

Robert Walser  
Microscripts

Translated from the German  
and with an Introduction by Susan Bernofsky

Afterword by Walter Benjamin

NEW DIRECTIONS / CHRISTINE BURGIN

## Contents

Secrets, Not Code: On Robert Walser's Microscripts by Susan Bernofsky . . . . .	9
--	---

### Microscripts translated by Susan Bernofsky

Radio . . . . .	23
Swine . . . . .	27
<i>If I am properly informed</i> . . . . .	34
<i>What a nice writer I ran into not long ago</i> . . . . .	35
The Songstress . . . . .	36
The Demanding Fellow . . . . .	38
<i>Somewhere and somewhen</i> . . . . .	40
The Train Station (II) . . . . .	42
Crisis . . . . .	45
<i>So here was a book again</i> . . . . .	49
<i>Is it perhaps my immaturity</i> . . . . .	53
The Prodigal Son . . . . .	54
<i>Usually I first put on a prose piece jacket</i> . . . . .	59
<i>My subject here is a victor</i> . . . . .	65
<i>A will to shake that refined individual</i> . . . . .	69
<i>He numbered, as might well have been true</i> . . . . .	71
Journey to a Small Town . . . . .	75
The Marriage Proposal . . . . .	83
Autumn (II) . . . . .	87

A Sort of Cleopatra .....	91
<i>The failure to prize the chance</i> .....	95
<i>As I was instructed by a book</i> .....	99
Schnapps .....	101
New Year's Page .....	105
Robert Walser	
by Walter Benjamin .....	109
About the Microscripts .....	115
About the German Texts .....	118
Original German texts transcribed by	
Bernhard Echte and Werner Morlang .....	119
Notes .....	155
Acknowledgments .....	159