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Swiss Literary Archives



Inkwell from the late 18th century owned by Peider Linsel, subject of the poem *Il vegl chalamer*. Loaned by the family to the SLA

In addition to significant new acquisitions, the Hermann Burger and Emmy Hennings edition projects as well as two conferences were the main features of the year. A calendar for the 2016 anniversary year contains photographic presentations showcasing the breadth of the collection.

Collection

The list of new acquisitions³⁴ contains the archive of an important publishing house (Urs Engeler Editor) and the private archive of an important publisher, Renate Nagel. Other highlights include the literary estates of Markus Kägi and Joseph Scheidegger and the gift of the literary estate of Oscar Peer. There have also been significant additions to existing archives and literary estates, including the second part of the Adolf Muschg archive, Ludwig Hohl's correspondence from the literary estate of Hanny Fries, and Kurt Theodor Oehler's collection on Hermann Burger.

The *Index of manuscript collections held in libraries and archives in Switzerland* included 353 literary estates and archives from the SLA, twelve more than a year earlier. Cataloguing is supported by public funding, the Society for the Swiss Literary Archives and the Christoph Geiser Stiftung, which provide grants for this purpose. There were 150 online inventories at the end of 2015 (2014: 131).

User Services

The number of active users rose from 826 to 911, while user requests for information and research increased from 3366 to 3508. The number of archive boxes lent out fell from 2326 to 2162 – a sign not of declining interest, but rather of more efficient administration.

Literary soirées for a wider audience, in some cases as the evening programme for a research event, also formed part of the outreach offering in 2015. In the *Beide Seiten – Autoren und Wissenschaftler im Gespräch* series, the *Paperworks* conference examined “literary practices with scissors, glue and paper”. The guest author was Eugen Gomringer. In association with the University of Basel, the research project “Blick nach Süden: Italienbilder in der deutschsprachigen Literatur der Schweiz seit 1861” (Looking south: images of Italy in German-language Swiss literature since 1861) closed with a conference. One outcome of this project is the volume *In und um Italien* with texts by Heinrich Federer. Klaus Merz offered his thoughts on the final authorised version at a soirée with editor Markus Bundi marking completion of the edition of Merz's works.

The cooperation between the SLA and the Cologne Centre for eHumanities on the *editio princeps* of Hermann Burger's first novel *Lokalbericht* was extended for a further half-year by the Swiss National Science Foundation. Extensive work was carried out on the five-volume annotated study edition of the works of Emmy Hennings, the first volume of which is published in 2016. A double issue of *Quarto*, the journal of the Swiss Literary Archives, was devoted to Peter Bichsel on his 80th birthday; it was presented to him at a soirée attended by the authors of the issue. The SLA presented its friends – and itself – with a gift in the form of *schreiben – écrire – scrivere – scrivere*, a two-week calendar with photographic presentations for the year 2016 – the year in which the SLA celebrates its 25th birthday.



Dieter Bachmann's Powerbook, on which he wrote works including his novel *Grimmsels Zeit* between 1998 and 2007. Dieter Bachmann archive in the SLA