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Rights Guide **Fall 2013**

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NEW BOOKS – Fall 2013

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Sven Regener

Magical Mystery oder Die Rückkehr von Karl Schmidt

Magical Mystery or: The Return of Karl Schmidt

Novel – approx. 420 pages

ISBN 978-3-86971-073-0

Hardcover (Galiani Berlin)

Publication: September 2013

Over 2 million
books sold of the
Lehmann trilogy!

“The future is a stupid jerk,” I said. “You never know what it’s going to throw at you next!”

A book that’s like a high: you need 48 hours; the drug is called Sven Regener. At the starting line: a handful of pretty crazy techno freaks. And at the wheel: Karl Schmidt, Frank Lehmann’s best friend.

Years after Karl Schmidt suffered a nervous breakdown and disappeared into depression on the day the Berlin Wall came down, his old pals stumble across him living in a rehab facility, which leads to an unusual collaboration. His old friends, who have achieved fame and fortune in the meantime, want to take their record label on tour in Germany to try to reconcile 90s rave culture with the hippie spirit of the 60s, and they need someone who will stay sober the whole time. This suits Karl Schmidt just fine since he’s no longer interested in immersing himself in a parallel world of drug-using roommates, the role of assistant caretaker, and weekend trips ruled by group dynamics.

And so begins a journey through a country and period in transition, undertaken by a handful of techno freaks and supervised by a psychologically fragile former artist, for whom this is supposed to be the path that leads him back to an independent life.

“As wilfully detached, witty, endearing and deadpan comic as its loafer protagonist” Big Issue (on *Berlin Blues*)

“Regener has captured absolutely the lifestyles and conversations of a group of pre-fall-of-the-Wall Berlin friends.” Time Out (on *Berlin Blues*)

Sven Regener was born in Bremen in 1961. He is a singer and songwriter with the band Element of Crime. His books *Herr Lehmann* (*Berlin Blues*, 2001), *Neue Vahr Süd* (2004) and *Der kleine Bruder* (2009) were a sensational success. All three novels remained in the bestseller charts for months. ***Berlin Blues* was translated into eighteen languages.**



© Charlotte Goltermann



Jan Costin Wagner

Tage des letzten Schnees

Days of the Last Snow

Crime Novel – approx. 320 pages

ISBN 978-3-86971-017-4

Hardcover (Galiani Berlin)

Publication: January 2014

His works have been translated into 14 languages, among them English, Spanish and French.

“Magical. Better than Mankell.” (The Times)

Jan Costin Wagner’s new Kimmo Joentaa novel is a highly suspenseful and deeply intense elegy to death in a world that has gone off the rails.

It’s early May in the Finnish city of Turku and the last snow is falling. Kimmo Joentaa receives not just one, but two calls: the first to the scene of an accident, where a stranger has run over and killed an eleven-year-old, and the second to a crime scene, where two unidentified bodies lie dead on a park bench as though they were asleep. Kimmo Joentaa becomes a companion in mourning for the father of the girl killed in the accident, while simultaneously trying to get to the bottom of both the hit-and-run and double murder.

The investigation involves Joentaa in a ruinous web of relationships that has fatefully brought together people who originally had nothing to do with one another: an architect who loses his solid faith in life’s symmetry, a student inexorably headed towards a rampage, a young woman trying to escape from poverty, and an investment banker who gets lost in the thicket of his double life.

When Kimmo Joentaa finally begins to connect the dots that link these individuals to each other, it’s almost too late. And it is only then that he realizes that his greatest task is not the search for a double murderer, but one that still lies ahead of him.

“So laconic, so rhythmic, so beautiful. That’s love at first sentence.” –Tobias Becker/Spiegel online (on *Das Licht in einem dunklen Haus*)

Jan Costin Wagner, born in 1972, is a freelance writer and musician who lives near Frankfurt am Main and in Finland, his second home. He recently released his first CD as a songwriter, “behind the lines.” His novels have won many prizes (including the German Award for Crime Fiction, and a nomination for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize). The movie “The Silence”, based on the second novel in the Kimmo Joentaa-series, has won a Gold Medal at the “New York Festival International Television and Film Awards ®” in March 2013. **His books have been translated into fourteen languages.** For more information, see www.jan-costin-wagner.de



© Denis Yenmez



Jakob Hein / Jürgen Witte

Deutsche und Humor

*Germans and Humour
History of a Hostile Relationship*

Humour – approx. 128 pages

ISBN 978-3-86971-076-1

Hardcover (**Galiani Berlin**)

Publication: August 2013

Jakob Hein and Jürgen Witte have had enough: A fiery plea for humor in art and literature to finally be taken seriously!

