

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

German Literature of to-day. <Informal Speech.>

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I
German Literature of to-day.
Informal Speech.

German literature of to-day: that is really a tragic theme... It is not as though our literature were poor at the moment; quite the contrary. German literature can stand comparison with every world

literature: French, American, English - with any of them... But: The *there is the* infortunate division between the literature within the Reich and the ~~the~~ literature in exile... *You all know about that*

Germany was always politically untalented... A contrast to France whose literature was always a social power... In Germany it never was... The German genius were always isolated... The philosopher Nietzsche says: "Wie Kraniche sind sie über das Land hingezogen..." Like cranes they flew over the land - meaning that they never touched it... We only need to remember ~~both~~ the solitude of Goethe

- the madness of Nietzsche and Hölderlin and the suicide of Kleist... We have *- great struggle for justice, just for* no legende such as the Dreyfus affair which permitted literature (Zola) to take part heroically and actively

in social life.... We need only remember that Goethe stood *always* *touching* *again* inimically aside during the Napoleonic wars for Freedom... He was ~~was~~ hated during this time by the nationalistic youth...

Only second rate authors (Theodor Körner and so forth) were war enthusiasts...

German The people are, as a matter of fact, utterly u n p o l i t i c a l and u n l i t e r a r y - which is in a way a paradox, because they are immensely creative...

It is interesting to note, how specially bitter the ~~self~~ criticism against their own nation of German authors; most radically in the case of Nietzsche who wrote the most terrible things about Germany.

The same is true of Goethe whose criticism against Germany is *my* more poignant than is generally realized... The same is true in the case of Heine who had to live in France in exile because of his

love for his country, and whose poetry, concerning Ger., is up to date, today, in a touching way. ~~this poetry, with its characteristic mixture of ironic and sentimentality.~~

The catastrophe of today - and we really have to ~~sp~~ call it: a catastrophe - is nothing but the ⁴culmination of Ger. history.

A few authors for-saw, what was coming, some of them as far back as the Kaisers time.. Take, for instance, Heinrich Manns novel "The subject" = "D.U." - a bitter ~~saire~~ satire against the half brutal half hysterical German bourgeois type, who simply adored his Kaiser. This book is something like a prophecy: it shows already the whole character of the Nazi-German... The same bitterness we find in Carl Sternheim's comedies - much to little known over here -, and in Wedekinds great social tragedies..... Shortly, before Hitler came into power, several men of letters warned the nation: there was my father, but not only he by any means...

Don't make the mistake ⁴ of thinking, that Nazis are merely anti-semitic; they are the enemies of a l l creative Art - contrary to appearance and in spite the fact, that they seem to protect some authors...

As a metter of fact, they don't like a n y writers, because literature is bounded inévitably with social criticism...

Take, for example, the typical case of the great German poet Stefan George - with R.H. Rilke the greatest lyrical poet who wrote the Ger. Language in this century... You can't have any idea of the extent of his prestige in Ger..... Specially young ~~people~~ conservative and nationalistic people.... "The Cercle" = "Der Kreis"... Göbbels did everything to try to g e t ⁴⁰⁰⁴ him.... G. had possibilty to become the greatest figure in the country, something like Gorki in Sow. Rus. - But he maintained a hostile silence and refused to accept the

racial theorie...Died abroad;the last friend with him:jews...
His last wishe, to be burried in Switzerland...Pathetic, to see
his simple grave in Lugano...

Of course, it was impossible for a l l ^{of} German authors to emigrate,
~~let us draw sharp line of distinction~~ ^{But}..Shades of differeneeces
^{which made them differing}
in motives, are imprtant...They are hardly any r e a l Nazis among
the Ger.authors...Exeptions like Hanns Johst(President of Academie
..old personal friend of H.):became unproductive.H.H.Ewers - who
wrote the novel ^{about} of strange Nazi-hero Horst Wessel -:is in disgrace
more or less today....A few authors became enthusiastic for a
short while, 1933, but have got over it.The extraordinary case of
Gottfried Benn...essayist and lyrical poet of considerabel im=
pro^{ve}ance...special admirer of H.M.for whom he ~~del~~ delivered the
festival speech when my uncle had his 60.birthday...^{Benn}He wrote
the most inc^{re}dicible pro-Nazi things, ¹⁹³³for instance in a open letter
to ^{me}...I used to be one of his friends...

Than there are oppurtunists like old G.Hauptmann...the great re=
pre^{sen}tative author of the Republic who tried to make friends with
~~didn't create anything important since the war~~
Nazi-gov.)- publishing, for instance, his famous: I say Yes, when
H.arranged one of his ridiculous plebiscites..in the same B.T.
which belong^{ed} to his jewish friend Th.Wolff...

Important:The conservativ authors who have kept a ~~decent~~ at a
decent distance from the governement.Ricrada.(Historical books.)
Wiechert.(In Concentration camp for daring speech in Munich uni=
versity.)H.Carossa...

The name^s of world fame, outside Ger.

There is, in the emigration, of course, a very distictly p o l i c a l
literature - to begin with...

