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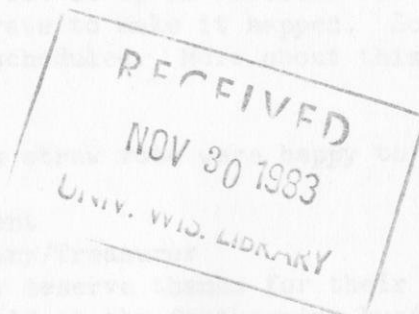
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PR

communications

from the

international brecht society



U10112
March 1981

from the editor	2	letters	6
business meeting at mla	3	to ibs membership	6
announcements	5	recent publications	7
symposium	5	recent productions	7

from the editor

As you will all realize by now, Richard Rundell has resigned as the Editor of Communications. Gisela Bahr has asked me to serve through Spring, 1982. I accepted the challenge with great trepidation. Having no experience and very little time, and practically no financial resources in my Department, I'll need everybody's help.

MOST IMPORTANTLY I NEED YOUR NEWS ON PERFORMANCES, PAPERS, BOOKS AND OTHER BRECHTIANA! !

As to Communications 1X,3, it never appeared. We will try all we can to get back to regular tri-annual publication as of now.

Some of the items of Karl-Heinz Schoeps' Minutes (page 3) are superseded. The next IBS Symposium will not be held in Los Angeles. (See Announcements, p.5). We are trying hard to set it up in Portland for May 1982. Several colleges would have to cooperate to make it happen. So far enthusiasm is great and Brecht performances are scheduled. More about this in the next issue of Communications.

Those members who cast a straw vote were happy to have our officers:
 Gisela Bahr, President
 Antony Tatlow, Vice President
 Karl-Heinz Schoeps, Secretary/Treasurer
 serve for another year. They deserve thanks for their willingness to stay on. The next elections will be held at the forthcoming business meeting during the MLA convention in New York, Dec. 27 - 30 (see further announcements, p.5).

Continued on page 4

COMMUNICATIONS -- THE BRECHT NEWSLETTER -- Vol. X, No. 2 (March, 1981)

Published by the International Brecht Society

Editor: Laureen Nussbaum

Correspondence concerning newsletter items, please send to:
 Gisela Bahr, Department of G.R.E.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

MINUTES OF IBS MEETING

business meeting

Time and place: MLA Conference in Houston, Texas, Tuesday, December 30, 1980
 10:15 - 11:30 am in the Board Room of the Sheraton Hotel. Present were Gisela Bahr (IBS President, Miami University, Ohio); Karl-Heinz Schoeps (IBS Secretary/Treasurer); Helen Cafferty (Bowdoin College, Me); John Fuegi (University of Maryland); Henry Glade (Manchester College, Ind.); Jost Hermand (University of Wisconsin, Madison); Theo Langenbruch (Eastern Kentucky University); Marc Silberman (University of Texas, San Antonio); Linda Thomas (Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Va.); Joanne Francis (George School, Newton, Pa) and James Lyon (University of California, San Diego, Ca.)

1. The Secretary/Treasurer reported that the financial situation of the IBS is not the greatest but at least we are operating in the black. Since there have been some complaints about the present dues structure, some changes are required. Details will be announced later.
2. Gisela Bahr reported that there will be one more Brecht yearbook from Suhrkamp; Volume X (1980) will be published in the spring of 1981. So please mail your dues to the IBS Secretary/Treasurer, Karl H. Schoeps, Dept. of German, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, 61801. Since this will definitely be Suhrkamp's last Brecht yearbook, Gisela Bahr and John Fuegi have contacted several other publishers. A decision will be announced shortly. There was agreement that the Brecht yearbook should contain articles in several languages (with synopses) and possibly illustrations. It will also be necessary to have a new editorial board, preferably an international one.
3. The Secretary/Treasurer received a letter from Dr. Gerhard Seidel of the Bertolt-Brecht-Archiv, Akademie der Künste of the GDR, suggesting greater co-operation between the Brecht-Archiv and the IBS. The letter was discussed at length. There was general agreement that the President of the IBS should respond to Dr. Seidel.
4. Since Richard Rundell resigned as editor of Communications, the IBS newsletter, a new editor must be found. It was agreed that the President should appoint someone to serve as editor until the next election is held.
5. The next International Brecht Symposium will take place in 1982 in Los Angeles. Lew Thomas of UCLA is in charge of the preparations with James Lyon assisting her. Lew Thomas will keep us informed.
6. The last part of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of the issues raised in a letter from Antony Tatlow, Hong Kong, Vice President of the IBS, who could not be at the meeting in person. Antony Tatlow is suggesting three goals for the IBS: a) internationalize, b) diversify, c) politicize. It was agreed that while the IBS has attempted to pursue these goals in the past,

