

EUROPEAN CRIME FICTIONS

Der Krimi

Crime Fiction in German

Der Krimi

Der Mörder

Edited by

Katharina Hall

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CRIME FICTION IN GERMAN

DER KRIMI

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EUROPEAN CRIME FICTIONS

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Edited by

Katharina Hall



CARDIFF
2016

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Swansea
February 2016

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Mary Tannert's interest in the history of German-language crime fiction dates to her doctoral work in the early 1990s and her dissertation on Auguste Groner. Her publications include the anthology *Early German and Austrian Detective Fiction*, which she translated and edited with Henry Kratz (Jefferson: McFarland & Company, Inc., 1999), several articles on early German-language crime fiction for *Lexikon der Kriminalliteratur* and more than twenty-five translated short crime stories for *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*. She works as a freelance translator of marketing, legal and financial texts as well as contemporary German-language crime fiction.



German-speaking Areas in Europe

German is an official language in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Belgium, Luxembourg and the South Tyrol (Italy). In addition, there are pockets of German speakers in other countries, especially bordering those listed above. German is also a national language of Namibia.

Chronology of Crime Fiction in German

This chronology lists historical, political, criminal and publishing milestones in the German-speaking world, together with key primary texts. Where the English title in brackets is italicized, this indicates that the text has appeared in translation.

Country abbreviations: AUS – Austria, CZE – Czechoslovakia, FRA – France, FRG – West Germany, GDR – East Germany, GER – Germany, SWE – Sweden, SWI – Switzerland, TUR – Turkey, UK – United Kingdom, USA – United States of America.

Date	Key historical, political, criminal events	Key publishing milestones, primary texts, trends
800–1806	<p>In 800, Charlemagne is appointed Emperor by Pope Leo III. By the thirteenth century, the <i>Heiliges Römisches Reich Deutscher Nation</i> (Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation) is well established, with a patchwork of kingdoms and states making up the areas we know as Austria and Germany today. <i>Die Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft</i> (Old Swiss Confederacy) was established in 1291, with formal separation from the Holy Roman Empire in 1648.</p> <p>During the 18th century, the <i>Aufklärung</i> (Enlightenment) flourishes in Europe and the American colonies. At its core is an ethos of critical questioning and a belief in science and rationality. Its ideas have a profound impact on the law and on notions of crime and punishment.</p>	<p>From around 1450, Gutenberg's printing press revolutionizes access to the written word in Europe.</p> <p>Wittenberg theologian Martin Luther, a key figure in the Protestant Reformation, publishes his influential German translation of the Bible in 1534.</p>
1734–43		<p>François Gayot de Pitaval, <i>Causes célèbres et intéressantes</i> (Famous and Interesting Cases, FRA; twenty volumes). These encyclopedic works on real criminal cases were known as <i>Pitaval</i> and were highly popular in Europe.</p>
1786		<p>Friedrich Schiller; <i>Der Verbrecher aus verlorener Ehre</i> (<i>The Criminal of Lost Honour</i>, GER)</p>
1806–14	<p>Napoleon defeats Prussia and occupies Germanic territory, effectively dissolving the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation. The Napoleonic Code (1804) is influential in reconciling differences in civil law between German regions.</p>	

Date	Key historical, political, criminal events	Key publishing milestones, primary texts, trends
1810–		<p>The publication of tales and novellas that feature elements of detective fiction, such as:</p> <p>Heinrich von Kleist, <i>Der Zweikampf</i> (<i>The Duel</i>, 1811, GER)</p> <p>E. T. A. Hoffmann, <i>Das Fräulein von Scudéri</i> (<i>Mademoiselle de Scudéri</i>, 1819, GER)</p>
1815	<p><i>Der Deutsche Bund</i> (German Confederation) is created.</p>	
1828		<p>The first German detective story is published:</p> <p>Adolph Müllner, <i>Der Kaliber</i> (<i>The Caliber</i>, GER)</p>
1830	<p>The first criminal investigation department in a state police force is created in Berlin.</p>	
1831	<p>Torture is abolished in all German states.</p>	
1840		<p>Otto Ludwig, <i>Der Tote von St.-Annas Kapelle</i> (<i>The Dead Man of St. Anne's Chapel</i>, GER)</p>
1841		<p>Edgar Allan Poe, <i>The Murders in the Rue Morgue</i> (USA)</p>
1842–90		<p>Julius Eduard Hitzig and Willibald Alexis, <i>Der neue Pitaval</i> (<i>The New Pitaval</i>, GER). In total, sixty volumes of the German-language <i>Pitaval</i> are published by Brockhaus in Leipzig.</p> <p>Works of Poetic Realism are published that draw on crime conventions:</p>

