About Wallstein

Wallstein Publishing was founded in 1986. A major event in the development of the publishing house was the huge success of Ruth Klüger’s biography »weiter leben – Eine Jugend« (Still alive) in 1992. Partly due to its high literary quality, this book is one of the most-read literary works written in German on the subject of the Holocaust, and has become a »classic of Holocaust literature«.

Wallstein continues to add approx. 180 books per year to its list, with an annual turnover of approx. two million euros.

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A highly personal book about the fate of the author’s mother and her own family. A search for traces of the past, a German-Polish historiography and a narrative, all at the same time.

Susanne Fritz
They Left us War and Silence

Her mother was fourteen years old when she was arrested and taken to the Polish labour camp Potulice in 1945. The reason: at the age of 9, in a region that had been invaded by Hitler, she had signed a form to say that she identified herself as a German citizen. Without making premature judgement, Susanne Fritz tells a moving story of the fate of her mother and the entire family over several generations. She asks questions concerning humanity and betrayal, identity and language, always making reference to historical documents. In this way, she throws light not only on her own family history, but on the relationship between Germany and Poland during the course of two World Wars, describing all the historical upheavals involved and their effect on each individual. Susanne Fritz opens up a profound dialogue with the past – she does so because she wishes to understand how it secretly influences her own existence.

Susanne Fritz, born in 1964, lives in Freiburg. Writes short stories, novels, radio and stage plays as well as journalistic texts. She has received various prizes and scholarships for e.g. the Schriftstellerhaus Stuttgart and the Herrenhaus Edenkoben; writer-in-residence in Schaz, Tyrol. In her stage programme »WortMusik«, she performs with musicians from the genres of new music and jazz.
Lukas Bärfuss

War and Love

Essays

Whether he addresses broad historical and political topics or specific questions relating to the lives of ordinary people, Lukas Bärfuss is an author and thinker of European format. He communicates complex facts in a way that enables the reader to follow his sharp-witted arguments; one almost feels included in his thought processes. One experiences surprise and wonderment, joy and personal enrichment. Whether he writes about Switzerland or his experiences in Africa and South America, whether he muses on the work of authors from Goethe, Nietzsche and Tolstoy to Nicolas Born or Ovid, Stendhal and Sakurai, there is always an element of enlightenment. Bärfuss writes about religion and belief, morality in journalism and the life of a sales representative for decalcifying equipment. It turns out that it is not about the importance of the individual question – the author continually draws our attention to the bigger picture, ethical dimensions. He is careful never to draw premature conclusions – sometimes the precise description of a dilemma is all that is required. Joy and necessity sometimes lie close together, but sometimes they are worlds apart.

Lukas Bärfuss, born in 1971 in Thun / Switzerland, dramatist and novelist, essayist. His plays are performed all over the world, his novels have been translated into more than twenty languages. Lukas Bärfuss lives in Zurich.

- Numerous awards, including most recently:
  - Berlin Literature Prize (2013),
  - Solothurn Literature Prize (2014),
  - Swiss Book Prize (2014),
- He was nominated for the Leipzig Book Fair Prize 2017 with »Hagard«
A short while previously, Rafael Schermann had been a colorful figure in the Viennese coffeehouse scene, acquainted with all kinds of people such as Adolf Loos, Oskar Kokoschka, Magnus Hirschfeld and Else Lasker-Schüler, Herwarth Walden, Ehrenstein, Döblin, Bruckner, Eisenstein, Stanislavski, Piscator ... Even the sharp-tongued Karl Kraus was hoping to profit from Schermann's graphological expertise in the important task of interpreting handwritten letters in his courtship of Sidonie Nádherný ...

And now this dazzling figure finds himself desolate and fatally ill, imprisoned in the Artek camp at the end of the world, a hundred and fifty kilometres east of Kotlas on the railway line to Workuta. This person who can predict the future on the basis of handwriting immediately attracts a great deal of interest – whether it be from the camp commander (for even he cannot be sure of his fate – he could be running a larger camp tomorrow, or he could be facing a firing squad) or from his fellow prisoners, »eight hundred men, two hundred women. A real extended Soviet family ... everyone knows everything about his neighbour and wishes him a bout of scabies on his neck.« And then Schermann claims he cannot speak Russian, and demands a translator. Steffen Mensching places the young German communist Otto Haferkorn at his side. The mismatched pair, sometimes master and servant, sometimes Don Quixote and Sancho Panza, fight for survival under brutal, absurd conditions in the murderous cogwheel of the twentieth century. Steffen Mensching worked on his opus magnum for twelve years; it is a great success.

Steffen Mensching, born in 1958 in Berlin (East), studied cultural science at the HU Berlin and worked for many years as a freelance author, actor, clown and director. He was especially well known for the clown programmes he staged with his partner Hans-Eckardt Wenzel (including »Letztes aus der DaDaeR«, 1983 – 1989). Since the 2008/09 season, Steffen Mensching has been director of the theatre in Rudolstadt. In 1979 he made his debut with a volume of poetry, and last published the novels »Jacobs Leiter« (2003) and »Lustigs Flucht« (2005) with Aufbau Verlag, as well as »In derselben Nacht«, Rudolf Leonhard’s »Traumbuch des Exils« (2001).

Steffen Mensching
Schermann’s Eyes
Novel

ca. 800 pages
The almost fifty texts on literature collected in this volume date from the late 1950s to 2014, the year of Fries's death. They reveal an author who dealt with a wide variety of authors and works, and who never lost his desire to make new literary discoveries, displaying an extraordinary level of literary intuition. Apart from authors such as Daniel Kehlmann, whose debut Fries reviewed with great enthusiasm, or Thomas Pynchon, Fries, who was born in Bilbao, was particularly interested in Spanish literature. This volume shows that his interest was not limited to certain styles or epochs. The texts he examines range from Spanish picaresque novels of the 16th century to Miguel de Cervantes and modernity. The reader encounters the names of well known Spanish and Latin American authors like Federico García Lorca, Jorge Luis Borges, Carlos Fuentes, Pablo Neruda or the Nobel prize-winners Octavio Paz and Mario Vargas Llosa.