Are Germans ashamed of their humor or do they really have that little to laugh about? Has anyone ever heard of a funny novel winning either the Georg Büchner Prize or the German Book Prize? Why can't we admit that works that make people laugh touch on the mysteries of our existence at least as authentically as serious art does? And: has it always been this way?

Jakob Hein and Jürgen Witte investigate a phenomenon—namely, German society's consistent disdain for humorous art. Their exploration takes them through the world of literature as well as movies, television and cabarets; they interview philosophers, literary figures and experts on humor. And they look inwards: Is there such a thing as good and bad humor? Is laughter different in the East than in the West? What's the difference between men and women's humor?

"This book has a place of honor on my bedside table. It's nice to see Jakob Hein reach an age where he's finally ready to dedicate himself to problematic, hopelessly dark topics. I wouldn't have wanted to be in his shoes while writing this book. Chapeau! And many thanks."—Kurt Krömer



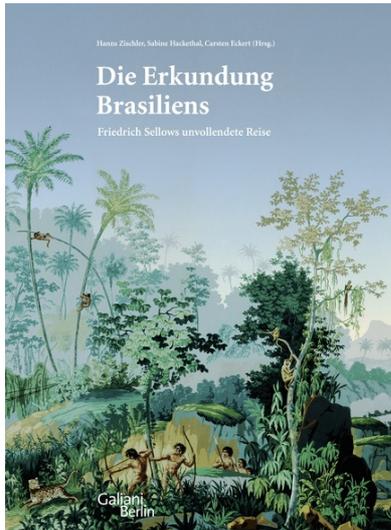
Jürgen Witte, born in Karlsruhe in 1956, has been living in (West) Berlin since 1979. He is a writer, occasional journalist and editor of the literary journal *Salbader*. Jürgen Witte is one of the founders of the "Reformbühne Heim & Welt" and the weekly Sunday

afternoon "Frühschoppen" (with Horst Evers, among others), both venues for readings.

Jakob Hein, born in Leipzig in 1971, moved to Berlin in 1972. He works as a psychiatrist. Since 1998, he has been a member of the "Reformbühne Heim & Welt." **He has published 14 books to date which have been sold to the Netherlands, France, Italy, Korea, Estonia, and Thailand.**



© Katharina Behling



Hanns Zischler/Sabine Hackethal/Carsten Eckert (eds.)

Die Erkundung Brasiliens

Exploring Brazil. Friedrich Sellow's Unfinished Journey

Non-fiction – approx. 220 pages

ISBN 978-3-86971-375-4

Hardcover (Galvani Berlin)

Publication: September 2013

Brazil in the 19th century: an as-yet unexplored country opens itself up to the world. Friedrich Sellow was one of the first to venture in.

The move towards independence is beginning in Brazil; for the first time in centuries, Brazilian ports are opening up to foreigners. Friedrich Sellow is one of the first to set out in search of previously unknown peoples, cultures, animals and plants there. He travels across the country, often solo, with no fixed place of residence, for longer than anyone else—no other European will get to know Brazil as well as he does. He collects thousands of animal and plant specimens, captures his impressions of the journey in his journals, which have only been deciphered recently. The exceptionally gifted draftsman commits landscapes, natural objects and portraits of the indigenous population to paper with his own hand. His legacy ultimately filled over a hundred boxes. But this natural history treasure had to find its way back to Europe alone: at the age of 42, Sellow drowned in the Rio Doce after his boat ran into a rock.

Exploring Brazil places Sellow's travels in the context of other expeditions, includes magnificent images of Brazil as it appeared at that time, and above all presents Sellow's life and the fruits of his travels: his previously untapped journals, texts and drawings, published here for the first time.

The volume is being issued in collaboration with the Museum of Natural History in Berlin

Hanns Zischler, actor, author and audiobook narrator, most recently published *Der Schmetterlingskoffer* (*The Butterfly Suitcase*) and *Berlin ist zu groß für Berlin* (*Berlin Is Too Big for Berlin*).

Sabine Hackethal works at the Museum of Natural History in Berlin. She has been studying Friedrich Sellow's life for decades.

Carsten Eckert deciphered Sellow's journals and is curating the materials from his explorations for Berlin's Museum of Natural History.

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