

The Swiss Literary Archives

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The Swiss Literary Archives

The SLA reinforced its international cooperation with partner institutions and established new forums for the exchange of ideas. New standards for future cataloguing will be introduced along with a new archive data-base. A 'Bern Model' is being developed with participation by the SLA for the Robert Walser Foundation.

Collection

New additions to the SLA included the archives of Verena Stefan, Maja Beutler, Clo Duri Bezzola and the second part of the literary archive of Meret Oppenheim.

The archive inventories of Etienne Barilier, Hans Bösch, Franz Böni, Gion Deplazes, Roger Dragonetti, Adolfo Jenni, Kurt Marti, Mani Matter, Klaus Merz, Jon Semadeni and Walter Weideli were made available on line.

Cataloguing work focused on the photos of Annemarie Schwarzenbach which formed part of the pilot project for the *HelveticArchives* data-base, which is planned to include all the NLs archival collections including the literary archives.

One mile-stone in collaboration involving literary archives in Switzerland is the agreement of a 'Letter of Intent' with the Robert Walser Foundation (RWS) which opens up a ground-breaking model for public-private partnership. The NL/SLA intends this cooperation to result in the integration of the collection of the RWS, which is a repository for renowned collections from the inter-war years (Hugo Ball, Carl Seelig, Friedrich Glauser), as a deposit.

User services

888 people visited the SLA in person for research purposes (2006: 570). Information was provided on the phone, in writing or emails on 1,653 occasions (2006: 1,319). The public events relating to Alice Ceresa, Mani Matter, Erica Pedretti, Gerhard Meier and Verena Stefan addressed a wider public than literary specialists. Numbers 22 and 23 of the periodical *Quarto* were dedicated to Hermann Burger and Etienne Barilier. The SLA bulletin, previously known as *CH-Lit* appeared in December 2007 for the first time as *passim* and contained contributions from all Switzerland's linguistic areas and in all Switzerland's languages.

Cooperation with partner institutions in neighbouring countries was intensified by means of specialist workshops. This was undertaken on the one hand as part of the project on authors' libraries, and on the other hand at the initiative of the 'Zentrum für Literatur-und Kulturforschung Berlin' which in the summer invited a number of archives to reflect on the methodology of philology. The SLA continued the dialogue in a workshop on 'Textgenese zwischen Konjektur und Krux'. This newly established forum involving cultural theorists and archives provides the basis for research into the theory and practice of an archive.

The *Kafka verschrieben* symposium established a dialogue between science and writers and will publish its contributions. Another first was the initial meeting of the *Cercle Starobinski* which will present studies of the works of the Geneva-based literary scholar and specialist in cultural studies twice each year.

As part of the 'Swiss Literature' Masters programme of the universities of West Switzerland and the Archive and Information Science course of study in Lausanne, the SLA provides students with new opportunities for their internship, a period of practical work attachment which is recognized in the ECTS (European Credit Transfer System).

Support Association for the Swiss Literary Archives

At the end of 2007 the Support Association for the Swiss Literary Archives had a membership of 387 (2006: 349¹²). Irène Diethelm, Sibylle Dorn and Roger Sidler were elected as new members of the Board; Sibylle Birrer and Aline Delacrétaz retired as members. The Swiss Literary Archives owe a special debt of gratitude to the Support Association for the financial support provided for cataloguing the Jean Starobinski, Annemarie Schwarzenbach, Cla Biert and Urs Widmer collections.

¹² In 2006 joint members were only counted as one member; from 2007 each person was counted separately in the statistics.