



Exhibition notes

Author: Prof. Dr. Rainer Vollkommer, Director, Liechtenstein National Museum

Poets

1: Friedrich Gottlieb Klopstock (2 July 1724 in Quedlinburg – 14 March 1803 in Hamburg), poet, representative of the Sentimentalism movement. Famous epic poem: "The Messiah" (20 cantos, 1748-1773). Well-known poems: "Der Zürchersee" (1750), "Die Frühlingsfeier" (1759)

This letter to an unknown person mentions Philipp Gabriel Hensler, a doctor and close friend living in the Altona district of Hamburg. Klopstock and Hensler met frequently. Hensler was a well-respected general practitioner who turned down a position at the University of Göttingen before accepting one in Kiel late in life.

My dearest! Today I shall not lunch with Hensler, for my condition does not allow it. Thus, I am writing to you lest you should intend to go there for my sake.
Friedrich Klopstock

2: Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (28 August 1749 in Frankfurt am Main – 22 March 1832 in Weimar), poet, representative of the Sturm und Drang and Weimar Classicism movements. Selection of well-known works: „Götz von Berlichingen“ (1773), „Die Leiden des jungen Werthers“ (1774), „Iphigenie auf Tauris“ (printed in 1787), „Torquato Tasso“ (printed in 1790), Versuch die Metamorphose der Pflanzen zu erklären (1790), Beiträge zur Optik (1791/1792), Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre (1795/1796), Faust (first part. printed in 1808), Die Wahlverwandtschaften (1809), Zur Farbenlehre (1810), Italienische Reise (1813-1817), West-östlicher Diwan (1819), Faust. Der Tragödie zweiter Teil (1832). Selection of well-known poems: „An den Mond“ (1777), „Erlkönig“ (1782), „Wandrer's Nachtlied“ (1776 and 1780), „Der Zauberlehrling“ (1797)

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe showed a great interest in many fields of natural science, particularly mineralogy, botany and anatomy. Indeed, on 27 March 1784 he is believed to have become the first person to discover the intermaxillary bone in humans at the University of Jena's Institute for Anatomy. The Institute's collections, primarily comprising exhibits belonging to the Dukes of Weimar and transferred to Jena in 1779, formed the basis for the Carl August Museum created in Jena at the end of the 18th century and curated by Justus Christian Loder, Duke Carl August's personal doctor and a professor of anatomy and surgery at the University of Jena. After Justus Christian Loder left Jena in 1803, Duke Carl August von Sachsen-Weimar-Eisenach and his privy councillor, state minister Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, set about procuring additional anatomical exhibits. In 1804 they founded the *museum anatomicum* in Jena, to which Johann Wolfgang von Goethe remained closely connected throughout his life. In 1825 he was awarded an honorary doctorate in recognition of his support and his anatomical discovery, with the awarding



committee stating that he “made clear that he anticipated with a formidable sharpness of mind the hidden laws of nature he had recognised in the bone structure”. This short document confirms Goethe’s commitment to the anatomical museum in Jena.

Esquire!

I hereby confirm the receipt ... of fifty thalers from privy councillor Herr Voigt for the museum anatomicum Jenense.

Weimar, 28 March 1804
Goethe

3: Friedrich von Schiller

3: Friedrich von Schiller (10 November 1759 in Marbach on Neckar – 9 May 1805 in Weimar), poet and historian, representative of the Sturm und Drang and Weimar Classicism movements. Selection of well-known dramas: „Die Räuber“ (1781), „Kabale und Liebe“ (1784), „Don Karlos“ (1787), „Wallenstein“ (printed in 1800), „Maria Stuart“ (1800), „Die Jungfrau von Orléans“ (1801), „Wilhelm Tell“ (1804). Selection of well-known poems: „An die Freude“ (1785), „Der Ring des Polykrates“ (1797), „Die Bürgschaft“ (1798), „Das Lied von der Glocke“ (1799)

Friedrich Schiller was permanently short of money. Though celebrated for his works, the financial reward was meagre. Even in his later position as professor of history at the University of Jena he received pay only equivalent to that of a carriage driver or a farm labourer. As a result Schiller was a frequent visitor to pawnshops, as shown in this letter.

