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COMMUNICATIONS

from the

INTERNATIONAL BRECHT SOCIETY

December, 1971

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Dear Friends,

This is the launching of a new project of the International Brecht Society, the Newsletter. The format is not definite as yet, and neither is the name but it seemed urgent to get the backlog of information to you without further delay.

It is my hope, as editor, that you will send me your reports and announcements, as well as your suggestions and criticism so that together we can make this new publication a useful tool for the exchange of ideas and information pertinent to our "common cause".

With my best wishes for a happy and successful New Year,

Sincerely yours,

Gisela E. Bahr

Gisela E. Bahr

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THE INTERNATIONAL BRECHT SOCIETY
 DIE INTERNATIONALE BRECHT GESELLSCHAFT
 LA SOCIÉTÉ INTERNATIONALE DE BRECHT

Constitution and By-Laws

Article I : Name

The Society shall be named in English "The International Brecht Society", in German "Die internationale Brecht - Gesellschaft", and in French "La Société internationale de Brecht".

Article II : Objectives

1. The aim of the Society is to help to encourage the international study of all aspects of the life and work of Bertolt Brecht, and (modelling itself on Brecht's own plans for a Diderot-Gesellschaft), the interdisciplinary study of the interrelationship of the modern arts and society at large. To these ends the IBS (International Brecht Society) will encourage scholars and scholarship of every political persuasion and without regard to national and traditional boundaries of purely literary or aesthetic scholarship. The Society will endeavor to consistently encourage people working in the arts, particularly the physical theater, but this shall not be at the expense of those concerned primarily with literary, biographical, or philosophical texts.
2. The Society will specifically support the following objectives:
 - (a) To hold annual international symposia. The editors of the main publication of the IBS (Brecht Heute / Brecht Today), in conjunction with the president of the IBS shall select a site, and be responsible for setting up an appropriate organization for handling these international meetings. The president of the Society will normally preside at the annual meeting.
 - (b) To publish annually a tri-lingual yearbook of the IBS (Brecht Heute / Brecht Today) to be distributed without further charge to the dues paying members of the Society. The primary responsibility for the yearbook shall be vested in the Managing Editor, who shall be assisted by four general Editors, one Book Review Editor, and one Bibliography Editor. Responsibility for the negotiation of publishing contracts for the yearbook shall rest with the Managing Editor, but such major decisions shall require him to consult regularly with the four Editors.
 - (c) To publish semi-annually a Brecht Newsletter, to be distributed without further charge to dues paying members of the Society. Primary editorial responsibility for the Newsletter shall rest with the four general Editors. The Editors may delegate responsibility for the Newsletter to an IBS member.
 - (d) To support and contribute whenever possible to the work of the Berliner Ensemble.
 - (e) To support and contribute to the Brecht-Archiv in East Berlin, and also to help in the establishment of

extension of a number of additional major collections of Brechtiana in several widely separated geographical locations.

(f) To assist in the setting up of an international group of scholars to work on planning and bringing out a historical-critical edition of all Brecht's work.

(g) To provide annually some financial support for a graduate student to work intensely on some aspect of Brecht's life and/or work. Grant applications are to be evaluated by the officers of the Society.

Article III : Membership

Membership shall be open to anyone upon annual payment of dues.

Article IV : Officers

1. The officers of the Society shall be: a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary-Treasurer, the Managing Editor of the yearbook, the four General Editors, the Book Review and Bibliography Editors of the yearbook.
2. The President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer of the Society shall be nominated by, and elected by a mail ballot vote of the membership. Both the President and the Vice-President shall be elected for a one-year term of office. The Secretary-Treasurer, in the interest of continuity, shall be elected to a five-year term of office.
3. The Managing Editor shall be elected by a mail ballot of dues paying members of the Society. Nominations for the office can be made by petition of any five or more members of the IBS. The term of office of the Managing Editor shall be five years.
4. The four General Editors of the yearbook and the Book Review and Bibliography Editors shall each serve for a period of three years. The terms of these Editors shall be staggered, with the term of two Editors expiring each year. Election of Editors shall be by mail ballot vote of the dues paying membership. Nominations for the office of Editor can be made in any year by petition of any five or more members of the IBS. The Editors may by a majority vote elect to establish a Board of Consulting Editors to assist with the consideration of papers submitted to the Society for publication.
5. Anyone already holding an office in the Society shall not be simultaneously eligible for any other office in the Society.

