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This collection of Austrian literature represents different genres: essays, a play, contemporary prose and besides all of this it offers an idea of a lost tradition: the Vienna coffeehouse culture.

The essays start with the famous Germanist **Wendelin Schmidt-Dengler** about Austrian literature after World War II. **Konrad Paul Liessmann**, the famous philosopher, takes us to one of the most beautiful places in Austria: Salzburg. His highly admired opening speech at the Salzburg festival presents his thoughts about art and politics. The darkest chapter of Austrian history, the Holocaust, is portrayed by **Susanne Scholl**'s memories about her grandparents who were murdered in Maly Trascianec. **Karl-Markus Gauß** offers an insight to the Austrian soul. Migration is put in a historical perspective by him. In his contribution Gauß draws the vision of a country based on its multiethnic past. This experience helps to cope with today's challenges.

«Heldenplatz» by **Thomas Bernhard** presents a key text of Austrian literature to the Belarusian readers. The play caused 1988 one of the biggest theater scandals in Austrian history. Although it refers to a specific point in time, it has proved itself on many European stages and has not lost any of its polemic power.

The virtuosity of a great author can be admired in «Majakowskiring» a story by **Marlene Streeruwitz**. **Clemens J. Setz** is one of the most famous authors of the younger generation. **Claudia Erdheim** explores the Jewish Vienna in the Middle Ages with the means of the historical novel. **Katharina Riese** is an author of social sensibility and a pioneer of the Austrian women's movement. The fact that journalism and literary brilliance can come together is proved by **Florian Klenk**: his very well told story takes us into a region which was once separated by the Iron Curtain.

Like old postcards from a distant past the last three stories belong to a different world; the catastrophes of the XX. century have destroyed the common ground which would be necessary to chat with charm and joke about the world the way they did. We can read the texts of **Weigel**, **Torberg** and **Polgar** and we can admire them, but we have to understand: the best time of the Viennese feuilleton is gone for ever.