

Literary museum
Badenweiler
Chekhov Salon



Author's portraits
and contexts

Introduction

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The “Chekhov Salon”, Badenweiler’s Literature Museum, originally opened in 1998 in the Kurhaus, moved to former Badenweiler town hall, located in the historical town centre, in 2015. The exhibition was completely refurbished, the collection expanded. The museum is accessible from Anton-Tschechow-Platz (Chekhov Square). In view of the numerous literary links between Badenweiler and the rest of the world, especially with Russia, France and the USA, it was considered essential to provide information about the exhibition in each of the respective languages. New brochures with texts in German, Russian, English and French were published in December 2019, with information on 28 authors on display in the museum, detailing their literary significance, and their connection with Badenweiler. The authors are listed in alphabetical order. Articles about the Anton Chekhov and Stephen Crane memorials are listed separately.

Every year the museum invites through its event platform “Internationales Literaturforum Badenweiler” (International Forum of Literature) with theatre performances, readings, lectures, discussions or exhibitions to encounter German and international literature.



Unveiling of the new Chekhov monument on the Castle Hill 1992

List of Authors

Scholem Alejchem (1859-1916)	6
Hermann Broch (1886-1951)	7
Anton Chekhov (1860-1904)	7
Stephen Crane (1871-1900).....	10
Kasimir Edschmid (1890-1966)	13
Gustav Faber (1912-1993)	14
Johann Peter Hebel (1760-1826)	15
Ingeborg Hecht-Studniczka (1921-2011)	17
Martin Heidegger (1889-1976)	18
Hermann Hesse (1877-1962)	19
Elli Heuss-Knapp (1881-1952).....	20
Heinrich Hoffmann (1809-1894)	21
Karl Jaspers (1883-1969).....	22
Justinus Kerner (1786-1862)	23
Rolf Dieter Kluge (*1937).....	25
Annette Kolb (1870-1967), presented together with René Schickele	25
Jawaharlal Nehru (1889-1964)	29
Rüdiger Safranski (*1945).....	30
René Schickele (1883-1940), presented together with Annette Kolb	26
Margaretha Spörlin (1800-1882)	31
Konstantin Stanislavski (1863-1938)	31
Hermann Stegemann (1870-1945)	33
Emil Strauß (1866-1960).....	33
Olga Tschechowa (1897-1980) and Vera Tschechowa (*1940)	34
Martin Walser (*1927).....	36
Elisabeth Walter (1897-1956).....	36
Gabriele Wohmann (1932-2015)	37

Memorials

An Enigmatic Chekhov Monument in the museum	38
Chekhov Square and the “Emblematic Cherry Orchards”	39
The Memorial Stone for Chekhov near the Schwanenweiher ...	40
The new Chekhov Memorial on the Burgberg	40
The Stephen Crane memorial marker	41
René Schickele fountain in Kanderner Str. with memorial marker	42

Selection of publications	42
--	----

Site plan of the memorials	44
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Literarisches Museum Badenweiler
Tschechow-Salon

Sholem Aleichem – Yiddish Literature at Badenweiler

(* March 2, 1859 as Sholem Rabinovitch, Pereyaslav near Kiev; † May 13, 1916, New York)



Sholem Aleichem is regarded one of the most famous Russian-Jewish authors and one of the founders of Yiddish literature. His complete works consist of 28 volumes (1917-1925, New York) and include novels, stories, plays, essays, and letters. Initially he wrote in Russian and Hebrew, the latter being at the time the language used mostly by Jewish intellectuals. However, he later changed to write in Yiddish because he wanted to reach a broader public. The “simple” people from the Jewish shtetls could only speak and comprehend Yiddish. S. Aleichem thus contributed to raising Yiddish to the status of a literary language. Due to the persecutions of Jews, and the holocaust, Yiddish has almost disappeared from Europe. Aleichem lead an adventurous life as a rabbi, a journalist, a stock broker, a Zionist agitator, and from the 1890s onwards mainly as an author. In 1903, he tried in vain to convince Anton Chekhov to cooperate with him. Even though Chekhov cherished Aleichem’s work, a collaboration never occurred. In 1905, S. Aleichem fled from pogroms in Odessa. The next few years he spent mostly on lecturing tours in Europe and in the United States, From 1910-1911 he lived with his whole family at Badenweiler to cure his tuberculosis and to work there. He produced the satirical spa novel “Marienbad”, the artist novel “Blondzhende schtern” (“Wandering stars”) and some shorter stories during this time. In 1914, he migrated to the USA there he succumbed to his tuberculosis two years later. At his funeral in New York, supposedly over a 100,000 people followed his coffin. His success increased even further due to the translations into Hebrew and multiple European languages done by his son-in-law, Isaak Berkovits who had lived with him in Badenweiler. The passing of Sholem Aleichem meant the end of the classical era in Yiddish literature. However, his achievements had an enormous influence on the following generation of authors such as Isaac. B. Singer, Joseph Roth and Saul Bellow.

The famous Broadway musical “The Fiddler on the Roof” is based on one of his well-known novels “Tevye and his Daughters”. It premiered in 1960 and was performed on stages around the world. Its German premiere in Hamburg in 1968 changed the title to “Anatevka”, the name of the fictional village. In 1964, a museum in Tel Aviv was dedicated to S. Aleichem, another museum dedicated to him opened in Kiev in 2009. There are memorials for him in Kiev as well as in Moscow.



Monument in Kiev

Transl.: A.M.

Hermann Broch – an Analyst of his Time

(* Nov. 1, 1886, Vienna; † May 30, 1951, New Haven/USA)



Hermann Broch was born into an Austrian Jewish industrial family. He studied textile engineering in Vienna (Austria) and textile machine engineering at Mulhouse (France, Alsace). Supplementing his studies there, he would be invited to visit the town of Badenweiler, where a great number of Mulhouse industrialists had their villas. Later he worked for his father’s textile company. In 1909 he converted to Catholicism. After selling the textile company, Broch studied Mathematics and Physics in Vienna and subsequently lived as a freelance writer. After being arrested by the Nazis in 1938, he fled to England and from there, with the support of Thomas Mann and Albert Einstein to the U.S. In his trilogy of novels, called “Die Schlafwandler” (1930-32; “The Sleepwalkers”), he exposed the disorientation and amorality of modern times. Segments of the second part of the trilogy take place at Badenweiler. His novel “Der Tod des Vergil” (1945; “The Death of Vergil”) was called a masterpiece of Modernity and was compared to James Joyce’s “Ulysses”. In his essays, Broch’s portraits of authors, for instance the depiction of Hugo von Hoffmannsthal, were highly valued. In 1949, he married the painter Annemarie Meier-Graefe. She and her late husband, the famous art historian Julius Meier-Graefe, had been part of the first circle of artists at Badenweiler that also included René Schickele and Annette Kolb. Thomas Mann and other close friends put Broch on the list on nominees for the Nobel Prize, however this Badenweiler nomination was not met with success. In the “Spiegel” magazine (1986, No. 44), Martin Lüdke wrote on Broch’s 100th birthday: “The radicalism and the consequences of his thinking (and acting) are impressive. No other poet of this century recognized the dilemma as clearly as he did and nobody was able to describe it as clearly as he did.”

Transl.: A.M.

Anton Pavlovich Chekhov, the Museum of Literature at Badenweiler, the “Chekhov Salon”, and his Russian Network



(Chekhov: * Jan. 29, 1860, Taganrog; † July 1, 1904, Badenweiler; The various spellings of Chekhov vs. Tschchow are used in accordance with the standard spelling of the author’s name in the English-speaking world vs. the common German spelling of the names of his relatives who made careers in Germany in the 20th c.)

The doctor, author and playwright Anton Pavlovich Chekhov, is ranked, next to Leo

Tolstoy and Fyodor Dostoevsky, as one of the greatest Russian narrators of the 19th century. Their literary influence is immense. Chekhov is one of the co-founders of the European Art Epoch (literary) Modernity, especially with "The Seagull" (1898), "Uncle Wanja", "Three Sisters" (both 1901) and "The Cherry Garden" in 1904. There is a revolutionary force that is to be found in his work: He focuses on people slaving off their lives trying to achieve questionable ideals trying to attain their grand "modern" dreams in life. Chekhov is wary towards any type of ideology, and he reveals this skepticism with his distancing and thereby objectivizing, almost scientific way of observation. This, in effect, shows his strong affinity to our relativistic present time, the alignment is closer and stronger than the one to his contemporaries.



*Wedding picture with
Olga Knipper (1901)*

Chekhov, after whom the Badenweiler Literature Museum is named, visited this town with his wife, the actress Olga Knipper-Chekhova, on June 22, 1904, at the suggestion of his doctor in Moscow. He intended to cure his tuberculosis here. Since the 1890s, however, Badenweiler had started to focus on the balneotherapeutic usage of their thermal waters. Ultimately, it was of no use for tuberculosis patients in their last stages, as the climate was not favorable for them. There was some hope for curative therapy at the beginning, when the grand-ducal spa

doctor in charge, Dr Josef Schwoerer, a medic highly renowned in Russia, was in charge. But Chekhov, after arriving in Badenweiler with much hope, succumbed to his sickness not much later than seven days after his arrival. He died in the former hotel "Sommer" which is the present-day rehabilitation clinic "Park-Therme".

Four years after his death, friends and admirers from Russia and Germany, one of them being the well-known innovator of theatre and managing director of the Artist's Theatre in Moscow, Konstantin Stanislavsky, as well as Baron Dmitry von Eichler, the Russian Ambassador with ministerial rank in the Grand Duchy of Baden, supported by K. Stanislavsky and his theatre, erected a bronze cast figurine to commemorate the author at Badenweiler. This was the first memorial for Chekhov worldwide and at the same time the first memorial marker for a Russian writer outside his home country.

12 days after another grand German-Russian commemorative celebration in front of the Chekhov memorial in 1914, the First World War broke out. In the last year of WWI, the memorial was melted down. During the Nazi dictatorship, Chekhov's work was

denounced as "Unwanted Art" (Entartete Kunst), as much of Modern Art was.

In 1954, at the 50th anniversary of Chekhov's death, again a ceremony was held at the spa in his honour. In the same year, Thomas Mann published his influential essay "Approaching Chekhov", praising him as being one, if not THE outstanding congenial and intellectual analyst of modern times. This was a re-establishing review contradicting how Chekhov had been received by the ruling powers in Germany during the thirties and forties. It stated the German intellectuals' reception of Chekhov's work. And proved Badenweiler's common sense approach in not howling with the wolves at the times. According to a memo in a protocol of the Badenweiler Council, the Chekhov-Archive was founded in 1956 to record the commitment of the township towards the "Reconciliation with the former war enemy, the Soviet Union". These documents later formed the basis for the literature museum "Chekhov Salon". On the occasion of Chekhov's centenary in 1960, the press wrote, that Chekhov "ruled" the German-speaking theatre stages. From the Seventies onwards, Badenweiler started to organize the Chekhov Commemorative Celebrations together with the Slavic studies at German universities.

Highlights of the contemporary German reception as well as of the international reception of Chekhov were the three big "International Chekhov-Symposia" held at Badenweiler. Organized by the Slavic Department of Tübingen University in 1985, 1994 and 2004, they were attended by approximately 100 speakers from 22 different countries.

