

John Hamilton's book, *Security: Politics, Humanity, and the Philology of Care*, has just been published by Princeton University Press, May 2013.

German 50 presented performances of Borchert's *Draussen vor der Tür*, directed by Dr. Lisa Parkes, on May 1 and 2, 2013. The play was well attended by both Harvard students and German students from local high schools.

Scandinavian Performance Night took place on May 1, 2013. A humorous play in Swedish and a mixed-media performance in Danish were conceived and written by students in the courses; the Norwegian performance was a moving scene from Ibsen's *A Doll House*.

On April 18, 2013, graduate students arranged for a panel for two graduate students to present their work on Döblin. Carl Gelderloos, of Cornell University, and Arndt Luemers, of Harvard University, presented papers on "Two Perspectives on "Amerika" in Alfred Döblin's *Schicksalsreise*. The event was moderated by Professor Markus Wilczek. For more details, see the second issue of the Newsletter (forthcoming in Fall 2013).

On April 4, 2013, graduate students in the department invited Ewan Jones, PhD, lecturer from Cambridge University, to speak about "The Self-Identical in German Thought: Fichte, Novalis, Adorno." A response was given by Steven Lydon, from the Harvard graduate program.

The department's Holiday Party took place on December 12, 2012 in Leverett House. Following the tradition of recent years, chef Arthur and his staff provided an array of delectable seasonal foods. The event was a tremendous success: there wasn't a free seat in the room!

Markus Wilczek's book, *Das Artikulierte und das Inartikulierte: Eine Archäologie strukturalistischen Denkens*, has just been published by the German publishing house DeGruyter.

On Monday, November 26, two talks on Old Norse topics took place in the Kates Room. Giselle Gos (Toronto/Harvard) spoke on gender in the Anglo-Norman and Old Norse versions of *Bevis of Hampton* and Lukas Rösli (Zurich) spoke on Old Norse mythology and medieval

maps.

On November 15, 2012 Leo Lisi (The Johns Hopkins University) spoke on "'The Tragedy of Faust, Part I: Form, Philosophy, History in Goethe and Kierkegaard.'" The talk provoked lively discussion from students and faculty. The photo below shows him chatting with Brian Niblo and Markus Wilczek after his talk.

Judith Ryan's book, *The Cambridge Introduction to German Poetry*, appeared in Cambridge University Press in November 2012.

Our first guest speaker for the fall was Hildegard Keller, whose talk on Monday, October 22, 2012 on the topic, "Of Mice, Men, and Metaphors. Figurative Speech About Time. Reflections From and Beyond the Middle Ages." On Tuesday, October 23, she conducted a lunch seminar in which she showed us her work on museum installations and described creative projects she assigns to students in her courses. The image below is from the lunch seminar.

A memorial service for Dorrit Cohn took place in Radcliffe Gymnasium on September 9, 2012. About sixty people attended, including family and friends, former colleagues and students, and current graduate students. Presentations of Dorrit's scholarly work and personal reminiscences provided a rich portrait of her significance to the lives of many of those present. Below is a familiar image of Dorrit Cohn from her teaching years at Harvard:

On April 13-14, 2012 a Radcliffe Seminar took place on the topic "The Ambiguities of Memory Construction in Medieval texts: The Nordic Case." Convened by Pernille Hermann (Aarhus) and Stephen Mitchell (Harvard), the seminar included a seminar assistant from Harvard and 8 additional participants from universities in Nordic countries, the United States, and Germany. Talks and discussions treated such topics as theories of memory, different forms of past-awareness, cultural and collective memory, media and performance, monuments and cultural objects, and the relation of ethnohistory to memory.

