focus on Literatur

Editors
Tonya Hampton
David Prickett

Technical Advisors
Michael Shaughnessy
Bärbel Such

Published by the German Graduate Student Governance Association of the University of Cincinnati
Focus on Literatur is published annually by the German Graduate Student Governance Association of the University of Cincinnati.

**Editor**
Tonya Hampton

**Book Review Editor**
David Prickett

**Technical Advisors**
Michael Shaughnessy
Bärbel Such

**Copy Editors**
Susanne Lenné
David Prickett
Monika Hohbein-Deegen
Silke Schade

**Subscriptions and Mailings**
Tonya Hampton

**SUBMISSIONS**
Focus on Literatur welcomes article submissions from 10-25 pages on topics related to German Studies. Submissions are accepted continuously, but contributors must be students at the time of submission. Manuscripts must be submitted in triplicate to the editor and should be prepared according to the guidelines of the latest MLA Handbook. A self-addressed postcard should accompany the manuscript for acknowledgment of its receipt.

**BOOK REVIEWS**
Unsolicited book reviews of 2-5 pages will be considered for publication, yet Focus on Literatur prefers to work with an established pool of reviewers. Interested persons are encouraged to inform the Book Review Editor.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**
Annual subscriptions are $15.00 for individuals and $22.00 for institutions; individuals and institutions overseas add $5.00 for additional postage.

**CONTACT ADDRESS**
Send subscription fees and correspondence to Focus on Literatur, PO Box 210372, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio 45221-0372. Tel: (513) 556-2755 Fax: (513) 556-1991 Email: focusonlit@hotmail.com
[http://ucaswww.ucr.uc.edu/german/focus.htm](http://ucaswww.ucr.uc.edu/german/focus.htm)

 COVER: “The Book Fool” from Sebastian Brant’s Ship of Fools, London, 1570, courtesy of the Archives and Rare Books Department, University of Cincinnati Libraries. Cover design by Gina Morrell.

We reserve the right to make any necessary editing changes without the express written consent of the authors.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The seventh volume of Focus on Literatur was made possible only with the continued commitment of Dr. Judith Trent, Associate Vice President for Research and Advanced Studies, as well as the DAAD. We are deeply indebted to them for their ongoing support. We also wish to thank the University of Cincinnati Graduate Student Governance Association for supporting the publication of our journal.

Department Head Professor Sara Friedrichsmeyer, our Faculty Advisor Professor Richard Schade, and other faculty members of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures deserve our sincere gratitude for helping in so many ways to keep Focus in operation. Many graduate students volunteered their time to help with this volume. We would especially like to thank Bärbel Such, Mike Rice, Jeff Packer and Monika Hohbein-Deegen for their continued assistance.

Special thanks to all members of our board of reviewers and advisors. Articles for this issue were refereed by the following professors: Sara Friedrichsmeyer (U of Cincinnati), Katharina Gerstenberger (U of Cincinnati), Jerry Glenn (U of Cincinnati), and Richard Schade (U of Cincinnati).
Contents

from the editor

articles

Kafkaesque Elements in Jakov Linds Erzählung
Ein Seele aus Holz: Ein Vergleich in Bezug auf Darstellungen des Grotesken und der Sexualität
ANNA-KARIN AXELSSON

Socialism and Adventure, Politics and Entertainment:
Martine Monad’s Novels in the GDR
INA PFITZNER

"Like a Stone Thrown into Water:"
The Testimony of Magnus Hirschfeld
DAVID PRICKETT

Codes of Die Marquise von O:...
Modes of Signification in Kleist’s Novella and Rohmer’s Film
JOANNA KEDZIERSKA STIMMEL

book reviews

Plinio Bachmann, Hg. Die Schweiz erzählt. Junge Erzähler
Peter Bichsel. Cherubin Hammer und Cherubin Hammer

Volker Braun. Tumulus
Peter Handke. Die Fahrt im Einbaum oder Das Stück zum Film von Krieg
Bernd Hüppauf und Rolf M. Bäumer, Hg. Signale aus der Bleecker Street. Deutsche Texte aus New York
Anna Maria Jokl. Die Reise nach London. Wiederbegegnungen
Rafik Schami. Sieben Doppelgänger

interviews

Um alles, was in der Zeit ist, an Spracherscheinungen wahrzunehmen, aufzunehmen, zu verarbeiten…
INTERVIEW MIT MICHAEL SPEIER

Am Anfang eines Neubeginns
INTERVIEW MIT GUY STERN

contributors

book reviews

Plinio Bachmann, Hg. Die Schweiz erzählt. Junge Erzähler
Peter Bichsel. Cherubin Hammer und Cherubin Hammer
From the Editor

Focus on Literatur has entered its seventh year of publication. Since its inception, Focus, one of two German graduate student publications in the U.S., has provided a forum for graduate students to publish their work. The year 2000 is an important year for our department. It marks the centenary of the Graduate Program of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures at the University of Cincinnati, as well as a new beginning for Focus. Focus will still include book reviews and interviews in each issue - the format will not change. What will then be different? The content and the title of the journal itself.

