



GOETHE NEWS AND NOTES

XIX.1 SPRING 1998

GSNA EVENTS AT THE 1998 GERMAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION MEETING IN SALT LAKE CITY OCTOBER 10-11, 1998

GOETHE AND VIOLENCE I: STURM UND DRANG

**Horst Lange, University of Nevada,
Reno, Moderator**

1. *Stella* and the Theme of *Opfer* in
Goethe's Early Works.

Sabrina Völz, Penn State University

2. The *Lustmord* of Goethe's *Adelheid*.

Ellis Dye, Macalester College

3. Feuds, Wars, and Violence: From *Götz
von Berlichingen* to the French Revolution.

Wulf Koepke, Boston

Commentator: **Michael Proctor**

GOETHE AND VIOLENCE II: CLASSICISM

**Meredith Lee, University of California,
Irvine, Moderator**

1. Identity, Community, and the Memory
of Violence in *Hermann und Dorothea*.

**Burkhard Henke/Derrick Miller, David-
son College.**

2. Goethe and the Ends of Violence.
Patricia Ann Simpson, Hunter College.

3. Politik als Brutalität mit Handschuhen.
Gewalt vor und nach der Revolution.
Wolfgang Wittkowski, SUNY-Albany.

Commentator: **Barbara Becker-Canta-
rino, Ohio State University**

GOETHE AND VIOLENCE III: FAUST

**Peter Höyng, University of Tennessee-
Knoxville, Moderator**

1. Faust the Colonizer.

Herbert Deinert, Cornell University.

2. Stirb und Werde, Gewalt und Fort-
schritt: Zum Begriff von Gewalt in
Goethe's *Faust*.

Gerlinde Sanford, Syracuse University.

3. On Poetic Violence and the Limits of
Reading.

Volker Kaiser, University of Virginia.

Commentator: **Nicholas Vaszonyi, Uni-
versity of South Carolina.**

GLORIA FLAHERTY SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

The GSNA Board of Directors has drafted guidelines for the Gloria Flaherty Scholarship and appointed the Vice-President of the GSNA and the two Directors-at-Large as the scholarship committee. In 1998 the first Gloria Flaherty Scholarships will be awarded. One or to two prizes of up to \$500 each in travel funds will be given annually to students working on Goethe and/or the Age of Goethe. There are two categories for the competition: 1) Money for travel required by a research project on Goethe and/or the Age of Goethe; 2) Money for travel to present a paper on Goethe and/or his age. The Society is not bound to award a prize in either category in any given year. "Age of Goethe" has its normal, relatively narrow range of meaning. It refers not merely to a specific period of historical time, but also to the existence of reasonably clear paths of association with Goethe's person, works, interest, or activities. Students who will either deliver a paper or complete a research project BEFORE receiving a doctoral degree are eligible.

Application Procedure: The applicant seeking travel money to deliver a paper should send: 1) a copy of the paper to be read, or of the most complete available draft; 2) evidence that the paper has been accepted for presentation by a reputable scholarly organization or institution. The applicant seeking travel money for research should send: 1) a detailed description of the research project, including a reasonable selection of supporting materials. If the project description exceeds two papers (ca. 600 words) in length, it MUST be accompanied by a synopsis or summary not

exceeding that length; 2) ONE letter of recommendation from a scholar qualified to comment on the project; 3) ONE letter of recommendation from a scholar who is familiar with then candidate's earlier work in either courses or research. N.B. ONE letter of recommendation means "only one." No letters of recommendation should accompany applications for money to present a paper. Letters of recommendation should be sent by the recommenders directly to the committee. Any materials that the candidate wishes returned must be accompanied by postage and an appropriate and pre-addressed mailing container.

Application Deadline: October 15

**Send to: Prof. Hans Vaget
Dept. of German
Smith College
Northampton, MA 01063**

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GOETHE YEARBOOK DO YOU HAVE A COMPLETE SET?

