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Main Events – a Selection

tü-ta-too. The ear on tour

14.3.–10.6.2017

In 2012, to mark 25 years since they were founded, the Swiss National Sound Archives in Lugano created a touring exhibition featuring a large selection of sounds from Switzerland. *tü-ta-too* toured the country's four language regions until 2017, making its seventh and last appearance at the National Library.



tü-ta-too,
14.3.–10.6.2017

Vernissage of Quarto no. 43: Roland Jaccard

16.3.2017

Issue 43 of *Quarto*, the journal of the Swiss Literary Archives, was devoted to the French-speaking Swiss author Roland Jaccard. At the vernissage Roland Jaccard, Michel Contat and Michel Thévoz gathered at the Cercle littéraire in Lausanne to discuss the 1950s and 1960s. The three intellectuals recalled their generation's yearning to upend the social and moral conventions of Switzerland at the time.

Museum Night 2017: Make a noise!

17.3.2017

Taking its cue from the *tü-ta-too* exhibition, Museum Night 2017 focused its attention on sounds. Children were given the opportunity to construct instruments and play them. Two concerts took place in the large reading room: Roland Zoss's "Tier-ABC Xenegugeli" for the children, followed late in the evening by Müslüm with songs for all. The writer Michelle Steinbeck also read extracts from her work.



Museum Night:
concert by Müslüm
17.3.2017

Friedrich Dürrenmatt. L'imaginaire des sciences

2.4.2017–10.9.2017

Throughout his life, Friedrich Dürrenmatt was passionately interested in science. In his literary texts and pictures, he tackled astronomy, space travel, quantum physics, theories of evolution, biotechnology, medicine and artificial intelligence. The exhibition at the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel explored how scientific discoveries inspired his written and pictorial works.

Braucht die Geschichte eine Schweiz?

27.4.2017

Marking World Book Day, the historian Jakob Tanner spoke about the relationship between global and national history. The lecture was based on his 2015 publication *Geschichte der Schweiz im 20. Jahrhundert*. Along with Francesca Falk and Stephan Scheuzger he then discussed what Swiss history can take from the history of migrations and global history. The discussion was chaired by Emanuel Tandler.



Jakob Tanner,
27.4.2017



Literatur als Dialog. Zum 100. Geburtstag von Gerhard Meier, 21.6.2017

Literatur als Dialog. Zum 100. Geburtstag von Gerhard Meier

21.6.2017

Gerhard Meier would have celebrated his 100th birthday on 20 June 2017. To mark this anniversary, the Swiss Literary Archives devoted an evening to him on the following day. The actor Matthias Hungerbühler read from Meier's most important work, the *Baur und Bindschädler* tetralogy. There were also audio extracts from tapes of Gerhard Meier talking to the commentator and German scholar Werner Morlang.

What Lenin Read. The Revolutionary in the National Library

26.6.–26.8.2017

Between 1914 and 1916 Lenin was an inconspicuous Russian journalist and writer working in the Swiss National Library. Some 60 preserved borrowing slips and a selection of the works he borrowed revealed what Lenin was reading on the eve of the Russian Revolution. On display for the first time were documents from the Federal Archives and the Bern State Archives that gave an insight into Lenin's time in the Swiss capital.

Rilke and Russia

14.9.–10.12.2017

Throughout his life, Rilke viewed Russia as both homeland and a place he longed to be. The trination exhibition *Rilke and Russia* presented evidence of his fascination from the German Literature Archive, the Swiss Literary Archives, the Rilke Archive in Gernsbach, the private Lou-Andreas-Salomé Archive in Göttingen and from Russian archives and collections. It was shown first at the German Literature Archive in Marbach and then at two locations in Switzerland: the Strauhof Zurich and the National Library (NL). The NL presentation also included two sections on Swiss authors who likewise began their literary careers in Russia: Blaise Cendrars and Carl Spitteler. The exhibition in Bern was opened by Federal Councillor Alain Berset on 13 September. It makes its third and final appearance in Moscow in 2018.



What Lenin Read. 26.6.–26.8.2017

Rilke's correspondence: conference

28.–30.9.2017

A conference on Rilke's correspondence took place as part of the *Rilke and Russia* exhibition. The first evening closed with a public reading by author Ilma Rakusa. Prior to the exhibition, she had taken a trip through Russia on Rilke's trail and written a journal for the exhibition catalogue. She read from the journal and talked about her experiences.

Die Spottlust des Grossstädters – Der Witz erhellt, der Spott befreit. Zu Carl Spitteler's Aufenthalt in St. Petersburg

26.10.2017

As a young man, the later Swiss Nobel Prize for Literature laureate spent eight years in St. Petersburg. Stefanie Leuenberger described how, during that time, Spitteler was an acute observer of the Russian mentality and society.

Happy Birthday Fonoteca!

27.10.2017

As part of UNESCO World Day for Audiovisual Heritage, the Swiss National Sound Archives celebrated their 30th birthday at the LAC Lugano Arte e Cultura cultural centre. The ceremonial address was given by Marie-Christine Doffey, Director of the National Library, of which the Sound Archives are a part. Other speakers included Lugano city councillor Roberto Badaracco, National Council member Roberta Pantani, Council of State President Manuele Bertoli and Pio Pellizzari, Head of the National Sound Archives.



Ilma Rakusa,
28.9.2017

Blaise Cendrars, une rhapsodie russe. Conférence d'Oxana Khlopina

16.11.2017

As a young man, Cendrars travelled to Russia and took a job as an office clerk in St. Petersburg. It was during this period that he began writing. Oxana Khlopina's lecture highlighted that Cendrars' experience in Russia is one of the keys to his poetic universe.

Jean Starobinski et la psychanalyse

17.11.2017

The annual meeting of the *Cercle Jean Starobinski* took place in Paris at the invitation of the Association psychanalytique de France and the Swiss Literary Archives. Its topic was Starobinski's relationship with psychoanalysis. Ever since he encountered Freud's work in the 1940s, psychoanalysis was a constant element of Starobinski's thought.



Meral Kureyshi,
7.12.2017

Schreiben nach Rilke

7.12.2017

Under the aegis of writer Meral Kureyshi, the Swiss Literary Archives organised a writing workshop for final-year students of the Kirchenfeld grammar school. Its starting point and inspiration was the exhibition *Rilke and Russia*. It aimed to establish a connection between the writing of young people today and that of Rilke. In addition to lyrical works, the participants looked at dramatic texts, short stories and letters. Then, guided by Meral Kureyshi, they presented the results of the process at a public soiree.