



The Goethe Society
of North America

GOETHE NEWS AND NOTES

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Number VIII, 1

Spring 1987

Associated Meeting of the GSNA at the 18th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in Cincinnati, Ohio, 22-26 April 1987:

Chair: Karl J. Fink (St. Olaf College)

1. James Marchand (University of Illinois): "Locke's Theory of Language and Goethe."
2. James Van der Laan (Hope College): "Of Goethe, Essays and Experiments."
3. Frederick Amrine (University of Michigan): "Goethe's Rational Empiricism, or: on the Aesthetic Education of the Scientist."
4. Arnd Bohm (Carleton University): "A Man who fell to Earth: The Newtonian Paradigm in Die Leiden des jungen Werthers."

David LEE, Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee 37916, has agreed to chair the next Goethe Seminar at the 19th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in Knoxville, Tennessee, in April 1988. Address all inquiries to his address.

Program for the 1987 MLA Convention in San Francisco, 27-30 December:

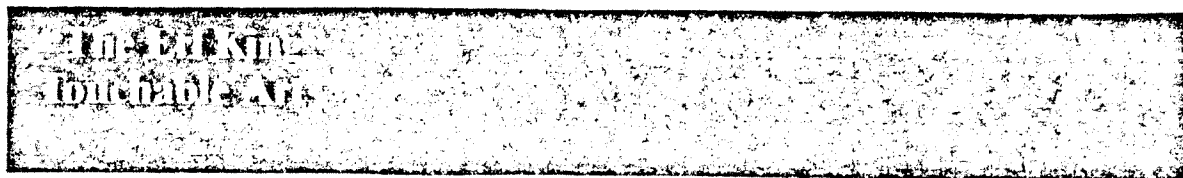
Title of Meeting: "New Approaches to Goethe's Novels."

Chair: Frederick Amrine (University of Michigan).

1. Scott Abbott (Vanderbilt University): "The Semiotics of Young Werther."
2. Birgit Baldwin (Yale University): "Wilhelm Meisters Wanderjahre as an Allegory of Reading."
3. Christian Rogowski (Harvard University): "Human Alchemy: Science and Psychology in Goethe's Die Wahlverwandtschaften."

Place, date and time of Meeting will be announced in the next newsletter.

Goethe's "Erlenkönig" on Exhibit at the newly inaugurated Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles:



With Grahame Weinbren's first multiple disc interactive video piece, visitors to MOCA can step closer than ever to a work of art. The first use of the technology of interactive video for artistic purposes, Weinbren's "The Erl King" is also the first installation to appear in MOCA's auditorium lobby. Opening Dec. 10, 1986, the work is on view through Jan. 25, 1987.

An experimental filmmaker since 1970, Weinbren has worked in the film industry for the past eight years editing features and documentaries. His experience as supervising film and tape editor for an interactive video installation on energy resources at the 1982 Knoxville World's Fair led him to his present project, which takes its name from Goethe's poem "The Erl King."

Touch the Screen

Computer technology usually implies mechanistic logic, but in "The Erl King" the logic of a computer program is combined with that of the human psyche. Weinbren describes "The Erl King" as a "video landscape of imagery and music" which he invites the viewer to explore. At any place in the landscape the participating viewer can change the images and sounds by simply touching the screen.

The experience is like wandering through a narrative space of dream-like sequences where various themes,—some fictional, some factual—are connected by a well-planned, though sometimes hidden, system of logic. The participant gains an overall impression of the self-contained world these images, music, texts and ideas form.

Taut Drama

"The Erl King" is a psychologically taut drama rooted in

Northern European folk mythology. Chillingly told by Goethe, it is the tale of a man whose son is captured by the supernatural Erl King, leaving the father holding a corpse. The images in the poem are of a cold misty night, rustling leaves, blowing winds and strange shadows which forewarn an unearthly tiding.

Set to music by Schubert in the early 1800s, the spine-tingling story is performed here on video by soprano Elizabeth Arnold, who adopts the voices of father, son, Erl King and narrator.

In Weinbren's work, Goethe's tale becomes even more psychologically layered as it invokes "The Burning Child Dream" described in Freud's "The Interpretation of Dreams." A man dreams that his recently dead child is alive, burning from the flames of candles surrounding his death bed. The man awakens and finds his child's body on fire. This portrayal of the psyche's powers is heightened by Weinbren's use of a set reconstructed from historical photographs of Freud's Vienna office.