Mister Salomon Lemle
Pawnbroker

[abbreviation unclear]

Mr Lemle is hereby reminded to visit [abbreviation unclear] me tomorrow, being Thursday, at 9 o’clock.
Schiller

4: Friedrich de la Motte Fouqué (12 February 1777 in Brandenburg on Havel – 23 January 1843 in Berlin), lyricist and author, representative of the Romanticism movement. Well-known story: “Undine“ (1811)

Especially during the summer months, Friedrich de la Motte Fouqué and his wife Caroline Philippine de la Motte Fouqué (née von Briest) would spend long periods at the Nennhausen estate near Rathenow in the Margraviate of Brandenburg, where they received many famous writers. In 1812 and 1817 Caroline, a much-read author in her own right, published together with Amalie von Hellwig the two-part



Frauentaschenbuch der Sagen und Legenden. The first volume, mentioned in the following letter, was finally published in 1815. It contained a version of the Polish myth *Walgeras und Hildegunde* in ballad form. The letter is addressed to a fellow writer and friend of the couple.

Nennhausen, 6 April 1814

In the belief, my dear friend, that you should not wish to receive purely metric contributions from me but, instead, one in the form of prose, I propose a swap and send you the small present enclosed. *Walgreß und Hildegunde*, of which we had spoken previously, I shall keep for my *Frauentaschenbuch*, where I believe it truly belongs. From my wife you will soon receive a most delightful story which she is currently working on with particular care. Do not call me immodest if I ask you once again to please us with one or two more contributions of your own to the *Frauentaschenbuch*. The delivery date draws ever closer, and I would be so pleased if the first edition of this work – one of my absolute favourites – could include a selection of blossoms from your most charming garden. The two I have received so far would, on their own, only serve to stir the reader's desire for more, and I certainly should not want to awaken a feeling of dissatisfaction.

Please excuse the hasty nature of these words: I am so keen to soon give you that which I have to give.

In the greatest respect and friendship.

Your
LaMotteFouqué

5: Clemens Brentano (9. September 1778 in Ehrenbreitstein [Koblenz] – 28. July 1842 in Aschaffenburg), lyricist and writer, representative of the Heidelberg Romantics movement. Well-known works: „Godwi oder Das steinerne Bild der Mutter“ (1801, novel), „Abendständchen“ (1802, poem), „Der Spinnerin Nachtlid“ (1802, poem), „Romanzen vom Rosenkranz“ (1803-1811, epic), „Ponce de Leon“ (1804, comedy), „Des Knaben Wunderhorn“ (1806-1808, collection of popular ballads, edited with Ludwig Achim von Arnim), „Geschichte vom braven Kasperl und dem schönen Annerl“ (1817, short story), „Das bittere Leiden unsers Herrn Jesu“ Christi (1831, short story)

In the final years of his life, Brentano composed religious works and became a member of the Catholic circle led by Joseph von Görres, who lived and worked in Munich. In 1833 Brentano himself moved to Munich, where the widowed Anna Barbara Sendtner wrote religious texts on his behalf. Shortly before her death on 5 October 1840, Brentano moved into her residence at Herzogspitalstraße 11. This order note ('nota') shows that Louis Veuillot's Christian novel *Pierre Saintive*, ordered by Frau Sendtner, was in fact intended for Brentano, underlining his interest in Catholic writings.



Munich, 21. 9. 1840

Nota Frau
Miss Sendtner
from the literary-artistic institute
of the J. G. Cotta'schen Buchhandlung

Pierre Saintive

I request that Herr Oldenburg transfer this book, which was ordered on my behalf, to my invoice.

7 October 1840
Yours sincerely,
Clemens Brentano

6. Joseph Karl Benedikt Freiherr von Eichendorff (10 March 1788 at Schloss Lubowitz near Ratibor, Upper Silesia – 26 November 1857 in Neisse, Upper Silesia), lyricist and author, representative of the Romanticism movement. Well-known work: "Life of a Good-For-Nothing" (1826). Well-known poems: *Zwielicht* (1815), *Die zwei Gesellen* (1818), *Mondnacht* (1837). All three poems, together with nine further poems, were set to music by Robert Schumann in 1840 in his "Liederkreis" cycle (Opus 39).

In 1824, together with a number of like-minded people, the publisher, writer and lawyer Julius Eduard Hitzig founded the *Neue Mittwochsgesellschaft*, a literary circle which was to gain significant prominence. In this letter, probably addressed to Julius Eduard Hitzig, Eichendorff supports an application made by privy financial councillor Franz Xaver Albert Christoph Leonhard Ritter von Vahlkampf to become a member of this group.

I was greatly startled today to discover a document that had remained hidden among my mountain of papers for the past 14 days. It is a letter to me from privy financial councillor

Vahlkampf expressing his wish to become a member of our literary society. Since he is a man of great intellect and knowledge, a.[nd] known as such among members of the nobility, I am more than happy to lend my strongest support to his desired membership, in the hope that my delay in forwarding his request shall not be taken as cause for prejudice against him.

