Schöffling & Co. is an independent publisher of German and international literary fiction, memoir and poetry located in Frankfurt. Since 1994, we've been passionate about finding and introducing inspiring new talent as well as connecting readers with some of the finest works of modern German literature.

Our contemporary list brings together renowned and established writers like Burkhard Spinnen and Mirko Bonné as well as new voices like Berit Glanz, Maike Wetzel and Ulrike Almut Sandig. Among our authors in translation are prominent names like Joshua Cohen, David Albahari, Jami Attenberg and Juan Gabriel Vásquez.

Schöffling’s list of modern classics includes novels and memoirs by authors like Silvia Tennenbaum, Ulrich Becher or Horst Krüger that represent different experiences and perspectives on German and European history from the 1920s to the post-war years. The tremendous success of Gabriele Tergit’s Effingers, an epic Jewish family saga first published in 1951 affirms our belief in the timeless quality of these works.

»Pairing keen sense with unbowed curiosity, Schöffling & Co. continuously retrieves and supports authors for almost a quarter-century now.«

The Jury of the Kurt Wolff-Prize

2016 – Binding Culture Award
2016 – Klaus Schöffling named German Publisher of the Year
2017 – Kurt Wolff Prize
2019 – Independent Publisher Prize by the State of Hesse
2019 – German Independent Publisher Award
2020 – German Independent Publisher Award
Born in 1946 in Genthin (Saxony-Anhalt) has been a full-time writer since 1970, also working for the theatre and for radio. He has been awarded numerous awards and stipends. Gert Loschütz lives with his family in Berlin.

In addition to his highly-praised novels such as Dark Company (which was shortlisted for the German Book Prize) he has published a story collection and books for children. His novel A Fine Couple was shortlisted for the Wilhelm Raabe Literature Prize 2018 and longlisted for the German Book Prize 2018. His new novel, Revisiting a Tragedy has been nominated for the German Book Prize 2021.

Revisiting a Tragedy

336 pages, 69,000 words
20 July 2021

A story about the worst train accident in German history and some mysterious passengers
Reads like a crime novel

In December 1939 the biggest train accident ever witnessed on German soil occurs near Genthin station. Two trains collide at full speed, with many deaths and casualties. On board one of the trains is Carla, who survives with serious injuries.

Carla is engaged to Richard, a Jew from the city of Neuss, yet her travelling companion is not Richard but the Italian Giuseppe Buonomo, who is killed in the crash. Lisa, a sales assistant at the Magnus department store, is sent out to take clothes to the injured woman, who has lost everything in the disaster. But Carla is already posing as Mrs Buonomo – does she have something to hide?

Many years later, Lisa’s son, Thomas Vandersee, hears about this mysterious incident, and his mother reveals her own tale of love and misfortune in parallel. Will he be able to figure out Carla’s secret? Might it somehow be linked to his own family?

Inspired by a real-life disaster, the novelist Gerd Loschütz weaves a magnificent, unsettling story of love and betrayal.

>>No other author writing in German is such a master of the Modianoesque melancholy tone of an investigator of the past as the Genthin-born Loschütz.<< Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

>>Gerd Loschütz’s prose is urgent and occasionally poetic (...) reminiscent, at times, of Uwe Johnson.« Tagesspiegel

>>His novels and plays possess an urgent immediacy. Alternating between light and dark, they draw readers in and won’t let them go again.« Ulrich Sonnenschein, hrz Doppelkopf
Gabriele Tergit (1894–1982)
The writer and journalist Gabriele Tergit became known for her court reporting as well as her novels, articles and other prose pieces. In November 1933, she emigrated to Palestine, moving to London in 1938. From 1957 to 1981, she was secretary of the PEN Centre for German-language writers abroad.

So war’s eben

Posthumously published from the author’s estate and with an afterword by Nicole Henneberg
624 pages, 166,000 words
24 August 2021

So war’s eben has not previously been published. Schöffling & Co. will publish the first edition.

A broad social portrait that begins in 1898 and ends in the New York emigrant milieu at the end of the 1950s
A family saga by the celebrated and rediscovered Gabriele Tergit

Following Effingers, Gabriele Tergit’s greatest wish was to write another great novel.
So war’s eben, a novel from the author’s estate now being published for the first time, follows the quotidian lives of affluent and not-so-affluent families from 1898 to the 1960s.

As the families’ fortunes take their course, World War I rages and the turmoil and right-left tensions of the Weimar Republic fill the editorial pages – Gabriele Tergit’s world during her tenure as a journalist.

