

Smetacek Alois

- 1) Interpretation des Gedichtes "Grinzinger Weinsteig" von Josef Weinheber.
- 2) Die "Griechendramen" Grillparzers.
- 3) Der Naturalismus und besonders die Dichtung Gerhard Hauptmanns.

G r i n z i n g e r   W e i n s t e i g

Vom Schreiberweg geht es hinein.  
Ein Hauserl steht mitten im Wein.  
Der Mai war ein wenig zu kühl:  
da sind halt die Reben noch klein.

Noch klein, aber gut fürs Gefühl.  
Ich schau auf das Blättergewühl.  
Vom Hollerbusch fächelt der Wind  
hangauf ein Harmonikaspield.

Hangab zwischen Linden beginnt  
ein Zwiebelturm, goldener sind  
die Häuser ins Grüne gestreut,  
das zart in der Bläue verrinnt.

Es hat mich nicht immer gefreut.  
Dort unten verdämmert das Leid.  
Dort schwimmt mir ein silbernes Band,  
das bindet gelinde ans Heut.

Du welliges, seliges Land,  
du Blick in die Sinne gebannt:  
Noch ist es wie ehemals mein  
und schön und im Blute verwandt.

Das Große läßt fremd und allein.  
Am Ende doch tröstet der Wein.  
Der Mai war ein wenig zu kühl -  
da sind halt die Reben noch klein.

J o s e f   W e i n h e b e r

1) From "In England Today" by Margaret Green

In the nineteenth century most people thought that the State ought to interfere as little as possible in people's lives; it ought to leave everyone free to go his own way, only stepping in when that meant interfering with other people's liberty to do likewise; it ought to see that the laws were enforced impartially to all, and it must provide for defence against possible enemies.

But gradually it became clear that this was not working very well. Side by side with much happiness and prosperity, there was desperate poverty, misery, ignorance, and crime. Bit by bit the State made itself responsible for more and more services to its citizens, until to-day we have what is called the Welfare State, which exists to a greater or less degree in most European countries. The State tries to take responsibility for the welfare of its citizens.

2) Some features of the Welfare State

3) ~~G. B. Shaw~~ *The Victorian Age*

① Let's Say Something Good about Ourselves (H. Hoover)

If we look at the criticism alone we seem to be in a very bad way, and engaged in our decline and fall.

In all this clamor, however, we might occasionally mention something good about ourselves. We could point out that our American way of life has perfected the greatest productivity of any nation on earth; that our standard of living is the highest in the world. We could point to our constantly improving health and lengthening span of life. We could point out that our mechanical genius has, by millions of labor-saving machines, taken the sweat from the backs of most of our people.....

On the moral and spiritual side, we have more hospitals and charitable institutions than the rest of the world. And we could suggest that we alone, of all nations, fought in two World Wars and asked no indemnities, no acquisition of territory, no domination over other nations. We could prove our advancement of the spirit of compassion by the billions of dollars we have given to save millions from famine and governments from collapse.

As much as I feel deeply the lag +) in giving a full chance to our Negro population, yet I cannot refrain from mentioning that our 14 million American Negroes own more automobiles than all the 200 million Russians and the 300 million Negroes in Africa put together.

All of which is not boasting but just fact. And we could say a good deal more.

+ ) lag : move too slowly

② Aspects of Landscape and Life in California

~~3) Joseph Conrad and his views on fiction-writing~~

## 1) From "Skyscraper" by Joseph Husband

The old brick building had vanished before the wreckers in a cloud of broken brick and plaster. From my window I could look down into the cavity which had held it. Already the muddy floor was dotted with excavators, and day and night unceasingly wagonloads of sticky clay and mud dragged up the incline to the street. Far down in the stifling air of the caissons the concrete roots were being planted, tied with cement and steel to the very core of the world.

The foundations were finished and the first thin steel columns stretched upward. In a day they multiplied. A hundred black shoots pierced the soil; a hundred sprouting shoots, in even rows, like a well-planted garden. In ordered plan the crossbeams fell into their places, and the great lattice of the substructure shaped itself. Then above the uproar and vibration of the street, rose the angry clatter of the pneumatic riveters, steel against steel in a shattering reverberation.

