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The doubts remain

Over the life's work by Hans Keilson

Of [Ursula Homann](#)

Archief Philip Staal

Discussed books...

When in June in different newspapers the message emerged the fact that Hans Keilson should be distinguished with the Johann Heinrich Merck price for literary criticism and essay by the German academy for language and seal asked certainly itself some, who this Hans Keilson is at all. Now, superficially regarded, the question is fast answered: Hans Keilson is a mental specialist, Psychoanalytiker, German-speaking writer in addition, Netherlands citizen since 1951 and despite its soon 96 years still actively actively. Who wants to know however details, which should itself leave time and into appeared the recently two-restrain yourself expenditure for work to deepen. It is richly recompenced. Because the publication arranged adeptly by Heinrich Detering and Gerhard short contains Keilsons entire life's work: two novels, two narrations, more than hundred sides of poems - under it also unpublished - as well as an abundance of essays from the years from 1928 to 2003.

Hans Keilson was born on 12 December 1909, according to own statement, "as a Jew in wilhelminischen Germany, approximately five years before the outbreak of the First World War [...] in a small circle small town of the Mark Brandenburg lain in the Oderbruch, once the holy Roman realm of German nation strewing sand can." Here in free forest its parents led as small businessmen "their respectable life, liberally solved from the Jewish Orthodoxie, threatened of outside obligations, in the consciousness of their internal and outside affiliation to the been correct group, that them came of."

In Berlin Hans Keilson medicine and sport studied and earned themselves besides his living costs as a musician. In the spring appeared to 1933, under the Lektorat of Oskar Loerke, its first novel "the life continues to go". It was the last debut of a Jewish author in the old S. Fischer-Verlag. Because when the book in

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the pressure was, burned Reichstag. Thus it, like its author in an essay retrospectively noted, came "straight still timely enough to be over forbidden."

The novel, a dark impressive environment study, tells of the economic fall of a small independent buyer in the midst of political, social and economic confusions of the years after the First World War, the Weimar Republic, the inflation and the arising national socialism. It is the history of Keilson's father. The author rates his first novel as a piece of self analysis, although he still faded out here his affiliation to the Judaism and experiences with the Antisemitismus. It wanted to tell, as Heinrich Detering and Gerhard Roth short in their epilog mark, "of a German generation experience", "on this side of the divorce of Jewish and not-Jewish Germans, the few weeks before the publication the government-official program had become."

1934 knew Hans Keilson still its medical state examination placing. But soon thereafter over it as writer and a physician a practice and a publication prohibition were imposed. Some years then still worked he as sport teacher and a educator to Jewish citizen of Berlin schools in hope that in Germany would not carry out itself, which was announced in verbal Hasstiraden. Finally it emigrierte then nevertheless 1936, together with its wife, the Grafologin Gertrud Manz, into the Netherlands. Here it developed an educational consulting practice, edited Dutch Anthologien and wrote poems in German language. After the Novemberpogromen 1938 he attained an entry permit for his parents into the Netherlands, but before Deportation and murder he could not retain her later. In the spring 1943 it, separately from its wife and his child born in the meantime, submerged and worked as physician and a courier for a Amsterdamer group of resistances. After the war Hans Keilson as well as other survivor "Le Ezrat HaJeled" (to the assistance of the child) justified, an organization for the support of Jewish children, who had survived hiding place, concentration and extermination camp as orphans.

The first book Keilson's after end of war was the large narration "comedy in Moll" (1947), a tragikomische history of a Jew, who dies in the hiding place and whose body now, under which eyes of the Gestapo, inconspicuously must be eliminated.