In 1992, the Far Eastern Russian island of Sakhalin contributed to the re-erection of a memorial at the old site near Badenweiler Burgberg. This time it was not only dedicated to Chekhov, but also to the political movement Perestroika, resulting in a close cultural exchange with Russia. Chekhov had actually visited this former czarist island for convicts in 1890. The new landmark stands for the renewed partnership between both countries in this century, and again Chekhov stands for modernity, maybe even for postmodernity and (post-)pan-European modern political movements. In 1998, as a natural consequence of the second symposium, the Literary Museum at Badenweiler, the "Chekhov Salon", was inaugurated in one part of the Kurhaus Badenweiler (mainly organized by Heinz Setzer, a young Slavist from Tübingen). Since then, the "International Forum for Literature at Badenweiler" serves as a venue and an international literary address and research facility for transnational academic meetings.

To further the German-Russian friendship, a cultural twintown agreement between Chekhov's birth city, Taganrog, and Badenweiler was initiated in 2002. That same year, the magazine "Theater heute" ("Theatre today") released statistics showing that Chekhov is the second-most performed non-native dramatist on

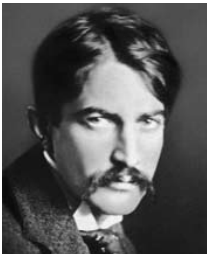
German-speaking theatre stages, second to no other than William Shakespeare.

After redesigning it in 2015, the “Chekhov Salon” moved from its previous site within Badenweiler Spa’s main Kurhaus to the centre of the town. The collection is now incorporated in the new Badenweiler Museum of Literature, housed in historic town hall. Its exhibition on display comprises 28 authors with a strong connection to Badenweiler as of today.

Transl.: A. M.

Stephen Crane – North-American Literary Modernity

(*Nov. 1, 1871, Newark, New Jersey; † June 5, 1900, Badenweiler)



Two famous names are mainly associated with the town of Badenweiler and Modernity in literature: one is the Russian author Anton Chekhov (1860-1904), and the other is the American writer Stephen Crane. Both of them came as patients suffering from tuberculosis, both of them hoped to be cured at Badenweiler. But both arrived too late. Anton Chekhov’s books and plays sky-

rocketed after his death and impacted literature and theatre on a global scale up to the present day. Stephen Crane, by comparison, was neglected by his native country and Great Britain, the latter his home where he purportedly contracted tuberculosis. He was almost completely forgotten after his death. It was only in the roaring “Realism/Naturalism-loving” 1920s, that the academic readers’ and writers’ world would recognize how much his works imprinted and still are imprinting the North-American Literary Modern Era now known as Modernity.

In particular, three novels written by Crane are acknowledged as being masterpieces. The novel that he published as a 21-year-old in 1893, “Maggie – a Girl of the Street”, “The Red Badge of Courage” (1895), as well as his short story “The Open Boat” from 1897. Just as much as Dickens would have with “Hard Times”, or “Oliver Twist”, Stephen Crane would venture onto new ground concerning heatedly debated socio-economic topics, his writings would not compromise. Very much like German Naturalists, he would unabashedly describe societies’ failures and shortcomings. And much like Ibsen, he would point at the psychological condition connected with “real” conditions his fictional characters would find themselves in. In addition to the choice of topics, his style was unheard of. By doing so, he challenged the society of his days, albeit his own contemporaries would only be willing to have a closer look at their own comfort zones 25 years later.

In “Maggie”, Crane describes poverty and the effects of violence and alcoholism, all three of which were prevalent in one of the poorer areas of New York, the “Bowery”. These conditions are

the reason why young Maggie, who is dreaming of romantic love, ends up being seduced and subsequently abandoned. Her mother forces her into prostitution and Maggie commits suicide.

Veterans of the American Civil War approved of the credibility of the featured realistic war reporting in the novel “The Red Badge of Courage”. This is particularly interesting, because Crane must have put oral story telling into this heart-wrenching account of a young soldier. The author was born long after the American Civil War had taken place. A young volunteer, Henry Fleming, panics when he experiences the first attack and deserts his troop. Full of shame, he returns back, though. His comrades mistakenly perceive an injury, that he inflicted upon himself during his escape, as a battle trophy. He ends up being seen as a hero. He seems to return back home as a changed and matured man. However, the author plays around so mischievously and ironically with the narrative perspectives, that it equally can be read as if Fleming has not matured at all, but is actually as deluded as he was at the beginning.

The simple, straight-forward use of language, as well as the vividness of the imagery Crane uses in his work are the reasons why Crane is seen as a literary prodigy in the US and in the UK. His war writings and descriptions of social desiderata are compared to those by Leo Tolstoy and Stendhal. His style would become decisive for writers like Hemingway.

Crane’s partner at the time of his Badenweiler visit was Cora Taylor, owner of an amusement venue. They travelled together through the US and through Europe. For the most part, Crane earned his living being a well-known war correspondent.

In their last years, the Cranes, who were often short of money, were living in Southern England. There, they were known to all the current authors of their time, such as Joseph Conrad, Henry James and H. G. Wells, to name but a few. Towards the end of the year 1899, Crane suffered an internal bleeding due to a tuberculosis infection. In May 1900, Cora accompanied him on the strenuous trip to Badenweiler to consult the famous Dr. Josef Fraenkel as his last hope. Whilst fighting high fever, Crane dictated his adventure story “O’Ruddy” to get some of his debts paid. Aged 28, he died in Cora’s arms on June 5th. His last novel was left unfinished, but through the circle of friends and admirers (whose contributions had enabled him to do the journey to Badenweiler) another collaboration led to a posthumous ending of said story, created by Robert Barr.

In 1956 the first commemorative ceremony for Stephen Crane was held at Badenweiler. Due to the Crane renaissance in the US and also with some help by the Carl Schurz Haus, aka DAI, the Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut (commonly referred to as Amerikahaus) of Freiburg, Badenweiler is now known in North America as the place where he died. There is hardly any Crane researcher in the USA from the 1950s to the present day who did not visit the



Stephen Crane Awards Ceremony 2019

Crane Archives in the town of Badenweiler.

For Crane's 100th death anniversary (in 2000), Badenweiler held the biggest ever Crane memorial service in Europe, at which a commemorative plaque was revealed at Zöllin Square. Its inscription reads as follows:

Stephen Crane

(Nov. 1, 1871 in Newark, New Jersey, USA; † June 5, 1900 at Badenweiler)*

His expressiveness and authenticity made Crane the founder of Naturalism in American literature. As a writer, poet and journalist, he paved the way by combining fiction and objectivity for the American literary Modernity. His courageous commitment as a war correspondent and as a writer was the reason for his illness. He passed away too early.

Crane's last residence, Badstraße 2

Since 2007, the English Department of the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg (Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Hochbruck) and the town of Badenweiler (Director of the Museum Heinz Setzer) have awarded the "Stephen-Crane-Research Prize for North-American Literature and Cultural Studies". This is an inaugural project highlighting research done at university level focusing on North American Literature and Culture, in combination with promoting "local" literature, or rather re-located US literature such as Crane's. The prize is awarded bi-annually to excellent academic performances (bachelor thesis, master thesis or dissertation). Furthermore, "Nominee Awards" (academic praise) are also presented.

Previous Laureates:

2007 Johannes Justus Fehrle, Master Thesis; Nominee awards: Anna Krämer, Julia Riedel, Vanessa Spindler, Corina Strobel, Christoph Heine, Marek Gryglewicz, Florian Neumann, Stefan Reinhardt, Artur Rommel

2009 Marek Gryglewicz, Bachelor Thesis; Nominee awards: Carolyn Blank, Friederike Reussner, Anne Schäfer, Sebastian Schulz

2011 Aynur Erdogan, Master Thesis; Nominee awards: Anne Brandstätter, Maximilian Alders

2013 Svenja Hohenstein, Master Thesis; Nominee awards: Carolin Peschel, Samira S. Strauß, Thomas Büttner, Elmar Ernst Offenkemper, Eckart Winski

2015 Philipp Scherzer, Master Thesis; Nominee awards: Diana Schanz, Daniel Hefflebower, Simon Schneider

2017 Harry Schüler, Dissertation; Nominee awards: Christina Gels, Julia Ruff, Alexander Hübner

2019 Tara Akbari, Master Thesis; Nominee award: Damaris Stein

Transl.: A.M.

Kasimir Edschmid

(* Oct. 5, 1890, Darmstadt; † Aug. 31, 1966, Vulpera / Engadin)



Edschmid's first publications appeared in 1911. In 1919, the expressionist became one of the co-founders of the Darmstadt Secession. Edschmid lived until 1933 with Erna Pinner, a Jewish author. They were received as this very elegant and socialite dream couple. Edschmid had been very close friends with René Schickele ever since the first World War and he notably celebrated

him in a passionate hymn for his achievements as a poet, for him being a vigilant pacifist, an ardent European and for his fighting spirit in general.

"He [Schickele] is an Alsatian and as a poet, the most meaningful incident that could have ever occurred near this border since Gottfried von Strasburg. There is absolutely nothing in Germany that is even comparable to the intellectual inspiration, the colorfulness, the mind and the wisdom of the masculine elegance that was emitted by this Gallic-Alemannic figure". (The double-headed Nymph. Essays about Literature and the Present Day, Berlin 1920.)

When the Nazis burned Edschmid's works in 1933, Erna Pinner fled to London into exile. He stayed in Germany, practicing what was then called "inner emigration" and wrote politically correct unsuspecting travel reports. In total, he published more than 70 volumes of stories, novels, travel reports and plays. In addition to that, there are a number of essays and articles. After the founding of the Federal Republic of Germany, a new phase in

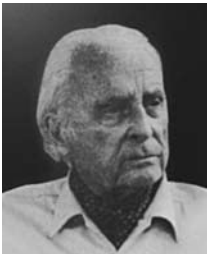
Edschmid's life started as a German literary official. He was asked to look after the legacy of his friend Schickele (who had died in 1940), and became a member of the re-emerging literary circle "Cénacle littéraire" as well as the then newly formed "Schickele's Friends Association (Freundeskreis)". Among the illustrious members of this group were Annette Kolb, Anna Schickele, Emil Bizer and Emil Brischle. These associates, or Friends, were the ones who, with the help of Badenweiler council and members of the township's community, erected the Schickele Memorial Fountain in 1947. For the inscription on its dedication, Edschmid composed these verses:

"His heart carried the wisdom of two nations. / His mouth was the beautiful messenger / of precious poetry / and passionate humanity / heralding unwavering / in midst of turmoil / of his age. / His poetry, / hails in thousand birdcalls." In 1949 Edschmid was appointed secretary general of the P.E.N. Center of Germany. In 1955 he received the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany (Bundesverdienstkreuz). Two years later he was also awarded the Goethe prize by the city of Frankfurt and in 1960, he became honorary president of the German PEN club. Thanks to him, the P.E.N. center assembled in Badenweiler in 1956.

Transl.: A. M.

Gustav Faber – travel writer and chronologist for Badenweiler

(* Aug.15,1912, Badenweiler; † April 5, 1993, Badenweiler)



G. Faber, with a doctorate in German Studies, worked as a journalist, travel writer and non-fiction writer. He made several trips to the Middle East, Latin America, the Mediterranean and throughout Germany, writing highly esteemed works on cultural and historical travel. After serving in the Second World War, he returned home to Badenweiler. Here, he wrote a cultural history book about the time of the Romans in what is now South Germany: "Badenweiler – A Piece of Italy on German Soil" (1975, 1981 revised). In his reports, Faber carefully combined historical sources with his personal impressions and travel encounters. He was awarded the Karlsruhe Cultural Prize. His most famous works include: "Brazil – World Power of Tomorrow" (1970); "Portugal" (1972); "In the Footsteps of Hannibal" (1983); and "In the Footsteps of Paul" (1989). One year before his demise, he added the fall of the Berlin Wall, German reunification, into the revised reprint edition of his "Twelve Journeys Through Germany" (1975, new edition 1992).

