

Swiss Literary Archives

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Swiss Literary Archives

Numerous contemporary authors and their families entrusted their materials to the SLA in 2006. The orientation of the SLA was also redefined as part of the strategy 2007 – 2011 for the Swiss National Library.

Collections

The core of the existing collection is literature from the 20th and 21st century from all four language cultures within Switzerland. The collections include both materials on Swiss literature in a narrower sense, as well as on internationally renowned authors associated with Switzerland; examples here include Blaise Cendrars, Rainer Maria Rilke, Patricia Highsmith, Friedrich Glauser, Agota Kristof and Jean Starobinski. The focus in the future will turn to collecting literature between the wars, 20th century avant-garde as well as literature post-1968 up to contemporary literature.

We were able to acquire an exceptional amount of archives and estates in 2006, mostly from contemporary writers, including a number of well-known names, such as Peter Bichsel, Anne-Lise Grobéty, Erica Pedretti, Kurt Marti, Mani Matter, Klaus Merz, Felix Philipp Ingold and Urs Widmer. Some of the new acquisitions, such as those from Mani Matter and Kurt Marti, were only possible thanks to donations by the families. The literary estate of Meret Oppenheim was also entrusted to the custody of the SLA.

The SLA was further able to intensify cataloguing in 2006 thanks to project-related mandates, financed to some extent from public funds as well as by the Friends of the SLA. Recently acquired large collections, such as the archives of Adolf Muschg, Otto Marchi and Kurt Marti, as well as comprehensive estates of Hermann Burger, Carl Albert Loosli, Roger Dragonetti and Ulrich Becher have already been largely catalogued. The archives and estates of Alfred Fankhauser, Heinrich Federer, Patricia Highsmith, Edvige Libello, Alexander Lozza, Hugo Marti, Romain Rolland and Gion Semadeni are provided online as EAD inventories.

User services

570 people visited the SLA directly for research. Some 1,319 requests for information were provided over the telephone, in writing and electronically. Queries were answered quickly or required a few days of research depending on the complexity of the query. The inventories of Annemarie Schwarzenbach, Friedrich Dürrenmatt, Gonzague de Reynold, Andri Peer and Alice Ceresa were consulted most frequently on-site.

Cultural activities were provided under the theme of the *mystery novel*. At the centre of the informational activities was the SLA curated *Patricia Highsmith* exhibition (refer to page 21). This as well as events associated with the exhibition – including French and English events – were equally targeted at literary researchers as well as a broader public interested in literature. The summer academy, conducted at the CDN, used the same topic targeted at the international profession as well as the magazine *Quarto* Nr. 21/22, under the title *Studer, Bärlach, Ripley, Gunten & Co.*, which brought together scientific papers and essays on the mystery novel in Switzerland. The SLA also participated in a symposium on Andri Peer's *La Müdada*, which was produced – as a co-production of various institutions interested in Romansh literature – in the autumn at the NAIRS Center in Scuol.

The SLA will participate in a growing number of national and international research projects in the future. Currently, the Swiss National Science Foundation funded project *Text genesis and the writing process* is hosted at the SLA and was examined in greater depth at a scientific symposium in November. The SLA is also working together with the Chair for Romansh literature at the University of Zurich on the topic *Tradition and modernity in the poems of Andri Peer*.

Friends of the Swiss Literary Archives

The Friends of the Swiss Literary Archives Association was able to gain just under 50 members, so that it now has a total number of 349 members at the end of the year. Klara Obermüller was elected as the new president and successor to Iso Camartin. The SLA is especially grateful to the association for financing the cataloguing of Gion Deplazes, Hugo Marti and Gonzague de Reynold.



From the estate of Mani Matter