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## **Communications from the International Brecht Society. Vol. I, No. 3 May, 1972**

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COMMUNICATIONS from the  
INTERNATIONAL BRECHT SOCIETY

May, 1972

FROM THE EDITOR

At long last - the election results:

73 ballots have been received, of which 22 votes went to John Willett and 17 votes to Grace Allen, the rest was fairly well scattered among the other nominees.

This makes John Willett (London) the first President, and Grace Allen (New York) the first Vice President of the International Brecht Society. Our congratulations, and best wishes to them as they initiate a new phase in our organization.

(cont'd next page)

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OCT 3 1974  
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AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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We apologize to our European members for setting a voting deadline they apparently could not meet. It seemed, however, urgent to conclude the election process which, I trust, will be streamlined by our officers; and this is only one of the tasks which we non-officers having tried to fill the vacuum as well as we could, will gladly turn over to them.

While we mark the election of our first officers both with relief and great expectations, I want to express our most sincere thanks to our "founding fathers" for having brought us this far. All those members and friends familiar with the beginnings of the IBS will, I am sure, join me in singling out for particular praise and appreciation Professor John Fuegi. Not only has he been a most imaginative, resourceful, and stubborn force in the founding group but has also given a tremendous amount of time, energy, and patience to the business of following through on everything from the big issues to the details. As we all know, Professors Reinhold Grimm and John Fuegi initiated not only the general idea of our organization but also its special features - the Seminar, the Yearbook, and the Symposium. They prepared the groundwork for the new officers to build on and develop.

It was planned to include in this newsletter statements from the President and the Vice President, outlining what they consider the primary needs for the IBS at this point and what actions they propose to take. There was, however, not enough time to await a response from John Willett, so this will be included in the fall issue.

By now, it is "Saure-Gurken-Zeit", and I am sending you this newsletter with my best wishes for a productive, as well as regenerating summer.

Gisela E. Bahr

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COMMUNICATIONS - The Brecht Newsletter - Vol. I, No. 3 (1972)

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 Editor: Gisela E. Bahr                      Consultant: John B. Fuegi  
 All correspondence to: Gisela E. Bahr, German Department  
 Douglass College, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903



Report  
GERMANISTIK-SYMPOSION

Vom 7. bis 9. April fand an der Universität Cincinnati ein germanistisches Symposium statt, in dessen Mittelpunkt die deutsche Literatur nach 1945 stand und dessen Schwerpunkt auf der soziologischen Betrachtung von Literatur lag.

Die Gast sprecher waren Professor Sander Gilman von der Cornell University, der über das Thema "Die Arbeitergruppe 61" sprach, Professor John Fuegi von der University of Wisconsin, der das Thema "Brecht and Soviet Aesthetic Policy" behandelte, und Herr Gunner Hüttich, Doktorand aus Milwaukee, der sich mit dem Thema "Influences on Post-War German Literature" beschäftigte.

Alle Vorträge wurden mit großem Interesse aufgenommen und waren gut besucht, auch von Interessenten umliegender Universitäten. Im Anschluß an die Reden fanden rege Diskussionen statt, auf die die Graduate-Studenten sich zum Teil in Arbeitsgruppen vorbereitet hatten, wie auch die Organisation des Symposiums von den Studenten besorgt worden war.

Zwei weitere Veranstaltungen während des Wochenendes waren eine Filmvorführung von "Mutter Courage" und eine Mixed-Media-Präsentation, die ebenfalls von einer Studentengruppe zusammengestellt und auf das Mittelpunktsthema abgestimmt war: Gegensatz von industrialisierter Welt und Natur.

Das Symposium fand seinen Abschluß in einer Party für alle Teilnehmer, auf der sich noch weitere Gelegenheit zur Diskussion bot, wie zu informellen Gesprächen mit den Gästen.

Dagmar Lorenz Coates  
Graduate-Studentin  
University of Cincinnati

THEATERNACHRICHTEN

Premieren im Frühjahr 1972

"Der kaukasische Kreidekreis": Theater der Stadt Bonn

"Mann ist Mann": Theater am Turm, Frankfurt/Main. Regie:  
Wolfgang Wies

"Der gute Mensch von Sezuan": Stadttheater, St. Gallen

"Happy End": Landeshöhne Hannover, Regie: Reinhold Rüdiger

Man erwartet, daß das Berliner Ensemble zur Olympiade in München gastieren wird.



