[Richard Dehmel](http://www.richard-dehmel.de/) (1863-1920) was a German poet and author and member of [the *Schwarzes-Ferkel-Kreis*.](http://www.dhm.de/ausstellungen/wahlverwandtschaft/11katalog.htm) Viewed from a 21st century perspective, his importance for the modernism movement in Germany can hardly be overestimated. A key figure in overcoming naturalism, he was idolized by an entire generation of young artists and writers at the turn of the century -- amongst others Hermann Hesse, Thomas Mann, Arnold Schönberg, Johannes R. Becher, Else Lasker-Schüler, Paul Zech, Josef Winckler, Gerrit Engelke, René Schickele, Max Brod, Georg Heym frequently sent their works to him for proofreading and saw in him a pioneer of pathbreaking poetry as well as a messiah of an alternative aesthetic world view. He and his followers embarked on a journey through the mystic darkness of the sex(es), through all experiences that the magnetic force of love creates. Novel about this angel of darkness was a mix of archaism, symbolism and allegorism, realist naturalism, sexualism, immoralism and satanism, Nietzschean übermenschdom and visionary originality. [Dehmel's poetry](http://www.richard-dehmel.de/rdehmel/richard%20dehmel/texte.html) inspired numerous composers such as Richard Strauss, [Anton Webern](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xn6ayRhSNDc&feature=relmfu), Karol Szymanowski, Kurt Weill and Alma Mahler-Werfel to set his poems to music. [Arnold Schönberg's music](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HyOXwGQlby4&feature=related) and dodecaphony were reinforced by Dehmel's poetry.

Key Works

 *Erlösungen: Eine Seelenwandlung in Gedichten und Sprüchen* (1891)

 *Aber die Liebe: Ein Ehemanns- und Menschenbuch* (1893)

 *Lebensblätter:* Gedichte und Anderes (1895)

 *Weib und Welt. Gedichte und Märchen* (1896)