This collection of essays by international specialists in the literature of Berlin provides a lively and stimulating account of writing in and about the city in the modern period. The first eight chapters chart key chronological developments from 1750 to the present day, while subsequent chapters focus on Berlin drama and poetry in the twentieth century and explore a set of key identity questions: ethnicity/migration, gender (writing by women) and sexuality (queer writing). Each chapter provides an informative overview, along with closer readings of exemplary texts. The volume is designed to be accessible for readers seeking an introduction to the literature of Berlin, while also providing new perspectives for those already familiar with the topic. With a particular focus on the turbulent twentieth century, the account of Berlin’s literary production is set against broader cultural and political developments in one of the most fascinating global cities.

Andrew J. Webber is Professor of Modern German and Comparative Culture at the University of Cambridge and has published widely on German and comparative textual and visual culture. His books include Berlin in the Twentieth Century: A Cultural Topography (Cambridge University Press, 2008). He has held visiting positions at a number of international institutions, most recently the Erich Auerbach Visiting Chair in Global Literary Studies at the University of Tübingen.
CONTENTS

List of Figures  page vii
Notes on Contributors  viii
Editorial Note  xi
Chronology  xii

Introduction  1

ANDREW J. WEBBER

1 Literature and the Enlightenment  13
MATT ERLIN

2 Romantic Sociability, Aesthetics and Politics  33
JÜRGEN BARKHOFF

3 Literary Realism and Naturalism  52
JOHN B. LYON

4 Short Prose around 1900  71
ANNE FUCHS

5 Modernist Writing and Visual Culture  89
CAROLIN DUTTLINGER

6 Writing under National Socialism  111
REINHARD ZACHAU

7 Writing in the Cold War  130
ALISON LEWIS
CONTENTS

8 Writing after the Wall 148
KATHARINA GERSTENBERGER

9 Women Writers and Gender 166
LYN MARVEN

10 Queer Writing 185
ANDREAS KRASS AND BENEDIKT WOLF

11 Berlin as a Migratory Setting 206
YASEMIN YILDIZ

12 Modern Drama and Theatre 227
DAVID BARNETT

13 Twentieth-Century Poetry 245
GERRIT-JAN BERENDSE

Guide to Further Reading 264
Index 271
FIGURES

0.1 Berliner Lebens- und Vergnügenungs-Plan (Berlin Map of Life and Entertainment), 1871  page 2

1.1 Detail from map of central Berlin, 1786  19

5.1 Shop-window mannequins, from Walter Ruttman, Berlin: Die Sinfonie der Großstadt (Berlin: The Symphony of a Great City), 1927  102

5.2 ‘Grünfeld’s Stores, Kurfürstendamm’, from Mario von Bucovich, Berlin (Berlin: Albertus, 1928)  103

5.3 ‘Pedestrians’, from Mario von Bucovich, Berlin (Berlin: Albertus, 1928)  104

6.1 Stolperstein, or stumbling-stone, commemorating the deportation of Gertrud Kolmar, in front of Münchener Straße 18a  121

10.1 Cover of Magnus Hirschfeld’s Berlins Drittes Geschlecht (Berlin’s Third Sex), 1904  191
CONTRIBUTORS

JÜRGEN BARKHOF F is Professor of German (1776) in the Department of Germanic Studies and is Head of School of the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies at Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin. His main research areas are literature and medicine, science and psychology around 1800, contemporary Swiss literature and questions of identity in the German-speaking world and Europe. His major publications include Magnetische Fiktionen: Literarisierung des Mesmerismus in der Romantik (1995).

DAVID BARNETT is Professor of Theatre at the University of York. He is the author of A History of the Berliner Ensemble (2015); Brecht in Practice: Theatre, Theory and Performance (2014); Rainer Werner Fassbinder and the German Theatre (2005); and a monograph on Heiner Müller (1998). He has written several articles and essays on German- and English-language political and postdramatic theatre.

