

GOETHE CELEBRATIONS IN MARYLAND 1949

By STANLEY N. WERBOW *

The bicentennial of the birth of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832) was celebrated in Maryland in many ways, most often by words. It is indeed fitting that in this year students of Goethe, professional and lay alike, should have gathered frequently to revive the words and the deeds of the greatest spirit in German literature, Germany's main claim to a place in world literature, the sage of Weimar.

But not all who raised their voices to teach of Goethe in this year were professional Goethe specialists or even professional expounders of German literature, although these do naturally make up the larger part. There were also natural scientists, poets and artists, musicians and actors to contribute to the whole, full picture.

As was to be expected, the main rallying points for spreading the word were the universities and colleges, the libraries, the museums, and, of course, as a unifying and organizing force, the "Goethe Society of Maryland and the District of Columbia." This group, which was founded to celebrate the centenary of Goethe's death in 1932, has functioned continually throughout the intervening time weathering even the war years and carrying out its purpose, to foster an interest in and to teach German art, literature and culture. Under the chairmanship of its president, Professor Arno C. Schirokauer, and with the immediate participation of its sometime president, Professor Ernst Feise, the Society sponsored together with the Johns Hopkins University a special series of four lectures (Nos. 2, 12, 18, 21). Its regular meetings, held this

year at the Enoch Pratt Library, supplemented this program (Nos. 4, 6, 9). The Society also sponsored two lectures (Nos. 14, 22) in Washington, D. C., under the chairmanship of Professor Wolfgang Seiferth (Howard University).

Next in number of programs sponsored stands the University of Maryland whose Department of Foreign Languages under Professor A. E. Zucker arranged an interesting and varied series at College Park, (Nos. 3, 5, 7, 8, 13), No. 3 followed by a recital of Goethe songs by Madame Zinaida M. Nicolina.

Both the Enoch Pratt Free Library and the Friends of the Library of Johns Hopkins University heard talks by Professor Ernst Feise (Nos. 10, 20). These libraries (a, and b, g respectively) as well as the Peabody Institute Library (e), Goucher College Library (c), Walters Art Gallery (f), and Mount St. Agnes College Library (d) displayed exhibits of Goetheana including books and prints from their own collections and in almost every case supplemented from the valuable collection of Professor William Kurrelmeyer. The Johns Hopkins University Library was able to call also on rare editions from the collections of the late professors Hermann Collitz and Leonard Mackall.

Starting in the last month of 1948 and continuing into 1950, the celebration was, as we have seen, predominantly composed of lectures and exhibits. However, the Playshop of the Johns Hopkins University, under the auspices of the Department of Speech and Writing and under the supervision of Professor N. Bryllion Fagin,

* Stanley Newman Werbow, Graduate Student and Instructor of German at the Johns Hopkins University. Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1922, B. A. of George Washington University, Washington, D. C., in 1946. Studied in the German Summer School of Middlebury College, Vermont, and the Linguistic Institute at the University of Michigan. Secretary of the Goethe Society of Maryland and the District of Columbia, 1947-1950. Contributed to the *Modern Language Notes*.

produced scenes from *Faust I* as a curtain raiser for the year (No. 1). Under the immediate direction of Miss Mary Stuart and with the technical supervision of Professor Feise, the group presented the Gretchen scenes from *Faust*. The players were Robert Flynn as Faust, Jean Rhudy as Gretchen, Carl Skytte as Mephistopheles, and Josephine Shyers as Martha. Both performances were accompanied by an expository talk by Professor Feise.

The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra arranged a Goethe concert (No. 16) when, under the direction of Reginald Stewart, an assortment of compositions inspired by Goethe's works was played and sung. The vocal soloist was Marshall Singher.

Perhaps the most popular and best attended event of the year was that presented at the Zion Church in Baltimore under the guidance of the Reverend Fritz O. Evers, pastor of the church (No. 19). Held in the Adlersaal, the celebration, which was attended by over 700 people, included instrumental and vocal music, recitations, and a lecture. A Beethoven Trio was played by Mrs. Roberta Franke, Otto H. Franke, and Lehn Franke. Vocal soloists were Miss

Shake Vartenissian and Mr. Malcolm Bernstein. Recitations were rendered by Mr. Richard Tietz. The Junger Männerchor of Baltimore and the choir of Zion Church provided choral selections. The lecture by Professor Arno Schirokauer (printed in full in *Sonntagsblatt des Baltimore Correspondent*, January 15, 1950) closed the program.

Among the activities furthered this year was also the rebuilding of the Goethe House in Frankfurt-am-Main. The treasurer of the Goethe Society was able to send one hundred dollars from the treasury and over a hundred dollars collected at the Zion Church to Dr. Ernst Beutler for the building fund. The Society also presented a set of Goethe's works to the library of the Goethe Society of Bremen.

