

Das Schrifttum über Hermann Hesse

dargestellt an dem Projekt und der Realisierung einer
Bibliographie der Sekundärliteratur
von 1899 – 2007

Dissertation
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Theses

1. Introduction

The five-volume ‘Hermann Hesse Bibliographie – Sekundärliteratur 1899-2007’¹, written between 1999-2007 by the author of this dissertation, published by the Berlin science publishing house Walter de Gruyter in December 2007, is the subject of an analytical study.

The project and its realization are described in ten chapters, focussing on its logical build-up. To help interpret the contents of the list, containing more than 21,000 bibliographical proofs (= data record), tables and graphs are developed to substantiate the statements. Statistical analyses lead to conclusions having so far been unknown, as well as to new aspects of assessing reception.

Internal structural standardizations and individual adjustments of the bibliography’s structure get explained extensively. Finally indices, listed under the collective term of ‘indices’, are subjected to a frequency analysis, focussing on special annotations.

¹ Below, Jürgen: Hermann Hesse Bibliographie. Sekundärliteratur 1899-2007. Berlin, New York: Walter der Gruyter. 2007, 5 vol., 4032 pp.

This study is to be considered exclusively in connection with the published biography. It serves, like the bibliography, to broaden the knowledge about the history of reception of the author Hesse. It is meant to contribute towards research into literary studies and, together with the annotated complete edition of Hesse's works – published between 2001-2005 – as well as with the earlier primary bibliography of Joseph Mileck of 1977, to be a further significant segment of the whole spectrum.

2. Research – a retrospective view

When starting the project, it was necessary to find out about the actual state of secondary bibliographical research on Hesse², shown as follows:

- First compilation by Ernst Metelmann in the quarterly 'Die schöne Literatur' 1927.
- Separate retrospective bibliographies up to 1962/1964 by Helmut Waibler und Otto Bareiss.
- Continuation with annual listings by Martin Pfeifer and since 1994 by Michael Limberg.

² Below; Jürgen: Hermann Hesse und seine Bibliographien. In: Börsenblatt für den deutschen Buchhandel. Frankfurt: Nr. 34. Aus dem Antiquariat. Nr. 4/2001. p. A196-A203.

The course of this development shows that after more than forty years a compilation in the form of bibliography, having a system that focusses on both subject and chronology, is more than due. This leads to the following task description:

- Taking stock of all sources.
- Search for untapped material in archives.

In a period of almost ten years 60,000 sources and new finds are examined and compressed to 21,000 single data records. The fact that these sources are registered or just kept parallel at various locations means that there is double proof that the sources are genuine.

3. Technical realization

It was clear from the beginning that data acquisition could only be done successfully with a fixed-program computer. There had to be certain prerequisites for the archiving procedure to make the practical carrying-out easier. Definite demands had to be made:

- The contents of a respective bibliographical proof (= data record), numbered consecutively, were to be entered into a table, consisting of lines and columns.

- The individual data record was to be represented by itself (comparable to an index card in libraries).
- On the basis of certain criteria, the entire data records had to be made sortable in order to be arranged according to the subjects, thus forming a thematic order structure (= preparation for the systematization of an arrangement).
- Individual programming should make it possible to transfer data material to a text document and thus have a typescript for letterpress printing (= processing from the disk).

The preconditions for these requirements were satisfied by the database programme 'Access', developed under the operating system of 'Microsoft Windows'.

On the basis of illustrations of the hardcopies from the operating masks, the implemented basic functions are described in an exemplary way, as well as the individual steps according to the logical order necessary for application:

- Data input and storage in the table.
- Assortment in accordance with contents by selection inquiry.

- Representation of the bibliographical single check as form.
- Formatting the typescript for the listing in the report.

4. Structure of the bibliography

In the centre of the bibliography, after the Roman paged introduction and the references to its use, there is the listing of the bibliographical proofs. The arrangement of the structural build-up for the assignment of the individual references orientates itself at the contentwise order of the 'Systematischen Katalogs' for authors of the turn of the century 1880-1909, part of B literature of the 'Deutsche Literaturarchiv' in Marbach. In a hierarchically structured in decimal classification sources are formed the following order: topic (section numbering by three-way subdivision in category levels), generic kind, chronology, author and title. A constant sequential numbering of the five registers, listed under indices, makes fast accessibility with searches. The components of individual bibliographical proof (= data record) are developed in the basic pattern according to the standards of 'International Standard Bibliographic Description'.

There was deviation from the individual set of rules, if by additional information advantages were offered and an improved clarity could be achieved. This applies to some details:

- The publication date is emphasized in a separate line.
- The place of discovery and the location (owner) of the source are named.
- The generic kind of the publication is marked by a number.
- The contentwise emphasis is specified in a reference chain.
- The comprehensive lists of annotations contain tables of contents, excerpts of reviews as quotations, as well as data concerning identical, modified or on the topic-referred further sources, if these stand in connection with the descriptive data record.