Berlin, 7 January 1832
Eichendorff



7: Christian Friedrich Hebbel (18 march 1813 in Wesselburen, Dithmarschen – 13 December 1863 in Vienna), playwright and lyricist, representative of the Realism movement. Famous dramas: „Maria Magdalena“ (1844), „Agnes Bernauer“ (1851)

A diary entry by Friedrich Hebbel on 31 December 1848 reveals that his close acquaintances included Otilie von Goethe, to whom this letter is addressed. This letter probably dates from a period when his marriage to Christine Enghaus, an actress at the Burgtheater in Vienna, had brought him a certain prosperity and enabled him to forget his previous financial worries. Otilie von Goethe was the daughter-in-law of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. During this time she frequently resided in Vienna. Otilie von Goethe and Friedrich Hebbel were part of the fashionable literary salon led by Auguste von Littrow, whose members also included famous personalities such as authors Franz Grillparzer, Ernst von Feuchtersleben and Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach as well as the well-known actor Joseph Lewinsky.

Dearest Frau von Goethe!

Due to the sudden arrival of a dear friend from Paris I will, alas, not be able to fulfil your wish. Please excuse me and allow me to pay you a visit on another occasion.

Your faithful servant

Sunday Dr. Fr. Hebbel

8: Jeremias Gotthelf, real name Albert Bitzius (4 October 1797 in Murten/Canton of Fribourg – 22 October 1854 in Lützelflüh/Canton of Bern), writer and priest, representative of the Realism movement. Well-known novels: „Uli der Knecht“ (1841), „Die schwarze Spinne“ (1842), „Uli der Pächter“ (1849)

From 1831 onwards Albert Bitzius worked in Lützelflüh in the Emmental region, first as a vicar and in the following year as a priest. After initially concentrating on his work for the church and as a school inspector, he began in 1836 to write under the pseudonym Jeremias Gotthelf. The letter shown here dates from the period when he was the parish priest in Lützelflüh.

Most distinguished
Mister Konrad Fasnacht (priest)
in Jegenstorf

Lützelflüh, 15 February 1833

Written by another hand in pencil at the top of the letter:
Recorded on 16 February in the
civil register of Ittwyl

Distinguished priest!



I have the honour of communicating via letter the marriage on this present day of:

Christian Muster Hans Ulrichs from Lützelflüh (widower)
and
Elisabeth König Niklause from Ittwyl, both resident in Oberburg

With the greatest esteem and in expectation I remain

your devoted servant,
Alb. Biltzius Pf(arre)r

9: Gottfried Keller (19 July 1819 in Zürich – 15. July 1890 in Zürich), author, painter and politician, representative of the Realism movement. Famous novels: „Zürcher Novellen“ (1878), „Der grüne Heinrich“ (1879-1880), „Das Sinngedicht“ (1881), „Martin Salander“ (1886), „Die Leute von Seldwyla“ (cycle in two parts 1856 and 1873-1874) comprising „Romeo und Julia auf dem Dorfe“, „Spiegel, das Kätzchen“, „Die drei gerechten Kammacher“ and „Kleider machen Leute“.

Gottfried Keller achieved great recognition as a writer at a young age. The tradition of collecting autographs dates back as far as the 16th century and became particularly popular from the 19th century, when famous personalities would be asked to compose short letters such as this one sent to a Herr Dannhauser in Vienna.

Esquire
Fr. Eugenie Dannhauser
in
Vienna
Hernals, Ottakringerstr. 20

Zurich, written on Monday
before Christmas, 21 Dec. 1885
Gottfried Keller

Autograph

10: Theodor Storm, full name Hans Theodor Woldsen Storm (14 September 1817 in Husum – 4 July 1888 in Hanerau-Hademarschen), author and lawyer, representative of the Realism movement. Famous short stories: „Immensee“ (1849), „Hans und Heinz Kirch“ (1883), „Der Schimmelreiter“ (1888)

In May 1886 Storm travelled to Weimar and visited Erich Schmidt, a literary scholar and head of the Goethe Archive, with whom he maintained a written correspondence for many years. In July he returned to his retirement residence in Hademarschen and began work on his most famous book, „The Rider on the White Horse“. Storm wrote this letter during his stay in Weimar.



Weimar, 12 May 1886

Sir!

Should you and your wife so desire, my daughter and I wish to visit you next Sunday at midday. We shall take the train that arrives at between 11 1/2 and 11 3/4 o'clock.

Yours

ThStorm

11: Conrad Ferdinand Meyer (11 October 1825 in Zürich – 28 November 1898 in Kilchberg near Zürich), poet, representative of the Realism movement. Famous works: „Jürg Jenatsch“ (1876), „Gustav Adolfs Page“ (1882), „Die Versuchung des Pescara“ (1887). Poems: „Der römische Brunnen“ (letzte Fassung 1882), „Die Hochzeit des Mönchs“ (1884). Ballad: „Die Füße im Feuer“ (1882).

