Penguin Random House Verlagsgruppe

Best of Penguin Random House Verlagsgruppe

Non-Fiction
Autumn 2020

History

The renowned historian on escape and deportation as a profoundly human experience



Andreas Kossert

Uprooted – The Refugee
in World History

[Flucht – Eine Menschheitsgeschichte]

Siedler 432 pages With 55 b/w illustrations October 2020

English sample translation available

Andreas Kossert, born in 1970, studied history, political science and Slavonic studies in Germany, Scotland and Poland and has a PhD in history. He received an enthusiastic response to his historical depictions of Masuria and East Prussia. Most recently, he published the bestseller Cold Home. The Story of German Expellees after 1945 and In Those Days in East Prussia. He was awarded the Georg Dehio Book Prize for his work.

In his new book, Andreas Kossert – the renowned expert on emigration and expulsion in the twentieth century and author of the bestselling *Cold Home* – places the early twenty-first-century refugee movement in a wider historical context.

Movingly told and interwoven with personal accounts, *Uprooted* – *The Refugee in World History* reveals the existential experiences of uprootedness and hostility that go hand in hand with losing one's homeland, and explains why refugees and displaced persons have always found it so difficult to settle into a new country. Whether they have come from East Prussia, Syria or India, refugees are agents of world history – and with this book Andreas Kossert gives them a voice.

History/True Crime

A spectacular cold case from 1930s
Berlin – the new book by the bestselling
author

Spiegel BESTSELLER

English sample translation available

Rights sold to: Italy (Mondadori)

Oliver Hilmes, born in 1971, studied history, politics and psychology in Marburg, Paris and Potsdam. He is the author of bestselling biographies of Alma Mahler-Werfel, Cosima Wagner, Franz Liszt and Ludwig II. His award-winning bestseller Berlin 1936: Sixteen Days in August was translated into several languages.



Oliver Hilmes

Dr Mühe's Disappearance

[Das Verschwinden des Dr. Mühe] A 1930s Berlin crime story

Penguin 240 pages August 2020

During the final months of the Weimar Republic, a highly regarded doctor disappears. His sports car is found abandoned on the shores of a lake near Berlin. The homicide division investigates and discovers that the respectable medic's carefully cultivated façade has been hiding a shady double life, whose trail leads from Berlin all the way to Barcelona.

Oliver Hilmes has reconstructed this sensational and puzzling case from files discovered in Berlin's regional archive. Enriched with fictional touches, *Dr Mühe's Disappearance* is the gripping and ingenious story of the search for truth, and of the dark side of middle-class life on the eve of dictatorship.

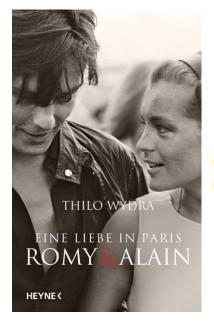
- Spiegel Bestseller More than 10,500 copies sold
- Book Trailer available here

Press

"Babylon Berlin with other means. A portrait of a degenerate society, a darkening time." Welt am Sonntag

"Coupled with the grim atmosphere of 1930s Berlin, Hilmes creates an exciting backdrop for a sophisticated crime thriller captivating you from start to finish." *Grazia*

The story of a passionate love affair



Thilo Wydra

A Love in Paris –

Romy and Alain

[Eine Liebe in Paris – Romy und Alain]

Heyne 352 pages With an image section October 2020

Thilo Wydra, born in 1968, studied comparative studies, German, art history and film science. He has been freelancing as an author and journalist since the 1990s. In 1996 he became a member of the Verband der deutschen Filmkritik (VdFK) and has since then been on juries at international film festivals. He has authored numerous contributions to books on film and film lexica, writes for newspapers and magazines and has written biographies of Ingrid Bergman, Grace Kelly and others.

The actors Romy Schneider and Alain Delon were the dream couple of the 1960s. They fell in love when they first met in Paris in 1958 on the set of the Arthur Schnitzler adaptation *Christine*, and their extraordinary roller-coaster affair would last five years. Four years later, they are reunited in front of the camera, playing lovers in the cult film *The Swimming Pool*, and thus begins a friendship that would last until Romy Schneider's untimely and tragic death in 1982. When she died, it was Alain Delon who took care of everything. She was the love of his life: "Our love didn't end. It changed."

To tell their story, the author and biographer Thilo Wydra has conducted countless in-depth interviews with Romy Schneider and Alain Delon's friends and colleagues in France and Germany, among them Jane Birkin, Senta Berger, Mario Adorf, Jean-Claude Carrière, Michael Verhoeven, Volker Schlöndorff, and many others – and in their personal recollections the German-French lovers come alive once again.

A fascinating journey into the Great Digital Beyond

New Books in German



Moritz Riesewieck and Hans Block, both born in 1985, studied directing at the Academy of Dramatic Arts in Berlin and are rising stars of international documentary filmmaking. Their Emmy-nominated film *The Cleaners* premiered at Sundance in 2018 and caused excitement across the globe. It was shown at more than 70 international film festivals, as well as on the BBC, PBS and numerous other channels worldwide, and has won countless awards, among others the 2018 Prix Europe for best television documentary.



