TRAVEL AND EXCHANGE

The International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) has announced its program for 1982/83. For information write to:

IREX
655 Third Avenue
New York N.Y. 10017

The program includes:

- an exchange with the GDR. Corresponding organisation: Ministry for Higher and Technical Education of the German Democratic Republic
  Marx-Engels Platz 2
  102 Berlin
- Disciplinary Fellowships: Open to applicants not already in the field of Soviet and East European Studies. Emphasis on the social and humanistic disciplines such as archeology, anthropology, business, economics, geography and demography, law, musicology, political science, psychology and sociology.
- Travel Grants for Senior Scholars. Application deadlines: October 31, January 31, and April 30.
- Grants for Collaborative Activities and New Exchanges. IREX makes a very limited number of small grants in support of specific collaborative projects and new exchanges. Such undertakings as bilateral and multinational symposia, collaborative and parallel research, joint publications (but not publication costs), exchanges of data, comparative surveys, and the like, as well as brief visits necessary in the planning of such projects, will be considered for support.
- The IREX-GDR Commission on the Humanities and Social Sciences, organised on the German side by the Ministry of Higher and Technical Education of the GDR, held its first meeting in June 1982. The Commission will work on the following topics: the Reformation as a social process, rehabilitation of the handicapped, problems of museum exhibition, and the training of museum and restoration specialists, German exile writers in the US, and US-GDR relations since 1974.

VISITING LECTURERS

MARIANNE MUELLER

Dr. Marianne Müller, Humboldt University - Berlin, is presently at the University of Massachusetts in conjunction with the IREX program. Her fields of study are "U.S. studies in the GDR" and "Women in the GDR."

MANFRED JENDRYSCHIK

GDR Author Manfred Jendryschik is participating during the fall quarter in the Iowa International Writing Program, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242.

CHRISTA WOLF

Novelist Christa Wolf will give the keynote address at the upcoming international conference on "Women, Fascism, Everyday Life" to be held April 28 to 30 at Ohio State University. For further information contact Helen Fehervary, Department of German, OSU, Columbus, Ohio 43210.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Lyman H. Legters (501 Thomson DR-05, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195): Possibly revising for publication 1970 report, "East German Higher Education." for U.S. Office of Education.

JOURNAL NOTES

GDR Monitor, No. 6 (Winter 1981-82)

This issue features articles on "Planning Higher and Further Education in the GDR" (Douglas Burrington) and "The Multi-Party System in the GDR -- its Character and Function" (Hans-Christian Oeser) as well as literary articles on Joachim Walther, Volker Braun, and Sarah Kirsch. Burrington provides a concise analysis of the operation, advantages and disadvantages of a system which puts the state's technical requirements over individual wishes, but concludes that "it is the consensus among educators, rather than that among employers, that defines what goes into courses. And the tendency towards inertia which this position of power engenders is reinforced by features which the educational apparatus of the GDR holds in common with bureaucracies elsewhere..." The heart of Oeser's piece is his argument that "the bloc parties serve to shift the burden of responsibility (for radical measures -- p.b.h.) from the SED," while ensuring "the symbolic representation of the social structure and the demonstration of a 'political and moral unity of the people'."

Martin Watson adds an interesting dimension to the "Erbe"-discussion with his presentation of a contemporary reference to Gottfried Keller's famous Novelle in "A Critical Allusion to 'das kulturelle Erbe' in Joachim Walther's 'R. und J. auf dem Dorfe im Bezirk Potsdam". Watson shows connections to Plenzdorf's "junger W." and Christa Wolf's "Juninachmittag", as well as to other works dealing with the generation conflict in the GDR. He also points out that Walther's story, along with another - "Halluzinose" - appeared only in the West German edition, Ruhe bewahren (1979) of the GDR volume Stadtlandschaft mit Freunden (1978), from which three stories did not appear in the Western edition. Watson cautions readers to be careful about assumptions that East and West German editions are identical, pointing to a similar discrepancy between the 1977 GDR and the 1979 West German editions of Wolfgang Kohlhaase's Sylvester mit Balzac, where six stories were omitted from the western edition. Christine Cosentino ("Volker Braun's Training des aufrechten Gangs: a handbook of poems for Party members") finds in Braun's recent anthology of poems a call to "substance, honesty, the courage to speak out in public, dynamic participation" -- virtues which he sees "not to be exactly predominant among party members in the GDR." Andy Hollis adds a footnote to Cosentino's interpretation of Sarah Kirsch's "Der Rest des Fadens" in the previous issue of the GDR Monitor (No. 5), taking issue with her reading of the poem as an allusion to Wolf Biermann and other specific cultural-political events and objecting to the attempt to extract a specific "message" from the poem rather than accept its poetic ambiguities.

-- Patricia Herminghouse
Washington University