GERRIT-JAN BERENDSE is Professor of German at Cardiff University. Alongside four edited volumes and numerous articles on poetry, he has published four monographs: Die ‘Sächsische Dichterschule’: Lyrik in der DDR der sechziger und siebziger Jahre (1990); Grenz-Fallstudien: Essays zum Topos Prenzlauer Berg in der DDR-Literatur (1999); Schreiben im Terrordrom: Gewaltcodierung, kulturelle Erinnerung und das Bedingungsverhältnis zwischen Literatur und RAF-Terrorismus (2005); and Vom Aushalten der Extreme: Die Lyrik Erich Frieds zwischen Terror, Liebe und Poesie (2011). He is currently writing a monograph on surrealism in the German Democratic Republic.

CAROLIN DUTTLINGER is Associate Professor in German at the University of Oxford, Fellow of Wadham College and Co-Director of the Oxford Kafka Research Centre. She has published widely on modern German literature, thought and visual culture. Her books include Kafka and Photography (2007); Walter Benjamin’s anthropologisches Denken, ed. with Ben Morgan and Anthony Phelan (2012); and The Cambridge Introduction to Franz Kafka (2014).

MATT ERLIN is Professor and Chair of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures at Washington University in St. Louis. His most recent publications include Necessary Luxuries: Books, Literature, and the Culture of Consumption in...
NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

Germany, 1770–1815 (2014) and (with Lynne Tatlock) Distant Readings: Topologies of German Culture in the Long Nineteenth Century (2014). He is currently a co-investigator on the six-year, multi-university partnership grant ‘Text Mining the Novel’, which aims to produce a large-scale, cross-cultural study of the novel using quantitative methods.

Anne Fuchs is Professor and Director of the UCD Humanities Institute. She has written widely on the literature and culture of Germany in the modern period. Her recent publications include After the Dresden Bombing: Pathways of Memory, 1945 to the Present (2012); Transformations of German Cultural Identity 1989–2009, special issue; New German Critique (co-edited with Kathleen James-Chakraborty, 2012); and Time in German Literature and Culture, 1900–2015: Between Acceleration and Slowness (co-edited with J. J. Long, 2016).

Katharina Gerstenberger is Professor of German and Chair of World Languages & Cultures at the University of Utah. She has published widely on topics concerning contemporary German literature. Her works include Truth to Tell: German Women’s Autobiography and Turn-of-the-Century Culture (1999); Writing the New Berlin: The German Capital in Post-Wall Literature (2008); and Catastrophe and Catharsis: Perspectives on German Culture and Beyond (co-edited with Tanja Nusser, 2015). She is a member of the Transatlantic Environmental Humanities Network.

Andreas Krass is Professor of German Literature at the Humboldt University Berlin, with a focus on pre-modern literature and culture, gender studies and queer studies. He is the Director of the Research Centre, Archive for Sexology, which investigates and reconstructs the cultural heritage of Magnus Hirschfeld’s Institute for Sexology in Berlin (1919–33). His book Meerjungfrauen (2010) was concerned with the literary history of mermaids, and his most recent volume, Ein Herz und eine Seele (2016), deals with the literary history of male friendship.

Alison Lewis is Professor of German in the School of Languages and Linguistics at the University of Melbourne, Australia. She has published widely on postwar German literature and German cultural history, particularly on gender and women’s writing, literature and politics; the GDR; German unification; the history of intellectuals; and, most recently, about secret police files and Stasi informers. Her most recent monograph is Eine schwierige Ehe: Liebe, Geschlecht und die Geschichte der Wiedervereinigung im Spiegel der Literatur (2009).

John B. Lyon is Professor of German at the University of Pittsburgh and has also taught at Duke University, Colby College and Carleton College. His research and teaching interests include German literature, philosophy and culture of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. He is the author of Crafting Flesh, Crafting the Self: Violence and Identity in Early 19th-Century German Literature (2006) and Out of Place: German Realism, Displacement, and Modernity (2013).
NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

LYN MARVEN is Senior Lecturer in German at the University of Liverpool. Her research focuses on contemporary literature, with a particular interest in writing by women and Berlin literature. She is the author of Body and Narrative in Contemporary Literatures in German (2005) and co-editor of Emerging German-Language Novelists of the Twenty-First Century (2011) and Herta Müller (2013), amongst other works. She is also the translator of the short story collection Berlin Tales (2009).

