

***Schnee, und das Sichtbare, das uns versucht.***  
**Überlegungen zu Joachim Wittstock's Lyrik an einigen Beispielen**  
**Carmen Elisabeth Puchianu**  
**(Braşov/Kronstadt)**

**Abstract:** The present approach deals with a less commented on aspect of the oeuvre of Joachim Wittstock, primarily known and appreciated for his narrative writings. However Wittstock started his career by writing and publishing poetry of a particular kind, closely related to prose. Our approach aims firstly at delineating the difference between traditionally acknowledged poetry and Wittstock's own concept of poetry. Secondly it deals with the literary background of the 70ies and 80ies, in order to position Wittstock's poetry into the respective literary and historical context of the time. Thirdly it focuses on the analysis of some texts we consider representative in order to point out the characteristics of his so-called epic poems ("Erzählgedichte"), published at the beginning of the 70ies in the literary magazine *Neue Literatur*. Finally we deal with four sonnets published in the volume *Morgenzug* (1988). Our approach ultimately underlines the qualities of Wittstock's poems, based on similar structures and formal elements as later on his narratives (longer and shorter stories, novels respectively).

**Key words:** Joachim Wittstock, poetry, epic poem, sonnets, text analysis

**Fiktion und Fiktionalisierung in der Prosa von Joachim Wittstock**  
**Horst Schuller (Hermannstadt/Heidelberg)**

**Abstract:** The present study refers to a working method of the writer Joachim Wittstock from Sibiu, namely to the use of the factual (published or unpublished works, quotations, press releases, etc.) for creating literary works, i.e. fiction. Horst Schuller uses examples from the novels *Ascheregen* (1985) and *Bestätigt und besiegelt* (2003) as well as from the volume of stories *Keulemann und schlafende Muse* (2005). Beyond the factual-fictional structure of the texts the author stresses elements of interculturalism, intertextuality and of what is understood as "high style" and the esthetic character of Joachim Wittstock's works.

**Key words:** Joachim Wittstock, multi-perspective narration, intertextuality, signs of fictionalization, the autobiographical versus confessions

**Hybridität als Strukturprinzip in der beschreibenden und betrachtenden Prosa von Joachim Wittstock**  
**Maria Sass (Sibiu/Hermannstadt)**

**Abstract:** In all of Joachim Wittstock's works, in his novels as well as in his shorter prose writings, there is a tendency towards merging the factual with the fictional. This study deals with literary travel descriptions, the impulse to my considerations being given by a text written by J. Wittstock entitled *Auf Reisen* which contains some of the author's ideas with

regard to travel as a literary theme. The present approach deals analytically with the following texts: *Christian Schesäus Transsilvanus, Die dalmatinische Friedenskönigin, Toskanische Türme*, presenting imaginary travels in time and to particular places on the one hand and creating fictional works starting from authentic travels on the other hand. The travel descriptions of J. Wittstock merge real objectivity with aesthetic subjectivity in their structure. Of their structural elements the following are mentioned: multidimensionality of narrative structures; predominance not of temporal successions, but of leit motifs which structure the story; temporally delimited facts are combined in such a way that the space is being simultaneously presented on several time planes. Well, I think that one can state that in J. Wittstock's works the travel is a form of existence and that his travel descriptions must be regarded as examples of postmodern prose.

**Key words:** reality and fiction, literary travel descriptions, elusive writing, travel, hybrid character

### **Siebenbürger Erinnerungsorte. Zur Erschreibung des Vergangenen bei Eginald Schlattner und Joachim Wittstock Susanna Lulé (Berlin)**

**Abstract:** The present article focuses on the problem of remembering and on some places of remembrance of the Transylvanian landscape as well as on the way these aspects are presented in the works of two German writers from Romania, Eginald Schlattner and Joachim Wittstock. Although the theme and the places are identical or nearly identical, the approach of the two writers is different. Whereas in Eginald Schlattner's work there can be perceived an endeavor to create a "closed" form, an "open" form predominates in Joachim Wittstock's work, namely the merging of reflection with a quasi-documentary style.