Moritz Riesewieck / Hans Block

The Digital Soul

[Die digitale Seele] Immortality in the age of Artificial Intelligence

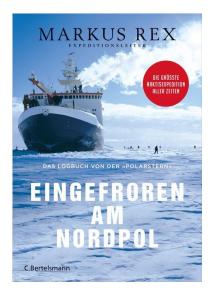
Goldmann 592 pages September 2020

Humanity has dreamt of eternal life since time immemorial. But it's a dream that has remained unfulfilled – until now. Thanks to spectacular advances in machine learning, immortality is becoming a distinct prospect. Around the world, tech companies are employing vast amounts of user data to create digital doppelgangers, and in the twenty-first century, as more and more people turn away from religion, and neuroscience has declared the demise of the very idea of the soul, belief in life after death is undergoing an unexpected renaissance.

In *The Digital Soul*, Moritz Riesewieck and Hans Block take us on a fascinating journey into the Great Digital Beyond, introducing us to the tech pioneers as well as to those hoping to immortalise themselves as digital clones, and ask the biggest question of all: What happens to us, when the one thing we can be sure of – our mortality – is taken away? They conclude that eternal life is indeed possible – but not as we imagine it.

- Selected by New Books in German
- English interview with the authors available

One year in the eternal ice – a milestone in climate research



Markus Rex

Frozen at the North Pole

[Eingefroren am Nordpol] The log book of the RV Polarstern

C.Bertelsmann 384 pages With numerous 4c illustrations November 2020

English sample translation available

Markus Rex is the head of atmospheric research at the Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Sea Research, and he is professor for atmospheric physics at the University of Potsdam. He had already participated in numerous expeditions to the Arctic, Antarctica and other remote regions of the world to research the complex climatic processes that lead to at times dramatic climate changes. He heads the MOSAiC project, a unique research collaboration by 90 institutions from 20 countries.

On the 20th September 2019 began the largest polar expedition of all time: The research vessel RV Polarstern set off from the port of Tromsø, Norway, to be frozen to the ice of the North Pole. Scientists from 20 countries have boarded to research the consequences of climate change for one whole year.

Markus Rex, the head of this research expedition called MOSAiC, recounts in his book the story of this unique endeavour. He tells of everyday life in the extreme environment of the Arctic, of the challenges in terms of logistics and planning, and of the scientific findings that the researchers were able to gather.

Frozen at the North Pole is not only the story of the largest research adventure ever but at the same time a vivid insight into the dramatic consequences of climate change.

• The largest research expedition of all time

5

Freezing, uncomfortable, stunningly beautiful: a year in the coldest place on the planet



Carmen Possnig South of the End of the World

[Südlich vom Ende der Welt] Where night lasts four months and -50°C is a warm day: My year in the Antarctic

Ludwig 304 pages With a 24-page inset August 2020

English sample translation available

Carmen Possnig was born in 1988 and is a doctor. In 2018, she spent a year in the Antarctica as part of a research expedition organised by the European Space Agency. In the Marslike conditions of the Concordia research station, she studied her crew to discover how humans adapt both physically and psychologically to extreme conditions. Since her return she has embarked on a PhD in space medicine at the University of Innsbruck.

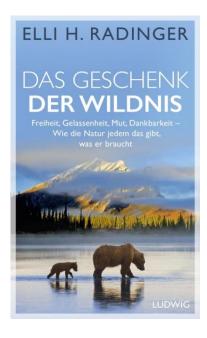
A return trip to the South Pole is an impossible dream for many of us – but the medic Carmen Possnig did just that. On behalf of the European Space Agency, she spent a year in the heart of the Antarctica to find out what it's like to live in extreme weather conditions, with a distinct lower level of oxygen and in complete isolation from the rest of the world.

With twelve other scientists, she spent the winter at the Concordia research station in the eternal ice. There, she not only encountered the breathtaking beauty of the most extreme continent on Earth, but also her own limits: Sharing a tight space with other people for twelve months, in a world that remains dark for months on end and where the temperature drops to -80°C, requires a huge physical and mental effort.

Carmen Possnig's personal and witty travel report, and its wealth of photographs, opens up a window onto an alien world – making us marvel at our planet's diversity, and at how adaptable human nature can be.

The bestselling author on the beauty of nature

BESTSELLING AUTHOR



Elli H. Radinger The Gift of the Wild

[Das Geschenk der Wildnis] Freedom, calmness, courage, thankfulness – how the nature can give us what we need

Ludwig 272 pages With 28 b/w illustrations and a 4c image section September 2020

Rights sold: France (Trédaniel)

Elli H. Radinger, born in 1951, gave up her law career to devote herself entirely to her true passions: writing and wolves. Her books *The* Wisdom of Wolves and The Wisdom of Old Dogs are bestsellers and have been translated into numerous languages. This new book draws on her first-hand experiences and observations during years spent in wilderness areas as an independent naturalist.

