

MODERN = AUSTRIAN LITERATURE

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=Articles

AGATHA SCHWARTZ

The Crisis of the Female Self in *Fin de Siècle* Austrian Women Writers'

Narratives 1

The crisis of the self, typical of *fin de siècle* modernity, was thematized both by canonized male writers and non-canonized female writers. The present study explores the crisis of the female self in Vera's *Eine für viele: Aus dem Tagebuche eines Mädchens*, Else Kotányi's "Venus am Kreuz," and Elsa Asenijeff's *Tagebuchblätter einer Emanzipierten*. Here, the fragmentation of the female self results from patriarchal constrictions of female creativity and sexuality, and from sexual violence. Suicide and madness are the characters' responses to the impossibility of inscribing themselves in the symbolic, whereas intersubjectivity is put forth as an ideal for a new definition of the subject and the self, along with the requirement for a new morality, one that would include the feminine.

RARES PILOIU

The Paradoxes of Left Socialism in Interwar Austria: Joseph Roth and

Austro-Marxism 21

The political outlook of the Austrian novelist Joseph Roth has been analyzed in many different ways and often conflictingly in the critical literature. Some critics regard his early embrace of socialism as evidence of an actual Marxist worldview, while others place emphasis on his late conversion to legitimist conservatism in order to demonstrate that, in spite of any youthful romance with socialism, Roth held a resolute reactionary position. A close investigation of the socialist milieu in interwar Austria demonstrates, however, that the ambiguous combination of socialism and conservatism in Roth's political views was not a unique phenomenon.

THOMAS SEBASTIAN

Leib, Name und Menschenrecht in Hermann Brochs politischen

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This article concerns the ideological and pragmatic reasons underlying the ambiguities of Hermann Broch's public engagement for a broad cultural, political, and legal defense of human rights. Tracing the thematic configuration of body, name, and human rights in the author's political writings, the essay brings to light surprising parallels that exist between Hermann Broch's critical diagnosis of modern culture and Giorgio Agamben's recently much-discussed deconstruction of the *homo sacer*.

STEFANIE HARRIS

Dis-Orienting Photography: Making, Reading, Exhibiting Images in Peter

Henisch's *Die kleine Figur meines Vaters* (2003) 72

The new edition of Peter Henisch's *Die kleine Figur meines Vaters* (2003) includes extensive textual revisions and, for the first time, reproductions of a selection of Walter Henisch's photographs as a photo-essay appended to the work. In considering the book and a museum exhibition of text and images that coincided with its publication, this essay examines how the emphasis on media practices and representational strategies serves to deconstruct the ideological construction of reality through the photograph. More than an interrogation of his father's generation (the hallmark of *Vaterliteratur*), the revised text addresses a contemporary public and reflects on the media-saturated presentation of reality.

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