

## **MARTIN BODMER (1899-1971)**

A Swiss collector and man of letters. Bodmer was the founder in 1919 of a library of world literature, Bibliotheca Bodmeriana, first in Zurich and from 1951 in Geneva. Shortly before his death, the library won public [recognition](#) and the rights of a private institution (Foundation Martin Bodmer). The library today holds about 160,000 volumes. It includes 300 manuscripts, 65 papyri [on the Egyptian](#) Book of the Dead, Greek and Coptic [biblical](#) texts, classical and early [Christian](#) texts, 270 incunabula, including a Gutenberg Bible, and 2,000 autographs. It contains valuable collections of Shakespeare, Goethe, and Zurich and Heidelberg studies.

In 1921, Bodmer established the Gottfried Keller Prize for literary works, still awarded every other year. In 1929 he started publication of the literary magazine *Corona*, which he organized and [edited](#) together with Herbert Steiner until 1943. This [journal](#) made possible numerous contacts with famous authors. In Geneva he was vice president of the International [Committee](#) of the Red Cross. He received honorary degrees from the universities of [Frankfurt](#) am Main, Bern, and Geneva. His most important publications are *Eine Bibliothek der Weltliteratur* (Zürich, 1947) and *Variationen zum Thema Weltliteratur* (Frankfurt, 1959).

**HANS BRAUN**

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