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In einer schlanken, konzentrierten Erzählung gestaltet der Autor das Leiden eines sensiblen Künstlers an seiner spätbürgerlichen Umwelt.

Diese Kurzgeschichten sind pointiert in Dialog und Situation, ihr Witz resultiert aus der genauen Beobachtung konkreter Vorgänge und gesellschaftlicher Verhaltensweisen.

In seinen ersten Roman erzählt der Autor das Schicksal des Sebastian Bratt, der nationalistisch erzogen, hitlergläubig in den Krieg marschiert, plötzlich auf sich allein gestellt, ohne Vordermann sich selbst entscheiden muß.


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**(BOOK REVIEWS)**

New German Critique No. 9 Fall 1976

The current issue of New German Critique includes several pieces of special interest to those concerned with GDR literature and cultural policies. Bulletin readers should be aware of two essays in particular. First, in "Vacation from Reality," Heinrich Mohr discusses Rolf Schneider's novel Die Reise nach Jaroslav (VEB Hinstorff in 1974 and Luchterhand, 1975) within the context of the controversy stirred up by Ulrich Pflanzdorf's Die neuen Leiden des jüngern W. While Mohr does examine the structure of the Schneider novel and the literary connections to Plenzdorf, the key to his argument lies in the social message he is able to distill: individual psychological rebellion coupled with the retention of the status quo. The issue also contains an interview with Schneider by Peter Hutchinson.

The second essay of major interest is Jay Rosellini's report, "Poetry and Criticism in the German Democratic Republic: the 1972 Discussion in the Context of Cultural Policy." Rosellini sees the discussion which took place in the pages of Sinn und Form and Weimarer Beiträge as part of "an ongoing conflict of views concerning the dialectics of revolutionary development in the GDR." He outlines the opposition between the "subjectivist" or "philosophical" poets and the more orthodox critics. While the debate revolved generally around issues of form, it is significant, according to Rosellini, as an indicator of a potential debate over politically charged questions of content.

The issue also includes a translation of a Brecht poem "the Rearing of Milet" with a short introduction by David Bathrick. There is also a series of articles (including an interview) on Ernst Bloch.

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Gransow, Volker: Kulturpolitik in der DDR, Volker Spiess Vlg., (West) Berlin, 1975
Gransow's Kulturpolitik in der DDR provides readers with a fairly comprehensive and up to date introduction to the history of the GDR and its cultural policy. By presenting his material in an almost-chronological fashion, Gransow makes it particularly accessible to those who have had no previous exposure to the GDR. The book is divided into four sections. Part I contains a survey of pluralistic, methodological paradigms of socialist societies, which Gransow rejects in favor of his own paradigm drawn from scientific socialism. Part 2 contains a much needed and clear analysis of the Marxist concept of culture, which is indispensable for an understanding of socialist cultural policy in the GDR. Gransow shows the historical development and modification of this concept of culture, drawing heavily from Marx, Lenin and, to some extent, Stalin. Mao's concept of cultural revolution is explicitly rejected as irrelevant and relegated to a convenient footnote. Part 3 constitutes the main body of the book and deals with the history of the GDR since its inception. GDR cultural policy is looked at through a close analysis of its institutionalisation. In part D, the author takes a closer