

GDR BULLETIN

NEWSLETTER FOR LITERATURE AND CULTURE IN THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

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Winter 1979

POSTAGE DUE

Overseas readers who wish to receive the Bulletin by airmail are reminded to send \$3.00 in international postal reply coupons or check (no foreign currency, please) to cover the cost of this service for 1979. Increasing costs associated with the growing number of readers outside the United States make it necessary for us to request \$1.00 from such readers receiving the Bulletin by surface mail.

NOTES IN BRIEF

The Britain GDR Society publishes a quarterly bulletin for its members. Information can be obtained from Sheila Taylor, Secretary, The Britain GDR Society, 129 Seven Sisters Road, London, N7 7QG, England.

Alan Wallace, Lecturer in German at Dundee University, is planning to bring out a journal on the GDR sometime this year, covering all aspects of life there, including literature.

A reminder to those who might have forgotten about the availability of films from the GDR Embassy. Films are of the short documentary/informative kind, as well as feature length reels, such as Horst Seemann's "Beethoven-Tage aus einem Leben" (reviewed in the Bulletin in our Winter 78 issue), Egon Günther's "Lotte in Weimar", Frank Beyer's "Nackt Unter Wölfen", Konrad Wolf's "Ich War 19" and "Mama, Ich Lebe", Roland Gräfs "Die Flucht". To order, contact Petra Teutschbein, Cultural Attaché, Embassy of the GDR, 1717 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC, 20036.

A brief reminder regarding the Fifth International Symposium at the World Fellowship Center in Cambridge, N.H. which will take place between June 15 - 21, 1979. Full details appeared in our last issue.

Re journal reviews: We at the Bulletin staff would like to include short journal reviews in future issues. Lacking the time to pursue this project ourselves, we therefore invite you to contribute to the Bulletin by reviewing a journal of your choice for us. We suggest any one of the following titles: Neue Deutsche Literatur, Sinn und Form, Weimarer Beiträge, Deutschland Archiv, Deutsche Zeitschrift für Philosophie, Kursbuch, Alternative and Konkret. We are also open to reviews of any other journals which you think would make a meaningful contribution to the Bulletin. We strongly urge anyone interested in this project to contact us.

TRAVEL AND EXCHANGE

Frank Hirschbach of the University of Minnesota will be holding a summer seminar from June 18 to August 10 on the German Democratic Republic and its literature. The seminar, funded by NEH, will deal with the relationship between politics and art in the GDR. Some attention will be paid to GDR history and Kulturpolitik before proceeding to a study of GDR prose, drama, and lyric poetry. "The approach will not be chronological and historical, but will deal with such themes as work, the individual and society, class struggle, realism and fantasy, comedy as a means of criticism, heroes and heroines, aesthetic standards for evaluating socialist literature." Applicants must be able to read German with facility. For further information contact the German Department at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Frank Hirschbach is currently at the Karl-Marx-Universität in Leipzig working on a project entitled "Youth and Literature in the GDR". This project is funded by an IREX grant. 1

INTERNATIONALE HOCHSCHULFERIENKURSE 1979

r Anmeldeschluß für alle internationalen
chschulferienkurse 1979 für Germanistik in
r DDR ist der 10. Mai 1979. Die Hochschul-
rienkurse wollen den ausländischen Teilneh-
rn Möglichkeiten der sprachlichen Qualifi-
erung bieten, landeskundliche Informationen
d Kenntnisse über die DDR, ihre Stellung in
r sozialistischen Staatengemeinschaft und
obleme der weiteren Gestaltung der entwickel-
n sozialistischen Gesellschaft vermitteln.
m Programm gehören Vorlesungen, Seminare und
ssenschaftliche Arbeitsgruppen zur Geschichte,
teratur und Landeskunde der DDR. Die Kurse
Berlin, Weimar, Leipzig, Dresden, Halle und
Karl-Marx-Stadt sind für Hochschulgermanisten,
sprach- und Literaturwissenschaftler, Lektoren
und Lehrer der deutschen Sprache an Universi-
täten, Hoch- und Fachschulen sowie Sprach-
wissenschaftler an technischen Bildungseinrich-
tungen, Sprachlehrer, Methodiker und Übersetzer
vorgesehen, die Kurse in Rostock, Greifswald,
Berlin und Ilmenau für Studenten der Germanis-
tik. Kursgebühren schließen Unterkunft, Ver-
pflegung, Lehrmaterial, Exkursionen sowie
kulturelle und wissenschaftliche Veranstaltun-
gen ein. Sie sind bis zum 1. Mai 1979 in Valuta
auf das Konto des Veranstalters des betreffen-
den Kurses zu überweisen. Für weitere Infor-
mationen wenden Sie sich bitte an folgende
Adressen:

