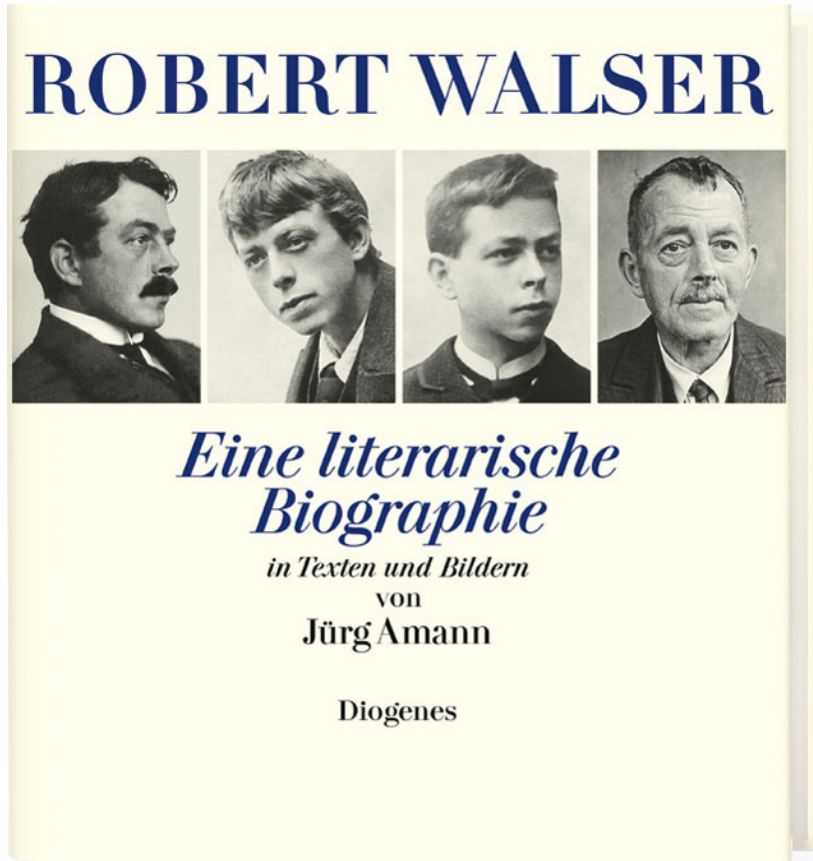


# Diogenes

Jürg Amann  
Robert Walser

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On the 25 December 1956, Robert Walser was found, stretched out in the snow, having died while taking a Christmas Day stroll. Thus the life of one of Switzerland's greatest ever writers came to an end. A life that with the passage of the years had come increasingly apart at the seams, which had driven Walser into isolation, to the verge of suicide and into the madhouse – but during which he created prose that, in its thoroughly unique mixture of humour and melancholy, surpassed everything that had gone before.

Jürg Amann approaches Robert Walser in a literary essay based around the stages of the writer's life, supported by images of Walser's life and an accompanying chronicle. Due to their autobiographical hue, the quotations from Walser's writing ideally complement this portrait of his life. This creates a unique type of biography, which in no way attempts to pigeonhole Walser, but offers readers the opportunity to rediscover this fascinating author for themselves.



Photo: © Marianne Fleitmann

Jürg Amann was born in Winterthur, Switzerland, in 1947. Having studied German philology, European folk literature and journalism at the University of Zurich and the Freie Universität in Berlin, he worked as a journalist in Berlin, then from 1974 to 1976 in Zurich, and during this time was also a script editor at the Schauspielhaus Zurich. Since 1976 he has lived in Zurich as a freelance writer. Jürg Amann has received many awards for his work. In 1983, he was awarded the ›Ingeborg Bachmann Prize‹, in 1983 the ›Conrad Ferdinand Meyer Prize‹, and in 1989 and 2002 the ›Swiss Schiller Institute Award‹.