

GDR BULLETIN

Newsletter for Literature and Culture in the German Democratic Republic

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NOTES IN BRIEF

PAUL WIENS, 1922-1982

Paul Wiens, who had just begun to serve as editor-in-chief of Sinn und Form in 1982, died in Berlin on April 6, 1982. Wiens, particularly known for his poetry and essays, had also served as vice-president of the Kulturbund and member of the executive committee of the Schriftstellerverband.

SYLLABI OF COURSES ON GDR LITERATURE AND CULTURE SOUGHT

Margy Gerber is preparing a collection of syllabi of courses on GDR literature and culture. Germanists and others who teach courses on the GDR and who would be willing to share their teaching plans and approaches are invited to contact her for more information. The collection will be duplicated or published. Address: Dept. of German and Russian, Bowling Green State Univ., Bowling Green, OH 43403.

HEINRICH-MANN-PREIS 1982

Mit dem Heinrich-Mann Preis 1982 der Akademie der Künste der DDR wurden der Schriftsteller Christoph Hein und der Publizist Werner Liersch ausgezeichnet. Christoph Hein ist durch seine Stücke "Schlüssel oder Was soll's?", "Cromwell" und "Lasalle" sowie durch historische Erzählungen und Kurzgeschichten bekannt geworden. Werner Liersch, der sich als Herausgeber von Lyrik und Prosa-Anthologien sowie literaturkritischer Werke einen Namen machte, erhielt den Preis für die Biografie "Hans Fallada - sein grosses, kleines Leben".

MANFRED WEKWERTH NEUER PRÄSIDENT DER AKADEMIE

Professor Dr. Manfred Wekwerth, bislang einer der Vizepräsidenten der Akademie der Künste der DDR, wurde zum neuen Präsidenten der Akademie gewählt. Er ist Nachfolger des Filmregisseurs Konrad Wolf, der im März 1982 verstorben ist. Im Amt als 1. Vizepräsident der Akademie bestätigt wurde der Literaturhistoriker Professor Dr. Robert Weimann. Als Vizepräsidenten wurden bestätigt der Schriftsteller und Dramaturg Dr. Helmut Baierl, der Komponist und Hochschullehrer Professor Johannes Cilensek, der Bildhauer Professor Fritz Cremer und dessen Berufskollege Wieland Förster. In der letzten Nummer des Bulletins wurde irrtümlich berichtet, dass Robert Weimann zum Präsidenten gewählt wurde. (Red.)

NEW GDR FILMS AVAILABLE

A new list of films available for loan in 1983 is being compiled by the GDR embassy for completion in November. It can be requested from: Embassy of the GDR, 1717 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036. New titles on the list include Solo Sunny (Konrad Wolf), Bürgschaft für ein Jahr (Hermann Zschoche), Die Beunruhigung (Lothar Warneke), Darf ich Petruschka zu dir sagen? (Karl-Heinz Heimann) and Asta, mein Engelchen (Roland Oehme).

TRAVEL AND EXCHANGE

INTERNATIONALE HOCHSCHULFERIENKURSE FÜR GERMANISTIK, 1983

Internationale hochschulferienkurse für Germanistik bieten den Teilnehmern neben der Möglichkeit der sprachlichen Qualifizierung die Gelegenheit, durch Vorlesungen, Arbeitsgruppen, Exkursionen und andere Veranstaltungen das gesellschaftliche, wissenschaftliche und kulturelle Leben in der DDR näher kennenzulernen.

Anfragen und Prospektwünsche sind an die Kursleitungen zu richten:

Kurse für Hochschulgermanisten, Deutschlehrer, Methodiker und Übersetzer

Berlin vom 1.7.-23.7.1983

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

DDR - 1040 Berlin, Reinhardtstraße 7

Weimar I vom 2.7.-25.7.83

Weimar II "27. 7.-19.8.83

Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena

DDR-6900 Jena, Universitätshöchhaus 4

Dresden vom 5.7.-30.7.83

Technische Universität Dresden

DDR-8027 Dresden, Mommsenstraße 13

Halle vom 10.7.-31.7.1983

Martin-Luther-Universität Halle

DDR-4020 Halle (Saale), Universitätsring 4

Karl-Marx-Stadt vom 4.7.-29.7.1983

Technische Hochschule Karl-Marx-Stadt

DDR-9010 Karl-Marx-Stadt, Straße der Nationen 62

Leipzig I vom 5.7.-28.7.83

Leipzig II " 5.7.-28.7.83.

