

Main events - a selection

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Main Events – a Selection

Lavorando sulle carte. Autrici e autori della Svizzera italiana nel secondo Novecento ('Working on paper: authors from Italian-speaking Switzerland in the second half of the 20th century')

16./17.01.2013

In the Swiss National Science Foundation project *Pratiche d'autore* (2010–2014) three doctoral students investigated authorial practices in the first works by Anna Felder, Plinio Martini and Giovanni Orelli. Over the course of two study days for students and lecturers, other doctoral students presented aspects of their current research into Italian-speaking Swiss writers. Working on materials from the Swiss Literary Archives (SLA) and others, participants gained an insight into the linguistic and stylistic development of contemporary authors. The partners of the event were the universities of Zurich and Fribourg and the Swiss central office for continuing education. Materials related to the lectures were presented in an exhibition of the same name that accompanied the study days.



Lavorando sulle carte exhibition,
16.1.–16.2.2013

"Bern ist überall": a homage to Robert Walser

13.2.2013

The ironically elaborate precision of Robert Walser's prose is closer to spoken language than it might at first glance appear. The spoken word ensemble "Bern ist überall" ('Bern is everywhere') brought Walser to life. The evening, which gathered Guy Krneta, Gerhard Meister, Beat Sterchi and Christian Brantschen together at the NL, was conceived by the SLA in association with the Robert Walser Center.



Museum Night in Bern, 22.3.2013,
Museum of Music Automats

Museum Night in Bern: Switzerland sings and dances

22.3.2013

For Museum Night in Bern, the NL was transformed into a venue for song and dance. The children's dance group of the Zollikofen/Münchenbuchsee traditional costume society performed folk dances, while the Fanta5 collective showed excerpts from its new work. The Museum of Music Automats from Seewen, canton of Solothurn, was the guest in the exhibition gallery. Urs Richle read from his book *Das taube Herz*. Guided tours introduced documents on the music from the NL's collections. The event was rounded off with three performances by the Bernese singer and instrumentalist Nadja Stoller.



Veronika Spierenburg's reading
wheel at the National Library,
12.7.–14.9.2013

Historical bibliographies in the digital age

23.4.2013

To mark 100 years of the *Bibliography on Swiss History* (BSH), the editors of the various Swiss historical bibliographies came together for a future workshop with talks by Claudia Zey (University of Zurich), Gregor Horstkemper (Bavarian State Library) and the editors of the BSH, Karin von Wartburg and Nathalie Vuilleumier.

Why Swiss history?

23.4.2013

Recent years have seen a renaissance of the national perspective in Swiss historiography. Four prominent figures from the Swiss historiographic community, Elisabeth Joris, Georg Kreis, Thomas Maissen and Beatrix Mesmer, came together for a public debate on this phenomenon. The discussion was chaired by Urs Hafner. The event was organised in association with hier + jetzt publishers and Schwabe Verlag.

The work of Cendrars in the Bibliothèque de la Pléiade

13.6.2013

The publication of the *Œuvres autobiographiques complètes* marked the entry of Blaise Cendrars, whose literary estate is held by the SLA, into the *Bibliothèque de la Pléiade*, thus conclusively according his work classic status. At a formal event to mark the occasion, editor Claude Leroy, programme director Hugues Pradier and Jean-Frédéric Jauslin, Director of the Federal Office of Culture, paid tribute to the author, his work, and the edition.

“Eine andere Welt tut sich auf” (‘Another world opens up’): Laure Wyss evening

26.6.2013

To mark the complete description of the archive of Laure Wyss (1913–2002), the SLA devoted an evening to the “grand old lady” of Swiss literature. Barbara Kopp provided an introduction to her life and work. Franziska Kolp chaired the evening and presented some treasures from the archive, while Silvia Jost read out some unpublished texts.

Für den Papierkorb geschrieben (‘Written for the wastepaper basket’): Christoph Geiser evening

28.8.2013

Christoph Geiser’s writing is the product of often heterogeneous processes: material might begin as a story and be set aside for a while, only to re-emerge in an entirely different context. He makes notes and sketches, writes things down and crosses them out, rewords them, adds to them – and then consigns them to the wastepaper basket. Michael Schläfli talked to the author about his writing process. The evening was chaired by Corinna Jäger-Trees.

