

DDR SEMINAR

Einmal im Jahr, gewöhnlich im Februar (nächster Termin 5.-10.2. 1988), veranstaltet die "Liga für Völkerfreundschaft der DDR" in Zusammenarbeit mit "Jugendtourist" (Reisebüro der FDJ) und der Berliner Hochschule für Ökonomie ein DDR-Seminar für Leiter und Mitarbeiter amerikanischer Colleges in der Bundesrepublik, Österreich und der Schweiz. Hochschulprofessoren und Graduates aus den USA, die über gute Deutschkenntnisse verfügen, sind auch bei diesem Seminar willkommen. Bis zu dreißig Teilnehmer können eine Woche lang eine anregende und intensive Mischung aus Besichtigungen (nicht nur von Sehenswürdigkeiten, sondern auch von Fabriken, LPGs, Schulen u.a.), Vorträgen, Theater- und Filmvorführungen, Diskussionen mit prominenten DDR-Autoren und mit Persönlichkeiten aus Politik, Kultur und Wissenschaft miterleben. Die Unterbringung erfolgt in Jugendtourist-Hotels oder in Gästehäusern der Universitäten. Die Gruppe wird geleitet und begleitet von Thomas Simon und Dr. Ingo Schwarz von der Liga für Völkerfreundschaft (Freundschaftsgruppe DDR-USA).

Interessanten wenden sich für nähere Informationen bitte an:

Liga für Völkerfreundschaft der DDR
Otto-Grotewohl-Str. 19 D
DDR-1086 Berlin

Reisebüro der FDJ "Jugendtourist"
Generaldirektion
Alexanderplatz 5
DDR-1026 Berlin

YOUTH SUMMER CAMP FOR US STUDENTS 1988

The GDR-USA Friendship Society will hold its

4th youth summer camp for US students from July 16 - August 13, 1988. Within these 4 weeks 2 different camps for 3 weeks each--one in Berlin, the other in Leipzig--will be offered.

In the first 2 weeks US students will live with GDR students in a summer camp arranged by the FDJ, the GDR youth organization. They will work with GDR students on a Berlin or Leipzig construction site. During their stay there will be meetings and talks with GDR officials as well as guided tours and events providing opportunities to become acquainted with life in the GDR. Following its stay at the summer camp, the group will go to a youth hostel on the Baltic Sea for a week of rest and play.

The time arrangement of the camps allow participants to take part in a German language crash course or in an international summer course for students of German at one of the GDR universities before the camp starts.

Participants must pay for travel to and from the GDR. The fee for the stay is \$150.00 US. This includes board and lodging, program and 100 marks pocket money. The summer camp is subsidized by the GDR-USA Friendship Society.

For more information and application forms write to:

Freundschaftsgesellschaft DDR-USA
Otto-Grotewohl-Straße 19 D
Berlin, 1086, DDR

or

US-Committee for Friendship with the GDR
130 East 16th St.
New York, NY 10003

CONFERENCES

THIRTEENTH NEW HAMPSHIRE SYMPOSIUM ON THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

The New Hampshire Symposium at the World

Fellowship Center in Conway is conducted in a relaxed, informal, and congenial atmosphere somewhat akin to spending a week in a Jugendherberge with no curfew. Between the three daily sessions there is ample opportunity to go swimming or rowing in the lake or to hike in the woods and mountains nearby. In short, it is an ideal way to conduct a conference, providing the 70-odd participants both with a refreshing break between sessions and an opportunity to get to know each other with informal discussions in smaller groups. This format tends to expand many of the thoughts and shorter discussions generated by the papers themselves, thereby giving each session a longer and more memorable life.

The general focus of the thirteenth annual symposium was "Everyday Life in the GDR." The opening day was devoted to a series of lectures and discussion on current economic and political issues in the GDR, including "Neues Denken" in security concepts and foreign policy, especially with regard to the Soviet Union, the FRG and the United States. The lively discussions on changing economic reform policies in the GDR were rekindled several days later as the result of a fascinating talk by Manfred Lötsch (Akademie für Gesellschaftswissenschaften beim ZK der SED), in which he proposed the serious consideration of economic incentives to reward talent, quality production, and innovation in key scientific and technological areas. Incentives would include better pay, greater access to quality goods, and increased possibilities for cooperative interaction with the international community. The pressing need to improve the technological capacity of the GDR was the driving force behind the exploration of these ideas.