Article V : Amendments

Voting on amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws of the IBS shall be by mail ballot and will require a two-thirds vote of those responding to the mail ballot.

Article VI : Meetings

When official business of the Society is conducted (usually in conjunction with the annual international Symposium), it shall be conducted either according to

Robert's Rules of Order or the national equivalent of these rules in the country where the official meeting is to be held.

Article VII : Dues, Audit

1. The annual dues shall be: Student Membership (renewable for a maximum of four years), \$5; Active Membership, \$10; Senior Membership (for all full Professors), \$18; Sustaining Membership, \$25; Institutional Membership (libraries, universities, etc.), \$18. The annual dues are to be paid to the Secretary-Treasurer of IBS by October 1 each year. European payments may be made directly to the Society's European account, the number of which is available upon request from the Secretary-Treasurer.
2. The right to vote and hold office in the Society shall be contingent upon the annual payment of dues.
3. Honorary members of the Society, to be elected by a simple majority on a mail ballot, are exempted from paying dues.
4. Annual dues may be changed by a majority vote of the membership
5. Checks on the account or accounts of the IBS may be drawn by the President, the Secretary-Treasurer, and the Managing Editor of the yearbook. The Secretary-Treasurer shall report annually to the membership on the stewardship of IBS funds for the previous year. At the discretion of the other officers or upon request of the membership at large, the Society may appoint a firm of accountants to audit the financial records of the organization.

Article VIII : Committees

Either upon the request of the membership at large or at the discretion of the officers of the Society, such committees may be formed or appointed to better facilitate the work of the Society. In particular, a standing committee to oversee all elections shall be established by the officers for each election held.

BRECHT SEMINAR

At the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association in Chicago, December 27-30, there will again be a Brecht Seminar. The topic this year will be:

KUNST IST WAFFE

An Aesthetic of Protest,
as exemplified in the poetry of B. Brecht

Discussion leaders: Professors Grace M. Allen (City University of New York, Lehman) and James L. Lyon (Univ. of Florida). The next issue of the Newsletter will bring a report on this.

COOPERATION REQUESTED

The following appeal from Literatur-Archive der Deutschen Akademie der Künste zu Berlin, 104 Berlin, Robert-Koch-Platz 7, DDR, is taken from the circular 1971/III of the Stockholmer Koordinationsstelle zur Erforschung der deutschsprachigen Exilliteratur.

Bertolt-Brecht-Bibliographie

Der erste, mehrere Bände umfassende Abschnitt der von uns vorbereiteten Bibliographie wird die d e u t s c h - s p r a c h i g e n Veröffentlichungen von und über bzw. an Brecht umfassen.

Um im Interesse der Benutzer eine hohe Vollständigkeit des bibliographischen Materials zu erreichen, bitten wir alle Forscher, Bibliotheken, Archive und wissenschaftlichen Einrichtungen um freundliche Unterstützung. Bitte, weisen Sie uns auf Ihnen bekannte Veröffentlichungen in deutscher Sprache hin, die in den Brecht-Bibliographien (vor allem in denen von Walter Nubel und Klaus-Dietrich Petersen) nicht genannt sind.

Wir benötigen vordringlich Informationen, die für die Bände 1 bis 3 (Primärliteratur) verwertet werden können:

Band 1

- Sammlungen (Veröffentlichungen, die jeweils Literatur von und über/an Brecht enthalten), z.B. Brecht-Lesebücher, Brecht-Materialienbände, Kataloge von Brecht-Ausstellungen, Brecht-Sonderhefte von Periodica u.a.
- Werksammlungen (Veröffentlichungen, die jeweils Werke verschiedener Gattungen enthalten), z.B. Gesammelte Werke, Auswahl Ausgaben (auch zweisprachige) u.a.
- Dramatik

