FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND EDITOR

I would like to begin my tenure as our Society’s executive secretary by thanking the officers and board for their confidence. I would also like recognizing the dedicated work of Meredith Lee, who has always responded with grace and efficiency to my many questions over the past six months. Meredith has done a great deal on which I will continue to depend and for which I am grateful. However, my most sincere form of gratitude will be to allow her to enjoy her new duties as a member of the Vorstand of the Goethe-Gesellschaft in Weimar without too many e-mail queries. Congratulations, Meredith!

My thanks also to our former President Jane Brown for her incisive comments regarding the anniversary festivities in Weimar. In fact, I hope that pieces like hers below will become a regular part of News and Notes. Please contact me if you want to “editorialize” regarding some Goethe issue. Humorous tidbits, including cartoons and satirical texts, are welcome as well. In the winter issue I will offer a “fausticized” piece on the information age!

Once I have mastered the routines of my new position, I plan updating the Society’s WWW homepage. Please write me regarding any new features that you think we should incorporate. For those with the interest and expertise, contact me if you can help in the redesign.

Finally, please respond to my request for your e-mail address at the end of the News and Notes, so that we can compile as complete a list as possible. I would like having the ability to contact the membership between News and Notes mailings, especially with “Calls for Papers” and other announcements with deadlines.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our December MLA meeting in Chicago and our April ASECS meeting in Philadelphia. Our secretary-treasurer, Martha Helfer, has kindly agreed to represent the Society at the GSA meeting in Atlanta this October.

Clark S. Muenzer
Editor and Executive Secretary
University of Pittsburgh
YEABOOK EDITOR

No single person has given more of his time and expertise to the business of the Society than our Yearbook editor, Thomas P. Saine (UC, Irvine). Last December Tom informed the officers and board of his intention to step down from this crucial post with the publication of volume 10. On behalf of the Society I extend to Tom our sincere gratitude for more than twenty years of dedicated work as editor. His talent has brought international recognition to the Yearbook and our occasional publications. Just as importantly, Tom’s vision of the Yearbook has created a distinguished “place” for a variety of studies that, due to length or approach, might otherwise have been difficult to publish.

The officers are currently considering candidates for Tom’s successor. An announcement will be made by the end of the year.

DISNEYLAND WEIMAR

A Brief Report on Attending the Hauptversammlung of the Goethe-Gesellschaft in Weimar

The 76th Hauptversammlung of the Goethe-Gesellschaft took place in Weimar from May 26-29. Four of us from North America (that I know of—if I missed any of you, I apologize) were there: Ted Bahr, Meredith Lee, Katharina Mommsen and myself. Professor Mommsen delivered the Eröffnungsvortrag and was also awarded a golden Goethe-Medaille for her outstanding contributions to the study of Goethe (see the Laudatio, delivered by Dr. Regine Otto of the Stiftung Weimarer Klassik below). Meredith Lee was elected to a four-year term in the Vorstand of the Society.

The meeting was entitled “Goethe und das 20. Jahrhundert. Das Vergangene als das Zukünftige?” On the first afternoon specific examples of Goethe’s influence in various foreign countries were explored in six sessions; two more sessions addressed Goethe’s place in the politics of the Weimar republic and National Socialism. The latter two were, by report, quite lively. On the second day eight more sessions examined Goethe’s impact on various aspects of German culture: the stage, lyric, novel, political thought, education, art, music, science. Werner Keller, the outgoing president of the Society, and Katharina Mommsen set the tone in their addresses at the opening session. Professor Keller reiterated the central theme of his presidency, the need for the Society to enable colleagues in the former East-bloc countries and elsewhere in the world to come work in Weimar. With characteristic tact he expressed his sincere regret at the absence of most of the Serbian colleagues, while nevertheless condemning the actions of the Serbian government in Kosovo. Professor Mommsen’s lecture, “Goethe und unsere Zeit,” was an impassioned defense of Goethe in response to the flap
occasioned by Roman Herzog’s recent citation of Daniel Wilson’s attack on Goethe’s political status. Professor Mommsen’s argument that Goethe opposed not democracy but revolution and her identification of Goethean positions in the Grundgesetz drew repeated applause, especially her climactic call, “Lassen wir nicht zu, daß er von Unkündigen mit Dreck beworfen […]!” It was hard to recognize that we were gathered to celebrate the 250th birthday of Germany’s greatest poet.

