

ersten hat es nur die Form gemein, auch es besteht aus vier vierzeiligen Strophen, das Versmass hier ist jedoch 5-füssiger Trochäus.

Zusammenfassend kann gesagt werden, dass das Bändchen eine glückliche und interessante Auswahl von Gedichten darstellt. In vielseitigen und immer wiederkehrenden Variationen zeigt sich das Ringen der Dichterin um letzte Gewissheit des Lebenszieles. Dadurch, dass sie sich durch nichts in die Irre führen liess und sich stets ihren Glauben an Gott bewahrte, erreichte sie ihr Ziel.

Dieses Büchlein sollte jungen Menschen in die Hand gegeben werden, damit sie ebenfalls wie die Dichterin unbeirrt ihren Weg gehen und ihre Einkehr halten können.

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\*Gedichte, Strophen und Zeilen werden hier und im Folgenden zitiert unter Angabe des Gedichtstitels und der Seitenzahl gemäss ihrem Erscheinen in der oben erwähnten Sammlung.

Lore Foltin, *Franz Werfel*. Stuttgart, J. B. Metzlersche Verlagsbuchhandlung (1972), 127 pp.

For the novice as well as the student already familiar with the limited research materials heretofore available with regard to Franz Werfel and his writings, Lore Foltin's contribution to the Metzler Series (Band 115) will be a most welcome and vitally necessary tool. But for the seasoned scholar who may retain personal intimate ties with the cultural heritage of Werfel's age and milieu, Professor Foltin's work will succeed in an accomplishment which is truly remarkable in view of the brevity of the volume—it will reawaken a living scenario and a personal contact with Werfel and many of his pro-

minent contemporaries, transporting such a reader back to a world of yesterday. In a sense, the observations of the eminent George Steiner in his quartet of essays *In Bluebeard's Castle* on the death of the great European Culture which flourished up to World War I, almost seem poignantly audible in the personal commentaries that lie interspersed with the critical, biographical, and bibliographical material which comprises the principal aspect of the study.

Divided into three major sections, the first, *Materialien*, presents exhaustive details regarding the contents of the Werfel archives in the United States as well as holdings in various locations in Europe and Israel, followed by a general bibliographical orientation into the primary and secondary materials. The second section, *Leben und Werk*, much longer than either of the others, continues with the presentation of exhaustive bibliographical references in accordance with the chronology of Werfel's life and works. Professor Foltin presents this material in six phases, adding the bibliographical references at the end of each. The chronological divisions and the fact that the references themselves are categorized greatly facilitate the use of this study.

However valuable this facet may be, it is in the account of Werfel's life that the reader already familiar with the era will find a most gratifying contribution. Professor Foltin sketches Werfel's biography through key events, a few brief anecdotes, and references to historical occurrences in such a fashion as to allow the reader to feel the tension of the culture in which Rilke, Kafka, Brod, Werfel, and many others experienced that "explosive Atmosphäre" and the "sprachliche und soziale Isoliertheit" which made their creations so unique to German literature. This chapter is a storehouse of data concerning numerous prominent artists and political personalities of the time, and it is by virtue of the author's personal intimate knowledge and understanding of the stage upon which they played their parts that the reader already familiar with the political and literary milieu will find that this data im-

parts a depth to her commentaries on the works of Werfel which one would hardly have expected in so slim a volume. This depth, however, does not and could not extend to the philosophical considerations which are mentioned in passing; brevity and depth in this area are incompatible. One must therefore tread carefully, for example, over an apparent suggestion that Werfel's "eigene Theologie, der zufolge die Weltschöpfung selbst schon Sünde ist", was original. Later in the work it becomes clear that the author was well aware of the fact that this idea was also "in the air" at the time, and that indeed, Werfel's own religious orientation had more significant positive facets, which themselves are noted in conjunction with literary and expository works. Likewise does the brevity of the study preclude the discussion of related themes which are scattered throughout—in particular the themes of guilt and existential isolation. Such matters would appropriately be treated in a different type of study, and Foltin provides the service of defining and stating those themes which invite closer scrutiny.

The final chapter: *Aufgaben und Probleme der Werfel Forschung* is self-explanatory and concludes with additional general bibliographical references. In this section the author makes a claim: "Über Werfels Leben gibt dieser Band genauere Auskunft als sie bisher zu finden war. Die Daten, Lebensstat-sachen und sonstigen Einzelheiten sind, wie wir hoffen, präzise und umfassend wiedergegeben." We can only enthusiastically agree with the claim and energetically assert that the hope has been fulfilled. So complete are the bibliographical references that even the New York Daily News has achieved admission to the world of *Germanistik* in this truly remarkable and most welcome tool for future research and present enjoyment.

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