

1977

Forthcoming Conferences

various authors

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Recommended Citation

authors, various (1977) "Forthcoming Conferences," *GDR Bulletin*: Vol. 3: Iss. 1. <https://doi.org/10.4148/gdrb.v3i1.369>

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to a nominal subscription fee is positive, it would indicate our collective interest in letting the Bulletin develop gradually into a serious journal. The time for us to test the need for such an open forum has arrived.

"Many of us have been toiling away at "legitimizing" the study of GDR literature in our schools, colleges, and universities for a number of years. We have worked hard and successfully to gain a forum at the annual MJA conventions and other area meetings....Facing the spring of 1977, and looking back over many winters of our discontent and hard work, we now see that GDR literature has become an accepted integral part of many graduate programs, and not a few undergraduate curricula, here and there, if not quite everywhere. But we must go on. "....The subject, thanks to all of our efforts, is academically sound and relatively secured. Enervating as it is to all of us, the current wave of political repression and denial of human rights in Eastern Europe, but especially in the Soviet Union and the GDR, should motivate each of us to reconsider our perspective on the subject. It is clear that we still don't come close to understanding the cultural political game in the GDR, its rules, its functional parts, its range of flexibility. A year ago, when Heiner Müller and others were freely and candidly discussing the potential of GDR culture with us on our campuses, most of us would have predicted a much different, much "better" scenario for the GDR's cultural arena than the abject reality with which we are faced today. This indicates to me that we, as an academic group, are still very weak in two major areas. First, we must do much better in gathering and distributing pertinent information, and second, we must develop more incisive methodologies, particularly in the sociology of literature, to come to terms with GDR literature and cultural policy. We must learn to understand and explain the rules and functions of the GDR's particular game much more conclusively than we have done. If we don't, we will again be forced to sit silently and dumbfounded in the face of every unexpected policy shift in the GDR.

"The Bulletin has been a workhorse for us, moving steadily in the desirable direction. It has been a valuable tool, not unlike a club in the hands of prehistoric men and women. But now that our own prehistoric period as GDR scholars in American

academe has opened onto a new, more progressive era, we should consider our faithful club carefully, and organize to sharpen it into an even more productive instrument for the more complicated tasks ahead of us."

H. G. Huettich
University of Southern
California

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

1977 MLA CONVENTION--SPECIAL SEMINAR: GDR PROSE

Because of the interest shown in Special Session 148 on GDR Prose at the 1976 MLA Convention, the seminar is to be continued in 1977. Papers are invited on the topic of: "GDR Prose: Short Fiction." Papers discussing a specific work of short prose fiction should relate structurally to a coherent system of aesthetic-critical categories (e.g., a sociological or a Marxist approach). MLA members who would like to speak on this topic are asked to contribute a brief paper (4-5 pages in length, double-spaced) by April 1 to either of the co-chairmen: Richard Zipser, Department of German, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio 44074 or to Juergen Hoegl, Program in Comparative Lit., University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois 61801. From the papers submitted, the three which promise to stimulate the most fruitful and interesting discussion will be selected in April. At the seminar next December, the three contributors will read their papers; after each presentation, there will be a very brief response by Juergen Hoegl, then the floor will be open for questions and discussion. If you plan to attend the GDR Prose seminar and would like to have a copy of the papers in advance (at the cost of one dollar for all three), please write to Richard Zipser at Oberlin College.

MLA CONVENTION: GDR SEMINAR--DEC., 1977

This year's topic: "Socialist Writing and the GDR: How Divisive is Dissidence?" will focus on the traditions, as well as on the recent trends in dissident socialist writing. How new and how old is dissident socialism in the GDR? What kind of alternatives does this realism pose to socialist realism? How "realistic" is it?

The format of the Seminar will emphasize discussion rather than papers. Points for discussion will be presented by a panel of three to four people. Persons wishing to participate on the panel may submit their ideas by April 1 at the latest to:

Professor Helen Fehervary
Department of German
Dieter Cunz Hall
Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio 43210

CALL FOR PAPERS...

The Marxist Literary Group of the Midwest Modern Language Association is soliciting papers for the Marxist Forum at the MMLA--November, 1977 in Chicago. The topic is an "Application of Marxist Feminist Criticism". The subject aims at a synthesis of Marxism and feminism and is of central interest to those who believe that traditional Marxism has not dealt with feminism as well as to those who believe that Marxism is capable of dealing with feminism. Papers should be no more than eight pages single-spaced and should be submitted by the beginning of May to the coordinator of this forum. Abstracts should be submitted by the beginning of April. As usual, collective papers and projects are encouraged. Any questions should be directed to the coordinators:

Renny Harrigan, German Dept.,
Box 413, UWM, Milwaukee, Wi.
53201; Renate Holub, U. of Wis.-
Madison, Dept. of French &
Italian, 1220 Linden Dr.,
Von Hise Hall, Madison, Wi.,
53706.

SPEED, TIME, & CHANGE IN LITERATURE

will be the topic of the fifth annual Conference on Twentieth-Century Literature to be held at the University of Louisville, February 24-25, 1977. The Friday session, "The East-West Express", (9:00-10:30 a.m.) may be of particular interest to our readers. For further information contact:

Marilyn V. Schuler
Conference Chairperson
Department of Modern Languages
University of Louisville
Louisville, Kentucky 40203

WORLD FELLOWSHIP CONFERENCE

The third annual conference on the German Democratic Republic will be held June 24 to July 1, 1977 with discussion revolving around the topic "The Role of the Writer in the Socialist Society of the GDR". Papers are invited offering literary critical, historical, or sociological perspectives on the writer's role in the contemporary GDR society. Especially welcome are papers focusing on the self-definitions by the writers themselves of their societal role as well as the collective definition as offered by the Writers' Union of the GDR. It is expected that the papers will reflect various sides of the questions raised by the topic. Detailed summaries of proposed papers should be sent by April 30, 1977 to:

Professor Duncan Smith
German Department
Brown University
Providence, RI 02912

All papers should be approximately thirty pages in length.

Registration fee, room and board, all-inclusive is 99 dollars per person. Family members are encouraged to attend and enjoy the beautiful 320 acres of the World Fellowship Center, with boating, hiking, swimming and fellowship. Children under 12 are one-half of the adult rate. For further information and registration, write to:

W. Christoph Schmauch
R. R. 1, Birch Street
North Conway, N.H. 03860
(603) 356-5208
