

1975

Research in Progress

various authors

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the book particularly valuable for anyone beginning the study of GDR literature: the historical information on the GDR literary scene, including the Bitterfeld Movement and Socialist Realism, and the pagination concordance of Aula editions, which enables one to check references in any of the three Aula editions. Perhaps the book's greatest merit is its evenhanded approach to its topic; Langenbruch devotes careful attention to GDR political realities and considers both East and West German interpretations of Die Aula, yet he clearly realizes that he is analyzing a literary work, not writing a political polemic. This recognition, so essential for a study of dialectical humor, is sadly lacking in many publications on GDR literature. Probably neither his method nor his classification of Kant as a proponent of "critical pro-socialism" will satisfy all his readers, yet everyone will understand Kant better after reading this work.

Because the book is in English, it will reach a larger audience, an important consideration in view of the proliferation of "literature in translation" courses. Nevertheless, the choice of language is the one main drawback of this otherwise excellent book: frequent Germanisms interfere with the ease of reading which one would expect from the author's clear thinking and logical organization, and readers who know little German may not understand his meaning in a few places. Certainly the author is not solely responsible for this flaw; a company which publishes in English should have lecturers and editors competent to eliminate linguistic problems. However, this defect is largely cosmetic, and the work as a whole is a significant scholarly achievement which represents a major contribution to the growing corpus of GDR literary research.

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RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

David Bathrick, "Agriprop: Collectivisation and the Drama in the GDR" (paper for 1975 Wisconsin Workshop at University of Wisconsin-Madison), Department of German, Van Hise Hall, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisc., 53706.

Carl Colditz, "The Works of Volker Braun", Department of German, Wayne State University, Detroit, Mich., 48202.

John A. Erikson, "Funktionswandel der Erzähltechnik einiger ausgewählter DDR-Romane" (University of Minnesota dissertation), Franziskus Kollege, 2 Hamburg 13, Sedanstr. 24, Spt. 23.

Valerie Greenberg, "Younger Women Writers in the GDR" (Dissertation), Department of Germanic Languages and Literature, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina 27706.

Patricia Herminhouse, "Die Frau und die Phantasie in der neueren DDR-Prose", Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, Washington University, St. Louis, Mo. 63130.

Lisa Kahn, "Orpheus im Osten" (paper for 1975 SCMLA dealing with six Orpheus poems of Günter Kunert as being in the "western" literary tradition), Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas, 77004.

Basil Mogridge, "Johannes Bobrowski: Pinnau und andere" (paper for Fifth Congress of the IVG), Department of German, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada.

Gerhild G. Stiewe, "Die Rolle der Frau in der DDR Literatur" (University of Minnesota dissertation), Department of German, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn. 55455.
