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Swiss Literary Archives



Anna Felder, *Tra dove piove e non piove*, first draft of the novel

The Swiss Literary Archives (SLA) have set out their strategic focus for the coming years and are establishing themselves in international research collaboration.

New guidelines

The SLA's revised guidelines for the coming years came into force in 2013. While maintaining the remit of collecting Switzerland's four literatures of the 20th and 21st centuries, they broaden the scope to include the next generation of authors as well as publisher's archives. New acquisitions will be catalogued promptly, ahead of existing holdings, but work on the latter will continue steadily. The fonds will be made accessible through on-site consultation, a series of events and publications, and occasional exhibitions. The SLA run their own research projects in the genesis of the text and scholarly editing, and teach the theory and practice of archiving at Swiss universities. The SLA work closely with national societies and associations, Swiss universities, and partner institutions in neighbouring countries.

Collection

Ten literary estates and archives³³ joined the collection, including those of Bernard Comment, Federico Hindermann, Charles Lewinsky and Aglaja Veteranyi. The new fonds are catalogued promptly. A further approximately 10 000 volumes of the Jean Starobinski library, which was acquired in 2010, were catalogued, giving a total of around 17 500 at the end of the year. In total, the *Index of manuscript collections held in libraries and archives in Switzerland* included 326 archives and literary estates from the SLA (2012: 309). In all, 115 inventories are available online (2012: 97).

User Services

The number of people using the SLA for research stood at 879 (2012: 932). They ordered a total of 3351 archive boxes (2012: 2844) and submitted 3457 requests for information and research (2012: 3459).

The research partnership with the German Literature Archive Marbach (DLA) is now firmly established. The SLA summer school at the CDN and the summer school at the DLA are held in alternate years, and the head of the SLA is a member of the board of the Deutsche Schillergesellschaft, assists the Suhrkamp research college in Marbach, and is a participant in the Marbach-Weimar-Wolfenbüttel research network of literary archives. The international conference *Literature – Publisher – Archive* examined the research field of publishers' archives for the first time. The project, which is supported by the Society for the Swiss Literary Archives, is carrying out pioneering work in the parallel acquisition, cataloguing and researching of publisher's archives.

The editio princeps of Hermann Burger's novel *Lokalbericht* is being prepared from his literary estate. The project is supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation and the digital presentation is being developed in conjunction with the Cologne Center for e-Humanities. The SLA are preparing the first edition of the works of Emmy Hennings together with Rutgers University (NJ, USA); the project is based on a gift from the heirs of Emmy Hennings. *Quarto* published issues no. 36 *Ludwig Hohland* and no. 37 *Scelte di una generazione*. The contributions to the colloquium marking twenty years of the SLA have been published under the title *Literaturarchiv – Literarisches Archiv*.

A further SLA author, Blaise Cendrars, was accorded classic status. His autobiographical works were published in the *Bibliothèque de la Pléiade*; further volumes will follow. The theme of the literary evenings³⁴ was "Written for the wastepaper basket".



Alice Ceresa's small diaries from the 1950s contain the first traces of *La figlia prodiga*.

The images are taken from *Quarto* 37, *Scelte di una generazione. Prosatori della Svizzera italiana nel secondo Novecento*. The documents shown are in the corresponding archives and literary estates in the SLA.

³³ For a complete list with descriptions see p. 11f.

³⁴ For details of individual events see p. 5ff.