Theodor W. Adorno, Siegfried Kracauer
Correspondence 1923-1966

Edited by Wolfgang Schopf

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Theodor W. Adorno was born on September 11, 1903 in Frankfurt am Main and died on August 6, 1969 from the consequences of a heart attack while on vacation in Visp/Valais. From 1921 to 1923 he studied Philosophy, Sociology and Musicology in Frankfurt and obtained his doctorate in 1924 with a thesis on »Transcendence of the Material and Noematic in Husserl's Phenomenology«. He became friends with Siegfried Kracauer in his school days and later with Max Horkheimer and Walter Benjamin during their years at university. Alongside them, Adorno is one of the most important representatives of

Sold to

English world rights (Polity), Spanish world rights (Cuarenta), France (Bord De L'Eau)

About

Among the great letter exchanges, the one between Theodor W. Adorno and Siegfried Kracauer is certainly the most intimate.

The resonance of a passionate friendship which connected both parties from the beginning runs through this correspondence which covers the period from 1923 until
the »Frankfurt School«, which emerged from the Institute for Social Research at the Goethe University Frankfurt. The collected works of Theodor W. Adorno are published by Suhrkamp Verlag and have been translated into more than 40 languages.

Siegfried Kracauer, born in Frankfurt am Main on February 8, 1889, was an architect, sociologist, cultural critic and film theorist. He is considered one of the most important feature writers of the Weimar Republic and was the leading feuilleton editor of the Frankfurter Zeitung from 1930 to 1933. With Die Angestellten (The Salaried Masses, 1930), Kracauer published the first empirical-sociological study in Germany. He is also considered one of the founders of the sociology of film. In 1933, Kracauer and his wife fled to Paris and then, after the start of the war, to New York in 1941, where he died from pneumonia on November 26, 1966. Apart from Die Angestellten, Kracauer’s most important works include Theory of Film (1960), the collection of essays From Caligari to Hitler (1947) and the novel Günstler (Ginster, 1928).

Kracauer’s death in 1966. Kracauer, the older of the two, remained the more vulnerable throughout his life, the younger of the two was more ruthless in the Storm and Stress of his letters. The extensive correspondence which includes 269 letters is a moving document bearing witness to the attempts of both parties to maintain an intellectual friendship throughout the troubles and fractures of the 20th century.