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PR

from the editor

communications

from the

international brecht society

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The 1979 Brecht-Jahrbuch have reached all dues-paying members by now. If it has not, contact Karl-Maria Schoops (address below). Several business matters are discussed in some of the COMMUNICATIONS, and most of them will be discussed at the business meeting on 30 December 1980 in Houston and New York. If you can't be there, please share your feelings with our President, Gisela Bahr (address below).

Because of these repeated hitches in the pipeline of the Society, the COMMUNICATIONS, the magazine that the International Brecht Society is issuing responsible to its members. This impression has been solely my fault, not that of the other officers.

My thanks to a number of people for their email to me. VLO, #1.
December 1980

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Correspondence concerning dues or yearbook: please send to Karl-Maria Schoops, Department of German, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801

from the editor

The International Brecht Society has by no means ceased to exist! To the numerous members who have expressed concern in recent months, my sincere apologies, once again, for a badly delayed issue of the COMMUNICATIONS. While Vol. IX, No. 3 will not appear (it should have come out in May, 1980), the normal rhythm will be re-established with this issue.

This will be my last issue as Editor, and I am confident that my successor will speedily bring things back to their normal tempo as the time draws near for us to begin firming up plans for the 1981 Brecht Symposium tentatively scheduled for Los Angeles.

Our mailing list is included in this issue. Please inform the Society of any necessary address changes, either your own or those of other members about whom information may not yet have reached us.

The 1979 Brecht-Jahrbuch should have reached all dues-paying members by now. If it has not, contact Karl-Heinz Schoeps (address below).

Several business matters are addressed in this issue of the COMMUNICATIONS, and most of them will be discussed at the business meeting on 30 December 1980 in Houston (see announcement). If you can't be there, please share your feelings with our President, Gisela Bahr (address below).

Because of these repeated hitches in the appearance of the news pipeline of our Society, the COMMUNICATIONS, the impression has arisen that the International Brecht Society is becoming unresponsive to its members. This impression has been solely my fault, not that of the other officers.

My thanks to a number of people for their sorely tried patience.

--rjr

COMMUNICATIONS -- THE BRECHT NEWSLETTER -- Vol. X, No. 1 (December, 1980)

Published by the International Brecht Society

Editor: Richard J. Rundell

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University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801

business meeting

The annual Business Meeting of the International Brecht Society is scheduled for Tuesday, 30 December, 1980. It will be held during the Modern Language Association's 95th Annual Convention, in Houston.

The IBS Business Meeting is set for 10:15--11:30 a.m. in the Board Room of the Sheraton Houston, on the second floor, and Gisela Bahr will preside.

Plan to attend if you will be in Houston (and if this news reaches you in time!).

A section on Brecht is scheduled for MLA in Houston, in the time slot immediately preceding the one for the Business Meeting, that is, on Tuesday, 30 December, 1980, from 8:30--9:45 a.m. in the Laredo Room of the Sheraton Houston, on the third floor.

The section will be chaired by Gisela Bahr (Miami University, Ohio) and Marc Silberman (University of Texas at San Antonio). Three papers are scheduled and have already been announced in the MLA Program issue of PMLA (November, 1980). The papers are:

1. "'Denn wovon lebt der Mensch?': Brecht and Money,"
James K. Lyon (University of California at San Diego)
2. "Back to Lenin: Brecht's Interviews with the Walchers,"
John B. Fuegi (University of Maryland)
3. "Brecht, Feminism, and Form,"
Sara Lennox (University of Massachusetts, Amherst) and
Roswitha Mueller (Berkeley, California)

upcoming events

Antony Tatlow, who touched bases with numerous members of the IBS during his recent US journey, would like to announce a forthcoming Seminar-Worskhop: Brecht in East Asia: Theory and Practice. It is scheduled for 16-20 March, 1981 in Hong Kong. Anyone interested is requested to contact Antony Tatlow, Department of English Studies and Comparative Literature, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong.

Participation is currently expected from practitioners and scholars from Japan, Korea, and India, with a good chance that guests from the People's Republic of China will also attend. There will be performances of Brecht in Chinese, including Mann ist Mann, which will also be directed by Rolf Stahl of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Although focussed on Brecht, the Seminar will offer the opportunity of discussing the problems and challenges that arise when East and West meet on the stage (and off it).

