

1978

Forthcoming Conferences

various authors

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FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

FOURTH ANNUAL GDR WORLD FELLOWSHIP SYMPOSIUM

We now have the agenda of workshops and seminars for the Fourth Annual GDR Symposium at the World Fellowship Center in Conway, N.H., which was announced in the October 77 issue of the Bulletin. The conference is to take place from June 16-23, 1978.

- Workshop 1: "The Teaching of GDR Literature and Culture."
- Workshop 2: "Exchange Programs: Teachers, Speakers, Students, Books."
 Organized by Prof. Margy Gerber, Bowling Green State University.
- Seminar 1: "Changing Images of Science and Technology in GDR Literature."
- Seminar 2: "The Significance of Lesser Known Literary Genres: Children's Literature and Trivia Literature."
 Organized by Prof. Theodor Langenbruch, Geo. Inst. of Tech.
- Seminar 3: "Human Needs and Wants as Reflected in GDR Films and Television Plays."
- Seminar 4: "Changing Sex Roles in GDR Society."
 Organized by Prof. Christiane Zehl Romero, Tufts Univ.
- Seminar 5: "Cultural Communication Between the GDR and Its Eastern and Western Neighbors."
- Seminar 6: "Economism-Consumerism in the GDR."
 Organized by Prof. Duncan Smith, Brown University.
- Seminar 7: "The Struggle for a Participatory Socialist Society and Human Rights Within the Framework of the Helsinki Agreements."
- Seminar 8: "Religious Needs and Wants-Religious Organizations and Activities, Their Functions in a Developing Society."
 Organized by The Rev. W. Christoph Schmauch, Exec. Dir. World Fellowship.

- Prof. Duncan Smith of Brown Univ. will have returned from Moscow after a six months stay, where he has been working on Soviet reception of GDR literature.

- There is also good reason to believe that Jurek Becker, author of "Jacob the Liar," who will be at Oberlin for the Spring semester, will also be able to attend.

The deadline for proposed paper topics has been extended to March 1. The registration fee, room and board, all-inclusive rate for the week is \$110. (Children, 50%.) Summaries of papers due April 30, 1978.

The following scholars will also participate in the Symposium:

- Prof. Bernhard of Rostock Univ., GDR, who will be a guest professor at Brown U. for the Spring semester, dealing with GDR lit.
- Prof. Volker Gransow of the Pädagogische Hochschule, Westfalen-Lippe, Bielefeld, will present a paper on "Cultural Needs and Wants of the East German Working Class."
- Prof. Janos Timor of the Karl Marx Univ., Budapest, has had much contact with the GDR and is an expert in manpower and educational planning and the distribution of income. He has also attended the annual meeting of the American Economic Association in Atlanta last September.

PETITION FOR SPECIAL SESSION - MLA 78

This is to announce the existence of a petition for a special session at the 78 MLA for "Anna Seghers: A Socialist Woman Writer," to include analyses of Anna Seghers' works as foremost exponents of Socialist Realism and Anna Seghers as an eminent woman writer. Contact Peter Beiken or Elke Frederiksen at the Dept. of German, Univ. of Maryland, College Park, MD, 20742.

GDR Bulletin

Published three times a year. Correspondence should be addressed to: Patricia Herminhouse, editor, Dept. of Germanic Languages and Literatures, Box 1104, Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.

or to

- Book Reviews - Barton Byg, Henning Fülbier, Marilyn Helt
- Research in Progress - Reinhart Jost
- Notes in Brief - Reinhart Jost, Barton Byg
- Conferences - Peter Jesse
- Travel and Exchange - Ingrid Weigand
- Visiting Lecturers - Henning Fülbier, Ingrid Weigand
- Bibliography - Leslie Adelson, Susan Hegger, Lynne Layton

All of the above can be contacted through Box 1104, Washington University.

