



NEWSLETTER No. 90 Part Two

December 20th, 2007

Marlene Dietrich Collection Berlin is a division of Deutsche Kinemathek - Museum für Film und Fernsehen

If you want your fellow fans to receive this newsletter or if you just want to add information write to mccb@deutsche-kinemathek.de. If you want to support the work of the Deutsche Kinemathek of which Marlene Dietrich Collection Berlin is a division you can do so by joining the "Friends and Supporters of Filmmuseum Berlin". Just go to <http://www.fffb.de>
You'll find us on the web at www.marlenedietrich.org and www.marlene.com

New books

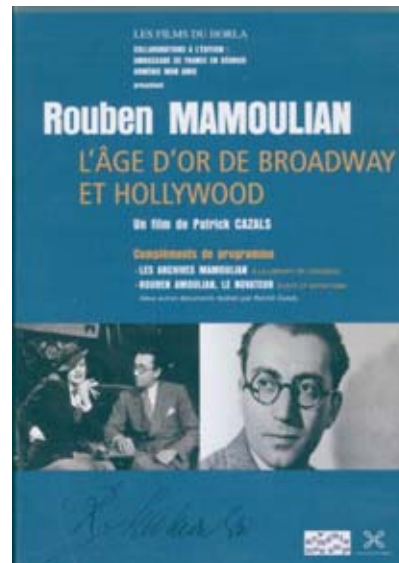
Just letting your eyes wander on the wonderful sight of thousands of books in a Paris bookshop you come across things which are new to you and finally you realize: No, this is not a brand-new book - in fact it is more than ten years ago that it was published. And all this time, exactly twelve long years, it has been waiting in this shop for you. This is the true character of books: they wait for you, they never get angry and they always love you.



Pierre Berthomieu: Rouben Mamoulian La galerie des doubles

Éditions du CÉFAL, Liège 1995, 158 pp.
One of the few books on the true master of cinema. Why do especially the French love "Song of Songs"? Is it because Marlene attended the premiere in Paris in 1933 or is it just because it is a great film? Nearly all the stories about Mamoulian, Sternberg and Dietrich are leading in the wrong direction.

Greta Garbo saw "Song of songs" and then decided that Mamoulian would be her next director. "Song of Songs" led to "Queen Christina" -- wouldn't we all agree that a career like that isn't so bad?



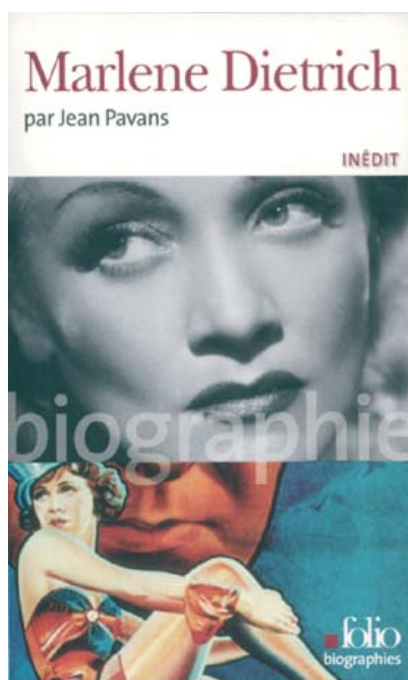
Rouben Mamoulian. L'âge d'Or de Broadway et Hollywood

Un film de Patrick Cazals; DVD, Les Films du Horla, Ambassade de France en Géorgie, Arménie Mon Amie 2007

There is a bit of spoken French in the DVD but the main language is English. Although Marlene again is on the cover there isn't much Marlene inside. Should we really regret that they did not ask MDCB for help? Yes and no: it would have been nice to see the naked statue of Marlene as it is preserved in the US, but we spare the information about the whereabouts of the statue for somebody more curious.