As his life's work meanwhile Hans Keilson, which always regarded itself in all first line as a physician, regards the 1979 under the title "sequential Traumatisierung with children" published study with investigations for the fate of Jewish war orphans in the Netherlands. That volume, on which Keilson eleven worked years long, reveals shaking life stories, which make clear that some Traumatisierungen is hardly to be repaired. On a such fate Keilson comes also in its essays "the fragmented Psychotherapie one from mountain Belsen boy" returned (1995) and into "where the language is not enough to speak" (1984). This paper ends with the sentences: "It could be that regarding my remarks following Wittgenstein the impression could develop that one should be silent over it, about what one



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cannot talk. I do not divide this opinion. One should try it again and again on the new."

In "the death of the adversary" (1959) - which first fifty sides developed 1942 during the Germans Okkupation, who dug author the manuscript, before he hid himself, in its garden - the complicated becomes with large psychological fine feeling, by ambivalences coined/shaped relations network between pursuing and pursuer explored. Keilson called its novel a "desperate attempt to seek out the tear, which goes through the world."

With its appearance in the Federal Republic the novel was hardly refrained considered, from few positive criticisms, which noticed "a relationship of the author to Kafka". In the USA against it "Time magazines" ranked the novel among the ten most important new publications of the yearly 1962.

"Recognize you in the other one, which you want to destroy as an enemy, as adversaries", write Keilson 1992 to this topic in the essay "which remain to do?". In a place it argues also with the liberal Germanists Hans swords, who was as SS-Obersturmführer Hans Ernst Schneider once one its "adversary".

"Dissonances in the quartet" (1968) is Keilsons last, shortest and closest narration - Peter Härtling had requested her for a Anthologie. It acts of a father son relationship before the background of the exile. The question about accomplice interaction is begun to cut here at the same time by aesthetic education and material mass murder.

In the first time of the emigration the poems developed often refer to Biblical motives, to poem lines Heinrich Heines and chassidische singing. In them desperate leavingness is expressed and bitter Sarkasmus. One of these poems begins: "We Jews are long devalued in this world/a dirty Haufe cheap money, by God", and in another it means under the heading "Schizoid":

"steer number I in Holland
on fatter klei
only
the footprint pulls through still
the sand of the Marks
and my heart
mourns around Jerusalem "

Since the 80's outweigh in Keilsons work essays, speeches and smaller essays, which are to be particularly read above all then stretching and touching, if the writer reports of its own experiences and experiences.

Nevertheless the bombardment of German cities causes a quiet uneasiness" (so the title of a further paper) during the war with all own wrong "and wakes the question: "Which attitude geziemt

us, who we stand in the war with Hitler Germany, to assume in view of substantial rubbing out of German cities?" Feel if Keilson appear strange in addition, mixes "with the astonishment and frightening, over a people, its cities, which would have to be particularly expensive it nevertheless primarily, in debris and ash to rather bombard leaves itself, than in them than defeated living to remain." (1945)

In the self-manifestation "in the foreigner at home" Hans Keilson sees itself to the literature as a rider "on two ungesattelten horses", that and that the psychoanalysis. Indeed its scientific papers and medical report are hardly to be separated from its literary work. "I have", write he in the epilog to the new edition of "the life go further", "innumerable Rapporte written over children and adults, who I examined and treated, in order to convince courts and other instances in the Idiom of my subject from the wrong to, which had overcome her in heavy years. This work determines my personal relationship to the literature in the reason."

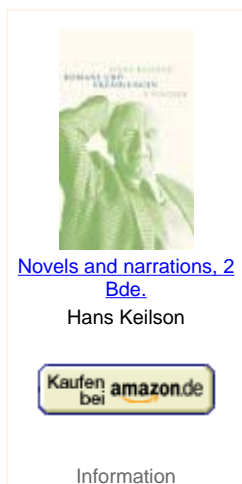
Which captivates at Hans Keilsons letter however above all, a unsentimentale, simple humanity, its large detail accuracy, is its calm, never excited telling voice, which obtains large effect with small nuances. Also self irony and humor are not strange to it.

