

a session with Kunert in person, we moved on to an exploration of poets' self-perceptions of their role in contemporary GDR society. Other groups who worked on the poetry of Heinz Kahlau and the dramas of Joachim Knauth also had a session with the writer concerned in addition to the evening readings by the writers, which were open to the entire group.

As editor of the Bulletin, I also had opportunities to talk privately with most of these people as well as with the editors of most of the major literary publishing houses, a representative of the ministry of education and the deputy minister of culture, who has general responsibility for publishing activity in the GDR. I spent a rewarding day with the director and some of the staff of the Herder Institut in Leipzig, which has attempted to support the Bulletin from the beginning. Everywhere I encountered warm support and interest in our activities, open and helpful discussion partners -- many of whom expressed amazement at the extent of interest in GDR topics reflected in the pages of the Bulletin. The U. S. Embassy in Berlin became likewise apprised of the interests of members of our profession in better channels of information and increased opportunities for academic and cultural exchange.

Since Weimar I is the most prestigious of the various summer programs in the GDR, participation is supposedly limited to college and university teachers with previous experience in GDR literature and culture. Selection of participants is unfortunately limited to a certain extent, however, by cultural agreements of the GDR with other socialist countries, whereby a majority of participants are "delegated" by the ministries of their respective countries. While this leads to a wider range of interests and familiarity with the substance of the program than one might hope for, it is an interesting mix of people from almost every country in Europe, in fact from almost every continent, and those with similar degrees of expertise soon found their way together. In view of the fact that all arrangements, including visas, are taken care of for participants, these programs offer a high-quality initial acquaintance with

the academic milieu in the GDR, free from the many frustrations which seem to confront those undertaking to organize their own program or one for their students.

Although the situation is rapidly changing, Americans are still a relatively rare species in the GDR and will find their colleagues there eager for an exchange of ideas and experiences. Since there is no coercion, beyond their intrinsic appeal, to participate in any of the planned activities, there is adequate opportunity to undertake independent activities and excursions. The Bulletin will publicize next year's programs as soon as we receive specific information.

-- Patricia Herminhouse  
Washington University

## VISITING LECTURERS

FRITZ BENNEWITZ

Professor Fritz Bennewitz, director of the Deutsches Nationaltheater in Weimar, will be in New York City for two months in early 1977. Bennewitz has been invited to direct a production of "Der kaukasische Kreidekreis" at La Mama Theater, with a cast composed of members of New York's ethnic minorities. He will be at La Mama, 74A East Fourth St., from January 25 until the production opens on March 27. After New York, he will undertake a similar venture in Manila, The Philippines. Bennewitz, who is particularly acclaimed for his Brecht and Shakespeare productions and was the director of a highly original "Faust" production in Weimar last year, is especially interested in contact with theater specialists in this country. Persons interested in meeting or inviting him to their campus should write now to Professor Fritz Bennewitz, DDR-53 Weimar, Markt 10.