Also on the program was a day devoted to the history, culture, and politics of Berlin, an appropriate topic in conjunction with the 750th anniversary of the city. Longtime feuilletonist and Berlin author Heinz Knobloch read a number

of charming and humorous selections from his journalistic features. A session on regional differences in the GDR included papers on political, cultural, and historical geography, the new self-image of Saxony, and an informal talk on life in the Baltic region by GDR writer Otto Emersleben, who also read from his works.

Papers on GDR literature included topics on Christoph Hein, Franz Fühmann, Irmtraud Morgner, Uwe Johnson, environmental issues in the works of Monika Maron, Lia Pirskawetz, and Gabriela Eckart, representation of death in recent GDR literature, an especially interesting talk by Wolfgang Ertl (Univ. of Iowa) on surrealistic trends in GDR lyrik, a somewhat moving and sad paper by Christine Cosentino (Rutgers) on GDR reminiscences of Sarah Kirsch, and an informative presentation by Dieter Schlenstedt (Akademie der Wissenschaften der DDR) on current efforts to update and redefine the historical approaches to writing literary history.

A section on film and popular culture in the GDR included presentations on rock music by Peter Wicke (Humboldt Universität Berlin), a paper on current problems and issues in film-making in the GDR by Lothar Bisky (Hochschule für Film und Fernsehen "Konrad Wolf") and a report on the role of women in GDR film by West Berlin theater critic Heinz Kersten.

Regrettably many of the fine papers can not be summarized here. At least one more must be mentioned, however: Gabriela Eckart's reading from her poetry and selections from recent lyrical prose in a high-pitched, compelling, almost hauntingly monotone voice with traces of Vogtland accent was clearly the high point of the weeklong conference and left the audience pleasantly subdued and reminded that the rare stimulation and enjoyment of such directly experienced moments in literature has a great deal to do with the real purpose of our profession.

Phil McKnight
University of Kentucky

FOURTEENTH NEW HAMPSHIRE SYMPOSIUM ON THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

The 1988 Symposium will be held June 22-29, 1988 at the World Fellowship Center in Conway NH. The central theme of the 1988 Symposium will be "Dimensions of Change in the GDR." As in past years, the Symposium will be interdisciplinary: economists, political scientists, sociologists, and other social scientists, as well as Germanists and specialists in the areas of art, music, theater, and the media are invited to participate. The five seminars will involve the treatment of topics from the perspective of various disciplines.

Papers are being solicited for the following topics: Technological Change: Its Industrial and Economic Bases and Social Implications (J. Parsons, Sloan School), Social Theory and Changing Social Values (C. Lemke, Zentralinstitut für sozialwissenschaftliche Forschung), Change in the USSR and Eastern Europe : Political and Economic Implications for the GDR (A. Stahnke, So. Illinois Univ.), Children and Youth in the GDR : New Issues and Aspects of Youth Culture and Youth Policy (G. Helwig, Deutschland Archiv), New Trends in Literature, Aesthetic Theory, Visual Arts, and Music (C. Romero, Tufts Univ.).

One day of the Symposium will be devoted to discipline-oriented workshops. Social scientists and Germanists will meet in separate, parallel sessions to hear papers on more discipline-specific topics, discuss issues and directions of current research in their fields, and/or continue discussion of papers given in the seminars. The workshop organizers are: Literature: P. Herminhouse, Univ. of Rochester; Economics and politics : H. Jacobsen, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik; and Social Questions: Manfred Lötsch, Akademie für Gesellschaftswissenschaften.