**Fritz Rudolf Fries** (1935 – 2014) was a writer and translator. He was born in Bilbao, where he grew up, and then moved to Leipzig with his family in 1942. Throughout his life he was fascinated by Spanish literature, translating texts and writing essays. Fries’s open view of literature also applies to own work, which remained free of the constraints of socialist realism.

**Helmut Böttiger**, born in 1956, is a writer, literary critic and essayist. He wrote his doctoral thesis on Fritz Rudolf Fries and GDR literature, and works as a literary critic for Deutschlandradio, the Süddeutsche Zeitung and others. In 2013 he was awarded the Leipzig Book Fair Prize for his analysis of the history of Group 47 in the area of non-fiction/essay writing. His most recent publication with Wallstein-Verlag was »Celan am Meer« (2017).
Klaus Detjen

External Worlds

The Aesthetics of the Book

For centuries, we have been recording our knowledge on printed paper. Even in the era of the Internet and the e-book, the printed book is far from redundant – on the contrary. In the series »The Aesthetics of the Book«, experts turn their attention to the unique qualities of the medium. The object of the »book« is discussed in essays, portraits and commentaries – not only its appearance, feel and design, effects and function, but also the traditions of typography and book design. This long overdue discourse on book form and the book as form focuses on its sensual and practical advantages, providing insights into working with the medium of the book.

The editor of the series, Klaus Detjen, has assembled leading typographers – such as Hans Andree, Wigger Bierma, Günter Karl Bose, Gerd Fleischmann, Friedrich Forssman, Jost Hochuli and Walter Pamminger – who design their own texts and covers. However, authors from other disciplines also contribute to this series, people concerned with the qualities of the book from an aesthetic, cultural and perceptual psychological point of view – as a cultural asset.

The authors

The authors include outstanding typographers such as Gerd Fleischmann and Friedrich Forssman, who design their own texts and covers, but also authors from other disciplines concerned with the qualities of the book from an aesthetic, cultural and perceptual psychological point of view, as a cultural asset.

The editor of the series

Klaus Detjen, born in 1943 in Breslau, typographer and book designer, lives near Hamburg. Until 2009 he was a professor of typography and design at the Muthesius University of Fine Arts and Design in Kiel. He has received awards and prizes for book design and typography, including the Antiquaria Prize in 2014 for the design of the »Typographische Bibliothek (Typographical Library)«.
Walther von Seydlitz

To Stalingrad

Walther von Seydlitz: letters from the front and from captivity

Walther von Seydlitz was one of the most senior commanders in Stalingrad. However, even before the encirclement of the German forces, he was plagued by doubts concerning offensive Nazi military policies. He turned vehemently against Hitler’s command to stand and fight, arguing for the forces to be allowed to break out of the encirclement. As a prisoner of war, he cooperated with the Red Army and the German communists, with the aim of eliminating Hitler’s regime of terror and quickly putting an end to a war that had already been lost. For this, he was sentenced to death in absentia by the Reichsgericht.

After 1945, Seydlitz ended his cooperation with the Red Army, upon which the Soviet Union also sentenced him to death as a war criminal; he was subsequently pardoned and given a 25-year prison sentence. In 1955 he finally returned to the Federal Republic of Germany, where he was socially ostracised due to his »betrayal«.

His letters from the front and captivity between 1939 and 1955, published here for the first time, give a unique insight into the course of the Second World War, described with a mixture of private conviction, independent analysis and military insight. They bear witness to an author of straightforward character who, in spite of omnipresent propaganda, retained an independent view of political and military events.

Walther von Seydlitz

(1888 –1976) As an artillery general, von Seydlitz was captured by the Soviets after the Battle of Stalingrad and joined the National Committee for a Free Germany. In 1955, as the last prisoners of war were released, he returned to Germany.

Torsten Diedrich, born in 1956, researcher at the Military History Institute of the GDR, at the Military History Research Office in Potsdam and at the Centre for Military History and Social Sciences of the Bundeswehr.

Jens Ebert, born in 1959, lives in Berlin and works as a freelance publicist. Exhibitions, lectures etc. at the Military Museum in Dresden and the Museum for Communication in Berlin.

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Stalingrad, the private documents of one of the most prominent generals are presented here for the first time.
The human being spends a good third of his life sleeping. The time we spend asleep may be unconscious, unproductive and inactive, but it is also indispensible, and we often long for it. How does a society in which scientific understanding, rationality and efficiency play a central role approach an uncontrollable phenomenon such as sleep? Hannah Ahlheim’s study of the development of »sleep knowledge« in Germany and the USA since the late 19th century combines the history of a science with the history of modern society in a consistent way. It shows that the picture of the sleeping body and the dreaming soul or brain is not the only thing to have changed. Working with machines that are always awake, distorted boundaries between day and night, advances in science, the development of synthetic sleeping pills and the experience of war have made continually new demands on the daily organisation of sleep, leading to a heightened fear of sleep loss.

Hannah Ahlheim is a private lecturer at the University of Göttingen.

Publications include:
- Kontrollgewinn – Kontrollverlust.
- Die Geschichte des Schlafs in der Moderne (ed., 2014);
- »Deutsche, kauft nicht bei Juden!«
- Antisemitismus und politischer Boykott in Deutschland 1924 bis 1935
- [2011]
The story of a Jewish business family in turbulent times – between forced migration and entrepreneurial spirit

Verena Dohrn
The Kahans from Baku
A family biography

The destiny of the Kahans mirrors a dramatic century of European history from the perspective of a Jewish entrepreneurial family. In competition with Nobel and in cooperation with Rothschild, Chaim Kahan (1850–1916), who came from Stetl in Poland/Lithuania, made his fortune in the oilfields of Baku. However, the First World War tore the family apart, and Bolshevik rule destroyed the milieu that had brought him prosperity. In these unstable times, his seven children inherited his companies. They fled to Berlin, founded new companies, became global players in the oil business and thus thwarted the stereotype of the poor Eastern Jew. They operated filling station networks and demonstrated entrepreneurial spirit in an innovative industry of strategic importance. In addition they took part in charitable activities, helping refugees, saving publishing houses, and supporting the Jewish homeland in Palestine. When the Nazis came to power, the family, which had a good transnational network, fled again – from Berlin to Paris, and from there to Tel Aviv and New York. Once again, a sense of tradition and a sense of family proved their worth in times of need. Verena Dohrn tells the story of the Kahans based on sources from private and state archives in 14 countries, with a main focus on the family archive, which consists of several thousand documents.