Ilmenau, 7.7. bis 28.7.79: Internationaler
Hochschulferienkurs für Germanistik, Technische
Hochschule Ilmenau, Postschließfach 327, DDR-
98050 Ilmenau

Rostock, 7.7. bis 29.7.79: Internationaler
Hochschulferienkurs für Germanistik, Wilhelm-
Pfeck-Universität Rostock, Sektion Sprach-
und Literaturwissenschaft, DDR-25 Rostock,
Röpeliner Straße 26, Telefon 36 92 02

Greifswald, 2.7. bis 22.7.79: Internationaler
Hochschulferienkurs, Kursbüro, DDR- 22 Greifs-
wald, Bahnhofstraße 46/47, Telefon 6 32 83

Berlin, 29.6. bis 22.7.79: Humboldt-Universi-
tät zu Berlin, Sektion Germanistik, Internatio-
naler Hochschulferienkurs, DDR-108 Berlin,
Lara-Zetkin-Straße 1, Telefon 2 03 29 30;
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Sektion
Fremdsprachen, Internationaler Hochschulferien-
kurs, DDR-104 Berlin, Reinhardtstraße 7

Weimar I, 7.7. bis 30.7.79: Friedrich-Schiller-
Universität Jena, DDR-69 Jena, Universitäts-
buchhandlung, DDR-104 Jena, Universitäts-
straße 10, Telefon 8 22 41 21
Weimar II, 1.8. bis 24.8.79: wie oben

Dresden, 3.7. bis 27.7.79: Technische Univer-
sität Dresden, Institut für Angewandte Sprach-
wissenschaft, Internationaler Hochschulferien-
kurs für Germanistik, DDR-8027 Dresden, Mom-
senstraße 13, Telefon 4 63 60 15

The GDR Embassy has informed us that there are
two "Freiplätze" with stipends available for the
4. Internationaler Ferienkurs at the Neubauer
PH in Erfurt, to be held June 23 - July 14, 1979.
Likewise, there are two places available at the
21. Internationalen Sommerkurse without stipends
also at the Neubauer PH, to be held July 25 -
August 16, 1979. Inquiries should be addressed
to : Petra Teutschbein, Cultural Attaché, Em-
bassy of the GDR, 1717 Massachusetts Ave., NW,
Washington DC, 20036.

Karl-Marx-Stadt, 2.7. bis 28.7.79: Technische
Hochschule Karl-Marx-Stadt, Internationaler
Hochschulferienkurs für Germanistik, DDR-901
Karl-Marx-Stadt, Straße der Nationen 62, Post-
schließfach 964, Telefon 5 61 42 83

Leipzig I und Leipzig II, 10.7. bis 2.8.79:
Hochschulferienkurs für Germanistik am
Herder-Institut der Karl-Marx-Universität,
DDR-7022 Leipzig, Lumbstraße 4, Telefon
5 63 20

Halle, 8.7. bis 29.7.79: Martin-Luther-Univer-
sität Halle-Wittenberg, Sektion Germanistik und
Kunstwissenschaften, Internationaler Hochschul-
ferienkurs, DDR-401 Halle(Saale), Universitäts-
ring 4, Telefon 83 23 50

GDR Bulletin

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Edith Waldstein
Research in Progress - Petra Mergenthaler,
Karen Jankowsky
Notes in Brief - Peter Jesse
Conferences - Peter Jesse
Travel and Exchange - Leslie Adelson
Visiting Lectures - Leslie Adelson
Bibliography - Andreas Fürst, Tineke
Ritmeester, Ingrid Weigand
Editorial Asst. - Ingrid Weigand

All of the above can be contacted through
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the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, under the direction of conductor Kurt Masur, toured the U.S. and Canada last fall. Guest performances were held in Ottawa, Carnegie Hall and Kennedy Center in New York City, as well as at various universities, schools, and local concert organizations in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina.

