GOETHE NEWS AND NOTES
XX.2 FALL 1999

Editor, Clark S. Muenzer
University of Pittsburgh

FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND EDITOR

Goethe News & Notes will now appear twice yearly on a slightly revised calendar. The fall number will be sent to members at the end of November. The spring number will be sent at the end of May.

The current issue contains a good deal of information regarding recent Goethe-year events. It also provides a calendar of such events for the December meeting of the MLA.

If you wish to be part of our electronic mailing list, please see the notes at the end of the newsletter. To date I have received only a modest number of replies.

We remain interested in identifying any member who could help design and maintain an updated WWW page. We are also interested in hearing your views and ideas regarding electronic dissemination of scholarship and opinions. As President Bennett’s column, along with other controversies regarding the Goethe-year suggest, some kind of professional “Forum” along the lines of the PMLA might be both timely and useful. Please let me know what you think. A first step might be to publish the papers of the American Goethe-year electronically, as they were presented, and then invite commentary and debate. In the meantime, I urge you to read and enjoy Günter Hake’s Faust satire inside.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Chicago in December.

Clark S. Muenzer
Editor and Executive Secretary
University of Pittsburgh

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I think we will probably agree that the great Goethe year 1999 has turned out to be rather less impressive a celebration than many of us had expected. For my own part, two events in which I was involved were cancelled; and I have heard a couple of similar stories from others. Should we be disturbed by this kind of experience, or relieved?

I did take part in the “international colloquium” at Yale on “Goethe and Modern Culture” in early October and came away disturbed and relieved at the same time. Relieved, mainly, that the colloquium had had an intellectual core of serious and original papers; disturbed, mainly, by the “roundtable discussion,” to which I contributed, on “current issues and further challenges in the study of Goethe.” Repeatedly, in that discussion, we found ourselves worrying about whether, and in what form, future generations would retain a knowledge of Goethe, and hence about how we ourselves might promote an interest in Goethe among our students. Questions, that is, of popularity. And I am ashamed to say that it was not until after the “roundtable” was over that I thought of asking whether popularity, in any form whatever, is really something we should be in favor of for Goethe.

A good case can be made for the proposition that we, of the Goethe Society, ought to do all we can to restrict the knowledge of Goethe to as small a number of people (“zur kleinsten Schar”? ) as possible. For the historical situation is such that, inescapably, the measure of Goethe’s popularity is also the measure of his institutionality. The more widely Goethe is known, the more firmly he is
established as an institution—which is by no means universally true of major (even "canonical") authors. But there are two principal things wrong with Goethe as an institution. First, again inescapably, it (this "Goethe") is a national institution. And while there is perhaps not much future in taking a stand against national institutions as such, the particular kind of national institution that Goethe is beaten into becoming is uniquely deceptive with respect to the character of the institutional structure as a whole, hence an open door to the worst kinds of corruption.

Even if we manage to make our peace with the category of the national, however, or the nationalistic, I think we must remind ourselves that we can never conceivably accept, in Goethe, the institution's inherent resistance to change. The "study of Goethe" is a euphemism. The only real reason any of us are in this business is that we envisage work that will literally make a difference, which means making a change in "Goethe," because we are dissatisfied, for whatever reason, with what goes by the name of "Goethe" in our culture so far. The inertia of the institution therefore inevitably opposes us. Not in the form of anything like direct censorship: there have been plenty of quite startling interpretive and critical initiatives in recent years. But rather as a kind of constant gravitational force that blunts all our best arrows and bends them into soft ellipses (excerpts, as it were, of themselves) about the supposed unwavering center whose system they now merely augment. Is there really such a center, an unchanging, achievable core of knowledge about "Goethe" (beyond the trivially factual), to which all else must be related? The institution, by being an institution, answers yes. The "study" of Goethe cannot hope to set itself a significant task but by answering no.

There is thus a case to be made for keeping quiet about Goethe in public. And I suppose there is also a case to be made for the opposite, although I admit I find it hard to imagine what that case might be. When publicity or popularity is advocated, for Goethe or in comparable cases, the reason given is usually, in effect, that something "of value" must be preserved and transmitted to future generations. And even though we may have trouble getting a specific answer about exactly what that something is, still, whatever it is, it must be something about which we can count on widespread agreement. Otherwise how could we cooperate in the business of transmitting it, and how could we expect to achieve intergenerational communication about it?

