

1980

Forthcoming Conferences

various authors

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Parallelling Kurella's letters are those of Louis Fürnberg to Stephan Hermlin, Johannes R. Becher, Christa Wolf, and Ludwig Renn among others; they too are from a future edition of his letters to be published by the Aufbau Verlag.

Also in this issue are prose selections by the Polish author, Henryk Worcell and by the West Berlin writer Edgar Hilsenrath, poems by Jürgen Rennert, an essay by Robert Weimann, which examines from an historical perspective the relationship between art and its public in a socialist system, some personal thoughts on Russian literature by Peter Biele, and Hartmut Zenker's "Unterwegs mit G." which picks up the leitmotif of the issue in its opening sentence: "Bin ich doch nur ein Vorfahre von künftigen anderen, im Leben wie auf der Reise...(308)". The story will be continued in forthcoming issues of the journal.

Finally the issue contains a literary triptych of sorts, made up of a dramatic dialogue by the Greek writer Jannis Ritsos, a reflective prose piece by Günter Kunert about Ritsos, and some follow-up correspondence between Kunert and the editors of Sinn und Form regarding this work, entitled Antäus.

The third issue of 1979 opens with two poems by Persian poets, whose revolutionary message is unmistakable. Through the publication of such verses as, "Dies alles schrieb ich hier so grob, so tief ergrimmt,/ damit der Schah sich's doch vielleicht zu Herzen nimmt (494)", the editors have clearly voiced their solidarity with the recent turn-of-events in that troubled land.

The most prominent authors included are Ulrich Plenzdorf, Günter Kunert and Rainer Kirsch. If Plenzdorf's excerpt from his novel, Legende vom Glück ohne Ende, is any indication, then this latest work of his promises to be as exciting as his "Werther". Kunert is represented by a laudatory essay about another of the issue's contributors, the 33-year-old writer, Hans Löffler, whom Kunert compares to Robert Walser, Kafka, und Kleist! It's a great deal of praise for a young author, whose only publication to date, Gedichte und Geschichten, has just appeared. Kirsch is directly responsible for three of the issue's selections: his translation of poems by the Soviet poet, Sergej Jessenin, a caustic essay by Eugen Ruge, taking Kirsch to task for what he considers loose, even feeble, approximations of the original, and Kirsch's unequivocal response.

On May 7 of this year the Academy of Arts met in Berlin to discuss the topic, "Kunst im Kampf gegen den Faschismus!". The fourth issue of Sinn und Form presents a number of selections dealing with this periodically recurring theme in GDR literature.

Other significant contributions include an exchange of letters between Günter Kunert and the editor, Wilhelm Girnus, debating Kunert's outspoken concern for environmental dangers resulting from an unchecked use of science and technology and from an over-zealous belief in "progress".

The serialization of Hartmut Zenker's novel, Unterwegs mit G., begun in the second number of the journal, is continued here.

There is an open letter from leading GDR social scientist Jürgen Kuczynski to Günter de Bruyn regarding his recently-published Närkische Forschungen. In his letter, Kuczynski expresses a fondness for the book, mitigated only by what he considers an ending unfair to the hero.

Following this letter, there is a more objective critique of the de Bruyn work by Karin Hirdina, who very articulately discusses what is, without a doubt, the dominant stylistic device in the story: irony. Finally, Friedrich Dieckmann reviews one of the most popular books to appear in the past two years: Silvester mit Balzac by Wolfgang Kohlhaase.

Thomas Di Napoli
Louisiana State University
at Baton Rouge

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

CALL FOR PAPERS AT THE MLA

The Midwest MLA is soliciting papers for its 1980 meeting. The theme is Post-War Literary Trends in the German Speech Area. Finished papers should be mailed by April 15, 1980 to: Marian Musgrave
Professor of English and
Director of Black World Studies
121-C Upham Hall
Miami University
Oxford, Ohio 45056

SIXTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE GDR
NEW HAMPSHIRE WORLD FELLOWSHIP CENTER

The 1980 New Hampshire Symposium scheduled for the week of June 13-20 at the World Fellowship Center, Conway, N.H. is soliciting papers on the following topics:

The Teaching of GDR Literature and Culture
Contemporary Music of the GDR
Humor and Satire in GDR Literature
Reception of GDR Literature in other countries
GDR Reception of Foreign Literature
Economic, Social and Political Institutions in the GDR
Mass Media in the GDR
GDR Poetry in the 1970's
Methods and Problems in Interpreting GDR Literature

Recent developments in GDR Literature
Proposals and summaries of papers should be submitted to the prospective workshop organizers by February 15, and completed papers by April 15.

Otto Emersleben, a writer from Greifswald and Dr. Fritz Hennenberg and Roswitha Trexler, musicians from Leipzig will be attending the Symposium. For addresses of workshop organizers and additional information on the Symposium please contact
Christoph Schmauch
World Fellowship Center
Conway, NH 03818

EUROPEAN STUDIES CONFERENCE

The fifth annual European Studies Conference will be held from October 9 to 11, 1980, in Omaha, Nebraska. This conference, sponsored by the University of Nebraska at Omaha, is an interdisciplinary meeting with sessions devoted to current research, research techniques, and teaching methodologies, as well as traditional topics. The Conference focuses on Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals.

Abstracts of papers and/or suggestions for panels should be submitted by May 1, 1980, to Dr. Patricia Kolasa, Department of Educational Foundations, or Dr. Bernard Kolasa, Department of Political Science, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, Nebraska 68182.

INTERNATIONAL ANNA SEGHERS CONFERENCE

An International Anna Seghers Conference in honor of Seghers' eightieth birthday is being sponsored jointly by the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures and the Comparative Literature Program at the University of Maryland from November 19 to 22, 1980.

Suggestions and proposals for specific topics and papers are welcome. The International Congress has set up the following framework: Pre-Exile Seghers, Seghers in Exile, Seghers' Return and Seghers and Film. A detailed program is now in preparation and will be mailed promptly to all interested participants. Graduate students are invited to attend.

Several spaces on the program will be reserved for graduate students and a special graduate student congress is also planned. Inquiries should be addressed to:

International Anna Seghers Conference
Department of Germanic and Slavic
Languages and Literatures
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland 20742
Telephone (301) 454-4301

RECENT CONFERENCES

KARL ARNOLD STIFTUNG
DDR LITERATUR UND GERMANISTIK

Die 3. Jahrestagung des "Arbeitskreises für DDR-Literatur und DDR-Germanistik" hat in Bonn-Bad Godesberg vom 7. bis 9. Dezember, 1979 stattgefunden. Hauptthema der Veranstaltung war "Die deutsche Misere als Thema der Gegenwartsliteratur." Auf dem Programm standen folgende Beiträge:

"Kulturpolitik seit 1971," "Die deutsche Misere," "Proletarische Öffentlichkeit--Begriff aufgehobener deutscher Misere und der Literatur in der DDR," "Brechts Vorschläge zur Überwindung der 'Deutschen Misere' (1948-1956)," Bemerkungen zu "Heiner Müller: Germania. Tod in Berlin," "Deutschland Thematik bei Biermann und die Rezeption in der DDR und der Bundesrepublik Deutschland." Die wissenschaftliche Leitung übernahmen P. G. Klusmann, Bochum und Heinrich Mohr, Osnabrück.