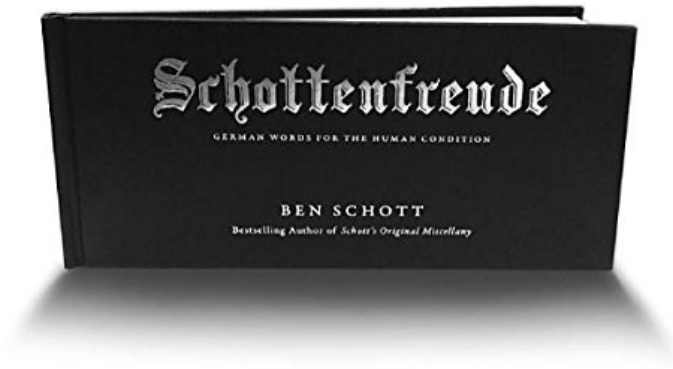


Schottenfreude: German Words for the Human Condition

Ben Schott

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#64726 in Books Ben Schott 2013-10-31 2013-10-31 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.80 x .60 x 4.80l, .64 #File Name: 039916670X96 pages Schottenfreude | File size: 71.Mb

Ben Schott : Schottenfreude: German Words for the Human Condition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Schottenfreude: German Words for the Human Condition:

28 of 30 people found the following review helpful. Deutschwrtvernggen (The Pleasure of German Words) By Thomas E. Davis Every book by Ben Schott is a meticulous masterpiece of conception and execution. He's best known for his delightful series of four Miscellanies (Schott's Original Miscellany, Schott's Food Drink Miscellany, Schott's Sporting, Gaming Idling Miscellany, and Schott's Quintessential Miscellany) and for his six Almanacs, published annually between 2006 and 2011. Schott's newest book is unlike his previous efforts in that it has an especially specific focus -- invented German words -- but it's very much like the others in that it's so infernally clever, has been so carefully thought out, and possesses a singularly beautiful design. By going to Mr. Schott's website, benschott.com, and clicking on The New York Times under the Journalism tab, you can link to an excerpt from the book and listen to him talk about it. There you can also read any of the numerous engaging columns he's written for the newspaper. "Schottenfreude" is a play on the German word Schadenfreude, which means "shameful joy" or "pleasure derived from the misfortune of others." It's not among the book's 120 indexed entries, but then it's a long-established term that has decisively entered the English language along with such loanwords as Weltanschauung (worldview), Realpolitik (practical politics), Gemtlichkeit (coziness), Wanderlust (desire to travel), Zeitgeist (spirit of the times), Gestalt (whole), and Angst (anxiety). Most of the words in this volume are longer than these examples, some comically so; Kraftfahrzeuginnenaustattungsneugeruchsgenuss, meaning "new car smell," is the longest at 45 letters. They have obviously been contrived by the author, yet they are "real" in the sense that they are perfectly justifiable and creative concatenations of concepts. Such terms result from the nearly unlimited capacity of the German language to form compounds. They are long for good reason: each packs within it a small universe of distinct meanings, encapsulates very particular sets of denotative and connotative senses, and possesses unique emotional and cultural implications. And there is not one in this book that isn't both witty and amusing. A prime example is Gaststattenneuerffnungsuntergangsgewissheit (inn-new-opening-downfall-certitude or "certainty that a newly opened

restaurant will fail"), which has 44 letters. On the other hand, several are as short as eight or nine letters, including "Mahlneid" (meal-envy or "coveting thy neighbor's restaurant order"), "Gastdruck" (guest-pressure or "the effort required to be a good houseguest"), and "Bettrug" (bed-deception or "disorientation upon waking in a strange bed"). Each entry, printed in a gothic font, provides a guide to pronunciation and a definition. This is followed by an insightful unpacking of the words inside and a detailed annotation, complete with lists, quotations, literary references, and the occasional illustration. The book is an elegant pleasure for book lovers, students of German, and logophiles of all stripes. I highly recommended this glittering intellectual bauble for gift-giving this holiday season, or at any time of the year. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Hilarious! By jessalyn I got a kick out of this at my friend's house and had to buy. It is fun, usable and a good social game, especially if you live with other people and try to incorporate these into your vocabulary. I did date a German who wanted to be sure I knew they weren't real (as in pre-existing) compound words, but he still thought it was funny. 11 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Move over Oxford Dictionary! By Paris fan Ach Du Lieber! What an amazing collection of German words created by the incredible Ben Schott! From the 47 letter German word for "New car smell," to nine letter term for "The exhausting pressure of being a good houseguest," this book is a must have for anyone who has ever studied German, comes from a German heritage, or just loves the magic and power of words. The beautifully designed and bound hardcover book is in a format reminiscent of an old-fashioned photo album or autograph book is an Einartigesbuchliebhabersgeschenk-- (one-of-a-kind-booklovers gift.)

Ever thought, There should be a German word for that? Well, thanks to the brilliantly original mind behind Schotts Original Miscellany, now there is. Schottenfreude is a unique, must-have dictionary, complete with newly coined words that explore the idiosyncrasies of life as only the German language can. In what other language but German could you construct le mot juste for a secret love of bad foods, the inability to remember jokes, Sunday-afternoon depression, the urge to yawn, the glee of gossip, reassuring your hairdresser, delight at the changing of the seasons, the urge to hoard, or the ineffable pleasure of a cold pillow? A beguiling, ideal gift book for the Gelehrte or anyone on your list just beware of rapidly expanding (and potentially incomprehensible) vocabularies.

Hugely inventive Pleasantly pre-Web 2.0 self-enclosed thing that rewards another, older kind of multitasking: reading, laughing, and learning. The New Yorker Perfectly tailored. The New Republic Elegant [and] illuminating. "Wired Genius. Real Simple "[A] work of brilliance."--The Times (London) About the Author Ben Schott is the creator and designer of the international bestseller Schotts Original Miscellany and its three sequels. He also wrote the news annual Schotts Almanac (2006-2011). Together his books have sold some 2.5 million copies, in twenty one languages (including Japanese and Braille). Schott is a contributing columnist to the op-ed pages of The New York Times and a regular contributor to The Times of London. He divides his time between New York and London.