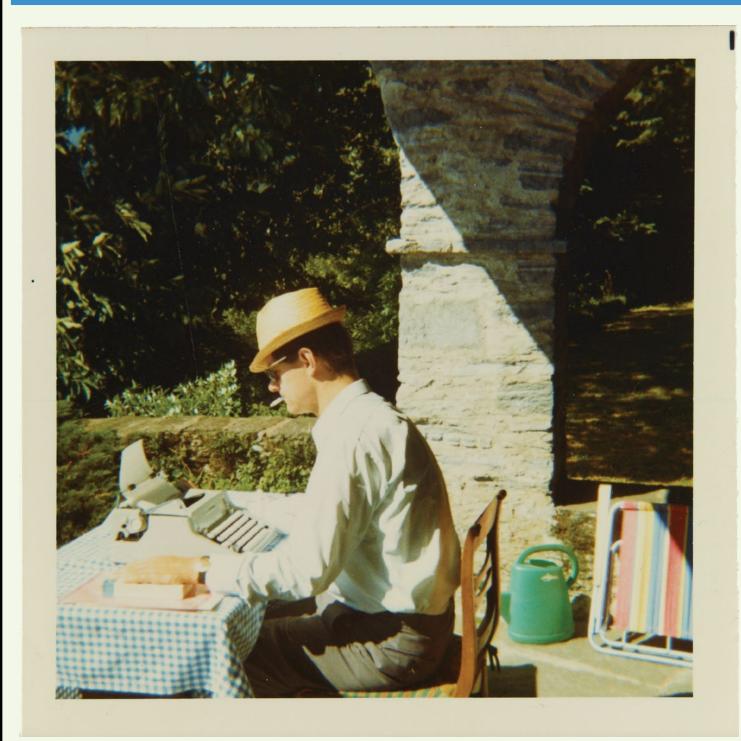


# Hermann Burger's Unpublished First Novel as a Process of Gradual Production

### **Project Essentials**



Hermann Burger in Calascino sopra Brissago, August 1970 Private photograph, held in Swiss Literary Archives, Berne.

#### The Author

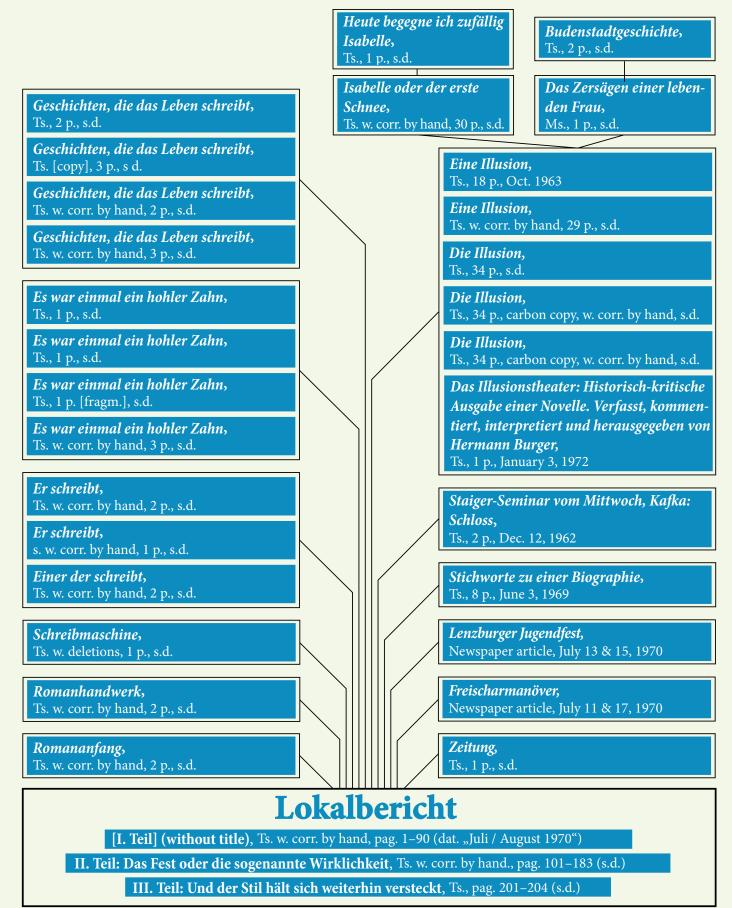
The Swiss German Hermann Burger (1942-1989), winner of awards such as the Friedrich Hölderlin Prize (1983) or the Ingeborg Bachmann Prize (1985).