a renewed effort is necessary to reach at least the first two. Areas like China, India and Latin America, not to mention the African continent, have indeed been neglected by the IBS. A renewed effort should also be made to broaden the base of the IBS and attract more people in theater, music and other areas. A yearbook in several languages and an international and diversified editorial board should be a good first step to meet this challenge. As to the third point raised by Antony Tatlow, to politicize, it was felt that because of the plurality of the society, the IBS as an organization should not take a stand on political issues: be it the situation in Poland, the race problem in South Africa or Pinochet's Chile. This, however, does not mean that political issues should not be discussed in Brecht yearbooks or Communications.

7. In reaction to the points raised by A. Tatlow and on the basis of the Treasurer's report, Gisela Bahr suggested that we could now realize a project discussed at earlier business meetings: to prepare a prospectus to advertise the International Brecht Society and its aims. It should include an IBS membership card inviting all members to state their particular interests in Brecht.

Karl H. Schoeps
Secretary/Treasurer of the IBS
Assoc. Professor of German
University of Illinois

Continued from page 2

As to the new publishers for the Brecht-Yearbook, our president is making headway with a very professional U.S. publishing house. Hopefully we'll have a contract by the time the next Communications will appear. The fine points will have bearing on our dues, hence the new dues schedule can only be announced by that time.

Even if the present issue of Communications is slim and unexciting, we are getting back on our feet. While this news letter is on its way to you, the Seminar-Workshop: Brecht in East Asia: Theory and Practice is taking place in Hong Kong. Look forward to some exciting reports from Antony Tatlow and from Ron Davis and possibly others about this workshop.

Last but not least, Patty Parmelee has written a brochure, which should spark new interest in the IBS. In the meanwhile, please, check the list of LOST MEMBERS (p.6) and see whether you might know the whereabouts of any one of them.

Remember, a single person is powerless, but together we can do a great deal and happily/unhappily as times get worse the public interest in Brecht's work is on the increase.

announcements

On Jan. 23, 1981, Gisela Bahr notified all U.S. and Canadian IBS members that:

The IBS will sponsor two Brecht sessions at the next meeting of the MLA in New York City, December 27 - 30, 1981. One will be on

Brecht and Psychoanalysis

Papers may cover any aspect of Brecht's life or work in relationship to Freudian or post-Freudian theory or criticism. More general discussions of Marxist aesthetics or post-Brechtian drama (Peter Weiss, Heiner Müller, etc.) in relationship to psychoanalysis are also welcome. Please send a two-page abstract of your paper by March 15, 1981, or check immediately with the organizers for a possible extension of the deadline, to both

Arnold Heidsieck, German Department,	Sarah Lennox, German Department
U. of Southern California	U. of Massachusetts
Los Angeles, CA 90007	Amherst, MA 01003.

The other session will be on Brecht and Music, co-chaired by

Jost Hermand, German Department and	Ronald K. Shull
U. of Wisconsin	1435 Forbes Rd., no. 7
Madison, WI 53706	Lexington, KY 40505

Please send your inquiries to one of the organizers.

symposium

Lew Thomas sent out the following memo: February 10, 1981

To: Members of the International Brecht Society and interested correspondents.
From: International Brecht Symposium, BRECHT TODAY: THEORY AND PERFORMANCE

The Symposium has been postponed indefinitely because planning and funding have been delayed. Professor James K. Lyon of U.C., San Diego has agreed to co-chair the event, handling the acceptance of papers and arranging of panels, while E.L. Thomas will handle the performance aspects and local arrangements. Please address your correspondence accordingly.

Special thanks for the patience of those who have written and not yet received a personal reply; there has simply been nothing concrete to report to date. Look for further information in Communications.

James K. Lyon, Chairman Dept. of Literature and	Emma L. Thomas, Dance Dept.
115 TCHB	U. of California L.A.
U. of California, S.D.	W.G. 205
La Jolla, CA 92093	Los Angeles, CA 90024
(714) 452-3214	(213) 825-3951

Alternative plans are in the making for an IBS Symposium (see editor's note).

letters

Excerpts from two letters written by a true Brecht enthusiast:

Last fall I called together a few people I thought would be interested in reading Brecht. We meet once a month. We take quite long to go through a play, as we read it aloud and often discuss passages in detail from a historical, political, and economic point of view.