It is at this point that this line of thought becomes intolerably condescending. For what is of value to us—in the "study" of Goethe—is precisely what we disagree about most radically, what we can never hope to reach a consensus on, those aspects of Goethe that we suspect of being irreducibly problematic. As publicists or preservers or intergenerational transmitters, therefore, we are picking out elements of "Goethe" that, for us, are of secondary value, and deciding that they are valuable enough for our inexperienced clients. Or perhaps it is the irreducibly problematic "Goethe" that we must transmit. But the problems that drive our work are not really transmissible in the sense here presupposed. They do not even exist as problems except for those, like us, who are already (and in the final analysis, unaccountably) committed to dealing with them.

Motto for the next millennium: Goethe, who's that?

Benjamin Bennett, President
University of Virginia

POEM

Osterraspaziergang am PC

Frei nach J. W. v. Goethe
Faust I, "Vor dem Tor"

Vom Passwort befreit sind graphische Flächen
durch der Tasten halten, belebenden Klick;
am Bildschirm grünet Öffnungsglück;
die alte DOS-Zeit, mit ihren Schwächen,
zog sich in ihre Disketten zurück.
In order to insure a smooth transition, Simon is assisting me in editorial work and production of volume 10, and I will assist him similarly in producing volume 11. While volume 10 is not yet completely full, I anticipate that it will be by the end of this year. Simon and I are interested in submissions that can be considered either for volume 10 or volume 11. Since I am currently on sabbatical in Göttingen, it will be simplest for all concerned if authors send their manuscripts to Simon, at the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6305, along with a copy on diskette which can be e-mailed to me.

Thomas P. Saine
tpsaine@uci.edu

Current Address: Zimmermannstr. 38c, 37075 Göttingen, Germany
Telephone/Fax: 01149551/379352

CONGRATULATIONS!


GSNA ELECTIONS

President

Professor Hans Vaget (Smith College), our current vice-president, will accede to the presidency in January, 2001.

A Nominating Committee has been selected by President Bennett. Its members are Jane Brown, Todd Kortje and Jonathan Hess. This committee will present a slate of candidates for the vice-presidency and the Executive Board (two Directors-at-Large) for a term extending from January 2001-December, 2003.

The Call for Nominations will appear in the Spring, 2000 issue of News and Notes.
Election Ballots will be mailed with the Fall, 2000 issue of News and Notes by mid-November, 2000.

Election Results will be tabulated by the chair of the nominating committee and announced during the December, 2000 annual business meeting at the MLA.

GOETHEFEST AT PENN

On November 5 and 6, the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures at the University of Pennsylvania, in conjunction with four regional chapters of the AATG and with the generous support of the Goethe Institute and the Goethe Society of North America, celebrated a GoetheFest in the historic German Society of Pennsylvania Building. On November 5, the GoetheFest was attended by over 200 high school students from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New Jersey; on November 6, approximately the same number of college and university majors from area schools, as well as the general public attended. The eight-hour long program included two interactive workshop periods with Penn faculty, a concert of Goethe-Lieder performed by New York based concert soloist Patricia Woodard, and a performance of scenes from Faust by Berlin based actors Susan and Thomas Schmuckert. The national AATG office was on hand to sell Goethe memorabilia (Goethe T-shirts, the Goethe comic book, and a Goethe Rap CD!)

1999 MLA CONVENTION IN CHICAGO

Monday, December 27

5:15 p.m.-6:30 p.m. (Columbus A and B, Sheraton)

Business Meeting of the GSNA

Presiding: President Benjamin Bennett (Univ. of Virginia)

Guest Speaker: Jane Brown (Univ. of Washington)

“When is Conservative Modern: Reflections on the 250th Birthday

7:00 p.m. (680 North Lakeshore Dr., Apt. 702; tel: 573-9931)

Reception

The Consul General of the Federal Republic, Mr. Michael Engelhard, and his wife have cordially extended an invitation to Goethe Society members and their companions to attend a reception at their home following the Annual Business Meeting. The Engelhards' apartment is on North Lakeshore Drive, about ten minutes by foot from the Sheraton Hotel.

Tuesday, December 28

12:00 noon-1:15 p.m. (Parlor E, Sheraton)

Goethe and the Aesthetic (Sponsored by the GSNA)

Presiding: Martha B. Helfer (Univ. of Utah)

“Goethe and the Spectacle of Attitüden”: Karin Wurst (Michigan State Univ.)