Discussion of the following topics is envisaged:

1. Translating Brecht (models, adaptations)
2. Political Theatre (theatre as social space, socialist realism today)
3. Drama East/West (presentational theatre, interaction)
4. Dramatic theory (cultural context, communication theory)
5. Brecht Reception

If possible, a report on this Seminar-Workshop will appear in a forthcoming issue of the COMMUNICATIONS.

announcements

Lee Baxandall brings to the attention of IBS members a film which has recently become available, called "A Good Example," and presenting a dramatic reconstruction of Brecht's testimony in 1947 before the House Un-American Activities Committee.

The film is in black and white, runs 31 minutes, 16 mm, and may be purchased for \$450, or rented for \$45, from:

Third World Newsreel
160 Fifth Avenue, Suite 911
New York, NY 10010
212/243-2310

"A Good Example" refers to the reference to Brecht by the HUAC chairman as a good example to other witnesses; the film was produced by the Good Example Film Group and has won two prizes (Blue Ribbon, American Film Festival, 1980; Edinboro Film Festival, 1980).

Perhaps someone would like to review this film after having screened it, and share that review with the Editor of the COMMUNICATIONS.

symposium

7th ANNUAL NEW HAMPSHIRE SYMPOSIUM ON THE GDR -- June 19-26, 1981

The 1981 New Hampshire Symposium on the GDR has been scheduled for the week June 19-26, to be held at the World Fellowship Center near Conway. As in past years, the Symposium will be interdisciplinary in approach. Economists, historians, political and social scientists, etc., as well as Germanists are invited to participate. Papers are being solicited for nine seminars.

Detailed proposals (title, 2-3 pages) for seminars should be submitted to the organizers (in case of co-organizers, two copies, please) by 1 February 1981; completed papers must be submitted no later than 30 April 1981. Papers should not exceed 30 minutes; the preferred language is English.

Seminar I: Language in the GDR

Linguistic Differences GDR-FRG, Lexicography,
Political Language, Semiotic Analysis.

H. Jochen Hoffmann

Department of German, Smith College
Northampton, MA 01063

Seminar II: The Visual and the Performing Arts in the GDR

Theater, Film, Cabaret, Mass Media, Art, Music.

Margaret Morse

Dept. of Germanic & Slavic Studies, Vanderbilt University
Nashville, TN 37235

Seminar III: Women in GDR Literature and Society

Gisela Bahr

Dept. of G.R.E.A.L., Miami University
Oxford, OH 45056

and

Bonnie Beckett

Department of Foreign Languages, Illinois Wesleyan University
Bloomington, IL 61701

Seminar IV: Lyric Poetry in the GDR

Wolfgang Ertl

Department of German, University of Iowa

Iowa City, IA 52242

and

Christine Cosentino

Department of German, Rutgers University
Camden, NJ 08102

Seminar V: Problems of the Technological Age
City Planning, Urban Renewal, Urbanization,
Demography, Energy, Environment, Leisure Time.

Volker Gransow
Fachbereich II, Universität Bielefeld
D-4800 Bielefeld I

and

Joan E. Holmes
Dept. of Germanic Lang. and Lit., University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS 66045

Seminar VI: GDR-FRG Relations
An Update on Cultural, Social, and Political
Developments.

Duncan Smith
Department of German, Brown University
Providence, RI 02912

Seminar VII: Preservation of Cultural Heritage and Tradition
in the GDR
Literature, Music, Art, Architecture, Restoration.

Nancy Lauckner
Dept. of Germanic & Slavic Langs., University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37916

and

Dieter Saalmann
Box 11, Wichita State University
Wichita, KS 67208

Seminar VIII: GDR Literature and Aesthetic Theory
Theodore Langenbruch
Dept. of Foreign Langs., Eastern Kentucky University
Richmond, KY 40475

and

Renate Voris
Dept. of German, University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA 22903

Seminar IX: Recent Developments in GDR Literature
Christine Zehl-Romero
Dept. of German and Russian, Tufts University
Medford, MA 02155

A number of Brecht Society members will be chairing these seminars. Further details are available from Christoph Schmauch, World Fellowship Center, Conway, NH 03818.

forum

In response to R.G. Davis' letter in the last issue of COMMUNICATIONS, "Forum" section (vol. 9, no. 1-2, November 1979/February 1980, pp. 4-6, IBS President Gisela Bahr writes the following:

In his account of "Brecht in the USA," R.G. Davis left out an important venture: his very own pocket business ambitiously called "Epic West," started with much fanfare (and encouragement from the IBS), only to die at the age of two or so. People who had taken out "life membership" (like myself) weren't even told of the death of this precious child, let alone of its causes. I can only guess: perhaps it is not that easy to run an institution exactly as one envisions it? Far from any such insight, R.G. Davis now goes on an ego trip and attacks the IBS in a manner that reveals more about himself than about the IBS. For the issues behind the smoke have been the concern of the more serious members for some time, and they are being addressed. But all changes require hard work. Words are cheap, Ronnie, what about some help?

For the record: John Fuegi took it upon himself to organize not one, but two Brecht Symposia. He did the very first one, in Milwaukee in 1970, which set the pattern and the standards for all subsequent meetings, and the last one to date, in College Park, Maryland in 1979, which, among other things, provided more time than ever before for discussion of the presentations. Both events ran very smoothly, offered a great variety of contributors, domestic and foreign, and a very congenial atmosphere that I, for one, found most enjoyable and stimulating.

In addition, John has always been working for the IBS behind the scenes, without fanfare. He drafted the first constitution, providing the basic structure of our organization and its aims. He motivated me to start the newsletter and has backed me up with suggestions and support ever since. During the first several years of the IBS, John practically performed the functions of the IBS secretary by having his assistant ship the yearbooks to all members, by coordinating the dues and yearbooks, and carrying on all pertinent correspondence. All this was in addition to his official functions as Managing Editor. Now he has declared his willingness to build up a materials center for the benefit of IBS members.

From my vantage point, nobody else in the IBS has so consistently provided ideas to improve and diversify our activities. Between him and myself, we have done many things over the years; some worked, some did not. Neither of us is good at blowing our own horn. But is this a reason to doubt John Fuegi's dedication?

Back to Ronnie's piece: as for the discovery that Brecht was a mensch, welcome to the club! It's not particularly new. Even Völker's book has been around for four years.

Gisela Bahr

ibs membership

The President of the International Brecht Society, Gisela Bahr, would like to share some thoughts with the members on several pressing questions:

1. Officers' terms of office.

In 1979, as you will remember, we elected our officers and, with the exception of myself, all were new. They have been busily learning the tricks of the trade and are looking forward to an increasingly smoother operation.

According to our constitution and by-laws, the term of office is two years. This means we would have to nominate or renominate candidates for all offices N O W in order to hold the election in the spring of 1981.

However, at this point, I feel what we need most is some continuity, rather than possibly more changes, with the exception of the editorship of the COMMUNICATIONS, which will be changing.

Therefore, I suggest that we extend the terms of the present officers by one year, as a temporary measure to meet some of the urgent needs of our organization. Whether or not it should then become the regular term of office should be discussed and voted upon.

I am making this suggestion against my own interests, because the office of president is taking much too much of my time and strength, and I would have been very happy to turn it over to someone else next spring. On the other hand, I feel I should not abandon the ship in mid-stream but stay on to complete the search for a new publisher, help with the publication of the first volume of the Brecht Society Yearbook in the new, post-Suhrkamp format, and follow through on all the details in connection with this important change.

Antony Tatlow (Vice-President) and Karl-Heinz Schoeps (Secretary-Treasurer) have agreed to serve for an additional year unless there is strong objection. Richard Rundell (Editor, COMMUNICATIONS) is stepping down with this issue of our newsletter; information on his successor may be available at the Business Meeting in Houston.

I hope that a year from now everything will look a bit more certain and settled so that we can turn our attention to regular matters with greater reassurance. To all of you, thanks for bearing with us and for helping us with your reactions.

2. The yearbook.

The matter most intensely discussed at the 1979 Business Meeting at MIA in San Francisco was the yearbook and its future. I had been informed that the contract with Suhrkamp had expired (the "edition suhrkamp" was concluded with vol. 1000), and that Reinhold Grimm was renegotiating. This precipitated our discussion about the feasibility of publishing a "companion" to the yearbook in English.

