



1749 - 1949

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Dear Fellow Rochesterian:

This year the Western World is celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of one of its outstanding personalities -- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. Born August 28, 1749, he was destined to become not only one of the greatest of German poets but also a truly universal man whose influence has reached out into all the arts, into science and into civilization in general. He viewed the free individual and society as a whole and attempted to reconcile the two. He urges that the perfection of the individual could be achieved only on the basis of the give-and-take of social effort.

Goethe's lyric poetry ranks among the best in world literature. No other poet has inspired as many musical compositions. It is said that a list of composers inspired directly by his works is almost a roll-call of the leading composers of the last 150 years. His greatest work, Faust, has inspired at least 80 orchestral scores.

Goethe was also directly concerned with the realities of life about him. He was a practical statesman, and as such observed and noted the social changes ushered in by the American and French Revolutions. As a natural scientist, he experimented in the fields of anatomy, physics, mineralogy, zoology.

In America the Goethe bicentennial is being widely observed in hundreds of lectures and innumerable dramatic and musical performances. The most ambitious undertaking is that of the "Goethe Bicentennial Foundation" whose honorary chairman is the former president of the United States, Herbert Hoover.

Rochester will also celebrate the Goethe bicentennial. In the tradition set forty years ago during the 100th anniversary of Schiller's death, at which time the monument was erected at the corner of East Main and University Avenue, a monument to Goethe will be erected in Highland Park. In order to plan and execute this lasting memorial, the ROCHESTER GOETHE MONUMENT COMMITTEE has been organized. The list of patrons indicates how well the plan has been received. The active cooperation of the Memorial Art Gallery insures an artistic contribution which will not only be in keeping with the natural surroundings of Highland Park but which will also be a distinct honor to the greatness of the man Goethe.

An undertaking of this magnitude must of necessity be a community project of those citizens who have the cultural interests of our city at heart. We must count on you to contribute generously to make this project a reality.

All contributions are payable to the ROCHESTER GOETHE MONUMENT COMMITTEE.

Very sincerely yours,

E. P. Appelt
Chairman