Transl.: A. v. S.

Johann Peter Hebel and his "Little Paradise Garden" Badenweiler

(* May 10, 1760, Basel; † Sept. 22, 1826, Schwetzingen)



J. P. Hebel is not only renowned for his achievements as an author and a poet who used the Alemannic dialect in his works, but also very well known for his work as a Protestant theologian, a teacher and a deputy duchy officer in Baden. He spent his childhood in Basel and at Hausen in Wiesental in the Southern Black Forest. After his first years in schools in Basel and at Schopfheim, he went to the highly acclaimed Grammar School at Karlsruhe in 1774. At the time Karlsruhe was the capital of the Margraviate Baden. In 1783, Hebel became an assistant teacher at their teacher training facility "Pädagogikum" at Lörrach. Nowadays, the building of the "Pädagogikum" houses the "Dreiländermuseum", which features a museum display about Hebel in one of its rooms. In 1792, he became a deacon for the Margrave and a high-school/university teacher at Karlsruhe. He taught multiple subjects such as botanical sciences and natural history for which he established a big herbarium. Hebel was a friend of Dr. Carl Christin Gmelin (1762-1837) who was a native of Badenweiler. Gmelin was a scientist, a botanist and a high-school teacher as well. Hebel had proofread his work "Flora badensis alsatica" with regard to Greek and Latin terms. In 1786, Gmelin became director of the Margravian Cabinet of Natural History, which is the present-day State Museum of Natural History at Karlsruhe. In 1814, he also became the head of the Baden Mining Committee, whose duty was to control all Badenian mining sites. This included the management of the mining site at Badenweiler, as the town was not only a bathing resort in the first half of the 19th century, but a comparatively prosperous mining site. The town was also investing in iron. Therefore, spa guests had the opportunity to visit interesting industrial sites and they would even rent boats on the "Schmelzeweier", which today is an outdoor swimming pool. Hebel longingly yearned for his home in the south of Baden and came to the village to spend time with Gmelin. As he had found a kindred spirit in him, they used to go on botanical and mineralogical excursions all over Badenweiler and the surrounding areas. Gmelin is mentioned a couple of times in Hebel's literary works and is then referred to as the "Chrüterma vo Badeviler" (the herbs' bloke from Badenweiler). Hebel supported him by strongly recommending the book "On the effect of Natural Sciences on the overall public wealth [...] by D.C.C. Gmelin of Badenweiler" wherever he could. He did so 1810 in his widely read yearbook, a calendar or almanac full of short stories and "Kalendergeschichten" (short novellas with a high potential for educating their readers), an entertaining and useful Reader's Digest through

the year, very popular in the 19th century, called "Rheinländischer Hausfreund". Hebel had always hoped for a transfer to South Badenia, which was denied to him by Grand Duke Karl-Friedrich who deemed Hebel's work in Badenia's capital quintessential. In 1808, Hebel was appointed principal at Karlsruhe's prestigious Grammar School, and in 1819 he was made prelate of the Lutheran national church. Consequently, he became deputy of the state assembly of Baden. He played an essential role in the union of churches.

Hebel died unexpectedly of colon cancer during a school inspection tour. He died at Schwetzingen in the house of his friend Johann Michael Zeyher, who was the director of gardening in Baden and who had taken care of the park facilities of Badenweiler since 1804.

After a trip to Wiesental, in the south of Baden, Hebel published his "Alemannische Gedichte" ("Alemannic Poems") anonymously at Karlsruhe in 1803. They were written in his regional dialect. In his work, he portrayed everyday life, the scenery and living conditions in the mines. After the enormous success of this publication, he continued to publish this kind of regionally flavoured poetry under his real name.

Poets such as Jean Paul and Johann Wolfgang von Goethe wrote favourable reviews about his work. Hebel's "Kalendergeschichten" ("Almanac Stories") became popular across the borders. He wrote them from 1803 onwards for "Badische Landkalender" and "Rheinländischer Hausfreund" respectively. These tales or stories would be published in standard German, and would, similar to oral storytelling like folklore fairy tales be read aloud or retold, recited on occasions. His most famous story is called "Unverhofftes Wiedersehen" ("Unexpected Reunion") and is still required reading in German high schools. Even though the story takes place in Falun, Sweden, Hebel's mining experiences from Badenweiler may have been its inspiration. It is well-known that he based the tale on a 9 lines news report from international news headlines at the times, it is interesting, however, how he embellishes the emotional story and background, how he takes the reader into the lives of a miner's community, its tragedies and love. The same applies to his short story "Der Schmelzofen" ("The Melting Pot"). Hebel referred to Badenweiler as "mein Paradiesgärtlein" ("my little paradise garden") where the Prince of Baden and his wife had spent a considerable amount of time in the up and coming spa retreat in 1811. When Hebel was back in the South, work was in progress (from 1812 onwards) to build the classicist and iconic pillar-adorned Roman style "Belvedere", a little function house on top of the hill within the Kurpark with an amazing panoramic view onto the Rhine valley. The workers and builders were following plans drawn by Friedrich Weinbrenner, the then most sought after Karlsruhe architect. Weinbrenner himself praised Badenweiler in a memorandum as the most beautiful place in the western part of the Black Forest.

During his lifetime, Hebel was presented with numerous awards. Memorials have been put up for him at Karlsruhe, Basel, Hausen, Schopfheim and Lörrach. Since 1936, the "Hebel Prize" is awarded by Baden dignitaries for any artwork written in Alemannic dialect, created in areas where this dialect is spoken. Consequently, inspired by the works of Hebel, the "Oberrheinische Dichterlesungen" ("Upper Rhenish Poet Readings") and in 1954, the first "Internationales Mundartdichtertreffen" ("International Meeting for Dialect-Speaking Poets") took place at Badenweiler. From all of these efforts the "Muettersprooch-Gsellschaft für alemannische Sprache" was formed in 1962. The most reknown critic Marcel Reich-Ranicki wrote in 2007: "Hebel's stories are some of the most beautiful in German language." He included Hebel in his canon of most important world literature. The "Summer of Literature in Baden-Württemberg 2010" was dedicated to Hebel's 250th birthday. The Literature Museum at Badenweiler, among many others, helped to facilitate this huge local and regional literature event.

Transl.: A. M.

A special kind of Chronologist – Writer Ingeborg Hecht-Studniczka

(* April 1, 1921, Hamburg; † May 6, 2011, Freiburg in Breisgau)



Ingeborg Hecht-Studniczka was the only daughter of a highly educated and well-to-do German-Jewish family from Hamburg. To survive the Third Reich, her Jewish father, Felix Hecht, left the family in 1933. Ingeborg was not allowed to continue higher education as much as she was denied access to a university degree, due to her being classified as "First Degree Cross-Breed". Her father was persecuted from 1935 onwards and ultimately executed in Auschwitz in 1944. In 1943, mother and daughter moved to Staufen and then to Badenweiler, where Ingeborg Hecht resided from 1948 to 1954. Later on, she went to live with her husband, the translator and lawyer Hans Studniczka, in Freiburg / Breisgau. Her autobiographical work about persecution of Jews is considered seminal literature in the Federal Republic of Germany, the book she is best known for: "Als unsichtbare Mauern wuchsen. Eine deutsche Familie unter den Nürnberger Rassegesetzen" (1984; "When Invisible Walls were built. A German Family under the Nuremberg Race Laws"). In her later life she went to local schools and other institutes of higher education to share her knowledge as an actual witness about the terror within the Nazi Regime. Additionally, she became an important witness of the societal life of that time in Badenweiler. She was part of the "Cénacle littéraire", the literary circle of the post-war era in Badenweiler Spa. She was friends with Annette Kolb, Anna Schickele and many others. She pub-

lished numerous essays and radio broadcasts on Crane, Chekhov, Kolb, R. Schickele and other interesting people who lived in the village. She was known under her pseudonym "Ingeborg Hecht". Some of her books, such as „Wie könnt' ich Badenweiler je vergessen" (1979, How could I ever forget Badenweiler") and „Mein Schwarzwald" (1996; „My Black-Forest") are literary gems about the region treasure troves about postwar Black Forest Culture. Even after Ingeborg Hecht had moved to Freiburg, she still stayed connected to Badenweiler. She was honoured and awarded prestigious prizes many times, for instance with the First Class Federal Cross of Merit in 2005. In 2010, she participated a last time in the International Literary Forum of the Badenweiler Museum. At that occasion, she also bequeathed her manuscripts on Chekhov to the museum. Literally up to her own death, she was an active educator in schools and universities, revered for her talks, workshops and books. Her complete literary estate is to be found in the German Literary Archive in Marbach.

Transl.: A. M.

The philosopher Martin Heidegger in Badenweiler

(* Sept. 26, 1889, Messkirch; May 26, 1976, Freiburg in Breisgau)



Coming from a South German family, Prof. Dr. Martin Heidegger became one of the most influential, yet also one of the most controversial philosophers of the 20th century. He felt challenged to reinterpret the European history of philosophy. With his major work "Being and Time" (1927) ("Sein und Zeit"), he paved the way for a new understanding of being. His writings include works

on Kant, Nietzsche, metaphysics, poetry, art, technology and other areas. From 1928 to 1945 he was chair holder of philosophy of the University of Freiburg and in 1933 he became its chancellor. He often retreated to his Black Forest cottage near Todtnau, to work. A close friendly relationship existed between his student, the philosopher Hannah Arendt and his Heidelberg colleague Karl Jaspers, until a speech he gave at Heidelberg University in 1933, during which he voiced sympathies for National Socialism. In 1945, because of these sympathies, the university revoked his teaching permit. This decision was not reversed despite the intervention of his former mentor, Archbishop Conrad Gröber.

During an interrogation in the beginning of 1946, Heidegger suffered a nervous breakdown. With the support of Gröber he went into treatment from February to May, with the psychologist Dr. Victor Freiherr von Gebattel, who practiced in Badenweiler in the sanatorium "Schloss Hausbaden". Two years later he was again in Badenweiler for a brief stay. In 1951 his teaching ban was lifted. Until today, Heidegger has achieved worldwide influence as a phi-

losopher. He last visited Badenweiler in 1972. Literary historian and writer Rüdiger Safranski wrote in his 1994 Heidegger biography "A Master from Germany" ("Ein Meister aus Deutschland"): "Martin Heidegger's name stands for the most exciting chapter of the German Intellect / Intelligentsia (Geist) in this century. One must remember it, for the good as well as for the bad". Since the publication in 2014 of Heidegger's "Black Notebooks" ("Schwarze Hefte"), his autobiographical sketches covering the years between 1931-1975, have once again become a topic of discussion due to his anti-Semitic references.

Transl.: A. v. S.

"Ingenious Treatment" at Badenweiler – Hermann Hesse

(* July 2, 1877 Calw; † Aug. 9, 1962 Montagnola / Switzerland)



Hermann Hesse hails from a pietistic missionary family that lived in the Swabian town of Calw. In his youth, he felt restricted by the narrow-mindedness of the middle class, which he experienced at home and at school. After being an apprentice at a bookseller's in Tübingen, he wrote his first novels "Peter Camenzind" (1904) and "Unterm Rad" (1906; "Beneath the Wheel") to free himself

from the aforementioned. "Unterm Rad" in particular deals with education at a religious boarding school, the repressive teaching methods of which led Hesse's schoolmate into suicide. The boys' upbringing and unredeeming surroundings are major topics of these first pieces of art, the wheel commonly interpreted as the martyr's wheel of the medieval torture methods.

