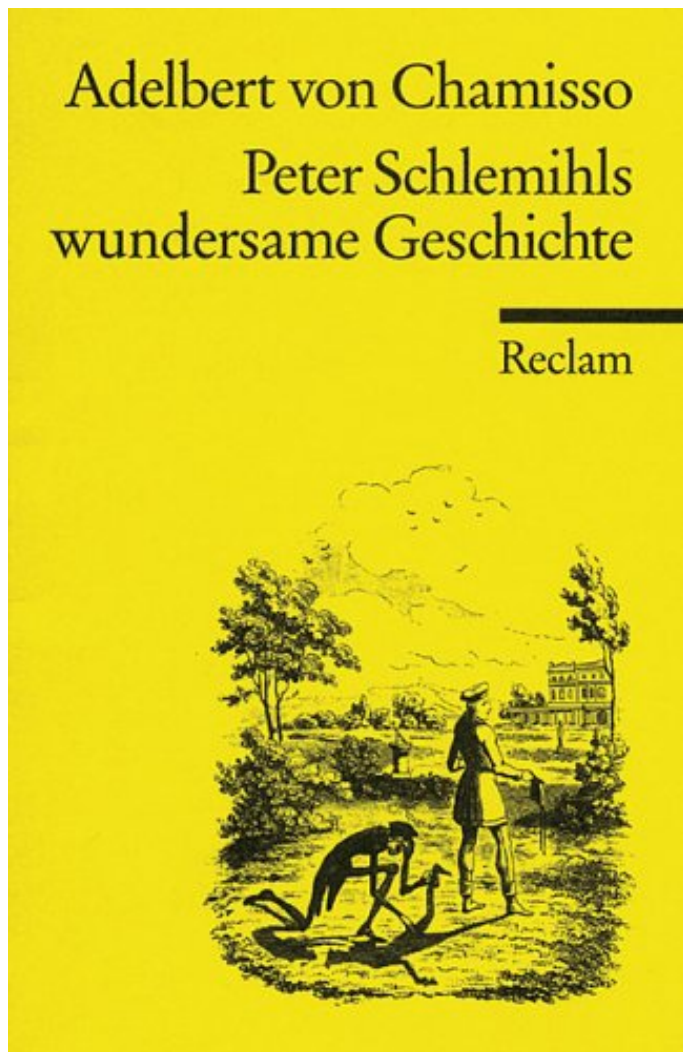

Adelbert von Chamisso

Peter Schlemihls wundersame Geschichte



Title: Peter Schlemihls wundersame Geschichte

Author: Adelbert von Chamisso

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Language: German

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Description

Adelbert von Chamisso's 1814 phantastische Erzählung 'Peter Schlemihls wundersame Geschichte' handelt von einem sanften, weltfremden Jüngling, der einem rätselhaften Mann in einem grauen Rock seinen Schatten verkauft. Er ist jedoch außerstande, den so erworbenen Reichtum zu genießen, da er von den Menschen verstoßen oder verhöhnt wird, sobald sie merken, dass er keinen Schatten hat. Als eine Art Buße durchwandert Peter Schlemihl die Welt mit Siebenmeilenstiefeln und erforscht die Natur.

Die Erzählung in Briefform, in der zahlreiche Motive und Elemente aus den Bereichen Märchen und Sage verarbeitet sind, ist so angelegt, dass der fiktive Peter Schlemihl seinem "Freund" Chamisso seine Geschichte erzählt; er spricht als Ich-Erzähler den Autor immer wieder direkt an und verleiht den Berichten dadurch Unmittelbarkeit und Echtheit.

Insightful reviews

Pabs: La historia de el hombre que cambia su sombra por un saco de dinero sin fondo se me hizo un poco cansina al dar vueltas siempre por lo mismo, pero deja una reflexión final buena para mi gusto: Si quieres vivir entre personas, cuida primero de no perder tu sombra/apariencia (lo que te hace persona ante el resto de la humanidad) y luego preocúpate del dinero. Pero si lo que quieres es vivir bien contigo mismo no te hará falta ningún consejo, solo la aceptación de la soledad.

Jonathan: A valuable fable concerning the corrupting influence of greed and vanity.

John: The edition I own is published by Henry Hold and introduction and notes by Frank Vogel.

I picked this book up at a flea-market. I am an intermediate-level German student, and wanted to have some entertaining short-length German literature to practice my German reading. I also liked the old German script. I was pleased with the narration.