A more open ambivalence pervaded the evening entertainments. I must confess to skipping the five-hour performance of Faust on the basis of the hostile reviews it had received, but I don’t think I would have been amused by Faust taking his poison out of the refrigerator. “Mephisto. Ein Tanztheater nach Goethes Faust” reduced the play to its most banal: Mephistopheles (all in red) brutalizing Faust and his soul (two dancers) by spitting blood on them, Faust’s soul ascending to heaven at the end apparently dead as a door-nail. Berlioz’s “Damnation of Faust” in an all-to-rare staging showed that the opera is indeed exciting musical theater, even when Goethe’s original texts were used for arias written to accompany rhythmically quite different French translations. Here too Mephistopheles was front and center, even in scenes from which Berlioz had deliberately excluded him, so that the production became a celebration, rather than exploration, of evil. Perhaps closest in spirit to Goethe’s own view of Faust was the delightful “Carnevale. Die italienische Reise des Dr. Faust” presented by an Italian troupe in the meadow by the Ilm. In this commedia dell’arte production—mostly in Italian with just enough German to keep the audience “im Bilde” and to sneak in appropriately inappropriate Goethe quotes—Dr. Faust is conflated with Goethe traveling in Italy and is to learn to renounce his melancholy by participating in the carnival. Magically rejuvenated to look rather like Frank Sinatra, he falls in love with Margarita, the Seiltänzerin of the troupe. Faust never learns to live for the moment and stomps home to Germany in a huff, but Wagner enters into the spirit of things and wins his girl. The high points were Margarita-Mignon’s spectacular tight-rope performances. It’s nice to know someone remembers Goethe wrote books.

The ambivalence to Goethe among the exponents of high culture is invisible in the hoopla outside to celebrate Weimar 1999, “Kulturstadt der EU.” The powers that be have chosen as their motto “Salve,” and you see it everywhere—on billboards, on pins for sale in the special Weimar tourist shops, on the label on the package held by the almost life-size blue plastic Goethe and Schiller posted on the balcony over the entrance to the Hotel Elephant. The extension of Goethe’s greeting in his own house to the whole world is symptomatic of Germany’s general failure for the last two centuries to distinguish the private individual from his public achievement. Weimar is being
marketed, so far as I can see, exclusively as the locus of the *Klassiker-Kult*. You can buy ginko this and ginko that, Goethe cognac and green Goethe biloba marzipan, Faust or Mephisto or Gretchen tee-shirts, a yo-yo with Goethe's color wheel, Goethe and Schiller hand-puppets—heaven help us. But the slightly silly trivia are better perhaps than the busts, reliefs, and china decorated with portraits of the Weimar notables that have been marketed in Weimar since the 18th century. Then there are the cuckoo clocks and the Christmas ornaments. The Goethe Museum has been splendidly refurbished, an exact replica of Goethe's garden house has been plunked down in the meadow at right angles to the "real" one, complete with gates that lead nowhere, to protect the "original" from over-crowding. Rumor has it that it will be shipped to the U.S. at the end of the Goethe year. No one could explain to me the odd sub-musical noises coming from loudspeakers attached to the trees along the Ilm in the park; they do cast a pall on early morning walks and bird-watching in the park. The *Fürstengruft* has been refurbished, and the East Germans are not the only ones to have been fiddling with the sacred corpse. Goethe and Schiller have been demoted from their dais, the royal dead restored to their places of honor, the neo-Renaissance frescoes added in the 19th century (despite Karl August's explicit insistence on modesty and simplicity) restored. The building has been returned to its state as of 1900 on the grounds that this is the best documented state of the building—odd reasoning, but the pattern seems to be typical for the restoration of the city. The celebration here is not of German classicism, but of the cult of German classicism, of the second empire. No wonder no one seems to care about Goethe's birthday.