He moved with his wife Maria Bernouilli to Gaienhofen on Lake Constance. However, after initial literary successes, Hesse fell into a deep depression. Therefore, he spent five weeks at Badenweiler under the care of Dr. Albert Fraenkel in 1909. It is this doctor's "ingenious treatment" that Hesse mentions and praises in his story "Haus zum Frieden" (1910; "House of Peace"). Hesse used more of his impressions gained in Badenweiler in his novel "Der Kurgast" (1925; "The Guest at the Retreat"). This story, however, takes place in the spa of "Baden" in Switzerland.

During WW I, Hesse was ardently favouring pacificism. He appealed to politicians publicly to not enter into war, hence he was criticized as a traitor. Consequently, he settled in Tessin and later in Bern. His novels, such as "Siddharta" (1922), influenced by his trip to India, and most of all "Steppenwolf" (1927) are seen as depicting the crisis of modern man and humanity, also as philosophical literature, written to find out mankind's purpose, or the lack thereof. Experts claim he does that in a mystical way. Contemporaries would call his writing existentialist. And liken it to Kafka's pointing

at consequences of repressive traditions. Freud and his followers would take Hesse's fiction as case-study.

Annette Kolb, who had been long time friends with Hesse, tried her best in 1927 to convince him to move to Badenweiler and to become her neighbor. He, however, rejected the idea in a letter dated Feb. 11, 1927. From 1931, he continued to work on his last novel, "Glasperlenspiel" (published in 1943; "The Glass Bead Game"). He worked from "Casa Hesse" at Montagnola, which was an open meeting place for French and German writers alike. During the "Third Reich" from 1939, Hesse and his literary works were banned.

After World War II, however, a Hesse renaissance developed and his novels made him one of the most influential German authors of the 20th century worldwide. Hesse became a must-read, anti-bourgeoisie author for the postwar generation in Western Europe and in the US. In 1956, the American cultural magazine "German-American Review" published Hesse's essay on Badenweiler (Vol. XXIII Nr.1) in a special edition. Hermann Hesse was awarded the highest prizes, i.e. the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1946, as well as the Goethe Preis of the city of Frankfurt and the Friedenspreis, a prestigious author's award at the Frankfurt book fair. With its museums at Gaienhofen, Calw and Tübingen, the federal state of Baden-Württemberg looks after its famous son.

Transl.: A. M.

The honorary citizen of Badenweiler Elly Heuss-Knapp

(born Knapp, * Jan. 25, 1881 Strasbourg; † July 19, 1952 Bonn)



Elly Knapp came from an academic family in Strasbourg, where she passed her teacher's exam in 1899. After a short teaching period, she studied economics in Freiburg and Berlin. In 1908 she married a journalist and political scientist from Stuttgart, Dr. Theodor Heuss (1884-1963). After the family moved to Berlin, she worked for a social welfare school. Her husband became managing director of "German Work Federation / Labor League" ("Deutscher Werkbund"), editor of the magazine "German Politics" ("Deutsche Politik") and a parliamentarian of the Weimar Republic. The takeover by the National Socialists in 1933 caused him to lose his political mandate and he returned to journalism. Elly Heuss-Knapp initially gave radio interviews and engaged herself in educational lectures. From 1933 to 1942 she worked as a non-political advertising copywriter for various companies. After the war they both moved back to Stuttgart and she once again began work in journalism. In 1945 her husband was appointed as the first Minister of Culture of Baden-Württemberg by the American military administration. In 1948 he was appointed

honorary professor at the Technical University of Stuttgart. Elly Heuss-Knapp and Dr. Theodor Heuss both became members of the newly founded State Parliament of Baden-Württemberg. In the same year, Heuss was elected chairman of the newly founded Free Democratic Party (FDP). In 1949 he became the first "Bundespräsident" (President of the Federal Republik of Germany) with the Adenauer (chancellor / Bundeskanzler) cabinet. As the spouse of the acting German Bundespräsident, she moved to the then federal capital Bonn, where Elly Heuss-Knapp became active in social politics.

Badenweiler played an important role in her life for many decades. According to her own testimony, it was her favorite place for physical and mental recovery, a place where she could refresh her body and mind and be highly creative. From 1912 onwards a total of 37 Badenweiler visits are recorded in her biography. Several of these visits to the health resort were accompanied by her husband. In 1950 she founded the "Elly Heuss-Knapp Foundation Deutsches Müttergenesungswerk" ("MGW") and during the same year Badenweiler awarded her honorary citizenship. Following her death, and during his second term as President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Theodor Heuss visited Badenweiler repeatedly. His last official visit dated July 1, 1957.

Transl.: A. v. S.

The creator of "Der Struwwelpeter" in the Spa Resort Badenweiler – Heinrich Hoffmann

(* June 13, 1809, Frankfurt/Main; † Sept. 20, 1894, Frankfurt/ Main)



"Seht einmal, hier steht er, pfui, der Struwwelpeter!" (See! Here he is! Yuck! It's shock-headed Peter!) This is the first verse of, most probably, one of the most famous and surely also infamous German children's books. To this day, more than 25 million copies have been printed. The doctor, pathologist and eventually, director of the "Institute for Epileptics and the Insane" in Frankfurt, Dr Heinrich Hoffmann, wrote and illustrated "Struwwelpeter" in his free time. He had cultivated writing and drawing as a leisure activity. The bestseller was printed in 1845 and was originally intended to be a Christmas gift for his son. It was more than well-received all over the world, state of the art in educating children as it were, focusing on moral behavior. There have been numerous adaptations of the text, parodies as well as pamphlets such as "Struwwelhitler" (1941) and "D'r Strosburjer Strüwelpeter" (2013), as much as a renowned musical rendition of those young children suffering the consequences of childish inconscience (immoral) behavior. Hoffmann, however, believed that his other Christmas story "König Nussknacker und der arme Reinhold" ("His Royal Highness

the Nutcracker and Poor Reinhold”) was his best book. For Heinrich Hoffmann’s 200th birthday anniversary, the city of Frankfurt inaugurated a “Struwelpeter-Museum”.

Dr Hoffmann often retreated to Badenweiler. He is said to have preferred the health resort in Baden to the ones in Prussian-dominated Hessen, reportedly because of Badenweiler’s liberal atmosphere. This preference and high esteem might be the reason for his dedication of a collection of 17 poems to Badenweiler. The admiration and respect wasn’t mutual, though Badenweiler, until recently, has kept up a distance and made a point in not including him as part of the city’s literary history. One reason for this dissociation surely is rooted in Hoffmann’s 19th century pedagogical principle “Die Strafe folgt auf dem Fuß”, meaning “punishment follows action (wrongdoing) accordingly”. Apparently, Badenweiler’s citizens even 150 years ago deemed this way of thinking in reference to raising children anachronistic. Yet, another reason might have been the satire he wrote about balneological spas. It is called “Der Badeort Salzloch” (“The Salt-Hole Spa”) and its poem describes the spa culture of the 19th century in fairly derogatory terms.

Hoffmann had, with hindsight, advanced views as a psychiatrist for his times. He did not treat mentally ill patients as being possessed or as criminals, but he treated them as patients afflicted with a curable illness. This he pursued and integrated in his own system at his psychiatric clinic. Furthermore, he was active in politics by taking part as a representative member of the so-called Preliminary Parliament in Frankfurt in 1846, advocating as a conservative for a constitutional monarchy.

With his poem “Das Badenweiler Meisterstück” (“The Masterpiece of Badenweiler”), he has left a whimsical literary tribute to the spa resort Badenweiler. According to this poem, God demands his angels to create the world. He himself creates the town of Badenweiler that should serve the angels as a template, it being a lovely and fertile place. However, the angels carry out their work carelessly and come up with things such as “Berliner Sand” instead. This shows that no one is able to create something as splendid as God’s Creation Badenweiler.

Transl.: A. M.

The doctor and philosopher Karl Jaspers in Badenweiler

(* Feb. 23, 1883, Oldenburg; † Feb. 26, 1969, Basel)

Due to his studies, Carl Jaspers has contributed immensely to the research area of psychopathology. He is also seen as an important author of existentialist literature. As from 1920, he was a professor at the University of Heidelberg. During this time he was one of the closer friends of Martin Heidegger. However, when the latter started to get involved with the Nazis in 1933, their friendship was brought to an abrupt halt. Even after the war, their disagreements were irreversible. During the early beginnings of the Federal Re-



public of Germany, Jaspers had expressed his opinions on a lot of different political issues such as the rearmament, the nuclear bomb, the emergency/ crisis laws and also on the reunification.

His connection to Badenweiler dates far back into his youth. Since he was born, Karl Jaspers had suffered from chronic bronchial complications (bronchiectasis). Untreated, his condition would have had a major impact on his life expectancy. Yet, upon finishing his A-levels in Oldenburg and just before starting his academic career at Heidelberg University in 1901, Jaspers sought medical advice from Dr Albert Fraenkel. The latter had his medical praxis in the Hedwig Mansion in Badenweiler. It is thanks to this doctor that Jaspers learned how to accept his illness as a part of his life. He was also taught how to be prepared physically for it and how to brace himself emotionally. It was advice of self-discipline that he received and Jaspers followed it meticulously. Only because of these efforts was Jaspers able to lead the work-intensive life he chose as a professor and a writer. In a letter that Jaspers addressed to Dr Fraenkel for his 70th birthday, he wrote: “Last time when I was in Badenweiler, I was thinking of the summer of 1901, and it came to my mind, how cleverly you taught me how I can be well, even when I am ill.”

After having helped with its reinstating and reconstruction after 1945, Jaspers left the University of Heidelberg in 1948 and worked at the University of Basel. Jaspers was awarded numerous distinctions. He has received both German and foreign honorary citizenships, doctorates and prizes such as the Goethe Prize from Frankfurt (1947), the Buchfriedenspreis (1958), the Erasmus Prize (1959) and the Medal of Honour “Pour le Mérite” (1964).

During the medical treatment of Jaspers, Dr Fraenkel was designated to be a professor because of his accomplished research on Strophanthin and was appointed to the University of Heidelberg in 1914. Coincidentally, the town of Badenweiler ordained Fraenkel as an honorary citizen in that very same year.

Transl.: A. M.

Badenweiler – “a bit of Italy on German grounds!” Justinus Kerner

(* Sept. 18, 1786, Ludwigsburg; † Feb. 21, 1862, Weinsberg)

Justinus Kerner had been good friends with Ludwig Uhland, Karl Meyer and Gustav Schwab, since he had accomplished his studies in natural sciences and medicine. Together, they would shape the “Swabian School of Poetry” of which Kerner has voiced the ambition in a poem of his. The last two stanzas read: „Wo der Winzer, wo der Schnitter singt ein Lied durch Berg und Flur / Da ist schwäb’scher Dichter Schule, und ihr Meister heißt – Natur“.