With incredible rapidity the gaunt frame piled upward. On the topmost story the derricks crouched like giant spiders with thin legs, casting their threads of steel softly to the distant street to take a dozen tons of girders in their grasp and lift them, gently turning, to the top. Against the pale sky the black ribs of the building surged higher. As through prison bars I saw the distant blue of the harbor; the familiar view had vanished; a miracle had transformed it. Untiring, hour after hour, the derricks lifted bales of steel to swing into their destined place; and as each new story grew up the derricks lifted themselves heavily to the new level, clean cut against the sky, above the highest towers of the city.

## 2) New ways and conceptions in building houses

## 3) H.G. Wells

- a) fantastic + imaginative novels (science fiction)  
 b) books upon social & political questions  
 c) discussion novels (character): *Tom's Burglar* (1898) / *Tommy's Story*  
 Engl. society in 2nd half of 19th C.
- <constructive socialism>, reeducation of mankind,  
 <An Outline of History>: personal bias

1) From "Lawrence of Arabia" by Winston Churchill.

2) Cinema and Theater

3) Graham Greene

1)

The impression of the personality of Lawrence remains living and vivid upon the minds of his friends, and the sense of his loss is in no way dimmed among his countrymen. All feel the poorer that he has gone from us. In these days dangers and difficulties gather upon Britain and her Empire, and we are also conscious of a lack of outstanding figures with which to overcome them. Here was a man in whom there existed not only an immense capacity for service, but that touch of genius which everyone recognises and no one can define. Alike in his great period of adventure and command or in these later years of self-suppression and self-imposed eclipse, he always reigned over those with whom he came in contact. They felt themselves in the presence of an extraordinary being. They felt that his latent reserves of force and will-power were beyond measurement. If he roused himself to action, who should say what crisis he could not surmount or <sup>wildern, dämpfen</sup> quell? If things were going very badly, how glad one would be to see him come round the corner.

Part of the secret of this stimulating ascendancy lay of course in his disdain for most of the prizes, the pleasures, and comforts of life. The world naturally looks with some awe upon a man who appears unconcernedly indifferent to home, money, comfort, rank, or even power and fame. The world feels, not without a certain apprehension, that here is someone outside its jurisdiction; someone before whom its allurements may be spread in vain; someone strangely <sup>(in) polit. frei</sup> enfranchised, untaxed, <sup>ungebunden</sup> untrammelled by convention, moving independently of the ordinary currents of human action; a being readily capable of violent revolt or supreme sacrifice, a man solitary, austere, to whom existence is no more than a duty, yet a duty to be faithfully

discharged. *A dweller upon the mountain tops where the air is cold, crisp, and rarefied, and where the view on clear days commands all the kingdoms of the world and the flocks of them.*

## 1) From "The Time of Your Life" by William Saroyan

In the time of your life, live - so that in that good time there shall be no ugliness or death for yourself, or for any life your life touches. Seek goodness everywhere, and when it is found, bring it out of its hiding-place and let it be free and unashamed. Place in matter and in flesh the least of values, for these are the things that hold death and must pass away. Discover in all things that which shines and is beyond corruption. Encourage virtue in whatever heart it may have been driven into secrecy and sorrow by the shame and terror of the world. Ignore the obvious, for it is unworthy of the clear eye and the kindly heart. Be the inferior of no man, nor of any man be the superior. Remember that every man is a variation of yourself. No man's guilt is not yours, nor is any man's innocence a thing apart. Despise evil and ungodliness, but not men of ungodliness or evil. These, understand. Have no shame in being kindly and gentle, but if the time comes in the time of your life to kill, kill and have no regret. In the time of your life, live - so that in that wondrous time you shall not add to the misery and sorrow of the world, but shall smile to the infinite delight and mystery of it.

## 2) The Houses of Parliament

## 3) Steinbeck

## 1) "On the Weather" by Jerome K. Jerome

It always is wretched weather, according to us. The weather is like the government, always in the wrong. In summertime we say it is stifling; in winter that it is killing; in spring and autumn we find fault with it for being neither one thing nor the other, and wish it would make up its mind. If it is fine, we say the country is being ruined for want of rain; if it does rain, we pray for fine weather. If December passes without snow, we indignantly demand to know what has become of our good old-fashioned winters, and talk as if we had been cheated out of something we had bought and paid for; and when it does snow, our language is a disgrace to a Christian nation. We shall never be content until each man makes his own weather, and keeps it to himself.

