



Walter Dominic Wetzels

Professor emeritus

Ph.D., German Literature,
Princeton University

Career Highlights

Research Focus: Eighteenth-century literature; German literature and science; the literature which popularized science, with particular emphasis on the eighteenth century

Education

1965-1968 PhD, German Literature, Princeton University

1964-1965 German Literature, University of Cologne

1949-1954 University of Cologne; Staatsexamen in mathematics and physics

Employment

1996- Professor emeritus, Dept. of Germanic Languages, U of Texas at Austin

1984-1996 Professor, Department of Germanic Languages, UT Austin

1973-1984 Associate Professor, Department of Germanic Languages, UT Austin

1968-1973 Assistant Professor, Department of Germanic Languages, UT Austin

Awards

Spring 1989 University of Texas Faculty Research Assignment

Fall 1988 University of Texas Presidential Leave

Publications: Books

(Edited with Leonard Schulze) *Literature and History*. Lanham, New York, London: University Press of America, 1983

Johann Wilhelm Ritter: *Physik im Wirkungsfeld der deutschen Romantik. Quellen und Forschungen*, N.F., 59. Berlin and New York: Walter de Gruyter, 1973.

(Edited with and introduction) *Myth and Reason*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1973

Publications: Articles

"Physics for the Ladies: Early Literary Voices and Strategies For and Against the Popularization of Copernicus and Newton." In: *Themes and Structures: Studies in*

- German Literature from Goethe to the Present*. Ed. Alexander Stephan. Columbia, SC: Camden House, 1997: 21-38
- "Newton for the Ladies: Algarotti's Popularization of Newton's Optics." *Studies on Voltaire and the Eighteenth Century*. Vol. 304. Oxford: The Voltaire Foundation, 1992: 1152-55
- "Johann Wilhelm Ritter: Romantic Physics in Germany." *Romanticism and the Sciences*, ed. A Cunningham and N. Jardino. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1990.
- "The Popularization of the New Physics: The Case of Leonhard Euler's 'Letters to a German Princess.'" *Studies on Voltaire and the Eighteenth Century*, Vol. 264 (1989): 796-800
- "Art and Science: Organicism and Goethe's Classical Aesthetics." *Approaches to Organic Form: Permutations in Science and Culture*, ed. Friedrich Burwick. Boston studies in the Philosophy of Science, Vol. 105. Dordrecht, Boston, Lancaster, Tokyo: D. Reidel Publishing Co., 1987: 71-85
- "Herders Organismusbegriff und Neutons Allgemeine Mechanik." Johann Gottfried Herder 1744-1803, ed. Gerhard Sauder. *Studien zum achtzehnten Jahrhundert*, Vol. 9. Hamburg: Felix Meiner, 1987
- "Some Observations on Goethe and Linné." *Contemporary Perspectives on Linnaeus*, ed. John Weinstock. Lanham, New York, London: University Press of America, 1985: 135-151
- "Relativitätstheorie gemeinverständlich: Techniken populärwissenschaftlicher Didaktik am Beispiel Albert Einsteins." *Zeitschrift für Literaturwissenschaft und Linguistik*, Jg. 10, Heft 40 (1980): 14-24
- "Schauspielerinnen im 18. Jahrhundert -- Zwei Perspektiven: Wilhelm Meister und die Memoiren der Schulze-Kummerfeld." *Die Frau von der Reformation zur Romantik*, ed. Barbara Becker-Cantarino. Bonn: Bouvier, 1980: 195-216
- "J. W. Ritter: Electrolysis with the Volta-Pile." In: *Selected Topics in the History of Electrochemistry*. Eds. G. Dubpernell and J. H. Westbrook. Princeton: The Electrochemical Society, Inc., 1978: 77-83
- "J. W. Ritter: The Beginnings of Electrochemistry in Germany." In: *Selected Topics in the History of Electrochemistry*. Eds. G. Dubpernell and J. H. Westbrook. Princeton: The Electrochemical Society, Inc., 1978: 77-68-73
- "Klingsohrs Märchen als Science Fiction." *Monatshefte* (Summer 1993): 167-175
- "Versuch einer Beschreibung populärwissenschaftlicher Prosa in den Naturwissenschaften." *Jahrbuch für internationale Germanistik*, Jg. III, Heft 1: 76-95
- "Aspects of Natural Science in German Romanticism." *Studies in Romanticism* 10 (Winter 1971): 44-59

Publications: Translations

- Betty Nance Weber, "Gerlind Reinhagen: Versuch eines Portraits." *Die Frau als Heldin und Autorin*, ed. W. Paulsen. Berlin and Munich: Francke, 1979: 237-247
- John A. Wheeler, "Einstein und was er wollte." *Max-Planck-Gesellschaft Berichte und Mitteilungen: Feier des 100. Geburtstages von Albert Einstein, Otto Hahn, Lise Meitner, Max von Laue*. Munich: Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, 1979: 57-69

Highlights of Academic and Administrative Service

Department of Germanic Languages, U of Texas at Austin

Chairman of the Department, 1980-1988

Chairman, Graduate Studies Committee, 1975-1980

Graduate Adviser, 1969-1973

U of Texas at Austin: Director, Center for European Studies, 1979-1985

Theses and Dissertations Supervised

Ph.D. Dissertations

Mark Grünert, May 1993

Dennis Brain, August 1990

Barbara Voelkel, May 1990

Jutta Van Selm, May 1981

Robert V. Smythe, May 1980

M.A. Theses

Gregg R. Hill, May, 1978

John H. Nilon, December 1976

Joan M. Foss, August 1974

Gisela Walder, May 1972
