

Report: Ursprünglichkeit und Tradition. The Third I.V.G. Congress at Amsterdam. In: German Life and Letters. A Quarterly Review. Vol. XIX, 1965/66. Oxford, p. 319:

The paper on Goethe by Katharina Mommsen was, almost inevitably, very learned. Dr. Mommsen's analysis of the function of tradition and originality in ›Goethe's Fabulieren‹ was highly original and profound. By discussing the Klassische Walpurgisnacht she convincingly showed how not only Goethe's own inventive powers were developed by reliance on tradition – in this case tales from the orient and from antiquity – but also how the characters – Faust, Mephistopheles and Homunculus themselves – developed by their contact with, and their appropriation of, tradition.

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