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Feuchtwangers "Oppermanns" - appeared in right moment; destiny of Jewish family... (In historical disguise: "Another Caesar".)

B. Franks "Reisepass" (The Heritage.) Leading character: Ger. prince who becomes an exile... The conservative opposition...

Heidens famous Hitler, and "A Man against Europe".

Emil Ludwigs "Hindenburg" and "Masaryk", - the great leader of C..S.R.

... Oldens "Hitler" and "Hindenburg".

Arnold Zweigs essays (living in Palestine.) *He is in Germany*
Why

A. Kerrs satire. (His position before.) *we may compare with Victor Hugo's ...*

H. Manns great indictment: "Hatred" and "The day reckoning will come"

("Es kommt....")

My fathers letter to the Dean of th un. of B. - who took ~~was~~ away from him his Doctor titel/ after father lost his Ger. citizenship

... Answer, published as a pamphlet... Bible of antifascist... Learned by heart... *Tollen, personality, political*

The political drama: Bruckners "Races"; Friedrich Wolffs "Professor

Mannheim", dealing with... *tragic* "Pittman", 1888 *for Roman ...*

Journalists: Schwarzschilds articles, every week, in NTB...

Side by side with the political - the a r t i s t i c production.

B. Frank, for instance, wrote "Cervantes"..., before "The Heritage"...

J. ~~Roth~~ Roth, author of "Job" and "R.-march": "Napoleon and the 100 days".... Alfred Neumann: "The New Caesar" (Napoleon III.) - B. ~~rechts~~, author of the famous adaptation of the old English "Beggars

opera": novel, about the same subject, and poetry.... Leonhard Frank ("Karl and Anna"): strange novel about lunatics; love-story between

a made young man and a made girl.... Remarque, just finished new novel... Hermann Kesten, in Spanish history: "Ferdinand..."; preparing:

"Philipp".... Willy Speyer's books, full of charme... Jakob Wassermann's narrative genius, created III. volume of "Kerkhoven"... He was

ill and sorrowful in last years... sorrowful for so many reasons...

Martin Gumpert, author and physician, living in this country - preparing Red Cross story...

The more entertaining lit.: the triumphal routine of Vicki Baum - known, of course, all over the world... Gina Kaus. Adrinne Thomas. Irmgard Keun, "After Midnight", very interesting, ^{like of today in G.W.} nopf is going to publish it... ^{preparing I. volume German}

H.M.'s "Henri of Navarr", the great human French king... ^{French volume} had a remarkable publicity in this country just now... "Joseph", growing slowly... Interruptions - not only for polit. artic., but also for "Carlotta in Weimar": story of strange meeting between old G. and girl ^{he} he was in love with when he was a young man... the girl he portrayed in "Werther"...

Young talents, not yet known in this country: Gifted women Anna Seghers; proletarian background. G. Regler, fighting in Spain for the loyalists, badly wounded; who may write a great novel one day...

.... Speacial case of Austrians, banned today in Ger. - The ~~best~~ most famous cases: Werfel; St. Zweig. (Who wrote libretto for Strauss opera....) Others, like René Philipp Miller ("Rasputin"), Tschuppick, fine historical books, "Maria Theresia", "Franz Joseph", flavour of old Habsbrug Austria... died recently in Vienna...

M a g s i n s ... "Mass und Wert" (Measure and Value"; father editor.) - "Sammlung" (The protecors of which....) "The Word" (Das wort): in Mosskau, but not bound to a party... Half literary half political: Tagebuch, Weltbühne, Prag.

T h e a t e r ... more difficult situation... Actually only Zürich for avantgared plays ("Races", "Mannheim"... Vienna and Prag, for complex reasons, careful...

To summarize: There is much being produced. It is tragic, that the

Art does not reach its public. Never before, there was a literature so completely isolated and cut off from its own country... Victor Hugo, when he was in exile, had possibility to publish in France.. even Napoleon III. read his poetry... secretly.... T o d a y : n o t a w o r d ... It means a crime, to bring a book of an emigrant author into Ger.

It cannot last. It will not last. For a long run, I am optimistic ... Very simple: A people, possessing such a literature, m u s t in the end rebel against s u c h a gouvernement.

German Literatur of to-day.

(Informal Speech.)

Dieses ist eigentlich ein tragisches Thema. Nicht als ob unsere Literatur in diesem Augenblick so arm wäre. Im Gegenteil; sie kann ohne Frage den Vergleich mit jeder Weltliteratur (der französischen, der amerikanischen, der englischen) aufnehmen.

Aber: die unselige Teilung. (Drinnen und draussen.)

Die tragische deutsche Situation. Die Deutschen waren immer unbegabt für die ~~die~~ Politik - im Gegensatz zu den Franzosen.

