

## Biography: Ernst Kreidolf

1863	Konrad Ernst Theophil Kreidolf was born February 9 in Bern.
1868	The family moved to Constance, Germany, where the father opened up a toy store. Ernst Kreidolf grew up close by with his grandparents in Tägerwilen in Switzerland.
1879	Kreidolf began an apprenticeship in Constance as lithographer at the Lithographische Anstalt Schmidt-Pecht; at the same time he studied drawing.
1882	After completing his apprenticeship, Kreidolf continued at Schmidt-Pecht as an assistant to support his parents after their shop went bankrupt. With the proceeds from the sale of a lithography landscape of Tägerwilen he established a financial basis for studying art.
1883 – 1885	He attended the Kunstgewerbeschule (applied art college) in Munich. On the side he earned an income as a lithographic draftsman. From 1885 he studied art at the private art school run by Paul Nauen.
1887	The Munich Art Academy first accepted Kreidolf as a student on his second application. He studied under Gabriel von Hackl and Ludwig von Löfftz.
1889 – 1895	He discontinued his studies for health reasons and moved to Partenkirchen. There he met the author Leopold Weber and they became friends. In 1889 he painted the walls and ceiling in the house of the author Walther Siegfried in Partenkirchen (destroyed).
1890	Kreidolf taught heiress to the throne, Princess Marie von Schaumburg-Lippe, how to paint. The lessons were continued on in the following years. From 1895 to 1902 Kreidolf stayed a month of each year at court in Bückeburg.
1892	First exhibition of his works is mounted at the Münchner Kunstverein.
1894	Met the Swiss painter Wilhelm Balmer and became friends. They went on excursions together to the Bavarian Alps to paint.
1895	Met and became friends with the Swiss painter Albert Welti and his wife Emeline. Met Ferdinand Avenarius, who supported him in the area of publishing.
1896	Returned to Munich.
1897	An exhibition of his watercolors for the later illustrated books of flower fairy tales <i>Blumenmärchen</i> and sleeping trees <i>Schlafende Bäume</i> at Arnold Gallery in Dresden. His first contacts with publishing houses were without success.
1898 – 1900	With the financial support of Princess Marie von Schaumburg-Lippe, Kreidolf had the Kommissionsverlag Piloty & Loehle in Munich publish his <i>Blumen-Märchen</i> . In 1900, Verlag Schafstein & Co. took over publication of the book and Kreidolf signed an exclusive contract with the publishing house.
1900	Art historian J.A. Beringer acquainted Kreidolf with the poet Richard Dehmel. Kreidolf illustrated the volume of his work <i>Fitzebutze</i> .
1901 and 1902	His illustrated books <i>Die schlafenden Bäume</i> and <i>Die Wiesenzwerge</i> were published.

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1904	Together with K.F. E. von Freyhold, Karl Hofer, and E.R. Weiss, Kreidolf illustrated the children's book <i>Der Buntscheck</i> published by Richard Dehmel. Because of cardiac problems he stayed in Trebschen, Brandenburg, for treatment. In the sanatorium there he painted the walls of the bowling alley (destroyed).
1905	The illustrated book <i>Alte Kinderreime</i> was published.
1906	Solo exhibition at the Künstlerhaus Zürich.
1908	The illustrated book <i>Sommervögel</i> was published. Kreidolf dedicated it to his friend Albert Welti. Met Paul Klee.
1910	Kreidolf participated at the Zürcher Kunsthaus opening exhibition.
1911	Death of Emeline Welti. Kreidolf's illustrated book <i>Der Gartentraum</i> was published (the same book that Hermann Hesse addresses in his novel <i>Rosshalde</i> ).
1912	Death of Albert Welti. Kreidolf organized his memorial exhibition at the Kunsthaus Zürich.
1914	Kreidolf was taken by surprise by World War I while in St. Moritz, and at first could not get back to Munich. He stayed then with Swiss friends. It was not until the winter of 1915 that he was able to return to Munich.
1916	Kreidolf was forced to go for treatment to St. Moritz. He became friends there with the publisher Emil Roninger. His publishing house, Rotapfel-Verlag, published Kreidolf's books after World War I.
1917	Kreidolf left Munich and settled in Bern. Together with Gustav Gamper he supported Hermann Hesse during a stay in Ticino with the author's first attempts at painting. Wilhelm Fraenger published the first monograph on Ernst Kreidolf.
1920 until 1935	Rotapfel-Verlag published an illustrated book almost annually, among them were classics such as <i>Alpenblumenmärchen</i> (1922), <i>Ein Wintermärchen</i> (1924), <i>Lenzgesind</i> (Spring creatures) (1926), <i>Das Hundefest</i> (1928), <i>Grashupfer</i> (1931).
1921 and 1923	Solo exhibition at the Kunsthalle Bern and at the Kunsthaus Zürich.
1933	On the occasion of his 70 <sup>th</sup> birthday a large retrospective at the Kunsthalle Bern was mounted. Also the Kunsthaus Zürich organized an exhibition honoring Kreidolf's work. Kreidolf was awarded an honorary doctorate by Bern University.
1935	Kreidolf wrote his <i>Lebenserinnerungen</i> (Memoirs)
1956	Kreidolf died on August 12, 1956 in Berne. He was buried at Schosshalden Cemetery in Berne.