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## Contributors

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ALEXANDER GROSS studied German literature, Political Science and Psychology at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München. He received his *Magister Artium* in 1995. His *Magisterarbeit* dealt with the impact of communism on the life and work of Klaus Mann. Gross's research interests are in the area of exile literature. Gross is currently enrolled in the *Aubaustudiengang Buchwissenschaft*.

JEFFREY D. TODD holds a BA in History from Asbury College in Kentucky, a Magistere diploma from the Université de Paris-IV (Sorbonne) and two Master's degrees from the University of Cincinnati, one in French and another in German. He is now ABD in the German Department of the University of Cincinnati. A Taft Graduate Fellow, Jeffrey is presently writing a dissertation on the Dante translations of Stefan George. He specializes in German literary culture from 1850 to 1970, and is very interested in literary relations between Germany, France and Italy during this period.

RALF E. WERNER is currently studying German literature and linguistics as well as History at the Universität Hamburg. His research interests are in the field of post-war literature, particularly Ingeborg Bachmann, literary criticism and literary theory. Another topic that is of interest to him is Goethe's *Faust*. He is also fascinated by the history of media and press. In addition to his studies, Werner works as a freelance writer for various newspapers. He has fulfilled almost all of the requirements regarding classwork and is planning on writing his *Magisterarbeit* soon.

PETER J. YANG earned his BA and MA in German from the Beijing Foreign Studies University, China. He completed his Ph.D. this fall at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City. His dissertation is a comparison between Brecht's and Li Xingdao's *Chalk Circle* plays. Yang is currently Assistant Professor of German, Chinese and Comparative Literature at the Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. His research interests include contemporary German literature, comparative theater studies, Bertolt Brecht, Max Frisch and Friedrich Dürrenmatt.

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## Announcements

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### GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCES

**February 21-22, 1997. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.** The Eighth Annual Graduate Student Conference will focus on *German literature, cultural history and linguistics*. Abstracts no later than December 1, 1996. For more information contact Sally Hatch Gray, Dept. of Germ. Lang., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 438 Dey Hall CB#3160, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3160.

**March 21-22, 1997. University of Pennsylvania.** The Third Annual Graduate Student Conference *Intersections 1997* will focus on *Visual Arts and German Literature*. Abstracts no later than January 10, 1997. For more information contact Scott Shrake, 745 Williams Hall, Philadelphia, PA 19104. Phone (215) 898-7332, FAX (215) 573-7794.

**April 11-13, 1997. Yale University.** The Eighth Annual Graduate Student Conference will focus on 1. *Heine*, 2. *Images of Home and Abroad*, 3. *Public and Private Spheres*, 4. *The Aesthetics of Extremes* and 5. *Open Topic*. Abstracts no later than January 13, 1997. For more information contact Helen Ferstenberg, Yale University, Dept. of Germ. Lang. & Lit., Box 208210, New Haven, CT 06520-8210. Phone (203) 432-0788, FAX (203) 432-8164.

**April 25-27, 1997. University of Washington, Seattle.** The Fourth Annual Graduate Student Romanticism Conference will focus on *Letters of Spirit: The Texts and Contexts of Romanticism*. Abstracts no later than December 16, 1996. For more information contact Mary-Kelly Persyn, English Department, Box 354330, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-4330.

**October 10-11, 1997. University of Cincinnati.** The Second Annual Graduate Student Conference will focus on various topics such as 1. *The Other*, 2. *Women*, 3. *Jews and Holocaust*, 4. *Lessing*, 5. *(Ex-) GDR*, 6. *Depiction of U.S. in German-language literature*, 7. *200th Birthday of Annette von Droste-Hülshoff* and 8. *Open Topic*. Abstracts no later than

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March 1, 1997. For more information contact *Focus on Literatur*, Conference Coordinator, Dept. of Germanic Lang. & Lit., University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH 45221-0372. Phone (513) 556-2755, FAX (513) 556-1991.

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### CALL FOR REVIEWERS

The purpose of the book review section is to introduce our readership to primary works of literature published within the last three years. Our aim is not to pass critical judgment on a particular work. Instead we seek to discuss the work thematically and stylistically and, when possible, to contextualize the work within the author's oeuvre or its respective genre. We have the cooperation of major German, Austrian, and Swiss publishers, and can provide review copies.

Although we will gladly consider unsolicited book reviews, we prefer to operate from a pool of known reviewers. If you are interested in reviewing books for *Focus on Literatur*, please send us the following information:

Name and Address:

Institution:

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Are you currently researching or writing an MA Thesis or PhD Dissertation? If so, what is your topic?

Your projected date of degree completion:

Do you know of a work which *Focus on Literatur* should review?

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### CONTEST

The German-American Studies Program of the University of Cincinnati is sponsoring an annual competition for articles on any topic concerning **German-American literature**. Each year the author of the best article will receive a prize of \$100, and the article will be published in the corresponding volume of *Focus on Literatur*. Articles should conform to regular submission guidelines. For further information, contact the editors of *Focus on Literatur*, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati OH 45221-0372.

### SUBMISSIONS REQUESTED

DON'T LET YOUR SCHOLARLY EFFORTS LANGUISH IN A DESK DRAWER! Dust off your old seminar papers, condense your MA thesis, or rework that chapter that doesn't fit in your dissertation into a publication-quality manuscript and send it to *Focus on Literatur*.

Submissions demonstrating **original scholarship** in any area of German-language literature—from feminist criticism to comp lit to film studies to whatever—will be considered for publication. We also publish interviews with German-speaking writers.

Please submit papers in triplicate. Manuscripts should be ca. 10–20 pages in length (interviews 4–8 pages), double spaced, and they should follow the MLA Style Manual guidelines. The manuscript should be prepared so that it can be read anonymously.

*Focus on Literatur* appears in Spring and Fall, but submissions are accepted at any time. Inquiries and submissions should be made to the following address.

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### CALL FOR ESSAYS

In addition to being a forum for graduate student research on literary topics, *Focus on Literatur* also seeks to engage readers in constructive dialogue on current issues in German studies, with particular reference to the effect recent trends have on the graduate students who represent the future of the profession. The average graduate student spends four to seven years post-BA earning the doctoral degree, yet during this time issues facing these students are usually addressed only within their own universities or individual departments at best. Aside from selected sessions at the MLA Convention, there are essentially no avenues for intercollegiate discussion amongst students. To help fill this communication gap, *Focus on Literatur* welcomes editorials that will encourage dialogue between students across North America and the German-speaking world. Essays addressing topics of concern should be well argued, thought provoking, and of general interest to fellow students. Submissions should be no more than three pages in length, double spaced.

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