Tense Musical Themes

The tensions implicit in these layered themes are reflected in the video's music. An impression of uncontrolled aggression is produced by performance artist and percussionist ZEV, while the emotionally-laden spiritual content of the piece is augmented by the *a capella* gospel group 14 Karat Soul. Their music suggests an ethereal scenario, creating the atmosphere of a psyche fascinated with death.

In addition to music, imagery and narrative threads, there are intervening 'guides' who provide direction for the viewer as well as computer-generated texts offering additional signposts.

Technical Basis

The technical basis for the work is a computer-controlled, laservideo disc system which uses three video-disc players and an infrared touch screen. Hardware and software have been developed especially for this project and designed so that other works can be made for the same system.

Since the screen is continuously 'alive,' responding to viewer input at every moment, the participant becomes an integral part of an individual creation, an art unique in its format, subject and technique.

Collaborative Work

"The Erl King" is a collaborative effort of director Grahame Weinbren and producer Roberta Friedman. Other members of the production are Ken Glickfeld, father; Cameron Johann, son; Dean Johnson, pianist; James Fulkerson and James Staley, trombonists; Carl Frederick, Scottish bagpipe player; Jon Weinbren, technical director; Anthony Forma, director of photography; Steven Lineweaver and Robin Palanker, production designers; and Steven Bannasch, software designer.

"The Erl King" is one of three inaugural media installations funded in part by HCB Contractors, Gypsum Enterprises, Inc., Western Air and Refrigeration Co., Kirkwood Electric, and Michael and Bonnie Forman.

Catherine Gudis is on the curatorial staff at MOCA.



The Goethe Society of North America at the MLA Convention 1988:

The Goethe Society of North America will sponsor a Business Meeting and a Seminar at the 1988 MLA Convention in New Orleans, 27-30 December.

The Seminar will deal with "New Approaches to Goethe's Drama," presiding Scott ABBOTT of Brigham Young University. The seminar has been scheduled for December 27, 7:00-8:15 PM in the Mardi Gras B room of the New Orleans Marriott Hotel.

Titles of Papers:

1. Susan E. GUSTAFSON, University of Rochester, "Storytelling and Telling Stories in Goethe's Götz von Berlichingen"
2. Patricia Anne SIMPSON, Yale University, "The Politics of Persuasion: Scenes of Decision in Goethe's Iphigenie"
3. Irmgard WAGNER, George Mason University, "Torquato Tasso: Phenomenology of the Poetic Mind, Tropologically"
4. J. Timothy BAGWELL, Vanderbilt University, "Desire and the Middle Voice in Goethe's Faust"

Business Meeting of the Goethe Society of North America

December 27, 9:00-10:15 PM, Mardi Gras B, Marriott.

Presiding: Victor Lange, Princeton University

Introductory Lecture: "How to Buy a Goethe Edition," Hans R. VAGET,
Smith College

Business Meeting: Agenda

1. Approval of the Minutes of the 1987 Meeting
2. Announcements by the President
3. Report of the Secretary-Treasurer
4. Report of the Editor of the Goethe Yearbook
5. Report on the Election Results
6. New Business

Minutes of the Annual Meeting 1987:

The annual business meeting of the Goethe Society of North America was held on Monday, December 28, 1987, in the Michelangelo Room of the Ramada Renaissance Hotel in San Francisco. In the absence of President Victor Lange, Vice-President Christoph E. Schweitzer called the meeting to order at 5.15 p.m.

The minutes of the 1986 meeting were approved as circulated. The report of the Secretary-Treasurer Meredith Lee was received and approved by acclamation.

Yearbook editor Thomas P. Saine was not present. It was announced that volume 4 of the yearbook is in press and should be available for mailing to members early in 1988.

Meredith Lee reported that the proposed by-laws were adopted by a vote of 62 to 1 with 1 abstention. (Approval by a two-thirds majority of those members responding to the mail ballot was necessary for approval of the amendments to the by-laws.) According to the by-laws, President Victor Lange will be appointing a nominating committee in 1988 to nominate candidates to fill the elected offices.

Christoph E. Schweitzer commented on the success of the session sponsored by the GSNA on New Approaches to Goethe's Novels. Chairs of the two 1988 MLA sessions sponsored by the Goethe Society need to be appointed. It was urged that we request the MLA not to schedule the business meeting in future years at 5:15 p.m.

