

Hugo Loetscher
The Laundry Room Key

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**Hugo
Loetscher**
***Der
Waschküchen-
schlüssel***

oder
Was – wenn Gott Schweizer wäre

Diogenes

A key to a wash house or daily rubbish, the eighth cardinal sin or a bishop with a plastic foil can be the trigger for the type of ironic stories collected in this volume. With his comments on Switzerland, Loetscher once again shows that he is a dedicated mocker who has mastered the art of opening the doors to the Swiss soul with the key to a wash house.

Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature
192 pages
11.3 x 18 cm
December 1988

Contact:

Susanne Bauknecht, Rights Director,
susanne.bauknecht@diogenes.ch and Suzanne
Héglé, Film Rights Manager,
suzanne.hegele@diogenes.ch

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 Escholz matt (Kanton Luzern)
- 2000 Werkbeitrag des Kantons Zürich im Bereich Literatur
- 1999 Ehrengabe des Kantons Zürich im Bereich Literatur
- 1999 Ehrengabe der Stadt 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 Literaturpreis der Zürcher Kantonalbank
- 1985 Ehrengabe der Schweizerischen Schiller-Stiftung
- 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

The Laundry Room Key

»An exceptional figure in contemporary Swiss literature, directly after Frisch and Dürrenmatt.« – *Der Spiegel*, Hamburg

»Almost four decades have passed, and in that time Switzerland has changed considerably, but many of these comments still feel astoundingly fresh.« – Babina Cathomen / Kulturtipp, Zurich



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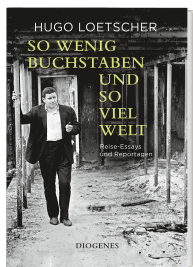
Praise (cont'd)

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

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



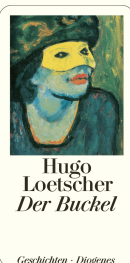
Wonder World
416 pages
2009



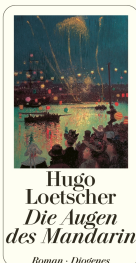
Once There Was the World
128 pages
2004



Read, Don't Climb!
448 pages
2003



The Hunchback
224 pages
2002



The Eyes of the Mandarin
384 pages
1999



Season
416 pages
1995



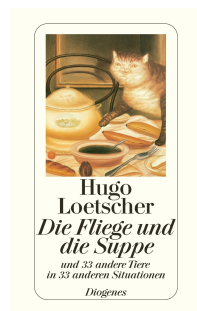
The Preaching Rooster
376 pages
1992



Culinarities
144 pages
1991



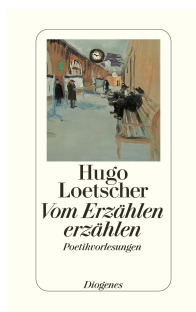
The Wreath Maker
192 pages
1989



The Fly and the Soup
224 pages
1989



Sewage
160 pages
1989
Award winner



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