophy and literature, publishing systems, and many more. I must admit that such work contributed by our GSNA members appears to me not only to contribute to our ongoing scholarly understandings of the *Goethezeit*, but also a stemming against the flood of anti-democratic, book-banning, anti-historical trends currently running rampant. It is a delight to work with you all to continue these important contributions.

Speaking of major contributions, I want to note the incredible work of three of our esteemed colleagues who have recently passed away: Helmut Ammerlahn, John McCarthy, and Robert Tobin. All three of them helped shape German studies in the United States and abroad in important ways and were major forces in studies of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Their contributions to the GSNA itself need particular attention, and thus we

plan to feature tributes to them in the next newsletter and at upcoming conferences as well. Look for more information soon.

Looking towards the future, I am very pleased to share with you here the Call for Papers for our upcoming 2024 Atkins Conference to take place next November in San Antonio, Texas.

**Atkins GSNA Conference
November 7-9, 2024 (expected)
November 10 (dissertation workshop)
Trinity University, San Antonio, TX**

Goethe's *Welt/Welten* (World/s)

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 topic centers on 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.

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

Heather I. Sullivan
Trinity University

FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The GSNA Board welcomes proposals for sessions for next year’s ASECS conference in Toronto, CA, April 4-7, 2024. Please send a brief description of your panel proposal to Claire Baldwin, cmbaldwin@colgate.edu, by April 20, 2023.

The GSNA was well represented at the recent 2023 ASECS conference in St. Louis with three panels. Thank you to the organizers and participants of these sessions!

14. Musical Responses to Goethe's Works: Texts, Contexts, Genres I

Organized by Tekla Babyak,
Independent Scholar

Chair: Katharina Uhde, Valparaiso
University

1. Francien Markx, George Mason University, "'On To a Higher Path of Artistic Endeavor': Johann Friedrich Reichardt's Musical Exploration of Goethe's Works"
2. Matthew Poon, Oberlin College & Conservatory, "Depicting Goethe in Robert Schumann's Overtures"
3. Jonathan Guez, University of Houston, "What Schubert Learned from Goethe"

157. Musical Responses to Goethe's Works: Texts, Contexts, Genres II

Organized by Tekla Babyak,
Independent Scholar

Chair: Tekla Babyak, Independent
Scholar

1. Katharina Uhde, Valparaiso University, "Bettina von Arnim: Musical Life-writing and Musical Autobiography between Goethe and Beethoven"
2. Kevin E. Mooney, Texas State University, "Goethe and Schubert: In Search of Conceptions of *Bildung*"
3. Eleanor ter Horst, University of South Alabama, "Sing with the Devil: Musical Forms in Berlioz's *La damnation de Faust*"

72. Gambling in the Age of Goethe

Organized by William Carter, Iowa State
University, and Waltraud Maierhofer,
University of Iowa

Chair: William Carter, Iowa State
University

1. Claire Baldwin, Colgate University, "The Measure of Hope: Lichtenberg on Probability and the Gambler's Calculations"
2. Austen Hinkley, Princeton University, "Writing as a Game of Chance in Jean Paul"
3. Waltraud Maierhofer, University of Iowa, "'Ein elendes Gewerbe': Johann Heinrich Ramberg's Illustrations of the Card Game Pharo and Contemporary Descriptions"

Future panels at the GSA and MLA:

Thank you to Horst Lange, Sophie Salvo, Bryan Norton, Daniel Carranza, Joel Lande, Heidi Schlipphacke, and David Wellbery for organizing GSNA-sponsored sessions for the GSA in Montreal in 2023, as well as Eleanor ter Horst and Heather Sullivan for organizing GSNA-sponsored sessions for the MLA in Philadelphia in 2024. And thank you to all those who have submitted contributions and plan to participate in these panels and the GSA seminar. We hope to have confirmations of acceptance from the respective program committees soon and look forward to a wonderful set of conference sessions.