Date	Key historical, political, criminal events	Key publishing milestones, primary texts, trends
1842–90 (cont.)		Annette von Droste-Hülshoff, <i>Die Judenbuche</i> (The Jew's Beech, 1842, GER) Theodor Fontane, <i>Unterm Birnbaum</i> (Under the Pear Tree, 1885, GER) Wilhelm Raabe, <i>Stopfkuchen</i> (Stopfkuchen, 1890, GER)
1848	The <i>Märzrevolution</i> (March Revolution) by liberal reformers advocating democracy ends in failure. The Swiss <i>Bundesstaat</i> (federal Swiss state) is established.	
1853–		<i>Die Gartenlaube</i> (The Garden House), a popular literary newspaper in which many crime stories appear, is established in Leipzig and runs until 1944.
1867	The establishment of the Austro-Hungarian empire under Habsburg Emperor Franz Josef I.	
1870		Adolf Streckfuss, <i>Der Sternkrug</i> (The Star Tavern, GER)
1871	German unification. <i>Das Deutsche Reich</i> (German Empire) is established under Prussian chancellor Otto von Bismarck and Wilhelm I.	
1872		J. D. H. Temme, <i>Der Studentemord in Zurich</i> (The Murder of a Student in Zurich, SWI)
1873		J. D. H. Temme, <i>Wer war der Mörder?</i> (Who was the Murderer? SWI)

Date	Key historical, political, criminal events	Key publishing milestones, primary texts, trends
1892		The first police detective series in German-language crime fiction appears: Auguste Groner, <i>Die goldene Kugel</i> (<i>The Golden Bullet</i> , AUS). 'Joseph Müller' series. Arthur Conan Doyle, <i>The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes</i> (UK)
1900		Sigmund Freud, the Jewish-Austrian founding father of psychoanalysis, publishes <i>Traumdeutung</i> (<i>On the Interpretation of Dreams</i> , AUS).
1907		Auguste Groner, <i>Warenhaus Groß und Komp.</i> (<i>Department Store Groß and Co.</i> , AUS)
1909		Balduin Groller, <i>Detektiv Dagobert</i> (<i>Detective Dagobert</i>) novellas (AUS)
1912		Luise Westkirch, <i>Der Todfeind</i> (<i>Deadly Foe</i> , GER)
1913	The Redl spying affair takes place in Austria.	
1914	Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria is assassinated by a Bosnian Serb nationalist in Sarajevo. Start of the First World War.	Franz Kafka, <i>Der Prozess</i> (<i>The Trial</i> , CZE/GER). Written in 1914–15, but published posthumously in 1925.
1918	End of the First World War. Abdication of German Emperor Wilhelm II. German and Austrian women gain the right to vote.	