Bei diesen war die Literatur eine soziale Macht; bei den Deutschen nie. Die Genies isoliert. Unser Philosoph Nietzsche sagt: "Wie ^{cranes} Kraniche sind sie über das Land hingezogen..." Man denke an die Einsamkeit Goethes, an den Wahnsinn Nietzsches und Hölderlins, an den Selbstmord Kleists. Wir haben keine Legende wie die Dreyfus-Affäre, in der die Literatur (Zola) heroisch und aktiv ins soziale Leben eingreift. Während der Freiheitskriege stand Goethe feindlich abseits; nur die Dichter zweiten Ranges (Theodor Körner u.s.w.) begeisterten sich. /

Die Deutschen als das u n p o l i t i s c h e und als das u n l i t e r a r i s c h e Volk. (Paradox, weil literarisch immens kreativ.) - Die besondere Bitterkeit der literarischen Selbstkritik; am radikalsten bei Nietzsche, der über D. die furchtbarsten Dinge gesagt hat; aber auch bei Goethe (schärfer als man meistens denkt;) auch bei Heine u.s.w.

Und das Unglück von heute?

Einige Autoren haben es kommen sehen, schon unter dem Kaiser (Heinrich Manns "Untertan"; die Satire Sternheims; die Tragik Wedekinds.) - In den letzten Jahren: die Warnungen - ungehört. (Mein Vater - und nicht nur er...)

Ankündigung als Feindliche gegen die

Die Katastrophe ist da...Nazitum als Feind aller Literatur -
dem Augenschein zum Trotz.Im Grunde mögen sie die Schriftsteller
überhaupt nicht,weil soziale Kritik und Literatur unvermeidlich
zusammengehen.Sehr typisch:der Fall Stefan George.Sie können
sein Prestige hier nicht ermessen.Göbbels Werbungen um ihn.
Sein feindliches Schweigen,Ablehnen der Rassentheorien,sein
einsamer Tod im Aus(land).(Das Grab in Lugano.)

Manche konnten,wollten nicht emigrieren.Unt(erscheiden wir!
Nuancen sind wichtig. - Wirkliche Nazis kaum da.(Johst unpro=
duktiv geworden;Ewers in Ungnade.) - Die eine kurze Zeit lang
Berauschten.(Der seltsame Fall Gottfried Benn:Bewunderer H.M.'s,
Essayist und Lyriker von Format;schrieb 1933 die unglaublichsten
Dinge...) - Oppurtunisten wie der alte Hauptmann.(Fertig.) -
Konservative, die sich in anständiger Dinstance halten.(Huch,
Wiechert - verhaftet gewesen - ,Carossa.)

Die Weltnamen:ausser Landes.

Das grosse J'accuse der Heinrich Mann("Der Hass","Es kommt der
Tag",)Th.M.(Bonner Brief.Wird auswendig gelernt.Leute kommen in
Kerker.)Bruno Frank.("Der Reisepass").Feuchtwanger.("Oppenheim",
oder in historischen Verkleidungen:"Falscher Cäsar"u.s.w.);

Toller(als Redner,Dramatiker.)Aufsätze von Arnold Zweig,Leopold
Schwarzschild("Tage-Buch")u.s.w. Friedrich Wolff.("Mannheim.")

Inzwischen aber geht die rein künstlerische Produktion weiter.

Joseph Roth.("Napoleon und die 100 Tage".)Hermann Kesten

("Ferdinand und Isabella","Philipp"in Vorbereitung.)Leonhards

Franks merkwürdiger Roman über die Geisteskranken.Speyers Liebens=
würdigkeit.Die triumphale Routine der Vicky Baum.Die Erfolge

der Adrienne Thomas,der Keun("Nach Mitternacht":Wichtiges Buch,

Döblin, epische Taktik. - Die letzten Jahre in.

Handwritten notes in the left margin:
Friedrich Mann
Döblin
Sie als...
Handwritten notes in the right margin:
Oppenheim
Disguise
Another Caesar
Alfred K...
Robert...
rom...
Handwritten notes at the bottom:
Döblin, epische Taktik. - Die letzten Jahre in.
Alfred K...

Heinrichs "Henri" (Echo in diesem Lande.) - "Joseph" (langsam wachsend); "Lotte in W."; - Junge Talente: Regler, die Seghers u.s.w. *Carlotta*

Maxwell North
Zeitschriften: "Mass und Wert". "Das Wort" (in Moskau; aber nicht *bound to a party* parteigebunden.) - "Weltbühne", "Tage-Buch".

Theater. Zürich. - Wien und Prag problematisch.

Um zusammenzufassen: Es ist viel da. Tragisch, dass es das eigne Volk nicht erreicht. N i e war eine Literatur so abgeschnitten vom eigenen Lande. (Heine aus Paris; Victor Hugo konnten wirken. Heute: Kein Wort... Oder nur heimlich, unter Gefahren. Ein Buch von einem Mitglied unserer Familie oder Feuchtwanger mitzubringen: Verbrechen...

Es kann nicht dauern. Wird nicht dauern.

Ein Volk, das diese Literatur besitzt, erträgt à la longue nicht diese Regierung.

To summarize: There is much being produced. It is tragic that the Art does not reach its own nation. Never ^{before} was there a literature so completely isolated and cut off from its own country -

This cannot last. It will not last. A people possessing such a literature must in the end rebel against such a government. x