

Diogenes

Hugo Loetscher
The Eyes of the Mandarin

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Original title: *Die Augen des Mandarin*



Hugo
Loetscher
*Die Augen
des Mandarin*

Roman · Diogenes

Can blue eyes see? asked the mandarin when he encountered European barbarians for the first time. Can blue-green eyes see? asks Past. Not at the Imperial Court of Peking, but in a European city like Zurich, a good three hundred years later. Not in a realm faced with the decline of its dominion, but on a continent that has lost its significance.

The question about the ability of his eyes to see reminds Past, an ex-employee of an obscure cultural foundation and specialist for commemoration days and New Year celebrations, of incidents from his eventful life. It leads him back to almost all parts of the earth, it evokes penetrating stories and anecdotes, with a disturbing, intoxicating juxtaposition of continents, times and images in which boundaries and centres dissolve and the familiar is revealed in the alien and the alien in the familiar.

A balance of an intensive life by an eternally curious man who thinks on a wide scale merely for professional reasons, and who is full of vitality, scepticism and thoughtfulness – and of a serenity reminiscent of the Far East.

Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature
384 pages
11.6 x 18.4 cm
September 1999

World rights are handled by Diogenes

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 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 Eyes of the Mandarin

»Loetscher, whose literature embraces journalistic know-how and foreign experience, is the most cosmopolitan of all Swiss writers.«

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



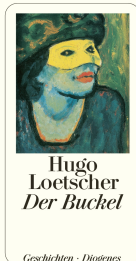
Wonder World
416 pages
2009



Once There Was the World
128 pages
2004



Read, Don't Climb!
448 pages
2003



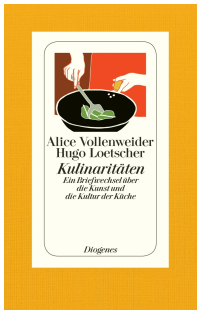
The Hunchback
224 pages
2002



Season
416 pages
1995



The Preaching Rooster
376 pages
1992



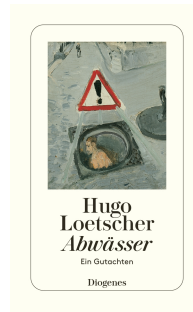
Culinarities
144 pages
1991



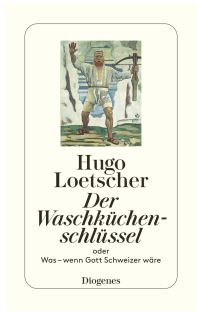
The Wreath Maker
192 pages
1989



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