“Goethe’s Realistic Tic: Kant in Wilhelm Meister’s Apprenticeship”: Karin Schutjer (Univ. of Oklahoma)

“The Culture of Images: Goethe’s Wahlverwandtschaften: Fritz Breithaupt (Indiana Univ.)

Wednesday, December 29

8:30-9:45 a.m. (Mississippi, Sheraton)

Inspired by Goethe

Presiding: Meredith Lee (Univ. of CA, Irvine)

“Unwriting Goethe: Self-Image and Portrait in Italienische Reise: Waltraud Maierhofer (Univ. of Iowa)
"Re-viewing Homages: Shadow Plays of Sociability": A. Borchert (Princeton)

"Singing Goethe’s Praises: Goethe Songs by Women Composers": Ann Wilson Lemke (Univ. of Michigan)

7:15 p.m.–8:30 p.m. (Ohio, Sheraton)

Gendering Goethe

Presiding: M. Goozé (Univ. of Georgia)

"Feminine Neuter in Goethe’s Faust": L. Nygaard (Univ. of CA, Santa Cruz)

"Rewriting Goethe’s Holy and Unholy Threesomes: Christa Reinig’s and Christa Wolf’s Critique of Faust II": Rebecca Raham (Univ. of Minn.)

MINUTES OF 1998 BUSINESS MEETING

San Francisco, 29 December 1998

Presiding: B. Bennett, President (Univ. of Virginia)

The minutes of the previous year’s business meeting were read and approved.

President Bennett introduced a motion to express the Society’s strong and sincere gratitude to Meredith Lee for her long and distinguished service as Executive Secretary, noting that her service has been of enormous benefit to the Society. The motion was approved.

President Bennett introduced a motion to express the Society’s sincere gratitude to Clark Muenzer for his willingness to accept the challenging position of Executive Secretary. The motion was approved. President Bennett presented a summary of Goethe Society events in the coming year.

The Society’s policy for providing financial support to Goethe related events was reviewed: only events of great significance to the Goethe Society will be supported; routine or annual events will not receive support.

The possibility of establishing an e-mail list for GSNA members was considered. Executive Secretary Muenzer will look into the feasibility of this.

President Bennett announced the Society’s Flaherty Prize, which funds research and conference travel for graduate students. Details of the award will be printed in the News and Notes.

President Bennett proposed establishing prizes for essays, articles, first books, etc. The Executive Committee will consider this proposal.

The policy for selecting topics for GSNA sessions at the MLA was reviewed. Those interested in organizing a Society sponsored session at the MLA, ASECS, the GSA, or other conferences should contact President Bennett. The possibility of presenting papers at the GSNA business meeting at the MLA was debated and then approved.

The Treasurer’s Report was presented by Martha Helfer. The Society’s finances are stable. Helfer noted she had recently transferred the membership database to a new system; members who have not received Society mailings should contact her.

The Executive Secretary’s report was presented by Meredith Lee, who noted that the Society’s 20th anniversary meeting at the MLA will be held next year, and that the Society might want to invite an eminent scholar to speak at the meeting. President Bennett volunteered to arrange the event.

The incoming Executive Secretary, Clark Muenzer, announced he would aim for continuity in performing the duties of the Executive Secretary and would look into setting up an e-mail list for the Society.

Tom Saine presented the Yearbook Editor’s report. Volume 9 has been sent to the publisher and will appear in the spring. He also proposed creating a Goethe Yearbook index. The proposal was discussed; no resolution was reached.

Martha Helfer, Secretary-Treasurer
University of Utah
CALL FOR PAPERS
German Studies Association
October 2000

Presiding: Fritz Breithaupt (Indiana Univ.)

"Goethe and the Ego"

The session wants to examine how a new and influential concept emerged during Goethe's lifetime, namely the self or ego. Whereas the earlier notion of the subject had been defined in opposition to concepts of objectivity, this new self only exists as an effect of its positing. To discuss the history, structure, and effects of this notion, readings of autobiographical, literary, and scientific texts by Goethe and others, such as Herder, Moritz, and the Schlegels are welcome. Despite the problematic structure of this new idea of self—or perhaps because of it—it sets the agenda for a series of changes, including re-conceptualizations of education, experience, religion, the arts, etc. It also plays a key role in the foundation of German psychology, all of which can be the subject of contributions for the panel.