New business included a general discussion of the newsletter, Goethe News and Notes, and of the relationship of the GSNA to the Goethe Society in Weimar. It was decided to extend an invitation to the leadership of the Goethe-Gesellschaft to attend future meetings sponsored by the GSNA. The Secretary-Treasurer indicated that a member had questioned the practice of billing members as well as non-members for \$25 for a set of GSNA labels. It was decided that the current practice should continue.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Meredith Lee
Secretary-Treasurer

Seminar of the Goethe Society of North America at the Twentieth Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies from March 29 to April 2, 1989 in New Orleans, Louisiana:

Seminar XX: Goethe and Mozart Respond to Revolutionary Thought

Presiding: Peter BOERNER, Indiana University, Bloomington

1. Robert SPAETHLING, Univ. of Massachusetts-Boston: "Tradition, Liberty, Equality: The Case of Mozart"
2. David PUGH, University of California, Santa Barbara: "'Crack Nature's Moulds': King Lear and Goethe's Conservative Anarchists"
3. Richard FISHER, Lake Forest College: "Revolution, Order, and Justice in Goethe's War Memoire Belagerung von Mainz."

Visiting Fellowships 1989-1990:

The Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale University, offers Visiting Fellowships to support visiting scholars pursuing post-doctoral or equivalent research in its German literature collection: Baroque,

Goethe, Thomas Mann, Broch. Applications should be mailed to The Director, Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Box 1603A Yale Station, New Haven, Connecticut 06520-1603. All application materials must be received by January 15, 1989. Awards will be announced in March 1989 for the period September 1989 through May 1990.

The Internalized Revolution: International Symposium on the French Revolution at the University of California, Los Angeles, 9-11 February 1989:

The Department of Germanic Languages at UCLA will present an international symposium on the French revolution under the title: "The Internalized Revolution: German Reactions to the French Revolution from 1789 to 1989." Speakers include Zvi Batscha, Klaus Berghahn, Gonthier-Louis Fink, Jens Kruse, Herbert Lindenberger, Wolfgang Mieth, Wolfgang Nehring, Thomas P. Saine, Jeffrey L. Sammons, Arlene A. Teraoka, Wilhelm Voßkamp, W. Daniel Wilson.

For information write to Hans Wagener, Department of Germanic Languages, University of California, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1539.

Goethe Studies Center, Univ. of California, Santa Barbara:

An interdisciplinary Goethe Studies Center has just been approved at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

The center is designed to pool resources and share scholarly knowledge about Goethe's works and his world as well as the impact which he had up to the present day. The center invites the collaboration of faculty members and students at the University of California, Santa Barbara and systemwide who are interested in the study of the Goethe period in various disciplines. In the beginning, international conferences are planned, alternating with workshops focused on specific works or problems, modelled on previously held symposia, such as "Goethe in Italy, 1786-1986" (1986), or "On the Eve of the French Revolution: Literature and Politics in the Age of Goethe" (1988).

For information contact Gerhart Hoffmeister, Acting Director, Goethe Studies Center, University of California, Santa Barbara CA 93106, Tel. No.: (805) 961-2131.

A Call for Papers has been issued for a workshop on Goethes Jugenddramen (Clavigo, Stella, Triumph der Empfindsamkeit) for November 11, 1989. The deadline for abstracts is April 30, 1989, the deadline for submission of papers is September 15, 1989.

Goethe Museum in Tokyo:

The Goethe-Museum in Tokyo, founded by Tadashi Kogawa, one of the most prominent Japanese Goethe specialists and collectors, was reopened in a new

building in April 1988. The original museum was founded in 1949. Kogawa, a successful entrepreneur, financed the construction of the new museum which houses his collection of 220 000 titles of Goethe's works and works on Goethe in Japan.

Goethe Museum in Düsseldorf moved to New Home:

The Goethe Museum in Düsseldorf with its collection of 30 000 titles and art objects moved to Schloß Jägerhof, a hunting chateau of the Goethe period in the central park of the city of Düsseldorf. Schloß Jägerhof previously housed the art collection of the State of Northrhine-Westfalia which was moved to a new museum.

New Books by Members:

Bennett, Benjamin. Goethe's Theory of Poetry: Faust and the Regeneration of Language. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 1986.

Kruse, Jens. Der Tanz der Zeichen: Poetische Struktur und Geschichte in Goethes Faust II. Königstein/Ts.: Hain, 1985.

Molnár, Géza von. Romantic Vision, Ethical Context: Novalis and Artistic Autonomy, Theory and History of Literature, vol. 39. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1987.

Muenzer, Clark S. Figures of Identity: Goethe's Novels and the Enigmatic Self. University Park and London: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 1984.

Saine, Thomas P. Black Bread-White Bread: German Intellectuals and the French Revolution. Columbia, SC: Camden House, 1988.

Spaethlingh, Robert. Music and Mozart in the Life of Goethe. Columbia, SC: Camden House, 1987.