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Main Events

“How did you do that?” Colloquium on Hugo Loetscher

21.–23.1.2010

Writer Hugo Loetscher roamed across topics, perspectives and genres. The Fourth International Meeting of the Swiss Literary Archives (SLA) and the Society for the Study of Swiss-German Literature (G.E.D.L.) saw researchers from Europe and the USA discuss literary aspects of Loetscher’s work and set it in the context of other disciplines such as journalism, photography and history.

Latest proceedings of the SLA: Book presentation

24.2.2010

The results of the SLA’s conferences are now available in tangible form: the summer academy held at the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel (CDN) and the colloquium series *Both Sides: Authors and Scientists in Dialogue* highlight the SLA’s function as an interface for authors and researchers. Now, thanks to a collaboration with the Wallstein and Chronos publishing houses, the proceedings of these meetings are to appear in book form. The event saw the series’ first volumes, *«Es gibt kein grösseres Verbrechen als die Unschuld»: Zu den Kriminalromanen von Glauser, Dürrenmatt und Highsmith* (2009) and *Kafka verschrieben* (2010), celebrated in the presence of authors Felix Philipp Ingold, Klaus Hoffer and Jürg Amann.

Swiss Appeal: Switzerland in Travel Guides

12.3.–27.6.2010

The Swiss National Library (NL) holds a large collection of travel guides to Switzerland in all major languages, books that formed the centerpiece of the *Swiss Appeal* exhibition. Some 200 travel guides were laid out through the exhibition space in two routes across Switzerland: west to east, and north to south. The exhibition was also the subject of the NL’s booth at the Salon du livre held in Geneva from 28 April to 2 May, while at the Museumsnacht Bern of 19 March the NL presented further aspects of Switzerland as a tourist destination, an event that included a reading by Matthias Zschokke and a concert by Trummer.

Erica Pedretti: An homage on her 80th birthday

24.3.2010

The papers of Erica Pedretti, writer, object artist and painter, are deposited with the SLA, which during the year in review held a celebration of her work on the occasion of her 80th birthday. Beatrice von Matt made a toast to the honouree, Konrad Tobler engaged Ms Pedretti in conversation, and the writer herself read selected passages from her latest work, *Fremd genug*.

Jon Semadeni: A celebration of the 100th anniversary of his birth

29.5.2010

On 30 May 2010 Jon Semadeni would have turned 100 – an occasion to celebrate the politically committed writer, theatre director and radio playwright, actor and cabaret artist, and the meeting in Lavin provided a venue for participants to read, hear and comment on Semadeni’s œuvre posthumously by way of lectures, eyewitness reports, radio and film documentation, and the staging of one of his comedies. Held in Rumantsch, the homage was organised by the Lia Rumantscha and the SLA and supported by regional and cantonal organisations.



Erica Pedretti in conversation,
24.3.2010



Jon Semadeni, photographed
during the shooting of his
television film *Il chapè*, 1974,
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Daniel Spoerri (left) and Karl Gerstner, 18.6.2010

Autobiography and Autofiction: Summer Academy

30.5.–4.6.2010

Contemporary discussions of autobiography generally hold that every literary self-presentation comprises fictional elements. Coined by Serge Doubrovsky, the term “autofiction” has been applied by specialists to the study of literary texts that more or less openly mingle fictional and factual narrative elements in recounting their author’s life. At the SLA’s Fourth Summer Academy at the CDN, such theoretical considerations furnished the bedrock for an investigation and discussion of exemplary texts and text fragments, each displaying its own, often eccentric conception of the appropriate literary treatment of biography.

Günter Grass: Bestiarium

4.6.–12.9.2010

The CDN devoted an exhibition to Nobel Prize winner Günter Grass, encompassing the main milestones of his creative life and tracing his work as a visual artist in connection with the development of his major novels. Grass’s encounters with Dürrenmatt were documented in text and photographic records.

Freunde – Friends – d’Fründe: Karl Gerstner – Daniel Spoerri

18.6.2010

Some years ago, Karl Gerstner and Daniel Spoerri donated their archives to the NL’s Prints and Drawings Department (PDD), and the two artists were honoured this past year with celebratory lectures by Susanne Bieri and Elisabeth Bronfen on the occasion of their joint 80th birthday. In lieu of a classic drinks reception, a bazaar was created along the lines of one of Daniel Spoerri’s events, at which guests were invited to trade the canapés they’d won in a raffle. Gerstner and Spoerri, who have enjoyed a close friendship for years, are at the heart of a network of colleagues whose work has had a major influence on the art of the second half of the 20th century.

