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«.

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Noland is a love story, but it is also a novel about guilt, memory, roots and boundaries.

**Jana Hensel**

**Noland**

**A Love Story**

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. Where does this sense of intimacy come from? And why is the distance between them so difficult to overcome? 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, recalling their memories of days spent in Berlin and nights in Tel Aviv, of intense closeness and discussions that break down again and again, 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.

Jana Hensel, born in Leipzig in 1976, studied Romance studies and modern German literature in Leipzig, Aix-en-Provence, Berlin and Paris. As a student, she published the literary journal *Edit* and, with Thomas Hettche, the Internet anthology *Null*. Her book *Zonenkinder* [Children of the Zone], about the experiences of her generation before and after the fall of the Berlin wall, was a bestseller. Since then she has worked as a journalist, for example as the deputy editor-in-chief of the weekly newspaper *Der Freitag*. She won the Theodor Wolff Prize in 2010. *Keinland* [Noland] is her literary debut.
Anna Baar

Like Walking in a Dream

A day in a life that is longer than all the months and years to follow. A moment of eternity, when life seems to stand still. Something of vital importance has been shut off from his memory – was it a winter's day? Or was it in May?

It was wartime.

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. It is like preserving a dream, how can one continue to exist in a world of wreckage where the absent are more present than those close at hand, where a lie creates more order than the truth? 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.


Anna Baar

Like Walking in a Dream

Novel

ca. 200 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. Stones fall from the sky, or are transformed into birds. The rocks throw up waves, the spiders cast their nets.

Artists, plumbers and an ophthalmologist appear, the neighbour’s donkey gives out rusty cries, and Lino’s studio becomes a place of remembrance for her and her guests. Over a feast of roast wild boar, sweet chestnuts and a harvest of mushrooms, they speak of their parents, their husbands, the large country family and the course of life with all of its issues, both large and small. The centenarian aunt Celina is a cause for concern, a rhinoceros beetle provides food for thought.

Sabine Peters has written a novel about female friendship, about a close bond that has existed over decades. In her precise descriptions of a rural sanctuary, the precision of her narrative leads us to the great, existential questions of our time.

**Sabine Peters**, born in 1961, studied literary studies, political science and philosophy in Hamburg. After spending several years in Rheiderland, she moved back to Hamburg in 2004. As well as novels, stories and radio plays, Sabine Peters also writes essays and critiques. Prizes include the Ernst Willner Prize at the Ingeborg Bachmann Competition, the Clemens Brentano Prize, the Evangelical Book Prize and the Georg-K. Glaser Prize. She received the Italo Svevo Prize in 2016.
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. He is always prepared to look within himself to discover the causes for any displeasure and incomprehension he feels. Finally, he enlists the help and support of a famous Proust translator (and specialist), firing him with endless questions about parts of the text he finds illogical or hypocritical. The thankful author is sometimes amazed by the specialist’s explanations, but does not cease to bombard him with his grievances. »The fifth volume finally drove me crazy with its infinite loop of hysterical bitching.« Nevertheless: Perseverance is required!

Matthias Zschokke, born in Berne in 1954, has lived in Berlin since 1979, where he works as an author and filmmaker. He made his debut in 1982 with the novel *Max*, for which he was awarded the Robert Walser Prize, and has published a large number of novels, plays and feature films. Matthias Zschokke has been awarded prestigious prizes, including the Gerhart Hauptmann Prize and the Solothurn Literature Prize. He was the first German-speaking author ever to win the Prix Femina étranger for the novel *Maurice mit Huhn* [*Maurice with Chicken*] and the *Eidgenössischer Literaturpreis* [*Swiss Literature Prize*] for *Der Mann mit den zwei Augen* [*The Man with Two Eyes*].