Regional Contributing Editors:
 Helen Fehervary, Ohio State University;
 Frank Hirschbach, University of Minnesota;
 H.C. Huettich, University of Southern California;
 Theodor Langenbruch, Georgia Inst. of Technology;
 Christiane Zehl Romero, Tufts University;
 Marc D. Silberman, University of Texas-San Antonio

CALL FOR PAPERS - MLA 78

Contributions are being solicited for a Special Session at the 1978 MLA Convention on the topic "Poetry and Politics in the GDR." Brief papers of 3-4 pages (close analysis, recent developments, etc.) should be submitted by March 25 to Ann Fehn, Dept. of Germanic Languages, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138, or to Sara Lennox, Dept. of German, Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003.

THIRD ANNUAL EUROPEAN STUDIES CONFERENCE

The Third Annual European Studies Conference will be held on October 12-14, 1978 in Omaha, Nebraska. This conference, sponsored by the University of Nebraska at Omaha, is to be an interdisciplinary meeting with sessions devoted to current research, research techniques, and teaching methodologies, as well as to traditional topics. Abstracts of papers should be submitted by May 1, 1978 to Professors Garcia and Jung, Dept. of FL, Univ. of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, Neb. 68101.

MOUNTAIN INTERSTATE FOR. LANG. CONFERENCE

This year's Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference will be hosted by Berea College, and will be held October 12-14, 1978. The program will include a section on GDR literature, which will be organized by Theodor Langenbruch (Dept. of ML, Geo. Inst. of Tech., Swann Hall, Atlanta, Geo. 30332). Paper proposals concerning short prose and poetry are particularly welcome. The deadline for submitting two-page summaries and abstracts is April 15. For further details (such as abstract forms) contact Prof. Alberto Fuentevilla, MIFLC President, Berea College, Box 627, Berea, Ky., 40404.

RECENT CONFERENCES

MLA CONVENTION CHICAGO 1977

The program featured two sessions exclusively concerned with GDR literature, and at least two further sessions which included GDR literature. Details concerning three of these sessions were given in the October 77 issue of the Bulletin. The fourth session to be mentioned

was a workshop "Technology and Marxism." It was chaired by David Bathrick and included, in addition to papers on "Aspects of Technology in Marx and Rousseau" and "Ernst Jünger's Arbeiter," a presentation by Helen Fehervary "Prometheus Rebound: Technology and the Dialectic of Myth." This paper discussed direct references to the Prometheus myth (Heiner Müller), interpreted the "positive hero" of early GDR literature (especially industrial novels) as a Promethian figure, and demonstrated the dialectic of progress in Biermann's poem "Der Aufsteigende" (1968).

The special session "A Taxonomy of Socialist Realism," chaired by Adele Rickett (and intended to be continued next year), attempted to identify common as well as different elements in Chinese, Soviet, and GDR novels. Beyond this, more basic methodological problems were discussed, such as origins and definitions of the novel, significance of the author-reader relation, and evaluative problems (didactic versus esthetic function of literature).

The two sessions devoted entirely to GDR literature attracted almost one hundred participants each. The seminar "Short Prose Fiction," chaired by Richard Zipser, presented different methodological approaches (predominantly structuralist): Karl-Heinz Schoeps analyzed the narrative structure of Christa Wolf's "Blickwechsel," Ann C. Fehn investigated basic binary oppositions and central metaphors in Volker Braun's "Unvollendete Geschichte," and Jack Zipes illustrated the episodic structure of Riner Kunze's Die Wunderbaren Jahre. The discussion of the last paper centered around the question if there is something "typically German" about bureaucratic structures and attitudes in East and West Germany, and whether Kunze was aiming, with his book, at this aspect of the "deutsche Misere." No general agreement was reached on this matter; however, there was a consensus that GDR literature of the kind discussed in this session is highly stimulating for American classrooms, presenting and provoking alternative thinking. In his response to the three papers, Jürgen Hoegl gave a critical analysis and showed interrelations in their findings: Artistic structures correspond to the themes of con-