Herman J. De Vries, J. Gregory Redding and David N. Coury established the journal in 1994 as a "bilingual journal dealing with literary topics within German Studies." With our next volume, we will widen our focus to include papers on all topics within German Studies. As of volume 8, Focus on Literatur will be known as Focus on German Studies. Previously published bi-annually, the journal will now appear annually. David Prickett will oversee the publication of Focus on German Studies 8 (2001), as well as the new Focus on German Studies Society. Two points of the Focus on German Studies Society's mission statement are "to develop a network of graduate students and graduate advisors" and "to cooperate with other institutions and organizations which share its interests and goals." In following this new path, we believe we will achieve these goals. Consider joining the Focus on German Studies Society. For information, see our website:

http://ucaswww.mcm.uc.edu/german/focus.htm

Our annual graduate student conference will continue in full force each October. The sixth annual Graduate Conference will be held on October 12 and 13, 2001. Our 2000 conference was a great success, made possible by the enthusiastic participation of students from the United States, Canada, and Europe. As always, we encourage graduate students to attend our annual conference and to publish papers and book reviews.

In this issue of Focus on Literatur, we present four papers, which represent a wide range of topics. In the first article, Anna Karin Axellson discusses Jakob Lind's story, "Eine Seele aus Holz," and the representation of the grotesque therein. In her analysis, Axellson shows the similarities between Lind's story and the portrayal of the grotesque in Kafka's works. In the second article, Ina Pfitzner examines the popularity of Martine Monod's works in the GDR of the 1950s and 1960s. A French novelist, Monod's realism was appropriate to the ideological climate of the GDR at that time, meeting the requirements for "acceptable" entertainment. Pfitzner examines the relationship between socialism and adventure, politics, and entertainment. In the next article, David Prickett presents the life's work of Magnus Hirschfeld. This paper was given as a lecture introducing the exhibit "The First Institute for Sexual Science (1919-1933)," which was on loan in 1999 to the University of Cincinnati from the Magnus-Hirschfeld-Gesellschaft e.V. in Berlin. Prickett examines Hirschfeld's writings as an effort to remove the stigma of homosexuality present in Weimar German society and to gain acceptance of it as a natural condition. Finally, Joanna Kedzierska Stimmel examines Die Marquise von O... in the form of two genres: Kleist's Novella and Rohmer's film. Stimmel analyzes the "bizarreness" of the novella and the futility of a one-dimensional classification of the work - a futility which is emphasized in Rohmer's film adaptation. She points out the aspects of "modernity" in each and ultimately the limits of interpretation.

In our book review section we offer the reader a varied selection of books, including the latest drama by Peter Handke, a recent collection of poetry by Volker Braun, an exotic adventure novel by Rafik Schami and Peter Bichsel's 1999 release, a largely autobiographical tale of two men fated to share the same obscure name but end up with very different destinies. We also include reviews of Anna Maria Jokl's latest work and two collections of stories: one with its focus on New York, the other, Switzerland.

Finally, in this issue we present two interviews, both held during the April 2000 Jahrhunderfeuerenden conference, which celebrated the 100th year of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures at the University of Cincinnati. The first is with Michael Speier, Guest Professor in Cincinnati from 1999-2000; the second is with Guy Stern, a beloved and integral part of our department's
With the many changes outlined above, I look forward to a future which, I trust, will offer increased opportunity for interaction and productivity among graduate students in German. I encourage our readers to submit articles, book reviews and interviews which challenge the conventional definitions of *Germanistik*. Once again, thank you for your support of *Focus*, in the past and in the future.

Tonya Hampton

---

Kafkaesque Elemente in Jakov Linds Erzählung

*Eine Seele aus Holz: Ein Vergleich in Bezug auf Darstellungen des Grotesken und der Sexualität*

Anna-Karin Axelsson


Peter Stenberg weist darauf hin, dass die ersten literarischen Auseinandersetzungen mit dem Holocaust vor allem die Tendenz zeigten, die un begrei fliche Brutalität auf eine so realistische Weise wie möglich darzustellen. Die Autoren fühlten die Notwendigkeit, den Holocaust als ein beinahe heiliges Thema zu behandeln, “not to be violated lightly by such potentially blasphemous literary devices as satire, irony, travesty, or black humor, which had often been used in fictional accounts of destructive events in Jewish history” (Stenberg, 642).