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From the Editor

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(RE)READINGS—NEW READINGS / (WIEDER)GELESEN— NEU GELESEN

Emil Staiger, *Grundbegriffe der Poetik* (1946)

Heinz Schlaffer

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Fritz Breithaupt

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Heinz Schlaffer and Fritz Breithaupt start the new section of *Monatshefte* with their readings of one of the most influential texts in post-war German Germanistik, Emil Staiger's *Grundbegriffe der Poetik*. Staiger was a leading figure of "werkimmanente Interpretation" until the late 60s of the previous century. Heinz Schlaffer represents the generation that grew up with Staiger's paradigm, Fritz Breithaupt is a member of the generation that was told not to care about Staiger. They are here paired, inaugurating the new column with their points of view. (HA)

A PROPOS

Wilhelm Heitmeyer

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Tolerance as Risk

Wilhelm Heitmeyer provided the first text for our new column *A Propos*. In it he challenges the concept of tolerance that enjoyed highest respect over centuries, with Lessing's *Nathan the Wise* just one of the highlights in this long history. Heitmeyer is an expert in research on the origins and types of social and cultural conflicts and violence. He is professor of socialization at the University of Bielefeld where he serves also as chair of the Institute for Interdisciplinary

Research on Conflicts and Violence. In addition to that he chairs several research groups on right-wing extremism, xenophobia, and ethno-cultural conflicts. The books Heitmeyer authored and co-authored have been very successful, among others *Rechtsextremistische Orientierung bei Jugendlichen* (Weinheim, Munich 1987; 5th edition 1995), *Gewalt. Schattenseiten von Individualisierungsprozessen bei Jugendlichen unterschiedlichen Milieus* (Weinheim, Munich 1995; 3rd edition 1998), *Verlockender Fundamentalismus. Türkische Jugendliche in Deutschland* (co-authored with J. Müller and H. Schröder; Frankfurt am Main 1997, 1st and 2nd edition), and *Schattenseiten der Globalisierung. Rechtsradikalismus, Rechtspopulismus und Regionalismus in Westeuropa* (co-edited with D. Loch; Frankfurt am Main 2000). (HA)

ARTICLES

Friedemann Weidauer

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When Bobos Meet Bhabha: Do Minority Literatures Challenge the Concept of National Literatures?

Texts by minorities have been absorbed with relative ease into the canon of texts marketed by bookstores and taught in schools and colleges. But behind this welcome development hides a growing rift between what the educated elites read and cherish and what happens to members of the same minorities at the lower levels of the educational system where many of them are stuck in remedial writing courses. Thus, culture in industrialized countries is split between those who appreciate the “hybrid” language of minority writings and between those who struggle to master the standard language of the country they live in. The essay investigates the preference of the “new ruling class” for “hybridity” in literary texts and music, and offers—via the concept of “transnational diasporas”—an explanation why the by far greatest number of people belonging to minority groups remain completely untouched by these cultural trends. (FW)

Lucinda Martin

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Female Reformers as the Gatekeepers of Pietism: The Example of Johanna Eleonora Merlau and William Penn

The article demonstrates that outsiders wishing to break into the German religious scene in the late seventeenth century concentrated their energies mainly on Pietist women, revealing that contemporaries recognized these women as leaders of the reform movement. After tracing the attempts of English Quakers to spread their religion to Germany through contacts with female activists, the article turns to the correspondence of Quaker leader William Penn (1644–1718) and Pietist activist Johanna Eleonora Merlau (1644–1724). A close reading of a newly discovered letter from Merlau to Penn provides new insights into her role in early Pietism and also reveals a significant Quaker influence on her thinking. The article concludes that, through female reformers like Merlau, the English dissidents had a significant impact on German Pietism. (LM)

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Birgit Tautz

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“Ein wunderbares morgenländisches Märchen von einem nackten Heiligen”: Autopoiesis of World, Rhetoric of “the Orient”

This article revisits Johann Heinrich Wackenroder’s fairy tale “Wundersames morgenländisches Märchen von einem nackten Heiligen” in the context of other pieces from his *Herzensergiessungen* and *Phantasien*. I argue that the fairy tale’s self-proclaimed rhetoric of the “Orient,” while inevitably linked to autopoiesis, depends on its engagement of the Enlightenment tradition that perceived Asia as text and that presumed a unity of the world. What distinguishes the fairy tale from this tradition is its use of visibility and aurality; images are erased through listening in the process of poetic production. This ‘sensual field,’ the article argues, defines the autopoietic act, which emerges as the new universal idea of Romanticism. (BT)

Klaus Plonien

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Von Jena über Heidelberg nach Dülmen. Die Krise ‘ästhetischer Subjektivität’ bei Clemens Brentano in der “Geschichte vom braven Kasperl und dem schönen Annerl”

Clemens Brentano is considered the embodiment of the “homo poeta” in German Romanticism. Like no other writer of this period, Brentano created for himself an aesthetic subjectivity that perpetuated an ongoing existential and poetic crisis. This paper examines the transitional point in Brentano’s aesthetic existence that is marked by the famous “Kasperl” novella. A critical discussion of Karl Heinz Bohrer’s term “aesthetic subjectivity” provides an understanding of Brentano’s poetic transition. A close reading of the novella guided by recent developments in systems theory and its application in literature demonstrates that Brentano attempted a revision of his poetic agenda and thereby also his existential crisis. However, this attempt remains within the medium of literature and therefore, instead of breaking away from this medium, falls back upon itself; as a result, Brentano created “just” another interesting piece of literature. (KP) (In German)

Frank Finlay

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“Ein krampfhaftes Augenzumachen”: Heinrich Böll and the *Literaturbetrieb* of the Early Post-war Years

This paper draws on archive material from Heinrich Böll’s *Nachlaß* to discuss the encounters of a writer of the “young generation” with the *Literaturbetrieb* between 1945 and 1949, a period to which recent anniversaries and controversies have brought renewed attention. Böll’s correspondence with editors sheds light on the material conditions in the publishing industry in the western zones of occupation and the impact of the Currency Reform of 1948. These letters also reveal the importance of Böll’s editors’ perceptions of public taste, particularly the diagnosis of an increasing antipathy to literary portrayals of the War. The impact of prevailing conditions in the literary market-place on discursive aspects of Böll’s writing is then explored with particular reference to the genesis

of his first two books for Friedrich Middelhaue Verlag, *Der Zug war pünktlich* (1949) and *Wanderer, kommst Du nach Spa. . .* (1950). By way of conclusion, it is argued that socio-economic and political factors might be accorded a more differentiated place within the overall context of the “literary field” in which Böll operated. (FF)

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