

1981

Fritz Rudolf Fries: Alle meine Hotel Leben. Reisen 1957-1979

Albert E. Reynolds II

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Alle meine Hotel Leben: Reisen 1957-1979. By Fritz Rudolf Fries. Berlin: Aufbau-Verlag, 1980. 200 pages. 7,20 M.

For Fritz Rudolf Fries the reconstruction of a trip is the most enjoyable part, if one compiles the details as experiences of the senses. His travels bridge the political fault of the world and are recorded with humor, insight and copious references to literature, music and the people he encounters. "Hotel Leben" is actually a synonym for the people, places, and experiences of his travels: a collage of his encounters.

His sojourns to Cuba, Brittany, Albania, Spain, France, Czechoslovakia and the GDR are included. The reasons vary from acting as a juror for a music competition to readings from his works, which he does in France and Cuba. In Paris he records an interview with a woman reporter, briefly touching on a passage from his literary reading there.

While in Brügge, Fries betrays an affinity for the romantic poet Georges Rodenbach through conversations with a very talented American exchange student. Here it is the concern for the soul of things and not the things themselves that likens this travel log to Rodenbach's works.

Fries also includes a poem to the Lenin Peace Prize poet Nicolás Guillén who championed the black people and their Cuban folk art forms in his works. Fries delves into Guillén's struggle to isolate the real Cuban culture. In addition to the many literary references Fries also shows that he is "at home" with the American scene. He grew up with the music of "Bird" Parker and the travels of Kerouac, but now collects artifacts of the decadence left in Cuba by the "North American Wasps." A prize find there is an old copy of the "Stars and Stripes Cha Cha Cha" on a juke box.

Some of Fries' travels are done vicariously through letters, readings and the travels of other people he meets along the way. Such is the case with Argentina, Bulgaria and the FRG.

Fries offers his reader travel insights and impressions by means of humorous, and often literary digressions about his travels and encounters in this thirteen year period.

Albert E. Reynolds II
Cordova Senior High, Calif.

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

CALL FOR PAPERS

8TH INTERNATIONAL NEW HAMPSHIRE SYMPOSIUM ON THE GDR
JUNE 18 - 25, 1982

The 1982 New Hampshire Symposium on the GDR has been scheduled for the week June 18 - 25, to be held at the World Fellowship Center near Conway. As in past years, the Symposium will be interdisciplinary in approach. Economists, historians, political scientists, sociologists etc., as well as Germanists are invited to participate. Papers are being solicited for the following seminars:

Seminar I: The Historical Development of the GDR. Volker Gransow, Fachbereich II, Universität Bielefeld, 4800 Bielefeld 1.

Seminar II: Literary and Social Models of Marriage, Child Raising, and Family Patterns in the GDR. Bonnie Beckett-Hoffmann, Box 105, 10 Fairfield Ave., Haydenville, MA 01039; Charlotte Armster, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH 03755.

Seminar III: Views of the USA in the GDR: Images, Literary Reception. Duncan Smith, Dept. of German, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912.

Seminar IV: Language and Linguistic Developments in the GDR. H. Jochen Hoffmann, Dept. of German, Smith College, Northampton, MA 01063.

Seminar V: Humor and Satire in GDR Society and Culture. Fritz König, James Knowland, Dept. of Modern Languages, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613.

Seminar VI: GDR Authors Relatively Unfamiliar in the West. Margy Gerber, Dept. of German and Russian, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio 43403.

Seminar VII: Preservation of Cultural Heritage and Tradition in the GDR: Art, Architecture, Literature, Music, Restoration. Nancy A. Lauckner, Dept. of Germanic and Slavic Lang., University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37916; Dieter Saalman, Box 11, Wichita State University, Wichita, KS 69208.

Seminar VIII: Current Trends in GDR Society, Economy, and Politics. Christiane Lemke, Zentralinstitut für sozialwissenschaftliche Forschung, FU Berlin, Babelsbergerstr. 14 - 16, 1000 Berlin 31; Volker Gransow (Seminar I).

Seminar IX: Recent Developments in GDR Literature and Culture. Christiane Zehl Romero, Dept. of German and Russian, Tufts University, Medford, MA 02155.

Seminar X: Lyric Poetry in the GDR. Christine Cosentino, Dept. of German, Rutgers University, Camden, NJ 08102; Wolfgang Ertl, Dept. of German, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242.

Seminar XI: Teaching of GDR Literature and Culture. Margy Gerber (Seminar VI).

Detailed proposals (title plus 2 - 3 pages) should be submitted to the appropriate seminar organizer(s) -- two copies in the case of co-organizers -- by Feb. 1, 1982. Completed papers must be submitted no later than April 15. Papers should not exceed 30 minutes; the preferred language is English. The proceedings of the Symposium will most likely be published.

For additional information on the Symposium, contact Christoph Schmauch, World Fellowship Center, Conway, NH 03818, tel. (603) 356-5208.