

1975

An Evening at the Maxim Gorki Theater, Berlin

Gordon L. Tracy
University of Western Ontario

Follow this and additional works at: <https://newprairiepress.org/gdr>



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/).

Recommended Citation

Tracy, Gordon L. (1975) "An Evening at the Maxim Gorki Theater, Berlin," *GDR Bulletin*: Vol. 1: Iss. 4.
<https://doi.org/10.4148/gdrb.v1i4.318>

This Review is brought to you for free and open access by New Prairie Press. It has been accepted for inclusion in GDR Bulletin by an authorized administrator of New Prairie Press. For more information, please contact cads@k-state.edu.

Butt sind seine Gefährten. Ihre unwahrscheinlichen Abenteuer und merkwürdigen Erlebnisse führen zu nachdenklichen und bedenkenswerten Überlegungen, die einer eigentwilligen Erkenntnis der Welt in ihren verschiedensten Erscheinungsformen gelten.

Wilhelm Pieck, 1876-1960. Bilder und Dokumente aus seinem Leben, hrsg. H. Vosske unter Mitarbeit v. E. Ittershagen (Berlin: Verlag Neues Leben)

Helfried Schreiter, Einer besucht eine. 14 Geschichten (Berlin: Verlag Neues Leben).

Anna Seghers, Das Vertrauen (Gesammelte Werke in Einzelausgaben, Bd. 8) 1. Aufl. (Berlin: Aufbau)

Über Anna Seghers. Ein Almanach zum 75. Geburtstag, hrsg. K. Batt (Berlin: Aufbau) Bekannte Schriftsteller, Publizisten und Literaturwissenschaftler der DDR und des Auslands erzählen von Begegnungen mit Anna Seghers und ihren Büchern und schreiben über besondere Aspekte im Werk und Wirken der Schriftstellerin. Eine Auswahlbibliographie erfasst Werke von Anna Seghers und wesentliche Buch- und Zeitschriftenpublikationen aus dem Sekundärbereich.

Frank Wagner, Der Kurs auf die Realität. Das epische Werk von Anna Seghers (1935 - 1945 (Berlin: Akademie-Verlag). Das Seghers'sche Erzählwerk wird als zusammenhängender Prozess der künstlerischen Realitätsaneignung interpretiert.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Annette Koepfel, "Women writers in the GDR" (410 Tinkerbell Road, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514).

Dr. Anita Mallinckrodt, "Images of Women in GDR Prose", (5 Köln 1, Wolfsstr. 9-11, West Germany).

Christiane Zehl Romero, "GDR Novel," "Rose and Position of Women in Public and Private Life in the GDR". (Department of German and Russian, Tufts University, Medford, Mass. 02155)

Alexander Stephan, "Zwischen Volksfront und Realpolitik: Pläne der Exil-KPD für eine deutsche Nachkriegskultur" (Paper for NEMLA meeting, April 1976) (Department of German, University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California 90024)

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Die DDR erzählt. Nine Stories from the German Democratic Republic, ed. Peter Hutchinson (London: George Harrap).

Peter Hutchinson, "The Presentation of Divided Germany in East German Fiction" (dissertation) Selwyn College, Cambridge CB 9DQ, England.

PUBLICATIONS DISCONTINUED

Democratic German Report, published as a newsletter to familiarize readers in non-socialist countries with the GDR, has announced that it will cease publication at the end of this year after 24 years. Born of the cold war when the GDR was unfamiliar and unrecognized in the Western world, the editor of the German Report concludes that the publication "has become redundant" at a time when the country is represented in the UN and maintains diplomatic relations with almost 120 countries around the world. No plans have been announced to replace this old "cold warrior" with something more appropriate to the contemporary situation.

REVIEWS

An Evening at the Maxim Gorki Theater, Berlin

In June, 1975, a colleague and I who were working in the Bertolt-Brecht-Archiv, had the opportunity one Saturday evening to see double performances of Das Ende by Michail Schatrow (1800 hours) and In Sachen Adam und Eva by Rudi Strahl (2200 hours), both at the Maxim Gorki Theater, former home of the Sing-Akademie, near Unter den Linden. The first

play was an interesting example of epic-documentary theater, with revolving stage, film (some of it with Russian sound), projections, and recorded music. The performance of Das Ende was informative, entertaining, and scenically diversified, thoroughly professional, though not great theater. The play has to do with the last ten days (April 10-20, 1945) of Hitler, with Bormann, Goebbels, Goering, Himmler, Eva Braun, and others, all well played by masked actors, in the Berlin "Bunker," and it is a light-heartedly macabre view of idiotic and pathological aspects of these Nazi leaders, against a background of "Lagebesprechungen," elegant festivities, commands, harangues, and impassioned speeches, it is also an exhortation to reflect on the progress made in the intervening thirty years. The decisive role of the Russian army in the defeat of Nazism and the role of the worker in the reconstruction of Germany is highlighted in two tableaux at the conclusion of the play.

After a pause following the Schatrow play Strahl's In Sachen Adam und Eva was played in the foyer, with the spectators seated at tables, most of them with a glass or bottle of good wine before them.

The Strahl play, a talk-show in the best sense, was performed on four small podiums which were situated here and there among the tables. On the largest of the podiums sat the young couple, Adam and Eva, who were seeking permission to marry, on another sat the judge and the "Protokollant," on the other two stood the lawyer supporting the lovers' application and, toward the other side of the room, the lawyer opposing their candidacy, "die Gegenanwältin." An interesting account of the events leading to their decision to marry was elicited by the lawyers and searching questions about its advisability were raised. Finally, the spectators were asked to vote for or against matrimony and at this performance--the young people won their case! Following the performance, the actors sang some witty and provocative cabaret songs, and did it superbly.

Gordon L. Tracy
The University of Western
Ontario
London, Canada

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL ITEMS NEEDED

Alan Weiss is trying to assemble a resource center to aid students in research on the GDR Eastern Europe in general, not necessarily of a literary nature. Send suggestions and contributions to him, John Abbott College, 16821 Hymus Blvd., Kirkland, P. A. Canada.

MORE BIBLIOGRAPHY WANTED

Don't forget that your friendly Bulletin can only be as useful a resource as you are willing to make it with your contributions of bibliographical items (not necessarily your own publications) to be shared with your colleagues. If everyone takes things out of the basket without putting in anything in return, it will soon be empty...

USEFUL ADDRESSES

ARCHIVE

Das Institut für Sozialwissenschaften of the Freie Universität (1 Berlin 30, Babelsbergerstr. 13/14) has a large collection of material on the GDR, including obscure documents on cultural politics. It has also an amazing collection of National and Provincial newspapers, so that between the two archives, almost all presses can be found from 1945 to the present.

STUDENT TRAVEL PLANNING

The following important addresses for persons who might be interested in setting up a student travel program similar to that described by Robert K. Schulz in the last issue of the Bulletin were inadvertently omitted as a footnote to his discussion:

Ministerium für innerdeutsche Beziehungen,
Bad Godesberg, Kölner Strasse 140;
Haus Inter-Nationes, Bad Godesberg, Kennedy-
allee 90-103;