

analyzing the situation of the southern States.

In February 1938, Annemarie returned to Switzerland and met Ella Maillart in Zurich. The two women decided to travel to Afghanistan together, as Annemarie father had brought her a Ford car, which seemed to be the best mean of transport. They set off on the 6th of July 1939. Annemarie Schwarzenbach wanted to flee from the social conditions and feeling of futility dominating Europe and also to test her strength to leave drugs alone once and for all. But her strength was not up to the task of freeing 31-year-old Annemarie from the addiction. She began to consume drugs again during the very first days of the journey.

Via Istanbul and Ankara, Tabriz, Tehra, Mazandaran and Meshed, at least the travelers reached Heart and traveled to Mazar Sharif and Kabul in Afghanistan in August. In Kabul, they heard the news of the outbreak of World War II. This shocked Annemarie so much that she became ill, and at last she and Ella separated. For a short time, she worked with a French archeological team in Afghanistan and then traveled to Peshawar, Lahore and New Delhi with Jacques Meunie. On the 7th of January 1940, she boarded a ship and returned again to Switzerland. Then she planned trips to Alaska and Finland, but in the end she traveled to America again and wrote articles on the hidden ties between Switzerland and the Fascist countries. At the same time, she was entered in a psychiatric hospital and at the end expelled from America. In 1940, Annemarie Schwarzenbach traveled to Congo to write a report, but she was accused of espionage and expelled from Congo. She went to Morocco, where she met her husband for the last time. At last she returns to Switzerland with a huge file of photos and dies on the 15th of November 1942 after a bicycle accident.

With no doubt this account of Annemarie Schwarzenbach's life reveals much about her intellect and also her psychological condition; but the question remains why did and do people like her from Europe and the West come to the "mysterious" East? An answer to this question was given by Rudolph Gelpke, the famous Swiss Iranologist, who has translated many works of contemporary Iranian literature. He wrote: "Europeans like Schwarzenbach, Arthur Rimbaud and Lawrence of Arabia do not take the trouble of traveling upon themselves just out of love or interest for their journey's destination, but because they are attracted by the idea of being on the roads and searching for a new and permanent homeland." But why Iran? Why did not they choose this far away country? No doubt because Iran was untouched by and far away from the Western World. The natural beauties, the people with their belief in god's existence would be mysterious and attractive for people who were tired of corrupted Europe. From this point of view, the novel "Death in Persia" can be read as the reflection of a human being's loneliness at the height of nihilism in Europe.

Works by Annemarie Schwarzenbach

Erik, 1929

Freunde um Bernhard, 1931

Lyrische Novelle, 1931

Flucht nach Oben, 1933

Winter in Vorderasien, 1934

Tod in Persien, 1935

Lorenz Saladin, Ein Leben fur die Berge, 1938

Das gluckliche Tal, 1938

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Bei diesem Regen, Jenseits von New York, Auf der Schattenseite, Alle Wege sind Offen, Winter in Vorderasien, Insel Europa

Annemarie Schwarzenbach's works are published by Lenos Verlag, Basel:

www.Lenos.ch

"Alle Wege sind Offen" and "Tod in Persien" are translated to Persian and will be published by Shahab Pub. as soon.