

1979

Travel and Exchange

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NOTES IN BRIEF

Ian Wallace, editor of the new GDR Monitor, announces publication of the first issue (Summer 1979). This issue contains an interview with Christa Wolf, articles on the novel in the GDR from 1949-1969, the early literature of the GDR, agriculture in the GDR, GDR language, and a review of Jonathan Steele's book Socialism with a German Face. The editor informs us: "GDR Monitor exists to provide an independent forum for discussion of all aspects of the life of the GDR. It is hoped to publish work which will interest expert and layman alike. It is further intended that articles should represent a plurality of views of the GDR." Inquiries should be sent to: The Editor, GDR Monitor, 1 Richmond Terrace, Dundee DD2 1BQ, Scotland.

Der sozialistische Schriftsteller und Anti-Faschist Bruno Apitz (1900-1979) ist am 7. April dieses Jahres gestorben. Er wurde für seine literarische und politische Arbeit unter anderem mit dem Nationalpreis (1958, 1963), mit dem Karl-Marx-Orden (1979) und mit der Ehrenspange zum Vaterländischen Verdienstorden in Gold geehrt. Er war Mitglied der Akademie der Künste der DDR und Mitglied des Vorstandes des Schriftstellerverbandes der DDR.

Die Fachzeitschrift für Osteuropafragen "East Central Europe" widmete im Frühjahr 1977 der DDR ein eigenes Sonderheft. Für 1979 ist wieder ein Sonderheft geplant. In der von der offiziellen Informations-Agentur der USA (seit 1978: International Communication Agency, vorher USIA) herausgegebenen Zeitschrift "Probleme des Kommunismus" erschien Anfang 1977 eine ausführliche Sammelrezension zum Verhältnis beider deutscher Staaten. (Vgl. R.G. Livingston: "A Tale of Two Germanies", Problems of Communism 26, Nr. 1, 1977, S.77-80.) Die gleiche Zeitschrift veröffentlichte im Frühjahr 1978 einen Beitrag zur Situation der DDR in den siebziger Jahren. (Vgl. H. Zimmermann: "The GDR in the 1970's", Problems of Communism 27, Nr. 2, 1978, S.1-40.)

Für 1978 waren amerikanische Editionen folgender Autoren aus der DDR vorgesehen: 5 Tage im Juni (Stephan Heym), Versuchte Nähe (Hans-Joachim Schädlich), Schlaflose Tage (Jurek Becker), Kindheitsmuster (Christa Wolf). (Vgl. Herbert Mitgang, "East Germans Publish in the U.S.", New York Times vom 11.5.1978.)

A consular convention between the GDR and the USA was signed on September 4, 1979, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Berlin by Deputy Foreign Minister Kurt Nier and US Ambassador David B. Bolen. The convention regulates the two countries' mutual consular relations. Upon signing the convention, both sides stated that the latter is an important contribution to the development of relations between the GDR and the USA.

The U.S. Committee for Friendship with the German Democratic Republic (130 East 16 St., 3rd floor, New York, N.Y. 10003, Tel. 212-222-8388) may be contacted for various films about life in the GDR as well as for purposes of ordering books from the GDR. The USCFCGDR also publishes a regular newsletter and on October 7, 1979, co-sponsored a concert with Gisela May of the Berliner Ensemble to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the GDR. The concert was held at the Hunter College Auditorium in NYC.

TRAVEL AND EXCHANGE

In conjunction with the exchange program, now in its seventh year, between Brown University and the Wilhelm Pieck University in Rostock, Dr. Duncan Smith is spending the fall semester 1979/80 at Wilhelm Pieck as a Visiting Professor in the Sektion für Sprache- und Literaturwissenschaft. He is doing research on the GDR Writer Union and Becher Institute in Leipzig and is teaching courses on contemporary American literature and civilization. At the same time Dr. Nancy Condee of Yale University is researching Soviet Russian influences on GDR poetry; her research is sponsored by a grant from IREX.