

GDR BULLETIN

NEWSLETTER FOR LITERATURE AND CULTURE IN THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

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CONFERENCES

WORLD FELLOWSHIP CENTER - 1978

The Fourth Annual GDR Symposium was held at the World Fellowship Center near Conway, N.H. from June 16-23, 1978. Over forty scholars in various disciplines (German studies, sociology, economics, English) from the U.S., Canada, the FRG and Eastern Europe participated in the week-long program of workshops and seminars. Areas of concentration were the writings of Jurek Becker (papers were presented by Nancy Lauckner, "Jurek Becker's Treatment of the Past," and Theodor Langenbruch, "Jurek Becker's Irreführung der Behörden: Roots and Ramifications of Conformism and Non-conformism"; the GDR film "Jakob der Lügner" was viewed and discussed), changing sex roles in GDR society (papers by Margaret E. Ward, "Changing Sex Roles and Role Playing in Heiner Müller's Weiberkomödie and Volker Braun's Tinka," Christiane Zehl Romero, "The Fiction of Marriage - On the Treatment of Love and Marriage in the GDR Novel," Joan Levin Ecklein, "Career and a Family: Social Policies and their Implementation in the GDR") and the teaching of GDR literature and culture (papers by Fritz König, "The Integration of GDR Poetry into German Literature Classes," and Margy Gerber, "On the Teaching of GDR Literature and Culture: Bibliography and Two Course Proposals" with discussion by Arthur W. McCardle). In addition, papers were read on a variety of literary works and topics (Wolfgang Ertl, "Recent Poetry of Eva Strittmatter and Volker Braun: On the Position of the Individual in Socialist Society of the GDR," Ursula Lawson, "Science and Technology in Christa Wolf's A Tomcat's New Views on Life," and Joan E. Holmes, "The Fairy Tale in the GDR: The Uses of Enchantment and Disenchantment"), on the reception of GDR literature (Duncan Smith, "Soviet Reception of GDR Literature 1966-76") and on various social and economic topics (Volker Gransow, "Cultural

Needs and the Working Class in the German Democratic Republic;" Janos Timar, "Economism-Consumerism in Hungary and the GDR" with discussion by Lynn Turgeon; and Christoph Schmauch, "An Update on Church-State Relations in the GDR and the Role of Religion in Socialist Societies"). Addresses of those who gave papers can be obtained from Christoph Schmauch, World Fellowship Center, Conway, N.H. 03818. This was the first time in the four year history of the GDR Symposium that its goal of being truly interdisciplinary was realized. There was open debate on the differing approaches to the study of the GDR; the Germanists, sociologists, economists and others in attendance soon realized that it was necessary to define their concepts and basic understandings of GDR literature and society. A result of this realization was the scheduling of an opening panel discussion for the 1979 Symposium, at which the various disciplinary approaches to the subject can be aired. The relaxed atmosphere of the World Fellowship Center was, as usual, highly conducive to discussion and the exchanging of ideas. The New Hampshire Symposium is the only conference I know at which there is time to relax and discuss in detail the work being presented.

Margy Gerber

Bowling Green State Univ.

WORLD FELLOWSHIP CENTER - 1979

The Fifth Annual GDR Symposium will again be held at the WFC in Conway, N.H., from June 15 - 22, 1979. The approach will be interdisciplinary. Scholars in economics, history, political and social science, as well as Germanists are encouraged to participate. Papers are being solicited for the following workshops and seminars:

Panel Discussion: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Nature and Function of the Arts in the GDR - Duncan Smith, Dept. of German, Brown University, Providence, R.I. 02912.

TRAVEL AND EXCHANGE

Workshop I: The Teaching of GDR Literature and Culture - Margy Gerber, Dept. of German and Russian, Bowling Green State Univ., Bowling Green, Ohio 43403.

Workshop II: Contemporary Music in the GDR - Theodor Langenbruch, Dept. of ML, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Ga. 30332.

Seminar I: The Problem of Tragedy in GDR Literature - Margaret E. Ward, Dept. of German, Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass. 02181.

Seminar II: Tradition and Innovation in GDR Poetry - Wolfgang Ertl, Dept. of German, Univ. of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52242.

Seminar III: Influences from East and West in GDR Culture and Society - Duncan Smith, Brown Univ.

Seminar IV: Cultural Politics in the 70's - Theodor Langenbruch, Georgia Institute of Technology; Volker Gransow, Pädagogische Hochschule, Bielefeld.

Seminar V: Mass Media in the GDR - Ursula Lawson, Dept. of ML, Ohio Univ., Athens, Ohio 45701; Margaret Morse, Bachelors and Fine Arts Program, Univ. of San Francisco, 2800 Turk Blvd., S.F. 94118.

Seminar VI: Social Institutions in the GDR - Margy Gerber, Bowling Green State Univ., Joan Ecklein, Dept. of Sociology, Boston State College, Boston, Mass. 02155.

Seminar VII: Current Trends in GDR Literature - Christiane Zehl Romero, Dept. of German and Russian, Tufts University, Medford, Mass. 02155.

Topics of proposed papers should be submitted to the respective seminar/workshop organizers by Feb. 10, 1979; summaries are due by April 30. Papers should not exceed thirty minutes in length. For further information on the symposium contact W. Christoph Schmauch, World Fellowship Center, Conway, N.H. 03818.

MLA SPECIAL SESSION

The topic of this year's Special Session on the GDR is "Recent Developments in GDR Poetry." Presentations will be given by panelists Jay Rosellini, MIT, on Volker Braun; Alexander Stefan, UCLA, on technological imagery in GDR poetry of the sixties and seventies; Joan Holmes, Kansas, on lyric strategies in very recent GDR poetry. To support the final presentation and encourage discussion, a sampling of recent unpublished poetry will be photocopied and distributed to the audience. The Special Session will take place on December 29 from 1:00-2:15 in the Regency Foyer of the Americana Hotel in New York City. Co-chairs are Ann Clark Fehn, Harvard; Sara Lepore, Massachusetts, Amherst. As previously announced, there will also be a session on Anna Seghers.

Even though the deadline for 1979-80 applications for IREX (International Research and Exchanges Board) was November 1 of this year, it might still be of interest to those planning further ahead to know that grants are available to senior scholars, young faculty and advanced graduate students (those who will have completed all Ph.D. requirements except the dissertation by the time of participation) who wish to study or research in the GDR. Periods abroad are one semester or academic year. Write to IREX, 110 E. 59th St., N.Y.N.Y. 10022.

A reminder about the exhibit entitled "The Splendor of Dresden: Five Centuries of Art Collecting" which will be shown at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York from October 17-January 13, 1979, and at the Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco from February 18-May 26, 1979. The event will feature over 700 works of art from five centuries.

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