

# GDR BULLETIN

NEWSLETTER FOR LITERATURE AND CULTURE IN THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

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By way of introduction...

As most recipients of this newsletter are probably aware, the large attendance and lively interest at the GDR Seminar held during the 1974 MLA meeting in New York suggested the need for some sort of newsletter which would facilitate quick communication of ideas and resources among people presently or potentially engaged in teaching or research involving the literature and culture of the German Democratic Republic. For the present, it was decided that editorial responsibility for the newsletter would rest with the elected chairperson of the 1975 GDR Seminar.

The splendid response to the initial announcement of the planned newsletter bodes well for its continuation, which will depend upon three factors: the willingness of those who receive it to also contribute to it by sharing resources and ideas, the continuing good will of the contributing editors (see last issue), keep the news flowing in all regions, and the feasibility of the original plan to

run the newsletter by making it a financial and organizational responsibility of the current elected chairperson of the GDR Seminar. This scheme has the immense advantage of limiting the demands on the resources of any one department to a single year and avoiding all the nuisance attendant to paid subscriptions, but it may also place excessive limitations on the selection of a seminar chairperson in financially difficult times -- or endanger the continuity of the Bulletin.

Since the purpose of the newsletter is to communicate information much more quickly than is possible through more formal channels of publication, it is planned to issue it four times during each academic year: February, April, September, and November. This issue is perforce a double one because it was simply impossible to lay the groundwork and develop a mailing list in time to issue a February Bulletin. Please help to assure the continuation of this venture with your reports of research-in-progress, forthcoming or recent publications (or brief reviews of same), bibliographies, course descriptions, and announcements of travel seminars and visiting lectures. A special word of thanks is due to Frank Hirschbach for the many items he contributed to this issue on events and resources in the Federal Republic and the GDR and to my own department for financial and personnel support. (p.b.h.)

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