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Chapter 1 : Project MUSE - Goethe Yearbook-Volume 14,

The Goethe Yearbook, first published in , is a publication of the Goethe Society of North America and is dedicated to North American Goethe Scholarship. It aims above all to encourage and publish original English-language contributions to the understa.

One report, by the Jena anatomist J. Loder, can stand for several: Indes bewahrte Goethe von diesem Tage an eine treue Dankbarkeit gegen. Practical considerations, as well as a crucial question of timing, were also in play. Sie scheint mir die Frucht von s. Auch ist sie ja immer die Mutter seines geliebten Sohnes. Nonetheless, his decision of to have Christiane move in with him, and the birth of their first and only surviving child August later that year, made the relationship impossible to ignore. In November of , soon after Goethe had made his intention known to have his pregnant companion move in with him at the house on the Frauenplan of which he was not yet the owner nor the sole tenant , a scandalized Duchess Luise, backed perhaps by Charlotte von Stein, and others of her ladies in waiting, had pressed the duke to require the couple to move from the Frauenplan to a house on the outskirts of town, where they would stay for more than two years. Had he chosen to marry Christiane zur linken Handâ€”that is, with restrictions on her legal status as an heir to his estateâ€”this too might have been countenanced. Exceptions had been made in the Peter J. Schwartz comparable cases of Schiller and Knebel. As a Major General in command of Prussian troops who, however, did not fight at Jena ,20 Carl August avoided returning too quickly to a Residenz under French occupation;21 the duke made himself scarce until 2 November, and was not to return to Weimar until late January of For Goethe this meant, among other things, that a decision to marry would for once evade ducal or effective courtly censure. As many biographers have observed,it was also and perhaps primarily a question of his own emotional and intellectual econo- my. A neighbor, Wilhelm Ludecus, recalled: For marriage was not the only change that Goethe made to his civil estate in the days after the Prussian defeat at Jena. Finally, on 25 December, he requested that August be granted formal legitimacy by ducal rescript. In the days and weeks after Jena, Goethe was working to set his entire civil estate onto solid legal ground. This is suggested as well by a letter of Peter J. Schwartz 22 January in which Goethe wrote to the duke to request that both his will of and a codicil to it of be returned to him, and considered revoked. Although in the end the duchy retained its own legal system, it was to remain unclear until the last months of what sort of laws would obtain in Weimar from that time forward. According to the legal historian Werner Schubert, the only extensive pub- lished account of the Code to appear in Germany before was an anony- mous review in the Allgemeine Literatur-Zeitung in Halle, printed in March of Er soll nun in Heidelberg das Recht studieren, c. Das Alte sei vorbei. Es sei Pflicht, das Neue erbauen zu helfen. What, in other words, might Augereau have seen fit to warn Goethe about? Under the old order, even the legitimate progeny of a mixed-class couple in Weimar were excluded legally not only from noble privilege, but also from automatic rights of inheritance. The question was not to be fully resolved until 5 November. Eventually, entry into the Confederacy of the Rhine would be the condition on which his sovereignty would be restored. Yet French law differed from that of Saxe-Weimar in two essen- tial respects. Einwilligung aus der Ferne ver- sprechen als ich, in den unsichersten Augenblicken, durch ein gesetzliches Band, ihm Vater und Mutter gab, wie er es lange verdient hatte. These lines are a follow-up to his still unanswered request to the Duke of less than two weeks prior for judicial confirmation of its owner- ship. Sag ich es also geradezu! Strictly speaking, these arrangements were extralegal ducal decrees, exceptions per fiat to existing Peter J. In the insistence of the Civil Code on equality of all classes and all men before the law, and on their subjection equally to a common code of law, Napoleon pos- sessed a powerful instrument of propaganda. The punctilio of his Code helped to establish Napoleon as a legitimate heir to the ideals of the Revolution,enlist- ing to his side the political support of the French and, later, often, the German bourgeoisie it enfranchised. His marriage normalized this state of exception to such a degree that Goethe was able to revoke his will and rely on the normal order of inheritanceâ€”on the laws of the land, whatever they were to beâ€”