Detailed proposals (title plus 2-3 pages) must be submitted to the appropriate seminar or workshop organizers- one copy to each-by December 1, 1987. Complete papers are due March 15. Papers should not exceed 30 minutes. The preferred language is English. For more information on the program contact Margy Gerber, Dept. of German, Russian and E. Asian Language, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH 43403. For information on the Symposium location, travel arrangements, etc., contact W. Christoph Schmauch, World Fellowship Center, Conway, NH 03818, tel. (603) 356-5208.

"THE INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY": INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GDR

On September 11-13 September 1987 an international conference on the GDR entitled "The Individual and Society" took place at Ealing College of Higher Education, England. The conference was planned this year by Professor Ian Wallace. The writer Christoph Hein was invited and agreed to read from his latest works and to discuss them with the audience. Two professors from the GDR also attended and contributed a paper.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

An international interdisciplinary conference in observance of the 750th anniversary of Berlin took place on the University of Minnesota campus (Coffman Union) October 8-11. The Theme was : "Culture and Metropolis : Production and Reception of Culture and the Arts in a European Metropolis. Berlin : 1900 to the Present." This topic encompassed interpretation of the culture in 20th century Berlin and analysis of the grounding of that culture in the social, economic, and political conditions that have shaped the history of the city. Several guests from Berlin (West), scholars, writers, journalists, and filmmakers attended. Wolfgang

Kohlhaase, Rita Kuszinsky and Rudi Strahl from Berlin (East) also participated.

A second conference of interest in Minnesota was the "DDR-Tage" which ran from October 13-20, 1987 in Minneapolis. Scheduled to attend were the authors Wolfgang Kohlhaase, Rudi Strahl, Lia Pirskawetz, the sociologist Irene Runge, the business manager Alfred Dellheim, and the organist Gottfried Preller.

LES BELLES ETRANGERES

A conference on the literature of the GDR took place in Paris June 15-20, 1987 and was sponsored by the Ministry of Culture and Communications under the direction of the National Center of Letters, Association for Dialogue between Cultures. Writers from the GDR attending were Fritz Rudolf Fries, Ralph Grüneberger, Christoph Hein, Stephan Hermlin, Hermann Kant, Uwe Kolbe, Helga Königsdorf, Helga Schubert, and Helga Schütz.

MLA CONFERENCE

This year at the MLA conference in San Francisco there will be a session on "Literature in the German Democratic Republic in the 70's and 80's". In Part I of the session, the following papers will be presented: "Provinz und Provinzialität in der DDR-Literatur der achtziger Jahre," by Ilse Winter (Denison Univ.); "Text as locus, inscription as identity: Narrating the Heimat in the GDR," by Marilyn Fries (Univ. of Mich.); "GDR writers on science and technology: Recent debates," by Carol Poore (Brown Univ.), and "Women writers and social criticism in the GDR," by Dorothy Rosenberg (Colby College). The following papers will be presented in Part II of the session: "Christoph Heins Die Wahre Geschichte des Ah Q.: Zum parabolischen Drama der DDR," by Bernd Fischer (Ohio Univ.); "Reconstructing the past in Horns Ende: Christoph Hein's historiographical novel," by Brent Peter-

son (Univ. of Minn.); "Der Literat als Politiker: zur Vorwärtsverteidigung der Kunst in den Essays von Christoph Hein," by Timm Menke (Univ. of Minn.), and finally, "Erinnerung und Gedächtnis in Christoph Heins Prosawerk," by Hans Ternes (Lawrence Univ.).

1988 NEMLA CONVENTION

In the last ten years issues of Lebensqualität, environmental destruction and preservation, self-fulfillment as women and men, alienation of labor and self, and the position of the outsider have all become key aspects of GDR literature. Do they constitute a new consciousness, and what do they mean for East German literature and society? What literary functions do they fulfill? Are we witnessing a genuine paradigm shift and if so, how does it compare to the West German "Neue Innerlichkeit"? Papers on the above topics were taken for a session on the literature of the GDR at the 1988 NEMLA convention in April. The general topic of the session will be: "The GDR today: In search of Socialism with a human face?" and is being organised by Herbert A. Arnold (Wesleyan Univ.).