Claire Baldwin
Colgate University

*NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2022
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 2022. 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 2022 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, 2023 to the Society's Vice President,

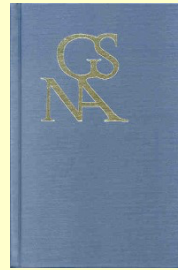
Professor Heidi Schlipphacke
Department of Germanic Studies
University of Illinois at Chicago
601 S. Morgan Sdt, MC 315, 1516 UH
Chicago, IL 60607
heidis@uic.edu

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*



Eleanor ter Horst and Sarah Eldridge are preparing *Goethe Yearbook* Volume 31, our first volume as co-editors, for publication, in collaboration with Joseph O'Neil as Book Review

Editor. Volume 31 includes submissions on topics ranging from the reworking of *Iphigenie auf Tauris* in GDR theater to Goethe's practice of autobiography as palimpsest.

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. Submissions are evaluated on a rolling basis; the latest submission date for consideration for volume 32 is January 15, 2024. Visit us at www.goethesociety.org/yearbook-submissions for more information on preparing and submitting manuscripts.

Sarah Eldridge
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Eleanor Ter Horst
University of South Alabama

*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 Joseph O'Neil
Dept. of German and Russian Studies
Irvin Hall 158
Miami University
400 E. Spring St.
Oxford, OH 45056
Telephone: (513) 529-2514
oneiljd@miamioh.edu

*FROM THE EDITOR
OF THE BOOK SERIES*

Since the Fall newsletter, the series has published Heidi Schlipphacke's *The Aesthetics of Kinship: Form and Family in the Long Eighteenth Century*. Congratulations, Heidi! 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 BUPSOCIETY.

In addition, the MLA and ASECS conventions have taken place, where the GSNA line was featured at the Bucknell and Rutgers University Press tables. Rutgers and Bucknell do a great job promoting our works and the displays of our books were appealing. Our editor at Bucknell told me that she had received lots of positive feedback about our series, so our work is getting noticed.

I appreciate your responses to my prompt for more submissions in the last newsletter. Since then, thanks to your suggestions, prompts from the editorial board, and some outreach, I have held conversations with multiple potential authors and am pleased with the potential submissions we have lined up for consideration. 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 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 SECRETARY-
TREASURER*

If you have not yet paid 2023 dues, please renew your membership as soon as possible. Current members should have received an email reminder from me. The

2023 membership comes with *Goethe Yearbook* 31 (Spring 2024).

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

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

GSNA OFFICERS

President

Professor Heather Sullivan
Department of Modern Languages and
Literatures
Trinity University
One Trinity Place
San Antonio, TX 78212
Telephone: (210) 999-7535
hsulliva@trinity.edu

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
Telephone: (312) 996-0965
heidis@uic.edu

Executive Secretary

Professor Claire Baldwin
Department of German
Colgate University

13 Oak Drive
Hamilton, NY 13346
Telephone: (315) 228-7281
cbaldwin@colgate.edu

Directors-at-Large

Professor Matthew Birkhold
498 Hagerty Hall
1775 College Road
Ohio State University
Columbus, OH 43210
Telephone: (614) 292-6985
birkhold.22@osu.edu

Professor Chunjie Zhang
Department of German and Russian
One Shields Ave
University of California, Davis
Davis, CA 95616
Telephone: (530) 754-2803
chjzhang@ucdavis.edu

Secretary-Treasurer

Professor William Carter
Department of World Languages and
Cultures
Iowa State University
3102 Pearson Hall
Ames, IA 50011
Telephone: (515) 294-1610
wcarter@iastate.edu

Editors of the *Yearbook*

Professor Sarah Eldridge
718 McClung Tower
1115 Volunteer Blvd.
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Knoxville, TN 37996-0470
Telephone: (865) 974-9758
seldrid2@utk.edu

Professor Eleanor Ter Horst
Department of Modern and Classical
Languages and Literature
University of South Alabama
322 HUMB, 5991 USA Drive, N
Mobile, AL 36688
Telephone: (251) 461-1527
eterhorst@southalabama.edu

Book Review Editor

Professor Joseph O'Neil
Department of German and Russian Studies
Irvin Hall 158
Miami University
400 E. Spring St.
Oxford, OH 45056
Telephone: (513) 529-2514
oneiljd@miamioh.edu

Editor of the Book Series

Professor John Lyon
1518 Cathedral of Learning
4200 Fifth Avenue
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Telephone: (412) 624-5839

Editor of the Newsletter

Professor Burkhard Henke
Department of German Studies
Davidson College
Box 6956
Davidson, NC 28035-6956
Telephone: (704) 894-2269
[buhenke@davidson.edu](mailto:buhenke@ davidson.edu)