

Swiss Literary Archives

Objektyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): **101 (2014)**

PDF erstellt am: **22.07.2024**

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Swiss Literary Archives

The acquisitions of Thomas Hürlimann's archive and the literary estate of Jean Bollack highlight that the Swiss Literary Archives (SLA) are also a favoured address among authors and scholars abroad.

Organisation

As well as its collection, the SLA's remit has also grown in recent years. Alongside the traditional tasks of an archive, the last few years have seen the addition of genetic research, systematic cataloguing and researching of publishers' archives and the scholarly library of Jean Starobinski, as well as various edition projects, all made possible by collaborations. This necessitated a division of management responsibility. Since 1st January 2014, the SLA have been divided into two units: Cataloguing and Services, and Research and Outreach. The SLA's head is primarily responsible for acquisition and international cooperations. Together with the two co-heads of each unit, he or she makes up the five-member management committee.

Collection

The SLA added ten literary estates and archives to their holdings.³² They include the documents of a number of individuals who are of exceptional importance for their respective language community: Jean Bollack and Jean-Luc Benoziglio for French, Thomas Hürlimann and Hans Saner for German. Bollack, Benoziglio and Hürlimann demonstrate that the relationships cultivated with authors and scholars abroad over many years are bearing fruit. The literary estate of the philologist Jean Bollack also shows that the SLA is a recognised address for scholars' archives.

In total, the *Index of manuscript collections held in libraries and archives in Switzerland* included 341 archives and literary estates from the SLA (2013: 326). Cataloguing is proceeding swiftly, thanks not least to the grants funded by the Society for the Swiss Literary Archives. 131 inventories were online at the end of 2014 (2013: 115).

User Services

826 people carried out research in the SLA during the year (2013: 879). They consulted a total of 2326 archive boxes. Owing to the introduction of a new management system, a comparison with the previous year's figure (3351) is not meaningful. User requests for information and research totalled 3366 (2013: 3459).

The SLA were involved in three research events. They co-organised the fifth conference of the Gesellschaft für die Erforschung der Deutschschweizer Literatur (Society for Research into German-Language Swiss Literature, G.E.D.L.) (*Literatur in der Zeitung*), hosted the working conference of KOOP-Litera international³³ for the first time, and conducted the Summer academy on "Religion and Literature" at the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel.

Edited contributions from the 2012 Summer academy were published in the conference publication "*Verwunschene Orte*" – *Raumfiktionen zwischen Paradies und Hölle*. The publication *Dramaturgien der Phantasie. Dürrenmatt intertextuell und intermedial* derives from an international symposium held in 2011. Two issues of the journal *Quarto* were published: 38 *Pierre Jean Jouve* and 39 *Schreiben im Gefängnis*. George Borgeaud's letters to his mother were published to mark his 100th birthday, with the support of the SLA. Finally, the outreach offering included five literary soirées.

Annemarie Schwarzenbach, images for the photoreportage *Das Drama im amerikanischen Plantagengürtel. Glanz, Sturz und neues Leben... in den Südstaaten von U.S.A.*, published in *Zürcher Illustrierte* no. 24, 10.6.1938. The pictures form part of the literary estate of Annemarie Schwarzenbach in the SLA and, together with others, are reproduced in *Quarto 39 Schreiben im Gefängnis*.

³² For a list with descriptions see p. 11f.

³³ Arbeitsgemeinschaft der deutschsprachigen Literaturarchive und Nachlassinstitutionen