Otto Nebel

25.8.2010

Otto Nebel (1892–1973), author, thinker, painter, graphic artist and actor, wrote texts whose subject is work with and on language. At an evening dedicated to the author, who is today largely unknown, the SLA invited Raphael Urweider and Philipp Schaufelberger to give Nebel’s texts a new reading. The soirée was the first in a series of events at which younger authors engage with works from the archives.

Archives of Place

14.10.2010

In the course of its research project “Archives of Place”, by means of which the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK) set out to prepare a model concept for a photographic archive of spatial development, the ZHdK has managed to formulate the criteria for such an archive documenting spatial change, criteria which have in turn influenced the new collection concept of the NL’s PDD. The colloquium presented both the ZHdK research project and the PDD’s new collection concept.

The Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel celebrates its tenth anniversary

At a ceremony attended by Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter, Jean-Frédéric Jauslin and Marie-Christine Doffey, and an open house, held on 25 and 26 September, respectively, the CDN celebrated



The CDN turns 10:
Jean-Frédéric Jauslin, Director
of the Swiss Federal Office of
Culture, and Federal Councillor
Didier Burkhalter at the ceremony

its tenth anniversary and inaugurated the Dürrenmatt Year 2010–2011. The celebratory programme includes an exhibition in honour of the jubilee year entitled *L'esprit Dürrenmatt: Photoportraits*, a special exhibition dedicated to *Mario Botta: Architecture and Memory*, and a host of special events.

Emmy Hennings and Hugo Ball

20.10.2010

Among the significant holdings kept by the SLA on deposit for the Robert Walser Foundation is the double literary estate of Emmy Hennings (1885–1948) and her husband Hugo Ball (1886–1927). On the occasion of the completion of the archive's inventory the SLA held a soirée at which these treasures were displayed, and Christian Uetz paid his respects to the two artists, who belong to the founders of Dadaism, with a performance in their honour.

More than Illustrations: Images as Sources for Swiss History

27.10.2010

In addition to texts, images also afford us access to the worlds of the past, and can do more than simply enhance other means of transmission: they can contradict them as well. And yet images have long been neglected as historiographic sources. At a lecture held on the occasion of UNESCO's World Day for Audiovisual Heritage, Swiss historian Thomas Maissen offered a glimpse at the use of Swiss visual material for contemporary historical research and education.

Jörg Steiner: An homage on his 80th birthday

3.11.2010

Jörg Steiner's works invite readers to find the truths hidden behind the deceitful veils of cliché and the commonplace. The SLA held a tribute to him on the occasion of his 80th birthday, at which Steiner himself read from his texts, while Martin Zingg held a conversation with the author and Lukas Dettwiler provided introductory remarks on Steiner's archive.

Ceremony marks donation of Jean Starobinski's library

18.11.2010

Acting in the name of the SLA, the NL had sought a contribution to the purchase price – before receiving Jean Starobinski's entire library as a donation on the part of the Fondation Hans Wilsdorf. The actual handover of the library was held on the renowned cultural studies expert's 90th birthday, at which event Claude Reichler paid tribute to one of Switzerland's most significant scholarly libraries and Pierre Mottu, President of the Board of the Fondation Hans Wilsdorf, explained the thinking behind the extraordinary gift. Speeches of thanks were held in the name of the Swiss federal government by Stéphanie Cudré-Mauroux, Marie-Christine Doffey and Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter.

"A distance de loge": a colloquium dedicated to Jean Starobinski

19.–20.11.2010

The fourth meeting of the Cercle d'études internationales Jean Starobinski, run jointly by the SLA and the University of Geneva, honoured Jean Starobinski on the occasion of his 90th birthday with a conference held in Bern and Geneva. Devoted to Starobinski's formulation "A distance de loge", which designates a moment in the hermeneutic circle distinguished by overhead panoramic vision following or preceding a period of intimate participation, the colloquium considered the variations on the related critical position as reflected in Starobinski's thinking about interpretation and in his work as an interpreter, as well as in the other social sciences.



Jörg Steiner on 3.11.2010 in the NL



Jean Starobinski (left) in conversation with Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter, 18.11.2010