Weimar was relatively well cared for as things went in the GDR; it is not hard to imagine what might be the feelings of its residents as their history of the last forty years is energetically erased, however grateful they may be for the much-needed improvements to the city's infrastructure. The response was best caught in a bumper-sticker I noticed on my last early morning walk in Weimar (not, alas, in the park): "Disneyland Weimar."

**Jane K. Brown**  
University of Washington

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**GOLD GOETHE-MEDAL FOR KATHARINA MOMMSEN**

**Editor's Note:** We are delighted to report the awarding of the *Goldene Goethe Medaille* to our colleague, Katharina Mommsen at this year's annual meeting of the *Goethe-Gesellschaft* in Weimar. The following *Laudatio* was offered.

Die *Laudatio* ist ein literarisches Genre—zu den Forderungen dieses Genres gehören vor allem Kürze und Bündigkeit. Diese Forderungen sind besonders schwer zu erfüllen, da es sich darum...
handelt, die Arbeit von Katharina Mommsen zu würdigen.


sich bei näherem Zusehen als durchaus zugehörig.


Es kann kaum angedeutet werden, wie diese Methode sich auf die Lehrtätigkeit auswirkt. Die Anstrengung, die solche Lehre den Studierenden, nicht selten auch den Kollegen abfordert, ist beabsichtigte Zumutung. Wo die ange- nommen wird, hat sie fast immer Dankbarkeit im Gefolge. Über Katharina Mommsens Lehrtätigkeit muß wenigstens einiges noch gesagt werden: Dem


Trutz“—und im Bund mit Goethe: „Nun! man kommt wohl eine Strecke.“

Regine Otto
Weimar, 28 May 1999

FURTHER CONGRATULATIONS!

Jonathan M. Hess of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for the publication of Reconstituting the Body Politic: Enlightenment, Public Culture, and the Invention of Autonomy (Detroit: Wayne State, 1999).


Meredith Lee of University of California at Irvine for her election to the Vorstand of the Goethe-Gesellschaft in Weimar, as well as the publication of Displacing Authority: Goethe’s Poetic Reception of Klopstock (Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag, 1999).

GSNA ELECTION SCHEDULE

Presidency
Professor Hans Vaget (Smith College), our current vice-president, will accede to the presidency in January, 2001.
A Nominating Committee will be appointed by President Bennett before the 1999 annual business meeting in Chicago. This committee will be charged to 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.

Elections 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.

"Goethe, Höllderlin, and the Task of German Culture: Effacing or Redeeming a National Character?"
John B. Lyon, Colby College
“Deutsche Identität durch Goethe? Mehr Nein als Ja”
Wolfgang Wittkowski
University at Albany, New York
“Goethe’s Wandering Germans and Wandering Jews”
Karin Schutjer, University of Oklahoma
“Goethe Hermann und Dorothea: A New Arminius?”
Geoffrey Atherton, Connecticut College

Commentator
Fritz Breihaupt, Indiana University

1999 MLA CONVENTION IN CHICAGO

Goethe and the Aesthetic

Moderator
Martha B. Helfer, University of Utah

“Goethe and the Spectacle of Attitüden”
Karin A Wurst, Michigan State University

“Goethe’s Realistic Tic: Kant in Wilhelm Meister’s Apprenticeship”
Karin Schutjer, University of Oklahoma

“The Culture of Images: Goethe’s Wahlverwandtschaften”
Fritz Breihaupt, Indiana University

1999 GERMAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION MEETING
IN ATLANTA

9 October 1999

Goethe and the Question of National Identity

Moderator
Jonathan M. Hess
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
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