Verena Dohrn is a historian and author with a special interest in Jewish history and culture in Eastern Europe.

Publications include:
• »Die Nacht hat uns verschluckt«. Poesie und Prosa jüdischer Migrant*innen im Berlin der 1920/30er Jahre [co-ed., 2018];
• Jüdische Eliten im Russischen Reich [2008];
• Simon Dubnow »Buch des Lebens« [ed., 2004 /05];
• Baltische Reise [1994];
• Reise nach Galizien [1991]
Backlist Highlights

Aleida Assmann

Forms of Forgetting
224 pages

Amidst our prevailing concern with the topic of remembrance today, we appear to have forgotten how to forget. Although in fact it is forgetting, not remembering, that is the fundamental mode of human and social life. Generally, remembering implies an exception, making an effort, rebelling against time and the normal course of events. Remembering, on the other hand, is the unlikely exception, subject to certain conditions. However, remembering and forgetting are not mutually exclusive concepts: in order to remember something, many other things must be forgotten, both on an individual and on a collective level.

Aleida Assmann examines collective forms of forgetting in social, political and cultural contexts – culminating in the question of the impossibility of forgetting on the internet.

Friedenspreis des deutschen Buchhandels 2018
Anna Baar

Like Walking in a Dream
Novel | 200 pages

The hero of the novel attempts to gain access to his memories by constantly recording them on tape, like a man possessed. Finally, on his deathbed, it dawns on him what really happened that day. And – is it really his story, or that of the narrator, who does not know what to do with the cassettes he has inherited, who is interested not in war, but in life and love?

In singular images – against the backdrop of a sunken world – Anna Baar tells of the dichotomy between taking care of oneself and considering the needs of others, of tests of courage, heroism and human error, of obedience and resistance. A story full of fictitious truths, human abysses and curiosities. A great ode to life.

The Colour of the Pomegranate
Novel | 320 pages

A great story of love and reconciliation, war and peace, exclusion, appropriation and the alienation of growing up between cultures.

Summer after summer, a girl is sent far away from her home in Austria to stay with her grandmother on a Dalmatian island. Here she lives just a stone’s throw away from the sea, beneath the leafy canopy of the almond trees, the screech of cicadas filling the air. It is something similar to paradise, but at the same time it represents the other, the alien. This place is the archaic island world of the mother (and grandmother)land, where people pay homage to Marshal Tito and his partisans and celebrate the victory over the Germans.
Lukas Bärfuss

Hagard
Novel | 190 pages

A man has been standing at the entrance of a department store in the closing-time rush when suddenly, on a whim, he begins following a woman. He does not know her, and only sees her from behind. But as though he were looking into a mirror, he says to himself: if she goes that way I will stop following her, but if she goes in the other direction I will continue to play the game for a little longer. It means nothing, noone is going to come to any harm, and the distance between us in the crowd is so large that the woman will not even notice. It is more of a sporting challenge not to get lost in the crowd.

Koala
Novel | 184 pages

Nothing about the story told in Lukas Bärfuss’s new novel seems normal. For the story culminates in an act of suicide, committed by the author’s brother.

Bärfuss tries to track down his brother’s fate, of which he knows very little. He encounters silence. Somehow the theme appears to be hidden behind a high wall; there is a huge taboo. And a secret. Why did his friends call him Koala? How did he get the name? And did it perhaps somehow influence his brother’s fate, does a person start behaving as his name suggests he ought?
A Hundred Days
Novel | 198 pages

Lukas Bärfuss’ meticulously researched novel tells the story of people who set out to do good and finally caused nothing but evil. »A Hundred Days« relays the darkest chapter of Africa’s history, the Rwanda genozide, a story which concerns us more than we wish to believe. Not least, it is the moving story of love in times of war and the devastation caused by hate.

Rights sold:
- Arabic: Kalima Foundation
- Bulgarian: Edition RIVA
- Chinese: Shanghai Translation Publishing House
- Croatian: Edicije Bozicevic
- Dutch: Uitgeverij Cossee
- English: Granta Books
- French: L’Arche Editeur
- Hebrew: Babel
- Italian: Giulio Einaudi Editore
- Israel: Babel
- Macedonian: ILI-ILI
- Polish: Fundacja Korporacja Halart
- Russian: Text Publishers
- Spanish: Adriana Hidalgo Editora S.A.
- Swedish: Norstedts Förlag
- Turkish: Metis Yayinlari Ltd.
- Dutch: Uitgeverij Cossee

Style and Morality
Essays | 235 pages

Whenever Lukas Bärfuss thinks about the great concepts: freedom, falsehood, space, time, »Where am I here?«, it never happens in the vacuum of abstraction. He always tells stories. He is curious about the world, about things great and small. Above all, he turns his attention to people and the relationships between them: in the spheres of love, work, politics and art. »Why do authors remain silent?«, asks Bärfuss challengingly.

»Lukas Bärfuss is the most exciting author in Switzerland.«
Richard Kämmerlings, Die Welt
Alice goes to Switzerland – The Test – Amygdala
Plays | 168 pages

Euthanasia, paternity test, brain research, these are all only secondary matters – Lukas Bärfs’s plays in this selection address all the big moral questions of the present day in a way which is both auspicious and playful.

The Death of Meienberg – The Sexual Neuroses of Our Parents – The Bus
Plays | 220 pages

In The Sexual Neuroses, the mentally handicapped Dora is in a certain sense such a grain of sand in the works of the good, liberal society – not when she fulfills the role of the merely pitiable, but with immediate effect when she makes her own demands and no longer serves as the projection screen for all the nonsense about tolerance.