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

Matthias Zschokke
*A Summer with Proust*

56 pages
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, who had just turned 26 at the time, in the midst of the heated political climate of 1968. In an article in *Die Zeit*, he dismissed Handke’s essay against the language of the SDS, *Totgeborene Sätze* [Still-born Phrases] as »embarrassing« and »disturbing«. Four years later, he acknowledged that the author of *Der kurze Brief zum langen Abschied* [Short Letter, Long Farewell] is at least: »now capable of saying ›I‹«. 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, or until the next century, when he expresses his appreciation of *Mein Jahr in der Niemandsbucht* [My Year in the No-Man’s-Bay] and *Der Bildverlust* [The Loss of Image] in wide-ranging essays.

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.

*Peter Hamm*, born in Munich in 1937, lyricist, essayist, critic, publisher, documentary filmmaker [documentaries include works on Robert Walser, Fernando Pessoa, Ingeborg Bachmann, Hanns Eisler, Alfred Brendel, Peter Handke]
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. It was once believed that this division had been overcome: in the First World War, all parties joined forces to defend their country. But France became a defeated victor; between the wars, internal struggles rendered the republic defenceless against totalitarian ideologies and the military enemy. The invasion in 1940 seemed to set the seal on this state of defencelessness.

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« (Süddeutsche Zeitung), shows how the intellectual is caught between the extreme right-wing and the radical left, between an unconditional pacifism, which is prepared to accept collaboration with the opponent, and national resistance: e.g. André Gide, Céline and Jean Giono, Simone Weil, Georges Bernanos and Drieu la Rochelle. In the second post-war era, the theme is again the ideological power of interpretation, both of the past and for the future: 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.

Wolfgang Matz, born in 1955, lived in Poitiers (France) from 1987 to 1995, where he taught at the Institute of German Language and Literature and worked as a literary translator. Since then, he has worked as a publishing editor in Munich. He was awarded the Paul Celan Prize and the Petrarca Prize for his translations of French prose and lyric poetry. Publications include: Adalbert Stifter oder Diese fürchterliche Wendung der Dinge (Adalbert Stifter or this Horrific Turn of Events, 2016); Die Kunst des Ehebruchs. Emma, Anna, Effi und ihre Männer (The Art of Adultery, 2014).
In the history of the opera, happy partnerships between composers and their lyricists are rare. The names of as many as fourteen librettists appear on Verdi’s 27 opera scores. The rivalry between the precedence of sound and language pervades the entire history of the opera. In the 18th century, Pietro Metastasio took on a supreme role as a librettist – Kesting describes him as »the most influential opera lyricist in history«. His librettos were set to music around one thousand times, even by Mozart, who was actually of the opinion that, in the opera, poetry should be »the obedient daughter of music«, naming Lorenzo Da Ponte as his sole librettist. The 19th century produced lyricists such as Eugène Scribe, Felice Romani and Arrigo Boito, and not least the special case of 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. Bertolt Brecht, who was also a prolific writer of texts for musical theatre, had the king’s horseback messenger appear at the end of the Threepenny Opera: »So that, at least at the opera, you can witness a case where justice is tempered with mercy.«

Hanjo Kesting

Awaiting the King’s Horseback Messenger
On Opera and Literature

Hanjo Kesting, born in 1943, was the head of the main editorial office Kulturelles Wort at NDR from 1973 to 2006. In 1982 he received the Critics’ Prize at the Salzburg Festival, in 2005 the Kurt Morawietz Literary Prize from the City of Hanover, followed by a honorary doctorate from the University of Hamburg in 2007.
Duchamp, Warhol, Picasso, Heartfield – what do they have in common, these and other artists whose works were perceived as pure provocation when they first appeared in the art world? In his »Theory of the Avant-garde«, Peter Bürger searches for answers to this and many other questions. Essentially, the issue is always the meaning of the work of art – and art in general – for modern society.

The *Theory of the Avant-garde*, published in 1974, met with considerable response. In 1976, Martin Lüdke, a collector of critiques, presented a volume providing answers. An English translation was published in 1984 in the USA, triggering lively discussions.

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«.

