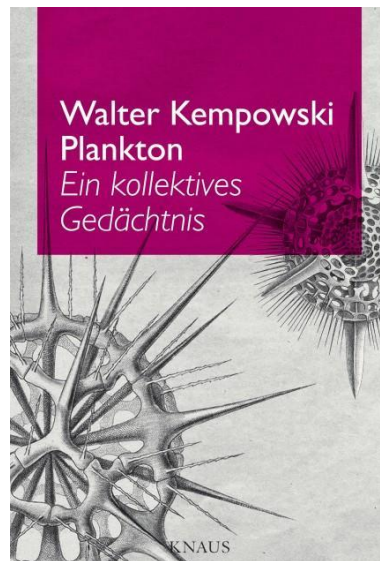


The most spectacular and visionary project from the great author's legacy



Walter Kempowski
Plankton
[Plankton]
A collective memory

Knaus
832 pages
30 b/w illustrations
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With 30 b/w illustrations

Walter Kempowski (1929-2007) was sentenced to 25 years in prison by a Soviet military tribunal, of which he served eight years in Bautzen. With his *German Chronicles*, which include such successful novels as *Tadellöser & Wolff* and *The Good Old Days*, he established himself as a bestselling author and a chronicler of the German middle class. His monumental text collage *The Echo Sounder* is a literary sensation. With numerous renowned prizes to his credit, he has become one of the most important writers in post-war Germany.

Collecting and preserving memories was a central motif in Walter Kempowski's work. For almost 50 years, he passionately indulged in an activity that he called "fishing for plankton". He asked people he met a wide variety of questions – about their schooldays, about meeting celebrities, about the first time they fell in love. Kempowski did this because he was convinced that the experiences of one person were typical of a whole generation.

Simone Neteler worked with Walter Kempowski for many years and has compiled these splinters of memory according to the instructions of the author, who died in 2007. The result is the "fountain of memory", "the mud from which *The Echo Sounder* and *The Chronicles* arise" (Walter Kempowski). Thus *Plankton* must be seen as the foundation of Kempowski's work.