

WEIMAR 1977

The Internationaler Hochschulferienkurs für Germanisten, organized by the Friedrich Schiller Universität, Jena, had as its theme: "Ursprünge und Stellung der Romantik und ihre Aneignung und Rezeption in der sozialistischen Gesellschaft." A number of distinguished scholars contributed with lectures and colloquia, among them Dr. Walter Dietze, Weimar ("Urworte, nicht sonderlich orphisch"), Dr. Günter Hartung, Halle (with a stimulating presentation which dealt with the song "Der Lindenbaum", Wilhelm Müller/Franz Schubert), and Prof. Dr. Hans-Dietrich Dahnke, Berlin ("Ursprünge und Stellung der deutschen Frühromantik"), Prof. Dr. Klaus Träger, Leipzig ("Historizität und Erbe der Romantik"), and Prof. Dr. Hans-Georg Werner, Halle, who discussed the methodological problems of vol. VII, 2 (Klassik/Romantik) of the History of German Literature. The scholarly papers were supplemented by Günter de Bruyn reading from his book Das Leben des Jean Paul Friedrich Richter, which provided insight into sociological conditions of Jean Paul's time.

In spite of its focus on the romantic period in German literature, the program consisted of a wide range of topics, such as cultural politics, politics of higher education, foreign and economic policy, sociolinguistic developments (Prof. Dr. Thea Schippan, Erfurt) and GDR literature of the seventies (on poetry: Dr. Klaus Krippendorf, Jena; on drama: Dr. Klaus Hammer, Jena; on the novel: Dr. Sigrid Damm, Berlin). Among the Arbeitsgemeinschaften on language, literature or teaching methods in German as a foreign language, I chose the one offered by Prof. Hans Richter, Jena. Under his thoughtful guidance, theoretical and poetic texts by GDR authors were explored to arrive at an understanding of the self-receptions of these authors within GDR society. Among the authors considered were Günter Kunert, Volker Braun, Christa Wolf, Anna Seghers.

Among the numerous performances and excursions were Ein Gespräch im Hause Stein über den abwesenden Herrn von Goethe, a play by Peter Hacks, followed by a discussion with the director of the Maxim Gorki Theater, Berlin, the actress Karin Gregorek and Peter Hacks himself, as well as the film Mama, ich lebe (Buch: Wolfgang Kohlhäse, Regie: Konrad Wolf) A glimpse of the daily course of production had also been included in the program. After touring the Faschinenkombinat in Seebach, we had the opportunity to discuss the process

of production and the organization of the entire complex in Seebach with workers from the plant.

On the whole, it was felt that - in contrast to the previous institutes - a more open and intense exchange of views was characteristic for Weimar I in 1977. Discussions continued long beyond the official part of each day's program with lively interaction among participants from an amazingly large number of countries. Without doubt, this result may be attributed to a flexible and attentive organizational staff.

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WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY COLLOQUIUM

The second annual West Virginia University Colloquium on Modern Literature, which took place on the dates of Sept. 22-24, 1977, included emphasis on contemporary theater in the GDR. Papers presented and discussed were:

- 1) "Literature in the GDR," Dr. Bettina, Univ. of S. California.
- 2) "The Uses of Tradition East and West: Ilgenzendorf's Die neuen Leiden und dunklen W. and Kroetz's Maria Magdalena," Helen Cafferty, Bowdoin College.
- 3) "Theater of Provocation: The plays of Volker Braun," Christine Cosentino, Camden College, Rutgers.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

A team of scholars working in the field of GDR literature is preparing an analysis of the works of Christa Wolf. Several chapters are still open for colleagues interested in joining this team publication effort. For further information, contact either Theodor Langenbruch (Dept. of ML, Georgia Inst. of Tech., Atlanta, Ga. 30332), or Nancy Hauckner (Dept. of Germanic and Slavic Lang., Univ. of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn. 37216).