Members of the Goethe Society of North America may purchase back copies of the *Goethe Yearbook* at the cost of \$20 per copy. All volumes are available except Volume 1. In addition, the two special issues, *Interpreting Goethe's Faust Today* (edited Jane K. Brown, Meredith Lee, and Thomas P. Saine) and *Stuart Atkins: Essays on Goethe* (edited by Jane K. Brown and Thomas P. Saine) are available for \$25. Please use the order form at the end of the newsletter.

GOETHE PAPER TOWELS

Georgia-Pacific Corp. is marketing two-ply Sparkle paper towels with an upbeat message: "Nothing is worth more than this day -- Goethe," printed in seafoam green and surrounded by hearts and shooting stars. Christa Sammons, Yale University, has traced the quotation to *Wilhelm Meisters Wanderjahre* and acquired three rolls of the towels for the Beinecke collection of Goethe memorabilia (where they join Byron's rose and other unforgettable tributes). Reporters from *The Baton Rouge Business Report* (Sara Bongiorno, February 17, 1998) and the *Washington Post* (Linton Weeks, April 15, 1998) who have investigated the unexpected appearance of Goethe on the commercial scene write that the design was chosen from among 100 samples after surviving test-marketing in Tampa and Baltimore. So far the Goethe towels are selling "pretty well." Indeed, a reporter from an Atlanta newspaper told Christa Sammons recently that Georgia Pacific is being unexpectedly inundated with orders from all over the country. Thanks to Irmgard Wagner, Christa Sammons and Sara Bongiorno for article clips and conversation.

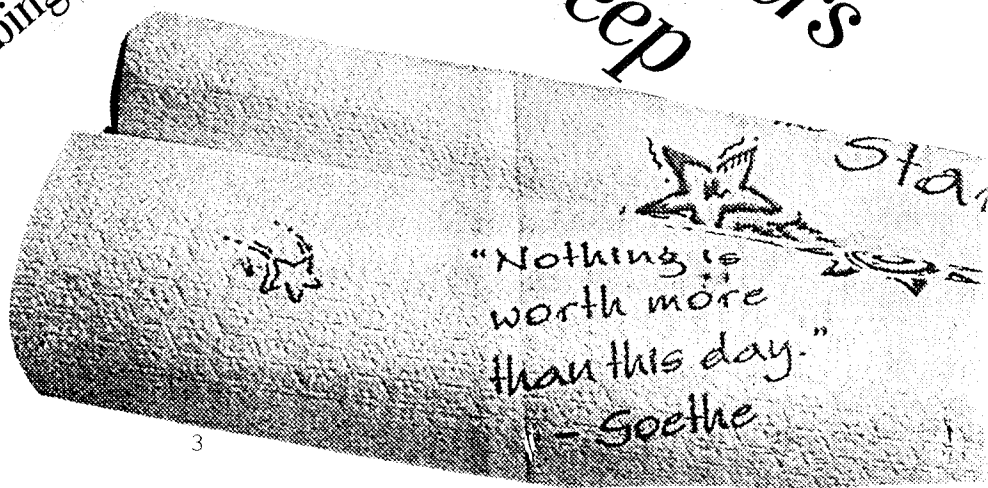
**CALL FOR PAPERS AT THE 1999
ASECS MEETING IN MILWAUKEE
MARCH 24-28**

GOETHE AND MUSIC IN WEIMAR OR BEYOND

Papers are invited that treat any aspect of Goethe and Music in Weimar or beyond, in the classical period (literary and musical) or the modern and postmodern. Preference will be given to proposals that, in addition to fulfilling the usual criteria of cogency, substance and originality, also show a freshness of approach, method and interpretation. Send, fax or email 1-2 page proposals to: Simon Richter, Dept. of Germanic Studies, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742. FAX: (301) 314-9841; SR43@umail.umd.edu; **Proposal Deadline: August 15.**

Goethe Cleans Up
Paper Towel Offers Absorbing Wisdom
By LINTON WEEKS
Washington Post Staff Writer

**Spill Blotters
Run Deep**



FROM THE EDITOR OF THE GOETHE YEARBOOK

I am now considering submissions for *Goethe Yearbook*, volume 10, which, if things go true to past form, will probably appear in 2000.