ANDREW J. WEBBER is Professor of Modern German and Comparative Culture at the University of Cambridge. He has published widely on modern German and comparative textual and visual culture. He is the author of several monographs, including Berlin in the Twentieth Century: A Cultural Topography (2008), and (co-)edited volumes, including Cities in Transition (2008, with Emma Wilson) and Memory Culture and the Contemporary City (2009, with Uta Staiger and Henriette Steiner). He is currently Principal Investigator for a major AHRC-funded project to provide digital critical editions of works by Arthur Schnitzler.

BENEDIKT WOLF wrote his PhD in German Literature at the Humboldt University Berlin, focusing on the figure of the penetrated man in twentieth-century fiction. He has published articles on gender, androgyny and identity, and on male and female images for the Thomas Mann-Handbuch (2015), and on Greek literary anti-gypsyism (2013).

YASEMIN YILDIZ is Associate Professor of German and Comparative Literature at the University of California, Los Angeles. She specializes in twentieth- and twenty-first-century German literature, literary multilingualism, minority discourses, transnational studies and gender studies. Her book Beyond the Mother Tongue: The Postmonolingual Condition won the MLA’s 2012 Scaglione Prize and received Honorable Mention for the 2014 Laura Shannon Prize in Contemporary European Studies. She is currently working on a co-authored study of immigrants and Holocaust remembrance in contemporary Germany together with Michael Rothberg.

REINHARD ZACHAU is Professor of German at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. He is the author of numerous articles and books on twentieth-century German culture and literature, among them volumes on Hans Fallada, Heinrich Böll and Stefan Heym (with Peter Hutchinson). Zachau also edited Jakob Littner’s Holocaust memoir, along with the volumes Berlin and Modernism, Berliner Spaziergänge and German Culture through Film. His latest publication is the co-authored textbook Cineplex.
EDITORIAL NOTE

All ellipses are editorial, unless otherwise indicated.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1237</td>
<td>First certified mention of the settlement of Cölln</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1244</td>
<td>First certified mention of the settlement of Berlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1280</td>
<td>Introduction of Berlin’s new town seal, with two bears</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1292</td>
<td>First mention of the Marienkirche (St Mary’s Church)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1307</td>
<td>Berlin and Cölln form a union, with a joint council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1356</td>
<td>The Mark Brandenburg becomes an electorate of the Holy Roman Empire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1360</td>
<td>Berlin-Cölln joins the Hanseatic League</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1415</td>
<td>The reign of the Hohenzollern dynasty in Brandenburg begins with Friedrich I as Elector and Margrave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1469</td>
<td>Completion of Berliner Totentanz (Berlin Dance of Death), Marienkirche</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1486</td>
<td>The city castle in Cölln becomes the residence of the Electors of Brandenburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1540</td>
<td>The Reformation takes hold in Brandenburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1647</td>
<td>Between the city castle and the Tiergarten hunting ground, an avenue is established, later to develop into Unter den Linden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1671</td>
<td>Foundation of the Berlin Jewish community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1672</td>
<td>Foundation of the Berlin Huguenot community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1685</td>
<td>Friedrich Wilhelm issues the Edict of Potsdam, one of a series of edicts of tolerance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1688</td>
<td>Population reaches 20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1701</td>
<td>Coronation of Friedrich I of Prussia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1709</td>
<td>Friedrich I unites five separate towns to form Berlin as the royal residence, with a population of 55,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1700–80</td>
<td>Construction of representative buildings around Unter den Linden, including the State Opera (1742) and the Old Library (1780)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1740</td>
<td>Accession to the throne of Friedrich II (Frederick the Great)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Chronology**

