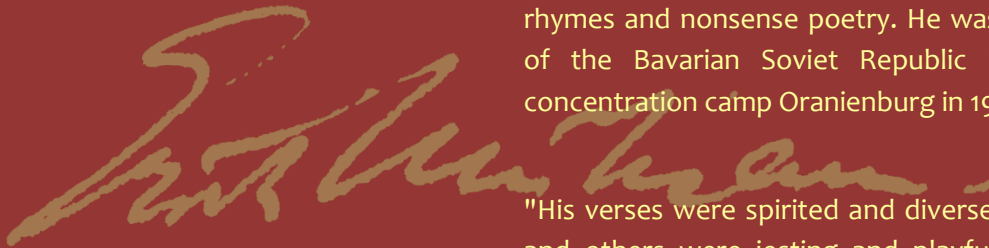


Erich Mühsam (1878 – 1934) was one of the first explicitly political authors of the German cabaret. Already in the twenties, his ballad of the "revolutionary" ("Der Revoluzzer") had become a classic of the genre. The self-professed anarchist performed his street ballads and revolutionary social poetry in Berlin's bohemian pubs during the Wilhelmine years and was house author of the *Simpl* from 1903 on. He wrote for various satirical journals and was also one of the sharpest critics of the growing cabaret industry, which he accused of emptiness and a lack of poetic sensibility. Nonetheless, in his own appearances, he preferred to perform doggerel rhymes and nonsense poetry. He was a member of the Central Committee of the Bavarian Soviet Republic in 1919 and was murdered in the concentration camp Oranienburg in 1934.



"His verses were spirited and diverse. Some sang of battle and revolution, and others were jesting and playful. He was an ironic bohemian and a relentless rebel. His heart drew him to those who were exploited." (Egon Erwin Kisch, 1934)