"The literature is the memory of mankind: Who writes, remembers, and who reads, Keilson on experiences", admits, which operates since 1951 until today in the Dutch Bussum, a small city between Amsterdam and Utrecht, its practice and from 1985 to 1988 president of the PEN center "German Speaking Writers Abroad" was, participates. Furthermore it reminds: "We may never stop with our thoughts and questions". Besides applies: "One cannot be distrustful enough in relation to the own questions and answers, which words and metaphors, which one uses, if it concerns truth or lie or more gently said, deception, and also around self-deception. The doubts remain."

Hans Keilson the authors of the group 47 became acquainted with, also many humans. However the meeting with Wolfgang Weyrauch has it, confesses it, made also not smarter. With max of Horkheimers and Theodor W. Adornos opinions he appears familiarly, probably likewise with Hannah Arendt and Martin Heidegger.

Hermann Hessian, Klabund, Franz Kafka, Thomas and Klaus man, Erich laborious, Knut Hamsun - many names dip in the volumes up unfortunate that the publishers did without a list of names.

Hans Keilson: Works in two volumes. Bd. 1: Novels and narrations, Bd. 2: Poems and essays. Given change of Heinrich Detering and Gerhard short. S. Fischer publishing house, Frankfurt A.M. 2005. 1097 sides, 64.90 EUR. ISBN 3100495160



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Hans Keilson

from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Hans Keilson (* 12 December 1909 in bath free forest at the or) is a German-speaking writer as well as Netherlands physician and Psychoanalytiker.

Hans Keilson lives and works in the Netherlands Bussum close Amsterdam. It buildup in Germany as a son of a Textilhändlers and published 1933 its first (auto+biographic) novel, „the life continues to go“, which was forbidden 1934 by the Nazis and only to fifty years later was again presented. Keilson studied medicine in Berlin from 1928 to the year 1934. In consequence of the professionals disqualification introduced for Jews into Germany it pierced itself up to the emigration 1936 into the Netherlands with activities as a sport teacher at Jewish Privatschulen and as a musician. To the assault of the Netherlands by German troops in the year 1940 Keilson went as a member of the Netherlands resistance into the underground. In this time first poems and the first 50 sides of its novel developed „the death of the adversary“, who appeared 1959.



Hans Keilson with the award of the Moses Mendelssohn medal to 10. May 2007 in potsdam

After the release of the Netherlands from the German Okkupation turns Hans Keilson to his occupation as a physician. It treated heavily traumatisierte Jewish Waisenkinder and creates with other survivors „Le Ezrat hectar of Jeled“ (to the assistance of the child), an organization for the support of Jewish orphans. It takes up the study of the medicine again for lack of acknowledgment of its German conclusion, which it locks as a specialist for psychiatry into the 1960ern. it attains a doctorate to 1979 with the study „sequential Traumatisierung with children“, an innovative contribution for psychoanalytischen trauma research. In own practice it is active as Psychoanalytiker.

Parallel Keilson works as a writer and is from 1985 to 1988 president of the PEN center „German speaking writers abroad“. it received a Gastprofessur at the university in Kassel (Franz Rosenzweig Professur) to 1996 and 1999 as a corresponding member to the German academy for language and seal was taken up. The University of Bremen lent to it.

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” The life is another... “

Hans Keilson to 90. Birthday (1999)

Hamburg (CHAMFER) was asked · December 1999 · as Hans Keilson 1984, an epilog for the new edition of its book *the life goes further* “writing, overcame it” *the feeling, a kind ring-back signal, means own, to write* “. Spring 1933 Keilson's Erstling in the S.Fischer publishing house had appeared to it, 1934 by the Nazis had been forbidden and only fifty years later in the row *prohibition and burned/exile* “in the Fischer paperback publishing house put. In the fifty to years between them *more went lost than only the naive hope of a very young man, who had brought evenly its first book out with* S. Fischer ‹, *hope, on success, fame, in the words of the author*” *determines* -, *we said it plainly: on immortality.* “

” The life continues to go “, then also the slogan of this essay could read, which is not thank God a ring-back signal, and which cannot make a contribution nevertheless on the other hand also to Keilson's immortality. Hans Keilson becomes ninety. Who agilen, and in each regard mobile author, poets, physician are awake and psychiatrist knows, whom it will surprise. Ninety, already? Yes, ninety, and in all honours, and acclamation one it, as it is usual among Jews: ” On 120! “There much in Hans Keilson's life twice to happen maintains, may exhaust it the 120 completely and with good health!