Malaga – Parcial – Twenty Thousand Pages
Plays | 208 pages

Bärfs lets things start off like a piece of conversation and swell to a tragedy of Greek proportions. This plays tell stories that are related to our everyday lives and yet discuss wide-ranging themes such as guilt, responsibility, individual fulfillment – funny, tragic, grotesque. Full of unexpected turns. Exciting.

Rights sold:
- French: L’Arche Editeur
- Spanish: Quatenus Ediciones, S. L.
- Bulgarian: Pygmalion Press

Rights sold:
- Adapted to a movie by Stina Werenfels (Sexual Neurosis)
- English: Nick Hern Books Limited
- French: L’Arche Editeur
- Georgian: Georgisch-Deutsche Gesellschaft
- Romanian: Europress Group
- Spanish: Quatenus Ediciones, S. L.
Hugo Ball

The Flight from Time

Rarely has an author represented such contradictory ideological and artistic positions as Hugo Ball: He started out as a doctoral student and Nietzsche adept, but shortly before his academic degree he moved to the theatre. He was a bohemian literary figure, put himself forward as a volunteer in the First World War and went to the front on his own. He became a pacifist, crossed the frontier to Zurich and joined a circle of international anarchists before founding his own cabaret and creating Dadaism. He finally turned to religion, firstly as a mystic with gnostic orientations, then as a devout Catholic.

Even for Ball, the question of how all this could be reconciled and explained was an urgent one, and for several years he had the idea of writing an autobiographical book. This project was finally realised with Die Flucht aus der Zeit [The Flight from Time], published shortly before his early death in 1927. In this work, Ball traces his own development in numerous notes, fragments, brief records and reflections.

Henny Brenner

The Song is Over
A Jewish Destiny in Dresden

On 16 February 1945, Henny Brenner, who was 21 years old at the time, was due for deportation along with all the remaining Jews in Dresden. However, the air raids on Dresden between 13 and 15 February and the ensuing chaos saved her life. This young woman’s life was defined by exclusion, expulsion from school, forced labour and the constant fear of worse things to come. Finally, she received a deportation order from the Gestapo. Ironically, the bombing attacks on the city of Dresden saved her life, even though the Gestapo attempted to track down the last Jewish survivors after the total destruction of the city.
Helmut Böttiger

Celan by the Sea
160 pages

Helmut Böttiger goes on a literary journey to the wild landscape of Brittany – following the traces of a great literary love and the echoes of this enchanting part of the world in the poetry of Paul Celan.

Stephan Braese

Beyond Passports: Wolfgang Hildesheimer
A Biography | 588 pages

Wolfgang Hildesheimer is not only one of the most important German authors of the post-war era, but also a central voice for the politically committed middle classes. Born to Jewish parents, he left Germany in 1933 for England and Palestine. After the war, he worked as a simultaneous interpreter at the Nuremberg war crimes trials, and became a member of Group 47. Stephan Braese traces the various stages in his biography and sets Wolfgang Hildesheimer’s life and work in the context of history and discourse.
Rights sold

· Chinese: The commercial Press Ltd.

Peter Bürger

Theory of the Avant-garde

The new edition of the Theory of the Avant-garde combines the unchanged text of the first edition from 1974, the epilogue of the second edition, and new texts by Peter Bürger: a dialogue with Thomas Hettche on the emergence and effect of the book, along with a reflection on »the ambivalent legacy of the Avant-garde«.

Daniela Danz

Long Flights

Novel | 146 pages

An adventure story about the abysses of the human ego, a modern legend – rich in imagery, mysterious, compelling. Inspired by the legend of the Roman general and hunter Eustachius, Daniela Danz writes a radical book about the power of failure and the futile courage of a man who makes a last desperate attempt to resist the alignment of his life, before falling into the nightmarish unreality of escalating events.

Heinrich Detering/Yuan Tan

Goethe and the Chinese Girls

An adventure story about the abysses of the human ego, a modern legend – rich in imagery, mysterious, compelling. Inspired by the legend of the Roman general and hunter Eustachius, Daniela Danz writes a radical book about the power of failure and the futile courage of a man who makes a last desperate attempt to resist the alignment of his life, before falling into the nightmarish unreality of escalating events.
Ralph Dutli

**The Song of Honey**
A cultural history of the bee | 208 pages

The bee has provided inspiration for religious rituals, superstitions and miracle stories. It has stood for community spirit, self-sacrifice, provision for the future, well thought-out organization, purity, industriousness and abundance. But also for magic and prophecy, soul and inspiration. Ralph Dutli tells us all these things in a knowledgeable, witty and poetical way. A pleasurable invitation to reflect on the important role of the honey-making hymenoptera in world culture.

**Soutine’s Last Journey**
Novel | 272 pages

August 6, 1943. Chaime Soutine, a Belarussian/Jewish painter and a contemporary of Chagall, Modigliani and Picasso, is driven from the town of Chinon on the Loire to occupied Paris, hidden in a hearse. Suffering from a gastric ulcer, he is in need of an urgent operation which can no longer be put off. Being forced to lie quietly in the car fort he whole trip, his mind starts wandering back in time.

A novel about childhood, infirmity and art. About the wounds of exile in Paris, the powerlessness of the letter and the overwhelming power of pictures.

**The Lovers of Mantua**
Novel | 276 pages

In Ralph Dutli's novel, the famous Neolithic »Stone Age Romeo and Juliet« have suddenly disappeared following research studies in an archaeological laboratory, and the author Manu goes out in search of them. However, after a short time he disappears himself. Abducted to the estate of a dubious count, he is to help in founding a new religion of love. Rather than Christ on the cross, its central symbol will be the image of the lovers of Mantua ...

