

An essential acquisition for German Studies

KARL GUTZKOW'S WORKS AND LETTERS

**Complete Edition, digitalised with
commentary**



The writer Karl Gutzkow (1811-78) played a key role in the socio-political turn of German literature during the Vormärz period (1830-48). Throughout his long career as one of Germany's first *Berufsschriftsteller*, earning his living through his publications, he kept an unerringly analytical eye on contemporary events. His writings, a 'physiology of the nineteenth century', have, to a great extent, been buried in historical editions, newspapers and periodicals, and a modern edition of his complete works with commentary seemed unfeasible until very recently. Thanks to new technical possibilities and editorial procedures, however, this aim can now be achieved. Thus untrodden avenues into the social and cultural history of decades are opened up which the observer and engaged publicist Gutzkow fixed like no other, and indeed often helped to shape, in his writings. It was his conviction that discursive modes of writing form a category of 'literature' in their own right, and therefore his work is characterized by a fluidity between fiction and reflection, belles-lettres and journalism. This form of writing, however, is associated by today's Germanists almost exclusively with twentieth-century High Modernism, notably that of the Weimar Republic. In the post-revolutionary climate of the 1850s, when German Realism was consolidated, Gutzkow's politicized aesthetics lost out and had been forgotten by the time twentieth-century writers sought to unite journalism and literature. Exploring a sociological, encyclopaedic, critical approach to literary writing, Gutzkow occupies a unique position in the pre- and post-1848 period, a position underrated to this day.

The Karl Gutzkow Edition Project: Since 1999, a British-German group of about 20 editors has been producing a 'hybrid edition', simultaneously as a print edition published by the Oktober Verlag, and on the Internet at <<http://www.gutzkow.de>>. Since the commentary is the result of ongoing research, gradually compiled, the Internet is just the place for this kind of 'edition in progress'. Commentary and text are located there in two formats, as a hyperlinked (HTML) version and as a printable (PDF) version that is identical with the print volumes and suitable for scholarly

quotation. The Gutzkow-Portal www.gutzkow.de allows free access to the complete digital edition, which, apart from the individual works and their commentaries, contains material on the author, the contemporary context, pictures, a Gutzkow Lexicon, as well as the editorial principles of the edition itself.

The editors aim to combine traditional scholarly editing with the advantages of new media, thus enabling readers to discover Karl Gutzkow at last as one of the German nineteenth-century classics.

Subscription to the print edition

The Oktober Verlag invites you to subscribe to the Gutzkow edition. As a subscriber you will be entitled to a 15% reduction on the price per volume.

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Those who enjoy their reading will find Gutzkow rarely disappoints, which is why readers who simply want an intelligent read on their next holiday are heartily recommended to consider the following volumes by Gutzkow published by the Oktober Verlag.
Jan Süselbeck, konkret

Each volume [of 'Zauberer von Rom'] maintains the high editorial standard already set by the previous volumes in this Gutzkow edition. And the same goes for the commentary. Overall, the innovative concept of this edition, the combination of edited text, available both in print and on the net where it is amplified with further texts, documentation and commentary, this high standard has been maintained.

Bernhard Spies, Germanistik