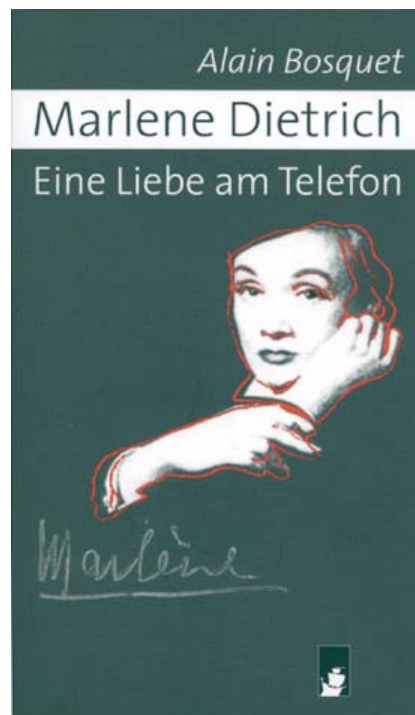
Biographies:

There are four new books on the life of Marlene Dietrich out in Europe. One of them was published years ago in France, so this is not new but a translation into German. For a collector it is nice that new biographies are published. In ten years you might present one of these to a fan as something he has never seen before. But it is really necessary? I mean, who was waiting for these books? Who would like to read the same story over and over again? Okay, that may not be fair. But looking through Jean Pavans' new French biography we find two pages with listings of death dates of Marlene's friends. These are not footnotes, this is regular text. Listings - does Pavans expect us to read this or is he just fulfilling his contract of so-and-so many pages? Or does he want us to check the dates? Strange, very strange.



Jean Pavans: Marlene Dietrich
Folio Biographies at Éditions Gallimard,
Paris 2007, 263 pp.

Alain Bosquet's book "Un amour par téléphone" finally was translated into German. Bosquet was the husband of Norma Bosquet – the secretary of Marlene. So he talked to Marlene on the phone and Marlene could talk for a long time. Are you interested in what Marlene was eating for dinner in her old days? Or are you interested in what Marlene would not eat and sent over to Norma's husband to enjoy or throw away? If so, this is great reading.



Alain Bosquet: Marlene Dietrich
Eine Liebe am Telefon
Bäßler Verlag, Berlin 2007, 104 pp.

Norma Bosquet also wrote a book which was due to be published this summer and is out just now. It is called "The last secrets". One of those "secrets" was the story that Marlene committed suicide after her last stroke. Norma told the story to everybody who did ask her about Marlene and finally the "Sunday Times" printed the story. Werner met Norma a few weeks after the newspaper came out. She was furious. She wrote a letter to the editors that she was misquoted. And she kept telling the story again.

We received the book just yesterday and we have the impression that a lawyer checked the manuscript page by page before it got into print. Some of the stories we heard are published in a "light" version. May we suggest a test for our readers: Imagine you have a grandmother who has a secretary. The grandmother is dying, you rush to her death bed to make her feel comfortable for the last time. Everybody with a sense for family would act like that. Years later the secretary would publish a book saying: The grandchild your grandma detested the most was you. Because you are a notorious liar. And your grandmother detested lies.

What would your reaction be like? Think carefully before you answer the question. And then rush to get a copy of the book – this really may become a collector's item.



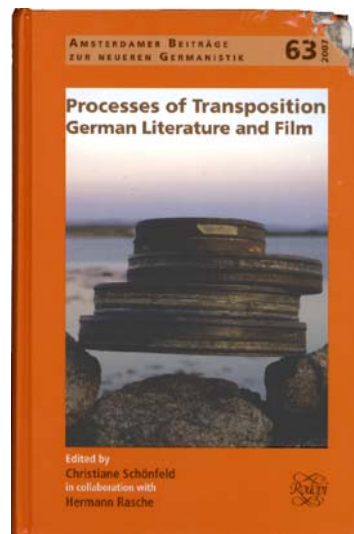
Norma Bosquet, Michel Rachline:
Marlene Dietrich. Les Dernier Secrets
 Nouveau Monde, Paris 2007, 121 pp.

Nicole Bröhan is a young journalist. We wish her a splendid career. She wrote a book which is good for all bookshops in Berlin who also sell teddybears, little pieces of the wall and postcards of the wall. It is not expensive, there is nothing really wrong in it, nothing new or exciting. Do you like the cover? If so this may be the reason you should have it.



Nicole Bröhan: Marlene Dietrich
 Series „Berliner Köpfe“, Jaron Verlag,
 Berlin 2007, paperback, 167 pp.

Sadly enough our dog (remember the photo of the Marlene Dietrich street which did not become MD-street) died in spring. We got a new one and he proofs to be really intelligent. Of all the books in Werner's personal library he chosed "Process of Transposition. German Literature and Film" to bite and chew. The book is a collection of articles - probably speeches at a conference - and there is one on "The Blue Angel". Main thesis is that the film could have been better if Sternberg would have followed the book more closely. Wholy Lucifer! Are we in the fifties again? But bravo Oskar - that's the dog's name - good choice.