News is not always good. With great regret we report the death this March of Dorrit Cohn, a distinguished emerita of our department and of Comparative Literature. She is known for her books *Transparent Minds* (1984) and *The Distinction of Fiction* (2000), as well as articles on such authors as Kafka, Thomas Mann, and Proust, among others. She also engaged in an important exchange with the French literary theorist Gérard Genette and

published a translation of his *Essays on Aesthetics* (2005). A memorial service will take place in early September. Dorrit Cohn (August 9, 1924 - March 10, 2012)

On March 2 and 3, 2012 a lively and innovative symposium on Strindberg took place here at Harvard as a contribution to this year's (hundredth) anniversary of Strindberg's death. The conference was conceived by Ursula Lindqvist and organized with the help of the Harvard Program on Dramatics, the A.R.T., and others. Drawing attention to Strindberg's versatility in many genres and the continuing relevance of his capacious heritage, the event included talks by scholars from Harvard and elsewhere, an exhibition at the Houghton Library, brief staged readings, and an afternoon segment in which distinguished directors guided students and others as they performed scenes from Strindberg's plays. See this review in *The Crimson* for more details: <http://www.thecrimson.com/article/2012/3/6/Strindberg-symposium/>

Stephen Mitchell has been named a fellow of the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study in Uppsala for Spring 2013. While in residence there, he will work on a group project he has co-founded (and which has recently received initiation funding) on the topic: "Kaleidoscopic Cosmos: Continuities and Transformations in Premodern Nordic Religion." Another network of which he is part has received funding through the Icelandic Research Center for a project on "Encounters with the Paranormal in Medieval Iceland."

Søren Staermose's Swedish adaptation of the Stieg Larsson novel, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, was screened in the Thompson Room on January 30, 2012. After the screening, crime fiction expert Sara Kärrholm, Visiting Fulbright Hildeman Professor at Harvard, introduced important issues raised by the film and Søren Staermose spoke about his experience in making it. Both responded to questions from the audience. Ursula Lindqvist, Director of Undergraduate Studies in Scandinavian, moderated the discussion. For further information, see <http://www.bostonglobe.com/arts/2012/01/31/dragon-tattoo-screening-and-forum-harvard/WOlsYaSZ7NALsEwdIhfk8M/story.html>

Karl Guthke, Kuno Francke Research Professor of German Art and Culture, has published *Die Reise ans Ende der Welt: Erkundungen zur Kulturgeschichte der Literatur* (A. Francke Verlag, 2011).

Lisa Parkes, Senior Preceptor in German and Director of the German Language Program, has received an Elson Family Grant for Art-Making from the Harvard University Committee on

the Arts. The grant will contribute to the production of the annual student play, to be staged in connection with German 50: German Drama and Theater. For more images from last year's production, see http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~gerclub/GerClub/German_Play.html

The Novel After Theory, by Judith Ryan, Robert K. and Dale J. Weary Professor of German and Comparative Literature, was published on December 6 by Columbia University Press.

Tranströmer Across the Languages

On November 15, 2011, a panel read poems by this year's Nobel Prize winner, Tomas Tranströmer, in the original Swedish and three other languages: English, Greek, and German. The Woodberry Poetry Room provided an appropriate setting. Noted translators of Tranströmer's work, Rika Lesser and Vasilis Papageorgiu, read in English and Greek respectively. Judith Ryan read German translations by Hanns Grössel. The event was organized and moderated by Ursula Lindqvist.

Daniel Bowles has just published his translation of Thomas Meinecke's novel *Tomboy* (AmazonCrossing, 2011). Congratulations on this splendid achievement!

Provostial Funding

Three members of the department have received Provostial grants toward events they are organizing:

- Ursula Lindqvist, to support the Strindberg Symposium (March 2 and 3, 2012);
- Lisa Parkes, to support production of the annual German play;
- Maria Tatar, to support a conference on the legacies of the Brothers Grimm (February 3 and 4, 2012).

Maria Tatar, John L. Loeb Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures and of Folklore and Mythology, published *The Annotated Peter Pan* (New York: W.W. Norton & Co, 2011), marking the 100th anniversary of J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan and Wendy*.

Stephen Mitchell, Professor of Scandinavian and Folklore, was named a Walter Channing Cabot Fellow for 2011. The award recognizes his distinguished publication *Witchcraft and*

Magic in the Nordic Middle Ages (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2010).