

The background of the cover features several thick, expressive red brushstrokes. These strokes are primarily located in the upper half of the page, with some extending downwards. They vary in direction, with some being vertical and others more diagonal or curved, creating a dynamic and abstract visual field.

EMPIRICAL APPROACHES TO LITERATURE

Proceedings of the Fourth
Conference of the International
Society for the Empirical Study of
Literature, IGEL, Budapest 1994

Edited by
Gebhard Rusch

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Preface



This Volume contains the contributions to the 4th Conference of the International Society for the Empirical Study of Literature, IGEL, held at the Institute for Psychology of the Hungarian Academy of Science, Budapest, 24.–27. August 1994. The Conference was organized by László Halász, the former President of IGEL, and the Executive Committee for the 1992–1994-period.

The chapters of this volume correspond to the five sections of the conference: Empirical, Literary System, Canonization, Emotion, and Text. Except for the text-section the chairpersons added some introductory comments concerning general problems, thematic outlines, and proposals for further discussion. The former and the actual IGEL-Presidents contributed their addresses to this volume, looking back at the history and development of IGEL and outlining future perspectives. It will be up to all the IGEL-members to take care for this unique international and interdisciplinary forum.

A proceeding's volume should not only function as a document, but as a working device for IGEL-studies – at least within the next two years until the 5th IGEL-Conference. For this reason the volume had been completed with a detailed index. The items listed in the index were taken from the running text only. Because of some features of the software-index-function the index also lists some incidences of some items in footnotes and bibliographies.

The little hedgehog on the book cover and on the first page of each chapter has been created by Elrud Ibsch in 1989 as the IGEL-Logo for the Amsterdam IGEL-Conference („Igel“, the acronym of our society, is the German word for hedgehog). With the permission of Elrud Ibsch the hedgehog-logo reappears here to fully live its metaphorical role, and to remind us of the cleverness the hedgehogs demonstrated in their races with the hare.

Thanks to the fast and proper work of all the contributors this book could be produced in relatively short time; a presupposition for serving its functions. As usual, the editor takes – in the end – the whole responsibility for all remaining errors and mistakes that passed the editorial procedure, and for all delays that hindered an earlier appearance of this book. In the final end, however, this book will – hopefully – promote and stimulate empirical studies of literature and the media!

Gebhard Rusch

Siegen, March 1995