Process of Transposition. German Literature and Film
 Edited by Christiane Schönfeld, Hermann Rasche; series „Amsterdamer Beiträge zur neueren Germanistik“ No. 63; Editions Rodopi, A,sterdam – New York 2007, 383 pp.



The Letters of Noël Coward
 Edited and with commentary by Barry Day
 Alfred A. Knopf, New York 2007, 780 pp.

We did not yet receive the promised specimen copy. Here's what Sauli Miettinen from Helsinki has to say about the book:

Of course, I noticed that you have co-operated with the editor Barry Day. And even with one inevitable mistake (page 326: "The only time Noël and Marlene ever appeared in a film together was ... Around the World in 80 Days" ... (the author forgets completely Paris When It Sizzles in which they didn't share a scene either). For me personally the most interesting thing was the letter regarding Mike Todd and two photos unknown to me before (especially the one with Marti Stevens). I'm so very pleased that this kind of books are being published - they give us a totally new perspective to look at events and relationships between people (this was said by Barry Day before me and it's true).

With kind regards from Helsinki, Sauli



Ich bin ein unheilbarer Europäer.

Briefe aus dem Exil

Hrsg. von Heike Klapdor im Auftrag der Deutschen Kinemathek – Museum für Film und Fernsehen

Aufbau Verlag, Berlin 2007, 510 pp.

In the early hours of November 12 1989 – the morning after the Berlin wall was opened – four people met to see how they could finance the inventory of the Paul Kohner Agency collection. One of these persons was Heike Klapdor-Kops who now edited this wonderful book. Paul Kohner was an Hollywood agent who did a lot of good things for German émigrés. Heike compiled, edited and annotated the letters émigrés wrote to Kohner. She did an excellent job and because she did so the book was declared “Best Book of the Month” by German booksellers. Will there ever come the day when books like this will be declared “Best Selling Book of the Month”?



Adriana Borra, Ruth Mader-Koltay:

German Through Film

Yale University Press 2007, 153 pp.

It is a good idea to learn German by going to German movies and study this book.

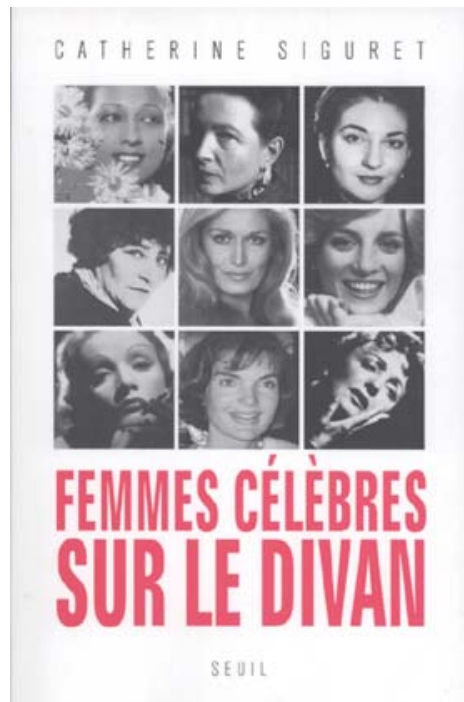
It would have been even a better idea to tell that the cover shows part of the inside of the Filmhaus at Potsdamer Platz. Photo is courtesy of Corbis – that seems to be the important information.



New translated Japanese edition of Heinrich Mann: Professor Unrat

Translated by Atsushi Imai, Publishers Shoraisha, Kyoto 2007, 316 pp.

This one makes a good impression on anyone who admires your personal library. We don't know anything about the quality of the translation. Only the Japanese can tell.



Catherine Siguret: Femmes Célèbres
sur le Divan

Éditions du Seuil, Paris 2007, 279 pp.

We saw this book around noon in a little Parisian bookshop. You start thinking: Should you buy the book right now and carry it the whole day? If it is in this little bookshop it may also be available in the big magazines like fnac or Virgin. Don't start thinking that way. Get the book right away. In those big magazines you may look for hours. Then if you try to find the little bookshop again you get lost in Paris and you get desperate. The bookshop is gone. It was right here yesterday. Really? Are you sure? The book is a collection of essays of French psychoanalysts. It is really hard to understand for somebody who does not speak the language fluently.

End of Newsletter 90 Part Two