#### The Text

Lokalbericht (Local Report), Burger's unpublished first novel, written between 1970 and 1972 in Calascino (Ticino) and Aarau.

#### The Corpus

The Lokalbericht itself, a typescript of 177 pages, and its avant textes, stored in Burger's literary estate in the Swiss Literary Archives, Berne (SLA). Or, to put it stematically:



A stemmatological perspective on Burger's Lokalbericht (slightly simplified)

### The Specialty

The novel was evolved by a mosaic technique of sorts, i.e. it is composed out of a number of tesserae, which Burger worked over repeatedly and afterwards fitted together like a jigsaw puzzle.

#### The Aim

To provide insight into Burger's way of writing, respectively—in accordance with the Kleistian title of his Frankfurt Poetry Lectures *Die* allmähliche Verfertigung der Idee beim Schreiben (1986) — to visualize the Lokalbericht as a process of gradual production.

## A Textgenetic editio princeps of Hermann Burger's First Novel

The research project (2013-2016), a **Archive Paradigm** joint endeavour of the Swiss Literary In order to reveal the dynamic pro-Archives and the Cologne Center for cess that is the gradual production, the Genetical variance is thus not immedieHumanities, aims to deliver a scholarly digital edition of *Lokalbericht* that includes all extant precursory stages of the novel, accompanied by an edition in print that is based on Burger's final revision, i. e. the *Lokalbericht* typescript.

#### Newspaper Paradigm

Reporting, quoting, treating words the genetic constitution. and topics as a textual construction kit— Burger's way of writing has much in common with the tessellated textual structure of a newspaper. Lokalbericht—or more precisely its evidence in the archive sheds a particularly illuminating light on this aspect of Burger's poetology.

Isabelle oder der erste

Ts. w. corr. by hand, 30 p., s.d.

digital edition will include the dossier génétique of Lokalbericht in its entirety. The reason why: an adequate reception and interpretation of the novel requires the inclusion of all relating archival evidence; the metafictional and metatextual dimensions of *Lokalbericht* risk to be forfeited without a visualization of

#### **Encoding Approach**

While Burger meticulously preserved all writings, his writing technique may be characterised as mental rather than material. Relatively few subsequent alterations are manifest on

-1- Die Illusion,

Ts., 34 p., s.d.

the typescripts, yet different versions of the same text often differ considerably. ately visible on a given typescript page.

The chosen encoding method takes this into account by adopting a model that has the primacy of the physical object at its core, from which the text (as a literary object) is derived through different renderings. Owing much to the work of the Genetic Edition Working Group in the Manuscript SIG of the TEI, the TEI guidelines (P5 v. 2.0 and above) provide the <sourceDoc> element, a suitable high-level container for this kind of markup.

Whereas the *<sourceDoc>* element allows for a largely non-interpretative encoding of the physical appearance and some microgenetic variance, many other aspects of the encoding need to be stored elsewhere. For the encoding of all relations that go beyond a single source page we consider the use of typed link groups within sourceDoc. This is however methodically not rigorous (relations should not be part of the physical description), thus we support the introduction of a designated standoff container as it is currently discussed in the TEI community.

<link xml:id="00327" target="#LB.TEIL1.1620.document.r</pre>

k xml:id="00328" target="#LB.TEIL1.1620.note.2

<surfaceGrp xml:id="LB.TEIL2.0010.document.0">

#LB.TEIL1.1630.document.r"/>

</surfaceGrp>

Some examples of typed link groups:

page order

\* transcription

relationship)

paragraph, sentence).

\* iteration

\* editorial comments

\* location comments

\* thematic relationship

\* montage / decontextualisation

general (semantically unspecified

The *<domain>* attribute may be used

to define the scope (text, chapter,



A sample typescript page of Lokalbericht and its relation to different avant textes. This example shows the transfer of a passage of a draft titled Isabelle oder der erste Schnee by way of another draft (Die Illusion) to the second part of the Lokalbericht typescript. Note how the second step of this transfer was accomplished by integrating a physical copy of the avant texte.

