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Austrians Telling Literary (Hi)Stories:
Historiographies Outside the Nationalist Paradigm

While German historiographers like Mommsen are given credit for the foundation of the modern science of historiography, Austrian traditions of historiography have become hegemonic in other disciplines, including art history and literary history -- the latter associated with names like Nadler, Nagl, Zeidler, and Castle.

The proposed presentation will take on the infamous case of the Nadler et al. literary history that is remembered today mainly in the context of a later edition's enthusiastic reception as the essential pattern for Nazi racist literary history-writing. It is indeed true that Nadler personally expressed more than casual sympathy with the Nazi cause, but his historiographic method existed long before the Nazi era.

I will trace Nadler's work in the context of Austrian historiographic practice, including its parallels with the kind of documentary history practiced in mainstream historiography and in art history (and as fictionalized in Heimito von Doderer's *Die Dämonen*, of note since Doderer was a trained historian, telling stories of historians). My goal is to argue what seems to be an *ethnic-nationalist* approach to history as more of a documentary approach, related closely not only to nineteenth-century historical and philological hermeneutics (especially as practiced by Boeckh or Droysen), but also to today's *Alltagsgeschichte*.