On 30 January 1933, a family celebration that includes nearly all of the novel’s characters forms the preamble to their emigration – first to Prague and Paris, then London and the USA. Tergit illuminates the ever-greater problems facing both the emigrants and the Jews left behind – the suicides, the deportations, and the ruin of a Mischehe or forbidden mixed marriage.

Gabriele Tergit wanted to »depict her generation, with all of its hopes, disappointments, and disruptions; our entire senseless world starting in 1932.« She wanted to capture the generations of the displaced, including the Jewish refugees in New York whom Grete, Tergit’s alter ego, visits in the early 1950s.

»Tergit writes with a light touch, musically, with a great ear for the way people speak and a fine, deeply humane wit.« Juliane Liebert, Die Zeit

Rights sold:
The Netherlands – Van Maaskant Haun

Rights to Effingers have been sold to:
France – Christian Bourgois
Italy – Einaudi
Spain – Libros del Asteroide
UK – Pushkin Press
The Netherlands – Van Maaskant Haun
Gabriele Tergit (1894–1982)
The writer and journalist Gabriele Tergit became known for her court reporting as well as her novels, articles and other prose pieces. In November 1933, she emigrated to Palestine, moving to London in 1938. From 1957 to 1981, she was secretary of the PEN Centre for German-language writers abroad.

Of Spring and Lonliness – Reporting from the Courtroom

Edited by Nicole Henneberg
stories/reporting approx
368 pages, 82,000 words
18 August 2020

30,000 copies sold of »Effingers«

Written in her unique literary style, the court reporting that Gabriele Tergit did for the Berlin-based newspaper the Börsen-Courier from 1924, the Berliner Tageblatt from 1925 and the weekly magazine Weltbühne from 1929 form the linchpin of her work as a journalist. Tergit saw the courtroom as a stage, and each trial as a new play. She was interested primarily in the unusual cases, in the compelling, strange, tragic character of the facts and the accused. Yet in every case brought before the court, she was always careful to observe the difficult social forces behind the scenes, and the social misery that drove people to commit criminal acts in the first place.

No historical report, no account, reveals the Weimar Republic and the interwar years more lucidly, more clear-sightedly or in a more multi-faceted way than Tergit’s journalism, from which Nicole Henneberg – editor of the already-released new editions of Tergit’s work at Schöffling & Co – has drawn a generous selection.

»No German-language journalist of the twenties observed more acutely or wrote more trenchantly … A female Alfred Polgar – only more passionate.«
Michael Bauer, Focus
The Free Women

208 pages, 47,000 words
24 August 2021

A journey to the past turns into a reckoning with the limits of female freedom.

Elisabeth Schlosser feels wrong – wrong in her apartment, wrong in her city, even wrong in her life, as if she should be someone else – but who?

As Berlin sinks in snow, she sits in her apartment in a greenish, crumbling building at Hackescher Markt and pours her heart out to her 100-year-old pen pal: her adult son in the kitchen won’t eat or talk to her, his father pops up only briefly and leaves again with nary a word, and she has failed to write the drama that she has always wanted to write. How can it go on like this? She finally tears herself away and sets off for Poland. It is there, where her family once lived, that she believes she will find an answer to who she is and who she is not.

In a dense, musical prose, The Free Women tells about the longing for what has been buried – buried beneath new beginnings, beneath history, and beneath the failures of those who came before us. And once again, Irina Liebmann tells a story about her city – about Berlin and its women.

»Irina Liebmanns best novel.« Iris Radisch, Die Zeit
Mirko Bonné

born 1965 in Tegernsee, lives in Hamburg. Besides translations of, among others, Sherwood Anderson, Robert Creeley, E. E. Cummings, Emily Dickinson, John Keats, Grace Paley and William Butler Yeats, he has published several novels, volumes of poetry, travel journals and essays. For his work he has received many awards and was listed twice for the German Book Prize.

Sealand Snowland

novel

448 pages, 103,692 words

2 February 2021

Wales, 1921. The First World War and the Spanish flu have wrought devastation on Europe and brought it to its knees. Young Merce Blackboro escaped being sent to the frontline because he was in Antarctica, but he finds the cramped horizons of home oppressive after returning from Shackleton’s failed Endurance expedition. His suffering is only compounded when the love of his life, Ennid Muldoon, suddenly leaves to try her luck in America. With her on the same emigrant ship, among the continent’s huddled wretches, is the heavy-drinking tycoon Diver Robey, who fantasizes about connecting the Old World and the New World by air. The dreams of the passengers, rich and poor, are in danger of being shattered when the steamship runs into a huge snowstorm in the middle of the Atlantic. Merce must find a way to save Ennid and, in doing so, himself.