The ninety-year old is for the German public a relatively young author. Its second work, the *comedy in Moll* “; appeared already 1947 in the Netherlands Querido publishing house - the book in the small, but important Amsterdamer emigrant publishing house succeeded however among other things because of the foreign exchange shortage at that time in Germany hardly the way to the German readers. Tragikomische history over difficulties, which itself Wim and Marie in of Germans occupied the Netherlands face with, when Nico, a Jew submerged with them, to whom consequences of a simple cold dies, found only by a new edition in the year 1988 - again with Fischer - larger spreading at (still minoritären) a public, which into the spell this grotesque one can be pulled from the times of the Schoah.

Also Keilson's third book, *the death of the adversary* “, which appears one year later, to 1989, with Fischer, did not find in its first edition thirty years before the resonance in Germany, which would have earned it. 1996 were put it owing to its in the meantime possible success. Perhaps it is the fate of the hellsichtigen author that it always was its readership around years ahead. But”, Keilson wrote *books* “,” *can one again again present. From books there are finally archives copies. Of humans not.* “

Its in the Netherlands exile and in the new homeland written poems appear 1986 and in later new editions under the title *language root lot* “in the Giessener edition literary salon, just as 1992 that already 1943 in the hiding place written Poem” *of a dreaming* “.

In its lyric work again and again time-pure of the exile are, in the *Amsterdamer song* “from the year 1937 about:

The liberty sat us in the neck,
before the police.
In Amsterdam it was still cold
in the tulip month May.
Far outside the large sea rushes
with Zandvoort and Zaandam.
But there out arrives only, who
it to also pay can.
It lives itself in the most beautiful city
even with the dearest woman,
if one has there no work,
at the end inaccurately.
Because if you do not have anything to biting,
's is also in Amsterdam,
then nothing is useful to you the IJsselmeer,

Marks and Volendam.
 Child, luggage the suit-cases!
 To end is the hunt.
 Again over' n Rembrandtplein,
 then schmeiss you into the Gracht!

In its 1943 written "variation" *"Keilson thinks" Germany at the night* "-

How often I the verse read
 and its, which wrote it, laughed.
 It wär my brother not been.
 I non I am from and rem wood,
 dacht I, me can the axe not notch,
 I carry my hard pride
 in the life has, hard also in dying?
 But lie I now and in such a way wund
 In strange country and shy the light.
 It sounds from my child mouth
 A andrer sound as my poem.
 And if it dawns, ziehn of the sea
 Flier up to the phosphorus battle.
 I lie on my camp heavily,
 think I of Germany - at the night.
 "Language root lot", which robs own homeland, or, as it wrote in the poem" Schizoid "from the year 1947:
 Taxes number I in Holland
 On fatter klei
 only
 the footprint pulls through still
 the sand of the Marks
 and my heart
 mourns over jerusalem

And like heretofore Heine, here the Netherlands poet Jacob Israël de Haan is reminiscent itself, that in Amsterdam after Jerusalem and in Jerusalem to Amsterdam verzehrte.

