

1975

Recent Publications

various authors

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

GDR COURSES

The following list is very incomplete and represents only information which was drawn from letters requesting to receive the Bulletin. A more complete listing, based on the survey done by the University of Wisconsin-Madison student collective, will be offered in a forthcoming issue. Much more fruitful, however, than a mere listing of courses past and present would be an ongoing dialog in the Bulletin on problems of pedagogy and content in teaching such courses. We invite your comments and analysis of your experiences.

SAMPLE COURSES

"Cultural Development in the Two Germanies" (taught regularly), Ludo Abicht Department of Foreign Languages, Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio, 45387 .

"Dichter der DDR" (Fall, 1975), Conrad Borowski, Department of Foreign Languages, San José State University, San José, California 95192 .

"East German Literature", Martin O. Dietrich, Department of German, Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana 47374 .

"Literature of the GDR" (Spring, 1975), Juergen G. Mudrow, Department of Foreign Languages, The University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio, 435606 .

"Literatur der DDR" (1973), "Autoren der DDR" (Fall, 1975), Detlev Scheid, Humanistic Studies Division, University of Wisconsin-Parkside, Kenosha, Wisconsin 53140 .

"Literature of the GDR" (Spring, 1975), Peter U. Hohendahl, Department of German, Washington University, St. Louis, Mo. 63130 .

"Marxist Literary Theory" (Fall, 1974) Rainer Nägele, Department of German, The Johns Hopkins University, Balti-

The following sections on recent and forthcoming publications and research in progress are potentially the most useful portions of the Bulletin for many of its readers, but their usefulness will depend on their completeness and up-to-dateness. Helen Fehervary, Ohio State University, has offered to give this section the special editorial attention it needs in order to make it as effective as possible. Please send all bibliographical contributions (except book reviews, which should be send directly to the editor) to Professor Helen Fehervary Department of German, Ohio, State University, Columbus, Ohio 43210 .

BÜCHERKATALOG

Zur Frankfurter Buchmesse 1974 gab der Brücken-Verlag, 4 Düsseldorf, Postfach 1928, einen Katalog "Bücher aus der DDR" heraus, der auf 288 Seiten einen Grossteil der verfügbaren DDR-Bücher enthält, wobei allerdings der Redaktionsschluss des 1. August 1974 zu bemerken ist. Sprachwissenschaften, Literaturwissenschaften, Schöne Literatur und Kinder- und Jugendbücher sind auf etwa 80 Seiten vertreten. Der Brückenverlag liefert DDR-Bücher an Buchhandlungen und Einzelkunden ausserhalb der DDR aus. (F.H.)

FILMVERZEICHNIS

Das Gesamtdeutsche Institut der Bundesanstalt für Gesamtdeutsche Aufgaben hat ein Verzeichnis "Filme zur deutschen Frage" veröffentlicht (1974 unter denen sich bundesdeutsche und DDR-Filme zur Deutschlandfrage, zu Berlin, Städten und Landschaften, Geschichte, Bildung, Jugend und Sport, Kunst, Literatur, Unterhaltung, Wirtschaft und Landwirtschaft befinden. Auch DDR- Spielfilme sind erhältlich. Einen ähnlichen Katalog aus dem Jahr 1973 gibt es über "Tondokumente zur gesellschaftlichen Entwicklung in de

DDR". Der Verleih erfolgt über das obige Institut, Referat III 5, 53 Bonn, Adenauerallee 10. (F.H.)

of the article, it offers a lively, generally honest and up-to-date introduction to the country suitable for high school or beginning language students.

CRITICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

New German Critique, which regularly carries GDR articles in English, devoted its entire second issue (Spring, 1974) to the GDR. All articles and reviews are in English and include contributions on cultural politics, Johannes R. Becher, Bertold Brecht, and Heiner Müller among others and an important critical bibliography of books dealing with the GDR published through 1972 (pp. 124-151).

BOOKS, ARTICLES, DISSERTATIONS

Alan Curtis Bedell, "Social Conflict and its Literary Depiction in Eight Contemporary East German Novels" Dissertation (University of Rochester, N.Y., 1974) treats Ole Bienkopp, Spur der Steine, Die Aula, Abschied von den Engeln, Pause für Wanka, Der geteilte Himmel, Buridans Esel, Nachdenken über Christa T. Extensive bibliography, especially on theory of socialist realism.

DIE UNTERRICHTSPRAXIS

Section II of the Fall, 1974 (Vol. VII, No. 2) issue of Die Unterrichtspraxis is devoted to "Teaching GDR Literature" Included are an article by Frank D. Hirschbach, "DDR-Literatur im Unterricht -- wie, was und für wen?" (pp. 68-81), which raises numerous important considerations for the prospective teacher of such a course and carries a wealth of practical information in its footnotes. Margret Eifler's "Prämissen zur DDR-Literatur" (pp. 81-90) deals with questions of literary theory and criticism and Peter Hutchinson's "New Words and New Meanings -- Fresh Task for the German Language Teacher" (pp. 90-95) explains common terms in GDR literature which may be unfamiliar to the beginners.