Send 1-2 page abstracts by March 1 to:

Fritz Breithaupt
Germanic Studies
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47405
fbreitha@indiana.edu
fax: 812-855-8927

GOETHE CD-ROM

Ars Musica has released a two-CD set that will be of special interest to GSNA members: Goethe-Lieder by Carl Friedrich Zelter and Schubert. One CD is devoted to the works of each composer. The songs are sung by tenor Hans Joerg Mammel, accompanied by Ludwig Holtmeier on the Streicher fortepiano (built in 1821) in the Juno room of the Goethe House in Weimar. Ars Musica is the label of the Freiburger Musik Forum.

UPCOMING EVENTS
American Society of 18th Century Studies

The annual ASECS meeting will be held in Philadelphia in April 12-16, 2000.

Presiding: C. MacLeod (Univ. of Penn.)

"...sollten wir aber nichts weiter darauf bauen": Time and Spatial Architectonics in Die Wahlverwandschaften": Claudia Lacour (Princeton Univ.)

"The Alienation of Adornment in Goethe's Early Lyric": Daniel Purdy (Columbia Univ.)

"Theater as Guckkasten": Eric Denton (Wheaton College)

WWW SITES

GSNA
http://www.hnet.uc.edu/tpsaine/gsa.html

GOETHE YEARBOOK
http://www.hnet.uc.edu/tpsaine/gyb.html

DUES SCHEDULE

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

- active member: $20
- payment in D-Marks: $50
- senior member: $30
- patron: $100
- emeritus: $10
- student: $10
- institution: $30
GSNA OFFICERS

President

Professor Benjamin Bennett
Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures
Cocke Hall, University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA 22903
Telephone: (804) 924-6695 (o); (804) 831-2423 (h).
E-mail: bkb@virginia.edu

Vice-President

Professor Hans Vagel
Department of German
Smith College
Northampton, MA 01063
Telephone: (413) 585-3409 (o).
E-mail: hvagel@smith.smith.edu

Secretary-Treasurer

Professor Martha Helfer
Department of Languages and Literature
1400 LNCO
University of Utah
Salt Lake City, UT 84112
Telephone/Fax: (801) 581-7737 (o); 581-7581 (fax).
E-mail: Martha.Helfer@mcc.utah.edu

Directors-at-Large

Professor Waltraud Maierhofer
German Department
The University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA 52242.
E-mail: Wmaierh@blue.weeg.uiowa.edu

Professor Simon Richter
Dept. of Germanic Languages and Literature
745 Williams Hall/CU
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6305
Telephone: (215) 898-7332 (o)
E-mail: srichter@sas.upenn.edu

Executive Secretary

Professor Clark S. Muenzer
Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures
1409 Cathedral of Learning
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Telephone/Fax: (412) 624-5840 (o); (412) 361-1220 (h); (412) 624-6318 (fax)
E-mail: muenzer+@pitt.edu

Editor of the Yearbook

Professor Thomas P. Saine
Department of German
University of California
Irvine, CA 92697-3150
Telephone/Fax: (949) 824-6406 (o); (949) 824-6416 (fax)
E-mail: tspaine@uci.edu

Professor Simon Richter (See above)

Book Review Editor

Professor R. Ellis Dye
Department of German Studies and Russian
Macalester College,
St. Paul, MN 55105

REPORT ON SOME 250TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

October 8 - December, 1999

Exhibition: "Goethe And The Natural Sciences" Yale University, Beinecke Library, organized by Christa Sammons

An exhibition showing some of Goethe's scientific studies and interests in their contemporary European context, with sections on comparative osteology, botany, geology, optics, meteorology, and Goethe's scientific colleagues and friends. Drawn from the William A. Speck Collection of Goetheana, the exhibition also includes materials relating to the history of science from the Beinecke Library and other Yale libraries.
October 8 - 10, 1999

Goethe and Modern Culture: An International Colloquium at Yale University, organized by Cyrus Hamlin

"Accelerated Time: A Few Remarks on Goethe's Modernity": Manfred Osten

"Goethe on the Urphänomen: Morphology as Self-manifestation": R.H. Stephenson

"Closest to God: Goethe as an Experimentalist": Neil Ribe

"When is Conservative Modern": Jane Brown

"Who needs Goethe?": Geoffrey Hartman

"With a little help from my Goethe": Winfried Menninghaus

"Freud Reads Goethe": Peter Gay

"Culture in Cassirer's Reading of Goethe": John Michael Krois

"Goethe's Last Words on the Theory of Culture": Cyrus Hamlin

Iphigenia in Tauris: A Concert Reading in English

"Current Issues and Further Challenges in the Study of Goethe"

