

# Swiss Literary Archives

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# Swiss Literary Archives

In 2010 the SLA focused on networking with other literary archives, working on and with authors' libraries, publishing research findings in book form, and continuing its series of literary soirées.

## Koop-Litera

September saw the foundation of Koop-Litera Schweiz, on the initiative of the SLA, with the aim of developing and coordinating a network of Swiss literary archives. Koop-Litera Schweiz, which unites the SLA with the Max Frisch Archive, the Robert Walser Archive, the Zurich Central Library and the library of the University of Basel, is an arm of Koop-Litera International, the specialist network of German-language literary archives.

## Collection

The SLA collection now includes the archives of Matthias Zschokke, Peter Lehner, Jürgen Theobaldy and Alberto Nessi, as well as the partial literary estates of Beatrice and Otto Tschumi, and Gilberte Favre.

The most significant new acquisition came with the donation of Jean Starobinski's library by the Fondation Hans Wilsdorf. The project covering the cataloguing of authors' libraries was completed in 2010, making the SLA the first European literary archive to have a manual explaining how to catalogue the specific copies of volumes containing marginalia: see the double issue of *Quarto Autorenbibliotheken* for published results.

The Index of manuscript collections held in libraries and archives in Switzerland now lists 295 SLA entries (2009: 277). Inventories of 78 of these are accessible online<sup>14</sup> while 11 are also to be found in *HelveticArchives*.<sup>15</sup>

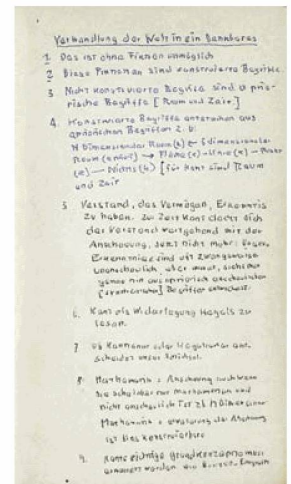
## User Services

Demand for documents kept in the SLA has remained high, with 3460 reference queries answered (2009: 2918) and 2983 archive boxes prepared for users (2009: 2630) in 2010.

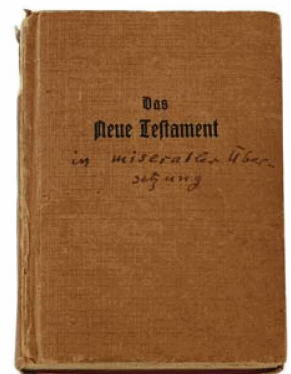
The SLA have stepped up inhouse research activities in recent years, which has in turn increased third-party interest in holdings. At present, two Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) projects are underway in collaboration with universities. The year in review saw completion of "Schreibprozess und Textgenese – Rainer Maria Rilkes Berner Taschenbuch (Malte)-Entwurfshandschrift"; a critical edition of the manuscript is in preparation. For its part, the SNSF project "Pratiche d'autore", on the archives of Anna Felder and Giovanni Orelli, is due to run until 2013. Since 2009 the SLA have offered courses at the Universities of Bern and Fribourg; Switzerland's first-ever master's programme in "Editorial philology" is currently in development in collaboration with the Institute for German Studies in Bern.

Three academic events were organised jointly with three separate partners during the year in review: the Hugo Loetscher conference with the Society for the Study of Swiss-German Literature (G.E.D.L); the summer academy on "autofiction" with the CDN; and the colloquium entitled "A distance de loge", which was held in Bern and Geneva on the occasion of the 90th birthday of Jean Starobinski, with the University of Geneva. The double series with Wallstein and Chronos was also continued, with publication of the proceedings of both the summer academy and the *Both Sides* research colloquia: the titles *Kafka verschrieben* and *Theater und Gesellschaft* were published in 2010.

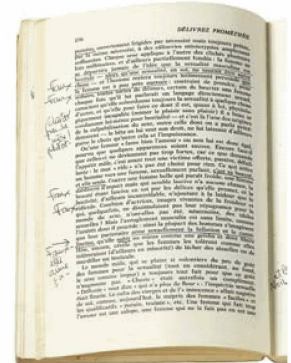
The SLA held literary soirées to honour both Erica Pedretti and Jörg Steiner, who turned 80 in 2010 and attended the celebrations in person. The pleasingly high turnout for events at the SLA means that in future seats will be subject to a reservation fee.



Friedrich Dürrenmatt's copy of the author's edition of Kant's *Kritik der reinen Vernunft* (Leipzig, Insel 1922), half title



From the library of Ludwig Hohl



Grisélidis Réal's copy of Jérôme Deshusses, *Délivrez Prométhée* (Paris, Flammarion 1978)

<sup>14</sup> www.nb.admin.ch/sla  
<sup>15</sup> www.nb.admin.ch/helveticarchives