GDR Bulletin

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TO OUR READERS: THE COST OF THREE ISSUES OF THE GDR BULLETIN (WINTER, SPRING, FALL 1985) IS THREE DOLLARS. PLEASE SEND CHECKS TO THE GDR BULLETIN. THANK YOU.

NOTES IN BRIEF

Hermann Kant has stepped down from his position as President of the GDR Schriftstellerverband; his resignation became effective in December of 1984. Kant will be succeeded as "amtierender Präsident" by Gerhard Holtz-Baumert, who is best known for his children's literature (Alfons Ziterbacke) and who is a member of the GDR Central Committee. Readers are referred to: Neues Deutschland (December 13, 1984) and Der Spiegel (December 17, 1984).

LSU/East Berlin:
Berlin: 13 June to 25 July 1985.
Additional independent travel: 25 July to 9 August 1985.
Faculty: Dr. Thomas J. Di Napoli, Associate Professor of German (Louisiana State University) and Faculty Member (Humboldt University, Berlin).
Included: Room and board; instructional materials provided by the Humboldt University; excursions to Weimar, Dresden and Meißen, Leipzig, and Wittenberg.
Credit: possible 6 credit hours (intermediate German and German civilization).

Prerequisite: at least one semester of college-level German.
Cost: $1,195 plus travel (estimated: $2,200).
Please, contact: Department of Classical, Germanic, and Slavic Languages
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WORKS IN PROGRESS:

Barbara Mabee is writing a dissertation on the lyric poetry of Sarah Kirsch with Helen Fehervary at Ohio State University. Please, contact: Barbara Mabee
114 Forest Park Lane
Huntington, West Virginia 25705

Reinhard Andress is preparing doctoral work on the image of the author in GDR prose literature, concentrating on novels published inside and outside of the GDR since the early 1970's.
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Amerikanische Fibeln gesucht:

Fibeln der USA (insbesondere von nationalen Minderheiten) gesucht im Austausch gegen DDR-Literartur (Neuerscheinungen, ältere Ausgaben). Diese Fibeln werden benötigt für eine Arbeit über Bildungschancen von nationalen Minderheiten in den sozialistischen und kapitalistischen Staaten und den Ländern der Dritten Welt.

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TRAVEL AND EXCHANGE

INTERNATIONALER SOMMERKURS, ERFURT 1984

This past summer I had the pleasure and privilege of studying GDR literature at the Pädagogische Hochschule "Dr. Theodor Neubauer" in Erfurt. The three week seminar on GDR literature was one of five courses offered to foreign students, the other courses including Deutsche Gegenwartsprache, Praktische Phonetik, Bildungswesen der DDR, and Gesellschaftliches Leben der DDR. All of the courses were immensely interesting; my only regret was that there was only time for GDR literature, and that was overwhelming. Concentrating on short prose pieces, the seminar offered an introduction not only to principle GDR authors, but an opportunity to see how extremely competent GDR scholars approach their own national literature. In addition to discussions of individual authors, we heard well-prepared lectures on a number of historical and theoretical subjects; a partial list would include: "Zu Problemen der kleinen epischen Form," "Entwicklungstendenzen der DDR-Literatur in den 80er Jahren," "Tendenzen der zeitgenössischen DDR-Dramatik," and "Zu Positionen der Literatur für Kinder und Jugendliche in der DDR." The bulk of our time, however, was spent exchanging ideas with our course leaders, Dr. Helga Tille and Dr. Christina Basche, who were as interested in our approaches to literature as we were in theirs.

Aside from the seminars and the considerable amount of time spent reading, nearly every day was filled with a special activity--a film, a special guest at an after dinner discussion, a