In his brilliant new Alfred Döblin Prize-nominated novel, Mirko Bonné tells a powerful, gripping tale of desperate longing a century before our own fragile times.

»Mirko Bonné’s SEALAND SNOWLAND is an outstanding novel that brings to mind Tolstoy, Dickens and Titanic.« Thomas Andre, Hamburger Abendblatt

»Mirko Bonné’s SEALAND SNOWLAND combines a Jack-London-style adventure novel with a part impressionistic, part mythical sounding of emotional depths.« Helmut Böttinger, Deutschlandfunk Kultur

»An author who writes from the heart, and a melancholic of the highest calibre, though there is an undercurrent of childish impetuosity.« Oliver Jungen, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

»What is so satisfying in Mirko Bonné’s novels is his ability to confront historical facts with the larger questions of life through his sensitive characterisation and use of language.« Lisa Kreissler, NDR
Margit Schreiner
born in Linz, Austria, in 1953 is living there again after many years in Tokyo, Paris, Rome and Berlin. She has won various scholarships and awards for her writing, most recently the Heinrich Gleißner Prize for her life’s work.

224 pages, 49,933 words
2 February 2021

»The seventh year of age is, I believe, mercilessly underestimated. Our eyes are fixed on puberty, but in fact puberty begins much earlier. There’s a lot that has to be pent up first, until eventually it bursts out like an explosion.«

These are the furious opening lines of Margit Schreiner’s new book, which deals not merely with the development of a seven-year-old but also with the perspective of an adult looking back on the child she once was.

»What do I – a sixty-six-year old sitting writing in a house on the edge of a nature reserve – have to do with a seven-year-old? Am I inventing this seven-year-old by writing about her, or did she really exist, and if so, was she utterly different to the girl I describe? Is any aspect of this real, or are they chimeras on the horizon of a windy, clear-as-glass day? When I stand in front of the mirror, I can find no sign of this seven-year-old in my face. It’s all simply in my head, its universe and parallel universes.«

In FATHER. MOTHER. CHILD. DECLARATIONS OF WAR, Margit Schreiner has written the project of a lifetime, a book about childhood, memory and growing up that is unprecedented in German-language literature.
The Walnut Tree across from the Shop Where You Buy Your Bread

The End of Paradise is Near!
Novel
With an afterword by Andreas Maier
360 pages, 101,000 words
24 August 2021

Who am I? Where and in what year? Question upon question plagues the narrator as he wanders from bar to bar in a small, unnamed town and wallows in memories of his past – and present? He describes the daily trials and tribulations of his own life and life in general and thinks about the drinker Plaschko and the futility of the bank robbery.

The novel *The Walnut Tree across from the Shop Where You Buy Your Bread* with its combative subtitle *The End of Paradise is Near!* marked Peter Kurzeck’s literary debut in 1979. It already bears the hallmarks of the searching narrative style that later became legendary. The novel’s sensual parenthetical asides and digressive footnotes are unique in his oeuvre.

This new edition includes an afterword by the author and Kurzeck expert Andreas Maier.

»Once you have read Kurzeck, it is impossible to imagine a world without him. The world takes on its authentic tone.« Andreas Maier

»One of the greatest German writers of all.« Dirk von Lowtzow, SWR 2

»This is a wonderfully assured composition. Here is a man writing as if every day were the last, as if he must – and can! – save the world through storytelling.« Holger Schneider, Norddeutscher Rundfunk

»This novel draws on the finest traditions of European modernism, joining the lineage of James Joyce, Marcel Proust and Alfred Döblin.« Thomas Anz, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung
ROSEMARY tells the story of Rosemary Nitribitt, who became famous during the post-war years in the economic powerhouse of Frankfurt as a high-class prostitute. Her clients included influential figures in the world of finance and industry. Rosemary’s murder in the autumn of 1957 caused a scandal. Her killer was never caught, and the mistakes in the investigation – including the temporary mislaying of the case files – inspired many rumours and legends.

More than the story of a criminal case and the ensuing scandal, Erich Kuby’s book explores the period now known as the German »economic miracle«. Writing in a vivid and atmospheric style, he captures the spirit of the 1950s in the Federal Republic of Germany. His Rosemary becomes symbolic of the double standards of contemporary society and the dark side of the economic boom.