»The Lovers of Mantua« is a novel about the earthquake zones of life, about a new utopia of love, about religion and Renaissance, the uncertain status of reality and the incredible power of writing.
Valentina Freimane

Adieu, Atlantis
Recollections | 341 pages

What a life! The childhood of the authoress, born in 1922, could certainly be described as cosmopolitan. One of her grandmothers spoke German, the other Russian, and the Latvian-Jewish family constantly moved back and forth between Riga, Paris and Berlin. Here they lived in a guesthouse close to the Kudamm, where a constant stream of actors, directors and authors from all over Europe met and exchanged the latest news and information. Valentina Freimane tells us about this era from the carefree perspective of an adolescent girl, painting a magnificent portrait of the period. A deeply moving book.

Rights available

Maja Haderlap

Angel of Oblivion
Novel | 288 pages

The story of a young girl and a family, and at the same time relates the story of a nation. This story goes back to the memories of a childhood in the mountains at Kärnten. In a highly sensuous way, the author recalls the scents of summer, her grandmother's cooking, her parents' fights and the idiosyncrasies of the neighbours. It tells of a girl growing up and her attempts to understand her family and the people around her.

Although the war is over, it is still omnipresent in the minds of the Slovenian minority to which the family belongs and has more influence on people's behaviour than she would have ever guessed.
Michael Hagner

The Matter of the Book
280 pages

Michael Hagner combines his analysis of the digital cultural critique of the printed book with a thorough examination of Open Access. In this way, he investigates the very phenomenon that bears some of the responsibility for the contemporary crisis of the book: the excessive supply of scientific literature.

An intelligent analysis of contemporary forms of book publication.

Peter Hamm

Peter Handke and no End
Milestones of a Rapprochement

It is by no means common for a critic to follow the work of an author over a period of almost 50 years. But a story that begins with polemics, moves on to a slow rapprochement in discussions that gradually become deeper and deeper, and finally results in a life-long friendship, is almost certainly unique. The young lyricist and critic Peter Hamm first wrote about Peter Handke in the midst of the heated political climate of 1968. But there is still a long way to go until understanding turns to approval, until Peter Hamm holds his enthusiastic laudatory speech to Peter Handke when he receives the Schiller Prize.

With his precise knowledge of the works, Peter Hamm reveals hidden references and motifs in Handke’s work as no other could, inviting the reader to participate in his process of discovery.
Jana Hensel

**Noland**
A Love Story | Novel | 276 pages

Nadja sets out with the sole intention of interviewing Martin Stern, but from the moment she sets eyes on him there is an intimacy between them that is difficult to explain – and a sense of alienation that remains, even when they become lovers. Nadja embraces this love, even though Martin has difficulties believing in it. Martin, who grew up as a Jew in Frankfurt am Main, left Germany after the German reunification and went to live in Tel Aviv. So much lies between them – biographical experience, geographical distance and a past that relates to things beyond the course of their own lives.

The wrong country, the right one, the new one, the holy one – in artful leaps in time Jana Hensel sounds the boundaries between two lovers. In powerful and intense language, she explores our understanding of home, history and fate, using her characters to ask the question of how the past dominates our lives.

Emmy Hennings

**Prison – The Grey House – The House in the Shade**
576 pages

»A lost child, a fairy tale or folk song come to life, sweet and eerie at the same time,« these are the words Franz Herwig used to describe the literary phenomenon of Emmy Hennings in 1923. In 1916 she opened the Cabaret Voltaire in Zurich with Hugo Ball. Here, the Dada group rebelled not only against the war, but against art itself. Hennings’ novel »Gefängnis« (Prison), published in 1919, caused a great sensation. Using powerful, expressive language, she dissects the experience of imprisonment down to its last linguistic detail. The other two prison texts, »Das graue Haus« (The Grey House) and »Das Haus im Schatten« (The House in the Shade) bear witness to this.
Friedrich Kellner

»Clouded, Darkened are all Minds«
Diaries 1939–1945 | 2 vols, together 1134 pages

Edited by Sascha Feuchert, Robert Kellner, Erwin Leibfried, Jörg Riecke and Markus Roth

The diaries of the judicial inspector Friedrich Kellner show that everyone was in a position to unmask National Socialist rhetoric and be aware of the atrocities of the Third Reich. By placing newspaper articles next to his comments, Friedrich Kellner finds a highly effective method which places the importance of his diaries alongside that of the reports of Victor Klemperer.

»At that time, I was unable to fight against the Nazis in the present. Therefore I decided to fight against them in the future. I wanted to give future generations a weapon to use against the resurgence of any such injustice.«

Friedrich Kellner

Hanjo Kesting

Awaiting the King’s Horsback Messenger
On Opera and Literature

In the history of the opera, happy partnerships between composers and their lyricists are rare. The rivalry between the precedence of sound and language pervades the entire history of the opera. Kesting leads the reader through three centuries of opera: He explains the special role of Pietro Metastasio and Lorenzo Da Ponte in the 18th century, talks about Eugène Scribe and Richard Wagner, who was his own librettist. In the 20th century, important authors such as Hugo von Hofmannsthal, Stefan Zweig, Jean Cocteau and W. H. Auden placed themselves at the service of composers.

An exploration of the history of the opera and the interplay between text and music – both entertaining and inspiring.
Ursula Klein

Useful Knowledge
The Beginnings of Technical Sciences
216 pages

The insights and innovations of modern engineering and technical sciences – from the car to the internet – have permeated to the depths of our everyday lives. But do the origins of these developments really lie in the industrial boom of late Modernity? Ursula Klein’s compact book questions this widespread image and follows the discourse on useful knowledge to as far back as the 18th century, where she locates the origins of technical sciences.

