

# Diogenes

Hugo Loetscher  
*Sewage*

Published by Diogenes as *Abwässer*  
Original title: *Abwässer*

Book factsheet

General Fiction  
160 pages  
11.3 x 18 cm  
March 1989

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## Hugo Loetscher *Abwässer* *Ein Gutachten*

Diogenes

»Following a political revolution, the Sewage Inspector has been asked to write a report on the condition of the sewage system. For the people who always behave >in such a washed way<, should be able to take a look down to see what flows underneath their feet, all the hidden and chaotic things underneath their clean city... The inspector in Sewage has the >Sewage gaze< allowing him to see through the superficial things. An extraordinary prose work which masters a difficult subject matter by means of a bold metaphor; not the world as a sewer but the sewer as a constant theme of the world.« – Anton Krättli / Kritisches Lexikon der dt. Gegenwartslit

### Movie adaptation

**Mittwoch**  
Director: Markus Silberschmidt

### Awards

- 2006 Erster Preis des Lyrikwettbewerbs des Festival Rilke in Sierre für *Es war einmal die Welt*
- 2004 Ehrenbürger der Gemeinde Escholzmatt (Kanton Luzern)
- 2000 Werkbeitrag des Kantons Zürich im Bereich Literatur
- 1999 Ehrengabe der Stadt Zürich im Bereich Literatur
- 1999 Ehrengabe des Kantons Zürich im Bereich Literatur
- 1996 Literaturpreis der Brasserie Lipp für *Die Fliege und die Suppe*: Auszeichnung für Hugo Loetscher sowie für die Übersetzung ins Französische von Jean-Claude Capèle
- 1994 Kreuz des Südens (Orden für Verdienste um die brasilianische Kultur)
- 1992 Großer Schiller-Preis der Schweizerischen Schillerstiftung
- 1989 Ehrengabe der Stadt Zürich für *Die Fliege und die Suppe*
- 1986 Preis der Luzerner Förderungs-Kommission
- 1985 Ehrengabe der Schweizerischen Schiller-Stiftung
- 1985 Literaturpreis der Zürcher Kantonalbank
- 1983 Mozart-Medaille der Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Stiftung, Basel
- 1972 Literaturpreis der Stadt Zürich
- 1966 C.F. Meyer Preis
- 1964 Charles Veillon Preis für *Abwässer. Ein Gutachten*
- 1964 »Charles Veillon Preis« für *Abwässer. Ein Gutachten*

### Praise

Hugo Loetscher

»Hugo Loetscher is a wonderful narrator whose formulation of weighty thoughts is as light as a feather.« – Sonntags Zeitung, Zurich

»Punchlines, quirky humour, startling observations, witty comments – there's never a moment of boredom with Hugo Loetscher.« – Jürg Altwegg / Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung



Photo: © Sabine Dreher

Hugo Loetscher (1929 – 2009) was one of Switzerland's most famous writers with novels such as *Sewage* and *The Immune Man*. In his role as journalist, he travelled to Latin America, Southeast Asia and the USA regularly. He always held a particular interest in photography. Hugo Loetscher, who lived in Zurich, was a visiting lecturer at universities in Switzerland, the USA, Germany and Portugal; and a member of the Darmstadt Academy for Language and Poetry. In 1992, he was awarded the >Schiller Prize< by Switzerland's Schiller Foundation.



*So Few Letters, So Much  
World*  
480 pages  
2024



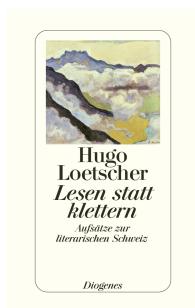
*Inventing Discovery*  
384 pages  
2016



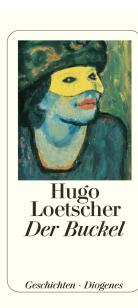
*Wonder World*  
416 pages  
2009



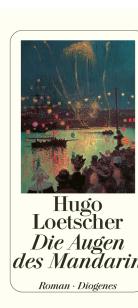
*Once There Was the  
World*  
128 pages  
2004



*Read, Don't Climb!*  
448 pages  
2003



*The Hunchback*  
224 pages  
2002



*The Eyes of the Mandarin*  
384 pages  
1999



*Season*  
416 pages  
1995



*The Preaching Rooster*  
376 pages  
1992



*Culinarieties*  
144 pages  
1991



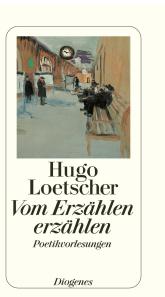
*The Wreath Maker*  
192 pages  
1989



*The Fly and the Soup*  
224 pages  
1989



*The Laundry Room Key*  
192 pages  
1988



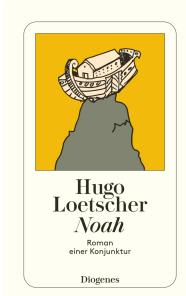
*Telling about Story-Telling*  
176 pages  
1988



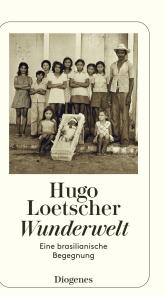
*Papers of the Immune Man*  
512 pages  
1986



*The Immune Man*  
448 pages  
1985



*Noah*  
144 pages  
1984



*Was My Time My Time*  
192 pages  
1983



*Autumn in the Big Orange*  
168 pages  
1982