So far we've done a Man's a Man, Three Penny Opera and now Galileo. We read various translations and as many background books as we can find.

When a play has music -- we hear the music and also have included slides of the German Expressionists -- to get a feel for those times.

It is and has been most rewarding -- to have a group of similar persuasion read and discuss the plays, the influences etc. The sessions are very lively and uninhibited. We have fun and my insights are deepened.

In mentioning our group the "Brecht Circle" in Communications could you include that we're interested in hearing from other Brecht members who are living in their area -- Pittsburgh?

I tried -- 'till I gave up, the University, etc.-- to find someone who reads German, someone who could read the articles in the Brecht-Jahrbuch '78. I'm still trying to find someone.

What happens when one is a member of the Brecht Society? I sent my check in Dec. 19, 1980. I am happy there is such an organization as the IBS. I hope you will keep in touch. Thank you.

Ruth H. Poritz
1325 Shady Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA. 15217.

ibs membership

If you know the address(es) of one or more of the following "lost" IBS members please supply your Sec./Treasurer with their whereabouts.

Grace M. Allen	Dorothea Haffad	Harry Mietusch
Edward M. Berckman	John B. Hostage	Amy Nebergall
Townsend Brewster	Ruth Kath	David Norris
Mary Borgman	Hans H. Kogge	John D. Price
J. Burian	Gerlinde Klauser	Alan Weiss
Raymond A. English	Pia Kleber	Michael Willkommen
Frederick J. Facht	W. Stuart McDowell	

If your name is on the above list and you are receiving Communications, please let us know so that we can take your name off the "lost" list.

recent publications

Lyon, James K. Bertolt Brecht in America. Princeton University Press, 1980.

Parmalee, Patty Brecht's America. Ohio State University Press, 1981.
(Available May 15, order directly from the publisher,
2070 Neil Avenue, Columbus Ohio, 43210.)

Both books were extensively reviewed by Robert Brustein under the title
"Brecht in Asphalt," New York Review of Books, 28,1 (Feb. 5, 1981), pp.
8 - 11.

recent productions

Since I have no reports from elsewhere I'll just pretend Portland, OR.
is the Brecht capital pro tem.

The Threepenny Opera

Sumus Theatre Ensemble, Wilson Center, Portland, OR.

May 16 - June 21, 1980, Thursdays through Sundays

Director: Steven Maker. Music: Kurt Weill; English Adaptation: Marc Blitzstein.

Pianist: Dan Melvin. Set Design: Dave Fenel

Cast: Macheath: Sawyer; Mr. Peachum: Harold Easton; Mrs. Peachum: Valerie

Thibeaupolly: Patricia Blem; Jenny: Iris Armos; Tiger Brown: Dennis Varhola;

Lucy: Doreen Rickert.

"Brecht on Stage!" A Collage.

Portland State University Student Productions, Portland, OR.

Jan. 23 - 24, 30 - 31, 1981.

Director: Anne MacGregor. Music: Hanns Eisler, Kurt Weill. Piano: Rick Lieb;

Guitar: Bill West. Cast: Arvine White, Scott Johnson, Darrell Wacker, Melissa

Karlson, Gwen Watley, Lisa Miller, Steve Sander, Martha Durham.

The Good Woman of Setzuan

The New Rose Theatre, Masonic Temple, Portland, OR.

Jan. 30 - March 22, 1981 / 19 performances.

English version: Eric Bentley

Director: Twig Webster. Music: Rick Adams. Set/Lighting: Charles Tyndall.

Cast: Shen Te/Shui Ta: Lisa Berek; Wong: Brian Martin; Mrs. Shin: Mary Richman;

Yang Sun: Russell Panter; Shu Fu: Alan King.

Professor Ottomar Rudolf of Reed College wrote extensive program notes and led discussions between the actors and the audience after five of the performances. These discussions were supported by a grant from the Oregon Committee for the Humanities, an NEH affiliate.

During the academic year 79/80 William Tate (Theatre Arts) and Laureen Nussbaum (Foreign Languages) taught another interdisciplinary course on Brecht's poetry, theory and praxis under the aegis of the Portland State University's Scholars' Program. The program provided funds for Carl Weber, Head of the Directing Department of N. Y. University, to spend a week at Portland State University. He worked with the students on scenes, held seminars in which he shared generously from his many experiences with Brecht and the Berlin Ensemble, and gave a public lecture on Brecht.

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