

Following Heinrich Böll's secondary education during 1937 he was apprenticed to a bookseller in Bonn: <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Heinrich-Boll>

'In spring 1937 I began as an apprentice bookseller (publishers, retail trade, antiquarian) for the Matth. Lempertz company in Bonn.' [\[vii\]](#)

Tutor

'I left this apprenticeship in spring 1938, started my first attempts to write, gave private lessons, read a great deal.' [\[viii\]](#)

Marriage

Heinrich Böll married Annemarie Cech a teacher during 1942. Their sons were Christoph 1947 (*who died at four months old*) Raimund 1947, Rene 1948 also Vincent 1950. They lived in the Eifel Region in Germany. His wife collaborated on numerous translations of his English & American literature into German. [\[ix\]](#)

Army Career

Heinrich Böll was conscripted into the German Army. He served six years as a private & corporal. He served in Osnabruck August 1939-May 1940, Poland from March-June 1940, France June-September 1940, then Germany during September 1940-May 1942. He moved to France again in May of that same year to October 1943. From 1943 to February 1944 he spent time in Russia, Crimea, Odessa. He was wounded four times also he contracted typhoid. [\[x\]](#)

P. O. W.

Heinrich Böll served at various locations until his arrest as a P. O. W. during April 1945. He was released the following September. [\[xi\]](#)

Family Business

Upon his release Heinrich Böll returned to Cologne to his wife & family. He worked in the family business followed by a year at a municipal statistical bureau. [\[xii\]](#)

Publications

He began a writing career at the age of thirty. He based his novels on his experience as a soldier. Heinrich Böll used austere prose or frequently short satire to present his antiwar, nonconformist point of view. He wrote on a numerous various topics. He continued to write several works on political conflict, the background to war, terrorism, profound economic also social transition. During 1947 he produced an article *Traveller, if you come to Spa*. Heinrich Böll's first novel was published in 1949 titled *The Train was on Time*. In his 1941 *Adam, Where are Thou?* he described the grimness & despair of soldiers' lives. His 1955 publication *The Bread of our Early Years* exposed the uneasiness of reality. Numerous other works included; *The Clown*, *End of a Mission*, *Group Portrait with Lady* also during 1974 *The Last Honour of Katherine Blum*. *The Mad Dog* 1955 with previously unpublished short stories & *Cross without Love* were all published in 2003. *The Silent Angel* written during 1950 was actually published posthumously during 1992. [\[xiii\]](#)

Translations

During 1966 he translated O'Nolan Brian *Das harte Leben & The Hard Life* with illustrations by Patrick Swift. He also translated works from J. M. Synge, Brendan Behan, G.B. Shaw & Tomas O' Criomthain into German. [\[xiv\]](#)

Co-Editor

He co-edited a magazine during 1960 called *Labyrinth*. [\[xv\]](#)

Acknowledgment

He was invited to the 1949 meeting of the Group 47 circle of German writers with his work acknowledged as the best presented during 1951. [\[xvi\]](#)

Lecturer

He delivered several lectures on literature that developed the idea of what he termed *Aesthetic of the Human* at the University of Frankfurt. [\[xvii\]](#)

Film Scene

For the film: *Deutschland im Herbst* also *Germany in Autumn* Henrich Böll composed a scene called *The Safety Net*. [\[xviii\]](#)

Autobiography

Heinrich Böll's autobiography of 1981 *What's to become of the Boy? or, Something to do with Books* is a memoir of the period between 1933 to 1937. [\[xix\]](#)

Ireland

Heinrich Böll travelled for his first visit to Achill during the 1950's. He had travelled by train from Dublin: he was impressed that it had arrived punctually but from then on in Achill he was quickly introduced to the Irish saying '*When God made time, he made plenty of it!*' Achill Island at that time had a classless society with a casual attitude to time that appealed immensely to Böll. He was attracted to the poetry & humour of the Irish people. He referred to the continuing displacement from the area of its sons also daughters worldwide. He penned a moving account of the deserted village at Slievemore. He continued to visit up to the 1970's when he resided in a cottage with his family at Dugort on Achill Island. In a 1967 postscript he lamented the changes that had taken place in Ireland since the early 1950's in his *Irish Journal*. [\[xx\]](#)

Report

Heinrich Böll's travelogue *Irish Journal* recounts his Irish experiences. [\[xxi\]](#)

Awards

During 1951 Böll won the prize of the Grupp 47 in 1953. He was awarded the Culline Prize of the German Industry, the Southern Radio Prize also the German's Critic's Prize. In 1954 he was the recipient of the Tribune de Paris Prize. During 1955 he was awarded the French Prize for the best foreign novel. Again in 1958 Heinrich Böll received the Eduard Von der Heydt Prize for the City of Wuppertal also the Prize of the Bavarian Academy of Arts. During 1959 he was the recipient of the Great Art Prize for Westphalia also the Literature Prize of the City of Cologne. He gained the Charles Villion Prize during 1967 also was awarded the George Buchner Prize. [\[xxii\]](#)

Nobel Prize

During 1972 he received the Nobel Prize for Literature *'for his writing which through its combination of a broad perspective of his time and a sensitive skill in character evangelization has contributed to a renewal of German Literature.'* During 1974 Böll was awarded the Ossietzky Medal *'for his defence of and contribution to global human rights.'* [\[xxiii\]](#)

Prize motivation: *for his writing which through its combination of a broad perspective on his time and a sensitive skill in characterization has contributed to a renewal of German literature':*

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/literature/1972/boll/facts/>

Membership

During 1960 Heinrich Böll became a member of the Bavarian Academy of Arts. He was elected to the Academy of Science & Arts of Mainz. During 1972 an honorary membership of the American Academy of Arts & Letters was conferred on him. [\[xxiv\]](#)

President

Heinrich Böll acted as president of the P. E. N. Centre of the West German P. E. N. subsequently was elected president of International P. E. N. Organization. [\[xxv\]](#)

Birthday

On 16th December 1977 Cologne gave a reception to celebrate Heinrich Böll's sixtieth birthday. [\[xxvi\]](#)

Illness

Heinrich Boll suffered ill health from early 1950's. He had an operation in 1979 while in Ecuador followed by another during 1980. He was hospitalized again during early July 1985 but discharged to await another operation. [\[xxvii\]](#)

Demise

Heinrich Böll's demise occurred when he was aged sixty-seven on 16th July 1985 at his home in Langenbrüch. He is buried at the cemetery in Bornheim-Meelen near Cologne. [\[xxviii\]](#)

Footnotes

[\[vii\]](#) Ibid

[\[viii\]](#) Ibid

[\[ix\]](#) <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Heinrich-Boll>

[\[x\]](#) www.achill247.com

[\[xi\]](#) Ibid

[\[xii\]](#) <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Heinrich-Boll>

[\[xiii\]](#) Ibid

[xiv] Ibid

[xv] Ibid

[xvi] Ibid

[xvii] Ibid

[xviii] Ibid

[xix] Ibid

[xx] www.achill247.comk

[xxi] Ibid

[xxii] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heinrich_B%C3%B6ll

[xxiii] Ibid

[xxiv] Ibid

[xxv] Ibid

[xxvi] <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Heinrich-Boll>

[xxvii] Ibid

[xxviii] Ibid