The problem of not clearly recognizable or multilayered topics with some titles of the sources gets help by improved information through use of the imported system chain, external utilizable registers and an internal system register. The performance characteristics are compared with the

bibliography by Bareiss in order to get a result-orientated statement on the basis of an exemplary search.

5. Source analysis

By a source analysis the origins of the bibliographical proofs from the stock in archives and listings are demonstrably determined, and their proportionateness is substantiated by various tables and graphs so that the locations of individual sources become recognizable. As a result it can be stated that as far as archives are concerned, the 'Deutsche Literaturarchiv Marbach' with the departments of its library (= systematic catalogue), its documentation place and the Hesse depositum, as well as the city of Calw with its 'Hesse Museum' and city archives, store most of the secondary-literature proofs. The most extensive annual compilations are those of Pfeifer and Limberg.

Most unique specimens and singular bibliographical proofs are stored at the 'Deutsche Literaturarchiv' or can be found in the listings of Pfeifer and Limberg, as well as in the collection of the author.

6. Source categorization

The bibliographical sources are arranged within a hierarchical system, consisting of three category levels, in accordance with the order described under point 4. The highest category of the order consists of the ranges of topics: research, biographical, appreciations, relations, thematic facts and reception. These individual main sections of the thematic arrangement are briefly described as regards contents and function. The publications most important from the author's point of view are designated for selection in order to get an extract of the multiplicity of writings. Thus the users of the bibliography are given a short way to the main publications (90 out of over 21.000) on Hesse by means of a lighthouse function. This selection does not mean giving priority. It just shows the exemplary, chosen from a great diversity.

7. Statistical evaluations

It was obvious to use options of the database with the computing programme for statistic evaluations, in order to clarify connections by diagrams in different diagram forms

and to facilitate the interpretation of facts. The following items are examined for the first time:

- Dominance and allocation of the generic kinds and represented foreign languages.
- The frequency of academic work and independent publications.
- The reception regarding to
 - the most treated works,
 - work titles in temporal dependence on coining periods of life,
 - the reaction with special events, e. g. appreciations on the occasion of birthdays,
 - the reporting in newspapers as well as the papers and reviews in scientific magazines,
 - the effects on the contentwise composition of annotations,
 - the whole of all sources retrospectively regarding the course for the sections of the lifetime, posthumous writings, as well as in a compressed overview, for the period that can be regarded in its whole from 1899-2006.

The investigation led to the following results:

- The kind of the dependent publications takes the strongest portion. To these belong primarily the articles of daily journalism, essays in newspapers and other periodicals. Nearly 500 writings, theses and scientific investigations are to be assigned to universities.
- 83 % of all seized sources are written in German, followed by English, Italian, French and Spanish.
- The most treated works are 'Das Glasperlenspiel', 'Der Steppenwolf', 'Siddhartha', „Demian“ and 'Narziß und Goldmund'. As regards the spreading, according to the number of copies, the order of the rank reads 'Siddhartha', 'Der Steppenwolf', 'Narziß und Goldmund', 'Das Glasperlenspiel' and 'Unterm Rad'.
- Publications on Hesse are constantly increasing.
- In later years, Hesse's birthdays are given increasing attention. He receives most appreciations on the occasion of his 80th birthday in 1957.
- Local gazettes dominate with current reporting: the 'Schwarzwälder Bote' and the 'Kreisnachrichten Calw' are well ahead of other daily papers. In the range of organs doing literary studies 'Germanistik' and 'The German Quarterly' are the most strongly represented.

- Almost 20% of the sources are annotated, containing the data of contents as additional information. Publications published at the same time in other places are proved in the annotations.
- Altogether, respectively there is an increase in the attention paid to Hesse and in the reception effect.

8. Register analysis

Five registers are summarized in the section 'indices': author, persons, work titles, references and places. It presented itself to examine the alphabetically listed registers on their concordance in order to find sense connection on the basis of frequency and occurrence in the word index and to determine the emphasis of meaning. The results can be summerized as follows:

Author:

- As authors of publications on Hesse researches Volker Michels and Martin Pfeifer are specified the most. This finding, which is not unexpected, is here confirmed. Both authors have been known for decades as outstanding authorities on the subject. This is shown by their many knowledgeable publications that have

contributed towards the spreading of Hesse's works. Numerous public appearances in lectures and at events have a portion in this part of the reception history.

Persons:

- The same applies to the persons taken from the source texts, where Volker Michels and author Thomas Mann are referred to the most. Thomas Mann surely, because as a contemporary writer colleague he has played, comparatively, the most important role of that epoch around and after 1900, and because he crucially shaped German literature and consequentially Hermann Hesse. On Michels is to be added that, in addition to his work as a writer of a multiplicity of publications, he became world-famous as an editor of Hesse's writings by his editorial notes, prefaces and epilogues in innumerable German and foreign Hesse editions. Thus Michels is today considered to be an outstanding authority on the works and working of Hesse.

Works:

- Among the work titles treated, quoted or designated most in source texts (e. g. with literature comparisons with other authors or the works of other authors) are

‘Das Glasperlenspiel’, ‘Der Steppenwolf’, ‘Siddhartha’, ‘Demian’ and ‘Unterm Rad’. This realization stands in congruence with the investigation determined under point 7.