Some stations of its life are to be reread in the biographic notes, which are attached to its writings. 1909 in bath free forest at the or born, studied Keilson starting from 1928 in Berlin medicine, the study he financed among other things with his trumpet, 1934 completed himself he his medical state examination. Since as a Jew many ways are blocked to it in National Socialist Germany, it changes into its second occupation as nationally examined turn, sport and swimming teacher at schools of the Jewish municipality in Berlin, among other things in the land boarding school Caputh. 1936 convince it his Mrs. Gertrud Manz to leave Germany. From a journey to the Netherlands it bring along a plate with Netherlands child songs for it, in order to prove to it: " *In Holland there are also children, for whom you can work* ".

In its German passport the note is located " *after seven days at the police announces. "- in the following three years I felt neither regret nor grief. The liberty had me in the meantime at the collar like in former times the police. Grief came only later, than in May 1940 other passport holders, German and Austrian (however the soldier's small books had without the above-mentioned note), followed me and made themselves broad here. With its departure also the grief disappeared, instead began a mourning work, which still always persists.* "It outlives the German crew in the hiding place, where it is active as a physician for the resistance. Beside it writes poems, Prosa - also a first version of the " *death of the adversary* "develops and is buried. Immediately after the war Keilson for the Jewish organization " *Le Ezrat Hajeled* "works, among whose joint founders he ranks, and whom it made it's duty, Jewish children, by the murder happening orphans became - many of them are traumatisiert by the life in the hiding place and surviving in the extermination camps - to the side to stand. In the discussions with the children the physician pushes at borders, " *where the language is not enough* ", how he will write later.

Hans Keilson must be medicine study in the Netherlands to resume, in order to attain the there acknowledgment as a physician. He can be trained as the psychiatrist and Psychoanalytiker and attains a doctorate in the age of sixty years with to 1979 a work appeared over the " *sequential Traumatisierung with children* ", whom holds substantial new realizations ready for the psychoanalytische trauma research. 1985 to

1988 he is a president of the "PEN center German speaking writers abroad". Honours follow like the award of a Dr. h.c at the University of Bremen, the Order of Merit and 1996 a Gastprofessur on the Franz Rosenzweig chair in Kassel, and 1999 the admission as a corresponding member into the German academy for language and seal in Darmstadt. Its birth city bath free forest lends 1995 to it owing to the commitment of the film script author Eberhard Goerner the honour citizenry (before it this honour, as it, was also Adolf Hitler assigns become, to who one must only still deny it) experiences later. In a documentary film Wakter Rösing and Marita Barthel Rösing document the not completely light way back into the Mark Brandenburg.

Hans Keilson lives his German in the Netherlands Bussum, an unmistakable Netherlands accent won, and *years in Holland* for the expenditure for anniversary to the 150jährigen existence of the outstanding Netherlands literature magazine it overwrote its summary over "fifty with the words" *dear one Holland as homesickness...* "

With view of the national socialism and Auschwitz he wrote in the "death of the adversary": "Perhaps it is deceitful to divide the time into the years before it (and) according to (as the historical professors do it, if they invent the history, which they intend to describe. The life is another. "Again and again it dissected in lectures, essays and poems ambivalences in handling this history, analyzed and described, to the borders of the recordable one from all sides approached and, where they were not to be seized into words, nevertheless their position marked.

The Psychoanalytiker colleagues Dierk Juelich Hamburg of that it was able initiated anniversary publication to Keilson's achtzigstem birthday, which was committed in Hamburg literature houses, to unite an appreciation of Keilson's literary and scientific works. Many know and estimate the poet, the writer or the Psychoanalytiker Hans Keilson, whereby straight totallook to its Oeuvre shows, like strongly similar motives by all its writings go - whether it concerns to the argument with the Antisemitismus or with the trauma tables consequences of pursuit the traces of the exile. When poets distinguish as as scientists this chroniclers of our century a sharp analytic and at the same time empathischer view, an exact language and an attitude, which one designates on Jiddisch with the word "humans".

