

## CURRICULUM VITAE



### Philipp Blom

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D.o.B.: January 22, 1970,  
Hamburg, Germany

### Work

- since 1998            Writer (history and fiction), journalist, lecturer and broadcaster.
- 1997-1998            Editor, The Harvill Press (fiction in English, German, Dutch, and French, as well as biographical and historical works)
- since 1994            Literary and commercial translations from and into English, German, and Dutch (Cees Nooteboom, Geert Mak), including my own novel *The Simmons Papers* (Berlin Verlag), and my book *To Have and to Hold* (Eichborn). Numerous commercial translations on wine, art, and the art trade.
- 1994-1997            Academic work and presentations on European history, racial thought, and nationalism, Secretary of the Oxford Intellectual History Group. Doctorate in Modern History, Oxford University.
- 1993-1996            Teacher for German, philosophy, and violin at Carmel College, Wallingford

### Publications

- Forthcoming        non fiction: *The Pursuit of Reason* – a history of the radical Enlightenment in France  
fiction: *Geister* – novel, in German  
translation: *Vertigo Years* into German for Hanser, Munich, to be published in 2009
- 2008                 *The Vertigo Years* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, London, 2008, also published in USA, Canada, Germany, Spain, Netherlands),  
*Hugh Johnson's Wine Guide 2008* (Austria)  
*Wine Report 2009* (Austria)  
translations for the stage:  
*The Producers* (translation lyrics), Etablissement Ronacher, June 2008  
*La Colombe* (an opera by Charles Gounod) into German. Schönbrunn Theatre, Vienna, March, 2008  
opera:  
*Soliman* (libretto), a project with the composer Joost van Kerkhoven
- 2006                 fiction: *Luxor* (Tisch 7, Cologne, 2006)

- non fiction: *The Wines of Austria* (Mitchell Beazley, London, 2006)
- contributed to: *Historic Paris Walks* (London, 2006), *Wine Report* (London, 2006)
- 2005 *Encyclopédie* (Fourth Estate, August 2004) Foreign editions: USA, Brazil, Spain, Germany
- 2003 *Sammelwunder, Sammelwahn* (Andere Bibliothek, Eichborn)
- 2002 *To Have and to Hold* (Allan Lane/Penguin). Translations and foreign editions: USA, Brazil, South Korea, Germany, France.
- 2001 "Das Gedenken – Ein Geschäft? In: Petra Steinberger, ed. *Die Finkelstein-Debatte*, Frankfurt, 2001
- 2000 *The Wines of Austria* (Faber & Faber, London)

since 1997

#### **Lecturing and Readings:**

Guest lecturer at Halle University of Design, Germany, winter term 07/08, and, for one lecture, at the Faculty of History, University of Vienna, 2008.

Philosophy mentoring at the Vienna Medical University, 2008

Extensive lecturing on art history, history of ideas, art history, and readings from my own work in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Great Britain, Spain, Colombia

#### **Journalism**

*Print media:*

German: *Neue Züricher Zeitung, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Berliner Zeitung, Die Zeit, Financial Times Deutschland, Der Standard, die Tageszeitung,*

English: *The Financial Times, The Independent, The Guardian, Times Literary Supplement, Sunday Telegraph, Decanter Magazine, Watch International, Wine & Spirits, BBC History Magazine*

French: *Revue de vin de France*

Dutch : *Vrij Nederland*

Articles mainly on cultural and historical issues as well as profiles, wine, travel pieces, literary reviews, exhibitions, opera

*Radio :*

Austrian National radio (I regularly present a live cultural programme on Austria's Ö1), BBC, German radio stations (DLF, SWR, WDR, NDR, HR, ORF), mainly cultural reportage, historical features, interviews and panel discussions.

Features:

*Heine in Paris* (5 min) SWF, 2006

*Ich küsse Deine kleinen Pforten* (12 min) SWF, 2006

*Deutschland, ein Wintermärchen* (10 min) WDR, 2006

*Exzellenzen Ausstopfen* (30 min) HR, 2003

*The Museum Moor* (25 min) BBC Radio 3, 2002

*Shakespeare and the Jesuits* (25 min) BBC Radio 3, 2000

**Translations:**

PB, *Sammelwunder, Sammelwahn*, Andere Bibliothek,

Geert Mak, *Amsterdam* (London, 1999)

PB, *Die Simmons Papiere* (Berlin, 1997)

- 1998 'Hermann Cohen: eine philosophische Biographie' in: *Jüdischer Almanach 1997*, Suhrkamp, Frankfurt/Main, 1998
- 1997 *P - Die Simmons Papiere* (novel, German) Berlin Verlag, Berlin  
*Schwanengesang*, a play about Schubert, performed at the Musikhochschule Detmold
- 1995 *The Simmons Papers* (novel, English) Faber & Faber, London

**Education**

- 1997 D.Phil. on nationalism in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Oxford University
- 1994-97 Senior Scholar, Merton College, Oxford University
- 1992-1994 M.Phil. on the philosophy of Hermann Cohen, Wolfson College, Oxford University
- 1990-1992 Read philosophy and Jewish studies at Vienna University
- 1989 Abitur (A-Level equivalent), Schloß Hamborn, Germany

**Personal Interests**

I am incredibly lucky to be able to turn my passions into work: history, ideas, the arts, fiction, music. My literary tastes often make me return to Austro-Hungary and Russia, though there are (increasingly) many exceptions as I find much to love the world over. Having once wanted to become a violinist I still make music (as a blissful amateur). Wine is both a personal passion and a professional concern, something that is also true for art history, especially painting. I am a keen fencer (foil), but avoid competitions. I also enjoy cooking overly elaborate dinners for friends.

**Languages**

I grew up bilingually with German and Dutch, and speak English and French fluently. I also have a good knowledge of Hebrew and Russian, some knowledge of Italian, Arabic, and read (or used to read) several ancient languages.

**A thumbnail sketch**

I was born in Hamburg and grew up in Detmold, in Germany. I began my university studies in Vienna (Philosophy and Jewish Studies) and then went to Oxford, where I gained a D.Phil in Modern History. I started writing at Oxford and published a novel as well as occasional journalism. Since then I have lived in London, where I first worked in publishing and then became a freelance journalist to finance my writing. Having moved to Vienna I now live mainly by writing books. I am married to Veronica Buckley, who is also a writer.