Band 2

- Lyrik
- Romane und kleine erzählende Prosa
- Filmtexte

Band 3

- Theoretische, autobiographische u.a. Schriften
- Tage- und Notizbücher
- Briefe von Brecht
- Gespräche
- Übersetzungen
- Werke anderer Autoren, an denen Brecht mitgearbeitet hat
- Noten und Zeichnungen
- Unterzeichnete Aufrufe, Herausgebertätigkeit, Apokryphes

Wir erfassen in der Regel alle in selbständiger Form erschienenen Werke (einschließlich ihrer verschiedenen Auflagen), ferner alle unselbständigen Veröffentlichungen (Beiträge in Zeitschriften, Zeitungen, Anthologien, Jahrbüchern usw.) bis 1956 sowie ab 1957 alle in unselbständiger Form erschienenen Erstdrucke.

Von besonderem Interesse sind die zu Lebzeiten Brechts (also bis 1956) erschienenen Drucke, vor allem jene aus der Periode bis 1933 und jene aus der Exilzeit. Besonders dankbar sind wir für Hinweise auf Drucke in der Exilpresse (ausgewertet wurden bereits folgende Periodica: "Das Wort", Moskau, "Internationale Literatur / Deutsche Blätter" Moskau, "Freies Deutschland", Mexico, "Neue Deutsche Blätter", Prag, "Maß und Wert", Zürich, "Die Sammlung", Amsterdam, "Orient", Haifa).

Wir nehmen knappe, auch ungenaue Informationen aller Art dankbar entgegen. Besonders dringlich sind die Angaben für den Band 1, der vor dem Manuskriptabschluß steht. Ihre Mitarbeit, um die wir Sie herzlich bitten, wird selbstverständlich in der Bibliographie namhaft gemacht.

RUTGERS SYMPOSIUM

A Brief Report

John Fuegi

The 1971 meeting of the International Brecht Society was held at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, on April 1, 2, and 3. Inasmuch as the present financial condition of the IBS does not permit the subsidizing of such meetings, all costs of the gathering were graciously borne by a large number of student and faculty organizations within the Rutgers University community and by various German cultural organizations in the New York-New Jersey area. With the Graduate Division of the German Department at Rutgers as sponsor, the Brecht meeting was organized and coordinated under the able leadership of Claude Hill and with the strong support of Gisela Bahr and Ralph Ley. The smoothness, balance, and high intellectual tone of the gatherings was repeatedly praised by those foreign and domestic scholars attending the meeting.

At the opening session of the conference, Professor Eric Bentley spoke on some of the difficulties of attempting to reconstruct a personal memoir of Bertolt Brecht. Mr. Bentley concentrated most of his attention on the problem of coming to grips with the biography of a person who cherished his privacy and deliberately attempted to thwart those who would attempt to pry personal information out of him.

The first panel, "Brecht and the Ambiguities of Research and Communication", under the chairmanship of Gisela Bahr, was devoted to current problems both of Brecht research and of communication of the results of that research to others. Lively audience participation followed brief presentations by the panel participants: Frederic Ewen, John Fuegi, Patty Lee Parmalee, and John Willlett. The panel discussion was then followed by a screening of Brecht's 1932 film, Kuhle Wampe, and the 1970 film, The Jewish Wife, starring Viveca Lindfors.

In the early evening Professor Ralph Ley of Rutgers spoke on the topic, "Brecht as Bolshevik: The Commune in Memorial". Should the acoustics of the hall have prevented those at the back from following some points, it should be noted that this excellent lecture will be available shortly in its printed form in the Dayton Review.

Following Professor Ley's lecture, Eric Bentley presented his engaging selection of Brecht songs to an enthusiastically appreciative audience.

The second day of the meeting was formally opened with Professor Victor Lange's chairing of a panel discussion entitled "Brecht the Playwright: Craftsman and Theorist". Sitting on the panel were: Walter Sokel, John Willlett, John Fuegi, and Andrzej Wirth. The main concern of the panelists turned around the question of whether or not the early Brecht theories of "epic" were indeed applicable to many of his very early plays and the plays of the post-Lehrstücke period. Also raised was the question of whether the term Verfremdung is aptly translated by either the English term "alienation" or the French term "distanciation". Again lively audience participation took over after the brief presentation of the panelists.