Moderator: Brigitte Peucker

Benjamin Bennett, Jane Brown, Meredith Lee, Catriona MacLeod, Clark S. Muenzer, Simon Richter, Thomas P. Saine, Hans Rudolf Vaget, and Irmgard Wagner

Goethe in Exile (1933-1945), a symposium at the Max Kade Center for German-American Studies, University of Kansas, organized by Frank Baron

The discussions about Goethe's image and influence in the Nazi period brought forth a complex mosaic of perspectives. The presenters and moderators of the symposium (Erhard Bahr, Frank Baron, Peter Boerner, Burghard Dedner, Viktoria Hertling, Uwe-K. Ketelsen, Wulf Koepke, Helmut Koopmann, Leonie Marx, Warren Maurer, Gert Sautermeister, John M. Spalek, Hartmut Steinecke, Guy Stern, and Nicholas Vazsonyi) explored in detail Goethe as a point of literary and political orientation. Debates centered on exiles Ernst Toller, Thomas Mann, Hermann Broch, and Georg Lukacs, as well as on "inner immigrants" such as Gerhart Hauptmann and Hans Carossa. G. Sautermeister began the discussion with a consideration of the idea of the exile experience in Goethe's own literary works. Peter Boerner supplied information about a comprehensive effort to deal with the problematic past and future on the basis of Goethe's legacy. He described the Aspen Goethe Convocation of 1949, which had been organized by Arnold Bergstraesser and Robert Hutchins (both of the University of Chicago). Boerner reflected on the visionary nature of the earlier anniversary. He quoted Hutchins: "In a good Goethean world the means of communication and transportation would be used not to send bombs, propaganda, and messengers of misguided self-interest from one country to another, but to exchange students, professors, ideas, and to develop a supranational community founded on the humanity of the whole human race." In general, the discussions in Lawrence focused on the difficult past that preceded the optimistic Goethe Convocation of 1949. They produced manifold juxtapositions and contexts from which an objective view of Goethe's influence appeared to emerge. It became evident that in the time of the Nazi domination of Europe, Goethe represented a refuge of hope and inspiration, both inside and outside of Germany.

Frank Baron

October 28 - 30, 1999

"Goethe in German-Jewish Culture," University of Wisconsin-Madison, organized by Jost Hermand and Klaus Berghahn

The international symposium on "Goethe in German-Jewish Culture," organized by the Department of German, the Center for Jewish Studies, and the Center for German and European Studies followed a trend set by previous Wiscosin Workshops, most notably the highly controversial "Klassik Legende" workshop of 1971. In celebration of his 250th birthday, the presenters convened to examine the reception of Goethe's works within the complex issues of German-
Jewish symbiosis in German cultural and intellectual history. In four sessions spread out over two days, the participants examined Goethe’s concept of Bildung as it became a model for the cultural assimilation of a Jewish elite in Berlin’s salon culture at the end of the 18th century. They explored the role of subsequent generations of Jewish intellectuals, scholars, writers, artists, and composers who helped institutionalize Goethe’s prominence as a national poet and philosopher. Also explored, however, were their reactions against Goethe and some of his anti-Semitic utterances. Jewish scholarly and biographical contributions to the study of Goethe during the 19th century, and later in British and American exile, contributed to the popularization of Goethe’s work both for the general public and in scholarship. In the time-honored Wisconsin Workshop tradition, heated discussions often followed the presentations, raising more questions than were answered. The organizers hope that the dialogue thus initiated will continue.

Gisela Hoecherl-Alden  
University of Pittsburgh

November 11 - 14, 1999

Augenmensch: Goethe and the Field of Vision, Columbia University, organized by Dorothea v. Muecke and David Wellbery

By focusing on various aspects of vision we hoped to provide a common area of concerns and questions that was both broad enough to encompass a wide spectrum of the different areas of writing and enquiry that Goethe’s oeuvre covers and to allow for contributions from different disciplines, such as art history, philosophy and literature. Furthermore, we intended to address an area of current interest in cultural analysis and theory, namely visuality studies. The contributions to the conference could be grouped in the following rubrics:

1. vision as an object of scientific inquiry (Goethe’s Farbenlehre and Morphology)
2. the look, regard and gaze as the medium of intersubjectivity (cf. Goethe’s correspondence with Charlotte v. Stein, for instance)
3. vision and scenarios of power and control (as in Faust II)
4. the range, limits and paradoxes if the visual becomes the model for the aesthetic experience

5. the symbolic salience of the eye
6. philosophical repercussions of Goethe’s theory of mental sight

The symposium was sponsored by the Thyssen Foundation, the Goethe Institute New York, DAAD, the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, the Johns Hopkins University, and the German Department and the Center for Comparative Literature and Society at Columbia University.