Textual components are identifiable by four-part signatures

line>auf einer nassen Bank an der Aare. Ich musste allein sein. um line>Wolkenfetzen trieben ab. Der Tanz fand im Freien statt, und der line>Rummelplatz wurde zum brodelnden Menschenkessel. Die Stadt erwachte </l></l></l></l></l></ line>ein Fahnenwald. Die festliche Menge wälzte sich in Knäueln durch die Gassen. Beleuchtete Altstadthäuser traten wie Kulissenwände aus line>dem Dunkel hervor. Es wurde gesungen, gegrölt. Bierflaschen sprangen oder zerscherbten an einem <choice><orig>Mauer-</orig><reg>Mauerpfeiler.</reg></choice></del></mod></line> | sine><del | hand="HB"><choice><orig>pfeiler.</orig><reg/></choice></del> | In der gereinigten Luft hing der Geruch von Bratwürsten.</line> line>hinausgetragen. Paare zogen eng umschlungen durch die Stadt, die Mädchen schneeweiss angezogen, mit Kornblumen im Haar, die Burschen sine>in Schwarz, mit den weinroten, grünen oder hellblauen Kepis der <note xml:id="LB.TEIL2.1620.note.2">Schülerverbindungen</note>
. Die Gartenwirtschaften waren überfüllt.
<del hand="HB" rend="tool(ballpen) color(blue</p> weight(light)">Im</del></line> <lel hand="HB">Schachen kam man kaum mehr zwischen den besetzten Tischen unter</le> </l></l></l></l></l></ line>leichenblasse Würste, die in fettiges Papier gewickelt und mit line>einem Stück Brot teuer verkauft wurden. Zum Mitfesten fehlte mir </p herumgelungert und hatte Isabelle</line> line>vom Rande aus tanzen gesehen, ohne dass ich sie gesucht hätte zwischen line>den Paaren. Sie war noch unwiderstehlicher gewesen als am Morgen < und den brünetten Teint zur vollen Geltung brachte. Die Lippen hatte</p> sie blassrosa geschminkt. Unter dem frisch gebürsteten Haar line>glitzerte ein Ohrenschmuck. Wohl hatte mich dieser Anblick noch hart </l></l></l>< </choice><orig>täubt.</orig><reg/></choice> Aber ich war ihr doch gewachsen. Ich hatte eine Grenze des < line>Schmerzes erfahren, die nicht mehr überschritten werden konnte, < anchor xml:id="LB.TEIL2.1620.del.2"/></line> Für ein Glas Bier setzte ich mich an einen der langen Holztische <zone xml:id="LB.TEIL2.1620.lmargin.0"><handShift scribe="HB"/>?</zone> <zone xml:id="LB.TEIL2.1620.rmargin.0"/> <surface xml:id="LB.TEIL2.1620.document.v"/> Wirklichkeit, Ts. w. corr. by hand., pag. 101-183 (s.d.) </surfaceGrp> </sourceDoc>

<handShift medium="typewriter1"/><del hand="HB" rend="tool(ballpen) color(blue) weight(bold)">- 17 -

</l></l></l></l><

| scribe="HB" rend="tool(ballpen) color(blue) weight(bold)"/><del | hand="HB" rend="tool(ballpen) color(blue) weight(bold)">(Da:

</

<handShift scribe="HB" rend="tool(ballpen) color(blue) weight(bold)"/>- 162 -

Makeshift encoding of the sample page relying on the highlevel <sourceDoc> element

FNSNF **SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION** Project funding

Swiss Literary Archives (SLA) / Swiss National Library (NL) Cologne Center for eHumanities (CCeH)

**Simon Zumsteg** – Simon.Zumsteg@nb.admin.ch (Swiss Literary Archives) Magnus Wieland – Magnus.Wieland@nb.admin.ch (Swiss Literary Archives) **Peter Dängeli** – p.daengeli@uni-koeln.de (*Cologne Center for eHumanities*)