Habbo Knoch

Grand Hotels
Luxurious Locations and the Changes in Society in New York, London and Berlin around 1900
495 pages

Whether it is seen as a »marvellous thing« or a »form of homeless existence«: from the beginning of ultra-modernity around 1880 to after the First World War, the grand hotel had a central significance for the social life of the European and American elite. It was a meeting place for men of power and social climbers, business people and travellers, literary figures and posers. Associated with the luxurious life of the grand hotels, Habbo Knoch describes a wide panorama of metropolitan sociability around 1900, between belief in progress and cultural criticism. The author clearly shows how, in the grand hotel as a symbol of modernity, traditional social order was dismissed in favour of temporary societies.
Ludwig Laher

**Evidential Objects**
Novel | 178 pages

At last Oskar Brunngraber, who has been locked away as a justice administration inspector for the last 25 years, can tell someone about the mysterious pieces of evidence stored away in his hideaway. But with the driving force of his fantasy behind him, he invents wild stories that are in a class of their own. How difficult it is for him sometimes to destroy these pieces of evidence, after the judgements have been spoken! – If you just think about their market value out there, the drugs for example, the narcotics, which take up most of the space in the hideaway and give off odours that you can’t get out of your clothes. The evidential objects from the security wing are not only there to expose the perpetrators, they also provide a basis for interpreting the world. Brunngraber almost overflows with inventiveness and a lust for language.

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**Bitter**
Novel | 237 pages

A highly political novel about the eventful life of a war criminal, his atrocious deeds and successful attempts to evade all responsibility after 1945.

Up until his death at the end of the nineteen-fifties, Bitter had always managed to get away with his crimes, remaining completely unscathed. Now, he is finally brought to trial through this act of narration. In several variations of pitch, Ludwig Laher traces – meticulously researched – the remarkable career and private development of the Vienna-Neustadt Gestapo boss and Charkow mass-murderer. Sometimes the narrator keeps his distance like a chronicler; at other times he comes up so close to the action that he almost appears to be inside the head of his protagonist. Then, unable to stand the close proximity, he breaks out again to regain his breath.
Christine Lavant
(1915–1973), born in St. Stefan in Lavanttal (Carinthia) as the ninth child of a miner, was a lyricist and narrator. She finished her school education early due to bad health. For decades, she supported the family by knitting. She was awarded the Georg-Trakl Prize (1954 and 1964) and the Grand Austrian State Prize (1970).

Wallstein holds the rights to her works and has published them completely:

- The Changeling, Story (2012)
- Poems published during the Writer’s lifetime (2013)
- The Child, Story (2015)
- Stories published during the Writer’s lifetime (2015)
- Notes from the Asylum (2016)
- Poems from the Literary Estate (2016)
- Stories from the Literary Estate

Notes from the Asylum
Edited and with an epilogue by Klaus Amann
140 pages

Christine Lavant attempts to process her stay on a psychiatric ward in writing: a literary report that gets right under the reader’s skin.

At the beginning of the 1950s, Christine Lavant planned to publish the text with her then publisher. However, the authoress was finally unable to make up her mind to go ahead with the undertaking: the publisher was evidently full of enthusiasm, but he demanded a »devout ending«. During her lifetime, the text was never published in German. Only an English translation was broadcast as a radio story by the BBC in 1959. The fact that the German text still exists is owed to the translator Nora Wydenbruck, in whose estate it was found in the mid-1990s. It was published for the first time in 2001, and is now available in a newly edited version.
Dea Loher

**Bugatti Surfaces**  
Novel  | 208 pages

No other German-speaking dramatist is so widely read, in her own country and all over the world, and more successfully staged (more than 300 productions, translations in 31 countries) than Dea Loher. This narrative focuses on existential matters: The death of a young man and the desperate efforts to deal with it. It investigates the meaning of life in the face of this completely meaningless death, finding images of great intensity.

**Rights sold:**
- Arabic: Kalima Foundation
- Dutch: Uitgeverij Cossee
- Macedonian: ILI-ILI
- Dutch: Uitgeverij Cossee

Wolfgang Matz

**France against France**  
Authors between Literature and Ideology

France is a divided country. On the one hand there is the republican, secular, city-based left, arising from the ideas of 1789 that changed the whole of Europe, and on the other the national, Catholic, often anti-Semitic right that harbours a wish to seal off France from international modernity.

Due to the lasting crisis, French authors became political in a way they had never been before. On the example of literary highlights as well as texts that are almost unknown in this country, Wolfgang Matz, the »brilliant comparative troublemaker«, shows how the intellectual is caught between the extreme right-wing and the radical left: e.g. André Gide, Céline and Jean Giono, Simone Weil, Georges Bernanos and Drieu la Rochelle. What is France, torn as it is between the nation and Europe? This basic conflict shapes France up to the present day, giving this book a present-day relevance that is sometimes almost uncanny.
Hans Mommsen

The Nazi Regime and the Extermination of Judaism in Europe

235 pages

Hans Mommsen, one of the leading contemporary German historians, gives a compact overall interpretation of the complex events leading up to the unleashing of the holocaust. He begins by sketching the hostility against Jews in the Weimar Republic and the role of anti-Semitism during the rise of the Nazi party. He describes how the Nazi regime radicalized the persecution of the Jews, resulting in their complete disenfranchisement.

Bernt Ture von zur Mühlen

Gustav Freytag

Biography | 272 pages

This first comprehensive biography traces the life of the native Silesian and Prussian patriot: private lecturer in Breslau, early success as a dramatist, purchase of the »Grenzboten«, sensational rise to become the leading German novelist, failed career as a member of the Reichstag, advisor to the Prussian Crown Prince Friedrich Wilhelm. The 200th birthday of Gustav Freytag presents an opportunity to take a closer look at the life and work of this controversial man.
Luise Maier

**Having One Another**
Novel | 160 pages

The debut of this young authoress is a work of staggering intensity. She writes without comment and without judgement, almost as though the course of events she describes were a necessary thing. A family: mother, father, brother, younger sister. In short sequences, the sister looks back on scenes from family life, settings that are as everyday as they are existential. It tells of intense proximity and speechless detachment.

Beate Meyer

**Fritz Benscher**
A Holocaust survivor as a radio and television star in the Federal Republic of Germany | 272 pages

> Unfortunately, the ›Führer‹ was not particularly fond of me.« These were the words used by Fritz Benscher (1904–1970) to describe the years following 1933 and his imprisonment in Theresienstadt, Auschwitz and Dachau. During the Weimar Republic, Benscher had gained his first experience of theatre and broadcasting.

