

Walter Mehring (1896 - 1981) is the author who dominated the political and satirical cabaret during the first years of the Weimar Republic. Inspired by Dadaism, Mehring wrote songs, scenes, and short dramas for Berlin's cabarets *Megalomania* (Größenwahn), *Wild Stage* (Wilde Bühne), *Proscenium* (Die Rampe), *Carousel* (Karussell), *Everyman's Cabaret* (Kabarett für Alle), *Kaftan*, *Cabaret of the Comedians* (Kabarett der Komiker), *Catacombs* (Die Katakombe), and *Munich's Bonbonniere*. As the artistic director and house author of the very first political cabaret, *Schall und Rauch* (Schall und Rauch, which was initiated by Max Reinhardt), he set the tone. After his emigration in 1933, his texts were a staple of émigré cabarets around the world. In Erika Mann's *Pepper-Mill* (Pfeffermühle), he performed the mournful hymn of exile, the "Émigré Chorale" ("Emigrantenchoral") himself.

Walter

Mehring

"In his lyrics, Mehring introduced a completely new tone into literature. These verses are strangely unreal, made of glass, and sometimes a carefully planned twist on the paper strangles you, sometimes the rhythm tears. This poet can even influence the reader's heartbeat when he wants." (Kurt Tucholsky, 1929)