In English this would roughly account to: "In the midst of mountains and meadows, where the reaper sings his song / That is where you'll find the Swabian School of Poetry, and its master-teacher is – nature." One feud of the literary circle became quite prominent: Heinrich Heine, who was progressive concerning his mindset on politics, had made fun of the group of poets in two

of his own texts. In "Die romantische Schule" (1836; "The school of Romanticism") and in the "Schwabenspiegel" (1838; "A reflection on Swabians"), he mocks them as being provincial and conservative. This author's quarrel actually summarizes quite well what the discrepancies in German literature looked like during those times. Kerner as a writer had a followers' group, thanks to his notable ability of combining medical knowledge with literature. During the period of German Romanticism of the late 18th and early 19th century, mesmerism and somnambulism had been established as fashionable mystical and experimental experiences. At that time, almost every writer and philosopher, e.g. Goethe, Schiller, E.T.A. Hoffmann, Friedrich Schlegel, and Johann Gottlieb Fichte had experimented with it. In 1829, Kerner published "Die Seherin von Prevorst" ("The Visionary of Prevorst"), a medical report that was of a very high literary standard. It discussed the mesmeric treatment of psychological limitations and it became an instant "bestseller". Kerner also recounts how he treated Friederike Hauffe, who was born in Prevorst in Württemberg, over a period of several years. She believed to be possessed by demons. Kerner was convinced that ghost appearances were unresolved, real natural occurrences. He further believed that in these cases, nature and the human mind were a unified force, deeply connected. He used to visit Badenweiler often and he voiced his admiration for its thermal waters, describing them as a gift of nature. Apart from an entire series of poems about the spa (1851), he wrote a hymn to Badenweiler, that has been, since then, highly cherished by market strategists. Here is the first and the last stanza:

„Sei mir gegrüßet Badenweilers Au! / Ein Stück Italien auf deutschem Grund! / Gebroch'nem Herzen, müdem Haupt, welch' Fund / Mit deinem Heilborn mild'rer Sterne Thau! [...] Du aber Kranker! Such' den Aufenthalt / Hier in der Berge grüner Einsamkeit. / Hier heile dich, wie's wunde Reh sich heilt, / Am hellen Born im tiefen tiefen Wald.“

A rough translation may read: "I greet you, Badenweiler's place / A bit of Italy on German grounds! / [For the] broken-hearted, weary-headed, what a find / With your healing powers, made from mild stars' dew! [...] If you are sick, seek to retreat to this place here / here in the mountains of green solitude. / Here heal yourself, like a hurt deer would do / at a well in the deep deep forest."

Transl.: A. M.

Rolf-Dieter Kluge

(* June 26, 1937, Pirna)



Prof. Prof. h.c. Dr Rolf-Dieter Kluge's scientific merits for Chekhov research, his personal commitment and enthusiasm have led to Badenweiler becoming a Chekhov center of international renown. First from the University of Freiburg, he began researching the Chekhov Archive Badenweiler, founded in 1956, since 1978. After being appointed to the chair of Slavic Literature in Tübingen in

1982, the university there, also in cooperation with Badenweiler, became the most important German Chekhov research center. In particular, the international literary Chekhov symposia (1985, 1994, 2004) planned by Tübingen, together with Kluge's assistants (especially Regine Nohejl, Heide Willich, Heinz Setzer) and held in Badenweiler, were the largest German Chekhov congresses, each with around 100 speakers from over 20 countries, made Badenweiler known worldwide. Kluge always endeavored to bring research knowledge and understanding of Slavic cultures to the general public through lectures and publications. In Badenweiler the mayors Dr Rudolf Bauert (1963-1991) and Karl-Eugen Engler (1991 - 2019) cooperated closely for this. One consequence of the international attention for Badenweiler's literary history was the foundation of the Badenweiler Literary Museum "Chekhov Salon" in 1998 (headed by Heinz Setzer). After his retirement, Kluge took over the professorship for Russian literature at the University of Warsaw (2002 - 2012) without neglecting the contacts to Badenweiler. From 2009 - 2019 he was the founding chairman of the German Chekhov Society based in Badenweiler. Kluge was awarded the Federal Cross of Merit 1st Class, the prestigious Russian Pushkin Medal, the appointments as Honorary Professor at Moscow's Lomonosov University and Advisory Professor at Heilongjiang University in Charbin, China, as well as with the dignity "honorary guest of spa Badenweiler".

Transl.: H. H.

Annette Kolb and René Schickele, two literary voices from Europe in Badenweiler



(A. Kolb: * Feb. 3, 1870, Munich; † Dec. 3, 1967, Munich. R. Schickele: * Aug. 4, 1883, Oberehnheim, Alsace, Germany, today: Obernai /Alsace, France; † Jan. 31, 1940, Vence, South of France)

For a long time, Annette Kolb's publications were not available in book stores. However, since 2017 her work is again available in a four-volume book set. The writer Annette Kolb is an honorary citizen of Badenweiler.

She does not only deserve a special place in literary history, but she is essential to name when talking about the reconciliation between Germany and France. The same counts for her longtime friend and fellow writer René Schickele. Both of them have contributed in a fair amount, with their sharp and courageous essays, to the creation of a united and peaceful Europe. Moreover, it is due to them that Badenweiler has acquired this important place in European cultural and political history.

Annette Kolb was born in Munich into the German-French mixed family, Kolb. Annette's father Max was the royal landscape gardener. He had met his wife, Annette's mother, Sophie Danvin, in Paris. Annette's awareness of her intellectual and cultural cosmopolitanism had been early on shaped by this feeling of belonging to two different cultural backgrounds.

Even though the Kolb family never had enough money, they were leading a lavish lifestyle in Munich: Famous musicians, writers and diplomats were often visiting their house. It was, in fact, only in her last years that Annette disclosed the big family secret. Her father was the illegitimate son of King Max II of the House of Wittelsbach.

Annette Kolb dedicated a literary memorial for her family with her roman à clef (key-novel) "The Seesaw" (in German: "Die Schaukel") (1934). The allegory of the "seesaw" refers to Annette's "balancing" throughout her lifetime between an elitist lifestyle and restricted financial resources, between the Catholic-Bavarian tradition versus the enlightened and modern thinking. Then there was also the German-French way of being that had stuck to her for her whole life. Her first novel "The Specimen" or "Das Exemplar" received the Fontane prize in 1913.



The meeting with the German-Alsatian writer René Schickele turned out to be one of a faithful nature. Their lifelong-friendship was a mutual source for help during life crises, but it also became a task for life. Both of them were fighting, without any hesitancy, with words and writing against European militarism, national narrow-mindedness and were advocating for a transnational European culture. Annette was convicted of treason due to her public discourses in the midst of the war promoting friendship between the nations. Therefore in 1917, she was forced to leave into exile to Bern in Switzerland where her friend René had previously emigrated to and was releasing "Die Weißen Blätter" ("The White Papers").

After the First World War, Annette Kolb first lived in Munich. At that point she was at the peak of her fame. Her pacifist activity made her a very requested essayist and magazines, such as

die "Weltbühne" by Kurt Tucholsky and the "Berliner Tageblatt", were striving for her cooperation. Romain Rolland, a leading literary voice in France at that time, acknowledged her as the "Conscience of Europe".

However, when it was impossible to ignore the first Nazi parades, Kolb visited Badenweiler in 1922, after being invited there by the Schickele family. After the German Revolution in 1918 had gravely disappointed René Schickele and had almost brought him to the brink of emotional collapse, he was able to escape from Berlin to Badenweiler. He then, with his wife Anna, "Lannatsch", had gotten the Alsatian architect Paul Schmitthenner to build them a country house in the Kanderner Straße with a view on to the Upper Rhine Plain, so to their beloved Alsace. Badenweiler thus became a place of René Schickele's "reincarnation", that is how he describes it in his autobiographical collection of essays "Himmliche Landschaft" ("Celestial landscape", 1933).

Annette Kolb also lets Schmitthenner build her a house in direct proximity of the Schickele's one. Both houses, that were also close to where the artist Emil Brischle was living, were later known as the "Badenweiler Künstlerkolonie", so the artist's colony in Badenweiler.

The spa and recreational place did not only become a creative haven for Kolb and Schickele, but it also developed into a cultural venue for many prominent people of science, politics and culture. To name a few would be Thomas Mann, Hermann Kesten, Julius Meier-Graefe, Kasimir Edschmid and Ludwigh Meidner. In 1928 Kolb published multiple essays as well as her novel "Daphne Herbst", a socio-critical depiction of the pre-war era. In 1931 she accepts the prestigious "Gerhard-Hauptmann" prize and acquires, at the age of 61, a driving license along with the long-desired car. René Schickele also spends his most happy and productive years in Badenweiler. It is here, where his main work is created: the trilogy of novels "Das Erbe am Rhein" ("The Legacy on the Rhine", 1925-31), the "Symphonie für Jazz" (1929), the major part of the essayist hymn to Badenweiler "Die Himmliche Landschaft" (1933) and so many more. He sees the Alsace, this region being an amalgam of German and French culture, as a symbol of reconciliation between these two countries. He also feels empowered by this to create a unified Europe. However, towards the end of 1932, due to the success of the Nazis, the prosperous days of René Schickele were coming to an end. He knew what the success of the Nazis meant politically. After vacationing in France, he did not return back to Badenweiler because he dreaded a new war. Annette Kolb as well went again into exile after she positioned herself against the Nazis in her "Beschwerdebuch" ("Book of complaints") in 1933. She travelled around the whole of Europe. In 1937 her biography of Mozart, her favorite composer, appeared. She does not only state that he was, in a way, forced to die because of the



Schickele on the Rhine bridge near Neuenburg

brutality of society of his time, but her own suffering, that she was going through in her time, is also mirrored in this book. When the Germans marched into France, she had to leave again for a third time into exile. This time she emigrated to the US. It turned out to be one of the most grim periods of her life. It was a time without friends and with constant shortage of money.

Schickele's exile signified the end of his life. After his books were banned in Germany, he moved in 1940 with his family, almost driven to destitute, from Sanary-sur-Mer in the South of France, where a lot of exiled Germans were stranded, to Vence. There he passed away from the consequences of pleuritis in 1940. His wife Anna returned to Badenweiler in 1951 and stayed there until her death in 1973. Annette Kolb already returned to Europe in 1945. She first went to Paris where her old friend, the diplomat Wilhelm Hausenstein, helped her out. From 1953 onwards he assisted as an ambassador in Paris in the German-French reconciliation process. When Annette Kolb was appointed in 1949 founding member for the Academy of Science and Culture in Mainz and for the Bavarian Academy of Fine Arts in Munich, she returned back to Germany and to Badenweiler. Among other things, she engaged herself with a lot of effort for the developing township alliances with France, especially for the one between Badenweiler and the French town Vittel in 1956.

Due to Anna Schickele and multiple other friends of literature, theatre and arts, a literary circle, a "Cénacle littéraire", was founded in Badenweiler. This also provided Badenweiler with a budding cultural scene so early-on after the war. Now Kolb was also being showered with various distinctions: she received the literary prizes

from Munich and Cologne, the "Bavarian Order of Merit", the renowned "Goethe" prize in 1955 as well as an honorary citizenship of Badenweiler. In 1962 the two governments also distinguished her: first she was selected to be Knight of the "French Legion of Honor" while receiving the German "Order of Merit" and five years later, she received the "German Grand Cross with Star". In 1961 she returns back to her hometown Munich, but still maintains her small house in the spa town up until to her death as a holiday home.

As early as 1947, the town of Badenweiler had erected the "Schickele well" (it was remodeled in 1983) in the "Kanderner Straße". A verse from one of Schickele's friend, Kasimir Edschmid, is inscribed into its commemorative plaque. It goes: "His heart carried the love and the wisdom of two nations." In 1956 the town Badenweiler moved Schickele's body from Vence to the village cemetery of the district of Lipburg. Since 1995 the primary school of Badenweiler has been carrying his name. The spa town has been faithful up until today to these two authors and honor them on a regular basis with performances, readings and expositions.

