

Hugo Loetscher
Read, Don't Climb!

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From the Alps to urbanity: It is not in Albrecht von Haller's glorification of the Alps that Loetscher sees the origins of Swiss literature, but rather in the autobiography of Thomas Platter, the country lad who leaves the mountains to try his luck in Basle, the city of humanism. Thus we are afforded an unconventional outlook, through and beyond literature, on an identity stretching from Salomon Gessner's false flute idyll to the uncomfortable atmosphere of Gottfried Keller's *Seldwyla*, from the hasty shelters of Ludwig Hohl to Adrien Turel's yearning for the future. A remarkable gallery of figures is thereby assembled, including the »poor devil« Friedrich Glauser, the unusual Marxist Konrad Farner and the gifted »phoney« Blaise Cendrars. The essays are not wholly impersonal when the author writes of his »difficult admiration« for Max Frisch or his remembrances of Friedrich Dürrenmatt, who plays a leading role in this collection. One learns a few things about people such as Adolf Muschg and Niklaus Meienberg in a Swiss chat room. Whatever the debate at hand, those who read instead of climb will once again enjoy brilliant essays by Hugo Loetscher.

Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature
448 pages
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September 2003

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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 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 Förderungskommission
- 1985 Literaturpreis der Zürcher Kantonalbank
- 1985 Ehrengabe der Schweizerischen Schillerstiftung
- 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*



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



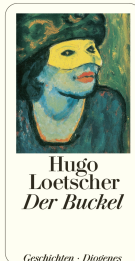
Inventing Discovery
384 pages
2016



Wonder World
416 pages
2009



Once There Was the World
128 pages
2004



The Hunchback
224 pages
2002



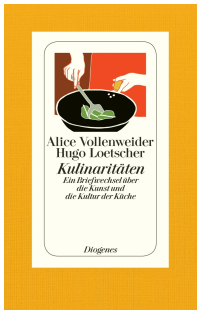
The Eyes of the Mandarin
384 pages
1999



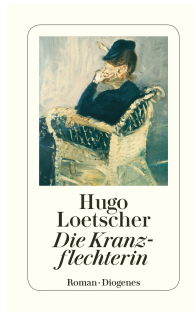
Season
416 pages
1995



The Preaching Rooster
376 pages
1992



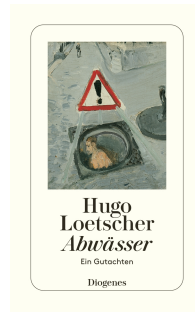
Culinarities
144 pages
1991



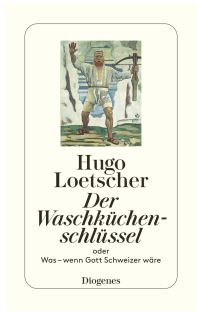
The Wreath Maker
192 pages
1989



The Fly and the Soup
224 pages
1989



Sewage
160 pages
1989
🏆 **Award winner**



The Laundry Room Key
192 pages
1988
🎬 **Movie Adaptation**



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