The story of Fritz Benscher’s life, a picture of the young Federal Republic, which had more facets than that of the sober Adenauer state.
Sabine Peters

**All Things Related**
Novel | 205 pages

Two artists in the primal landscape of Portugal: Marie flies from Hamburg to visit Lino, who returned from Germany years ago to live in her original home in the small mountain village of Feital. They have been friends for a long time, and now their husbands are no longer with them. The two friends stroll through olive groves and clamber around in abandoned farmsteads, watching dogs, cats, goats and lizards, speak of their memories, of art and nature, of the search for the right word.

Sabine Peters’ novel transports the reader to autumn in southern Europe, broaching the burning questions of our contemporary world in way that is almost casual, and yet profound.

Hermann Peter Piwitt

**Three Friends**
Short stories | 144 pages

There is no glossing over: Hermann Peter Piwitt’s storytelling is as casual as it is skilful. Autobiographical, recalled and fictitious elements flow together, indistinguishable from one another. When, for instance, he speaks of his own childhood, of his conflicts with his father both before and after 1945, of his brother, of the adventures he experienced as a young man with friends and fellow artists in Frankfurt or Berlin, Rome or Seestadt. The seven stories in this volume show the author at his highest artistic level. They are sparkling masterpieces.
Uwe Pörksen

**Political Speeches**
or How we Decide | 288 pages

The art of political rhetoric often threatens to degenerate into a staged production. On the media platform, it is important for politicians to express themselves in a way that makes them invulnerable, showing themselves as competent and innovative, assertive and yet approachable, without ever actually becoming tangible as they speak.

As Uwe Pörksen shows in his studies on the power of concepts and images, the art of political rhetoric cannot be seen only as a technique of overpowering, but also as the applied ethics of the public sphere. It is the theory and practice of an independent, intrinsically democratic search for solutions that are rational and better for society.

Teresa Präauer

**For the Ruler from Overseas**
Novel | 138 pages

A novel about flying, love, and the pure beauty of language.

The grandfather tells a story to his grandchildren that is so playful and fantastic, it is hard to believe – but even harder to turn away from. It brings up sheer fireworks of imagination in the minds of the children. And there is this spark in his eyes every time he speaks of this mysterious Japanese woman, it just cannot be all made up …
Johnny and Jean
Novel | 208 pages

Create good art! Johnny and Jean have no less goal in mind when they meet up again at the art academy after the summer holidays. The story begins with a jump in at the deep end, and there is still quite a way to go before embarking on an international career in New York and Paris. Some things that seem to be of help are the murmurings of the old masters, well-sharpened pencils and a bottle of Pastis.

In a series of adventurous episodes, Teresa Präauer fabricates the life of two young men who are out to discover everything about art and life. Sensuous and quick-witted!

Oh Schimmi
Novel | 204 pages

How can he make such a fool of himself and look so ridiculous, going about his daily business of flicking through the television channels or touring around the bars and nail studios of the city? Continually on the lookout for the next great love, usually interrupted at the wrong moment by a call on his mobile phone from his own mother.

»Oh Schimmi« by Teresa Präauer is the book originating from a text that was enthusiastically received by the public and the jury at last year’s Bachmann Competition. Reading it, one has no choice but to cry out »Oh Schimmi!« – sometimes impatiently, sometimes shaking one’s head, sometimes laughing.
Carlos Peter Reinelt

Welcome and Farewell
24 pages

Carlos Peter Reinelt takes huge risks in his first literary work. His narrator is a young hooligan, someone whose first words are »damn it!«, a man who uses jargon interlaced with an incessant flow of swear-words. Above all he is irritable, everything irritates him, especially the stale air, the lack of space, the children crying, the mothers singing. Then he speaks of Allah and a story about something that happened in his native village. Something not very pleasant. The way the author uses language and graphic tools has something about it that takes one’s breath away: the words sway with the rhythm of speech, taking on a meaning which is lost and then regained, words that are newly spelled out, framed by Goethe’s »Welcome and Farewell«.

Joseph Roth and Stefan Zweig

»A Friendship with me is a Perishable Thing«
Correspondence 1927 – 1938 | 624 pages

Edited by Madeleine Rietra and Rainer Joachim Siegel. With an epilogue by Heinz Lunzer

Joseph Roth (1894–1939) and Stefan Zweig (1881–1942) are still two of the most widely read narrators in German literature. The correspondence tells the story of a friendship that is broken apart by the political circumstances – and the story of two lives destroyed by exile. »We exiles don’t live long« Zweig comments when Roth dies in Paris in 1939. In 1942, Zweig commits suicide in Petropolis, Brazil.
Patrick Roth

The Christus Trilogy
Commented edition | 600 pages

Since it was first published in 1998, the »Christus Trilogy« has had the reputation of being an erratic block in the landscape of contemporary literature. The suggestively filmic style of narration, the symbolic access and the unorthodox mixture of elements from popular culture and mythology remove Christian mythologies from their traditional theological contexts. Baptism, healing, reawakening, crucifixion and resurrection are newly experienced in their numinous dimension.

The three Christus novels by Patrick Roth – Riverside, Johnny Shines, Corpus Christi – published for the first time in one volume, with an excellent commentary by Michaela Kopp-Marx.

My Journey to Chaplin
An Encore | 88 pages

»My Journey to Chaplin« is the story of a passion. It tells us of Roth’s life-long love and veneration for the maker of »City Lights« (1931), whom he follows from the screen of a run-down L.A. cinema all the way to the door of his house in Vevey, Switzerland, just to hand over a letter to him in person.

In its own way, the »Journey to Chaplin« becomes a film à la Chaplin, with the young man in the role of the tramp and the narrator as the director of the story of a memory.

On April 16th 2014 will be Chaplin’s 125th birthday, which will be widely celebrated throughout the world.
Gregor Sander

**What Would Have Been**

Novel | 236 pages

Gregor Sander interweaves past and present, telling tales of German life histories that almost make your head spin. He succeeds in creating delicate images that are full of surprises: Love, friendship, escape, betrayal. Nothing is how it seems at first glance. Or at second, or even third.

