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GDR Bulletin

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NOTES IN BRIEF

B.K. Tragelehn, a theater director from the German Democratic Republic, was named drama director of the Schauspielhaus of Düsseldorf for the coming season on February 27. The appointment marks the first time that an East German director has assumed a permanent, official position at a theater in the Federal Republic. Tragelehn, who was born in Dresden in 1936, was a student of dramatist Bertolt Brecht and director Erich Engels in the 1950s and made a name for himself with his productions of plays by GDR playwright Heiner Müller. Tragelehn refused to disclose his first name to the press and called his appointment "completely unspectacular," adding that in Düsseldorf, too, he wanted to continue his long working relationship with Müller. Volker Canaris, the general manager of the Schauspielhaus, said he expected from Tragelehn a "necessary, important signal" for the artistic work of the Düsseldorf theater.

CHILDREN IN BERLIN

Thomas A. Davey's book on childhood in East and West Berlin will be brought out in fall 1987 by Duke University Press. Davey is a psychologist in Boston and a Teaching Fellow at Harvard.

RATHENOW DENIED VISA

The GDR writer Lutz Rathenow has been denied an exit visa and is unable to accept an invitation to spend time as Writer-in-Residence at the University of Texas, Austin.

WHAT IS GDR POETRY?

For the native English speaking student who might be plagued by this question, Dieter P. Lotze's article on "East German Poetry" (Critical Survey of Poetry, Foreign Language Series. La Canada, CA: Salem Press, Inc., 1984) provides a brief introduction to GDR lyricists. Lotze examines the ways in which GDR poetry is distinct within the larger domain of German literature, and thus provides insights into the ideological underpinnings of the poetry of the GDR. Lotze also provides a useful bibliography.

LUTHER REVISITED

Brent D. Peterson's "'Workers of the world unite - for God's sake!' Recent Luther Scholarship in the German Democratic Republic" (Sixteenth Century Essays & Studies, James D. Tracy, ed., vol VII. Edward Brothers: Ann Arbor, 1986.) looks at the popular, political, and scholarly dimensions of the GDR's reaction to Luther's 500th birthday, which was celebrated in 1983. Peterson traces the differing opinions that have been taken toward Luther by GDR historians throughout the years. He pays particular attention to the development of the "early bourgeois revolution paradigm," and shows how its introduction into historical scholarship reshaped a primarily negative image of Luther which had predominated in the GDR since Engels' work on this theologian. Peterson's notes provide extensive bibliographic material.

TRAVEL & EXCHANGE

FULBRIGHT PROGRAM WITH THE GDR 1988-1989

Contingent upon successful completion of negotiations to establish a new program of Fulbright exchanges with the German Democratic Republic, awards will be offered in 1988-89 for research and university lecturing in the GDR. The Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES), an affiliate of the American Council of Learned Societies, participates with the United States Information Agency (USIA) in administering the Fulbright Scholar Awards in research and university lecturing abroad.

Of the six awards offered for each academic year, three are for lecturing in any field and three are for research in any field. The length of a research award may last from three to ten months. Knowledge of German is required. Lectureships are for either or both semesters. Areas of particular interest include American Studies, U.S. history, economics, architecture and city planning, sociology, environmental studies, and art history. Applications in other fields are also welcome. Although the application of candidates with an ability to lecture in German is especially encouraged, lecturing in English may also be possible in some cases. Lectures in American literature may be given in English.

The academic year in the GDR is September through June. Major universities of the GDR are located in Berlin, Leipzig, Rostock, Gera, Jena, Dresden, and Greifswald. Housing may be difficult for large families. School for dependent children is available only in German.

Benefits: \$1,200-1,300 per month (in U.S. dollars) for researchers and \$1,700 to \$1,800 per month (in U.S. dollars) for lecturers, plus an initial allowance of approxi-