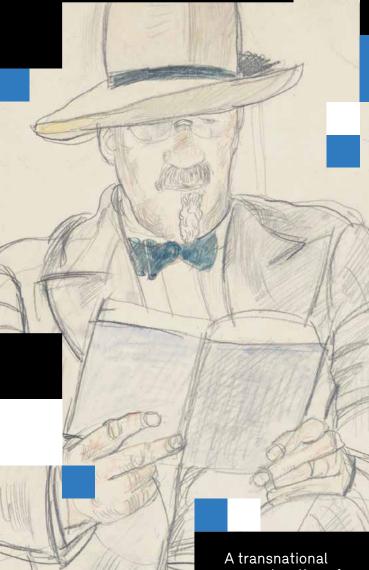
Heinrich Mann DIGITAL



reconstruction of the literary estate

Philosopher, Poet, Democrat

Heinrich Mann (1871–1950) is one of the most socially critical authors of his time. His novels, dramas, and essays, as well as his journalistic work are marked by a deep moral and political commitment. They are among the most enduring works of 20th century German literature.

Heinrich Mann's scattered literary estate

Until now, anyone wanting to study the manuscripts, notebooks, and letters of Heinrich Mann had to travel to the archives of Berlin and Lübeck, Los Angeles and Moscow, Zurich and Marbach, Prague and Munich. This fragmentation is a conseguence of the ruptures and upheavals of the 20th century, which are reflected and inscribed in the biography of Heinrich Mann himself.

An international cooperation project is now enabling, in an online portal, the first-ever consolidation of the scattered collections and letters making up Heinrich Mann's literary estate.

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"Poetry and Politics"

In October 1926, Heinrich Mann was elected to the Section for Poetry of the Prussian Academy of Arts and became its director in January of 1931. As member and chairman of the Section he was committed – until his forced resignation and emigration 1933 to France and in the USA – to strengthening democracy, human rights and the freedom of the arts. His appointment played a decisive role in shaping the Academy. On 20 May 1928, he wrote to his friend Félix Bertaux: "I just now finished a 'report' to the Prussian Academy on 'Poetry and Politics', in which I promote the unrestricted rights of the free spirit."

Body of literature of the Archives (Deutsche Akademie der Künste)

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Following his death in 1950, the drafts of Heinrich Mann's estate and letters, found their way on detours from Munich, Prague and various places of exile into the different archives. After Heinrich Mann could no longer take over the presidency of the Deutsche Akademie der Künste (Ost), it was Alfred Kantorowicz who established the Heinrich Mann Archive as one of the Archives' original core collections. During the Cold War period, the division of its collections into East and West institutions made public access difficult.

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Heinrich Mann DIGITAL: From an international project to an online portal

Now, for the first time ever, an international cooperation project is going to digitally join an interlink Heinrich Mann's extensive literary estate. In preparation for this ambitious endeavour, the Literature Archives is preparing 30,000 scans by the end of 2021, which will subsequently be published in the digital showcase of the Akademie der Künste (https://digital.adk.de). Those scans will include manuscripts, notebooks, business and biographical documents, photos, family history records and visual artworks.

In a second step, a specially developed online portal will allow to virtually bring together the globally dispersed collections with Berlin's collections. This digital "puzzle" will serve as a prototype for creating a digital access to literary remains. With such a transnational showcase, the scattered literary estate of the 20th century can be given new visibility and can be structured and organized according to criteria such as chronology, inventory or location. This international cooperation project will give corresponding impetus to edition philology, the study of visual arts, literary history, Heinrich Mann and exile-related research as well as to provenance research and the reconstruction of how records are preserved and transferred.

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www.heinrich-mann-digital.net

At the Archives of the Akademie der Künste (• AdK, Berlin), the online portal "Heinrich Mann DIGITAL" is developed in cooperation with the Heinrich-Mann-Gesellschaft Lübeck, the Feuchtwanger Memorial Library (• FML, Los Angeles, University of Southern California), the Deutsches Literaturarchiv (
DLA, Marbach), the Thomas-Mann-Archiv (ETH, Zurich), the Heinrichund-Thomas-Mann-Zentrum, Buddenbrookhaus (• BBH, Lübeck), the Czech Literary Archive (• LA PNP, Prague), the Martin Bodmer Foundation in Geneva and the • Monacensia in Munich, as well as in consultation with the ongoing edition projects and publishing houses S. Fischer and Aisthesis.

The digitisation of the Heinrich Mann estate in the Archives of the Akademie der Künste, Berlin receives funding from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. It is carried out in cooperation with the Literature Archives and the fields media service, long-term archiving and stock conservation.

Contact: Literaturarchiv@adk.de

Funded by



DEG Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

AKADEMIE DER KÜNSTE

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Title: Erich Büttner: Heinrich Mann Heringsdorf 13. VIII. 1928. Drawing, AdK Berlin