

Swiss Literary Archives

Objektyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **Annual report / Swiss National Library**

Band (Jahr): **107 (2020)**

PDF erstellt am: **26.09.2024**

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Swiss Literary Archives

The year 2020 was dominated by the centenaries of three major authors and scholars: Cla Biert, Jean Starobinski and Friedrich Dürrenmatt. The events were celebrated with a publication, a virtual exhibition and the Ringvorlesung lecture series *Dürrenmatt von A-Z*. The SLA's research cooperations and projects continued successfully.

Collection

In 2020, the SLA successfully completed negotiations with the third generation of the Fränkel family to acquire the literary estate of the scholar Jonas Fränkel (1879–1965) who, as well as working on the letters of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and the writings of Gottfried Keller, devoted his life to the roles of companion, editor and biographer to the Swiss Nobel Prize winner Carl Spitteler. The gift was accompanied by thirteen suitcases of Carl Spitteler's papers. This is an outstanding acquisition for the history of German studies in Switzerland, edition philology and Spitteler research that now requires extensive cataloguing and research work. The holdings include a correspondence network of Jewish scholars, publishers and authors all over Europe and also on the road to exile in the US and to Israel. Fränkel's literary estate was preserved in its entirety by the family for over 50 years in his study as a kind of time capsule.

Other key new acquisitions in the year included the archives of the writer Gerold Späth from Rapperswil and the scholar, commentator and author Iso Camartin from Graubünden. The SLA received six archives and literary estates, half as acquisitions and half as gifts, as well as a number of collections. There were important new additions to the literary estates of Patricia Highsmith and Meret Oppenheim, as well as the archive of the Society for the SLA, the Ludwig Hohl Foundation and the archive belonging to the family of Silver Hesse.

Outreach

The virtual exhibition *Jean Starobinski. Relations critiques* was produced with the EPFL+ECAL Lab to mark his 100th birthday, and was awarded the *Le Meilleur du Web* prize in the user experience category. The *Dürrenmatt von A-Z* lecture series was organised to mark 100 years since the Swiss writer's birth.

The following were also published in 2020: in the Emmy Hennings study edition, all the poems in one volume, including those from her literary estate and the partially unpublished prose of Cla Biert in the volume *L'odur dal fim*. The *Quarto* magazine issue on Meret Oppenheim, the *Bulletin Jean Starobinski* and the *Passim* bulletins on *Literatur und Recht* and *Friedrich Dürrenmatt* also appeared during the year.

The *SLA unterwegs* series was to see the SLA travel to locations throughout Switzerland at the invitation of cultural event organisers, as part of the NL's 125th anniversary celebrations. In the end, the pandemic meant that only two of these events could take place: an evening on Emmy Hennings and another on the novelist Cla Biert.

The SLA also organised various workshops and study days: on Alice Ceresa, on Carl Spitteler, marking the conclusion of the *Blick nach Süden* project, as part of the SNSF research project *Lectures Bollack* with the University of Fribourg, and with the University of Giessen on *Zukünfte der Philologien*.

User Services

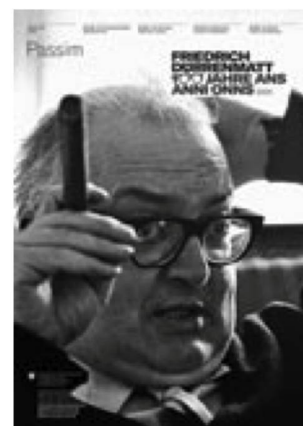
The number of active users declined by 12%, from 943 (2019) to 829 (2020), owing to the reading room closures resulting from the coronavirus pandemic, while information retrievals declined by 17% from 3949 (2019) to 3257 (2020).



Fränkel's library and suitcases containing Spitteler's papers



Quarto on Meret Oppenheim



Passim on Friedrich Dürrenmatt