Prof. Dr. Manfred Gerbert, Leiter des Sprachintensivzentrums an der Technischen Universität Dresden, ist vom 18.9. bis Dezember 1986 an der English Language Institute der University of Michigan.

DR. GERD FISCHER

Dr. Gerd Fischer, Politologe an der Friedrich-Schiller-Universität, Jena, ist vom 23.8. bis Dezember 1986 an der Tufts University.

DR. ANDREAS KREßLER

Dr. Andreas Kreßler, Anglist an der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, ist von September bis Dezember 1986 an der University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

UWE POHL

Uwe Pohl ist an der Karl-Marx-Universität Leipzig, Sektion theoretische und angewandte Sprachwissenschaft tätig, und ist vom 25.8. bis Dezember 1986 an der Institute of German Studies in Bimidji, Minnesota.

THE BERLINER ENSEMBLE

The Berliner Ensemble will be performing at the Royal Alexander Theatre in Toronto this fall. Performances include Brecht's Three Penny Opera (Oct. 21-23, 1986) and The Caucasian Chalk Circle (Oct.24-26). This is the Ensemble's first visit to North America.

CONFERENCES

THE GDR TODAY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

The conference "East Germany Today: People, Problems, Progress," April 22-24, 1986, was a production of the German faculty at the University of Kentucky. Co-sponsors were the Lexington Woman's Club, the local United Nations Organization, and the Central Kentucky Council on Peace and Justice, with additional funding from the Kentucky Humanities Council. The conference was originally intended to be a public introduction of Christoph Hein, who was to visit from the GDR, and the start of community outreach programs. Because of bureaucratic complications from both governments, Hein was not able to attend, but it is hoped that he will be in Lexington for April, 1987.

The conference began with the reminiscences of Kentucky-born John Sherman Cooper, the first U.S. ambassador to the GDR. His presentation certainly revealed how far U.S. policy and preparation of its diplomatic corps has come since the 1970's. Some progress has been made from the days when uninformed non-German speakers were at the controls.

The academic part of the conference began the next day, and dealt with some of the issues of Cold War mentality and misinformation that Ambassador Cooper's talk had brought out. Our five conference speakers, all experts on the GDR, gave informed and interesting talks on the following topics: Robert Greenberg on health care systems for mothers and children; Patricia Herminghouse on trends in women's literature as expression of social concerns; Nancy Lauckner on peace and nuclear issues in literature; Marilyn Rueschemeyer on work, marriage and family life; and Christoph Schmauch on the churches and reli-

gious policy today.

Local historians and political scientists (Dan Nelson, Jim Albisetti, and Jeremy Popkin) also participated in the debate. We were pleased that a cultural official of the GDR embassy, Michael Winter, was also able to attend and give a talk on GDR peace policy. His presentation was informative, yet refreshing and informal. The audience was brought up to date on events, official policies, and 'underground' movements in the GDR.

In addition students at the University of Kentucky, Lexington translated and performed works by Christoph Hein. The tragic selection was his play Ah Q, directed by Phil McKnight, the faculty member who organized Hein's visit. A dramatization of the chapter "Snout the Donkey Goes to Paris to Become a Professor" from Hein's children's book, Hinter dem Kachelofen was delightful and well received by the audience.

Jeannine Blackwell
University of Kentucky, Lexington

GDR LITERATURE AT THE KENTUCKY FOREIGN LANGUAGE CONFERENCE

The 1986 Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, held at the University of Kentucky-Lexington, April 24-26, featured the welcome and useful addition of a two-session symposium on GDR literature on April 25. No doubt many scholars in the field of GDR literature join this reporter in the hope that such sessions will continue in future years.