In the author's mind, this tale began as a children's tale, and is now however considered a seminal fantastical novella from the German romantic tradition. To call it simply a fairy-tale is to miss the deeper meaning the German fairy-tale, or "Maerchen". I found this work very interesting from a social-commentary standpoint, and it gives good insight into the mind of someone living back in 1814 along the French-German frontier and experiencing all the relevant upheaval of the time involving Napoleon, etc. (Commercial review below). Interesting about this book about a Faustian bargain is that it touches upon ethnic stereotypes present in Germany at that time, particularly toward Jews. After reading the book, von Chamisso's attitude toward Jewry is not completely clear to me yet, but it was probably a product of its time, as we all are of course.

Note: At the beginning of the story, as he arrives in the country by boat, the protagonist makes a supplicant visit to the mysterious "Herr Thomas John", who with his great wealth reminds me of the Great Gatsby.

Commercial review (from the publisher above):

"Asked which book by another author he would most like to claim as his own work, Italo Calvino once said without hesitation, Adelbert von Chamisso's Peter Schlemiel. First published in 1814, this brilliant novel is not only a precursor of Poe, Kafka, and the magic realists - it is a timeless fable with a remarkably contemporary flavor. When a mysterious man in a gray coat asks Peter Schlemiel if he would sell him his shadow, that "lovely, lovely shadow" of his, he naturally thinks the man must be mad. But then the stranger makes him an offer he can't refuse. In return for his shadow, Schlemiel receives a neverending source of riches, and he is convinced he is on the road to happiness. Yet he finds that without a shadow he is rejected by society and unable to find the fulfillment of love. After a series of fantastic adventures, Peter Schlemiel realizes that he must discover a new way to give his life meaning if he is to go on in the world. Adelbert von Chamisso was born in France, but moved at an early age to Prussia, where he lived during the Franco-Prussian war. Chamisso felt that he belonged equally to both war-torn cultures. Peter Schlemiel was written soon after Prussia's defeat by Napoleon, and was Chamisso's answer to a world in turmoil. The novel was an immediate success, and it catapulted him to international fame."

Gale: NB: This assessment refers simply to the name Story THE fee OF A HUMAN SHADOW Young Peter Schlemiel, marveling on the prodigal handbag of a gray stranger at a millionaire's party, eagerly concurs to alternate his shadow for unlimited wealth. now not figuring out the genuine worth of anything so intangible, God's idiot discovers to his sorrow that he is made a hellish bargain: he's quickly refrained from as a cursed guy through all degrees of society. the only factor he cannot purchase is the unconditional attractiveness through different human beings. Hounded by means of chronic and common Superstition he's pressured to wander the globe in sour loneliness. Still, wiser males than this easy fellow have grappled with the loathesome stranger who used a man's shadow as a stepping stone to perdition; for his final target was, of course, Peter's Soul. Is there no means this naive chap can dissolve the fiendish bond among them? This brief novel is written in a Romantic style, with an extra part of fable on the end. This morality story loses a few plot worth within the latter chapters, however the premise continues to be tantalizing--both within the nation-states as literature and spirituality. This tale is even pointed out in a story through ETA Hoffman, whose protagonist trades his Reflection. Who can set a value on such ephemeral but important objects? what's the genuine resource of human happiness? while males search to alternate God-bestowed gifts, then they've got overstepped the limits of either humility and humanity--and may well count on dire consequences. (October 6, 2012. I welcome discussion with teachers.)

Cemressa: Keyifle okudu?um, masals? bir öyküydü. Der ki: Ve sen sevgili dostum, e?er insanlar?n aras?nda ya?amak istiyorsan, gölgene bile paradan daha çok de?er vermeyi ö?ren.

Audeline: Une idée tout à fait originale je trouve que de vendre son ombre au Diable. Dans cette histoire, on ressent bien les anges difficulté qu'à le personnage de rester lui-même. Il

doit se cacher pour qu'on ne remarque pas son infirmité qui fait fuir tout le monde et ne peut plus compter que sur ses plus proches amis. Peter Schlemihl speak avec Chamisso et c'est comme si celui-ci nous confiait les écrits partagés avec son ami, comme s'il fallait qu'il se défasse de l. a. gravité de l. a. state of affairs en nous confiant un mystery trop lourd à porter. C'est une scenario où on se despatched privilégié et très proche du héros, cela nous fait entrer dans l'histoire comme si on découvrait les faits en même temps que Chamisso. Néanmoins, le texte a été retravaillé pour faire plus actuel et ça se ressent. Disponible sur In Libro Veritas, le récit me plaît beaucoup plus dans une model plus ancienne. Je trouve que dans sa model actuelle, le texte nous éloigne des personnages alors que vieillie, on se croit dans l'histoire, confident. J'ai donc mis 4/5 parce le type - qui vient de l. a. traduction je le conçois bien - m'a dérangé. Il est vrai qu'aujourd'hui, cette histoire peut paraître banale mais je trouve que l'approche pour l'époque est originale.

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