Karl-Marx-Universität Leipzig

DDR-7022 Leipzig, Lumbabastraße 4

Kurse für Studenten der Germanistik

Berlin vom 1.7.-23.7.83

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

DDR-1086 Berlin, Clara-Zetkin-Straße 1

Ilmenau vom 2.7.-24.7.83

Technische Hochschule Ilmenau

DDR-6300 Ilmenau, PSF 327

Rostock vom 10.7.-31.7.83

Wilhelm Pieck-Universität Rostock

DDR-2500 Rostock, Krüpeliner Straße 26

Greifswald vom 10.7.-31.7.83

Ernst-Moritz-Arndt-Universität Greifswald

DDR-2200 Greifswald, Bahnhofstraße 46/47

Magdeburg vom 5.7.-28.7.83

Technische Hochschule

"Otto von Guericke" Magdeburg

DDR-3010 Magdeburg, PSF 124

TRAVEL AND EXCHANGE

The International Research and Exchange Board (IREX) has announced its program for 1982/83. For information write to:

IREX
655 Third Avenue
New York N.Y. 10017

The program includes:

- an exchange with the GDR. Corresponding organisation: Ministry for Higher and Technical Education of the German Democratic Republic
Marx-Engels Platz 2
102 Berlin
- Disciplinary Fellowships: Open to applicants not already in the field of Soviet and East European Studies. Emphasis on the social and humanistic disciplines such as archeology, anthropology, business, economics, geography and demography, law, musicology, political science, psychology and sociology.
- Travel Grants for Senior Scholars.
Application deadlines: October 31, January 31, and April 30.
- Grants for Collaborative Activities and New Exchanges. IREX makes a very limited number of small grants in support of specific collaborative projects and new exchanges. Such undertakings as bilateral and multi-national symposia, collaborative and parallel research, joint publications (but not publication costs), exchanges of data, comparative surveys, and the like, as well as brief visits necessary in the planning of such projects, will be considered for support.
- The IREX-GDR Commission on the Humanities and Social Sciences, organised on the German side by the Ministry of Higher and Technical Education of the GDR, held its first meeting in June 1982. The Commission will work on the following topics: the Reformation as a social process, rehabilitation of the handicapped, problems of museum exhibition, and the training of museum and restoration specialists, German exile writers in the US, and US-GDR relations since 1974.

VISITING LECTURERS

MARIANNE MUELLER

Dr. Marianne Müller, Humboldt University - Berlin, is presently at the University of Massachusetts in conjunction with the IREX program. Her fields of study are "U.S. studies in the GDR" and "Women in the GDR."

MANFRED JENDRYSCHIK

GDR Author Manfred Jendryschik is participating during the fall quarter in the Iowa International Writing Program, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242.

CHRISTA WOLF

Novelist Christa Wolf will give the keynote address at the upcoming international conference on "Women, Fascism, Everyday Life" to be held April 28 to 30 at Ohio State University. For further information contact Helen Fehervary, Department of German, OSU, Columbus, Ohio 43210.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Lyman H. Legters (501 Thomson DR-05, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195): Possibly revising for publication 1970 report, "East German Higher Education." for U.S. Office of Education.

JOURNAL NOTES

GDR Monitor, No. 6 (Winter 1981-82)

This issue features articles on "Planning Higher and Further Education in the GDR" (Douglas Burrington) and "The Multi-Party System in the GDR -- its Character and Function" (Jans-Christian Oeser) as well as literary articles on Joachim Walther, Volker Braun, and Sarah Kirsch. Burrington provides a concise analysis of the operation, advantages and disadvantages of a system which puts the state's technical requirements over individual wishes, but concludes that "it is the consensus among educators, rather than that among employers, that defines what goes into courses. And the tendency towards inertia which this position of power engenders is reinforced by features which the educational apparatus of the GDR holds in common with bureaucracies elsewhere..." The heart of Oeser's piece is his argument that "the bloc parties serve to shift the burden of responsibility (for radical measures -- p.b.h.) from the SED," while ensuring "the symbolic representation of the social structure and the demonstration of a 'political and moral unity of the people'."

Martin Watson adds an interesting dimension to the "Erbe"-discussion with his presentation of a contemporary reference to Gottfried Keller's famous Novelle in "A Critical Allusion to 'das kulturelle Erbe' in Joachim Walther's 'R. und J. auf dem Dorfe im Bezirk Potsdam'". Watson shows connections to Plenzdorf's "junger W." and Christa Wolf's "Juninachmittag", as well as to other works dealing with the generation conflict in the GDR. He also points out that Walther's story, along with another - "Halluzinose" - appeared only in the West German edition, Ruhe bewahren (1979) of the GDR volume Stadtlandschaft mit Freunden (1978), from which three stories did not appear in the Western edition. Watson cautions readers to be careful about assumptions that East and West German editions are identical, pointing to a similar discrepancy between the 1977 GDR and the 1979 West German editions of Wolfgang Kohlhaase's Sylvester mit Balzac, where six stories were omitted from the western edition. Christine Cosentino ("Volker Braun's Training des aufrechten Gangs: a handbook of poems for Party members") finds in Braun's recent anthology of poems a call to "substance, honesty, the courage to speak out in public, dynamic participation" -- virtues which he sees "not to be exactly predominant among party members in the GDR." Andy Hollis adds a footnote to Cosentino's interpretation of Sarah Kirsch's "Der Rest des Fadens" in the previous issue of the GDR Monitor (No. 5), taking issue with her reading of the poem as an allusion to Wolf Biermann and other specific cultural-political events and objecting to the attempt to extract a specific "message" from the poem rather than accept its poetic ambiguities.

-- Patricia Herminghouse
Washington University