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without fear of untoward consequences. The day after his wedding, Goethe observed to Johanna Schopenhauer: Daniel Wilson for their helpful comments on drafts of this article. De Gruyter, , vol. See Karl Otto Conrady, Goethe: Hufeland, 8 April , Grumach Nach Goethes Privatacten Leipzig: Schloemp, 49â€”56, 68â€”71; Georg Brandes, Goethe, 4th ed. Heinrich Meyer appears to have been the first to dispatch the legend, in Das Leben im Werk Stuttgart: Metzler, â€”43; Sigrid Damm, Christiane und Goethe: Seckendorff, 6 December , Grumach â€” The Kraus case is interesting because there was a contested question of inheritance following it in which Goethe was intimately involved, while at the same time negotiating his own questions of inheritance November-December, Unfortunately, most of the documents relating to the case appear to have been destroyed in the Second World War. Kunhold, Grumach ; gunpowder incident reported by Falk who interviewed Kunhold , Grumach Hermann und Dorothea, Sechster Gesang, line ; entire episode lines â€” None of this is meant to suggest that Goethe invented the legend of gratitude from whole cloth. He was too inclined to take his own symbols seriously; whatever practical concerns it may have camouflaged, the legend of gratitude will not have been cynical. Daniel Wilson, Das Goethe-Tabu: Protest und Menschenrechte im klassischen Weimar Munich: Deutscher Taschenbuch Verlag, 9. Eine vorwiegend politische Biographie Stuttgart: Klett-Cotta, â€”51, â€”97, The Poet and the Age. The Poetry of Desire â€” Oxford: Clarendon Press, [here- inafter: Leben, Werk, Zeit Munich: On Knebel see Nicholas Boyle, Goethe: Revolution and Renunciation â€” Oxford: Lexikon zur Schlacht bei Jena und Auerstedt Briefwechsel mit Voigt 3. Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt, 2: Mittler und Sohn, 2: See for example Boyle, n. The exceptions are Emil Ludwig, Goethe: Geschichte eines Menschen Berlin: Ein Beitrag zur Psychologie Goethes Munich: Richard and Robert Keil n. He does mention that Goethe was very grateful to Goethe Yearbook Augereau: Keil, Goethe, Weimar und Jena n. Eine kleine Goethe-Biographie Stuttgart: Kohlhammer, 96; Karlheinz Schulz, Goethe: Eine Biographie in 16 Kapiteln Stuttgart: Reclam, â€”55; and, most thoroughly to date, Sigrid Damm n. Voigt to Goethe, 19 October , Briefwechsel mit Voigt n. Artemis, â€”87 , 2: Testamente in WA 1. Dokumente zur deutschen Verfassungsgeschichte, Band I: Deutsche Verfassungsdokumente â€”, ed. Ernst Rudolf Huber, 3rd ed. If Goethe was familiar with the details of the Rheinbundsakte which is possible, though there is no concrete evidence that he was , he might have judged that he would have nothing to fear under French occupation or hegemonyâ€”if Carl August remained in power. This question, however, would remain unsettled until the end of Allgemeine Literatur-Zeitung [Halle] My thanks to Nicholas Boyle for bringing this to my attention. Gesamtausgabe in Regesten, ed. Hans Ruppert, Goethes Bibliothek Weimar: That is, such children could make no claims that competed with those of legitimate children; they could, in principle, inherit by testamentary disposition. In the default order of inheritance, Intestat-Erbfolge taking precedence over personal disposition. Letter to Carl August of 22 July See also Damm n. Presses Universitaires de France, 62â€”78; Fehrenbach n. Cited from Code Napoleon: Wenn aber keine successibele Verwandten vorhanden sind, so erbt es das Ganze.

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