Thomas P. Saine
Editor

GOETHE QUOTATION IDENTIFIED

Of the many inquiries about Goethe and Goethe quotations that come to the Goethe Society of North America through the WEB site, the most oft repeated and vexing one has been a passage about boldness, magic, and providence that certainly sounded like Goethe, but eluded our attempts to track it down. You may recall that in our Fall 1996 Newsletter an editor at Celestial Seasonings Teas even offered some tea in exchange for help in identifying it. Most inquiries focused on the closing lines: "What you can do, or dream you can do, begin it"/ Boldness has genius, power and magic in it." But some cited a fuller passage:

"Until one is committed, there is hesitancy, the chance to draw back...Concerning all acts of initiative (and creation), there is one elementary truth that ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans: that the moment one definitely commits oneself, then Providence moves too. All sorts of things occur to help one that would never otherwise have occurred. A whole stream of events issues from the decision, raising in one's favor all manner of unforeseen

incidents and meetings and material assistance, which no man could have dreamed would have come his way. Whatever you can do, or dream you can do, begin it. Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it. Begin it now."

Well, it's been found and it is partly by Goethe, in a way. We first heard from Ellen Todd Hanks, a senior information service librarian at the Briscoe Library of the University of Texas Health Science Center. She found a variant of the final two sentences in *Stevenson's Home Book of Quotations*: "Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it. Only engage, and then the mind grows heated – Begin it, and the work will be completed."

The lines are attributed to John Anster in a "very free translation" of *Faust* from 1935.

They are indeed "very free" writes Katja Moser, who solved a larger piece of the mystery this May, and provided a fuller excerpt from Anster's translation, where the lines in question are spoken by the "Manager" in the "Prelude at the Theatre":

"Then indecision brings its own delays,
And days are lost lamenting o'er lost days.
Are you in earnest? Seize this very minute;
What you can do, or dream you can do,
begin it;
Boldness has genius, power and magic in
it."

Moser points to *Faust*, 214-30, as the passage paraphrased by Anster:

Der Worte sind genug gewechselt,
Laßt mich auch endlich Taten sehn!
Indes ihr Komplimente drechselt,
Kann etwas Nützliches geschehn.

Was hilft es, viel von Stimmung reden?
 Dem Zaudernden erscheint sie nie.
 Gebt ihr euch einmal für Poeten,
 So kommandiert die Poesie.
 Euch ist bekannt, was wir bedürfen,
 Wir wollen stark Getränke schlürfen;
 Nun braut mir unverzüglich dran!
 Was heute nicht geschieht, ist morgen nicht
 getan,
 Und keinen Tag soll man verpassen,
 Das Mögliche soll der Entschluß
 Beherzt sogleich beim Schopfe fassen,
 Er will es dann nicht fahren lassen
 Und wirket weiter, weil er muß.

Katja Moser also identifies the author of the lengthier passage being attributed to Goethe and, in doing so, reveals its connection with John Anster's inventive paraphrase. She writes:

"The quote as you give it in a larger context seems to be from W. H. Murray in *The Scottish Himalaya Expedition*, 1951. There the text apparently goes:

'But when I said that nothing had been done I erred in one important matter. We had definitely committed ourselves and were halfway out of our ruts. We had put down our passage money—booked a sailing to Bombay. This may sound too simple, but is great in consequence. Until one is committed, there is hesitancy, the chance to draw back, always ineffectiveness. Concerning all acts of initiative (and creation), there is one elementary truth the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans: that the moment one definitely commits oneself, the providence moves too. A whole stream of events issues from the decision, raising in one's favor all manner of unforeseen incidents, meetings and material assistance,

which no man could have dreamt would have come his way. I learned a deep respect for one of Goethe's couplets:

Whatever you can do or dream you can,
 begin it.
 Boldness has genius, power and magic in
 it.' "

So, did Goethe say it? Not really. Thank you, Katja Moser, for the discovery!

