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Number 3

Summer  
2018

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A Journal of the  
American Association  
of Teachers of German

# The German Quarterly

Published by the American Association of Teachers of German  
<<<http://germanquarterly.aatg.org>>>

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*The German Quarterly*, (ISSN 0016-8831 [Print], 1756-1183 [Online]), is published quarterly on behalf of the American Association of Teachers of German by Wiley Subscription Services, Inc., a Wiley Company, 111 River St., Hoboken, NJ 07030-5774. Periodical Postage Paid at Hoboken, NJ, and additional offices.

POSTMASTER: Send all address changes to *The German Quarterly*, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., C/O The Sheridan Press, PO Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331.

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Composed by P.J. Thompson. Printed in the United States by The Sheridan Group.

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# The German Quarterly

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**The Economics of Fortune in Schiller's  
"Der Ring des Polykrates".....Christopher Hutchinson 254**

This article discusses the reappearance of fortune as a literary motif at the turn of the nineteenth century in the context of the growing influence of Adam Smith's economic thought in Germany by looking at Schiller's 1797 ballad "Der Ring des Polykrates" as an example. The article's main argument is that fortune, long associated with incalculable fate, could find expression in this work as a herald of the uncontrollable regulatory forces and in-built crises of economic liberalism. "Der Ring des Polykrates" is a poem – in true ballad tradition – of the border. This border is one between cameralist economic orthodoxy and the new, liberal model of Smith and Malthus. It is this intersection that allows for the centrality of fortune in the poem and also for its reappearance on the literary scene.

Keywords: Schiller – "Der Ring des Polykrates" – economics – Adam Smith – cameralism

**Vivisections: Scripting Life in Hölderlin's  
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In "Das Belebende," the last of his "Pindar-Fragmente," Friedrich Hölderlin retraces a scene of genesis without generation, in an unheard of combination of verse and prose, which may initially appear to be written in German, but which, upon closer examination, shows itself to be composed in multiple languages at once. Throughout his text, the limits of a national language, as well as nature, as they may conventionally be understood, are broken through, revealing instead a force of language that belongs to none, but opens new possibilities for the articulation of life, one of the most prevalent topoi of Romantic poetics and science. Against the sedimentation of sense that one might call "semantics," drawing upon the etymological derivation of the word from "σῆμα," or "burial mound," the course that "Das Belebende" cuts through an originally pathless earth opens insights into the life that may be at stake in writing per se.

Keywords: Hölderlin – "Das Belebende" – generation – language – nature

**"Farbiges und Seltsames ist mir in Asien aufgefallen":  
Der Ferne Osten aus der Sicht deutscher  
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Nicht nur Reiseberichte über den Mittleren, sondern auch über den Fernen Osten unterliegen Mechanismen, die dem Konzept "Orientalismus" zugeordnet werden können. Entsprechend werden in diesem Aufsatz die Asien-Reiseberichte der wilhelminischen Aristokratinnen Elisabeth von Heyking und Marie von Bunsen im Kontext der postkolonialen Orientalismus-Diskussion interpretiert, und es wird die Frage nach einem angeblich typisch deutschen intellektuellen Orientalismus gestellt. Dieser imaginierte Orient wird im Aufsatz mit konkreten Erfahrungen von reisenden Frauen kontrastiert. Beide Autorinnen sehen sich als Repräsentantinnen der wilhelminischen Zeit, und als Kritikerinnen und Befürworterinnen europäischer Kolonialpolitik artikulieren sie auch eine politische Botschaft. Durch das Aufeinandertreffen der Konzepte "Gender" und "Kolonialismus", "Klasse" und "Rasse" bieten ihre Reiseberichte ein aufschlussreiches Mosaik bei der Erforschung deutscher Formen von Orientalismus und deutscher Kolonialgeschichte.

Keywords: Elisabeth von Heyking – Marie von Bunsen – German Orientalism – colonialism – class

**On the Popularity of the *Kriminalroman*:****The Reception, Production, and Consumption of****German Crime and Detective Novels (1919–1933).....Julia Karolle-Berg 305**

For many decades, popular literature, including crime and detective fiction, was viewed only in opposition to high literature and as unworthy of scholarly attention. This study proposes an approach that recognizes this discourse, yet shifts the focus to consider indicators of the popularity of the *Kriminalroman* during the Weimar era through additional evidence of its reception, production, and consumption. Even as these sources acknowledge the persistent stigma of crime and detective fiction, they also present a complex, multivalent notion of its popularity as the bourgeoisie increasingly participated in writing, reading, and commenting on crime and detective fiction. This re-visioning of the popularity of the *Kriminalroman* situates the genre within the particular cultural and social context of the Weimar era to an extent that has been largely absent from the scholarship to date.

Keywords: crime fiction – Weimar Republic – popular literature – reception of literature – genre

**Narrating Bodies into Existence:****Negotiating the Necessity of Corporeality and****Relationality for Subject Construction in****Thomas Glavinic's novel *Lisa* (2011).....Simone Pflieger 322**

This essay examines how Austrian author Thomas Glavinic's novel *Lisa* (2011) challenges the necessity of corporeal presence as a precondition for becoming a subject with a legible and stable identity. Focusing on protagonist Tom's storytelling and his descriptions of Lisa, the mysterious criminal who is haunting him, this essay argues for an ontology of fluidity as an analytical framework for interrogating the ways in which relationality enables character construction through narration. Taking the concept of 'relationality' as its point of departure, this analysis of Glavinic's novel emphasizes how the text critically questions the necessity of physical presence as a precondition for existence as a subject and critiques normative conceptions of what constitutes an accepted and acceptable social body.

Keywords: Thomas Glavinic – *Lisa* – relationality – corporeality – subjectivity

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