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## Communications from the International Brecht Society. Vol. XI, No. 2 March 1982

[s.l.]: International Brecht Society, March 1982

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# communications

from the

# international brecht society

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VII, #2  
 March 1982

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## from the editor

The new year has started off well for the IBS. Contract negotiations with Wayne State University Press have come to a conclusion and thus we will have a new and mostly english-language Yearbook as of this year. So now it is time to reach for your checkbook and pay your dues (see p. 6).

Secondly, we have been able to secure some (minimal) support from the Oregon Committee for the Humanities, so the 6th INTERNATIONAL BRECHT SYMPOSIUM will take place this coming Memorial Day Weekend (May 28 - 31) in Portland, OR (see pp. 7 & 10).

Thirdly, although we have but a one-person-per-office-slate for the next biennium, we can look forward to an active and internationally oriented board with Antony Tatlow as President (see pp. 8 & 9).

Finally, more IBS members have been forthcoming with news items if interest. Even as we go to press the mail brings a review of a highly successful performance of Senora Carrar's Rifles in Greece (see next issue), while Karl-Heinz Schoeps calls in the following announcement: He has available some copies of the magnificent photo-documentary Material Brecht - Kontradiktionen 1968 - 1976 (88 pp.), compiled for the 4th International Brecht Symposium in Dallas, Texas (Nov. 1976). Members in good standing can order the book for the bargain price of \$ 2, while others will have to pay \$ 4. Write to Karl-Heinz Schoeps, address below.

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b.

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COMMUNICATIONS -- THE BRECHT NEWSLETTER -- Vol. XI, No. 2 (March 1982)  
Published by the International Brecht Society

Editor: Laureen Nussbaum

Correspondence concerning newsletter items, please send to:  
Gisela Bahr, Department of G.R.A.L., Miami University,  
Oxford, OH 45056

Correspondence concerning dues or yearbook, please send to:  
Karl-Heinz Schoeps, Department of German, 3072 FLB,  
University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801

## theater reviews

### THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE

#### IN CHICAGO

I saw a wonderful production of "The Caucasian Chalk Circle in Chicago" directed by Paul Sills. This director is one of the forerunners of improvisational theater here, and his production had much of the improvisational quality to it. This worked very well, as it retained the sense of the play being performed by the peasants of the prologue.

The performance took place in a small space, with no set other than banners which announced the titles of the scenes. The actors pantomimed the action, such as Grusha crossing the delapidated bridge to escape the soldiers in pursuit by imagining a tightrope on the floor.

All of the narration was sung as in a ballad; the whole performance was accompanied by music on the guitar which gave it the quality of a story. The narrator was a very good actor, and did a wonderful interpretation of Azdak as an impulsive double talker, in contrast to the gentle seriousness of his narrator's role.

One particularly clever use of the A-effect was the vocalization of snow melting by an instrumentalist sitting on one side of the stage; he would "cluck" his tongue, producing the sound of drops of water. These "drops" occurred faster and faster as winter became spring and Grusha's time was running out.

The actors composed a duet for Grusha's meeting with Simon on opposite sides of the stream, and they sang "what they thought but could not say." Michael Abashvili was portrayed by a cloth doll. All in all, this was as close a production in Brecht's spirit as I could possibly imagine. I wish you had an opportunity to see it.

Steven Bruce

(N.B. Steven Bruce is a graduate of Wayne State University's Theater Department. He reported on the above production in a letter to one of our members. Thanks for sharing this report. L.N.)

#### Baal

Friedrich Cerha's Opera Baal, after Brecht's early play, was performed for the first time at the Vienna State Opera after the world premiere at the Salzburg Festival 1981. As in Salzburg, the performance was conducted by Christoph Dohnanyi and directed by Otto Schenk. The main role was sung by Theo Adam. The performance was very successful and the opera should be an important addition to the State Opera's repertoire.

News from Austria (December 1981)

## letters

Roswitha Trexler writes:

In the mid-seventies, while researching the Brecht Archive in Berlin, the Leipzig musicologist Dr. Fritz Hennenberg, who is working on a Brecht Song Book (Grosses Brecht-Liederbuch) discovered notes by Brecht's first musical associate, Franz S. Bruinier (1905-1928). These discoveries could be supplemented with materials from other archives.

