

Kraefft, Hans-Joachim: Wegzeichen. Rudolstadt: Greifenvlg., 1976.

In einer schlanken, konzentrierten Erzählung gestaltet der Autor das Leiden eines sensiblen Künstlers an seiner spätbürgerlichen Umwelt.

Loest, Erich: Die Oma im Schlauchboot. Berlin: Bulenspiegelvlg., 1976

Diese Kurzgeschichten sind pointiert in Dialog und Situation, ihr Witz resultiert aus der genauen Beobachtung konkreter Vorgänge und gesellschaftlicher Verhaltensweisen.

Schulz, Jo: Laufen ohne Vordermann. Vlg. Nation, 1976.

In seinem ersten Roman erzählt der Autor das Schicksal des Sebastian Bratt, der nationalistisch erzogen, hitlergläubig in den Krieg marschiert, plötzlich auf sich allein gestellt, ohne Vordermann sich selbst entscheiden muß.

Stade, Martin: Siebzehn schöne Fische. Berlin: Buchvlg. Der Morgen, 1976.

Muß Alter Einsamkeit bedeuten? Gibt es --wenn schon nicht einen Generationskonflikt--dennoch Generationsunterschiede? Gefährdet die fortschreitende Technisierung die Umwelt des Menschen? Martin Stade stellt in seinem neuen Buch Fragen und in Frage.

BOOK REVIEWS

New German Critique No. 9 Fall 1976

The current issue of New German Critique includes several pieces of special interest to those concerned with GDR literature and cultural policies. Bulletin readers should be aware of two essays in particular. First, in "Vacation from Reality," Heinrich Mohr discusses Rolf Schneider's novel Die Reise nach Jaroslaw (VEB Hinstorff in 1974 and Luchterhand, 1975) within the context of the controversy stirred up by Ulrich Plenzdorf's Die neuen Leiden des jungen W. While Mohr does examine the structure of the Schneider novel and the literary connections to Plenzdorf, the key to his argument lies in the

social message he is able to distill: individual psychological rebellion coupled with the retention of the status quo. The issue also contains an interview with Schneider by Peter Hutchinson.

The second essay of major interest is Jay Rosellini's report, "Poetry and Criticism in the German Democratic Republic: the 1972 Discussion in the Context of Cultural Policy." Rosellini sees the discussion which took place in the pages of Sinn und Form and Weimarer Beiträge as part of "an ongoing conflict of views concerning the dialectics of revolutionary development in the GDR." He outlines the opposition between the "subjectivist" or "philosophical" poets and their more orthodox critics. While the debate revolved generally around issues of form, it is significant, according to Rosellini, as an indicator of a potential debate over politically charged questions of content.

The issue also includes a translation of a Brecht poem "the Rearing of Millet" with a short introduction by David Bathrick. There is also a series of articles (including an interview) on Ernst Bloch.

Gransow, Volker: Kulturpolitik in der DDR, Volker Spiess Vlg., (West) Berlin, 1975

Gransow's Kulturpolitik in der DDR provides its readers with a fairly comprehensive and up to date introduction to the history of the GDR and its cultural policy. By presenting his material in an almost-chronological fashion, Gransow makes it particularly accessible to those who have had no previous exposure to the GDR. The book is divided into four sections. Part A contains a survey of pluralistic, methodological paradigms of socialist societies, which Gransow rejects in favor of his own paradigm drawn from scientific socialism. Part B contains a much needed and clear analysis of the Marxist concept of culture, which is indispensable for an understanding of socialist cultural policy in the GDR. Gransow shows the historical development and modification of this concept of culture, drawing heavily from Marx, Lenin and, to some extent, Stalin. Mao's concept of cultural revolution is explicitly rejected as irrelevant and relegated to a convenient footnote. Part C constitutes the main body of the book and deals with the history proper of the GDR since its inception. GDR cultural policy is looked at through a close analysis of its institutionalization. In part D, the author takes a closer