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The sonnet in World War II : Why did - especially German - poets often choose this extraordinary lyric form?

By Sabine Buchholz

GRIN Publishing Feb 2008, 2008. Taschenbuch. Condition: Neu. Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2006 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1,0, University of Siegen (FB 3: Literatur-, Sprach- und Medienwissenschaften), course: Sonette / Sonnets, 21 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: In times of emigration, the strict lyrical form of the sonnet had a special position and meaning, above all for the emotionally agitated poets themselves, who identified a lot with their emotive texts. Especially among German authors of the inner emigration, the sonnet was considered the 'Modeform des Widerstandes', as it was the dominating genre - and this is for several reasons, which are going to be examined in the course of this essay. First of all, one highly interesting fact has to be mentioned: The sonnet could and can only be found conspicuously seldom in national socialist lyric anthologies because, having its roots in a roman tradition, the form was considered to be 'artfremd' and 'undeutsch' - and, hence, it was not appropriate to the taste of the German national socialist 'Reichsschrifttumskammer'. The common opinion of the time was that the sonnet was too 'bright' for the German nature, so...



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