The composer, who died very young, has been unknown in Brecht research so far. He helped Brecht in writing down the melodies, the poet himself had invented, arranged those melodies, but also submitted his own settings of Brecht lyrics.

During a soirée in the Brecht Archive, January 7, 1982, the singer Roswitha Trexler and Fritz Hennenberg shared the extensive documentation by presenting a first insight into the cooperation Brecht-Bruinier.

Ron Davis writes:

Friends of Nicaragua:

I was fortunate to have just received a rush call to visit Managua and see 10 days of the National Popular Theatre Festival.

The work of the best groups in Nicaragua - wonderful? Well, something like the Chicano Theatre of the early 70's but this time informed by a Sandanista consciousness, and a long liberation struggle.

But to the Brecht book issue:

Jose Prego said he had received books from 5 I.B.S. people and thanks them. He also said someone out there wrote and asked if he wanted Brecht's Gesammelte Werke in German. Prego never answered but told me to say: YES, SEND IT! (they will learn German...)

And anyone else who wishes to continue or to follow up on sending more books, materials or pictures to them will be enshrined in the book of the good. They have little hard currency; Samoza and his friends took it with the fishing boats and the IMF loans. Send books in Spanish, or English and German if necessary - magazines- any materials on Brecht.

A gift to the Popular Theatre movement in Nicaragua turns into a gift to the new saints. Some of these people are Catholic Marxists!!!!

send to:

José Prego  
Dept. de Teatro  
Ministerio de Cultura  
Aptdo 3514  
MANAGUA, NICARAGUA

December 1981  
R. G. Davis

## commemorations

IBS-member Guy Stern sent a copy of his article in memory of Lotte Lenya, who died last year in this country. Lenya, of course, was the widow of Kurt Weill and "the" Jenny of the original Threepenny Opera production in Berlin, 1928, and of the subsequent Pabst film version.

While Lotte Lenya remained critical of many aspects of life in the United States and while she shunned away from gala events, she had an easy way of communicating with American college students and she thoroughly enjoyed the spontaneous contacts that evolved around her campus appearances till the end of her life.

In his warm and personal tribute, Stern stresses time and again how much Lenya felt at home on American campuses. The article "Lotte Lenya in Amerika: Begegnungen mit Schülern und Studenten," appeared under the rubric "Zeitgeist," Aufbau, January 8, 1982.

## recent publications

Friedrich, Rainer. "Ritualisierung und Deritualisierung im Theater Artauds und Brechts," Proceedings of the IXth Congress of ICLA in Innsbruck 1979, Vol. II, Literary Communication and Reception (Innsbruck 1980), pp. 57-64.

Morley, Michael. "Kontinuität und Wandel in Brechts Gedichten nach 1945," in Die Mühlen der Ebenen. Carl Winter Verlag, 1981.

Weber, Betty Nance and Heinen, Hubert, eds., Bertolt Brecht: Political Theory and Literary Practice, 15 original essays, 210 pp. Athens, Ga.: University of Georgia Press, 1980.

## recent productions

### The Threepenny Opera

State Company of South Australia

Nov. 14, 1981 premiere. 20 performances.

Translation: Willett/Manheim; Music: Michael Morley

Director: George Whaley; Stage Designer: Richard Roberts

Cast: Macheath: John Gregg; Mrs. Peachum: Marilyn Allen; Mr. Peachum: Robert Grubb (star of Gallipoli); Polly: Vanessa Downing; Tiger Brown: Peter Cummings; Low-Dive Jenny: Jeannie Lewis; Filch: Simon Burke; Rev. Kimble: Des James; Lucy: Debbie Little.

### Happy End

February 5, 6, 12, 13, 1982

St. Olaf College Theater, Northfield, Minnesota

Director: Patrick Quade; Music: Kurt Weill; Musical Director: Charles Forsberg;

Costumes: Margir Lace

Cast: Lieutenant Lillian Holiday: Shelly Olson; Bill Cracker: Peter Mycklemoe;

Lady in Gray: Alana Barnard; Captain Hannibal Jackson: Jim Reimler

IBS member Karen Achberger writes: "It was an excellent performance . . . the production is the final project for an interim (January) course which was given at St. Olaf's on 'Producing Brechtian Theater.'"