Kommentar  
BEIFALL FÜR BANKRÄUBER

Als Mackie Messer bei der Hamburger Aufführung der "Dreigroschenoper" schon unter dem Galgen stand, da sagte er, weil dies das Textbuch so vorschreibt: "Was ist ein Dietrich gegen eine Aktie?" Und im Rang prasselte Beifall auf. Mac fuhr tapfer fort: "Was ist ein Einbruch in eine Bank gegen die Gründung einer Bank?" Wieder applaudierte man heftig. "Was ist die Ermordung eines Mannes gegen die Einstellung eines Mannes?" Hier war der Beifall etwas zögernder - so als hätte er begonnen, noch bevor die Leute den Sinn des Satzes kapiert hatten. Nun, da sie nachträglich, schon klatschend, verstanden, daß Brecht ihr Angestelltenverhältnis als schlimmer empfindet als eine Ermordung, schien ihnen das vielleicht zu weitgehend.

Diese Art von Beifall, der sich besonders gern bei Brecht-Aufführungen einstellt, ist Gesinnung, die sich mittels Motorik in Akustik umsetzt. Während am Ende von Theateraufführungen Leistungen beklatscht werden, wird hier das klatschend belohnt, was der Autor gedacht hat. Derjenige, der die Hände gegeneinander schlägt, drückt aus, daß er ja ganz genau so denkt wie der Autor. Wie gut für den meist Verstorbenen!

... wenn in einem feingeschniegelten Premierenpublikum Beifall aufkommt, wo doch an den Grundfesten unseres Rechtsstaates gerührt wird, dann darf man sich schon wundern. Ein beklatschter Bankeinbruch angesichts der Münchner und Kölner Einbrüche ("Das Fernsehen war dabei") ... Hier wird deutlich, was für ein Ort schöner Unverbindlichkeit das Theater doch ist. Hier darf man beklatschen, was man den ganzen übrigen Tag sonst mißbilligen will und muß. Es ist wie auf den Parties, wo die Leute ja auch ganz schön von Mao schwärmen, von dem sie doch insgeheim wissen, daß er ihnen die Produktionsmittel, dank derer sie bei Sekt über ihn plaudern können, schnell aus der Hand winden würde.

So ist auch der Beifall, der sich einen Augenblick für Brechts Einsicht öffnet, daß Bankeinbrüche "kleine Fische" gegen die großen Fischzüge des regulären Bankgeschäfts sind, in die hohle Hand geklatscht. Wer da applaudiert, tut es in dem sicheren Gefühl - möchte ich zumindest unterstellen -, daß die Polizeiorgane draußen auf der Strafe doch bitte hoffentlich schon dafür sorgen, daß man seinen Beifall nicht als blanke Ermunterung für Bankeinbrecher mißverstehet und mißdeutet.

So gesehen ist die "Dreigroschenoper" wirklich zu einer schönen Oper geworden. ...

Excerpts from "Helmut Karasek meint" - Theater heute, 13.Jg.  
No. 4 (April, 1972), 64.



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#### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Several yearbook packages were returned to the Milwaukee office, either with an "insufficient" address, or none at all since the glue did not hold on the labels.

Will those members who did not yet receive the first yearbook, Brecht Heute, notify Mrs. Barbara Correll, Dept of Comp. Lit. University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wis 53201, and she will straighten it out immediately.

#### DER FLUG DER LINDBERGH'S

Does anyone know of an English translation of "Der Flug der Lindbergh's" or has any information about it other than what is published in John Willett's book?

Mr. Richard J. Meyer, Vice President, Education Division of Channel 13 WNET (304 West 58th Street, New York, NY 10019) is contemplating a television adaptation, or a production of it. He wants to begin NOW if at all possible.

#### BERTOLT BRECHT UND AMERIKA Eine Aufführungsgeschichte

For her forthcoming publication of the above, the author would be grateful for all information concerning college productions of Brecht's works. Please pass on any such information to Professor Trudis Goldsmith Reber, Dept of German, McGill University, P.O. Box 6070, Montreal 110, Quebec, Canada.



## WORK IN PROGRESS

- Bahr, Gisela E. Die Rundköpfe und die Spitzköpfe. Critical edition of preliminary versions. Ed. Suhrkamp, 1973
- Brown, Thomas K. "Verfremdung in Practice at the Berliner Ensemble". June, 1972
- \_\_\_ "Brecht and Claudel: A Comparative Study". Sept. 1972
- Fuegi, John. "Brecht and Technology". Paper to be read at the meeting of the Internat. Federation of Modern Langs and Literatures, at Cambridge, England, August 1972.
- \_\_\_ "Whodunit: 'Brecht's Version of Molière's Don Juan". An investigation of the actual authorship of the German "Don Juan" text. Comparative Lit. Studies, Urbana, Ill., 1973
- Burkhard, Inge. Bertolt Brecht: Die Struktur der Einakter. (Arbeitstitel). Diss. McGill U. Fall, 1972
- Goldsmith Reber, Trudis. Bertolt Brecht und Amerika. Eine Auf-  
führungsgeschichte. 1973. (See note, p. 9)
- \_\_\_ "Bertolt Brecht im Spiegel der Kritik der Zwanziger Jahre". Fall, 1972
- Lyon, James K. Monograph on friendship between Bertolt Brecht and Ferdinand Reyher. Fall, 1972
- \_\_\_ (with John Fuegi) Biographical sketch of Brecht's American years. Will be publ. in Deutsche Literatur im Exil (eds. J.M. Spalek, P. Strelka) vol.I. Bern: Francke, 1972 or '73
- \_\_\_ Biography of Brecht's American Years. Fall, 1974
- Nadar, Thomas R. A Comparative and Analytical Study of Bertolt Brecht's Use of Music by Kurt Weill, Paul Dessau, and Hanns Eisler in Representative Dramatic Works. Diss. University of Michigan, August 1973
- Stine, Eric. Aesthetic Theory (from the point of view of aesthetic philosophy). Diss. Dalhousie U (Philos.Dept), No date
- Tracy, Gordon L. "Lenins Einfluß auf das Brechtsche Theater". Fall, 1972
- \_\_\_ (Co-author on No-drama: Hilde Kato) "Brechts Lehrstücke, No-Drama und Agitprop-Drama". Late summer or fall, 1972
- Weber, Betty N. Brecht and Hebbel. Diss. U of Wis, summer 1972



## WORK COMPLETED, FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

- Elwood, William R. "Hasenclever and Brecht: A Critical Comparison of Two Antigones". Educational Theater Journal, March 1972
- Fuegi, John. The Essential Brecht. U of So Cal Studies in Comparative Lit. IV. Los Angeles, 1972
- "The Soviet Avantgarde and Brecht". Yearbook of Comparative and General Lit. 1972
- Goldsmith, Ulrich K. "'Dirt or Marble?' Bertolt Brecht's Lyrical Poetry". Festschrift for Liselotte Dieckmann. St. Louis, 1972
- Lyon, James K. "Bertolt Brecht's Hollywood Years: The Dramatist as Film Writer". Oxford German Studies 6 (1971-2), 145-174.
- Rundell, Richard J. Aphoristic Formulations in the Works of Bertolt Brecht. Diss. U of Colorado, 1971
- Schoeps, Karl A. Bertolt Brecht und Bernard Shaw: Eine Untersuchung von Einflüssen und Parallelen. Diss. U of Wis, 1971
- Seliger, Helfried Werner. Bertolt Brecht und Amerika. Diss. McGill U, 1972
- Spalek, John M. (ed) Lion Feuchtwanger. The Man, His Ideas, and His Works. U of So Cal Studies in Comp. Lit. III. L.A. 1972
- Suvin, Darko. "Brechtov 'Kavkaski krug kredom' kao marksisticki figuralizam" (Brecht's 'Caucasian Chalk Circle' as Marxist Figuralism). Praxis (Zagreb) No. 5 (1971), 733-743. (The above was also given as a lecture, in German, at the Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt/Main, in 1970).
- "Die heilige Johanna der Schlachthöfe"; connected with a performance of the play produced at McGill University.
- Walter, Hans-Albert. Übersicht of Exile Literature, 9 vols, to be published by Luchterhand Verlag. First 2 vols late 1972/early 1973; will be available in paperback.
- Ed. Note : Please continue to send these reports, with as precise data as possible, to Gisela E. Behr, German Dept. Douglass College, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903



WORK COMPLETED, FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

Wood, William R. "Hesselslover and Brecht: A Critical Comparison of Two Antagonists", Educational Theater Journal, March 1972

Quest, John. The Essential Brecht. U of So Cal Studies in Comparative Lit. IV. Los Angeles, 1972

... The Soviet Avantgarde and Brecht". Yearbook of Comparative Lit. and General Lit. 1972

Goldsmith, Ulrich K. "Dirt or 'Arbitr' Brecht's Lyric 'Poetry'". Festschrift for Liselotte Dieckmann. St. Louis, 1972

Lyon, James K. "Brecht's Hollywood Years: The Dramatist as Film Writer". Oxford German Studies 6 (1971-2), 145-174.

... Richard L. Appellate Formations in the Works of Bertolt Brecht. Diss. U of Colorado, 1971

Schoops, Karl A. Brecht und Bernard Shaw: Eine Untersuchung von Einflüssen und Parallelen. Diss. U of Wis., 1971

... Brecht Brecht und America. Diss. McGill U, 1972

Spalek, John M. (ed) Lion Feuchtwanger: His Works. U of So Cal Studies in Comp Lit. 10235 Wis. 10235

... Praxis (Theory) No. 5 (1971), 733-743. (The above was also given as a lecture in German at the Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt/Main, in 1970).

... Die halbe Johanna der Schlichthöfe": connected with a play performance of the play produced at McGill University.

Walter, Hans-Albert. Übersicht of Exile Literature, 9 vols. to be published by Luchterhand Verlag. First 2 vols late 1972

... will be available in paperback.

Ed. Note: Please continue to send these reports, with as precise data as possible, to Gisela E. Bahr, German Dept.

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