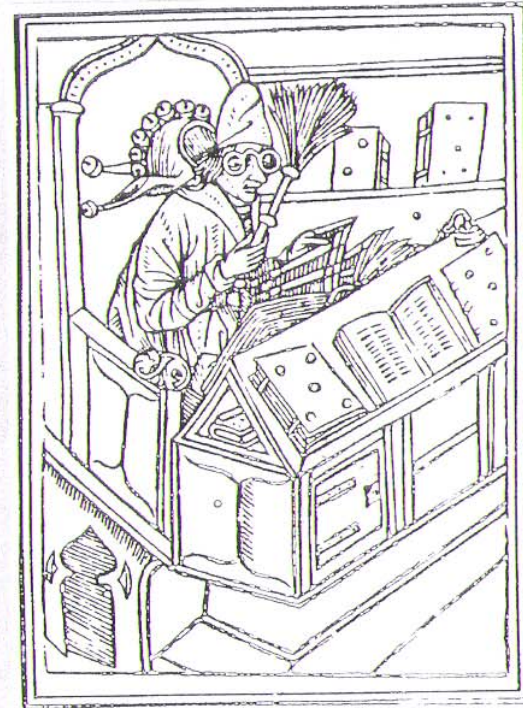


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Unsolicited book reviews of 2-5 pages will be considered for publication, yet *Focus on Literatur* prefers to work with an established pool of reviewers. Interested persons are encouraged to inform the Book Review Editor.

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Our sincere thanks go to Department Head Professor Sara Friedrichsmeyer, our Faculty Advisor Professor Richard Schade, and other faculty members of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures who have been very supportive of this publication. We are also grateful for the voluntary work offered by the graduate students of the German department.

Special thanks to all members of our board of reviewers and advisors. Articles for this issue were refereed by Professor Sara Friedrichsmeyer (U of Cincinnati) and Britta Kallin (U of Cincinnati).

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From the Editor

With this issue, *Focus on Literatur* enters its sixth year of publication. *Focus* is one of only two journals published by German graduate students in the U.S. We, the German Graduate Student Governance Association of the University of Cincinnati, are proud and delighted that we have been able to establish a successful forum for graduate students of German in the United States and the German-speaking countries. We are pleased that many of our contributors have made our journal an integral part of their academic lives and work with us on a regular basis. Moreover, we are very happy to say that *Focus* can now be found in the shelves of many university libraries around the U.S. and in Austria, Germany, and Switzerland. We are certain that the increasing accessibility of *Focus* will help the journal grow further and expand the intellectual dialog among graduate students on both continents. As always, we would like to encourage all the graduate students among our readers to make use of the platform we provide to share their work and ideas. We welcome all submissions of original scholarship as well as any interest in joining our pool of book reviewers. For further information, please refer to the announcement section at the end of this issue.

In this issue, we present three papers offering critical approaches to contemporary German Literature and its reception. In the first article, Christina Frei examines the protagonist's mind/body split in Christa Wolf's *Kassandra*. Frei argues that, although *Kassandra* is at times able to perceive herself as whole, the mind/body split ultimately leads her into her acceptance to die at the hands of the Greeks. In the following paper, Stefan Höppner-Stone analyzes the German media coverage of Bertolt Brecht's 100th birthday and relates his findings to recent shifts in the German Brecht reception. In the last article by Britta Kallin, the author explores the topic of feminist mythmaking in Christa Wolf's *Medea. Stimmen*.

This issue's book review section includes a variety of genres, such as mystery novels by Thomas Brasch and Gabriele Keiser, Hans Magnus Enzensberger's latest drama, a historical novel by Dörte von Westernhagen, and a *Paar-Biographie* set in the world of theater by

Renate Möhrmann. The section also includes reviews of novels by Jürg Beeler, Hanns Cibulka, Claudia Rosenkranz, Gerhard Roth, and Rafik Schami.

In our last section, we present an interview with Renate Möhrmann, professor of theater and film studies at the University of Cologne and author of numerous works on German Literature and the history of theater. The interview was conducted by Britta Kallin last February during Möhrmann's stay as a visiting professor at the University of Cincinnati.

With the publication of this issue, I give over the editorship to Tonya Hampton. Working for *Focus* has given me the opportunity to experience the world of publishing and international German scholarship firsthand. I value all the contacts I made with fellow graduate students, professors, authors, publishers, editors, and readers of *Focus*. I thank everyone for their continuous support. I can only stress the importance of a journal such as ours that is dedicated to dialog among future scholars of German outside one's own university.

Bärbel Such