Conrad Ferdinand Meyer regularly suffered from bouts of depression. From 1887 his condition worsened. In this letter he makes reference to his feelings.

Distinguished Sir!

Many thanks for kindly sending me your collection of songs and poems. They are, yet again, delightfully composed. Their performance coincided with me being quite unwell, and it is only now that I am beginning to recover – at least, I hope and believe so. I take it to be a good omen that you chose to send me your cheery little collection and, in doing so, consider me to still be among the living. Ainsi soit-il!

With warmest thanks.

Cmeyer

Kilchberg 20 Oct. 1888

12: Gerhart Hauptmann (15 November 1862 in Ober Salzbrunn in Silesia [today Szczawno-Zdrój in Poland] – 6 June 1946 in Agnetendorf in Silesia [today Jagniatków in Poland]). Author and playwright, Nobel Prize for Literature (1912), representative of the Naturalism movement. Famous short story: „Bahnwärter Thiel“ (1888). Famous theater plays: „Vor Sonnenaufgang“ (1889), „Die Weber“ (1892), „Die Ratten“ (1911)

Between 1926 and 1943 Gerhart Hauptmann spent the summer months with his family in a monastery on the island of Hiddensee, where this letter was composed. Hatsue Yuasa, who is mentioned, was a soprano singer and popular actress from Japan. Her performances included an appearance as the exotically beautiful Madame Butterfly in the opera of the same name by Giacomo Puccini at the Salzburg



Festival in 1930. In the 1930s she also played leading roles in the films “Der Knalleffekt”, “Nippon” (1932), “Spiegel” (1933) and “Im Frühling” (1934).

Monastery/Hiddensee, 7.VII.31
Haus Seedorf

Distinguished Miss Hatsue Yuasa!
Your charming voice, which combines in a most enchanting way European training with an exotic timbre, and your graceful acting have given me great artistic pleasure, for which I am most grateful to you.

With best wishes for art and life.
Yours
Gerhart Hauptmann

13: Rainer Maria Rilke, primarily lyricist, representative of Naturalism and Symbolism. Famous poems: „Der Panther“ (1902), „Das Karussell“ (1906). Poetry cycles: „Duineser Elegien“ (1912-1922), „Die Sonette an Orpheus“ (1922).

Between 22 October 1911 and 9 May 1912, Rainer Maria Rilke resided at Duino Castle near Trieste as a guest of Duchess Marie von Thurn und Taxis-Hohenlohe, before spending the summer of 1912 in a mezzanine in Venice’s Palazzo Valmarana. It was in Duino Castle that he began work on the famous Duino Elegies, a series of poems that powerfully describe joy and sorrow and were not completed until 1922. The move to Venice was to take its toll on Rilke. The climate as well as the challenges of adjusting to new surroundings, new people and the hustle and bustle of the city appear to have pushed him towards depression and slowed down his work and planning, as shown in this letter to Herr Albert Dernoff in Frankfurt am Main.

Venice, San Vio, Palazzo Valmarana,
9 August 1912

Sir!

According to my letter book I responded to the enquiry by the Frankfurt Friends of Artistic Culture on 14 July, alas in the negative. My plans for this winter are still too uncertain and make it impossible for me to commit to dates by entering into agreements which, it is likely, I would have great difficulties respecting. Following receipt of your kind letter, I wish to repeat my position and remain, certainly, with the greatest respect

yours faithfully

Rainer Maria Rilke



If common prejudices are to be believed, the handwriting in this letter is a good indication of Arthur Schnitzler's first profession – that of a doctor – for the letter is very hard to decipher. It is not least thanks to his medical work and frequent contact with Sigmund Freud that Schnitzler's books often provide profound psychological insights into individuals and society as a whole under the rule of the Imperial and Royal Monarchy.

Dearest Herr Wokler,

It is often the case that one overestimates my connections, here, as elsewhere, there is little to understand. As such I have no relationship whatsoever to the gentlemen you mentioned, Messrs Leitenberger Hans, Springer, Schuster. I hold little doubt that you will find them, perhaps in Café Glottonis, and that they will be able to lead you to one or another helpful person.

But as a gesture of my goodwill, please allow me to ask you whether you know a certain S., who might help you not only me during difficult times in the sunny months?

Very sincerely yours, Arthur Schnitzler
Vienna, 5/4.99

Prof. Dr. Rainer Vollkommer, im August 2013
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