1743  Moses Mendelssohn arrives in Berlin from Dessau
1759–65  Publication by Mendelssohn, Lessing and Nicolai of the Enlightenment journal, *Briefe, die neueste Litteratur betreffend* (Letters Concerning the Most Recent Literature)
1761  Literary debut of Anna Louisa Karsch (‘Die Karschin’) in Berlin
1764  Opening of the first German-language theatre in Berlin
1767  G. E. Lessing, *Minna von Barnhelm*
1773–6  Friedrich Nicolai, *Das Leben und die Meinungen des Herrn Magister Sebaldis Nothanker* (The Life and Opinions of Master Sebaldis Nothanker)
1790  Rahel Levin (later Varnhagen) institutes her first salon in Berlin
1791  Dedication of the Brandenburg Gate
1793  Isaak Euchel, *Reb Henoch, oder Woß tut me damit* (Reb Henoch, or, What of It)
1798  First publication of the Romantic periodical *Athenaeum* in Berlin
1800  Population reaches 170,000
1805  Naming of the Alexanderplatz, for Tsar Alexander I
1806  Napoleon’s troops occupy Berlin
1810  Opening of the Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität (today, the Humboldt Universität), with Johann Gottlieb Fichte as Rector
1811–12  Publication of Kleist’s journal, *Berliner Abendblätter* (Berlin Evening Pages)
1817  E. T. A. Hoffmann, *Das öde Haus* (The Abandoned House)
1818  Foundation of the Order of the Serapion Brethren, around Hoffmann
1822  E. T. A. Hoffmann, *Des Vetters Eckfenster* (My Cousin’s Corner Window)
1824  With the expansion of industry, construction of the first *Mietskasernen* (‘rental barracks’ or tenements)
1830  Construction of the Altes Museum (Old Museum) by Karl Friedrich Schinkel
1847  Population reaches 400,000, with widespread poverty
1848  Revolution in Berlin, subsequently put down by Prussian troops
1871  Berlin becomes the capital and powerhouse of the new German Empire
CHRONOLOGY

1873  Economic crisis of Gründerkrach (Founders’ Crash)
1877  Population reaches 1 million
1883  Opening of the Deutsches Theater
1888  Theodor Fontane, Irrungen, Würungen (Delusions, Confusions)
1889  Foundation of the Freie Bühne (Free Stage) in Berlin
1890  Social Democrats win the absolute majority of votes for the Reichstag
1892  Opening of the Neues Theater on Schiffbauerdamm, later home to the Berliner Ensemble
1893  Premiere of Hauptmann’s Die Weber (The Weavers) at the Freie Bühne
1895  Theodor Fontane, Effi Briest
1897  Hirschfeld founds Wissenschaftlich-humanitäres Komitee (Scientific-Humanitarian Committee)
1903  Georg Simmel, ‘Die Großstädte und das Geistesleben’ (The Metropolis and Mental Life)
1925  Population reaches 4 million
1905–12 Robert Walser lives, writes and publishes in Berlin
1911  Gerhart Hauptmann, Die Ratten (The Rats)
1912  With an expansion of the city limits, the population of Greater Berlin reaches 2 million, with many living in Mietskasernen. Gottfried Benn, Morgue collection
1914  Opening of the Volksbühne Theatre
1914–18 Increasing hardship during the war years, leading to mass strikes
1917  Dada arrives in Berlin
1918  November Revolution in Berlin, abdication of the Kaiser, and proclamation of the Free Socialist Republic by Karl Liebknecht from the Berlin Castle
1919  Putting down of Spartakus uprising; murder of Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg. Kurt Pinthus’s Expressionist poetry anthology, Menschheitsdämmerung (Twilight of Humanity)
1920  Right-wing Kapp putsch, subsequently collapsing after general strike. Further expansion, with population rising to 3.8 million
1922  Assassination of Foreign Minister Walter Rathenau
1923  Inflation reaches its peak
1927  Bertolt Brecht, *Hauspostille* (Domestic Breviary) collection. Piscator’s Berlin production of Toller’s *Hoppa, wir leben!* (Hopplla, We’re Alive!)

