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Literatur in Österreich und Südtirol. Ein Panorama in 30 Aufsätzen. Ed. by MICHAEL PILZ and DIRK ROSE. With a foreword by ULRIKE TANZER. Innsbruck: university press. 2022. 497 pp, € 45, ISBN 978-3-901064-59-3.

The volume '*Literatur in Österreich und Südtirol. Ein Panorama in 30 Aufsätzen*' edited by Michael Pilz and Dirk Rose is a selection of Sigurd Paul Scheichl's vast oeuvre within Austrian and German Literary Studies from the 1980s onwards, presented to him on his 80th birthday. Appointed as a professor for Austrian Literary History and General Literary Studies at the University of Innsbruck in 1992, Scheichl researched and taught there until his retirement in 2010. As Ulrike Tanzer highlights in her foreword, Scheichl contributed relentlessly to the Austrian literary scene, chairing many associations, among them the Viennese "Forschungs- und Dokumentationsstelle für neuere österreichische Literatur" (p. 7), and being a member of many more (i.e., Grazer Autorenversammlung, IVG, ÖGG). His exceptionally profound readings of literary texts, combined with his immense knowledge of "kulturpolitische Zusammenhänge" (p. 7), are remembered by colleagues and students alike. As the editors rightly point out, Scheichl was a gifted teacher capable of passing on his great passion for literature and his love for the art of philology.

This collection of selected essays, to which unsurprisingly Scheichl himself actively contributed by revising some and translating one, reflects his tireless dedication to literary texts as well as to philological, political, and cultural literary questions. The introduction part includes an unpublished piece by Scheichl (bibliographical details are provided with all the other articles) on the relationship between literature and politics, whereby on the basis of literary texts the multilayered meaning of literary language and its connection to politics are clearly affirmed:

literature "führt uns Probleme in einer ungleich konkreteren Weise vor als es andere Texte können, und auch viel differenzierter. (p. 14) In short, this is a plea for the value of literature, and each single article in the volume reflects Scheichl's remarkable philological artistry, which, however, never stops there.

The volume is divided into four sections, each of which consists of 6 to 8 articles. The section 'Kanon, Tradition, Literaturgeschichtsschreibung' comprises articles engaging with specific features of Austrian literary tradition and literary history, questions of nation-building and canon formation, and the writers' positioning within the Standard and the Austrian language varieties, among other themes. One aspect that becomes apparent is Scheichl's approach of close reading ("genaue Textkenntnis", p. 493) and detailed analysis of the texts (hereby in line with Roman Jakobson's idea that a literary scholar must pay attention to linguistic issues and methods), while linking the linguistic findings closely to the content and the wider literary, cultural and political questions, where the author's "enorme Weite des Horizonts" (p. 493) is entirely reflected. Regarding Scheichl's immense knowledge, the editors point anecdotally to some of his legendary exam questions, which are well remembered by his students, including myself. I allow myself to add to this that I still hold a vivid image of Scheichl's office at the University of Innsbruck, where, when entering for the oral examination, I first had to discover him behind numerous stacks of books occupying his entire working space.

The second section, titled 'Epochen−Daten−Zusammenhänge', consists of contributions focusing on aspects of literature during specific periods in time, such as First World War literature, Jewishness and antisemitism during 1918–1938 and the year 1969 in the South Tyrolean Literary Scene. Here, as in most other articles, one notes Scheichl's clarity about the approach he takes to find answers to his questions, as exemplified by the article on the awardees

of the Austrian State Prizes in the 1950s. Additionally, the outline of the many thoughts the scholar is going through during his research process is a further significant aspect that makes the reading of Scheichl's articles always rewarding.

'Porträts/Figuren' collects contributions dedicated to specific authors and their work, including articles on Kraus, Nestroy, Kranewitter, Schönherr, Perrutz, Bernhard and Pataki, among others. Due to Scheichl's particular interest in the literary use of language varieties, the tensions between the standard and Austrian varieties are investigated here, as in the article on Nestroy, although this research interest is reflected in several articles in this book. Analysis of texts surrounding questions of 'genres' and 'literary categories', as in the contributions on Kranewitter and Schönherr or on Pataki, reveals Scheichl's fascination for literary genres, their forms and their potentials.

The final section 'Interpretationen' comprises close readings of poems, prose and dramatic texts, where some of the articles appear to be a guide to doing literary analysis and interpretation, as in the case of the article on the poem by Gruber, where the reader follows the analytic method step by step. When the editors highlight the readability of Scheichl's articles ("ausgesprochen gut lesbar", p. 494), which makes this book accessible to a wide readership, it should be added that Scheichl's work is of a dialogic nature, as exemplified in footnote 18 in the article on Kofler but also apparent in many other articles, where Scheichl acknowledges other researcher's ideas that were shared with him at workshops and conferences. Noteworthy, of course, are, in general, the footnotes in all his contributions; the superbly detailed footnotes and the significant content they contain are far more than a paratext.

This essay collection is a very engaging scholarly book for everyone interested in the wide field of Austrian literary and cultural studies. It displays Scheichl's remarkable work which

the editors aimed at making accessible to a wider audience. Their choice for a thematic rather than chronological approach is well suited. Regarding the structure, apparently it has been difficult to divide the articles into categories due to their strong interconnectedness; for some readers—perhaps those less familiar with Scheichl's work—the headings might be informative, though the last two headings remain rather generic. The bibliographical reference provided for each article, the foreword and the afterword offer adequate contextualization of "das Werk eines ganz und gar europäischen Germanisten" (p. 497).

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