The wilderness is rooted deep within us. It challenges us, makes us stronger, calms us down and opens our hearts – and every day it brings new gifts. In this book, the naturalist and wolf expert Elli H. Radinger tells riveting and enchanting stories which reveal the treasures that wilderness has in store for us: adventure, peace, awe, silence, darkness, togetherness, resilience, trust – but also humility and fear.

She takes us on an inspiring journey into nature and ourselves, and shows how the magic of the wilderness can change our lives as well as our minds.

Previous bestselling titles by Elli H. Radinger:



The Wisdom of Wolves

- Spiegel Bestseller
- More than 100,000 copies sold
- Sold to 19 countries

Ludwig, 288 pages, October 2017

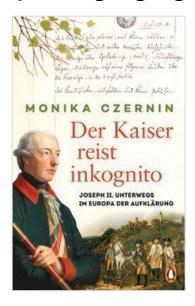


The Wisdom of Old Dogs

- Spiegel Bestseller
- More than 110,000 copies sold
- Sold to 6 countries

Ludwig, 320 pages, October 2018

Upcoming Highlight Spring 2021:



Penguin, 340 pages With illustrations March 2021

Monika Czernin: The Emperor Travels Incognito

An Emperor meets his people: The extraordinary journeys of Joseph II

It is the end of the eighteenth century, and the European royal houses are beginning to falter. The young Habsburg emperor Joseph II realises that reform is inevitable, and he eagerly soaks up Enlightenment ideas. Incognito, and without the usual pomp and entourage, he travels through his vast empire. He wants to see with his own eyes how his subjects live, suffer and starve.

Along with princes and kings he meets ordinary people, and visits hospitals and factories on the search for new insights that will help him build a modern state. When he visits his sister in Versailles, he can see the French revolution looming on the horizon. By the end of his journey, he has spent a quarter of his twenty-five-year reign on the road.

Based on countless sources, Monika Czernin's *The Emperor Travels Incognito* tells the story of an extraordinary man in an age of great upheaval, who was far ahead of his time.

Monika Czernin, an internationally renowned author and film-maker, was born in 1965 and studied political science and philosophy in Vienna. She has a special interest in the key figures and turning points of European history, and her most recent book, *Anna Sacher and Her Hotel*, spent many weeks on the bestseller lists.

From our backlist:



Siedler, 304 pages With 11 b/w illustrations August 2020

English sample translation available

Magnus Brechtken: The Value of History

Learning from history: Why we have to defend our liberal values.

One of the leading historians in Germany and his appeal to prevent historical amnesia: We must keep on fighting anew for the values of freedom!

In the ten examples described in his brilliant tour through history, Magnus Brechtken opens our eyes to how tough the fight for the values of freedom, self-determination and participation was and how greatly they have improved our lives – and why these achievements are now being threatened by nationalist and populists both from the right and the left.

How much freedom and what rights did people have 150 years ago? To what degree could young women living around 1900 determine their own lives? And how are things today?

Rights sold to: Korea (Sigongsa)



Penguin, 576 pages With 80 colour illustrations March 2020

English sample translation available

Jürgen Wertheimer: Europe – A History of Its Cultures

A cultural history for Europe today – from ancient until present times

What is keeping Europe together? In a new cultural history of Europe from the mythical beginnings until today, literature expert and cultural scientist Jürgen Wertheimer shows readers what makes up the continent's DNA: Europe has always seen itself as a community of diversity subject to continual change both from within and without, to negotiation, strife and discussion without committing itself to one single self-perception.

Precisely this is one of its strengths - in spite of all the crises and wars: since antiquity a culture of enquiry, introspection and openness has developed as mirrored in the cultural legacy of the past centuries, especially in the field of literature. It is a culture that is both loved and admired by many all over the world and also distrusted, feared and antagonised. Reason enough to take a closer look.

Press:

"This very readable book clearly demonstrates that change has been a constant in the cultural history of Europe." *Der Spiegel*

"In his book [...], literary scholar and comparative literature expert Jürgen Wertheimer has analysed and given visionary reasons in an outstanding manner." *Kultur Punkt*

"[Wertheimer] embarks on a wild jaunt through the history of the continent's literary identity – and delves deep into its cultural abysses." Deutschlandfunk, 'Andruck'



Contact

Penguin Random House Verlagsgruppe GmbH Foreign Rights Department

Neumarkter Str. 28 81673 München Germany

Fax: ++49 (89) 4136-3733 www.penguinrandomhouse.de

Gesche Wendebourg

Foreign Rights Director Phone: ++49 (89) 4136-3313

Gesche.Wendebourg@randomhouse.de

English speaking countries; French speaking countries; The Netherlands/Belgium; Greece; Israel; Arabic countries

Eva-Maria Kunze

Senior Foreign Rights Manager Phone: ++49 (89) 4136-3716 Eva-Maria.Kunze@randomhouse.de

Italy; Portuguese speaking countries; Spanish speaking countries; Czech Republic; Slovakia; Korea; Japan

Stephanie Gerdeissen

Foreign Rights Manager Phone: ++49 (89) 4136-3470

Stephanie.Gerdeissen@randomhouse.de

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