*Peter Bürger*, born in 1936, was a lecturer of literary studies and aesthetic theory at the University of Bremen; since becoming an emeritus professor, he has lived and worked in Berlin. Publications include: »Nach vorwärts erinnern« (»Remembering Forwards«. Re-reading Works between Hegel and Nietzsche, 2016); *Nach der Avantgarde* (After the Avant-garde, 2014); *Ursprung des postmodernen Denkens* [The Origins of Post-Modern Thought, 2000]; *Prosa der Moderne* [Prose of the Modern Age, with Christa Bürger, 1988]; *Kritik der idealistischen Ästhetik* [Critique of Idealistic Aesthetics, 1983]; *Theorie der Avantgarde* [Theory of the Avant-garde, 1974]; *Der französische Surrealismus* [French Surrealism, 1971].
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. Only an icon such as this was in a position to fuel historical-political and contemporary debate in such a credible and scandal-ridden fashion over decades, aiding the Germans in their comprehension of their painstakingly slow progress, shaken by setbacks. 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.

Günter Grass (1927-2015) was, from the publication of *The Tin Drum* onwards, a subject of controversial literary and political debate. Due to his political commitment for the chancellorship of Willi Brandt and his critical view of the German reunification, as well as his late admission of his time with the Waffen-SS, he was constantly at the focus of public debate.

Harro Zimmermann, born in 1949, was a cultural editor for Radio Bremen and a professor of modern German literature at the University of Bremen. He works as a non-fiction writer and freelance publicist for newspapers, magazines and the radio. Publications include: *Friedrich Sieburg – Ästhet und Provokateur* (Friedrich Sieburg – Aesthete and Provocateur, 2015); *Friedrich Gentz. Die Erfindung der Realpolitik* (Friedrich Gentz. The Invention of Realpolitik, 2012); *Friedrich Schlegel oder die Sehnsucht nach Deutschland* (Friedrich Schlegel or Longing for Germany, 2009).
Goethe’s proclamation of the dawn of »world literature« in the year 1827 focuses on China. From literary encounters with the unfamiliarity of this culture, he makes first attempts at poetic adaptation. Before his last great lyric cycle, the »Chinese-German Book of Seasons and Hours«, he writes a first cycle of five poems on Chinese poetesses. Because Goethe introduces these texts as translations, although they are actually freely adapted and rewritten, their cultural significance and literary value are yet to be discovered. The experimental arrangement plays with eastern and western motifs, featuring a curiosity for the relationship between poetry and femininity.

Heinrich Detering and Yuan Tan reveal the tortuous paths by which the images and verses of the »Chinese Girls« made their way from Peking to Weimar, and show how the elderly Goethe once again broke new literary ground in Chinese-European role play.

**Heinrich Detering**, born in 1959, is a professor of modern German literature and comparative literature studies at the University of Göttingen. He has been a guest professor at institutions such as the University of Wuhan [China]. Publications include: *Wundertiere* [Legendary Animals, 2015]; *Das offene Geheimnis. Zur literarischen Produktivität eines Tabus* [The Open Secret. The Literary Productivity of a Taboo, new edition, 2013]; *Old Glory* (2012); *Der Antichrist und der Gekreuzigte: Nietzsche’s letzte Texte* [The Antichrist and Christ on the Cross: Nietzsche’s Last Texts, 2010]; *Wrist* (2009); *Bertolt Brecht und Laotse* (2008); *Schwebstoffe* [Suspended Solids, 2004].

**Yuan Tan**, born in 1975, is a professor of German literature at the University in Wuhan [China]. Publications include: *Der Chinese in der deutschen Literatur – unter besonderer Berücksichtigung chinesischer Figuren in den Werken von Schiller, Döblin und Brecht* [The Chinese in German literature – with Particular Emphasis on Chinese Figures in the Works of Schiller, Döblin and Brecht, 2007].
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. This was followed by a phase as a bohemian literary figure with expressionist tendencies, which came to an abrupt end with the outbreak of the First World War. Ball put himself forward as a volunteer and, when he was denied enlistment for medical issues, went to the front on his own. Just a few days of experiencing the war at first hand were enough to make him a pacifist, and he crossed the frontier to Zurich. Here, Ball joined a circle of international anarchists before founding his own cabaret and creating Dadaism. When this new Ism started to make a career for itself, Ball had already moved on: to the editorial offices of a republican newspaper that demanded democratic conditions in Germany. However, he was disappointed with the revolutions it enforced – Ball 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. It is the fragmentary character of this book that makes it so unique: nothing is smoothed over, and the processes of thought are visible throughout.