Georgia’s foreign minister visits the National Library

12./13.9.2013

As part of a working visit to Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) Didier Burkhalter, Georgia’s foreign minister Maia Panjikidze toured the Swiss Literary Archives and then joined Didier Burkhalter for a visit to the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel. Maia Panjikidze holds a degree in German and has a wide knowledge of Swiss literature, in particular the works of Max Frisch.

“Las fluors dal desert” – A literary and musical composition inspired by Cla Biert

18.7.2013 Samedan, 21.10.2013 Bern

Peter Cadisch took Cla Biert’s dream narratives *Las utschellas*, *Il mordrarettsch* and *Las fluors dal desert* as the inspiration for a literary and musical composition which is being performed at various locations in Switzerland. The performances in Samedan and at the Konservatorium Bern were preceded by an introductory discussion between the composer and Annetta Ganzoni.



Ceremony to mark the inclusion of Blaise Cendrars’ work in the *Bibliothèque de la Pléiade*, 13.6.2013, at the lectern: Marie-Christine Doffey



Christoph Geiser, 28.8.2013



Maia Panjikidze (left) and Dominique Petter (FDFA, centre) with Irmgard Wirtz Eybl in the Swiss Literary Archives, 12.9.2013



Egon Ammann, Verena
Auffermann, 14.11.2013



Klaus Siblewski, Christian Haller,
27.11.2013

“La Prose du Transsibérien” by Blaise Cendrars and Sonia Delaunay

19.10.–16.11.2013

The first “livre simultané”, *Prose du Transsibérien et de la Petite Jehanne de France*, published by Blaise Cendrars and Sonia Delaunay-Terk in 1913, was one of the most important artists’ books of the 20th century. The exhibition presented one of the few originals, which is in the collection of the Swiss National Library, and placed it in the context of other documents from the archive of Blaise Cendrars.

Literature – Publisher – Archive: publishing and publishers’ archives from a literary studies perspective

14./15.11.2013

The SLA’s international colloquium shed light on publishers’ archives, a new area of acquisition and research. Discussions, outline presentations and actual case studies offered an initial survey of the topic. Taking part were the authors Dieter Bachmann, Friederike Kretzen and Urs Widmer; Egon Ammann, Urs Engeler, Renate Nagel and Daniel Kampa from the publishing side; Jan Bürger, Rainer Diederichs and Klaus G. Saur from the world of academia and, from the SLA, Irmgard Wirtz Eybl and Magnus Wieland. The Suhrkamp research college in Marbach was represented by three invited doctoral students headed by Anna Kinder.

Cercle d’études internationales Jean Starobinski

14.11.2013

The publication *Les Approches du sens: Essais sur la critique* combines contributions to the conference *A distance de loge* with essays by Jean Starobinski on criticism. To mark the public presentation of the book, the “Cercle d’études internationales Jean Starobinski” met in the Librairie Le Parnasse in Geneva, for a discussion between Jean Starobinski and editors Stéphanie Cudré-Mauroux and Michaël Comte.

Seltsame Fremde (‘Curious strangers’): Christian Haller evening

27.11.2013

Christian Haller’s latest novel *Der seltsame Fremde* (2013) provided an opportunity to examine the working relationship between author and editor and identify signs of the latter in Haller’s work. The discussion with Christian Haller and his editor Klaus Siblewski was chaired by Christa Baumberger.

Balades avec le Minotaure

6.12.2013–9.3.2014

Balades avec le Minotaure is the second major exhibition by the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel (CDN) devoted to the topic of the labyrinth. The vernissage celebrated the reopening of the CDN after a five-month closure for maintenance work. With a design inspired by the architecture of the amphitheatre, the exhibition presents key scenes of the Minotaur myth, as interpreted by Dürrenmatt and other important artists including Goya, Richard Long, Pablo Picasso, Max von Moos, Paul Klee, Varlin and André Masson.