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# Swiss Literary Archives

The NL teamed up with the Strauhof Zurich to present the trinational exhibition *Rilke and Russia*. The project was a collaboration between the German Literature Archive Marbach, the Swiss Literary Archives and the State Literature Museum of the Russian Federation in Moscow.

## Collection

As documented in the *Index of manuscript collections held in libraries and archives in Switzerland*, the Swiss Literary Archives (SLA) acquired 12 new literary estates and archives.<sup>16</sup> The SLA received the literary archive of Flurin Spescha, the first such collection from a Romansh author for some considerable time.

The number of online inventories rose by 21% in 2017, to 202 (2016: 167)

## User Services

The SLA received a large number of visitors and an exceptionally high level of use in 2017. The number of active users rose by 22.9% (2016: 886, 2017: 1089), as did the number of information and research requests, which were up 33.4% from 3380 in 2016 to 4509 in 2017. In total, 28.5% more archive boxes were lent out (2016: 2461, 2017: 3163).

The fourth volume in the series *Beide Seiten. Autoren und Wissenschaftler im Gespräch* was published in 2017. Entitled *Paperworks*, it is devoted to the work of writers on and with paper and examines processes in which paper as material and medium is a productive participant.

For the first time an issue of *Quarto*, the journal of the SLA, was published entirely in Romansh. Entitled *Scrit...en la naiv* (... written in snow) it looks at how snow is seen through the eyes of Alpine poets and authors in various languages.

A research project on the classical philologist and philosopher from Alsace Jean Bollack (1923–2012) was launched in 2017, in association with the University of Fribourg. The SLA acquired his literary estate in 2014 as he grew up in Switzerland and studied in Basel before settling in Paris in 1945.

The SLA added two complementary sections in Bern to the *Rilke and Russia* exhibition, which was shown at four different locations: one on Blaise Cendrars, the other on Carl Spitteler. Both Swiss authors spent extended periods in Russia, which was reflected in different ways in their works. Complementing the exhibition catalogue, a publication entitled *Flügel 1 / 2* dealt in greater depth with the significance of Russia for Cendrars and Spitteler.

An extensive programme of events accompanied the exhibition. A colloquium from 28 to 30 September saw experts examining Rilke's correspondence. Guided by the writer Meral Kureyshi, pupils from the Kirchenfeld grammar school in Bern attending the *Schreiben nach Rilke* writing workshop wrote lyrics, dramatic texts, short stories and letters. They then presented the results to the public at a soiree on 7 December.



*Paperworks*, vol. 2 (2017)



*Quarto*, no. 44 (2017)

<sup>16</sup> For notable acquisitions see p. 10.