

## Robert Walser ANSWER TO AN INQUIRY

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The Swiss author Robert Walser's *Answer to an Inquiry* is a short work written in the form of a letter. Walser assumes the voice of a great man of the theater responding to an aspiring actor's request for advice. The young actor is given very simple, practical suggestions on how best to perform absolute anguish. This new edition, featuring a new translation accompanied by more than 40 drawings is a collaboration between translator Paul North and artist Friese Undine. *Answer to an Inquiry* should serve as a practical handbook for anyone wanting to convey deep suffering.

### THE AUTHOR

Born in 1878 in Switzerland, Robert Walser was at various times in his life a bank teller, office clerk, scribe, house servant, machinist's assistant, and archivist. Although he wrote four novels and some poetry, his production consisted mainly of hundreds of small prose pieces. Being small was a key concern. His writing got smaller and smaller until, before he ceased writing altogether, he wrote a tiny script with letters about one millimeter high. By this time he had committed himself to a sanitarium where he remained for 27 years, mostly not writing. Always an avid taker of walks, Walser died in a snow drift while out for a walk in 1956.

### THE TRANSLATOR

Paul North writes literary and cultural critique, focused on post-Enlightenment German literature and critical thought. He is the author of *The Problem of Distraction* (forthcoming), a study of a radical break in the continuity of mind. He has also published on Hannah Arendt, Franz Kafka, and Johann Nestroy.

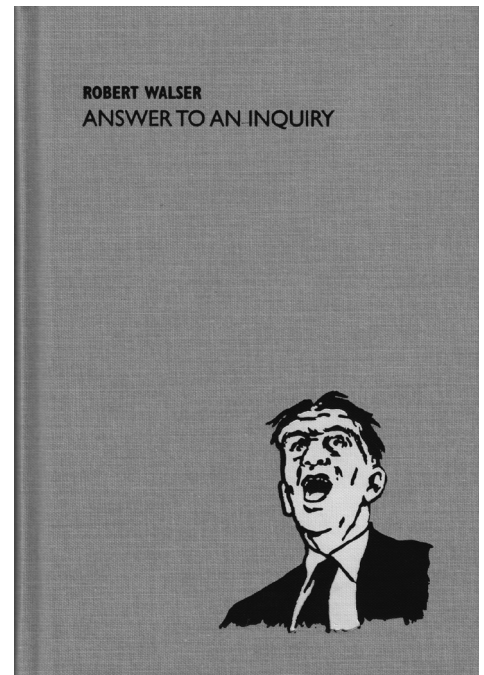
### THE ILLUSTRATOR

Friese Undine was born in Los Angeles but now lives in New York. While primarily a painter, Friese also produce three-dimensional pieces and has written and performed works for theater. His work has been exhibited in the USA and internationally. For more information visit [www.frieseundine.com](http://www.frieseundine.com).

### UGLY DUCKLING PRESSE

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