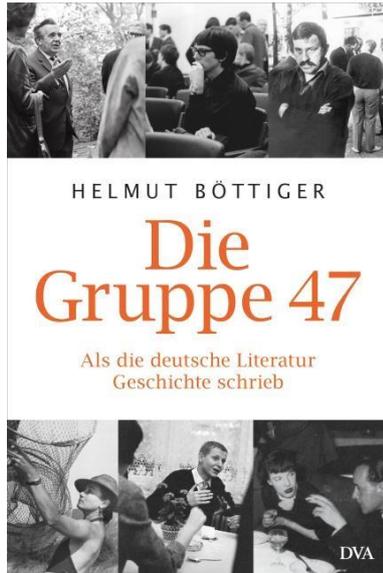


The book about the birth of the modern literary scene in Germany



Dr. Helmut Böttiger

Group 47

[Die Gruppe 47]

A history of literature in
Federal Germany

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Helmut Böttiger, born in 1956, was in charge of the literature section of the daily *Frankfurter Rundschau* and other journals. Since 2002 he has been living in Berlin as a freelance writer and critic. He was awarded the 1996 Ernst Robert Curtius Promotion Prize for Essay Writing, the 2012 Alfred Kerr Prize for Literary Criticism and the Prize of the Leipzig Book Fair 2013.

Group 47 is a household name when it comes to looking at the literary scene in Germany, and we think we know all there is to know about it. A closer look, however, makes one thing clear: it wasn't like that at all. Paul Celan's success in Germany would never have been possible without Group 47; Günter Grass represented a minority position; and the critics taking part in the discussions were mainly acting associatively.

Helmut Böttiger is now publishing a first comprehensive overview of the history of this group, which invented the modern literary scene and left its mark on it right down to the present day. Referring to many hitherto unknown documents and conversations with witnesses from the time, the author has created a picture of the early history of the Federal Republic of Germany – of the difficulties of throwing off the mark left by National Socialism on literature through to a new and risky interplay between literature, the market and media society that is still an ongoing process even today.

Press

"The best contemporary journalistic presentation by far on Gruppe 47." *Joachim Kaiser*

"The literary critic Helmut Böttiger has written the first broadly scoped and very readable portrayal. This is a convincing book, with fair judgements, and neither awestruck

nor derisive." *Die Welt*