Meetings

In the spring 1989 we had won Hans Keilson as advisers for a conference to Hamburg Institut for social research, in which the meaning of the Antisemitismus in linking of the German Federal Republic one debated. In the Eppendorfer dwelling of a colleague and a friend of it we sat together with a glass of Sherry, and I knew the fact that I would later maintain that in the fire-place a fire burned in order the meaning of this meeting and the Ambiente, in which it took place, reproduction to lend. Keilson asked, what we, its both German interlocutors, held from Richard of Weizsäcker - he had him 1985, on its speech to 8. May, equivalent written and a copy of its late thesis dispatched. I bit myself on the tongue. 1985 I had been invited to a discussion with the director/conductor of the foreign department of the Office of the President of the Federal republic to Bonn, which should serve the preparation of the first state visit of Richard of Weizsäcker in Israel. One wanted to receive *German history* from a participant of the "pupil competition at the price of the Federal President", what of sides of young Germans would exist for expectations to this Visite. At the end of the discussion the secretly expected invitation along to iron did not stand. But received I unite weeks later a book sent, which the Federal President straight had received from its author with a dedication; there I am nevertheless surely very interesting with the topic of this study, whom had begun to set consequences of pursuit, apart, this book for me. Its author was Hans Keilson. (Unfortunately I lent the book later once to a friendly medical student, then the Hamburg with the book without trace left...).

For the celebration of his achtzigsten birthday one of the guests gave him a pile in blank paper. In a newspaper article over a psychoanalytische conference to the consequences of pursuit of the end of the seventies Hans Keilson had been quoted - German participants had let a cosy gathering with armed forces songs end, and explained Keilson, he intended, to take up this incident to his next novel. One waits drauf.

When Hans Keilson of Bremen the city hall after the receipt from cause of the award to it left, its view of the opposite house of the refugees of homeland fell, on whom in large type characters the wrong of driving out and the German division became to beschreiben. Quietly likewise from his homeland the refugee marked: "There a sentence is missing like that thanks we our leader Adolf Hitler."

In a discussion over education after and over Auschwitz he, when it" matured "around the necessary the pupil went, let the razor-sharp sentence fall completely casually, matures is a category for melons, not for humans.









Occasionally it begins a sentence with the words " *I legend always to my patients...* ", in order to then apologize kokett as " *somewhat unorthodox Psychoanalytiker* ". " *Legends you' s do not continue to mean colleagues, but I talk much with my patients.* "As a basic motive for its work as Psychoanalytiker it" indicates curiosity ", and one believes without closer inspection it to it. He listens, he gives to consider. It burns to experience more from humans to.

For a common friend we wanted to arrange an anniversary publication to the birthday. It should not the friend, but Jochanaan Leuchtentrager dedicated its - a figure from Stefan Heyms novel" Ahasver ", which had very much impressed us all (a thank saying to it is already in the anniversary publication to Hans Keilsons to achtzigsten birthday). When I called and asked it to report of its meeting with Leuchtentrager in the Berlin of the twenties he remembered immediately at the fellow students: " *I remember exactly, the Hans Leuchtentrager played in another Combo a dirty trumpet* ". I could hear it from these words. In its written contribution for this unfortunately unpublished anniversary publication Keilson described then the far away unknown meeting of Leuchtentrager with Sigmund Freud, which owes the development of the psychoanalysis substantial impulses.

When his daughter from second marriage was born in the seventies, Hans Keilson worried itself whether he would still experience that she comes to the school. A few years ago he experienced, how she successfully left the school.

Now the concern drives some of its younger friends over whether we still experience the appearance of its next novel. He promised it us, and he has a long breath. Often it seems, as if it would have the longer breath. On the next create-rich decades of a young-remained author!

Works:

-  *The life continues. A youth in intermediate wartime*, Fischer paperback, Frankfurt
-  *Comedy in Moll*, Fischer paperback, Frankfurt
-  *The death of the adversary*, Fischer paperback, Frankfurt
-  *Language root lot*, edition literary salon, pouring
-  *A dreaming*, edition literary salon, pouring
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