



# **Mein Leben - A Social and Political Critique of Life in Eighteenth-Century Germany: The Autobiography of Johann Gottfried Seume (1763-1810) Translated by Klaus Musmann**

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This is a translation of *Mein Leben* by Gottfried Seume, an autobiography of an influential 19th century author. First issued in 1813, this translation is based on a critical edition of the work by Joerg Drews done in 1993. This is the first time it has been translated into English from German. Some of Seume's writings were banned for their controversial political overtones. This book was never published during his lifetime and the first uncensored edition appeared in 1879. In addition, the autobiography recounts his famous walks across Europe, which were also described in the book *A Stroll to Syracuse* where he went to Sicily. Early on in his life he was forced to serve in the Hessian and Prussian militaries and several times he attempted to flee. In 1782 his Hessian regiment was sold to the British and he was shipped to Canada which he describes in some detail in this autobiography. Through it all he never saw military action.

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