The morning session, moderated by Theodor Langenbruch of Eastern Kentucky University, included five papers: "Holocaust und Literatur: Die Perspektive Jurek Beckers" by Heinz Wetzel (University of Toronto) focused on Jakob der Lügner but treated the effects of the Holocaust on other works of Becker as well; "Uses and Misuses of Language: Ingrid Babendererde as a

GDR Novel" by Robert K. Shirer (University of Nebraska) studied Johnson's interest in the "conflict between public language and the reality this language sought to describe"; "Greek Myth and Socialism in Christa Wolf and Heiner Müller" by Herbert A. Arnold (Wesleyan University) applied insights from the theory and criticism of myth to individual works of Müller and Wolf; "Kleewunsch oder Schilda in der DDR" by Fritz H. König (University of Northern Iowa) provided a humorous and informative report on Kirsten's adaptation of the Schilda theme; and "Sprachskepsis and Sprachkritik: Reflections on GDR Prose" by Thomas C. Fox (Washington University) served as a good follow-up to Shirer's paper by discussing the twin themes of language scepticism and language criticism, largely in works from the 60s and 70s.

The afternoon session, moderated by Richard Zipser of Oberlin College, contained four papers: in "Leserstrategien im neuen DDR-Roman," Dieter Sevin (Vanderbilt University) addressed the reader's being forced to question by such works as Wolf's Kassandra, Fries' Verlegung eines mittleren Reiches, De Bruyn's Neue Herrlichkeit, and Hein's Horns Ende; in "Arbeit, Umwelt und Natur in der Perspektive einiger DDR Schriftstellerinnen," Gertraud Gutzmann (Smith College) discussed the treatment of workplace and environment problems in recent works by Königsdorf, Simon, Maron, Kraus, etc.; "Kassandra trauert dreimal anders" by Karen Jankowsky (Washington University) compared the mourning process reflected in and invited by Wolf's Kassandra with that of Weiszäcker's May 1985 speech on the issue of remaining guilt related to the Nazi era; and "Drachenblut: Christoph Heins 'Fremde Freundin'" by Bernd Fischer (Ohio State University) analyzed Hein's use of the Claudia character. Due to his own illness and a regrettable paperwork foul-up by U.S. government authorities, Hein had to cancel his planned visit to Kentucky, but he sent his talk, "Maelzels Schachspieler geht nach Hollywood." This

fascinating reflection on computers and the "reproducibility of art" was read by Phillip McKnight of the University of Kentucky as the final contribution in the afternoon session.

Nancy A. Lauckner
University of Tennessee--Knoxville

THIRTEENTH NEW HAMPSHIRE SYMPOSIUM ON THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

The 1987 Symposium will be held June 19-26, 1987 at the World Fellowship Center, Conway, NH. The central theme of the Symposium will be "Everyday Life in the GDR." As in past years the Symposium will be interdisciplinary. Several of the seminars will involve the treatment of topics from the perspectives of various disciplines.

Papers are being solicited for the following seminars: Quality of Life in the GDR (P. Herminghouse, Univ. of Rochester), The GDR and Its International Environment (J. Parsons, Sloan School), Regional Differences in the GDR (M. Gerber, address below), Arts and the (New) Media in the GDR (Volker Gransow, Univ. California - Berkeley), Berlin: History, Culture, and Politics of a Modern Metropolis (D. Sweet, Bates College), New GDR Lyric Poetry (C. Cosentino, Rutgers), Issues and Trends in GDR Literature and Aesthetics (C.Z. Romero, Tufts Univ.), Methodology of the Study of GDR Literature, Culture, Society (M. Gerber, address below).

Detailed proposals (title plus 2-3 pages) must be submitted to the appropriate seminar organizers--one copy to each--by January 15, 1987 at the latest; completed papers, no later than April 1. Papers should not exceed 30 minutes. The preferred language is English. For more information on the program, contact Margy Gerber, Nestorstr. 2, D-1000 Berlin 31, FRG. For information on the Symposium location, travel arrangements, etc., contact W. Christoph Schmauch, World Fellowship Center, Conway, NH

03818, tel. (603)356-5208.

TWELFTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

The 12th New Hampshire Symposium on the GDR, held at the World Fellowship Center, Conway, New Hampshire, June 20-27, 1986, was most memorable for the variety of positions represented by the participants and the convivial atmosphere in which they met. Political positions ranged from the Green Party to the SED and the U.S. Department of State. Among the 65 participants were social scientists, economists, business experts and Germanists from several countries, officials of the Goethe Institute and the Consulate General of the Federal Republic and the pastor of the Dutch Evangelical Congregation of Berlin. It was the first trip to the conference for an editor of Deutschland Archiv, Gisela Helwig, and for Heinrich Mohr (Osnabrück), co-founder of the Arbeitskreis für Literatur und Germanistik in der DDR. Five men from the GDR helped round out the lively discussions: Karl-Heinz Röder of the Institut für Theorie des Staates und des Rechts, Akademie der Wissenschaften der DDR; Lothar Bisky, a mass-media researcher at the Akademie für Gesellschaftswissenschaften beim ZK der SED; Alfred Loesdau, a historian at the same institute; Reiner Saupe of the Humboldt University (management and finance); and the screenwriter Wolfgang Kohlhaase.

In general the tone of the conference was one of optimism about its theme: "The GDR Today and Tomorrow: Visions and Realities." The direction given by the Eleventh Party Congress of the SED stresses a dramatic economic commitment to high technology in the GDR, especially microelectronics and robotics. To make this possible, creativity and a "richness of individuality" are to be supported in social and cultural policy. Although Bisky and Röder rejected the term "elite," it was clear that a new

"scientific and technical intelligentsia" would need "special conditions" for living and working. The other pillar for such developments is strong GDR support for detente, since its cultural and trade relations with the Federal Republic and the U.S. are quite important. Although these plans certainly challenge the GDR economy and workforce, perhaps some confidence arises from its weathering of recent crises of credit and energy prices.

The "visions and realities" of this increasing "richness of individuality" were touched on in many of the papers and discussions, not all of which can be mentioned here. Two examples are the avant-garde poetry discussed by Wolfgang Müller, and the gradually-improving atmosphere for lesbians and gays in the GDR, as described by Rüdiger Piper. In general, literature remains a crucial mediator of social problems or social change in the GDR, whether in gender and family relations, technological advances or for minorities such as the disabled. However, homosexuality, which lacks a major literary expression, seems to be an exception.

It remains to be seen whether the optimism about internationalism and individuality will not collide with other cultural and political tendencies in the GDR. Volker Braun may be reappropriating Rimbaud, as Christine Cosentino pointed out, but the public debate over modernism or the cultural heritage in general is not wide-open. Two books on Nietzsche are indefinitely delayed by publishers, Denis Sweet reported. In their comments on German history and national identity, Sigrid Meuschel, Alfred Loesdau, and John Sandford recalled narrower, more nationalistic traditions which may limit the rich development of high-tech individuality. It is still easier to commemorate Friedrich the Great or Martin Luther than Friedrich Nietzsche, and with major economic and social change in the GDR, there will almost certainly be those who decry it with terms from less optimistic times--

decadence and cosmopolitanism.

Finally, Heinrich Mohr's talk, "DDR Literatur als Provokation der Literaturwissenschaft," did not provoke a debate at this conference. Since there indeed seems to be little clarity among scholars as to how and why they study the GDR, it can only be hoped that the session on methodology planned for next year's symposium will bring about a fruitful discussion on this problem.

Barton Byg
UMASS - Amherst

RECENT CRITICISM

Beiträge zur Kinder- und Jugendliteratur. Folge 80. Hrsg. von Gerhard Holtz-Baumert. (Beiträge). Berlin: Der Kinderbuchverlag, 1986. 96 S. m. Abb. 5,- DM.

Die Folge 80 der "Beiträge" ehrt den Verleger und Autor Fred Rodrian.

Böttger, Fritz. Bettina von Arnim. Ein Leben zwischen Tag und Traum. Band 1. Berlin: Verlag der Nation, 1986. 448 S. Text und 48 S. Bildteil. 26,- DM.

DDR-Literatur '85 im Gespräch. Hrsg. von S. Rönisch. Berlin: Aufbau, 1986. 400 S. 12,90 DM.

In der 3. Folge des Almanachs werden 24 Neuerscheinungen des Jahres 1985 vorgestellt.

Die DDR-Gesellschaft im Spiegel ihrer Literatur. Hrsg. und eingeleitet von Gisela Helwig. Beiträge von Eckart Förtsch, Irma Hanke, Theo