-- Meredith Lee

250th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

"Goethe, Chaos, and Complexity: A Symposium" will be held at Purdue University, April 10-11, 1999. Herbert Rowland invites paper proposals and inquiries. See the call in this issue.

Benjamin Bennett, University of Virginia, and Irmgard Wagner, George Mason University, are making plans for a conference in Washington, D.C. in 1999. Details in the fall newsletter!

CLEARING HOUSE FOR 1999

As we did in 1982, the Goethe Society of North America would like to serve as a informational clearing house for activities being planned for the 1999 Goethe year. As you plan events on your campus, please send full information to the Executive Secretary so that members might be informed in a timely manner. A central listing also alerts planners to possible programming conflicts.

WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA SATURDAY WITH GOETHE

Irmgard Wagner reports a successful programmatic venture in the Washington, D.C. area on April 4, 1998: Saturday with Goethe. At George Mason University some 30 participants, most of them members of the American Goethe Society's Washington chapter (most, therefore, not Goethe scholars or professionally engaged as Germanists), met to discuss Goethe's Italy, and especially the sites of Naples and Venice in the *Italienische Reise*. Donald Crosby and Simon Richter, University of Maryland, were the speakers.

CALLS FOR PAPERS AND MANUSCRIPTS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MEETING of the GSNA -- November 1998

Southern California members of the Goethe Society of North America, with the support of the Clark Library in Los Angeles, will host a one-day conference on *Dichtung und Wahrheit* on a Saturday in November, 1998, at the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, 2520 Cimarron Street, Los Angeles, CA 90018. Ehrhard Bahr, UCLA, is organizing the day. Participants are invited to reread Goethe's autobiography and to participate in a lively and focused reappraisal of the text with GSNA colleagues.

Paper proposals of 1-2 pages for 30 minute papers are invited. In order to enhance participation by interested colleagues in other fields, preference will be given

presentations in English. Please send proposals by **August 15** to Ehrhard Bahr, Department of Germanic Languages, University of California, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1539.

The conference is the third in a series of annual meetings designed to revisit well-known texts by Goethe. Some 30 participants gathered last year for the discussion of *Hermann und Dorothea*. Topics for future meetings will be determined at the conference; suggestions are welcome.

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SOUTHEASTERN SOCIETY FOR EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY STUDIES

25TH Annual Conference: Reunions, Celebrations, and Anniversaries

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, March
4-6, 1999

Celebrating Goethe: 1749-1999

The panel will commemorate 1999, the 250th anniversary of Goethe's birth, by featuring papers which examine the major celebrations both in Germany and abroad of Goethe during previous anniversaries of his birth and death. How was Goethe presented? How was his association with divergent cultural currents, e.g. Storm and Stress, Enlightenment, Classicism, and Romanticism employed or ignored by commemorators to promote specific interpretations of his significance? These questions apply not only to the politically turbulent events of 1848/49, but also to the celebrations of 1932 and 1949, which framed the rise of and fall of the Third Reich. The 1932 anniversary became a battleground between the ideological positions of the socialists and the fascists. The 1949 com-

memoration was an opportunity to use Goethe in the effort to rehabilitate Germany and its cultural heritage.

Send 1-page proposals by **September 1, 1998**, or address inquiries to:

Nicholas Vazsonyi
Dept. of Germanic, Slavic and Oriental
Languages, University of South Carolina
Columbus, SC 29208
Tel: (803) 777-2935
Fax: (803) 777-0132
vazsonyi@sc.edu

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**GOETHE, CHAOS, AND
COMPLEXITY: A SYMPOSIUM**
Purdue University, April 9-10, 1999

The recent trend in the natural sciences away from Newtonian reductionism to holistic and contextual approaches has given new currency to Goethe's scientific thought and work. Over the past few years, among other things, parallels have been recognized between Goethean science and the burgeoning disciplines often referred to as chaos theory and complexity, and there even exists anecdotal evidence that Goethe variously influenced the thinking of key figures in the relatively brief history of these fields. Germanists have confirmed the presence of such parallels in certain of Goethe's literary texts and have begun to consider their implications for his poetic work in general. At present, however, such attempts remain tentative and sporadic. The present symposium was conceived as a means of providing direction and focus of related endeavors.