Hugo Ball (1886-1927) was one of the founders of the Dada movement in Zurich during the First World War, a staunch pacifist and a strong critic of his time. A close friend of Hermann Hesse, he was his own first biographer.

Ernst Teubner, born in 1939, founder of the Hugo Ball Collection in Pirmasens, published the Hugo Ball Almanac since 1977. In 1986 he compiled the exhibition and catalogue to celebrate Ball’s centenary, and in 1992 he published a Hugo Ball bibliography.
One generally associates the name of Paul Renner with the international success story of the typeface Futura. However, he was not only a font designer and typographer, but also a successful painter, illustrator, author, teacher and one of the most important book designers of the early 20th century. Today, his designs for Georg Müller Verlag, where he was the artistic director from 1907 to 1914, are legendary. In the heated controversy between advocates of traditional craft and modern machine production, Renner refused to take sides.

Horst Moser presents a detailed picture of Paul Renner’s work: from typography conception to typesetting, cover and spine design, production of hand-made paper and book illustration. It becomes clear that – not only as the font designer of Futura, but also as a book designer – Renner set standards that remain valid today.

Paul Renner (1878-1956) studied painting in Berlin, Munich and Karlsruhe. He designed the majority of the books published by Georg Müller in Munich and, in 1911, founded the Munich School of Illustration and the Book Trade with Emil Preetorius. He taught at the Art School Frankfurt am Main and, from 1927 onwards, was the head of the master school for Germany’s book printers. He was dismissed following the Nazis’ seizure of power, and moved to Lake Constance. His best-known publications include *Typographie als Kunst* ([Typography as Art], 1922), *Mechanisierte Grafik* ([Mechanised Graphics], 1931) and *Die Kunst der Typographie* ([The Art of Typography], 1939).

Horst Moser, born in 1951, studied graphic design, art and art history in Nuremberg and at the Art Academy in Munich. In 1994 he founded the design studio *Independent Medien-Design* in Munich, followed by the concept office *prima-file* in Zurich. He works for several magazines in the areas of conception/art direction, and as a book designer. He also publishes on themes related to book design, editorial design and design history. Horst Moser owns parts of the estate of Paul Renner.
Around the turn of the last century, the Jewish renaissance, inspired by Zionism, began to develop a cultural self-awareness beyond religion and assimilation. The Soncino Association, founded in 1924 as an offshoot of this movement, set itself the aim of transferring the impulses of the German book art movement to Jewish book culture. It incorporated orthodox, liberal and Zionist Jews and, boasting 650 members, soon became one of the largest bibliophile associations in the Weimar Republic. By the time it was dissolved in 1937, it had published over one hundred books from all areas of Jewish history and culture, ranging from the Hebrew Bible to modern literature.

Bernhard Jensen investigates the motives behind the selection of texts. The first monograph on the Soncino Society provides an overview of all its publications and analyses exemplary books, regarding it as the canon of an epoch that also signified the end of German Judaism. Vera Bendt explores the tradition and the bibliophile character of the Soncino Society Collection at the Jewish Museum Berlin, which was digitalised in 2016 and is now available online.

Bernhard Jensen, born in 1968, received a doctorate in philosophy in 2001, and has worked as a librarian at the Jewish Museum Berlin since 2004. Publications include: Was heißt sich orientie-

Vera Bendt played a leading role in the founding of the Jewish Museum at the Berlin Museum from 1979 to 1994. Publications include: Ein Synagogen-Vorhang im Domstift Brandenburg (A Synagog Drape at the Cathedral Chapter Brandenburg, 2006); Judaica-Katalog (Judaica Catalogue, 1989).
The Nuremberg Laws – 80 Years Later
Background, Origins, Consequences

With the »Reich Citizenship Law« and the »Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honour«, both of which were passed on 15 September 1935 in Nuremberg, the Nazi state created a special discriminatory status for German Jews. The definition of race ideology in the form of laws, which were continually tightened in the following years, was a crucial step on the way to Nazi extermination policies.

