Visiting Lecturers

various authors

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As a grantee of the University of Kansas Direct Program, I lived in Mainz, Germany, from October 1975 to August 1976 and conducted research toward a catalogue of musical numbers with texts by Bertolt-Brecht and Hanns-Eisler-Archives. The cooperation and friendliness of the administrators there were of great help to me, and I should like to share my experiences with readers of the "Bulletin".

The Bertolt-Brecht-Archiv is located in the author's post-exile apartment and contains original manuscripts, notes and publications by Brecht as well as most of the secondary works about him. Some materials, especially those with regard to Brecht's early poetry, are held in the newly established Elisabeth-Hauptmann-Collection and are, therefore, less available. For a comprehensive list of the B-B-A's holdings consult:Bestandsverzeichnis des literarischen Nachlasses. 5 Vols., ed. by Hertha Ramthun (Berlin: Aufbau Verlag, 1969). Because the collection is so extensive, work-space is limited, so that the researcher should apply for permission to use the archive approximately three to four months in advance. All serious Brecht-scholars are invited to apply, and an application form may be obtained from: Günter Glaser

Bertolt-Brecht-Archiv
104 Berlin
Chausseestrasse 125

Although Hanns Eisler's manuscripts are held in several different collections, the Hanns-Eisler-Archiv contains originals or copies of almost all of the composer's works. The director of the archive was particularly friendly and helpful and has continued to supply me with much useful information, but here, too, work-space is limited. Thus, one should apply early to:

Manfred Grabs
Hanns Eisler Archiv
Akademie der Künstler der DDR
104 Berlin
Robert-Koch-Platz 7

The Berliner Ensemble also proved to be a useful source of information as well as artistic delight. Housed in the old Theater am Schiffbauerdamm, the Ensemble gives performances nightly at prices ranging from DM 2,— to DM 10,—. Tickets may be reserved by mail or purchased a few days in advance from the box office. During my visits I found the performers and directors very friendly and willing to talk about their performances, and the administration is willing to allow researchers to attend rehearsals, conduct interviews etc. Advance permission for such research is, however, necessary and may be obtained by writing to: Informationsbüro

Berliner Ensemble
104 Berlin
Am Bertolt-Brecht-Platz

Sample programs and schedules of the month's events may also be obtained from this address.

In limited space it is impossible to convey the full impression of the warmth and cooperation which I received while in Berlin. I hope the information given above helps other scholars interested in research in Berlin, and I invite such scholars to contact me for further information.

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VISITING LECTURERS

HORST IHDE

Dr. Horst Ihde, Professor of Americanistic at the Humboldt University in Berlin (GDR), is currently visiting the United States as an exchange scholar under the auspices of the IREX Exchange Program. Dr. Ihde is available for meetings and lectures until the end of March, 1977. He is interested in exchanging information regarding educational methods in the U.S. and the G.D.R. Known as a scholar particularly knowledgeable in the field of education in the G.D.R., he is willing to lecture on this topic, in either German or English. Anyone interested in arranging speaking engagements for Dr. Ihde should contact the International Research and Exchange Board, 1010 East 59th St., New York, New York 10022.

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Dr. Fritz Hennenberg and his wife, Roswitha Trexler, are currently making plans for their tour of the United States, March-June, 1978. Both Dr. Hennenberg and his wife have travelled throughout Europe, sharing their knowledge of new music in the GDR with large audiences. A former Musikwissenschaft student in Dresden and Leipzig, Dr. Hennenberg has published a number of books in the GDR, including "Brecht-Dessau. Musikalische Arbeiten" (1963) and a biography of Paul Dessau (1965). He is currently working on forthcoming publications, including "Brecht und die Musik", and "7 Porträts junger Komponisten aus der DDR." While in the U.S., Dr. Hennenberg is prepared to discuss such topics as:

- Lektionen Brecht und die Musik
- Lektionen Musik-Avantgarde in der DDR
- Workshops über das Singen von Brecht-Liedern

Roswitha Trexler is a known and versatile singer who has successfully performed the music of Dessau, Eisler and Weill, as well as the traditional works from such composers as Bach, Schubert, and Schönberg. She has accompanied her husband in presenting concerts, lectures and workshops concerned with avant-garde music in the GDR.

Those interested in issuing invitations to Dr. Hennenberg and his wife Roswitha Trexler for the period of May-June 1978, should contact Dr. Fritz Hennenberg, DDR-7035 Leipzig, Zum Harfenacker ?, Telefon 491247.

Hermann Kant, well known East German author, will be in the United States from April 2-28, 1977. From the 17th through the 20th of April, he will participate in the Foreign Language week at West Virginia University. Kant has not yet finalized his plans for the remaining time before and after this conference and would be interested in visiting other universities. Those interested in making arrangements for Mr. Kant to visit their campus should contact Sonja Elm, Kulturattache, Embassy of the German Democratic Republic, 1717 Mass. Ave. NW, Wash. D.C. 20036. (202-232-3134).

RECENT PUBLICATIONS


Rumold, Rainer, "Warnung vor Spiegeln" - Zur kulturpolitischen und sprachlichen Problematik des 'schwarzen' Lehrgedichts Günter Kunerts", Monatshefte (Winter 1976), 25-35. The essay explores the rudimentary affinity of Kunert's anthology to a modernist "experimental concept of language and poetry"; at the same time, however, Kunert opposes the extreme linguistic experimentations of the West (e.g. Reissenbüttel's didacticism of absolute irritation). If most idiosyncratically, the poet verges on those GDR cultural policies which emphasize a synthesis of the German classical heritage with socialist ideas.
