

GDR BULLETIN

NEWSLETTER FOR LITERATURE AND CULTURE IN THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Vol. II, No. 1

February, 1976

GDR BULLETIN

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1976

A NEW YEAR, A NEW REQUEST.....

While the last issue's request for critiques and suggestions for the continuance of the Bulletin brought some gratifying responses and encouragement to our efforts, one of the more discouraging aspects of keeping the Bulletin going is the ever-increasing amount of correspondence involving personal requests which do not relate directly to material which can or should be published in the Bulletin. Although every attempt is made through the Bulletin to meet the needs of those interested in research or teaching on GDR topics, it is not possible to comply with personal requests for topical bibliographies or course outlines, dissertation advice, fellowship information, or publication opportunities, to name a few of the more common problems. Everything of this nature which is received is published in the Bulletin and there are simply not the resources for special efforts on most individual problems. Some, however, such as the numerous requests for bibliographies of English translations (see Research in Progress section) can be met by an appeal

Published by New Prairie Press, 1976

to readers of the Bulletin. Others, such as funding for conferences and symposia, special GDR publications, individual and group travel, are unfortunately beyond our range of competence -- as is political information, visa advice, travel planning and organizing lecture tours.

While this request is in no way meant to discourage the many submissions of announcements, bibliographic information and book reviews, as well as requests for information to be solicited from the general readership, it is a plea for understanding the problems caused by trying to respond to hundreds of letters incidental to the production of the Bulletin -- and the terseness of many of those replies.

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

IMAGES OF REVOLUTION IN THE CULTURE OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

The second annual conference on the German Democratic Republic at the World Fellowship Center in Conway, New Hampshire will be held from June 24 to July 1, 1976. The theme of the conference will be the reflection of socialist revolution in the culture of the GDR. Of particular interest will be the question of the continuation of traditional cultural and artistic forms in a new society of socialism and the resultant question of "Erbsaneignung." While it is to be expected that at this time in the United States and Canada people interested in the arts and literature will be particularly interested in these questions, people from other areas involved with the study of culture -- historians, sociologists, political scientists, etc. -- are also cordially invited. Within the area of the arts, questions about the reflection in literature, for example, of such revolutionary ideas and practices as are contained in feminism are of special interest.

Papers dealing with topics from this general area are invited and should be submitted by April 30, 1976 to: Duncan Smith, Box E, German Dept., Brown University, Providence, R.I. 02912.

The atmosphere of the Conference is informal and there will be ample opportunity for prolonged discussions between those giving papers and those participating in the conference as well as for discussions among all the participants.

A representative of the Embassy of the German Democratic Republic, Washington, D.C. will be present.

Registration fee, room and board, all inclusive, is \$95.00 per person. Family members are encouraged to attend and to enjoy the beautiful 320 acres of the World Fellowship Center, with boating, hiking, swimming and fellowship.

For further information and registration, write to: W. Christoph Schmauch, Box 156, Kerhonkson, NY 12446.

BRECHT CONGRESS

The fourth Congress of the INTERNATIONAL BRECHT SOCIETY will meet at the University of Texas in Austin, November 17-20, 1976. The theme for the congress is: "Where now? --An Appraisal of Brecht." Interested colleagues are invited to write to the congress organizers (Hubert Heinen, Janet K. King, Betty Nance Weber) for registration information and details concerning active participation in lecture sessions, seminars, and workshops. One-page proposals with bibliography should be submitted by April 15; invitations to participate will be extended by May 15. Contributions in most major languages on the following topics are especially solicited: Theater for a Scientific Age, The Brecht Industry, Me-Ti/Buch der Wendungen, Problems in Gestic Acting, Gesamtkunstwerk, Performance of a Brecht Piece, Contemporary Poets in the Shadow of Brecht, Brecht and American Theater, Diaries and Journals, Literary Criticism: Chronology of Brecht Reception, Brecht's Scenography, Films from the Twenties, Documentary Films, Brecht and Marxism, Brecht's Directorial Technique. For information or registration: Brecht Congress, % Germanic Languages, Box 7939 University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas 78712. Phone: 512-471-4123

Because of the lively interest shown in the two GDR seminars which were organized for the 1975 Modern Languages Association annual meeting in San Francisco, plans were made by those involved to continue both seminars at the 1976 meeting in New York. An attempt is being made to coordinate the focus of both seminars so that they provide a somewhat coherent experience for the large number of persons who attend both. The continued seminar on GDR prose will be entitled:

GDR Prose Fiction: Critical Approaches and Model Analyses

Persons wishing to contribute a paper are invited to submit on or before April 15, 1976 an abstract, stating what critical approach is being used (theoretical part) and giving a brief summary of the main aspects of the paper. There is great interest in the application of solid literary scholarship to this relatively new field of German literature in the general context of 20th century literature. Current Ph.D. candidates who can present results of recent scholarship are encouraged to participate. From the abstracts submitted by April 15, three papers will be selected which promise the most fruitful and interesting discussion.

