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Main Events

Die Schweiz verkaufen ('Selling Switzerland')

18/19 January 2008

The annual conference of the *Gesellschaft zur Erforschung der deutschsprachigen Schweizerliteratur* ('Society of the Study of German Language Swiss Literature') explored the reciprocal interaction between literature and tourism since the 1800s.

Topor – Enzyklopädie des Körpers ('Topor – Encyclopaedia of the Body')

15 March 2008–11 May 2008

The focus of this exhibition at the *Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel* (CDN) was the black humour of the French cartoonist and his often disturbing depiction of the human body.

Museums' Night in Bern

28 March 2008

Museums' Night at the NL was inspired by the theme of the main exhibition *Tell in Focus* and shed light upon the topic from many sides. The highlight was the performance of the Bernese Trash-Troubadours Tomazobi.

Eine Geschichte der Literatur aus der Schweiz ('A History of Literature of Switzerland')

22 April 2008

On the occasion of the 'World Book and Copyright Day' this event was directed by Peter Stocker and entailed a discussion with Rémy Charbon, Silvia Henke, Oliver Schütze and Peter Utz concerning *Schweizer Literaturgeschichte* ('History of Swiss Literature'), a book newly published by the Metzler Publishing Co. Introduction: Peter Rusterholz.

Salon du Livre (International Book Fair in Geneva)

30 April 2008–4 May 2008

The visitors of the international book fair *Salon du Livre* in Geneva could count on the practical assistance of the NL in their search for books. Marking the occasion of the 2008 European Football Championship that took place in Switzerland and Austria with the documentation *Le Triomphe de nos couleurs*, the NL presented a press review about the participation of the Swiss National Football Team in the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris. Although they only came second, they were the best placed team from Europe and therefore became 'European Champion'.

Gespaltene Schweiz – Geeinte Schweiz ('Divided Switzerland – United Switzerland')

13 May 2008

In recent years the end of political concordance or agreement has been proclaimed as evident. The book *Gespaltene Schweiz – Geeinte Schweiz* shows from a historical perspective how concordance in Switzerland came about and how it functions to date. This event was presented in the NL by Iwan Rickenbacher and Wolf Linder.

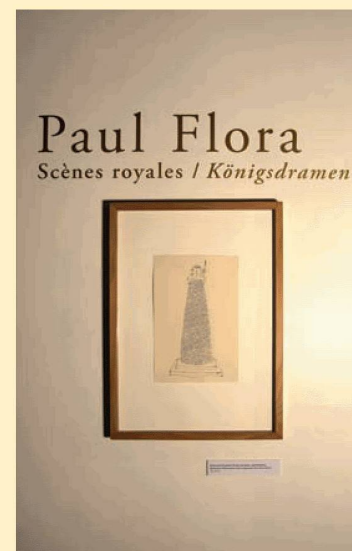
Paul Flora – Königsdramen ('Paul Flora – Royal Dramas')

18 May 2008–31 August 2008

In this exhibition in the CDN, the cartoons of the Austrian artist caricature the contemporary way of dealing with Austria's glorious imperial past.



Museums' Night



Paul Flora,
© David Perriard



Klara Obermüller, Testimonial lecture honouring Annemarie Schwarzenbach

To the Edge of the World: Homage to Annemarie Schwarzenbach to mark the 100th anniversary of her birth

23 May 2008

The Swiss Literary Archives (SLA) honoured the writer and photographer in three ways. They presented previously unpublished travel photographs in a virtual exhibition. Approximately 2'500 photos from Schwarzenbach's estate could be viewed in the NL's new archival database *HelveticArchives*. On Schwarzenbach's birthday itself the literary critic Klara Obermüller gave a public testimonial lecture honouring the life and work of the writer and photographer.

Opening Reception Quarto Bergell

13 June 2008

Under the subtitle *Zur literarischen Topografie eines Tals* ('Literary Topography of a Valley'), in *Quarto Bergell* contributions about the literature and history of the Bergell and Veltlin Valleys are combined with essays about literary personalities. The publication was presented to the public in the *Denklabor* ('ThinkLabor') of the Villa Garbald in Castasegna. Further partners of the event were the *Società culturale di Bregaglia* and the *Regione Bregaglia*.