## announcements

The International Brecht Society is sponsoring two Brecht sessions at the MLA meeting in Los Angeles next December. The topics of the sessions, "Brecht and Socialism" and "Brecht and Women", will be the topics of the next two yearbooks of the IBS. The editors plan to select the best contributions for publication in the yearbook, so the more "finished" the papers are, the more likely they will be selected.

Abstracts of 1-2 pages should be submitted to each of the two chairpersons indicated below for each sessions, NO LATER THAN APRIL 15.

### Brecht and Socialism

Papers on any aspect of Brecht's relationship to socialism, be it in his plays, poetry, prose, or in his own life, are welcome. Please send abstracts to

David Pike  
German Department  
University of North Carolina  
Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514

and

John Fuegi  
Comparative Literature  
University of Maryland  
College Park, MD. 20742

### Brecht and Women

Papers are invited on any characterization or treatment of women or women's issues in Brecht's work, as well as any woman in his life as it might have affected his work or productivity. Please send abstracts to

E. Lew Thomas  
Dance Department  
University of California  
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Gisela E. Bahr  
Department of German, Russian  
and East Asian Languages  
Miami University  
Oxford, OH 45056

All participants have to be MLA members or apply for membership before April 1, 1982.

## dues notice

Dues should be paid now for the year 1981-82. Paid-up members will receive three issues of Communications per year and a copy of the Brecht Yearbook. The 1981 Yearbook is presently in press at Wayne State University Press. Copies will be mailed next fall. Many members have not paid their dues for the last few years. On next fall's IBS mailing list, we will indicate when you last paid. So, if you do not want to be put to shame, write out your check now according to the following schedule:

Students (up to 3 years)	\$10	Regular Members earning less than \$20,000	\$15
Institutional Members	\$30	Regular Members earning \$20,000 or more	\$20
Sustaining Members	\$30		

Send your check to: Karl-Heinz Schoeps, Secretary-Treasurer, IBS  
Dept. of Germanic Languages and Literature  
University of Illinois, Urbana, 61801 USA

UPDATE ON THE IBS MAILING LIST of December, 1981

(see Communications, XI, pp. 11 ff.)

ARNO, Paul Am Schlachtense 134, 1 Berlin 38, Fed. Rep. of Germany (West)  
BROOKS, Alfred G. Theater Dept., SUNY, Stony Brook, NY 11794  
BRUHN, Joachim 15908 Glastonbury, Detroit, MI 48223  
BURGMANN, Günter Ed. Rosenthal Str. 13, 53 Weimar, Postfach 212, DDR German Dem.  
Republic  
CROCKETT, Roger German Dept., Texas A & M Univ., College Station, TX 77843  
FREESE, Wolfgang U. of Natal, PO Box 375, Pietermaritzburg 3200, Rep. of South  
Africa  
GICHAN, Greg 1 E. Harriet Avenue, Apt. B 3, Palisades Park, NJ 07650  
GOEBEL, Rolf J. Dept. of German, U. of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742  
HAYMAN, Ronald 25 Church Row, London NW3 6UP, England  
KREIZENBECK, Alan 639 W. Chestnut, Oxford, OH 45056  
LENNOX, Sara 20 1/2 Washington Place, Northampton, MA 01060  
NEBERGALL, Amy 8502 Greenwood Avenue #2, Takoma Park, MD 20012  
OHLSSON, Monica Tidaholmsvägen 36, III, S-121 48 Johanneshov, SWEDEN  
OLSSON, Jan Dalen, S-26014 Glumslöv, SWEDEN  
PARMALEE, Patty Lee 201 W 102 Street, New York, NY 10025  
PFABEL, Wolfgang, Jr. PR #4, Bloomington, IL 61701  
RENTSCHLER, Robert E. 1855 Independence Road, Columbus, OH 43212  
SCHECHTER, Joel Yale School of Drama, 222 York Street, New Haven, CT 06520  
STANFORD, Richard 414 W. Summit, Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
SUMUS THEATRE PO Box 5284, Portland, OR 97208  
WARTENBERG, Dorothy 3701 Connecticut Avenue #915, Washington, DC 20008  
WIRTH, Andrzej Katharinerstr. 21, D-1000, Berlin 31, FRG  
WITTICH, Ina 3232 Buchanan, Apt. 3, San Francisco, CA 94123  
WOLFMAN, Yaffa 23 Borochoy Street, Givatayim 53204, ISRAEL  
WOODS, Barbara A. Dept. of Languages, U. of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI 02881

