

Peter Handke, Siegfried Unseld

The Correspondence

Edited by Raimund Fellingner and Katharina Pektor



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Peter Handke, born in 1942 in Griffen (Austria), lives near Paris. His books are translated into more than 35 languages. In 2019, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.

»German literature is not conceivable without Peter Handke.« *DIE ZEIT*

For more information on the author and his works:
www.handkeonline.onb.ac.at



About

»I am happy to announce that after reading your manuscript closely, we have decided to publish your work at Suhrkamp Verlag.« This letter in August 1965 was the start of a correspondence consisting of nearly 600 letters in which Peter Handke finally congratulated the publisher on his 75th birthday.

In their letters that stretched a period of over 35 years, Peter Handke and Siegfried Unseld discussed what was paramount to them both: literature.

Guided by literature itself, this correspondence opens up entirely new perspectives on the conditions of writing and publishing books, and is marked by the intellectual biography of both correspondents, their unremitting work on new forms of expression and their concomitant material, geographical, political and personal circumstances. Conflicts between the two men were inevitable – as were their resolutions. For both Peter Handke and Siegfried Unseld, literature alone creates and created the opportunity of a free life in which phases of happiness can prevail.

Praise

»The work done by Katharina Pektor and Raimund Fellingner deserves and begets respect and recognition. This correspondence is a very instructive, well-rounded document and with the exemplary edition it is more than a mere reprint of the letters. It is a testimony to the times, an epochal drama, the genre painting of a company, the study of two great personalities and a literary study.« Lothar Struck, *Glanz & Elend*



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Siegfried Unseld was born in 1924. From 1959 until his death in 2002 he was the publisher of Suhrkamp Verlag.