

GDR BULLETIN

NEWSLETTER FOR LITERATURE AND CULTURE IN THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Vol. IV, No. 1

Winter, 1978

POSTAGE DUE

Overseas readers who wish to receive the Bulletin by airmail are reminded to send \$3.00 in check or postal reply coupons to cover the cost of this service for 1978.

CHANGES AND RECONSIDERATIONS . . .

After three years of publishing the Bulletin on a quarterly basis which was invariably in conflict with the academic schedules of its volunteer staff, the editorial board has decided to issue the Bulletin on a more manageable basis: Henceforth it will appear three times during the academic year -- Fall, Winter, and Spring. Since this decision was finalized after the publication of Vol. III, No. 3, readers should note that the October 1977 issue is the last for that calendar year.

This issue carries a special supplement: a six-page Bibliography of GDR Literature in English Translation. Surprised as even the compilers are by the number of works available in translation, no claim is made for completeness. We will gladly publish periodic updates and corrections based on reader submissions. The decision to exclude Bertolt Brecht from this list was based on the relatively easy access to his work in English translation. The decision to include writers who have emigrated or been expelled from the GDR in the last year -- such as Wolf Biermann, Thomas Brasch, Bernd Jentzsch, Sarah Kirsch, and Rainer Kunze -- is based on a fundamental policy decision of the editorial board: Writers who for political reasons choose or are forced to remain outside the GDR will still be considered as belonging to that literature as long as their writing reflects this association. At the time the Bulletin was established, it seemed important to formulate

the subtitle (Newsletter for Literature and Culture in the German Democratic Republic) to make clear that it was not a publication of the GDR. Ironically, a strict interpretation of that preposition today would create the opposite impression from what was intended...

VISITING LECTURERS

JUREK BECKER

GDR author Jurek Becker (Jakob der Lügner, Irreführung der Behörden, Der Boxer) will be artist-in-residence at Oberlin College this semester, from mid-February through mid-May. During this period, he is willing to make appearances in the Midwest. After mid-May he will be available for engagements further afield in the United States. Persons wishing to invite him should contact Richard Zipser, Department of German, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, 44074.

HANS JOACHIM BERNHARD

Professor Hans Joachim Bernhard of the Sektion für Sprache und Literaturwissenschaft at Wilhelm-Pieck-Universität, Rostock, is at Brown University as guest professor this semester. Bernhard's field is BRD literature (Heinrich Böll) and he is the director of the BDR volume of the DDR literature history. He will be in the United States through June 1978. Persons wishing to invite him for speaking engagements should contact him through the department of German, Brown University, Providence, R. I. 02912