A Concise Survey of German Literature

By the same author

The Oxford Companion to German Literature
(with Mary Garland) (Clarendon Press)

Schiller the Dramatic Writer (Clarendon Press)

Lessing: The Founder of Modern German Literature
(Macmillan)

Schiller (Harrap)

Storm and Stress (Harrap)

A Concise Survey
of
German Literature

H. B. GARLAND

Emeritus Professor of German
University of Exeter

M

© H. B. Garland 1971, 1976

Softcover reprint of the hardcover 2nd edition 1976

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be
reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means,
without permission.

First edition 1971

Second edition 1976

Published by

THE MACMILLAN PRESS LTD

London and Basingstoke

Associated companies in New York

Dublin Melbourne Johannesburg and Madras

ISBN 978-0-333-21363-6

ISBN 978-1-349-15743-3 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-15743-3

*This book is sold subject
to the standard conditions
of the Net Book Agreement*

Contents

	<i>Preface to the First Edition</i>	7
	<i>Preface to the Second Edition</i>	8
	<i>Map of Germany</i>	10
1	The Earliest German Literature: 700–1000	11
2	The Middle Ages	17
3	The Sixteenth Century	39
4	The Seventeenth Century	48
5	Reason and Sentiment: 1700–1770	60
6	The Great Age: 1770–1800	70
7	The Romantic Age: 1800–1830	81
8	The Mid-Century: 1830–1880	89
9	The Literature of Our Age	102
	<i>Bibliographical Note</i>	130
	<i>Index</i>	133

Preface to the First Edition

Nowadays excellent composite works by groups of specialists cater for the needs of the advanced reader and for constant reference. Short works giving a quick preliminary orientation hardly exist. Yet a quick survey which can be read, say, in two evenings is something which both the general reader and the new student need as a starting-point. Some sixty years ago J. G. Robertson followed up his large and detailed *History of German Literature* with a highly readable account in the Home University Library, and a generation later G. Waterhouse did it again in the Benn's Sixpenny series. The need persists, as I know from long experience and the present book is intended to meet it once more. My aim is to give in readable form and modest dimensions a survey of German literature from the beginnings to the present day which will provide a kind of scale map of names, a quick means of orientation on the salient points in a large territory. It does not encroach on any of the larger treatises for more advanced readers. Indeed it may be regarded as an introduction to them, and in order that it may the better fulfil that purpose, it is provided with a brief appendix listing some easily accessible larger works which are equipped with good bibliographies. It is, however, complete in itself, and the casual inquirer will read it, I hope, with some profit even if he intends to go no further.

An account such as this is necessarily selective, and nowhere more so than when it reaches the German literature of our own age. At one time historians of literature not infrequently solved this problem by omitting contemporary writing altogether. Such a restriction is clearly no longer possible in our own exceptionally self-conscious age; on the other hand, on such a small scale as this book, anything ap-

proaching comprehensiveness in treating present-day writing is not feasible either, and so names must be omitted which some would wish to see included, and no two persons are likely to agree at all points on which authors should be in and which out.

In such a short survey it seems essential that the historical background should not be overlooked and accordingly reference is made from time to time to points of political, social and economic history in order to give coherence to a large canvas peopled by separate figures more remarkable for their individual than for their generic characteristics.

German literature has a wide geographical spread, and for this reason a map is included.

H.B.G.

Preface to the Second Edition

The success of the first edition has encouraged me in this second edition to expand the final chapter, and especially the last section 'The Second World War and After', providing more information and bringing it right up to date.

H.B.G.

June 1976