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL EUROPEAN STUDIES CONFERENCE

The Thirteenth Annual European Studies Conference, sponsored by the University of Nebraska at Omaha, will be held October 6-8, 1988 and is to be an interdisciplinary meeting with sessions devoted to the scholarly exchange of information, research methodologies, and pedagogical approaches. Some sample areas of interest are: Arts and Literature; Science and Technology; Current Issues and Future Prospects in Cultural, Political, Social, Economic or Military Areas; Education and Socialization; Business; International Affairs; Religion; Ideology; Philosophy; Urban Affairs, and Europe and the Third World. Abstracts of papers and a curriculum vitae should be submitted by March 15, 1988, to

Bernard Kolasa, Political Science, Conference Coordinator; or Louise Morgan, Conference Secretary, College of Continuing Studies, PKCC, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, Neb. 68182-0361, Ph. (402) 554-3617 or (402) 554-8300.

VISITING LECTURERS

MONIKE MARON

Monike Maron, an author from the GDR, will be visiting the United States in October and November of 1987 as a guest of the USIA and of the University of Kentucky. Her first novel, Flugasche, appeared in 1981; it was followed by Das Mißverständnis, a volume comprised of short stories and one play. This year, she published her second novel which is titled Die Überläuferin.

GÜNTHER ROSE

Prof. Dr. sc. Günther Rose (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) weilt im Rahmen des Fulbright Scholar Program im Herbstsemester 1987 (Sept. - Dez. 1987) an der University of Oregon, Eugene 97 403 und im Frühjahr 1988 (Januar - Juni 1988) an der School for Advanced International Studies, Washington, D.C.

Er hält Lehrveranstaltungen über die Geschichte und Politik der DDR und über Probleme der Friedensforschung. Es werden u. a. folgende Themen behandelt: Erbe und Tradition der DDR, Außenpolitik der DDR, Beziehungen zwischen DDR und BRD, die Konzeption der Koexistenz in der marxistischen Theorie, neues Denken im Atomzeitalter, Sicherheitstheorien und Sicherheitspolitik im Atomzeitalter.

Professor Rose ist Historiker und Leiter des

zentralen Arbeitskreises Friedensforschung der Humboldt-Universität. Er veröffentlichte die Bücher "Industriegesellschaft und Konvergenztheorie". Genesis, Strukturen, Funktionen, Berlin 1971 und 1974; Konvergenz der Systeme, Köln 1970 und Modernisierungstheorien und bürgerliche Sozialwissenschaften, Berlin 1981, sowie zahlreiche Artikel zur deutschen Geschichte seit 1945 und zur Friedensforschung.

RECENT LITERATURE

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Agricola, Erhard. Im Bann der zaubermächtigen Kirke. Roman. Rudolfstadt: VEB Greifenverlag, 1987. 448 S. 13 DM.

Auer, Annemarie. Morgentliche Erscheinung. Erzählungen. Halle-Leipzig: Mitteldeutscher Verlag, 1987. 206 S. 7,30 DM.

Bauernmarkt. Dorfgeschichten einmal anders. Hrsq. Kollektiv. Halle-Leipzig: Mitteldeutscher Verlag, 1987. 370 S. 16 DM.

Becker, Jurek. Bronsteins Kinder. Rostock: VEB Hinstorff, 1987. 272 S. 9,80 DM.

Berkes, Ulrich. Eine schlimme Liebe. Tagebuch. Berlin: Aufbau, 1987. 280 S. 10 DM.

Berlin. 100 Gedichte aus 100 Jahren. Ausgewählt von Christian Schlosser. Berlin: Aufbau, 1987. 120 S. 4,45 DM.

Bestandsaufnahme 3. Debütanten 1981-85. Hrsg. Brigitte Boettcher u. Erdmute Hufenreuther. Halle/Leipzig: Mitteldeutscher Verlag, 1987. 161 S. 8,60 DM.

Bieker, Gerd. Dorflinde. Roman. Berlin: Neues