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Grant Henley

“Die mir recht in die Seele strahlte.” Aspects of a Pietist *Poesie* in B. H. Brockes’s *Irdisches Vergnügen in Gott*

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The nature poetry in B. H. Brockes’s nine-volume *Irdisches Vergnügen in Gott* is traditionally regarded as either the poetic complement to English physico-theology, ideological experimentation with the literature of the *Hermetica*, or the literary expression of early Enlightenment philosophical ideals. This article revisits the influence of Johann Arndt’s *Vier Bücher Von wahrem Christenthumb* (1610) and Spenerian Pietism on Brockes’s œuvre focusing on the Pietist notions of interiority, experiential religion, and the importance of spiritual rebirth. Through lyrical perspective, emotive diction, and textual framing around the term *Seele* Brockes’s nature poems reflect aspects of a Pietist conversion testimonial more in accord with the stated purpose of the work as Christian *Erbauungsliteratur*. (GH)

Regina Hartmann

**Kulturgrenzen—Grenzkulturen im fiktionalen Raum:
Ernst Wicherts *Littauische Geschichten***

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This article uses analysis methods for the interpretation of Ernst Wicherts (1831–1902) *Littauische Geschichten* (1881) which have been developed in connection with the spatial turn. The overarching question for such an interpretation is about how communication produces space and how space produces communication. The tales by Wichert are particularly suitable for such an analysis because the author shows the interaction of two cultures—the German and the Lithuanian in the border area of Prussian-Lithuania at the end of the 19th century. The detailed analysis of the narrative space draws a picture of separate spheres which are

separated by ethnic-cultural, social, language boundaries and such of Prussian law. Of course, *Litauische Geschichten* is also shaped by the period of its genesis. Ernst Wichert writes in the context of positions characteristic of nationalism in the 19th century; but—with the exception of Hermann Sudermann—no other German author has depicted the situation of the Lithuanians with such insight. (RH; in German)

Pierre Kodjio Nenguié

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Interkulturalität, Modernisierung und Nachhaltigkeit:

Eine postkoloniale Lektüre von Hans Paasche's Werk

This article provides a postcolonial reading of Hans Paasche's (1881–1920) work. Paasche's literary oeuvre can be summarized with three key categories: "Interculturality," "Modernization," and "Sustainability." As German colonial officer, he was able to observe processes of modernization and colonization in East Africa and Germany. Using two texts, *Ändert euren Sinn* and *Die Forschungsreise des Afrikaners Lukanga Mukara ins innerste Deutschland*, the articles discuss relevant aspects of Paasche's ideas about colonialism. Paasche's intercultural experience as a colonial officer sharpened his views of modernization. He considered colonization a genuine form of modernization as it interacts with processes such as civilization, domination, and oppression. In Paasche's view, modernization and colonization affected not only humans, but also—on an ecological level—animals, plants, nature, and the environment. The author's familiarity with East African life and forms of thought enabled him to cast German modernization processes in a different light. In both texts Paasche criticized alcohol, tobacco, and drugs. Furthermore, he pleads for an ecocriticism *avant la lettre* with a combined look at ideological, political, feminist, and environmental issues within contemporary Germany. A postcolonial reading of Paasche's two narratives opens up new critical perspectives on sustainability, technological development, and excessive consumerism. The article also establishes connections between Paasche and Christoph Wilhelm Hufeland as a precursor of *Lebensreform*. (PKN; in German)

Reinhard Andress

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Die unveröffentlichten Gedichte der Marte Brill (1894–1969):

Leiden zwischen Lebenslust und Todessehnsucht

Although Marte Brill's novel of exile, *Der Schmelztiegel*, was posthumously published in 2002, this has not been the case with the poetry she wrote largely between 1910 and 1919. After briefly sketching Brill's difficult life of exile in Spain (Mallorca), Italy, and Brazil, this article aims at an analysis of her poetry with its neoromantic, symbolistic, and expressionistic elements. Thematically it displays an emotional gamut between a desire for life and a longing for death. Brill's explosion of youthful feelings could be seen as normal for a young, sensitive individual had she not found a noteworthy poetic form for expressing herself. A representative sampling of her poetry follows the article. (OR; in German)

Oliver Ruf

“Licht in den Stollen”: Schwellenfiktion und Mnemotechnik in Ralf Rothmanns Gegenwartsrromanen

The essay discusses the different facets of liminality and mnemonic in Ralf Rothmann’s novels *Stier* (1991), *Wäldernacht* (1994), *Milch und Kohle* (2000), and *Junges Licht* (2004). From this perspective, Rothmann’s narrative prose belongs to a number of contemporary German novels which break with traditional concepts of cultural thresholds: above and beyond this performance, the retrospective coupling of individual ‘Ruhr’ biographies and shared German history is the object of literary reflection. Rothmann’s novels raise the issue of the special mnemonic gestures and historical semantics which are associated with the ‘Ruhr-Gebiet’ as a catalyst of liminality. Besides, the literary historical connections to metaphors of mining are central for Rothmann’s prose. They can be given profile by discussing the ethnological and anthropological theories of Arnold van Gennep and Victor Turner. In the end the fiction of liminality and the mnemonic techniques emerge as a highly ambivalent code for the expression of social transformation. (OR; in German)

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