Transl.: A. M.

India's struggle for independence and Badenweiler – Jawaharlal (Pandit) Nehru

(* Nov.14, 1889, Allahabad / India; † May 27, 1964 New Delhi / India)



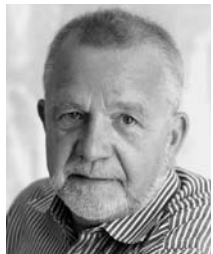
J. Nehru came from a wealthy, western European educated family. He pursued his studies and higher education in England, completing a degree in natural science from the University of Cambridge. At the same time, he studied political science, economics and literature and later went on to study Law. In 1916 Nehru married Kamal Kaul from Delhi, with whom he had a daughter, who as Indira Gandhi, became Prime Minister of India. In 1917, Nehru who was a member of the Indian National Congress and became the private secretary to Mahatma Gandhi jointly led the independence movement of India in 1919. In 1930 he was elected chairman of the National Congress of India. During the struggle against British colonial rule he was arrested several times. After initial talks began with the British government concerning the independence of the country, he was granted release from one of these prison arrests. In 1935 he traveled to visit his ailing wife Kamala in Badenweiler. Nehru lived in the Pension Ehrhardt, Bad Street 1, from September 1935 to January 1936. During this time because of Nehru's international political connections the health resort found itself caught up in the middle of Indian English politics. On September 7, 1935, the Nehru's daughter, traveling from Swiss Bex where she attended high school, arrived in Badenweiler. It was here that Jawaharlal

Nehru completed his autobiography, "Towards Freedom", which includes: "Badenweiler, 2 January 1936". Shortly thereafter, the Nehrus' moved to Lausanne, Switzerland where Kamala succumbed to tuberculosis and died on February 28, 1936. After the death of his wife Nehru added the following comment to his autobiography: „Europe in turmoil, fearful of war and tumult and with economic crises always on the horizon; [...] But here in the Black Forest it is calm and peaceful, and even the svastika is not much in evidence. Badenweiler Schwarzwald, October 25, 1935". (Postscript from: Towards Freedom. Autobiography of J. Nehru). In mourning, Nehru brought his wife's ashes back to India. As the first Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru led India from 1947 to 1964. His daughter Indira, who took the name Gandhi, became the first female prime minister of India (1966-1977). In 1984, she was the victim of an assassination.

Transl.: A. v. S.

Rüdiger Safranski

(* Jan. 1, 1945, Rottweil, living at Badenweiler since 2009)



After graduating from school in his hometown, Safranski proceeded to read German studies, history and art history in Frankfurt and in Berlin. From 1972 to 1977, he worked as a research assistant in the German Studies department at the Free University of Berlin, where he also wrote his thesis. Afterwards he took on lectureships in adult education and started working as an editor for the "Berliner Hefte". Since 1987, he is working as a freelance writer. His monographies about E.T.A. Hoffmann in 1984, Arthur Schopenhauer in 1988, Martin Heidegger in 1994, Friedrich Nietzsche in 2000, Friedrich Schiller in 2004, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe in 2013 and about Friedrich Hölderlin in 2019 made him known to the public. From 2002 to 2012, together with the philosopher Professor Dr Peter Sloterdijk he also moderated the broadcast "Philosophisches Quartett" (Philosophical Quartet) on the German TV channel "Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen". Furthermore, he was appointed honorary professor of the Free University of Berlin. Since he moved to Badenweiler, Safranski has been active there in local literary events. In 2012 for instance, together with the director of the literary museum, Heinz Setzer, he organised the first "Badenweiler Literature Days". Later, he continued to organize them on his own. Safranski was honoured many times. In 2005 he received the prize of the Leipzig Book Fair, in 2006 he was awarded the Hölderlin-Prize, in 2014 the Literary Prize of the Adenauer Foundation as well as the Thomas Mann Prize and in 2018 he received the German National Prize, which is only a brief selection.

Transl.: A. M.

The Alsatian popular poet Margaretha Spörlin

(* July 19, 1800, Mulhouse, Alsace, France, † Sept. 15, 1882, Mulhouse, Alsace, Germany)



Coming from a minister's family Margaretha Spörlin was educated and qualified in a Christian school in Berne / Switzerland and by her mother in Mulhouse. For many years she worked as a governess in families as well as a teacher in a Sunday school, whereby she frequently spent the summer months in Badenweiler. Her first publications appeared anonymously as singular treatises and tales in the Strasbourg "Evangelic Society". Her "Alsatian Biographies" in 4 volumes earned great success (1872-75). Only from the 4th edition she had them printed under her name; there were even English and French translations published. Almost always the bourgeois life and the history of her native Alsace were the main subject whereby Spörlin represented a practically lived Christianity and the rule of charity. Several editions appeared of her story "The old Eli. A simple story from the Alsatian people's life". Her last volume of stories "Father Jung-Stilling and Miss Katharina" (1877) includes not only a dramatic crossing of the Rhine on the way from Mulhouse to Badenweiler before the rectification of the Rhine by the Baden engineer Johann Gottfried Tulla (1770-1828), but also her remembrances of the eye surgeon, Professor of economics, free mason and pietistic writer Johann Heinrich Jung-Stilling (1740-1817), who was also a friend of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832).

Transl.: H. H.

The theatre reformer Konstantin Stanislavski and Badenweiler

(Born Konstantin Alexejew, * Jan. 17, 1863, Moscow; † Aug. 7, 1938, Moscow)



Stanislavski, who originates from a wealthy industrialist family, is in fact only Konstantin's pseudonym. He was a director, an actor as well as one of the most prominent reformers of the theatre in the first half of the 20th century. He is one of the co-founders of the Modern Theatre worldwide. In 1898, together with the writer Vladimir Nemirovitch-Dantschenko, he founded the "Moscowian Artist's Theatre" (MChAT, in 1920 "academic" was added). Starting with the "Seagull" (1898), the theatre featured all of Anton Chekhov's plays and made them a global success. Actress Olga Knipper, who married Chekhov in 1901, was part of that ensemble.



Stanislawski in front of the Castle Baden
(photo with personal dedication)

ble. During all of his life, Stanislawski worked on a "system" that was supposed to solve the problem between the auctorial allocation of roles and the actor's freedom. Initially, this "system" was based upon the realization of a naturalistic and illusionistic play manner, as realistic as possible. Later, the "Method of Physical Acts" evolved from this idea. Against this, the "Epical Theatre" from Bert Brecht forms a counterpoint. Based on Stanislawski's ideas, Michail Chekhov and Lee Strasberg developed the still taught "Method Acting" in the USA.

In 1908, Stanislawski came to Badenweiler for the first time

for the inauguration of the first Chekhov Memorial worldwide. He wrote about this experience in a fascinating essay. After the October Revolution he began to experience political pressure which he evaded by a long tour from 1922, travelling the West of Europe and later also the USA, places where his works were very successful. His theatrical work, however, was criticized as not being loyal to Stalin's Russia, which caused cardiac health issues for Stanislawski. In 1928, he travelled with his wife Lilina via Berlin, where he gained great recognition, to Badenweiler. There he not only sought healing, but also peace and quietness to continue his work on the "system". In the same year, he received the honorary membership from producer Max Reinhardt in the famous "Deutsches Theater" in Berlin, which is in fact comparable with ennoblement. Back in Moscow, while he was on stage for the 30th anniversary of his theatre company he suffered a heart attack. In 1929, he returned to Badenweiler and stayed at the guesthouse Heinke. Chekhov's former doctor, Dr Josef Schwoerer, became his medical counselor and friend. For Chekhov's 25th death anniversary, Olga Knipper-Chekhova, together with a number of other actors, also travelled to Badenweiler. Through letters and telephone, Stanislawski tried to manage his artist theatre, his studio theatre and his opera stage from abroad. He was very much concerned about the future of these institutions. He spent the winter in Nice and immediately returned to Badenweiler in 1930. In 1931, he reluctantly returned to Moscow and in 1932, he spent the summer at Badenweiler for the last time. When the National Socialists came to power in Germany in 1933, the spa was blocked for him.

For more than 13 months of his life, Badenweiler had been a place of refuge, a working space and a healing resort at the same time for Stanislawski. In the Soviet Union, he was stylized as an artist of the Socialistic Realism; his "system" however, remained longtime for the most part unprinted.

Transl.: A. M.

Hermann Stegemann, Writer and Director of the Spa Badenweiler

(* May 30, 1870, Koblenz; † June 8, 1945, Merligen near Bern / Switzerland)



On the 1st March 1906 Frederick I, the Grand Duke of Baden appointed Dr Stegemann director of the spa of Badenweiler, i.e. manager of all the services that were offered there. Stegemann had made a name for himself whilst working as a writer and editor in Basel, often on Alemannic and Alsatian topics. Numerous articles have appeared in the Badenweiler newspaper. Two years later, after his wife had passed away, Stegemann gave up this tiring job for health reasons but continued to write and publish almost 60 works: novels, short stories, poetry and even plays. In a couple of them, Badenweiler as a town is represented. "The War", his most successful and largest piece of work, is a historical and political story of the evolution of war. In 1920 he became an honorary doctor of the University of Freiburg and in 1935 he received the Goethe prize from the city of Frankfurt. As he had been active on a nationalistic scale, he got published seldom after 1945. In 1906, he published under the name of Stegemann-Sentier the epic poem "Mechthildis. Ein Sang von Badenweilers Schloss. a[anno] 1492. Dichtung in 10 Gesängen" („Mechthildis. A Song of the Castle of Badenweiler") in "August Schmidt's Hofbuchhandlung" in Müllheim. In his "Erinnerungen aus meinem Leben und aus meiner Zeit" (1930; „Memories from my life and from my time"), he also writes about his years spent in Badenweiler.

Transl.: A. M.

A Contradictive Writer – Emil Josef Strauß

(* Jan. 31, 1866, Freudenstadt; † Aug. 10, 1960, Freiburg in Breisgau)

Emil Strauß was incongruous as a novelist, a storyteller and a dramatist. Only during the first half of the 20th century did he become acknowledged as one of the best contemporary German authors. He lead an exciting life in the frame of the reformist ideas of life at the turn of the century and even spent some time as a settler in Brazil. From 1892 onwards, he created an extensive literary work that was frequently printed. Some of his most famous books were "Menschenwege" (1899; "Human's Paths"), "Der Engelwirt. Eine Schwabengeschichte" (1901; "The Angel Host. A

Swabian Story”), “Der nackte Mann” (1912; “The Naked Man”) and “Das Riesenspielzeug” (1934; “The Giant Toy”). The majority of his stories are set in the South of Germany. Numerous of his fellow contemporaries, for instance Arnold Zweig, Rudolf Borchardt and Hermann Hesse, respected Strauß as one of the most influential German authors of the time. In 1924, the University of Freiburg in Breisgau awarded him the honorary doctor title. In 1936, he also received the honorary citizenship of the same city and was appointed to the Prussian Academy of Arts. As early as the 1920’s, he had hoped for a new Germany with advanced moral and intellectual concepts. He believed in changes on a rural and patriotic scale while despising capitalism. This mindset of Strauß linked him to the Nazis. The Third Reich’s propaganda minister Josef Goebbels even invited him, after having received the “Goethe prize” in 1935, to the Reich’s Senate of Culture. According to some of his critics, Strauß had always been an uncompromising and self-responsible human being. After 1945, he was still published, but then that changed again because of his reception during the Nazi-regime. Freiburg actually reclaimed their distinction in 1946. From 1947 to July 1955, Strauß lived in the “Hilda-Heim” (Unterer Kirchweg) in Badenweiler. It is there where he created his last publication, the autobiographical book of remembrance “Ludens” (1955). In 1978 his short stories “Menschenwege” were republished.

