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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**GOETHE-INSTITUT CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF
HELEN & KURT WOLFF TRANSLATOR'S PRIZE;
ANNOUNCES SHORTLIST FOR 2021**

New York, NY (April 15, 2021)—The Goethe-Institut New York is pleased to announce the shortlist for this year's Helen & Kurt Wolff Translator's Prize: **Jefferson Chase** for his translation *Hitler: Downfall, 1939-1945* by Volker Ullrich (Knopf); **Tess Lewis** for *Kraft* by Jonas Lüscher (Farrar Straus and Giroux); **Jackie Smith** for *An Inventory of Losses* by Judith Schalansky (New Directions); and **Imogen Taylor** for *Beside Myself* by Sasha Marianna Salzmann (Other Press).

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Helen & Kurt Wolff Translator's Prize, which is awarded annually to honor an outstanding literary translation from German into English published in the USA the previous year. The translator of the winning translation receives \$10,000.

The shortlist was determined by a jury of five with an expertise in German literature and translation, consisting of Shelley Frisch (Chair), Bettina Abarbanell, Philip Boehm, John Hargraves, and Susan Harris.

“This past year has been a hard one on a global scale, medically, politically, and even meteorologically. For many of us, though, literature has remained a reliable source of solace, entertainment, and, often, joy, all of which were needed more than ever. How wonderful, then, to greet the 31 submissions to this year's Helen and Kurt Wolff Translator's Prize. Our jury was treated to a broad spectrum of prose and poetry, fiction and nonfiction, among them texts that defied easy categorization,” wrote Frisch about the jury's selection. “The four books that constitute this year's shortlist stood out for their ingenuity, beauty, and accuracy in capturing the

letter and spirit of their respective source texts. We congratulate all four translators for their outstanding contributions in bringing German-language texts to our shores, and thank them for the pleasure and insights they are affording their new readerships.”

About the translators:

Jefferson Chase is a translator of some 40 books from German to English, starting with Thomas Mann’s *Death in Venice and Other Stories*. Volume one, *Hitler: Ascent*, was the *LA Times*’ 2016 Best Biography, and volume two, *Hitler: Downfall*, was named as one of *Time* magazine’s Top Ten Non-Fiction Books of 2020.

Tess Lewis is a writer and translator from French and German. Her recent awards include the PEN Translation Prize for Maja Haderlap’s *Angel of Oblivion* and a Guggenheim Fellowship. She is an Advisory Editor for *The Hudson Review* and co-curator of the Festival Neue Literatur, New York City’s annual festival of German language literature in English.

Jackie Smith worked as a commercial translator, including several years at a German bank, before venturing into book translation. In 2017, she was the winner of the Austrian Cultural Forum London Translation Prize.

Imogen Taylor is a translator from the French and German. She was born in London in 1978 and has lived in Berlin since 2001. Her most recent translations are *Two Women and a Poisoning* by Alfred Döblin and *The Missing* by Dirk Kurbjuweit.

The winner of this year’s prize will be announced on **May 20th**, followed by an award ceremony streamed live by the Goethe-Institut New York on **June 24th**, featuring special guest Alexander Wolff, grandson of Kurt Wolff.

Funded by the German government, past winners of the Helen & Kurt Wolff Translator’s Prize include inaugural prize winner John E. Woods, Joel Agee, Anthea Bell, Ross Benjamin, Susan Bernofsky, Philip Boehm, Daniel Bowles, John Brownjohn, Isabel Fargo Cole, Charlotte Collins, Peter Constantine, Margot Bettauer Dembo, Shelley Frisch, Michael Henry Heim, Michael Hofmann, David Dollenmeyer, John Hargraves, Breon Mitchell, Burton Pike, Catherine Schelbert, Damion Searls, Jean M. Snook, Leila Vennewitz, and Krishna Winston.

For more information, visit www.goethe.de/us/helenandkurtwolffprize

The **Goethe-Institut** is Germany’s cultural institute and is active worldwide with six institutes in the USA. Since 1969, the Goethe-Institut New York has promoted knowledge of the German language and fostered intercultural dialogue between the USA and Germany. With partner programs like the German Film Office and the German American Partnership Program, the Goethe-Institut New York fosters German-American cultural exchange in a variety of fields.