



Eva Schobel

## ALBERT DRACH: A RAGING SAGE

A biography

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**On the occasion of Albert Drach's 100th birthday – a vivid personal portrait of the great unorthodox thinker of Austrian literature.**

When the writer and lawyer Albert Drach (1902-1995) was awarded the Georg Büchner Prize of the German Academy for Language and Letters in 1988, there was great astonishment even in usually well-informed literary circles. Albert Drach – who? A man who had caused a sensation in the 60s and 70s with novels such as "Das große Protokoll gegen Zwetschkenbaum" [The Massive File on Zwetschkenbaum, trans. Harvey I. Dunkle] and "Untersuchung an Mädeln", who was mistakenly hailed as the new Herzmanovsky-Orlando and finally forgotten again. But the Drach renaissance initiated by the Büchner Prize brought the decisive turning point. A new generation of readers and critics discovered in Drach (now aged 86) – whom the Times Literary Supplement had counted in the same breath as Elias Canetti as being am...

### EVA SCHOBEL

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Eva Schobel is a freelance literary critic and journalist, writing for Die Presse, Süddeutsche Zeitung and ORF (Austrian Broadcasting) and others. She interviewed Albert Drach regularly during his last years, did a critical appraisal of his unpublished works in the literary archives of the Austrian National Library, and is co-editor of the new edition of Drach's works.