**Key words:** retrospective view, Eginald Schlattner, Joachim Wittstock, first-person narrative, semi-documentary narrative

### **Erzählung *In der Nachbarschaft* von Joachim Wittstock Friederike Mönninghoff (Bremen)**

**Abstract:** Memory has established itself as an important paradigm in many different sciences since the 1980s, as also in literature. Memories form and stabilize identity and are therefore indispensable for individuals and communities. Literature, as a memory medium, has an important role in the transition from individual recollections to collective memory. It is a storage medium. Narrations make others' experiences understandable; they fix memories and so make the transition into cultural memory possible. The narration „In der Nachbarschaft“ (In the neighbourhood) by Joachim Wittstock serves as a good example of this. Written in the style of a diary, it allows the reader to experience the hours and days of the upheaval in 1989. Collective experiences are recorded, such as the demonstrations, as well as the very personal impressions of Joachim Wittstock. Through the narration the recipient can comprehend both. The memories exist beyond their carrier.

**Key words:** Memory, Collective Memory, Literature as a medium of Memory, Revolution 1989, Narration

## **Salzburg – Ein Topos und seine Symbolik in *Ascheregen* von Joachim Wittstock Rodica Ofelia Miclea (Sibiu/Hermannstadt)**

**Abstract:** In his 1985 published volume “Rain of ashes” the writer Joachim Wittstock presents on parallel levels the tragic destinies of young men, belonging to different ethnic groups from Romania, during the Second World War. The main theme of the collection of stories is the question of guilt and redemption, a question that is being asked obsessively by all protagonists in the last chapter. The self analysis and confession of the heroes take place in Salzburg, a bathing resort with salt lakes close to Sibiu. The essay focuses on the symbolic value and dimension of the place and its surroundings, which become by means of poetic transposition the gate to the underworld/otherworld, where the souls of the dead soldiers come together, trying to find an explanation and a sense for the terrible suffering and the mutilation of lives caused by the war.

**Key words:** The Second World War, war generation, guilt and atonement, sense and nonsense of war, Salzburg – gateway to the underworld, reformation and redemption

## **Von Kreis zu Kreis**

### **Horst Schuller (Hermannstadt/Hermannstadt)**

The present article is a review of Joachim Wittstock’s last novel: *Die uns angebotene Welt. Jahre in Klausenburg* [The World offered to us. The Years in Cluj] printed by the ADZ Publishing House of Bucharest in the year 2007.

## **Fakten und ihre Wiedergabe. Sprachliche und interpretatorische Impressionen zu historisch-biographischen Abhandlungen Joachim Wittstocks Dana Janetta Dogaru (Sibiu/Hermannstadt)**

**Abstract:** Joachim Wittstock presents three outstanding personalities from the Transylvanian Saxon and Romanian past – the theologian and reformer Johannes Honterus, the Saxon count and Royal Judge Johann Zabanius Sachs von Harteneck, and the Walachian prince Constantin Brâncoveanu – from very new, innovative and surprising points of view by combining fact and fiction in a subtle way. A special feature of Joachim Wittstock’s approach is the matching of form and content, naturally with varying emphasis on language construction or topic composition in the three pieces of prose.

In terms of the content, the author combines a circular perspective with a parallel one, thus creating a distinct up-and-down pattern.

Linguistically, Joachim Wittstock uses cultivated everyday speech laced with telling word play, proverbs and idioms, foreign and archaic words, to evoke the historic atmosphere of the past and making subtle political connotations. The unpretentious but deliberate syntax, with its most noticeable structural parallelism, sustains the author’s intentions.

Joachim Wittstock encourages thought, not only about the contents, but especially about how we can improve things nowadays, about the responsibility that we have for our actions.

**Key words:** Factuality and fictionalisation, historicity and contemporary history, matching form and content, Johannes Honterus, Sachs von Harteneck, Prince Constantin Brâncoveanu

## **Bibliographie Joachim Wittstock 1999 - 2009 – Auswahl**

The bibliography of the present volume has been composed by the writer, essayist, literary historian and translator Joachim Wittstock.