References:

- In the reference register the most frequent terms are: friendship between artists, encounters, reminiscence, dwelling, Suhrkamp Verlag and First World War.

Places:

- The place register lists most frequently the names of the cities of Calw, Stuttgart, Gaienhofen, Berlin, Marbach and Montagnola. These places served Hesse either as a place of residence or they have become dominant through events.

9. Comparative literary studies

Since comparisons of things in common and/or differences between different authors or works are of great importance in literary studies, this aspect was also more closely examined. It was found that Thomas Mann and Goethe were of utmost significance not only for Hesse himself, but also for external comparatists, doing comparative work on

the two authors and their works. With the examined works 'Das Glasperlenspiel', 'Doktor Faustus' and 'Wilhelm Meister' are in the foreground. The comparative proofs are proved by tables as regards their dominance and consolidated by literature-critical comments by reviewers and contemporary witnessstatements.

10. Summary

This study is meant to give the user of the bibliography on secondary literature about Hesse insight into connections that are not recognizable at once. In particular, the most varied possibilities of the use of selection inquiries, which the selected programme of 'Access' offers, should be used in order to make new findings of a fascinating reception visible, out of a fund of extensive data material. The results won are represented in tables and graphic illustrations. They are described and interpreted. Beyond the current spirit of the time, unknown aspects are illuminated and assumptions are confirmed. The main sections, in each case at the end, are enriched by excursuses. They serve the discussion of thematic boundary problems, of thoughts,

standing in connection with each other, or they supply further information in a sublimated way.

11. Outlook: future Hesse research

With the bibliography and the accompanying analysis, a concrete result has been realized. In addition, this study has also initiated thoughts for processes, serving to extend the knowledge about the impact of Hesse.

All bibliographers rightfully maintain not to have fulfilled the demand for completeness. This is not a self-serving declaration. Hesse is read all over the world, his works have been translated into many languages and this process continues. Where Hesse is read, he is also written about. It is impossible to find everything, especially for the individual researcher. However, the conditions to find out more than has been known so far, have never been so optimal as they are now, through progressive globalization and communication by world-wide networking.

My appeal would read to bundle the forces interested in the advancement of Hesse research (individuals and institutions) globally in order to

- introduce the execution of a stocktaking on a national and international level by a stocktaking action.
- Store the results in a database, marked by system and order.
- Agree on a uniform language code, making it possible to obtain contents in a world language.

Either the existing Hesse-associations or selected university institutions could take over the function of the structure as 'germ cells' for the global net of 'collection'.

The goal should be to seize secondary literature, in particular scientific writings, as completely as possible. In the further process Hesse's letter work should also be included into the international searches.

A list of the publishing house, naming the institutions and specialist journals that will review the bibliography, is appended.

12. Appendix

List of the reviews required by the publishing house

- Colloquia Germanica, Univ. of Louisville, Division of modern Languages
- Etudes Germaniques, La Redaction, Centre Universitaire Malesherbes
- Literaturkritik. De, Redaktion
- MLA International Bibliography, Modern Language Association
- Monatshefte, Univ. of Wisconsin, Dept. of German
- Redaktion Germanistik, c/o Max Niemeyer Verlag
- Wirkendes Wort, Univ. Koblenz-Landau, Institut für Germanistik
- Zeitschrift Arbitrium, Redaktion, Institut für deutsche Philologie Univ. München
- Württembergische Landesbibliothek, Stuttgart

13. Publications on secondary literature about Hermann Hesse

2001

- Hermann Hesse und seine Bibliographen. In: Börsenblatt für den Deutschen Buchhandel. Nr. 34, 27. April 2001, p. A196-A203
- Since June 2001 publications on a private Homepage: „Hermann Hesse. Sekundärbibliographie“. Database for research and professional use. *see <http://www.hermann-hesse-sekundaerschrifttum.de>
** Availability of source material for academic work at universities and highschoools Some of these investigations were published on the website of the University of California, Santa Barbara.

2003

- Hermann Hesse. Kompilationen zum sekundären Schrifttum
 - Bibliographien und bibliographische Beiträge 1927-2002
 - Biographien und biographische Beiträge 1927-2002
 - Darstellungen und Beiträge zur Darstellung 1907-2002

In: Homepage of the University of California. Santa Barbara/California
<<http://www.gss.ucsb.edu/projects/hesse/publications/bibliography.html>>

2004

- Hermann Hesse. Kompilationen zum sekundären Schrifttum
 - Dissertationen, Hochschulschriften, wissenschaftliche Arbeiten

In: Homepage of the University of California. Santa
Barbara
<<http://www.gss.ucsb.edu/projects/hesse/publications/bibliography.html>>

2007

- Hermann Hesse. Bibliographie. Sekundärliteratur 1899-2007. 5 vol., 4032 pp. Berlin: Verlag Walter de Gruyter. Ab 2007

Ab 2008

- Work on a compressed version as an introduction to the secondary literature on Hermann Hesse

Lehrte, October 2008