On the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the proclamation, under the joint auspices of the Federal Ministries of Justice and the Interior, renowned scholars discuss the prehistory, the symbolic and legal significance, the international impact and the consequences of the Nuremberg Laws.

Magnus Brechtken, born in 1964, deputy director of the Institute of Contemporary History Munich-Berlin.

Hans-Christian Jasch, born in 1973, holds a doctorate in law and is a legal historian, director of the memorial site and educational institution House of the Wannsee Conference in 2014.

Christoph Kreutzmüller, born in 1968, holds a doctorate in history. From 2005 to 2013 he coordinated the project Jüdische Gewerbebetriebe in Berlin [Jewish Commercial Enterprises in Berlin] at the HU Berlin. Curator of the new permanent exhibition at the Jewish Museum Berlin since 2015.

Niels Weise, born in 1977, has a doctorate in history and works as a research associate at the Institute of Contemporary History Munich-Berlin.
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.

Up until then, being the daughter of a Jewish mother and a protestant father, Henny Brenner had enjoyed a certain level of protection compared to others who were classified by the Nuremberg Laws as full-blooded Jews. Nevertheless, 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.

Henny Brenner, née Wolf, was born in Dresden in 1924, growing up in a loving family. Her carefree childhood ended abruptly when the National Socialists seized power. Her memoirs Das Lied ist aus [The Song is Over] were first published in 2001. Even today, Henny Brenner reads from her book – often in schools – making her one of the last remaining voices from the ranks of the contemporary witnesses.
Backlist Highlights

Aleida Assmann

Forms of Forgetting
224 pages

Forgetting as a filter, as a weapon and as a prerequisite for the creation of new things.

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.

Anna Baar

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.

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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

Rights sold:
- Belarusian: Paperus
Alice goes to Switzerland – The Test – Amygdala
Plays | 168 pages

Euthanasia, paternity test, brain research, these are all only secondary matters – Lukas Bärfuss’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 fulfils 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 – Parcifal – Twenty Thousand Pages
Plays | 208 pages

Bärfuss 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.
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.

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.

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.

Rights available

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- Arabic: Dar Al-Muna
- Czech: HAVRAN s.r.o. Publishing House
- Dutch: Uitgeverij Cossee
- English: Archipelago Books
- French: Éditions Métailié
- Italian: Keller Editore
- Slovenian: Litera Verlag
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.

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.

The Branding / The Eternal Song
508 pages

Following the publication of her second novel »Das Brandmal« (The Branding) in the year 1920, Hennings was considered one of the most significant women writers of her generation. The radical and self-destructive honesty of the girl Dagny, who wanders restlessly from one German town to another, sometimes finding herself forced into prostitution, was compared with the novels of Hamsun and Dostojewskij, as well as the »Confessions« of Augustinus and Rousseau.

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.
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.

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 complete works and has published several volumes until now:

- 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)

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
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.
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.

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.
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 swearwords. 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

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.
The Christus Trilogy
Commented edition | 472 pages

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.

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. Diverging from the postmodern Zeitgeist, Patrick Roth set out to build a bridge back to biblical themes, creating a new version of their frozen images in the form of immensely authentic stories.

Sunrise
The Book of Joseph | 510 pages

Patrick Roth tells the incredible story of Joseph of Nazareth as a doubter, of Joseph’s deep belief and his disobedience towards God. At the same time, »Sunrise« traces the possibilities of a new beginning. In sequences that are artfully interwoven, between dream and reality, the novel penetrates to experiential spaces where supposed certainties begin to break down.
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.

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.

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.
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.

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.

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.

Rights sold:
- English: Thames River Press
- French: Editions Zoé S.A.

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!

Rights sold:
- French: Editions Zoé S.A.

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