»The Nitribitt affair is more than a shocking crime, it is also alarming due to its sociological implications.« Thilo Koch, DIE ZEIT (1958)

»An amazingly precise analyses of the social situation at the time. (...) Greatly entertaining. This new edition, containing a clever, sociologically based essay, saves the Nitribitt case on a high level into the third millennium.« Kristina Maidt-Zinke, Süddeutsche Zeitung
A piece of literary reportage that explores our cultural privileges

Who draws the borders of Europe, and what determines human happiness? Anselm Oelze explores the supposed certainties we take for granted in our own lives.

Lesbos, September 2020: Moria – the biggest refugee camp in Europe – burns to the ground. A few weeks after the fire, writer Anselm Oelze flies to Lesbos to get a better understanding of the situation. He finds an island where a state of emergency is the new normal, and wonders how we got here. He gains access to the hurriedly constructed new camp, Kara Tepe, and speaks to the people who have to live there. He shadows media figures as they work and takes a look behind the scenes of various aid organisations, but also reflects on his own role as an observer and his perception of events. This powerful account of his trip is more than just a work of literary reportage. It is above all a clear-sighted contemplation of the things we tend to take for granted, of our own responsibility, the fictionality of borders and the arbitrary nature of happiness.
WALTER BOEHLICH

(1921–2006) was the editor-in-chief of the Suhrkamp Verlag publishing house from 1957 to 1968. As a translator and journalist, he was also later responsible for editing, among others, Walter Benjamin’s collected writings (Gesammelte Schriften) and Gershom Scholem’s letters (Briefe). In 1969, he co-founded the publishing house Verlag der Autoren and in 1979 the bookstore Autorenbuchhandlung in Frankfurt on Main. Walter Boehlich died in Hamburg.

»I have my skepticism, my knowledge, and my conscience.«

Letters, 1944–2000
Including illustrations
Published by Christoph Kapp and Wolfgang Schopf

544 pages

The philologist, critic, translator from six languages, editor, and journalist Walter Boehlich was a unique literary go-between. Boehlich was an intellectual who rescued the literary legacy from the upheavals of the twentieth century and subjected it to critical re-appraisal. In addition to this lifetime achievement, Walter Boehlich – the editor-in-chief of the Suhrkamp Verlag publishing house from 1957 to 1968 – left behind extensive correspondence, which began in 1944 with a letter to his mother, who had been deported to Theresienstadt, and ended only in 2000. In his letters to authors, editors, and publishing houses, Boehlich expresses his belief that the critique of language and literature is also a critique of society. For him, philological conscientiousness and moral responsibility go hand in hand. At the same time, his letters are polished, witty, and intellectually sparkling: reading them is a never-ending delight.

For Boehlich’s 100th birthday, Christoph Kapp and Wolfgang Schopf have edited an annotated, richly illustrated selection of Boehlich’s letters to Ingeborg Bachmann, Gottfried Benn, Wolfgang Koeppen, Theodor W. Adorno, and many others.

»Walter Boehlich was an exacting reader, eloquent and sometimes polemic, and in his essays and columns a sharp-tongued commentator on current affairs.«

Martin Zingg, NZZ

»Walter Boehlich’s letters are a moving testament to a brilliant mind«

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung
New poems and field notes
112 pages, 9,000 words
20 July 2021

GERMAN PRIZE FOR NATURE WRITING 2021
»You don’t read poetry? Are you crazy?« Maria Gazzetti

Mara-Daria Cojocaru’s new poems weave the shreds of our animal, plant, and human worlds, fragmented into different specializations, together again. Buch der Bestimmungen tells of the conversational ease between cats and foxes and the misunderstandings between you and me; of water bears in space, the extinction of mist, the ups and downs of love, and of disinterested deer. In this poetic research log, they all become equal sources of knowledge and above all compassion.
Ron Winkler

born in Jena in 1973, lives in Berlin. He has published several volumes of poetry and edited numerous anthologies. Ron Winkler is considered one of the most important voices in contemporary German poetry.

Magma within

Poems

120 pages, 10,000 words

20 July 2021

In this new volume, Ron Winkler investigates how the speed of language’s flow changes in movement. The biotopes he analyzes can be found in the »desolation of all Europeans,« as well as on the »narrative surfaces of the glacial.« But they are always also inscribed deep into the body. Not least, Winkler maps childhood – sometimes with a cool eye and sometimes with a yearning invocation. Winkler’s poems tirelessly seek »excruciating beauty,« including its surprising excesses – yes, that is the aim.
English sample translations, where available, can be downloaded from our website http://www.schoeffling.de/foreignrights/new where you will find our complete catalogue.

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