TEMPORARY CHANGES OF ADDRESSES

EL AMARI, Lamice Centre Univ. de Tizi-Ouzou, Dept. Lettres, Tizi-Ouzou, Algeria  
(till 6/82)  
SILBERMAN, Marc Nollendorfstr. 20, D-1000 Berlin 30, FRG  
(till 12/82)

**symposium**

Finally, March 4, the Oregon Committee for the Humanities allocated us some financial support for the 6th International Brecht Symposium. The proposal had to be re-written four times and we got just 30% of what we had asked for, far too little to invite all the people we had wanted to and just too much to cancel the project. Reed College and Portland State University are contributing in kind and the Goethe House in New York will send us Klaus Völker from West Berlin.

(to be continued on p. 10)



## elections

Antony Tatlow, candidate for the presidency of the IBS for the next two year term, sends the following statement:

Reader in Comparative Literature, University of Hong Kong. Books: Brechts chinesische Gedichte, Frankfurt 1973, The Mask of Evil, Berne 1977. Articles in various journals. Papers at the Montreal, Austin & College Park IBS meetings, at the Berlin Brecht Dialog 1978, at the GDR Brecht Center and the Hong Kong International Brecht Seminar. VP of IBS 1979-82.

The IBS is coming through, and I think finally out of, a difficult period. At the December 1980 meeting (see Minutes in Communications vol X, Nr. 2, March 1981) I proposed three goals for the IBS: 1. internationalize, 2. diversify, 3. politicize. Let me explain why I think these are still desirable and inseparable goals. Let's take 'politicize' first because it is the most important.

I don't think the IBS should have or take an established political line - it should be a forum for the clash of ideas. I do think, however, that the Society would benefit from a sharper sense of praxis among its members. It has become a truism that ours is a dangerous age. Unfortunately, the dangers are getting worse. There are no more local solutions. The only solutions are global. A sharper sense of praxis in the Society should entail greater pressure to internationalize. During my US lecture tours, I am struck by the sense of separation that enervates. We might consider having members with special interests act as liaisons for certain areas to encourage intercommunication. Latin America springs to mind. We have connections with China now and while this may not lead to a surge in membership, which is sometimes difficult for individuals, there will definitely be other consequences and that is what really matters. (See the forthcoming Proceedings of the Hong Kong International Brecht Seminar, published by Hong Kong University Press.)

Like internationalizing, diversifying is also related to a sense of praxis. We need to continue improving Communications. The establishment of an english-language based Yearbook will help. We also need to entice, learn from and encourage people working in the theatre.

The orientation toward the Federal Republic of Germany and german-language publication was understandable as a stage of development. But Brecht is out of favour in the FRG. They manufactured a caricature of Brecht and now condemn it, equating that caricature with the changing reality. This offers us an opportunity. Brecht's work is still full of suggestions and we need to help others, and each other, to realize them.

Unfortunately, the statements of the other candidates did not reach Communications in time to be included.

BALLOT

Few members bothered to make nominations. Those who did often found their candidates unable to accept. Hence our slim slate. What counts, however, is the quality!

PRESIDENT

( ) Antony Tatlow  
(U. of Hong Kong)

( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Write-in)

VICE-PRESIDENT

( ) David Bathrick  
(U. of Wisconsin)

( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Write-in)

SECRETARY-TREASURER

( ) Karl-Heinz Schoeps  
(U. of Illinois)

( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Write-in)

EDITOR NEWSLETTER

( ) Marc Silberman  
(U. of Texas)

( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Write-in)

Mail your ballot to: Laureen Nussbaum  
Dept. of Foreign Lang.  
Portland State Univ.  
P.O. Box 751, Portland, OR 97207

To be counted, your ballot must be received by May 15, 1982

-- Please Xerox copy if you need more than one of the following slips:

To: Laureen Nussbaum, Department of Foreign Languages  
Portland State, P.O. Box 751, Portland, Oregon 97207

I want to report a production of the play \_\_\_\_\_

Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Premiere \_\_\_\_\_

Director \_\_\_\_\_ Music \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Performances \_\_\_\_\_ Stage Designer \_\_\_\_\_

Translator \_\_\_\_\_

Cast:

Please remember to send at least one copy of the program to:

Bertolt-Brecht-Archiv  
Chausseestrasse 125  
DDR-104 Berlin GDR



(continued from p. 7)

Despite minimal financial support the Symposium promises to be first rate. Its theme will be: THEATER FOR LEARNING OR THEATER FOR PLEASURE? and it will be geared to the praxis rather than to the literary aspects of Brecht's work.