Papers are welcome that address any aspect of the topic of the symposium, e.g., Goethe's philosophy of science in the context of chaos and complexity; his scientific methodology in the light of the new disciplines; the reciprocal relationship between his scientific and literary work(s) within the relevant framework; individual poetic texts as "hard" (real) or "soft" (metaphoric) models of chaos and/or complexity; the implications of specific literary works, so understood, for other areas of concern, such as history and society; or even the limits, limitations, or ultimate justification of such inquiry.

Given the desirability of attracting interdisciplinary participation, papers should be presented in English. By **September 1**, please send proposals of 1-2 pages for papers of 30 minutes to:

Herbert Rowland
Dept. of Foreign Langs. and Literatures
Purdue University,
West Lafayette, IN 47907

Tel: (765) 496-1685
FAX: (765) 494-1700
Email: hrowland@concentric.net

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**The 18th Annual Conference of the
NINETEENTH-CENTURY STUDIES
ASSOCIATION: Nineteenth-Century
Spectacles -- Philadelphia, PA March 18-
20, 1999**

**The National Author as Spectacle:
Commemorating Goethe in the 19th
Century**

Papers are invited on all forms of cultural

production, such as literary and theatrical events, artwork, ceremonies on the occasion of Goethe's death, celebrations in the "Goethe-year" of 1849, as well as reactions against the spectacle and cult of Goethe.

Send proposals of 1-2 pages for 20-minute papers by **September 3, 1998** to:

Waltraud Maierhofer
Universität Regensburg
Germanistik (Lehrstuhl Kreutzer)
93040 Regensburg, GERMANY

FAX (+49) 941 9431979
Wmaierh@blue.weeg.uiowa.edu

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SEASECS PERRY ADAMS ANNUAL ARTICLE PRIZE

The Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies invites submissions for its annual article competition. The Society will give an award of \$500 for the best article on an eighteenth-century subject published in a scholarly journal, annual, or collection between 1 September 1997 and 31 August 1998. Authors must become members of the Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. Articles may be submitted either by authors or by others acting in his/her behalf. Submissions written in a language other than English must include an English translation. The interdisciplinary appeal of the article will be considered, but will not be the sole determinant of the award. Please submit articles in triplicate, postmarked by 15 November 1998 to Sheila Skemp, Department of History, University

of Mississippi, University, MS 38677. The winning article will be announced at the annual meeting of SEASECS which will be held in Knoxville, Tennessee, March 4-6 1999.

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FROM THE EXEC. SECRETARY AND NEWSLETTER EDITOR

At the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Goethe Society in Toronto last December, I informed the Board that I would not be seeking reappointment as Executive Secretary of the Society when my term expires on December 31, 1998. The date marks some twenty years of service to GSNA, from the first informal meetings that led to the founding of the Society through multiple terms as Secretary-Treasurer and, more recently, service as Executive Secretary. The experience has been a grand one, but it is time to move on. President Benjamin Bennett is leading the Board in the process to appoint a new Executive Secretary.

The deadline for the Fall issue of *Goethe News and Notes* is October 15, 1998. I would like to continue the practice of listing any significant publications on Goethe by GSNA members, as well as completed dissertations, and would be grateful to receive such information regularly from you.

Meredith Lee
Executive Secretary

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DUES SCHEDULE

The dues for membership in the Goethe Society of North America are as follows:

active members	\$20
senior members	\$30
members paying in DM	DM 50
patrons	\$100
emeriti	\$10
students	\$10
institutions	\$30

Dues are payable in each calendar year. For further information, please contact the Secretary-Treasurer.

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WEB SITES

For GSNA:

<http://www.hnet.uci.edu/tpsaine/gsna.html>

For the *Goethe Yearbook*:

<http://www.hnet.uci.edu/tpsaine/gyb.html>

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