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A CRITICAL STUDY OF HIS PROSE



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M. R. MINDEN

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PREFACE

This study is substantially the same as a PhD thesis submitted to the University of Cambridge in 1977. A new introduction has been added and some cuts and minor alterations have been made to the body of the text. The study falls into two parts which are different in nature, but which are designed to complement each other. The first aims at a broad view of Arno Schmidt's prose idiom, while the second offers a close analysis of one novel, Kaff auch Mare Crisium, in an attempt to begin to do justice to the sheer weight of detailed construction and organization which was an indispensable component of Schmidt's writing.

I should like to thank all those students and devotees of Schmidt, in England and Germany, who kindly answered my letters, consented to discuss my work and gave me encouragement in the course of my work. Teachers, colleagues and friends in Cambridge, Stuttgart and Reading gave me the benefit of specialized knowledge in my efforts to identify some of the many obscure allusions and recondite references in Schmidt's writing, especially in the case of Kaff auch Mare Crisium, and I owe them gratitude for their patience and good-natured help. I am also grateful to the late Arno Schmidt himself, who kindly sent me a complimentary copy of Abend mit Goldrand, thus enabling me to read it in comfort, soon after its publication.

Special thanks are due to my supervisor, Professor John Reddick, who gave me indispensable help and guidance at all stages and on all levels of my work on my dissertation. I am also greatly indebted to my PhD examiners, Dr Peter Hutchinson and Professor Siegbert Prawer, who have been extremely generous in their advice and support since the completion of my thesis, and some of whose suggestions of detail I have since incorporated into the text. Professor Martin Swales was kind enough to offer careful and



PREFACE

constructive criticism of my original draft, which I have done my best to take account of in my rewriting.

Clare McCormack helped me practically and spiritually in the process of revision, and to her too special thanks are due.

Jesus College, Cambridge August 1980

M.M.

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ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations for Schmidt's works referred to in the text have been used. The references in all cases are to the original editions, details of which are given in the bibliography.

> LV Leviathan BsH Brand's Haide

BsH Brand's Haide Faun Aus dem Leben eines Fauns

Herz Das steinerne Herz GR Die Gelehrtenrepublik

Fouqué Fouqué und einige seiner Zeitgenossen

DNS Dya Na Sore R&P Rosen & Poree

Kaff Kaff auch Mare Crisium

Bel Belphegor

Sitara Sitara und der Weg dorthin

KiH Kühe in Halbtrauer RvG Die Ritter vom Geist TbZ Trommler beim Zaren

Triton Der Triton mit dem Sonnenschirm

ZT Zettel's Traum

SdA Die Schule der Atheisten AmG Abend mit Goldrand