Yet I think it is only to us in cities that all weather is so unwelcome. Nature is sweet in all her moods. What can be more beautiful than the snow, falling big with mystery in silent softness, decking the fields and trees with white as if for fairy wedding! And how dainty is spring-Nature at sweet eighteen! When the little, hopeful leaves peep out so fresh and green, like young lives pushing shyly out into the bustling world! And summer, with its deep, dark green, and drowsy hum - when the raindrops whisper solemn secrets to the listening leaves, and the twilight lingers in the lanes! And autumn! How sadly fair, with its golden glow, and the dying grandeur of its tinted woods - its blood-red sunsets, and its ghostly evening mists, with its busy murmur of reapers, and its laden orchards, and the calling of the gleaners, and the festivals of praise!

## 2) New Deal - TVA

## 3) G.K. Chesterton

1) From "Life in Britain" by J.D. Scott

Here it is necessary to make the second of many references in this book to the geography of Britain, and since we are concerned at this point with social life this reference is to what might be called social geography. And the great point here is that "the South of England" is not only a geographical entity, but a cultural and social one as well. Thus the whole of the moneyed class in Britain belongs in this sense to the South of England. Accent is an important index of this domination of British culture by the South. The fashionable public schools are in the South of England, and the accent with which English is spoken at these schools has for a hundred years at least been the standard speech of the world of money and fashion. The enormous differences of local accent in Britain do not operate above a certain social level. The accents of London, Merseyside and Scotland are so different that a stranger might have some slight difficulty in understanding them, but a London stockbroker, a Merseyside shipowner and the Scots laird will all speak with a fourth accent, which is not surprising, since it is quite possible that they were all at school together, at Eton perhaps, or Rugby or Charterhouse, and all at Oxford afterwards. This is the accent known formally as "Standard Southern English", and colloquially as the Oxford accent. It is, as I have suggested, symptomatic: "It seems probable", an observer has written, "that for the British Isles the character and attitude of the top five percent (measured in years of education and/or income) have been profoundly modified by the dominant culture of Southern England." In much of what I write about "Britain" I have primarily in mind this dominant culture.

2) Sightseeing in London.

The Port of London, the Tower

3) O. Wilde



## 1) Herbert G. Wells: "The Character of the English"

It is never possible to understand the character of a foreign nation completely, even apart from individual variations, but some hints can be given. The firmness of character usually associated with the Englishman is due partly to the fact that Great Britain has never been conquered, i.e. overrun by a foreign invader, since the time of William the Conqueror, partly to the fact that its insular position has kept it aloof from the whirlpool of European politics to a large extent, and at the same time protected the individual from the impact of foreign ideas. The commercial <sup>supre</sup>supremacy which England possessed in the nineteenth century further preserved the Englishman from the necessity of learning foreign languages. And though a knowledge of foreign civilisations enriches the mind, it tends to upset the mental equilibrium, and to make people unsure of themselves. From this danger the Englishman has till now been protected.

Within Great Britain this firmness of character has been fostered by the habit of the middle and upper classes of sending their boys to the so-called public schools, which are large educational establishments not belonging to the state, though their name might suggest this, to which boys are sent at considerable expense, and at which they all live together. At these schools a certain manliness is learnt, but at the same time the fact that so many boys are herded together tends to promote an unthinking uniformity of views, a mass acceptance of certain rules of life of a rather boyish type. The Englishman has little of the complexity of the German, but what he loses in this way he gains in concentration. The future will show whether the advantages of this will counter-balance the loss of intellectual enterprise involved in it.

## 2) Education and schools in England

## 3) G.B. Shaw

①) From "The Summing Up" by Somerset Maugham

The value of the culture is its effect on character. It avails nothing unless it ennobles and strengthens that. Its use is for life. Its aim is not beauty but goodness. Too often, as we know, it gives rise to self-complacency. Who has not seen the scholar's thin-lipped smile when he corrects a misquotation and the connoisseur's pained look when someone praises a picture he does not care for? There is no more merit in having read a thousand books than in having ploughed a thousand fields. There is nor more merit in being able to attach a correct description to a picture than in being able to find out what is wrong with a stalled motorcar. In each case it is special knowledge. The stockbroker has his knowledge too and so has the artisan. It is a silly prejudice of the intellectual that his is the only one that counts. The True, the Good and the Beautiful are not the perquisites of those who have been to expensive schools, borrowed in libraries and frequented museums. The artist has no excuse when he uses others with condescension. He is a fool if he thinks his knowledge is more important than theirs and an oaf if he cannot comfortably meet them on an equal footing.

②) The Elizabethan Age

3) Arthur Miller