Carl Weber (New York U.) and Walt Cherry (Temple U.) will discuss the problems and rewards of producing Brecht in the USA today. Jules Aaron (Cal. Inst. of the Arts) will talk "On Directing Mahagonny," while Richard Meyer (KCTS, Seattle) will show a video-tape of his TV adaptation of Ocean Flight. Sue-Ellen Case (U. of Washington) will present slides of her production of Karl Valentin's Raubritter vor München and discuss Valentin's influence on Brecht as well as the relationship of Valentin's humor to politics and political theater today. Klaus Völker gave us a variety of topics to choose from, James Lyon (La Jolla) will discuss "Brecht Letters on Theater."

In addition to the lectures there will be a number of live presentation. We expect Roswitha Trexler and Fritz Hennenberg from Leipzig to come and share their new discoveries (see p.4). The Eugene Ballet will bring The Seven Deadly Sins to Reed College and there will be scenes from The Good Woman of Sezuana and from The Caucasian Chalk Circle done by The New Rose Theatre and Portland State University respectively. The latter will be set in Latin America! The AFL-CIO affiliated Portland Labor Players II will present a composite of original scenes centering around Brecht's "Clown Scene," this most appropriate depiction of project cuts all over the land. Moreover participants in the Symposium will have the opportunity to see a Lewis & Clark College production of The Threepenny Opera. For this presentation and for The Seven Deadly Sins there will be an admission charge of \$ 3 and \$ 5 respectively.

Films and exhibits will round out the program and, last but not least, Antony Tatlow will regale us to his reflections: "Before and behind the pleasure principle." We still expect confirmations from Lee Baxandall (Wisconsin), Arnold Blumer (South Africa), Ron Davis (California), John Fuegi (Maryland), Michael Morley (Australia), Karl-Heinz Schoeps and others.

Reed College has been extremely forthcoming. Their semester will be over but they are keeping some staff just for us and they will accomodate us on their beautiful campus at cost. \$ 100 will cover registration and full board and lodging for 3 days. Participants from the greater Portland area should plan to have their meals on campus (\$ 5 lunch, \$ 7.50 dinner). There is no cheap place to eat nearby and some of the most exciting discussions take place during meals.

Early registration will be greatly appreciated. Please, fill out the slip below!

---

Pre-Registration Slip for 6th INTERNATIONAL BRECHT SYMPOSIUM in Portland, Oregon

May 28-31, 1982

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Persons in Party: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ For the full three day Symposium \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ For \_\_\_\_\_ only

Enclosed find my \$10 (\$5 for students) non-refundable registration fee

Please circle one: I (we) intend to come by plane/car/bus/train.

In order for you to receive your final Symposium program and instructions as to how to get to Reed College, please mail by April 25 to: Ms. Joan White  
Director Campus Events  
Reed College  
3203 SE Woodstock  
Portland, OR 97202



To: Laureen Nussbaum, Department of Foreign Languages  
Portland State University, P.O. Box 751, Portland, Oregon 97207

I want to report        Work in Progress        Own Publication        Article  
       Project Completed        Other Publication        Book  
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Title or Subject \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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- \$15 Regular member earning less than \$20,000
- \$30 Institutional member
- \$20 Regular member earning more than \$20,000
- \$30 Sustaining member

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Please mail to: Karl-Heinz Schoeps  
Secretary-Treasurer, IBS  
Dept. of Germanic Lang. & Lit.  
University of Illinois  
Urbana, IL 61801 USA

I would like to report a change of address.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Old Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: Karl-Heinz Schoeps  
Secretary-Treasurer, IBS  
Dept. of Germanic Languages & Literatures  
University of Illinois  
Urbana, Illinois 61801 USA

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