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Walser's words

THIS month sees the publication of a book of selected stories by Robert Walser, who was born in Biel in central Switzerland and has been described as the greatest German-language writer since Kafka.

The book, simply entitled "Selected Stories", is the first extended collection of Walser's work to appear in English. It has been translated by, among others, the distinguished translator Christopher Middleton who has been associated with Walser's

work for nearly 20 years.

After his first poems and prose pieces, which appeared at the turn of the century, Walser wrote eight novels, over 1,000 short prose pieces and a great many poems.

Sadly, in 1929, after a period of severe mental distress, his doctors diagnosed schizophrenia. He entered a mental hospital in 1933 and never wrote again.

He died, during a lonely walk in the snow, on Christmas Day, 1956.

FOR YOUR DIARY

JEAN-Jacques Düunki, piano, gives a concert at the Wigmore Hall on Monday, October 4, at 7.30pm.

Heinz Holliger, oboe, is the soloist in a concert with City of London Sinfonia (works by Haydn, Cascken, Mozart and Schubert) at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on Sunday, October 10, at 7.15pm.

Lionel Rogg, organ, gives a

concert (works by Bach and Martin) at the Royal Festival Hall on Wednesday, October 13, at 5.55pm.

An exhibition of the work of the Swiss kinetic sculptor **Jean Tinguely** will be held at the Tate Gallery, London, from September 8 to November 14.

An exhibition, "**The Plan of St. Gall**", Gloucester Cathedral, September 27 to October 20.

An exhibition, "**Benjamin Constant - Une vie au service de la liberté**", University of Nottingham, October 1 to 20, and University of Lancaster, October 25 to November 10.

An exhibition "Paris sans fin," lithographs by **A. Giacometti**, Blackpool College Gallery, October 4 to 22.

Works by Swiss writers translated into English include

"Stiller" by **Max Frisch** (Methuen London Ltd) July 1982.

"Gold" by **Blaise Cendrars** (Peter Owen Publishers) August 1982.

"Stones" by **Erika Pedretti** (John Calder Publishers) September 1982.

"Selected Stories" by **Robert Walser** (Carcenet New Press Ltd) October 1982.

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