

Zeitschrift: Annual report / Swiss National Library
Herausgeber: Swiss National Library
Band: 96 (2009)

Rubrik: Main events

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Main Events

Anekdote – Biographie – Kanon

19.–21.3.2009

At the behest of the University of Bern, the Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg and the Swiss Literary Archives, researchers from Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland presented their work on biography at the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel. The topics addressed included the role played by biography and anecdote in the reception of Shakespeare, Luther, van Gogh and Kierkegaard, among others; self-fashioning by artists and writers; and the use of fictional biographies in works of literature.

Bern Museums' Night: Dem Wort eine Bühne

20.3.2009

Lexicons were the centerpiece not only of *In the beginning is the word*, the NL's exhibition at the time, but also of the library's participation in Museums' Night. Pedro Lenz read from his *Kleines Lexikon der Provinzliteratur* ("Little lexicon of provincial literature"). The artists' group *Bern ist überall* ("Bern is everywhere") also took to the stage at the NL. Tours of the library were led by an actor playing "Herr Brockhaus", after the classic German encyclopaedia. Children were invited to play *Trivial Pursuit*, and were welcomed into "Chinderland" with a bevy of songs performed by Ueli Schmezer.

Salon du livre

23.4.–26.4.2009

The National Library's booth at the *Salon international du livre et de la presse* in Geneva was devoted to the inauguration of the new underground stacks west, enhanced with a presentation of the National Library's conservation principles for a professional audience. On the occasion of the appearance of an issue of *Quarto* devoted to Agota Kristof, the writer's archives served as an example of a particularly valuable holding. Kristof's daughter Carine Baillod read previously unpublished texts.

Giovanni Orelli: "Il sogno di Wallacek – Wallaceks Traum"

6.5.2009

Orelli's *Il sogno di Wallacek* (1991) appeared in German translation in 2008 as *Wallaceks Traum*. The author was on hand to read from his own work at the bilingual event held by the SLA at Zentrum Paul Klee.

"Ich schweige nicht!" Exhibition dedicated to the work of Carl Albert Loosli

15.5.–30.8.2008

Mounted by the Carl-Albert-Loosli Society, the exhibition demonstrated the author and philosopher's role in Swiss literature. Central to the show were documents from Loosli's papers at the Swiss Literary Archives, which celebrated the writer in a monographic issue of its journal *Quarto* to mark the occasion.



Bern Museums' Night,
Ueli Schmezer



Opening of the Carl Albert Loosli
exhibition



Pier Paolo Pasolini exhibition,
photo: Volker Kreidler

Pier Paolo Pasolini: Who is me

14.6.–6.9.2009

The exhibition at the Centre Dürrenmatt presented the life and work of Pier Paolo Pasolini, filmmaker, writer, thinker and provocateur, in all of its variety and complexity. It was mounted in collaboration with Zurich's Museum Strauhof and was also to be seen at the Literaturhaus Berlin.

Underground stacks west inaugural ceremony

20.8.2009

Some 200 invited guests from Switzerland and Europe attended the ceremony inaugurating the NL's second underground stacks. Like their counterpart, the new stacks also provide optimal conditions for the conservation and storage of documents on paper. The keynote address was made by Dame Lynne Brindley, Chief Executive of the British Library.

Jacques Chessex: "De ratures en figures"

26.8.2009

Jacques Chessex, one of the key figures in contemporary Swiss literature, died suddenly at the age of 75 on 9 October 2009. One of his last public appearances took place at the Swiss National Library, where at the invitation of the Swiss Literary Archives he lectured on the function of striking through and erasing in the process of writing, and called for a rhetoric of deletion.

Open days

29./30.8.2009

While for security reasons the National Library's stacks are as a rule off limits to the public, over the course of two days the inauguration of the stacks west offered those interested a chance to descend into the library's underworld. A film, a series of mini-presentations and brief demonstrations rounded out the display of the National Library's work, and the treasures it houses.

Schreiben und Streichen

4./5.9.2009

What is the role of striking through in the evolution of a work of literature? Together with the Department of German at the University of Basel and with the support of the Swiss National Science Foundation, the Swiss Literary Archives convened an international colloquium on this rarely addressed topic at the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel.



Inauguration of underground
stacks west,
Dame Lynne Brindley

Ulrich Meister: Works on Paper

10.10.–12.12.2009

In pictures, texts and drawings, Ulrich Meister subjects unlikely objects to an investigation of their polysemous presence. The Swiss National Library's Prints and Drawings Department has been acquiring Meister's works on paper since 1995, a selection of which were shown in the exhibition. Schaffhausen's Museum zu Allerheiligen showed Meister's paintings during the same period.

Franz Hohler: "Live and on record – Läbig und ygmacht!"

18.11.2009

Franz Hohler displayed visual and audio works created by himself and others at the final event of the 'IMVOCS – Images et Voix de la Culture Suisse' project. 'IMVOCS' recorded and digitised films, videos and sound documents pertaining to Swiss authors from all regions of the country. The project had been carried out under the aegis of the Memoriv Association.

Cercle d'études internationales Jean Starobinski

19.11.2009

Each autumn, scholars researching the work of Jean Starobinski meet at the University of Geneva. The group, initiated in 2007 by the Swiss Literary Archives, has been publishing its own bulletin since 2008. In the year under review, cultural studies expert Tzvetan Todorov spoke about the relationship between criticism and ethics in Starobinski's thought, and French author Gérard Macé presented his new book, a documentation of his encounters with Starobinski.

Peter Bichsel: "Über Gott und die Welt. Texte zur Religion"

25.11.2009

Over the course of decades, Bichsel has repeatedly addressed religious topics. His latest volume, showcased in the presence of the author, contains previously unpublished work and offers an initial glimpse at the many facets of Bichsel's engagement with God, resolutely viewed from a secular perspective.

Paul Nizon: Ein Leben in Journalen

12.12.2009

Paul Nizon, who turned 80 in December of 2009, has used his journals to give literary form to the last five decades of his life and writing. Since 1996, drafts of this work have been housed in the Swiss Literary Archives together with the entirety of his personal archives. Paul Nizon's "Life in Journals" was discussed at this conference, organised jointly by the SLA and the Robert Walser-Zentrum.



Inauguration of underground stacks west,
Marie-Christine Doffey



Ulrich Meister exhibition:
Susanne Bieri, Ulrich Meister,
Marie-Christine Doffey
(from left to right)