**Rights sold:**
- Arabic: Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority
- Belarusian: Lohvinau House of Literature
- Czech: Větrné mlýny
- French: Quidam éditeur

**Absent**

Novel | 156 pages

Christoph Radtke, in his early 30s, has to go back to his home town of Schwerin to watch over his father, who has been in a coma for years. Being pulled out of his everyday life he starts to wonder about his past and future. Who was his father and what did he want out of life? The silence of his father in life, as if in death, is interrupted by a peculiar letter from Switzerland. The son is suddenly far more active than he would like to be.

**Rights sold:**
- Arabic: Kana’an Publishing House
- Spanish: Editorial El Tercer Nombre S.A.

**Winter Fish**

Short Stories | 192 pages

These stories are set in Rerik, at the Kiel Canal, in Gotland, Helsinki, Klaipeda. They are about people who are on the move and yet bound by their fates: Taciturn seadogs, disillusioned artists, female idols. Although the stories are all different, they do have one thing in common. They are about longing – longing to be with loved ones, to lead a free life or simply to feel understood.

Sander’s writing appears sparse, almost restrained; like the characters, like the northern landscape. In just a few strokes, discreet but precise, the author draws fates that never fail to fascinate the reader.

**Rights sold:**
- Czech: Větrné mlýny
- Spanish: Editorial Herder, S. de R. L. de C. V.
Armin T. Wegner

The Expulsion of the Armenian People into the Desert

Edited by Andreas Meier. With an essay by Wolfgang Gust

As a first-aid attendant in the First World War, Armin T. Wegner witnessed the stream of Armenian refugees driven into the Syrian Desert by the Turks. Between the years of 1915 and 1917, up to 1.5 million Armenians died there. In an open letter to the American president Wilson, Wegner protested against this outrageous injustice.

Immediately after the war ended, Wegner recapitulated his experiences as an eye witness in a presentation, which he held several times from October 1919 onwards. Here he showed 100 slides he had made in spite of the Turkish ban and — as he said in his lecture — hid under his truss and smuggled across the border

Although many of these photographs have greatly influenced the iconography of the genocide, up until now Wegner’s eye witness report has remained unpublished.

Shout it to the World

Manifestos and Open Letters | 248 pages

Edited by Miriam Esau and Michael Hofmann

Armin T. Wegner was an exemplary 20th century witness. He literally experienced the atrocities and brutalities of totalitarianism at first hand, offering resistance for his entire life — the resistance of the spirit, as he saw it.

The texts in this volume cover subjects from the 1918 revolution to the Palestinian conflict of 1968 — the testimonies of a wakeful spirit, bear testimony to this resistance. Armin T. Wegner took a stance on all aspects of the significant ideological battles of the 20th century, often by means of the manifesto and the open letter.
Kai Weyand

Applause for Bronikowski
Novel | 188 pages

For Kai Weyand it’s a matter of life and death. Very funny. 
Nies is over thirty now, but sometimes he still seems far away from becoming an adult. He prefers spending his time throwing eggs and tomatoes against buildings to working in a bank like his brothers. He is an observer, a player who makes up his own mind about everything. It is more by luck than judgement that he suddenly finds himself with a job: at a funeral parlour. The confrontation with death proves demanding, especially as a sense of responsibility has not been one of his outstanding characteristics up until now.

Harro Zimmermann

Günter Grass and the Germans
A Disentanglement. Essay | 300 pages

Beginning with The Tin Drum (1959), Grass led a Germany that had been wrecked by Nazi insanity, the war and the Holocaust towards a grotesque sobering-up process that countered the demons of suppression and false reconciliation with the infernal laughter of a petit-bourgeois guilt syndrome. Like no other author, he took the Federal German Republic through the ABC of politics. At the same time, Grass rose to fame in the canon of world literature. There is a story of fame and success surrounding this intellectual, who was a Nobel Prize winner in 1999, but there is also a confused history of conflict and discrimination surrounding an artist whose life’s work is linked with German history in a most contradictory way.

On the occasion of Günter Grass’s 90th birthday, Harro Zimmermann presents a book that attaches a surprisingly enlightening meaning to the >Grass case< for the national fever of sensitivities in the process of the Germans’ understanding of themselves.
Matthias Zschokke

The Strict Ladies of the Rosa Salva
414 pages

There are a considerable number of books about Venice. But no one has ever written one like this before! It brings the magnetism of the town to life in such a passionate, observant and laconic way that it overwhelms you.

Zschokke’s infectious curiosity protects him from idealisation – it is directed towards the whole world, wishing to fully grasp everything it is possible to know. In this way a shimmering kaleidoscope emerges, a study of the big picture and the smallest of quirks, from theatrical rumblings and the literary scene to the real things of everyday existence. A marvellous thing, this book.

The Man with Two Eyes
Novel | 244 pages

The man with two eyes has a real aversion to anything out of the ordinary, even though, as a legal correspondent, you would expect him to be continually in search of the sensational. But for him normality is far more interesting, not boring at all: on the contrary, he finds it complicated, surprising and fascinating.

Matthias Zschokke writes of seemingly everyday things, discovering their uniqueness, beauty, sadness and humour, and tells a discrete love story along the way.
The Clouds were Huge and White, Drifting in the Sky
Novel | 220 pages

Matthias Zschokke never gives his heroes extraordinary skills; one does not look up to them in admiration or envy. On the contrary: he places his protagonists side by side with the reader, then he sits down beside them himself and watches them in amazement as they go about their everyday activities. And the things he discovers in the process!

A Summer with Proust
56 pages

How can you call yourself an author if you have not read one of the truly great works of world literature?! Would people respond with a pitying smile if you were forced to admit that you did not know In Search of Lost Time?

Matthias Zschokke sets himself a mammoth task: full of determination, curiosity and discipline, he attempts to grasp the secret of this work. He soon encounters doubts. Perhaps it is just the German translation? –And the French original would be sure to put any reader into an immediate state of intoxication? Zschokke makes real efforts to prove that he measures up to the masterpiece, but he reads like an author, pondering over every detail.

Zschokke reads Proust. A highly comical and intelligent struggle with 5000 pages of world literature, and with himself.

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