The Clark Library
The GSNA will hold its fourth annual symposium on Saturday, October 23, at the Clark Library in Los Angeles. Discussion will focus on Goethe’s Westöstlicher Divan and the concept of Weltliteratur. Why did Goethe turn to Weltliteratur at a time when others were beginning to write the history of Germany’s national literature? Was there a German Orientalism that differed significantly from that of England or France, and did Goethe’s Orientalism differ from that of his German contem-

poraries? How does Goethe’s interest in Weltliteratur relate to contemporary efforts to redefine German national identity in the New Europe? Please send one or two-page proposals by August 1, 1999 to Ehrhard Bahr (UCLA) or Todd Kontje (UCSD)

Email: bahr@humnet.ucla.edu or
E-mail: tkontje@ucsd.edu

Modern Language Studies
Re-membering Goethe is planned to appear as a special issue of Modern Language Studies in Fall, 2000. For consideration, please submit completed articles of no more than fifteen pages by September 1, 1999. Topics are Goethe and memory, Goethe and history, or Goethe and/in the popular imagination. Address inquiries to Clark Muenzer

Department of German
University of Pittsburgh
1409 Cathedral of Learning
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Tel./FAX: (412) 361-1220;
(412)-624-6318 (fax)
E-mail: muenzer+@pitt.edu

Texas Tech Symposium on Woman in the 18th Century
This conference seeks to offer a forum for discussing 18th century woman across the disciplines (literature, history, art, political science, philosophy, etc.). The symposium will focus on women throughout the world. Select papers will be published in Intertext. One page ab-
abstracts and all inquiries should be sent by November 1, 1999, to Sharon Nell,

Director, Prog. in Comp. Lit.
Dept. of Class. and Mod. Lit.
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, Texas 79409-2071
E-mail: SherryD@ttu.edu

American Society of 18th Century Studies

The annual ASECS meeting will be held in Philadelphia on April 12-16, 2000. Papers related to Goethe and visual culture are solicited. Topics in, but not limited to: theories of visuality and spectatorship; optics; display culture (e.g. museum, exhibition, collection, performance); built environments; painting, drawing, sculpture. 1-page proposals due by September 15 to Catriona Macleod:

Germanic Lang. and Literatures
University of Pennsylvania
745 Williams Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6305
Tel./FAX: (215) 898-7332; (215) 573-7794
E-mail: cmacleod@sas.upenn.edu

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 commi-
iar with the applicant’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: Professor Hans Vaget
Department of German
Smith College
Northampton, MA 01063

WWW SITES

GSNA
http://www.hnet.uc.edu/tpsaine/gsna/
Goethe Yearbook
http://www.hnet.uc.edu/tpsaine/gyb/

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

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UPCOMING 250th
ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Summer and Fall

July 27 - 31, 1999

Symposium: “Utopie, Trugbild, Mißinformation? Goethe über Amerika”

Professor Peter Pabisch, German Department/FLL, “Goethesymposienreihe 1999,”
The University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131

September 1999

Exhibition: “Goethe: A Genius for His Time—And Ours”

University Library, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1408 W. Gregory Dr.
Urbana, IL 61801, Gail Hueting, University of Illinois, Modern Languages and Linguistics Library, Telephone: (217) 244-0481

October 8 - December, 1999

Exhibition: “Goethe And The Natural Sciences”

Yale University, Beinecke Library, 121 Wall Street, New Haven, CT 06520, Christa Sammons, Beinecke Library, Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520-8240

An exhibition showing some of Goethe’s scientific studies and interests in their contemporary European context. There will be 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 will also include materials relating to the history of science from the Beinecke Library and other Yale libraries.

**October 8 - 10, 1999**

**Symposium: “Goethe and Modern Culture”**

Yale University

Panels on Goethe's scientific views, Goethe and the visual arts, Goethe and culture, and Goethe and critical theory. Speakers will include Jane Brown, Arthur Danto, Peter Gay, Geoffrey Hartman, Michael Holquist, Gerald Holton, John Krois, Winfried Menninghaus, Neil Ribe, and Charles Rosen. There will also be a concluding roundtable.