1928  Premiere of *Die Dreigroschenoper* (The Threepenny Opera) by Brecht and Weill. Mario von Bukovich’s photobook, *Berlin*

1929  World economic crisis, high unemployment, violent demonstrations and street battles between left and right. Alfred Döblin, *Berlin Alexanderplatz*

1931  Erich Kästner, *Fabian*


1933  National Socialists take control of government; book burning in front of the Old Library; sacking of Hirschfeld’s Institute for Sexual Research. Walter Benjamin leaves Berlin

1936  Staging of the Berlin Olympics. Jan Petersen, *Unsere Straße* (Our Street)

1937  Celebration of 700th anniversary of the city

1938  Reichskristallnacht, with burning of synagogues, terrorization of Jews and plundering of shops. Deportation of Gertrud Kolmar

1939  Second World War declared from Berlin. Christopher Isherwood, *Goodbye to Berlin*. Klaus Mann, *Der Vulkan* (The Volcano), published in Dutch exile

1942  Wannsee Conference, planning the ‘final solution’

1943  Blanket bombing by Allied forces begins

1945  Battle of Berlin as Red Army attacks; surrender to the Allies

1946  Berlin, as ‘city of rubble’, split into occupied zones; onset of Cold War tensions

1947  Hans Fallada, *Jeder stirbt für sich allein* (Every Man Dies Alone, or Alone in Berlin)

1948  Blockade of Western sectors and airlift; formal division of city; foundation of Free University in West Berlin

1949  East Berlin becomes capital of new German Democratic Republic. Foundation of Berliner Ensemble, under Brecht

1953  Bloody putting down by Soviet troops of strike by East Berlin workers. Brecht finishes work on his adaptation of *Coriolanus*

1954  Berliner Ensemble takes up residence in Theater am Schiffbauerdamm

1957  International Building Exposition in West Berlin
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>Following mass departures of GDR citizens from East Berlin, the Berlin Wall is erected. Uwe Johnson, <em>Das dritte Buch über Achim</em> (The Third Book about Achim)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>Development of Alexanderplatz and neighbouring Marx-Engels-Platz as representative centre of East Berlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>First publication of Volker Braun’s poem ‘Die Mauer’ (The Wall)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>Student protests against visit of Shah of Persia; development of extra-parliamentary opposition (APO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>Aras Ören, <em>Was will Niyazi in der Naunynstraße</em> (What Does Niyazi Want in Naunyn Street)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>Heiner Müller, <em>Germania Tod in Berlin</em> (Germania Death in Berlin)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>Opening of Scharoun’s new State Library in West Berlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Peter Schneider, <em>Der Mauerspringer</em> (The Wall Jumper)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Separate celebrations of 750th anniversary of the city in East and West Berlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Following unrest and demonstrations, fall of the Berlin Wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Ian McEwan, <em>The Innocent</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Decision to move the capital of the Federal Republic from Bonn to Berlin. Martin Walser, <em>Die Verteidigung der Kindheit</em> (The Defence of Childhood)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>First publication of Müller’s poem, ‘Mommsens Block’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Wrapping of Reichstag by Christo and Jeanne Claude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Director René Pollesch’s first season at the Prater stage of the Volksbühne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Unveiling of restored Brandenburg Gate. Christa Wolf, <em>Leibhaftig</em> (In the Flesh)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Completion of Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Berlin hosts final of World Cup; sculpture of stack of books by German authors, representing <em>Modern Book Printing,</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Director Shermin Langhoff moves from HAU to newly opened Ballhaus Naunynstraße</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Hans-Ulrich Treichel, <em>Grunewaldsee</em> (Grunewald Lake)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Annett Gröschner, <em>Walpurgistag</em> (Walpurgis Day). David Bowie releases 'Where Are We Now?'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Langhoff moves to Maxim Gorki Theater</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>