I would like to remind our readers of the existence of two small travel brochures containing practical information about travel in the GDR. They are entitled "GDR:Information for Individual Tourists" and "German Democratic Republic-a Tourist Country" and are available at the Reisebüro der DDR, 1026 Berlin, Postfach 77.

CONFERENCES

MLA 1979

Special Session entitled "The Dialectics of Orthodoxy: The Socialist Personality in Non-dissident GDR Literature" will be held at this year's MLA. The seminar will provide a framework for examining the works of GDR authors who are (with some exceptions) not well known in the West. The papers should test the assumption that the non-dissident literature of the GDR is politically and esthetically homogeneous. Although it is difficult to define the term 'non-dissident', one criterion could be whether or not a given writer signed the petition protesting the expatriation of Wolf Biermann in 1976.

selected list of non-signers: H. Baierl, G. Brölich, P. Hacks, C. Hammel, H. Kant, R. Kerndl, J. Nachbar, E. Neutsch, J. Nowotny, H. Otto, E. Panitz, H. Sakowski, M.W. Schulz, Erwin Strittmatter, Eva Strittmatter, A. Wellm, P. Wiens, J. Wogatzki. Papers should be 6-8 pages (ca. 10 minutes). Send abstracts by March 1 to: Joan Holmes, Germanic L&L, Univ. of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, 66045 and Jay Rosellini, Foreign L&L, 14N-218, M.I.T., Cambridge, Mass. 02139.

INTERNATIONALER HOCHSCHULFERIENKURS

The 1978 Internationaler Hochschulferienkurs für Germanistik, held in Weimar from July 2 - 24, was attended by more than eighty persons, including at least ten participants from colleges and universities in the United States. Other countries represented included Italy, Norway, Finland, Great Britain, France, Denmark, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, USSR, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, and New Zealand. Last year's topics included a tribute to Brecht, in celebration of his eightieth birthday, and the discussion of new tendencies in GDR literature of the seventies. Apropos Weimar, Herder's contribution to Germanistik was included as a theme of the program. In addition to these three focal points, five workshops covering relevant topics were organized ("Zur Gegenwärtigen Situation der DDR Literatur", "Frauen in der DDR: Prosa der Siebziger Jahre", "Entwicklungstendenzen der Deutschen Gegenwartssprache", "Kurzprosa der DDR", "Gegenstand und Methoden der Spezialsprachlichen Ausbildung"). Lectures by prominent members of the academic community were supplemented by presentations by leaders in the economic and political spheres. A survey of the state of the performing and visual arts in the GDR was possible through field trips and assorted cultural activities.

The summer courses sponsored by the GDR are known for their careful organization and educational value, and the seminar at Weimar was no exception. The staff members, many of whom included faculty and students from the Univ. of Jena, were eager to answer questions, and their interest in the participants extended far beyond any official obligations. Discussions were open and frank; the results generally were clarifying rather than confusing.

The constant exposure to many new situations and opinions generated a pace that was very demanding, and many of us had trouble sorting out our own impressions and ideas in such a short span of time. Most exciting for me was the contact with other colleagues from socialist countries, whose research and studies were not available to me before. In sum, the three-week sojourn in the GDR left me with a new set of possibilities for academic work, and a host of new questions about the GDR. I strongly recommend the summer seminar to students and professors interested in the GDR and concerned about international developments in the field of Germanistik. There is much to be learned and transmitted, especially for those of us teaching in the United States.

Alison Hope
Washington University 3