In the meantime, Suhrkamp no longer wants to publish an annual Brecht book. The 1980 Jahrbuch will appear in the previous format for the last time. We are seeking a publisher in the USA to eliminate the need for an English-language volume as a companion, since we would have a choice of languages. The papers from the 1979 Symposium in Maryland are being saved for what we hope will be the 1981 yearbook.

7. Dues.

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As for the current

1. A straw poll, in

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Karl-Heinz Schoe

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ANY ADDITIONAL REMARKS W

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recent productions

Happy End

Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

10-14 October, 2 November 1979

Director: Rob Montilla. Musical Director: Richard Aslanian.

Set Designer: Paul James. Translation: M. Feingold

Cast: Lillian: Leslie Nott; Sam: Wes Hanson; Bill: Ken Shaw; Jane: Joanne Puissegur; Hannibal: David Galasso.

Happy End

Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, MI

15-17, 18 November 1979

Director: Clair Myers. Musical Director/Arranger: Jane Lohr.

Set Designer: Deb Bryant, Laurence Jaquith. Translation: Feingold

Cast: Lillian: Leslie Simmer; Sam: Peter O'Brien; Bill: Dave Pelizzari; Jane: Veronica Hubbard; Hannibal: John Sullivan.

The Caucasian Chalk Circle

University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

22-23, 28-29 February, 1 March 1980

Director: Ronald K. Shull. Music: Paul Dessau. Musical Director:

Leon Burke III. Set Design/Lighting/Costumes/Masks: Gregory Hill.

Translation: Ralph Manheim. Cast: Grusha: Stacey MacFarland; Simon: Jamie Rich; Azdak: Rusty Laushman.

The Good Woman of Setzuan

University of Illinois, Urbana, IL

27 February-2 March, 6-8 March 1980

Director: John Ahart. Music: Samuel Magrill. Costumes: Janet L. Harreld

Set Design: Bernhard Works. Translation: Eric Bentley.

Cast: Shen Te/Shui Ta: Becky Lynn Parker; Wang: Joseph Fugett.

The Mother

University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HA

25 April 1980, premiere, 5 performances

Director: Dennis Carroll. Stage Designer: Richard Mason.

Translation: Lee Baxandall. Cast: Mother: Barbara Kelly; Pavel: Dan Davis.

The Ocean Flight

KCTS-TV 9, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

13 September 1980, broadcast

Executive Producer: Richard J. Meyer. Producer/Director: John Coney.

Director for Post-Production: Phillip Gay. Associate Director: Dick Hanratty.

Music: Kurt Weill. Cast: University Symphony Orchestra (Abraham Kaplan, Conductor), University Chorale of University of Washington School of Music, Soloists: Howard L. Fankhauser (Lindbergh), Eric Hansen, Leon Lishner.

recent publications

- Bock, Stephan. Bertolt-Brecht-Auswahl- und Ergänzungsbibliographie.
Bochum: Studienverlag Dr. Norbert Brockmeyer, 1979.
- Berg-Pan, Renate. Bertolt Brecht and China. Bonn: Bouvier, 1979.
- Dukore, Bernard F. Money and Politics in Ibsen, Shaw, and Brecht.
Columbia: U Missouri Press, 1980.
- Freese, Wolfgang. "Benjamin und Brecht: Aspekte ihres Verhältnisses,"
Colloquia Germanica, 3 (1979).

"Brecht und Musil: Historische Formen des Neinsagens,"
Musil-Forum, 2. Halbjahrsheft, 4. Jg. (1978).
- Mews, Siegfried. "An Anti-Imperialist's View of the American Revolution:
Brecht's Adaptation of Farquhar's The Recruiting Officer,"
University of Dayton Review, 14, no. 2 (Spring 1980), 29-38.

"Biblical Themes and Motifs in Brecht's Herr Puntila und sein Knecht Matti," University of Dayton Review, 13, no. 3 (Spring 1979), 53-63.
- Murphy, G. Ronald, S.J. Brecht and the Bible: A Study of Religious Nihilism and Human Weakness in Brecht's Drama of Mortality and the City. University of North Carolina Studies in the Germanic Languages and Literatures, 96. Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 1980.

forthcoming publications

- Shull, Ronald K. Brecht and Music: An Annotated Catalogue
expected completion May 1981
- Siegert, Wolf. Brecht: Die Tage der Commune.
dissertation in progress
expected publication 1981

b.