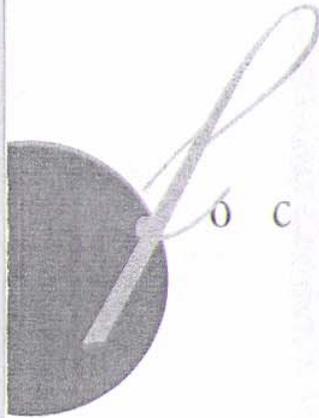


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Special thanks to all members of our board of reviewers and advisors. Articles for this issue were refereed by Professor Jerry Glenn (U of Cincinnati) and Professor Richard Schade (U of Cincinnati).

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## From the Editor

As *Focus on Literatur* completes its fifth volume, we are delighted to say that with every issue the journal has succeeded in accomplishing its original goal, namely to provide a forum for graduate students in German literary studies to share their scholarly efforts beyond their local institutions. In addition, we are pleased that our readership continues to grow, both within and outside the U.S.

Our Third Annual Graduate Student Conference *Focus on Literatur*, held October 9-10, 1998, was a great success. We are very happy that we have been able to create an annual event that supports our endeavor to initiate dialogue among graduate students in German. We attribute the large response to our call for papers and the outstanding success of the conference to the growing reputation of *Focus* as a scholarly journal of high quality. At this year's conference, Dr. Wolf Wücherpennig from the University of Roskilde, Denmark, gave the keynote talk entitled, "Das Ich und das All und das Weibliche: Größenphantasien in der naturalistischen Subkultur." His lecture was followed by ten papers delivered by graduate students from around the country. Their papers dealt with a wide variety of topics ranging from literature of the Early Modern period to literature from the 1990s. All papers demonstrated interesting and innovative scholarship and will be considered for publication in *Focus* in the spring 1999 issue.

This issue opens with an article that was presented at this year's conference. It is not published as a proceedings paper but was refereed by our discerning panel of reviewers as is standard procedure for all the submissions we receive. In this article, Jennifer Creech analyzes the social position of women in Johann Valentin Andreae's *Christianopolis* in comparison to the early modern female. Creech contends that the Christianopolitan society proves to be dystopian for women.

In the second article, Evelyn Preuss discusses Christian Weise's school drama *Masaniello* in relation to the author's political ethics and theories. Preuss shows that the play represents Weise's criticism of the political structure of his time.

In the third article, Ralf Werner examines two previously undiscovered dedication poems written by Ricarda Huch in 1941. Werner demonstrates that the dedications imply the author's commentary on the situation of intellectuals in the Third Reich.

In our book review section, we are pleased to introduce German-language books published between 1996 and 1998. We present novels by Volker Braun, Ana Lang, Ingrid Noll, Simon Jakob Kreutner, and Wolfgang Wenger. Furthermore, we introduce a collection of poems by Ilma Rakusa. A review of a new play by Tankred Dorst is also included.

The final section of this issue includes an interview with Daniela Hermes, who is chief editor of Günter Grass's works for Steidl-Verlag in Göttingen. Hermes talks about creation, publication, and reception of Grass's *Ein weites Feld* and the author's future projects. The interview was conducted in October 1997 in Köln by Herbert Möller from Pennsylvania State University.

On a final note, we would like to encourage graduate students in German to submit their papers for publication in *Focus on Literatur*. We would also like to remind you that we are currently soliciting abstracts for our Fourth Annual Graduate Student Conference to be held October 15-16, 1999. For further information, please refer to the advertisement in the Announcement section at the back of the journal.

Bärbel Such