In addition to these official celebrations, numerous special classroom activities in the many schools and colleges of Maryland were designed to pass on to the people of Maryland of the middle of the twentieth century the ideas and the ideals expounded and exemplified in the works and life of that giant of the eighteenth century, Johann Wolfgang Goethe.

EXHIBITS OF GOETHEANA

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| a. August—September, 1949 | Enoch Pratt Free Library |
| b. November, 1949 | Gilman Memorial Hall of
Johns Hopkins University |
| c. November 11, 1949—January 31, 1950 | Goucher College Library |
| d. December 1949—January, 1950 | Mt. St. Agnes College |
| e. December 12-17, 1949 | Peabody Institute Library |
| f. January 9-14, 1950 | Walters Art Gallery |
| g. January 19-31, 1950 | Johns Hopkins University Library |
| h. January, 1950 | State Teachers College,
Salisbury, Maryland |

CALENDAR OF EVENTS IN THE GOETHE YEAR

1948	Scenes from <i>Faust I</i> with accompanying lecture by Ernst Feise	Johns Hopkins University Playshop
1. December 12-13		
1949		
2. March 19	Alexander Gillies (University of Leeds, England) : <i>Herder and Goethe</i>	Goethe Society (in Baltimore)
3. March 22	Alexander Gillies (University of Leeds, England): <i>The English View of Goethe</i>	University of Maryland
4. April 23	Siegfried H. Muller (Adelphi College): <i>Gerhart Hauptmann and Goethe</i>	Goethe Society (in Baltimore)
5. May 12	Augustus J. Prah! (University of Maryland) : <i>Goethe's Personality and Character</i>	University of Maryland
6. May 21	Augustus J. Prah! (University of Maryland) : <i>The Goethe Club of the City of New York, 1873-1878</i>	Goethe Society (in Baltimore)
7. October 5	Bayard Q. Morgan (Stanford University): <i>Goethe Today and Tomorrow</i>	University of Maryland
8. October 28	Adolf Meyer-Abich (University of Hamburg, Germany): <i>Goethes Naturphilosophie</i>	University of Maryland
9. October 29	Adolf Meyer-Abich (University of Hamburg, Germany) : <i>Goethes Naturphilosophie</i>	Goethe Society (in Baltimore)
10. November 2	Ernst Feise (Johns Hopkins University): <i>Goethe</i>	Pratt Library (Afternoon with the Poets)
11. November 15	Stephen Spender: <i>Goethe and the Modern World</i>	Goucher College
12. November 19	Ernst Scheyer (Detroit Institute of Art): <i>Goethe as a Draftsman and the Art of his Time</i>	Goethe Society and Johns Hopkins University
13. December 2	Joseph C. Willen (Western Maryland College): <i>Goethe and our Time</i>	Western Maryland College
14. December 8	Edwin Redslob (University of Berlin): <i>Goethes Lebenstufen</i>	University of Maryland
15. December 10	Felix Morley (Washington, D. C.) <i>Frankfurt Revisited</i>	Goethe Society (in Washington)
16. December 13	Ernst Feise (Johns Hopkins University): <i>Faust</i>	McCoy College
17. December 14	Baltimore Symphony Orchestra: Goethe Concert	
18. December 15	Leo Spitzer (Johns Hopkins University): <i>Twentieth Century Criticism of Goethe in "Romania"</i>	Philological Club (Johns Hopkins University)
19. December 15	Oskar Seidlin (Ohio State University): <i>Goethe's Vision of a New World</i>	Goethe Society and Johns Hopkins University
1950		
20. January 8	Arno Schirokauer (Johns Hopkins University): <i>Die Menschlichen Werte Goethes</i>	Zion Church
21. January 19	Ernst Feise (Johns Hopkins University): <i>Goethe: The Challenge of the Day</i>	Friends of the Library of Johns Hopkins University
22. January 20	Owsei Temkin (Johns Hopkins University) : <i>Goethe as a Scientist</i>	Goethe Society and Johns Hopkins University
23. January 21	Ernst Feise (Johns Hopkins University): <i>Faust, Genesis and Idea</i>	Goethe Society (in Washington)
24. February 9	Arno Schirokauer (Johns Hopkins University): <i>Goethe and his Social Responsibility</i>	Mt. St. Agnes College
25. March 9	John N. O'Neill: <i>Goethe's Leipzig Student Days</i>	Mt. St. Mary's College
26. March 18	Julius Bab (New York) : <i>Die Geschichte der Goetheschen Lyrik</i>	Goethe Society (in Washington)