Dorothea v. Muecke  
Columbia University

November 11-14, 1999

“Goethe And The Age Of Romanticism,” Princeton Univ., organized by Walter Hinderer

Classicism and Romanticism

“Goethe und die Typologie des Klassisch-Romantischen”: Dieter Borchmeyer

“War die Klassik farbenfeindlich und die Romantik farbengläubig? Von Lessings Laokoon zu Goethes Farbenlehre und deren Nachwirkung”: Jacques Le Rider

“Arabeske und Groteske bei Goethe und in der Romantik”: Günter Oesterle

“Mannigfache Wege gehen die Menschen. Romanzanfänge bei Goethe und Novalis”: Gerhard Neumann


“Sie grüßen den alten Held.’ Zur Goetherezeption der Hochromantik”: Alexander von Bormann

“Goethe’s Theory of Memory”: Gabriel Motzkin

“Der ‘europäische’ Goethe und die frühe Romantik”: Marie-Claire Hock-Demarle

“‘Es ist an der Zeit.’ Zeitenwende gegen 1800 in Klassizismus und Romantik”: Ingrid Oesterle

“Goethe and the New Philosophy”: Liliane Weissberg
“Goethe and Romantic Poetry”: David Wellbery

“Lesen und Schreiben in Goethes Wahlverwandschaften”: Gabriele Brandstetter

Goethe and the Arts (Drawing the Line)

“Goethe. Line and Outline”: Wm. Vaughan

“Goethe’s Later Cycles of Drawings”: Nicholas Boyle

“Embodying the Poetic. The Reception of Goethe in Late Romantic Art”: C. Grewe

Goethe and the Arts (Musical Affinities)

“Neue Mythologie” und musikalische Poetologie. Goethes Annäherung an die Romantik”: Christine Lubkoll

“Über die Musik in Goethes Faust”: Hans Joachim Kreutzer

“Goethe’s Lieder. A Challenge for Romantic Composers”: Giosachino Lanza Tomasi

Goethe’s Traces

“Alte Meister in klassisch-romantischem Kontext. Friedrich Schegel, Goethe und die Sammlung Boisserée”: Paolo Chiarini

“Natur! Natur!': Sigmund Freuds Goethe-Traum”: Stéphane Moses

“Goethe und die Folgen”: Johannes Willms

November 12-13, 1999

International Symposium sponsored by the Ontario Goethe Society and organized by Hans Schulte, Trinity College, Toronto

“Why Goethe? Recalling the Bicentennial, Rereading Werther”: C. Schweitzer

“Denazification: Goethe as a Teacher of Democracy”: E. Warkentin

“History is Myself: On Goethe’s Attitude to Past and Future”: D. Vincent

“The Sorcerer’s Apprentice Revisited”: J. Schmidt

“Erlikönig: Who Violates Whom?” E. Dye

“Mignon and the Harper: Goethe and Schubert”: J. Curran

“Goethe’s Divan: Creating Modern Aesthetics”: H.-G. Schwarz

“Faust on the Weimar Stage: Tradition and Innovation”: D. John

“The Faces of Radical Evil in the Faust Tradition”: H. Schulte

“(Not) Her Master’s Voice: Gretchen and Helena in the Faust Tradition”: I. Wagner

“What Makes the World Go Round: The Witch’s Kitchen”: N. Rennie

“Der blinde Faust”: E. Laemmert

“Friedrich Schlegel and Goethe”: H. Eichner

“Goethe, Hölderlin, and the Crisis of Cultural Identity”: J. B. Lyon

“Goethe and Kleist—or Kleist and Goethe?”: M. Pollard


NECROLOGY

Professor Edith Potter of the Scripps College faculty, died in July. Born in Berlin, Professor Potter graduated from UCLA, where she received her M.A. and Ph.D. She also served on the faculty of Sonoma State College. A respected scholar of German literature, most notably Goethe’s Faust, she was the author of numerous articles on German and comparative literature.

E-MAIL ADDRESS REQUEST

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