

EDITOR'S NOTE

With this issue I conclude my tenure as editor of the *GDR Bulletin*. I should like to thank the many Washington University graduate students, past and present, whose dedication has enabled this publication to appear. I am especially indebted to the current Assistant Editor, Gregory Baer, as well as to his predecessors Carol Anne Costabile and Charles Grair. I also wish to mention those students who performed many duties of Assistant Editor before that honorific existed: Stephanie Pafenberg, Karen Remmler, Deborah Lund, and Gregory Divers. Together we worked in the garden of Theophrastus.

Patricia Herminhouse founded the *GDR Bulletin* in April 1975 and edited it until spring 1982. Barton Byg and then Robert Leventhal served briefly as interim editors, and I succeeded them in fall 1984. In recent years the students and I have expanded the format of the *Bulletin*, introducing interviews, articles, theme issues, review essays and, occasionally, original literature. Before November 1989 we also attempted, through announcements and reviews, to call attention to the situation of Lutz Rathenow.

Amidst the increasingly spirited debates we have published, I discern a call for an examination of the complicity and culpability of US Germanists (or Germanists working in the United States) in maintaining the pre-1989 GDR status quo. In our spring 1991 issue, Peter Rossman employed terms such as "fellow traveler" and "*Mitläuferfabrik*" when writing of GDR studies in this country. In our current issue, David Pike and Boria Sax also have critical words in this regard. These are indeed sensitive topics, but ones that need discussion; I hope some of that discussion will occur in the pages of the *GDR Bulletin*.

Thomas C. Fox
Editor