**Symposium: “Goethe in Exile: (1933-1945)”**

Professor Frank Baron, Director, Max Kade Center for German-American Studies, Sudler House, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045; Telephone/Fax: (913) 864-4803; (913) 864-4298 (fax)

**Program**

Gert Sautermeister (University of Bremen): “Idee und Realität des Exils in Goethes dramatischem Werk (Tasso, Iphigenie, Die natürliche Tochter)”

Guy Stern (Wayne State University): “Goethe in Exile Literature”

Warren Maurer (University of Kansas): “Gerhart Hauptmann and Goethe: A Troubled Relationship”

Peter Boerner (Indiana University): “Arnold Bergstraesser and Goethe”

Nicholas Vazsonyi (University of South Carolina): “Goethe in Moscow: Georg Lukacs’s ‘Anti-Fascist’ Readings 1933–1945”

Erhard Bahr (University of California, Los Angeles): “Goethe in Hollywood: Thomas Mann in Exile in Los Angeles”

Helmut Koopmann (University of Augsburg): “Exilspuren in Thomas Manns Goethe-Roman”

Wulf Koepke (Roslindale, Massachusetts): “Lotte in Weimar in Amerika. Die Antworten des Exils auf Thomas Manns Goethe-Monolog.”

Burghard Dedner (University of Marburg): “Thomas Manns Doktor Faustus auf der Folie von Goethes Faust.”

Stephen Goddard (University of Kansas): “Albrecht Dürer: The Master and his Imitators”

Uwe K. Ketelsen (University of Bochum): “Hans Carossa und Goethe”

Leonie Marx (University of Kansas): “Ernst Toller und Goethe”

Hartmut Steinecke (University of Paderborn): “Hermann Broch und Goethe”

**October 28 - 30, 1999**

**Symposium: “Goethe in German-Jewish Culture”**

Professor Klaus L. Berghahn, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of German, 818 Van Nise Hall, 1220 Linden
November 5 - 7, 1999

Panel: "Why Goethe Today? In German Speaking Countries and Around the World"

Midwest MLA: Minneapolis, MN, Dr. Margrit V. Zinggeler, Hamline University, 1536 Hewitt Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104
Telephone: (612) 641-2394

November 11 - 14, 1999

International Symposium: "Goethe als Augenmensch"

Deutsches Haus/SIPA, Columbia University, 420 West 116th St., New York, N.Y. 10027, Bettina Brandt, Telephone: (212) 854-3202; (212) 854-5381 (fax)

November 18 - 21, 1999

International Interdisciplinary Conference: "Goethe And The Age Of Romanticism"

Princeton University, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, Walter Hinderer, 230 East Pyne Building, Princeton, NJ 08544-5264

Scholars from England, Holland, Germany, Italy, Israel, and the United States will demonstrate the versatility and influence of Goethe. Besides a series of lectures and discussions, there will be a special seminar on "Goethe and Romantic Poetry."

Panel: "Goethe and Ukraine: A tribute on the 250th Anniversary of the Poet's Birth"

The American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS), 31st National Convention: St. Louis, MO, Leonid Rudnytsky, La Salle University, 1900 W. Olney Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19104, Telephone: (215) 951-1200, E-mail: rudnytzk@lasalle.edu; thomas_bird@qc.edu

American scholars of Ukrainian and Slavic studies will analyze the impact of Goethe’s genius on Ukrainian literature. The conference will be presented within the framework of the 31st National Convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies. Arrangements will be made to publish the proceedings of the conference in a special edition of the Ukrainian Quarterly.

Editor’s Note: I am compiling a list of N. American Goethe events for 1999. Please send me any information you have, including organizers, dates, and programs.

E-MAIL ADDRESS REQUEST

If you want to be included on a GSNA electronic mailing list, be sure to provide your e-mail address to the News and Note’s editor. I am asking that you send this information to:

muenzer+@pitt.edu

Indicate if you do not want your address shared when I receive requests for our list from other professional organizations and colleagues.