A high point of the second day was to have been Ernst Schumacher's lecture on the conference topic, "Brecht in the Seventies". Unfortunately, however (for details please see the separate note on this matter), Professor

(cont'd page 9)

ERNST SCHUMACHER

AND THE U. S. STATE DEPARTMENT

John Fuegi

The organizers of the 1971 Symposium of the International Brecht Society had planned and shaped the meeting around two major international figures in Brecht studies, John Willett of London, and one of the most prominent Marxist interpreters of Bertolt Brecht, Professor Ernst Schumacher of the Humboldt University, East Berlin. It came as a great shock, therefore, when the State Department, at the very last moment, denied Professor Schumacher a U.S. visa. The lateness of the denial made it impossible to attempt to line up another conference participant to attempt to take Professor Schumacher's place. The conference then had to be held with no major representative of a Socialist country present. To say the very least, this meant that the scholarly quality of the deliberations was severely limited.

Upon being told of the State Department's action in denying a visa to Professor Schumacher, a sizable majority of the conference participants sent a note of protest to the Secretary of State. Those signing the protest note asked that the organizers of the Symposium attempt to find out (a) why the State Department had taken this action, and (b) what might be done to prevent the State Department from doing something similar in the future.

In his own written report on the visa denial addressed to the conference participants, Professor Schumacher described the way in which he was treated by the U.S. Consular representative in West Berlin. A translation of the full text of Professor Schumacher's own version of the denial procedure may be found in the May 24, 1971 issue of The Nation (pp. 666-668). Two major points seem clear both from Professor Schumacher's own report, and from later statements issued by the State Department. Professor Schumacher was seen by the State Department not only as a Communist but also, by reason of his being on the faculty of the Humboldt University, as an official representative of the East German government. This made him then, in the State Department's view, someone who must be excluded as an official act of reprisal against the East German government for their forcible detention of several U.S. citizens. The State Department's ruling seemed in the view of several legal observers to be in direct violation of the opinion of Federal District Court Judge John F. Dooling. Judge Dooling had only recently declared in the case of the Belgian Marxist, Ernest Mandel, that a person could not be barred from attending meetings or delivering lectures in the United States because of their stated political beliefs. In the view of Judge Dooling, freedom of speech is in fact abridged whenever unwarranted restrictions are placed on "open and wide-ranging debate".

Though the thirty-page opinion of the Federal Court did proclaim invalid significant sections of the McCarran Act of 1952 as "imposing a prior restraint on constitutionally protected communication", Professor Schumacher's case was rendered particularly complex by the stated official ruling of the United States visa granting agency. The State Department (so it argued in its correspondence with the organizers of the Rutgers meeting) was not abridging free speech but was attempting to force the East German government to release from jail

Nach Helene Weigel :

NEUE LEITUNG FÜR ARCHIV, ENSEMBLE

Gisela Bahr

Das Bertolt-Brecht-Archiv in Ost-Berlin, Chausseestr. 125, untersteht jetzt der Deutschen Akademie der Künste. Zur Zeit meines letzten Aufenthalts dort, im Sommer 1971, war der verantwortliche Referent Herr Dr. Dietzel, mit dem ich ein längeres Gespräch hatte. Er versicherte mir, daß sich an den Arbeitsbedingungen für Brechtforscher nichts ändern wird. Nach den Aussichten für das Zustandekommen einer historisch-kritischen Brechtausgabe befragt, bestätigte mir Dr. Dietzel die Notwendigkeit eines solchen Unternehmens, doch konnte er mir keine Hoffnung darauf machen, daß das Projekt in absehbarer Zeit in Angriff genommen werden könnte.

Die langjährigen Mitarbeiter des Archivs, Frau Hertha Ramthun und Herr Günther Gläser, werden ihre Tätigkeit fortsetzen und auch anreisende Forscher wie bisher betreuen.

