

KLARA LAKOMY

»To Transform through Writing«
About the Integrality of Work and Lifestyle
in the Case of Anna Seghers

What question does fiction pose? Fiction asks what must be done. Introducing her essay with these words, the author reflects upon the relevance of the work of Anna Seghers (1900-1983) and upon the eternal question of the relationship between work and lifestyle. The novelist, the author maintains, is a novelist only if he is not solely a novelist, but also someone politically active, representing the viewpoints and urgency of his work. Discussing this using the example of Anna Seghers, the author looks back into decisive moments of this novelist's life in the GDR.

HELMUT BOCK

Nobel Peace Prize for Bertha von Suttner
The Relevance in History

In 1889, as France and progressive people the world over celebrated the 100th anniversary of the French Revolution, Countess Kinsky, alias Bertha von Suttner, published her novel »Lay Down Your Arms!« (Die Waffen nieder!). With this book, an epochal best seller, the woman, Bertha von Suttner, dared to challenge non other than the question of masculinity: the military state concept of rival great powers. For her, war was not the »Father of all things« but a crime. She appealed for disarmament and peace.

SIGRID BOCK

The Power of Literature
The Effect of Bertha von Suttner's Novel
»Lay Down Your Arms!«

The author describes Bertha von Suttner's efforts to reach a broader audience with her appeal for peace, through using the novel as the vehicle. This novel follows the usual scheme of a novel. The heroine reflects upon her life, questions herself about the influences that altered her views and activity, presenting this in a way which offers the readers the possibility of identifying with the novel's main character. In 1905, when v. Suttner was presented the Nobel Peace Prize, her book had appeared in 37 editions and been printed in the German Social-Democrat newspaper, »Vorwärts«.

GUIDO BRENDGENS

The Loss of the Public Space
Simulated Public in the Era of Neoliberalism

The public space is slowly being muted into a space of exploitation – a space completely transferred to private ownership, leaving no room for social or political intervention. The author describes these developments. He proposes a typology of the public space and discusses the consequences of privatization. He pleads for a re-conquest of the public space because of it being vital to a democratic, civil society.

MANFRED SOHN
Programmatic Tips from the Far East
On the Revised Version of the Program
of the Japanese CP

The author wonders why the German left is not more attentive to the development and the program of the Japanese Communist Party, which – with a membership of more than 400 000 – has, over the last decades, repeatedly won between 7 and 10 percent of the votes in general elections. He examines the revised version of the program adopted in January, 2004 and pleads for a better understanding of the objectives of the Japanese communists for the 21st century. They describe the century as an epoch of a strengthening of the forces intent on overcoming capitalism.

HEINZ-JÜRGEN VOSS
Queer Politics: Between Critical Theory
and Practical (Im)Possibility

The author discusses the relationship between queer politics and the daily discrimination and exclusion of persons on the basis of their personal definition and orientation. Queer, he says, fascinates through the magic of openness, vagueness and rapid change. With its anti-hierarchic and anti-privilege potential, it is an aspect of a radical social critic.

SILVIO PERITORE
From Discrimination to Extermination
Nazi Genocide of Sinti and Roma

The fate of Sinti and Roma in Germany during the »Third Reich« must be seen in close correlation with the fate of Jews. There is no reason, the author says, to seek distinctions between the two genocides, the two holocausts. They were both driven by racist-ideological motives, were both executed by specially trained State structures, there were the same systems of registration of the victims, the enforcement of the same »Race Laws« and the same meticulous planning and bureaucratic organization. All this makes it necessary for a common commemoration and mourning, without discrimination.

MARIO KESSLER
From Hippokrates to Hitler
Medicine Without Humanity

In reviewing recent publications on the role of physicians in the »master race« politics of the »Third Reich«, the author draws the conclusion that the calculated lie of an »apolitical« science no longer can be maintained. But it took – as is evidenced by the books of Ernst Klee and Werner Schmidt – a long time to gather all the published material necessary. This is due to the fact, that especially physicians had established a system of state supported secrecy, both in the Federal Republic of Germany and in the German Democratic Republic.