

CHAPTER 8

FROM RILKE TO WALDHEIM: MATERIALISING MEMORY

A TRANSLATOR STUDY OF CATHERINE HUTTER & ERIKA MITTERER

Dr. Petra Schön * 

ABSTRACT

This Translator Study (Chesterman, 2009, p. 12) builds on initial research for the Erika Mitterer Gesellschaft in 2021, investigating the life and works of the Austrian author, poet and translator Erika Mitterer (1906–2001). The focus of this follow-up study lies on Mitterer's US translator Catherine Hutter (1907–1997), translating Mitterer's WW II-novel *Alle unsere Spiele* as *All our games* in the 1980s. In addition to analysing translation- and translator-related (Chesterman, 2009, p. 13) dimensions and traumata, it provides insight into the long and stony path to publication. This interdisciplinary case-study exemplifies non-text-related obstacles that almost prevented the publication of *All our games*. It sheds light on micro-historical (Levi, 1991, pp. 93) developments, commercial transformation (Fernández-Moya, 2024, 1) and cultural interactions among author, translator, agent and publisher. The study presents the "people behind the text" and contextualises the impact of the "Waldheim affair" (Good and Wodak, 1999, p. 14) on the publication. Finally, this research showcases the complex, yet fragile position of female foreign authors to be translated into English – and their translators.

Keywords: *Translation studies, Erika Mitterer, Catherine Hutter, Austrian literature translation, World War II literature, Female translators*

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