Date	Key historical, political, criminal events	Key publishing milestones, primary texts, trends
1919	<p>The Treaty of Versailles is signed.</p> <p><i>Die Weimarer Republik</i> (German Weimar Republic) is founded.</p> <p><i>Die Republik Österreich</i> (Republic of Austria) is established.</p>	
1920		<p>The modernist movement, which strongly influences art, literature and architecture, is at its height.</p> <p>The <i>Großstadtkrimi</i> (urban crime novel) flourishes in this decade.</p>
1923	<p>The <i>Hitler-Ludendorff-Putsch</i> (Munich Beer Hall Putsch).</p>	
1924	<p>The Hitler-Ludendorff trial takes place. Adolf Hitler is imprisoned, but is released after serving nine months of a five-year sentence.</p>	<p>Hitler writes <i>Mein Kampf</i> (<i>My Struggle</i>) while in prison.</p>
1924-5		<p>Berlin's Verlag Die Schmiede publishes the series 'Außenleiter der Gesellschaft: Die Verbrechen der Gegenwart' (Outsiders of Society: The Crimes of Today):</p> <p>Theodor Lessing, <i>Haarmann: Die Geschichte eines Werwolfs</i> (Haarmann: The Story of a Werewolf, GER)</p> <p>Leo Lania, <i>Der Hitler-Ludendorff Prozeß</i> (The Hitler-Ludendorff Trial, GER)</p> <p>Thomas Schramek, <i>Freiherr von Eglhoffstein</i> (Baron von Eglhoffstein, GER)</p>

Date	Key historical, political, criminal events	Key publishing milestones, primary texts, trends
1924–5 (cont.)		Franz Kafka, <i>Der Prozess (The Trial, CZE/GER)</i> , written in 1914–15, is published posthumously by Verlag Die Schmiede in 1925.
1926		Rahel Sanzara, <i>Das verlorene Kind (The Lost Child, GER)</i>
1927	The acquittal of right-wing radicals in the <i>Schattendorfer Prozess</i> (Schattendorf trial) in Austria leads to the <i>Julirevolte</i> (July revolt).	
1928		Jakob Wassermann, <i>Der Fall Maurizius (The Maurizius Case, GER)</i>
1929	The American Wall Street Crash leads to global depression and mass unemployment.	Alfred Döblin, <i>Berlin Alexanderplatz (Berlin Alexanderplatz, GER)</i> Erich Kästner, <i>Emil und die Detektive (Emil and the Detectives, GER)</i> Carl Albert Loosli, <i>Die Schattmattbauern (The Farmers of Schattmatt, SWI)</i>
1931		<i>M – Eine Stadt sucht einen Mörder (M – A City Searches for a Murderer, dir. Fritz Lang, GER)</i>
1933	The Berlin Reichstag Fire; Communist Marinus van der Lubbe is executed for this crime in 1934. Hitler becomes chancellor of Germany; the National Socialists take power and establish a dictatorship. The <i>Geheime Staatspolizei (Gestapo; Nazi secret state police)</i> is created.	The book burnings of works by Jewish and left-wing writers take place, including those of Erich Kästner and Rahel Sanzara. Alexander Lernet-Holenia, <i>Ich war Jack Mortimer (I was Jack Mortimer, AUS)</i>

Date	Key historical, political, criminal events	Key publishing milestones, primary texts, trends
1934	The Nazi <i>Juliputsch</i> fails in Austria.	Agatha Christie, <i>Murder on the Orient Express</i> (UK)
1935	The 'Nürnberg Rassengesetze' (Nuremberg race laws) are passed, depriving Jewish-Germans of a number of fundamental rights, including German citizenship.	
1936	The Berlin Olympics take place.	Friedrich Glauser, <i>Matto regiert (In Matto's Realm, SWI)</i>
1938	The Nazi annexation (<i>Anschluss</i>) of Austria and the Sudetenland takes place. The <i>Reichskristallnacht</i> pogrom (Night of Broken Glass) takes place in Germany: there are nationwide attacks on Jewish synagogues and property, which result in a number of deaths.	
1939	Germany invades Poland. Start of the Second World War. The Nazi 'T4' euthanasia programme begins (200,000 victims).	Pieter Coll, <i>Der Fall Nagotkin</i> (The Nagotkin Case, GER). 'Nagotkin' series.
1941–4	The number of German citizens executed annually rises from 900 (1940) to 5,000 (1943).	The Nazi Propaganda Ministry and Reich's Principal Criminal Department produce the 'Neuzeitliche Kriminalromane' (Modern Crime Novels) series with publisher Hermann Hillger.
1940–1	German bombing raids take place on London and Coventry.	
1941		Adam Kuckhoff and Peter Tarin, <i>Strogany und die Vermissten</i> (Strogany and the Missing Ones, GER)