

**The Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft
Rhein-Main e.V.**

invites you to a bilingual book launch:

Kleine Englische Literaturgeschichte (Metzler, 2020)

by

Prof. Dr. Christoph Heyl

on Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 18 hrs

Venue: virtual (via Zoom*)

***Please register till January 19 to dbg-rheinmain@t-online.de. By January 20 the registered participants will have received the login details.**

Synopsis:

Christoph Heyl's *Kleine Englische Literaturgeschichte* invites you to embark on a voyage of discovery. It is about the pleasure of reading extraordinary texts written under extraordinary conditions. From the seventeenth century onwards, authors in the British Isles were in a position to write about things that did not exist elsewhere (such as political upheavals, the Industrial Revolution, and the biggest city of the world had ever known). They were free to do so as there was no censorship.

The literature of the British Isles is full of surprises: An eccentric Englishman who took a walk to India in the early seventeenth century, a rebellious eighteenth-century kitchen-maid, an ex-slave living and writing in London as a free Briton, a refugee from Nazi Germany who came to be a prominent author of books for children. English literature is, by the way, also populated by weird and wonderful animals. You may at any time encounter a spider found in an Anglo-Saxon magic spell, an eroticised flea, flying cows in space, or perhaps a Tyger, a Tigger and a Snark.

Literary texts do not materialize out of thin air. They emerge from a cultural context, and therefore this book is not only about English literature but also about the world it comes from. This history of English literature provides eye-openers: How is English humour still influenced by the Norman invasion of 1066, why do we need to know about English law to understand the plots found in the novels of Jane Austen (and in *Downton Abbey*), why does Edinburgh have the only railway station in the world to be named after a novel, and how does this novel continue to influence our ideas of Scotland?

This book was written under the looming shadow of Brexit. It highlights cultural and literary connections with the Continent, showing how and why the literature of the British Isles has never been insular.

For further information, see <https://www.metzlerverlag.de/>

Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft Rhein Main e. V.

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Biographical Notes:

Christoph Heyl is Chair of British Literature and Culture at the University of Duisburg-Essen. Previous stages of his education and career include Goethe-Universität (Frankfurt), University College (London), the German Historical Institute (London), Humboldt-Universität (Berlin) and Otto-Friedrich-Universität (Bamberg). His research focuses on the interplay between literature and cultural history (including architecture, the visual arts and music), especially of the Early Modern period. He has worked on topics such as the rise of the private sphere in eighteenth-century London and related phenomena in literature and the visual arts, collections and collectors in 17th century England (and the literature they inspired), William Hogarth's paintings and engravings, crime and crime fiction, Scottish literature and identity, cultural encounters between Britain and India, etc.

For further information on the author, see <https://www.uni-due.de/anglistik/heyhl/>



One of the photographs reproduced in *Kleine Englische Literaturgeschichte*:
Sherlock Holmes in Baker Street Underground Station (C.H.).

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