Peter Uwe Hohendahl, "Ästhetik und Sozialismus: Zur neueren Literatur der DDR," Jahrbuch der Deutschen Schillergesellschaft XVIII (1974), pp. 606-641.

Hans Koch et al. (eds), Zur Theorie des sozialistischen Realismus (Berlin: Institut für Gesellschaftswissenschaften beim ZK der SED, 1974). A huge and important compendium!

ZEITSCHRIFTEN

Die Berliner Zeitschrift 'europäische Ideen', die 'unregelmäßig, wenigstens viermal im Jahr' erscheint, widmete das Heft 2, 1973, dem Thema "Wie viele deutsche Literaturen gibt es?". Unter den Autoren des Heftes waren: Wilhelm Girmus, Ingeborg Drewitz, Konrad Franke Hermann Kesten, Joachim Seyppel, Reiner Kunze, Wolfgang Harich, Stefan Heym, Jürgen Rühle u.a. Die Zeitschrift veröffentlichte ferner als Heft 4, 1974, Beiträge zur Literatur in der DDR von Wilhelm Girmus, Stefan Heym, Reiner Kunze, Franz Xaver Kroetz, Gerhard Zwerenz, Hermann Kant, Jurek Becker, Jörg Bernhard Bilke u.a. Ein Abonnement ist für DM 17.- erhältlich durch die Redaktion, 1 Berlin 37, Mühlenstr. 17b. (F.H.)

OTHER ITEMS IN ENGLISH

Stefan Heym's "letter from East Germany" appeared in the New York Times Magazine section, Sunday, March 23, 1975.

National Geographic Magazine had a full-color feature entitled "East Germany, The Struggle to Succeed" by John J. Putnam and Gordon W. Gahan in its September, 1974 (Vol. 146 No. 3) issue, pp. 295-329. Although the authors could not refrain from

the conventional "East-West polemic" at the end
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DOI: 10.4148/gdr.v1i1-2.296

Das Bundesministerium für innerdeutsche Beziehungen in Bonn veröffentlicht ein Merkblatt "Reisen in die DDR". Obgleich dieses 51-seitige Büchlein hauptsächlich für Westdeutsche und West-Berliner gedacht ist, enthält es nichtsdestoweniger auch für Amerikaner interessante Tatsachen und Hinweise.

(F. H.)

BOOK REVIEWS

Manfred Jäger : Sozialliteraten.

Funktion und Selbstverständnis der Schriftsteller in der DDR

(Bertelsmann Universitätsverlag, Düsseldorf, 1973); 240 Seiten, ISBN 3-571-09289-9

Jäger's theme is the process of emancipation (and, to some extent, of disillusionment) of the GDR authors within the framework of the accepted new social order. The term "Sozialliteraten" is not used in a polemical sense, but refers to the "relative autonomy of literature" in the GDR. The most important chapter of this volume is "Auf dem langen Weg zur Wahrheit. Fragen, Antworten und neue Fragen in den Erzählungen, Aufsätzen und Reden Christa Wolfs." These 90 pages include a general discussion of topics such as optimism, spontaneity, the typical, positive and mixed heroes, naturalistic and symbolic writing, the "language problem", literary traditions, and West Germany reception of GDR literature. As for Wolf's work, Jäger emphasizes structural, thematic, and ideological continuity, while acknowledging differentiations in several respects. In addition, this book contains interesting portraits of the poets Kunze, Braun, and Biermann, an extended essay "Brecht und sein Theater im schwierigen Milieu der DDR", another essay on Wolfgang Harich, and one on the GDR reception of Peter Weiss. The wide thematic range of this book is underscored by the last item: "Das ganz neue Lachen. Die Funktion von Humor und Satire in der marxistischen

Theorie des Komischen und in der Praxis des politischen Kabarets der DDR."

Jäger's method is close interpretation of selected passages. In trying to detect underlying inner tensions and hidden conflicts, he uses a sort of textual psychoanalysis. At times, his admitted "Lust zum Pointieren" leads him to bold paraphrases and overinterpretations. Thus, Mayer's problematical "slave language" metaphor is not illuminating with respect to Biermann's Dra-Dra, even if Jäger speaks of emancipated slaves. In the somewhat abstract essay on Harich, the reviewer would have liked to find a broader discussion of the objects of Harich's polemics, e.g. of Heiner Müller.

Despite such occasional shortcomings Jäger's book as a whole is a major contribution in the field of GDR research -- it is a pleasure to read stimulating, and well documented (251 footnotes on the Christa Wolf chapter alone give an idea of his thorough research and documentation)

(Theodor Langenbruch)

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

Basis V, which will appear in June, 1975, carries a number of articles on GDR literature, among them Helen Fehervary's "Hölderlin und Marx in der DDR", Andreas Huyssen's "Auf den Spuren Ernst Blochs -- Nachdenken über Christa Wolf" and Paul Michael Lützeler's "Goethes Faust und der Sozialismus."

Theodor Langenbruch's Dialectical Humor in Kant's Novel "Die Aula" (Bonn: Bouvier Abhandlungen zur Kunst Musik- und Literaturwissenschaft No. 163, 1974) will be delayed until early fall.