Mit der Intendanz des Berliner Ensembles ist Frau Ruth Berghaus betraut worden, die noch zu Frau Weigels Zeiten die Stücke "Im Dickicht der Städte" und "Die Gewehre der Frau Carrar" inszeniert hatte.

KLAUS VÖLKER BRECHT-CHRONIK

Nach einer Meldung des Nachrichtenmagazins Der Spiegel vom 15. November 1971 (25. Jg. Nr. 47) ist die im Hanser-Verlag erschienene und von Klaus Völker zusammengestellte Brecht-Chronik. Daten zu Leben und Werk (1971) auf dringendes Ersuchen des Suhrkamp Verlags nach der Auslieferung von 6500 Exemplaren vom Markt gezogen worden, da der Brechtverleger in dieser Publikation eine Schädigung seiner Exklusivrechte sah. Laut Spiegel wird der Suhrkamp Verlag selber eine Brecht-Chronik veröffentlichen, und zwar in Verbindung mit der in Vorbereitung befindlichen Herausgabe von Brechts Tagebüchern.

Als sensationellsten Eintrag in Völkers Chronik verzeichnete der Spiegel den einer Mitarbeiterin von "Anfang Juli 1952" : "Brecht erwägt chinesisches Exil".

BRECHT AN FRANZÖSISCHEN THEATERN

Nach einer der Oktobernummer von Theater Heute entnommenen Übersicht sollen in der kommenden Spielzeit an französischen Theatern folgende Brechtstücke zur Aufführung kommen:

Turandot : Théâtre National Populaire

Dreigroschenoper

Heilige Johanna) : Théâtre de l'Est parisien

Puntilla : (Théâtre des Amandiers, Nanterre (Regie: Maréchal)
Salle Gérard-Philipe, Sartrouville (Regie: Rosner

Brotladen : Théâtre de la Commune, Aubervilliers.
(Regie: Karge und Langhoff, Ost-Berlin)

BERLINER ENSEMBLE IN DEN USA?

Gisela May, Mitglied des Berliner Ensembles, gastierte im November 1971 in New York (Brooklyn Academy of Music). Bei dieser Gelegenheit wurde sie von der New York Times als "Vorreiterin" bezeichnet, der das ganze Berliner Ensemble möglicherweise bald folgen werde.

(Rutgers Symposium, cont'd from page 6)

Schumacher was denied entry to the United States by the U.S. Secretary of State. Though one or two points taken from the written text of Professor Schumacher's long lecture were presented at the meeting, IBS members will be able to read the whole essay in volume II of Brecht Heute / Brecht Today. The absence of Professor Schumacher was most keenly felt as the conference participants addressed themselves to the discussion of the question: "Brecht: Marxist, Humanist, Existentialist - or What?"

Later in the afternoon a recital of Brecht poems and songs was presented by the Swiss actress, Lilian Westphal. The recital was followed by Professor Sokel's lecture on "Brecht's Concept of Character". The essay form of this lecture is to be published by Reinhold Grimm and Johst Hermand in their volume Basis (II) and will be available to IBS members and others there.

An extremely full day of activities was then capped by a performance of The Threepenny Opera. The play was given in English under the direction of John Bettenbender, chairman of the Rutgers/Douglass Theatre Arts Department. With Paul Ross as Macheath and Carolyn Davis as a magnificent Jenny, the production caught some real sense of the theatrical excitement which had been generated by the play in its original production in Berlin in 1928.

As a tribute to Brecht the man of the theatre, the third day of the meeting was devoted largely to practical stage aspects of Brecht's work. Particularly noteworthy was the morning panel which was chaired by Erika Munk and which included contributions by Lee Baxandall, John Bettenbender, John Simon, Carl Weber, Wolfgang Roth, and John Willett.

In the afternoon Carl Weber, with the cooperation of a number of graduates from his acting classes, magnificently staged several of the rarely performed "parallel scenes" originally written by Brecht to break down our awe of a classic playwright such as Shakespeare. Immediately following Carl Weber's demonstration of Brechtian acting techniques, John Willett spoke on the subject: "Brecht: The Poet Beneath the Skin". The full text of this lecture will be available in volume II of Brecht Heute / Brecht Today. The third full day then ended with a West German television version of Galileo.