Transl.: A. M.

Two Movie Stars from the Chekhov Family – Olga Tschechowa (Chekhova) and Vera Tschechowa

(* Olga Konstantinova Knipper, April 26, 1897, Alexandropol, Russian Empire, today Gyumri, Armenia; † March 9, 1980, Munich; Vera Tschechowa, * July 22, 1940, Berlin)



Olga Tschechowa’s family originally hailed from the Saar region in Germany, and had only migrated to Russia on a working contract. Her father, Konstantin Knipper, rose from railway engineer to imperial counselor. Olga’s aunt, Olga Leonardovna Knipper, married in 1901 the writer Anton Pavlovitch Chekhov. With the help of their contacts, Olga Konstantinovna Knipper was able to study acting at the Moscovian artist’s theatre under the famous director Konstantin Stanislavski. There, she got to know the actor Michail Chekhov, the son of Anton Chekhov’s brother Alexander. They married in 1914, and she adopted the famous surname Chekhova. After three years they divorced, but they had one daughter together, Ada Tschechowa. Ada also became successful as an actress, but tragically died in an airplane crash in 1966.

During the Russian civil war, Olga Chekhova migrated to Germany in 1921. Her first role in a movie (as “O. Tschechowa”) was in

“Schloß Vogelöd” (“The Haunted Castle”) under the renowned director Wilhelm Murnau. Her brother Lev Knipper stayed in Russia. His cooperation with the Soviet secret service gave rise to rumors about Olga Tschechowa’s possible function as a Soviet spy. Her acting career did not suffer adversely from these rumors, and she was cast in films even in France and England. She also co-produced some movies. Having grown up polylingually, the shift from the silent era to sound posed no problems. She performed next to Lilian Harvey in one of the first German sound films, a highly successful musical comedy entitled “The Three from the Filling Station”(1930). Her heyday as a cool and erotic grande dame with the UFA (Universum Film Association) was during the Third Reich. Simultaneously, she got a degree as a cosmetician in 1937. She socialised with upper-echelon political leaders and was invited more than once to dine with Adolf Hitler. At the end of the war, the KGB took her to Moscow. Her eventual return to Berlin caused suspicion and more reasons to believe that she had worked for the secret service. Back in Berlin, Tschechowa spent most of her time on stage. Attempts to link up to her prior successes failed, even running her own film company. In 1952 she published her autobiography “Ich verschweige nichts” (“I am not concealing anything”). With this book she wanted to dismiss all existing rumors about any possible relationships with Nazi-leaders. In 1962 Olga Tschechowa received the “Filmband in Gold”, precursor of the “Deutscher Filmpreis”, for her life work. A second memoir appeared in 1973 under the title “Meine Uhren gehen anders” (“My watches works differently”). When she died in 1980, she asked, similar to Anton Chekhov, for a glass of champagne.



From 1957 onwards, Ada’s daughter Vera Tschechowa also entered the film industry. She became one of the faces of the young German film. For her role in the screen adaptation of Heinrich Böll’s “Das Brot der frühen Jahre” (“The Bread of the Those Early Years”), she received the Bundesfilmpreis in 1961. Her grandmother Olga made another attempt at establishing herself as a businesswoman, founding the „Olga-Tschechowa-Cosmetics“ company in 1958, with franchises in Munich, Berlin, and Milan, which she operated for the rest of her days.

In 1974, Olga and Vera Tschechowa officially visited Badenweiler for a memorial service on the 70th anniversary of Chekhov’s death. Vera Tschechowa’s husband at that time, the director Vadim Glowna (1941-2012), in 1984 produced the documentary “Tschechow in meinem Leben” (“Chekhov in my life”) about the family of artists on his wife’s side. Vera Tschechowa participated in 1994 as a guest in the “Second International Chekhov Symposium” in

Badenweiler. From the 1990s onwards, she had made a name for herself as documentarist of famous artists. In cooperation with the film researcher Renata Helker, the "International Literary Forum Badenweiler" dedicated an exhibition to Vera and Olga Tschschowa in 2000.

Transl.: A. M.

Martin Walser and Chekhov's "The Seagull"

(* Feb. 24, 1927 at Wasserburg on Lake Constance)



Martin Walser is considered as one of the most prolific German writers. He spent his youth in Wasserburg and Lindau on Lake Constance. Then he studied literature, history and philosophy at Tübingen and completed a doctorate there. In 1953, he was invited to join the famous "Gruppe 47". His first novel "Ehen in Philippsburg" (1957; "Marriages in Philippsburg") was a great success. Always being a pugnacious author, he initiated a public debate about the relationship of the Germans and Auschwitz in his famous speech in the Frankfurt St. Pauls Church, on the occasion of the award ceremony of the German Booksellers Literary Peace Prize in 1998, triggering a vituperative exchange with the literary critic Marcel Reich-Ranicki. Walser received some of the most prestigious literary awards for his work. He has produced over 50 novels and essays, and more than 10 plays. To name a few: the Büchner Prize in 1981, the previously mentioned Literary Peace Prize, and the order "Pour le mérite". In 2013 during the International Literary Forum at Badenweiler, he read from his new novel "Die Inszenierung" ("The Performance"). The plot includes a dramatic love story during rehearsals for an avant-garde performance of Chekhov's "Seagull". The story ends with the suicide of a protagonist, which nobody notices except a doctor. Walser's novel is an ironic dialogue about love, pain and desire, in which the theatre director Baum wants to direct "The Seagull" as a "play of goodbad luck", after Chekhov, in the town of Badenweiler where he died.

Transl.: A. M.

Elisabeth Walter – the "Selma Lagerlöf" of Baden

(* June 19, 1897, Kippenheimweiler; † June 4, 1956, Konstanz)

Elisabeth Walter was an author, a poet and a teacher. She was inspired by the Swedish writer Selma Lagerlöf's "Nils Holgersson's Wonderful Journey through Sweden" when writing her own children's book, "Abenteuerliche Reise des kleinen Schmiedledick mit den Zigeunern" (1930; "The Exciting Adventure of Little Schmiedledick with the Gypsies"). The book became a regional bestseller and became part of the school curriculum in Baden. The book tells the adventure of little Schmiedledick, who is kidnapped by gyp-



sies and travels with them on a horse wagon around Baden. Even though little Schmiedledick has multiple opportunities to run away and go home, he still decides to stay with his new family. Walter embedded a whole panorama of historical, geographical and social details of Baden into her fictional storyline. The text passages mentioning Badenweiler show how familiar she was with the town – in 1929, Elisabeth Walter had been a patient in the Friedrich-Hilda-Genesungsheim (Römerberg-Hospital). The gypsies in her book arrive in Badenweiler in the course of her story: "When they reached Badenweiler, they stopped for the first time. They had seen something very peculiar and amazing there. Petrus, who was always keen to keep his extremities warm, was getting ready to take a bath. There was a hot spring coming out of the ground and Petrus was mighty pleased about that." Her book is seen today as politically incorrect because of the stereotypical description of the gypsies. A devout Catholic, Walter refused appropriation by the Nazis. For her centennial, her writings, including, "Little Schmiedledick" was republished in a limited edition.

Transl.: H. H.

Gabriele Wohmann – the "Queen of the short story"

(* Gabriele Guyot, May 21, 1932, Darmstadt; † June 22, 2015, Darmstadt)



Gabriele Wohmann came from a well-known family of protestant clergymen in Darmstadt / Hesse. Though she did not finish her studies of German, Romance and English literature, music and philosophy, she worked for years as a teacher. In 1953, she married the German studies scholar Rainer Wohmann. Soon after, she started writing novels, poems, essays, plays for the radio, television, and the stage, and in particular short stories. Her favorite author was Anton Chekhov, her 1985 edition of selected works was a landmark anthology. Wohmann wrote 17 novels and about 600 short stories, making her one of the most prolific German authors. Her most famous novel "Paulinchen war allein zu Haus" (Pauline was alone at home) was published in over 20 editions (1974). Her topics about everyday middle-class life made her a chronicler of the mood in the Federal Germany of that time, about everyday conflicts but also about the women's movement. Her metaphorical, partly satirical narrative style, the "Wohmannizing", became her trademark. In the newspaper "Die Zeit", Marcel Reich-Ranicki wrote about her: "In the field of short story there are only very few writers that even come close to Gabriele Wohmann". In 1977, she was taking a cure with her husband at Badenweiler, which became her "place of

longing”, as she later wrote to the museum. There she wrote the artist novel “Frühherbst in Badenweiler” (Early Autumn at Badenweiler, 1978), which describes the depressive melancholic mood of the years after the student revolt and which refers to Anton Chekhov’s death from tuberculosis there. The novel was translated into more than 20 languages. Wohmann received many literary prizes and awards. She supported the literary museum “Chekhov-Salon” from its foundation in 1998. She donated to the museum some of her manuscripts and photographs. On her 70th birthday in 2002, she read at the Third International Literary Forum of the museum. Unfortunately in 2012, on the occasion of her 80th birthday, a reprise anniversary reading had to be cancelled due to her deteriorating health.

Transl.: H. H.

Chekhov Monuments and Historical Markers in Badenweiler

An Enigmatic Chekhov Monument



Located near the entrance of the museum “Chekhov Salon” stands a bronze Chekhov statue created by the artist Sergey Isakov from Rostov-on-Don. It was given to the town of Badenweiler on April 27th 2014 as a gift from Artemak Artyemyev, a member of the State Duma Rostov-on-Don, and other patrons of the arts throughout the country. The transfer ceremony took place during the Third International Festival “Russia in Europe” in the presence of the sculptor himself, as well

as various other artists and diplomats from Russia. Even though the Crimean and Ukrainian conflict cast a shadow over the event, the sculpture was presented as a symbol of a functioning German-Russian cultural bond. The Southern Russian regional capital Rostov-on-Don had co-signed in 2002 a contract of partnership between Chekhov’s home city Taganrog, and Badenweiler.

Before the Chekhov statue, Isakov, already an “honored artist of Russia”, had been famous mostly for his large-sized historical memorials. One example is the memorial to Prince Vladimir and Saint Theodorus, erected on the occasion of the 850th city anniversary of the old Russian city of Wladimir in 2007. Another one of his memorials is the one to Czar Peter the Great, unveiled in 2010 in the city of Byjsk near the Ural, a former strategic outpost for Russia in the East. The Chekhov statue has a height of 217 cm, making it the largest Chekhov sculpture in Western Europe. This work of

art has not only been manufactured with extreme precision and poetic grace, it also has an aura of mystery woven into its form. Isakov worked on this ensemble for more than two years. Almost threehundred figures are integrated into this piece of art as bigger, smaller, and minuscule sculptures and reliefs. There are representations of muses, phantasmagoric reveries, images of Chekhov and depictions of characters from Chekhov’s works.

Transl.: A.M.

Chekhov Square and the “Symbolic Cherry Orchards”

The “International Commemorative Anton Chekhov in Badenweiler Centennial Year” 2004 was part of the official programme “German-Russian Cultural Encounters in 2003/2004” under the patronage of both Russian president Vladimir Putin and the German federal president, Johannes Rau. The Russian Cultural Minister at the time, Alexander Sokolov took over official patronage for the celebrations in Badenweiler.