Finished papers (20-25 pages) will be due by October 31, 1976 so that (like last year) they can be xeroxed and sent to prospective seminar participants. Three other colleagues will be asked to function as respondents. (If you are interested in serving this function, please write.) At the Seminar, the three contributors will present short (ca. 7 min.) oral summaries of their papers, followed by comments from their respondents, and then the floor will be open for questions and discussion.

Persons wishing to submit an abstract or serve as a respondent, please write to the Seminar chairperson: Charlotte Koerner, The Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio 44115 Dept. of Mod. Languages (Tel. 216-687-4646). Those who would like to attend the seminar and receive xerox copies of the three papers (at a cost of \$1.-), please write to the co-chairperson: Theodor Langenbruch, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Ga. 30332 Dept. of Mod. Languages.

The continuation of the other GDR seminar will have a more theoretical orientation under the general topic:

Literary Criticism and Aesthetics in the GDR

The discussion in this seminar will concentrate on the specific development of a Marxist literary

theory in the GDR, including recent discussions and influences of Western theories, especially "Rezeptionstheorie" but also structuralism and other critical modes. An interesting possibility might be to discuss to what degree such developments had an influence on the reception of bourgeois avant-garde literature and/or on the production of literature in the GDR. No papers will be read in the seminar. Proposals for discussion topics, which might take the form of papers to be distributed to participants beforehand or presentation of short theses for discussion should be sent as soon as possible to the discussion leader, Rainer Nägele, Department of German, Dieter Cunz Hall of Languages, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio 43210 (Tel. 614-422-6985).

1975 MLA

A report on the GDR seminars held at the December meeting in San Francisco will be found in the REVIEWS section of this issue. In addition to these seminars, a videotape of Heiner Müller's Mauser was shown on the last day of the conference. The cost to Müller for this event was \$100, of which only \$45 was collected at the showing. Persons wishing to contribute to the cost should send checks, payable to the MLA, to Betty Weber, Department of Germanic Languages, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas 78712.

NEMLA

The Northeast Modern Language Association will feature a GDR section at its annual meeting at the University of Vermont, April 8-10, 1976. Among the papers to be read is Alexander Stephan's "Zwischen Volksfront und Realpolitik: Pläne der Exil-KPD für eine deutsche Nachkriegskultur." Other topics will be reported when they are received.

Feminism and German Studies: An Interdisciplinary Perspective is the title of a symposium to be held at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio 45056, on Saturday, September 25, 1976.

Ideas for the treatment of topics which are either comparative (German and another literature) or include another discipline
Published by New Prairie Press, 1976

(for example, history, sociology, etc.) are being invited from individuals or groups, including graduate students. The topics should be of interest to an audience outside of German, too. It is planned to have presentations in the form of summaries or a set of theses, rather than long papers, and to have a discussant for each.

Please submit ideas by March 15, 1976, in duplicate to the co-chairpersons: one copy to Gisela Bahr, Dept. of GREAL, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio 45056, and the other to Evelyn Beck, Dept. of German, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706.

VISITING LECTURERS

STEPHAN HEYM

Heym is probably the best known novelist of the GDR in the English-speaking world and is well qualified to compare life in the GDR and the USA. With other anti-Nazi writers such as Brecht, Heym came to the United States as a refugee in the late thirties. In 1952 he returned to the GDR and is now eager to see what changes the last 24 years have made in the United States as well as to report on what has been happening in the cultural, political, social and economic life of the GDR. Those familiar with the long feature article he wrote for the New York Times last spring will remember that he is a frank critic as well as a loyal supporter of the GDR.

His novels include Hostages, The Crusaders, The Eyes of Reason, The King David Report and his latest Seven Days in June, soon to appear in English in this country.

Heym has agreed to participate in the second annual GDR symposium at the World Fellowship Center in Conway, N.H., at the end of June. He has asked the GDR Society to help plan his itinerary. Please direct inquiries promptly to the GDR Society, 777 United Nations Plaza (Room 1), New York, N.Y. 10017.

JOHN PEET

The GDR Society is also arranging the itinerary for John Peet, an Englishman who has edited the recently discontinued bi-weekly newsletter German Report from East Berlin for the past 25 years. The newsletter had 30,000 readers in over 100 countries.