It is quite impossible for the Brecht Society to thank Professors Hill, Ley, and Bahr enough for their achievement in organizing such a bountiful three-day feast of the very best of Bertolt Brecht. They have set a standard of achievement which will be difficult to match in future years.

(Ernst Schumacher ... cont'd from page 7)

those American citizens who had been imprisoned (in the State Department's view) for speaking freely in East Berlin. Thus, by putting pressure on a member of the East German "establishment" (viz. Ernst Schumacher), the State Department, so it argued, was actually extending the right of free speech rather than abridging this right. Complicating matters further was an official State Department contention (reported incidentally, as fact in the New York Times) that one of the jailed Americans had been arrested while innocently writing a dissertation on, of all people, Bertolt Brecht! Upon checking further and after extended correspondence with the father of this particular young American, it was determined that the dissertation was a regular undergraduate term paper, and that the East German charges against the young man had nothing to do with his Brecht research. The charges against this person (however just or unjust they may in fact have been) were based on Section 106 of the GDR Criminal Code entitled "Provocation Hostile to the State". It was clear to the officers of the Brecht Society that, lacking all hard facts, we were in no position to judge the merits of the East German case and would, therefore, have to attempt to deal with the Schumacher case as a legally separable issue. To this end, official appeals were addressed not only to the State Department itself but also to the American Civil Liberties Union (which had argued the Mandel case), to the Modern Language Association of America, and to the American Association of University Professors.

Perhaps because of the inordinate demand placed on ACLU resources by the Mayday arrests in Washington, the Association was unable to enter the case. Letters of support were, however, received from Leonard Boudin (major attorney on the Mandel case), and from two very prominent supporters of Professor Mandel, Professors Wassily Leontif (Harvard) and Noam Chomsky (MIT). The AAUP entered the case only with considerable reluctance and stated at the outset: "I can imagine that we will meet the ultimate and practical response for such matters." Nothing came of the AAUP efforts on Professor Schumacher's behalf. In contrast, MLA, under the vigorous leadership of this year's president, Louis Kampf (with a strong dissenting opinion by the First Vice-President of MLA, Stuart Atkins, and by Frank G. Ryder) passed the following resolution: "It was voted that the President write a letter to the U.S. Department of State deploring activities of the U.S. and other countries which prevent the free exchange of scholars."

In an ironic footnote to the whole visa case, the American prisoners in the GDR have now been released. It is too late now, however, to ever recapture that element which Professor Schumacher could and should have contributed to the Rutgers meeting. We can and shall print in volume II of Brecht Heute / Brecht Today the written text of the lecture he was to give, but we cannot, so it would appear, in any way guarantee that completely free exchange of information by esteemed foreign colleagues can take place at scholarly meetings held in the United States of America, "land of the free".

COMMUNICATIONS - The Brecht Newsletter

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THE INTERNATIONAL BRECHT SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 1971/72

Enclosed please find my check (payable to The International
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as a (check one)

- () Student Member - \$ 6. () Sustaining Member - \$25.
- () Active Member - \$10. () Institutional Member - \$18.
- () Senior Member - \$18.

I understand I shall be receiving the yearbook, Brecht
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My mailing address is (please type or print)

() Check here if this address differs from the one used on the reverse side.

_____ (Zip Code)

My nominations for the office of

IBS President _____

IBS Vice-President _____

Comments:

THIRD BRECHT SYMPOSIUM

Plans to hold the third symposium in Cologne, Germany, next September, had to be cancelled, according to Prof. Walter Hinck, because the City of Cologne backed out of its financial commitment.

Negotiations for another site for the meeting are in progress, and the new plan will be announced as soon as possible. That much is clear: the third symposium will be held in the U.S. and in the fall of 1972.

Return to

THE BRECHT YEARBOOK
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University of Wisconsin
Milwaukee, Wis. 53201

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- () Active Member - \$20.00
- () Institutional Member - \$18.00
- () Senior Member - \$18.00

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My mailing address is (please type or print)

(Zip Code)

Comments: