

**Berlin as a memorial site in selected novels written after the fall of the Wall
(Uwe Timm, Georg Klein and Norman Ohler)**

Synopsis

In the 20th century German literature many texts were written in which Berlin is the main setting. The continued interest in this city in literary, historical and political works has inspired me to take a closer look at and analyze this phenomenon. Berlin novels of the time after the fall of the Wall create a wide field of discussion about memorial sites. Events included in literature (Wrapped Reichstag, renovation of buildings, placing commemorative plaques), leave their mark not only on the generation of that time: the events don't allow themselves to be forgotten because they were written down. These events are processed by writers and their environment. In this unique way history and individual experiences merge in Berlin. Berlin novels not only show the places that are closely tied to historical events but also places that show the dark side of the city – a city in which crime lurks in the shadows. In Berlin novels there is a place for the voices of the past: the voices of the exiled and murdered inhabitants of the Jewish district (Scheunenviertel) and the heroes of German history, who are buried in the Invalids' Cemetery (Invalidenfriedhof).

The novels seem to create a complete picture of Berlin, showing the places, people and atmosphere of the city. Thanks to the novels Berlin is a city in which history is always present. The united city of Berlin opened up to residents from outside the city who gave it new life by creating memorials and cultivating them (museums, exhibitions, installations, memorial stones). They became a magnet for tourists but more importantly a warning about the past. Currently thanks to many initiatives new memorial sites are created, very often without the knowledge or interest of the families of the murdered and defeated. Memorial sites in Berlin have a life of their own. They are like unhealed wounds that are attempted to be fixed by giving them a new life. The discourse about memorial sites, which started in the period after the fall of the Wall, continues and develops all the time, which is perfectly illustrated by contemporary Berlin novels.

The following works were included in my dissertation: Uwe Timm's "Johannisnacht" (2002) and "Halbschatten" (2008), Norman Ohler's "Mitte" (2002),

Georg Klein's "Barbar Rosa. Eine Detektivgeschichte" (2001), Helmut Kuhn's "Gehwegschäden" (2012). In the dissertation the following newer Berlin novels were used as a supplement to the topic: Dorota Danielewicz's "Berlin. Przewodnik po duszy miasta" (2013) and "Auf der Suche nach der Seele Berlins" (2014), Andreas Baum's "Wir waren die neue Zeit" (2016), Chloe Aridjis' "Buch der Wolken" (2017), Mirna Funk's "Zwischen Du und Ich" (2021), Irina Liebmann's "Die Große Hamburger Straße" (2020).