On the anniversary of Chekhov’s untimely demise, July 15th, “Chekhov Square” was officially designated in the historical centre of Badenweiler opposite the Northern side of the town hall (Street name: Ernst-Eisenlohr-Straße 4). Governor Eduard Rossl from Yekaterinburg personally unveiled the gift from Baden-Württemberg’s official Russian partner district, Sverdlovsk, a ten foot “Seagull” sculpture by the Moscow artist Alexander Taratinov. It now stands directly in front of the windows and the balcony of the room in the former Hotel Sommer where Chekhov died in 1904. On this balcony is mounted the world’s first Chekhov memorial marker, a marble plate bearing the inscription put up by the former owner of the hotel. It presents this inscription: “Hier lebte Anton Tschekhoff im Jahr 1904” (Anton Chekhov lived here in 1904). Next to the balcony is a large bronze cameo Chekhov portrait also by Taratinov. In the centre of the square a cherry tree was planted by the town of Badenweiler, one of the trees of the Symbolic Cherry Orchard distributed throughout the town.

A second cherry tree, donated by Taganrog where Chekhov was

born, was planted on the same day next to the Chekhov monument on castle hill by the ambassador of the Russian federation at the European Council, Alexandre Orlov, the deputy governor of the region of Rostov-on-Don, Alexander Bedrik, the mayor of Taganrog, Nikolai Fedyanin, and the emissary of the Russian embassy in Berlin, Vladimir Polenov, together with the mayor of Badenweiler, Karl-Eugen Engler. Both cherry trees are supposed to be living testimonies symbolizing how in Chekhov's play the triumph of capitalistic thinking over nature and its beauty is eventually overcome. Symbolic cherry orchards have since been planted in all Russian locations connected to Chekhov.

Transl.: A. M.

The Chekhov Memorial Stone near the Schwanenweiher



In 1956, the town of Badenweiler attempted to come up with a replacement for the first Chekhov memorial of 1908 that had been removed and melted down for ammunition in 1918. The most practical solution seemed to be a memorial stone commemorating the writer. Following lengthy deliberations, "Dem gütigen Menschen und Arzt, dem grossen Schriftsteller Anton Tschechow, geb. 29.1.1860 zu Taganrog, gest. 15.7.1904 in Badenweiler" was decided on as a suitable inscription ("To the kind-hearted human and physician, to the great writer Anton Chekhov, born January 29, 1860 in Taganrog, died July 15, 1904 in Badenweiler"). However, the Berlin crisis of 1960, the construction of the Berlin Wall in 1961, and the Cuba crisis of 1962 led to further delays. It was not until July 15, 1963 that the stone was officially unveiled in the presence of Soviet diplomats. This was the first joint cultural event between the two countries after the period of crises. The following year, West German Chancellor Ludwig Erhard invited journalists from the Soviet Union on a journey through (West-) Germany for the first time in the history of the Federal Republic. On April 19, 1964, the guests laid a wreath at Chekhov's memorial stone before they started on their tour.

Transl.: A. M.

The new Chekhov Monument on Castle Hill

Georgi Miromanov, director of the museum "The Book of A. Chekhov: Sakhalin Island" (located on the Russian island of Sakhalin, on the Pacific Coast) had received information about the fate of the first Chekhov monument that had been melted down in 1918,



through news coverage about the "First International Chekhov Symposium" in 1985, and from its organiser, Prof. Dr Rolf-Dieter Kluge (University of Tübingen). Miromanov promised to donate a new memorial for Chekhov's 130th birthday 1990, an idea that sounded like folly at the time. In the fall of 1990, however, Miromanov, together with his son Temur and the sculptor Vladimir Chebotarjov, arrived in Badenweiler in an old army

truck with the new memorial which they had declared scrap metal at the various borders they had crossed on their arduous way from the Pacific Ocean. The unveiling was planned for the following year, but Miromanov did not get a travelling permit from the Soviet Union. It was only after the collapse of the USSR that a proper inauguration of the memorial could take place on May 14, 1992. It was the first Russian monument unveiled in Germany after the end of the Soviet Union. In his speech, Miromanov called the memorial a gift from the Russian Chekhov enthusiasts but also a symbol of "Perestroika", guaranteeing peace between Russia and Germany. On his way back home to Sakhalin, Miromanov died of heart failure at Sumy / Ukraine.

Transl.: A. M.

The Stephen Crane memorial marker

For Crane's 100th death anniversary in 2000 a commemorative plaque was revealed at Zöllin Square. Its inscription see p. 12.



The René Schickele well

(1947) in the Kanderner Straße and commemorative plaque with the inscription: "His heart carried the love and the wisdom of two nations." (Text: Kasimir Edschmid)



Selection of publications

insofar as these have arisen in recent years in connection with the history of Badenweiler's literature and the Badenweiler Literary Museum "Čechov Salon". Order by year of publication:

Gustav Faber: Badenweiler. Ein Stück Italien auf deutschem Grund. Hrsg. von der Gemeinde Badenweiler. 1. Aufl. 1975, 3. ergänzte Aufl. 1990. ISBN: 3-921340-17-9.

Ingeborg Hecht: Wie könnt ich Badenweiler je vergessen...Von Künstlern, Katzen und kurenden Leuten. Verlag A. Schmidt, Müllheim/Baden, 1. Aufl. 1979, 3. Aufl. 1994.

Rolf-Dieter Kluge: Die Bedeutung des Čechov-Archivs. In: Kur- und Badeblatt Badenweiler, Folge 1, März 1982, Extraausgabe, S. 27-29.

Rolf-Dieter Kluge (Hrsg.): Anton P. Čechov. Werk und Wirkung. Vorträge u. Diskussionen eines Internationalen Symposiums in Badenweiler im Okt. 1985. Redaktion: Regine Nohejl. Bd. 1 u. 2. Verlag Otto Harrassowitz, Wiesbaden (Opera Slavica, Neue Folge, Bd. 18) 1990. ISBN: 3-447-03098-4.

Rolf-Dieter Kluge: Anton P. Čechov. Eine Einführung in Leben und Werk. Wiss. Buchges. Darmstadt, 1995. ISBN: 3-534-12631-9.

Vladimir B. Kataev, Rolf-Dieter Kluge, Regine Nohejl (Hrsg.): Anton P. Čechov – Philosophische und religiöse Dimensionen im Leben und im Werk. Vorträge des Zweiten Internationalen Čechov-Symposiums Badenweiler, 20.-24. Oktober 1994 (Die Welt der Slaven. Sammelbände. Bd.1). Verlag Otto Sagner München, 1997. ISBN: 3-87690-675-X.

Johannes Helm: Badenweiler im Spiegel der Literatur. Verlag A. Schmidt, Müllheim/Baden 1999. ISBN: 3-921709-19-9.

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Rolf-Dieter Kluge: Anton Tschchow in Badenweiler. Spurenheft 45, 1. Aufl. 1998, 2. Aufl. 2014. Deutsche Schillergesellschaft Marbach a.N. Hrsg.: Thomas Schmidt. ISBN: 3-929146-84-3.

Heinz Setzer: Das Čechov-Archiv in Badenweiler. In: Festschrift für Rolf-Dieter Kluge zum 65. Geburtstag. Hrsg. von Heide Willich-Lederbogen, Regine Nohejl, Michaela Fischer, Heinz Setzer (Die Welt der Slaven. Sammelbände Bd. 16). Verlag Otto Sagner, München 2002, S. 241-254.

Renata Helker: Die Tschchows. Wege in die Moderne. Hrsg. vom Dt. Theatermuseum München. Verlag Henschel 2005. ISBN: 3-89487-502-X.

Badenweiler Journal, 95. Jg., Sonderausgabe zur Gründung der „Deutschen Tschchow-Gesellschaft“ am 16. Juli 2009 in Badenweiler. Erhältlich über das Literaturmuseum Badenweiler „Tschchow-Salon“.

Regine Nohejl u. Heinz Setzer (Hrsg.): Anton P. Čechov – der Dramatiker. Drittes Internationales Čechov-Symposium Badenweiler im Oktober 2004 (Die Welt der Slaven. Sammelbände, Bd. 44). Verlag Otto Sagner, München-Berlin-Washington, D.C. 2012. ISBN: 978-3-86688-230-0.

Armin Strohmeyer: Annette Kolb. Dichterin zwischen den Völkern. Piper Verlag, München 2002, vollst. überarbeitete Neuaufl. 2017. ISBN: 978-3-492-31217-2.

Anastasia Alexandrowa u.a. (Hrsg.): Anton Tschchows Reise nach Sachalin. [Katalog zur Ausstellung der Originalfotos von Tschchows Sachalin-Reise in Marbach und Badenweiler]. Ferne Spuren, Heft 1, 2014. Deutsche Schillergesellschaft Marbach a.N. ISBN: 978-3-9444696-09-6.

Heinz Setzer (Hrsg.): Die literarische Weltkarte Anton Tschchows. Литературная карта мира А. П. Чехова. Deutsch-russisches Begleitbuch zur Ausstellung anlässlich des 110. Todesjahres des russischen Schriftstellers und Dramatikers. Badenweiler 2014. Literarisches Museum Badenweiler. ISBN: 978-3-00-046611-3.

Ада Беляева, Елена Зиничева: Fenster in die Vergangenheit. Доктор Живаго и его фотоархив в ГМИИ им. А.С. Пушкина. Изд. «Красная площадь». Москва 2015. [Ada Beljaeva, Elena Sinitschewa: Ein Fenster in die Vergangenheit. Dr. Schiwago und sein Fotoarchiv im Staatl. Puschkin-Museum für Darstellende Künste. Moskau 2015. Mit einem deutschsprachigen Einlegeblatt]. ISBN: 978-5-91521-075-1

Heinz Setzer u. Regine Nohejl (Hrsg.): Ein Leben für den deutsch-slavischen Dialog der Kulturen und Literaturen. Rolf-Dieter Kluge zum 80. Geburtstag. Literarisches Museum Badenweiler "Tschchow-Salon" und Deutsche Tschchow-Gesellschaft 2017. ISBN: 978-3-00-057013-1.

Heinz Setzer (Hrsg.): Ein neues Theater braucht das Land! Новый театр нужен стране! Der Theaterreformer und Regisseur des Moskauer Künstlertheaters, Konstantin Stanislawski, der Moskauer Arzt Alexander Schiwago und der Großherzoglich-badische Kurarzt Hofrat Josef Schwoerer. Ein neues Kapitel der kulturellen Wechselbeziehungen Badens und Badenweilers mit Russland im 20. Jahrhundert. Anlässlich des 80. Todesjahres von Konstantin Stanislawski. Deutsch-russisches Begleitbuch zur Sonderausstellung im Sommer 2018. Literarisches Museum Badenweiler „Tschchow-Salon“ und Deutsche Tschchow-Gesellschaft 2018. ISBN: 978-3-00-060123-1.

Site plan of the memorials in Badenweiler:



- 1** An Enigmatic Chekhov Monument in the museum
- 2** Chekhov Square and the "Emblematic Cherry Orchards"
- 3** The Memorial Stone for Chekhov near the Schwanenweiher
- 4** The new Chekhov Memorial on the Burgberg
- 5** The Stephen Crane memorial marker
- 6** René Schickele fountain in Kanderner Str. with memorial marker