Karikatur und Religion ('Caricature and Religion')

20/21 June 2008

The symposium in the CDN directed by Pierre Bühler thematised the controversies surrounding religion and caricature. Is caricature dealing with religious content only able to provoke and injure? Does freedom of opinion have limits? Swiss, French and German specialists explored these questions through debates on current issues and historical examples.

Theater und Gesellschaft ('Theatre and Society')

22 June 2008 – 27 June 2008

Attended by students primarily from German-speaking regions and with speakers from across Europe, this summer academy of the SLA in the CDN explored the relation between theatre and society.

Round Table Honouring the 20th Anniversary of the Death of Walter Vogt

20 August 2008

As a prelude to the Bernese Literary Festival the SLA organized a special panel discussion. Directed by Daniel Rothenbühler, the panel included Beatrice Eichmann-Leutenegger, Renate Nagel and Raphael Urweider.

Tradition und Moderne in der Lyrik Andri Peers (‘Tradition and Modernity in the Poetry of Andri Peer’)

22 / 23 August 2008

The poetry of Andri Peer is considered as modern, difficult, not uncommonly even as incomprehensible. The symposium in Lavin aimed to show that his lyrics also derive from tradition and offer manifold interpretations. The event was a co-production of La Vouta, the Swiss National Science Foundation, the University of Zurich and the SLA.



Opening Reception Quarto Bergell,
© St. Moritz Press Photos

Prag 1968 – 40 Jahre Prager Frühling (‘Prague 1968 – 40 Years of Prague Spring’)

14 September 2008–19 October 2008

The exhibition of the CDN was dedicated to the ‘political’ Dürrenmatt. It presented Felix Philipp Ingold’s Bohemica Collection and the reception of Dürrenmatt’s theatre in Czechoslovakia. On 13 September a roundtable discussion took place with Pavel Kohout, Jiří Gruša und František Černý; all three are important figures of the Prague Spring.

Georges Borgeaud

16 September 2008

At the Soirée (evening event) on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the death of Georges Borgeaud a new publication of the same name was presented. Florian Rodari celebrated Borgeaud as art critic, Alain Lévêque as friend. The *Alliance française de Berne* co-organised the event.

Anatol von Steiger

22 October 2008

The bilingual edition of works by the Russian poet with Bernese roots was presented by translator and editor Felix Philipp Ingold, publisher Egon Ammann and Niklaus von Steiger.

In the Beginning is the Word. Encyclopaedias in Switzerland

7 November 2008–29 March 2009

Using the example of the *Historical Dictionary of Switzerland* (HDS), one of the largest encyclopaedia projects in the country, this exhibition poses questions concerning the production of encyclopaedias and the way in which they work. Starting from the HDS article about Ruth Dreifuss, links are made to other articles which make up part of the life history of the former Federal Councillor: Endingen (as her place of origin), Canton Geneva (her place of residence), Judaism, Women’s Movement, Old Age Insurance, Christiane Brunner and Francis Matthey. The exhibition documents the keywords and articles and makes visible the way they are developed.

Buch.08 (Book.08 Fair in Basel)

14 November 2008–16 November 2008

The NL was represented with a booth at the newly designed book fair in Basel. The main themes emphasized were providing responses to enquiries concerning bibliographical information and publicity for the exhibition *In the Beginning is the Word*. The thirteen-volume edition of the *Historical Dictionary of Switzerland* was given as first prize to the winner of a competition.

Historic Maps and Imagery for Modern Scientific Applications

28 November 2008

The Federal Archives of Historical Monuments exhibited its Meydenbauer photogrammetric measuring cameras for the participants of this international congress at the University of Bern.



Ruth Dreifuss (right) and Marie-Christine Doffey at the opening reception of the exhibition *In the Beginning is the Word*



The NL at Book.08, Photo: HDA



Meydenbauer photogrammetric measuring camera