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# Swiss Literary Archives

In 2016 the Swiss Literary Archives (SLA) celebrated 25 since their foundation. The theme of the anniversary year was avant-gardes. Following three years of research, the digital edition of Hermann Burger's *Lokalbericht* was published.

## Collection

In total, the *Index of manuscript collections held in libraries and archives in Switzerland* included 16 new literary estates and archives from the SLA in 2016. A further 17 inventories were also made available online, bringing the total to 167 (2015: 150).

The SLA acquired an unusually large number of archives of French-language authors in 2016. They include documents from Jean-Marc Lovay, Michel Contat and Jean-Louis Kuffer. The archives of two important German-language writers – Ilma Rakusa and Margrit Baur – also joined the SLA's holdings.<sup>23</sup>

## User Services

The number of active users declined slightly, from 911 to 886. Information and research requests fell to almost the same extent, from 3508 to 3380. However, the number of archive boxes lent out rose to 2461 as against 2167 in 2015.

The celebrations marking 25 years of the SLA took as their theme the avant-gardes. They were launched on 3 February 2016 by Peter Nobel, co-founder of the SLA, Thomas Geiser, chair of the Society for the SLA, and SLA authors. The exhibition *DADA original* was presented as part of the theme for the year. The first in a series of seven lectures was given by Sandro Zanetti, who spoke on the tensions between archive and avant-garde. Over the course of the year nine cabinet exhibitions – most of them related to the topic of the relevant lecture – were organised. The festivities closed on 18 November 2016 with the event *Tag des Archivs, Nacht der Autoren*, which was devoted to the contemporary avant-garde.<sup>24</sup>

In line with the topic of the anniversary year, 2016 saw the publication of the first volume in the study edition of Emmy Hennings' works, *Gefängnis – Das graue Haus – Das Haus im Schatten*.

*Graz sei Dank* is the title of the 42nd issue of the journal *Quarto*, which was published during the year in review. Graz is regarded as the secret capital of German-language literature. The journal examined topics including the relationships between Swiss and Austrian literary figures.

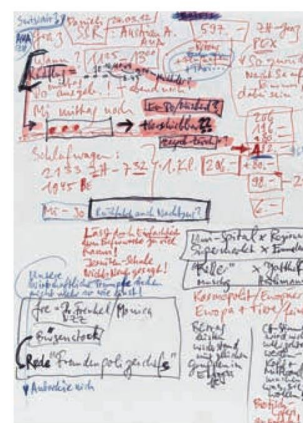
A project supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation enabled research into and the first-time publication of Hermann Burger's previously unknown début novel *Lokalbericht*. In parallel with the printed edition, the SLA published a beta version of the digital edition following three years of research in association with the Cologne Center for eHumanities of Cologne University. Dynamic visualisation and research functions make it possible to trace the genesis of the novel at the click of a mouse. The commentary also examines the circumstances of its development and the relationship to Burger's later work.<sup>25</sup>



Alfred Kolleritsch and Felix Philipp Ingold, photo: Isolde Ohlbaum, (from *Quarto* 42)



From a photo album by Urs Widmer: Birthday of H. C. Artmann, with Widmer's wife May Widmer (from *Quarto* 42)



Notes by E. Y. Meyer on planning a trip to Graz (from *Quarto* 42)

23 For notable acquisitions see p. 10

24 See also Main Events, p. 5ff.

25 <http://www.lokalbericht.ch/>