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Workshop on War Poetry

For one year already war is anew a word of explosive topicality in Europe. To anticipate whether this will trigger any considerable lyrical production or poets will "keep [their] mouths shut" (W. B. Yeats) one must look back into the past.

The corpus of world's war poetry since the early modern period is as comprehensive as it is diverse. Although there are numerous studies and contributions on certain sub-corpora (e.g., poetry of the German wars of liberation, American poetry on Civil War, poetry related to World War I) and authors, the rather vague syntagm *war poetry* itself has hardly received any great attention.

If one understands war as a phenomenon that is necessarily "discussed and conveyed discursively" (B. Hüppauf), then it makes sense to summarize under the term 'war poetry' those poems which imagine, glorify, reflect on, criticize, or simply remember war and its traumas. Ultimately, it is precisely the discursivity of war as an object of consciousness which made it susceptible to adopt poetical features, as we discover since at least US Intelligence Colonel Steve Rotkoff's traditional Japanese 17 syllabic haikus about strategic considerations in the Iraq war (*cf.* H. Oosterling). Already Sun Tzu knew that war is a discursive art, and as Faith Barett puts it, "poetry didn't just respond to events" during the Civil War, "it shaped them".

The workshop aims at exploring different dimensions of this lyrical genre. Contributions are welcome which focus on individual (English, German, French, Italian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Ukrainian etc.) war poems or the work of individual poets or the lyrical war discourse accompanying a specific war. Equally of great interest are poetological contexts, discursive interferences and lyricological dimensions (relationship between author and speaker, between historical reality and poem; importance of paratexts etc.). Also, forms, functions and traditions of war poetry could be considered as well as the question of what different perspectives on war are conceivable in war poetry.

The publication of the contributions in an edited volume to appear at Iudicium Publishing House (Munich) is planned for 2024. Irrespective of the topic, only papers in German or English are admitted.

Suggested Bibliography:

Barett, Faith: To Fight Aloud Is Very Brave: American Poetry and the Civil War. University of Massachusetts Press 2012.

Graham, Ruth: A "Poetry-Fueled War" (Interview with Faith Barett). www.poetryfoundation.org/articles/69877/a-poetry-fueled-war. Originally Published: November 13th, 2012.

Junk, Claudia/ Schneider, Thomas F. (Hg.): Dichtung und Wahrheit. Literarische Kriegsverarbeitung vom 17. bis zum 20. Jahrhundert. Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht 2015.

Hüppauf, Bernd: Kriegsliteratur; in: Enzyklopädie Erster Weltkrieg; Brill 2014.

Oosterling, Henk: Living – in between – Cultures. Downscaling Intercultural Aesthetics to Daily Life. In: Anton Van den Bremsbussche, Heinz Kimmerle, Nicole Note (Eds.): Intercultural Aesthetics. A Worldview Perspective. Springer 2009, 19-42.