

THE **PICTURE POST** YEARS 1938-51



Narrated by Mark Haworth-Booth and Bruce Bernard

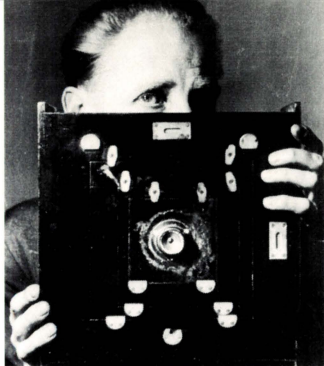
BILL BRANDT

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BILL BRANDT

(1904-1983)



Bill Brandt was born in Hamburg in 1904. At the age of sixteen his education was disrupted for two years by tuberculosis. During his convalescence in Vienna he received advice about choosing a career. Dr. Eugenie Schwazald, who was later to become Brandt's mentor, read out an alphabetical list of possible occupations. Brandt stopped her at photography.

In 1928, Brandt's portrait of the poet Ezra Pound enabled him to secure a position in the studio of Man Ray in Paris. Brandt soon became acquainted with surrealist photography as well as working with some of the finest photographers of the age such as Atget, Brassai and Cartier-Bresson.

Brandt first visited England in 1929 after hearing so many stories from his parents and, almost inevitably, settled in London soon afterwards. His first collection of pictures, *The English at Home* published in 1931, so impressed Tom Hopkinson that he immediately asked Brandt to contribute work to both *Lilliput* and *Picture Post*.

Brandt completed over 100 assignments for *Picture Post* during the period 1938-1951. He covered a wide range of subjects from social documentary to film sets and fashion and, to each, brought originality and often a sense of mystery, menace or magic.

His later work spans an extensive portfolio of seminal portraits, monolithic nude studies and landscapes, most notably those collected in *Literary Britain* published in 1951. Every aspect of his work has been covered in numerous publications and major exhibitions.

Bill Brandt died in 1983 while the exhibition of *Literary Britain* was in preparation at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. The *Times* obituary noted that "He was possibly the first British photographer to think of himself unselfconsciously as an artist".



The Hulton Deutsch Collection is the direct descendant of the library originally created by Edward Hulton, publisher of numerous popular titles including the seminal news weekly "Picture Post" (1938-1958) and "Lilliput", both of which revolutionised magazine publishing in Britain. Between 1958 and 1988 the collections and acquisitions were added to the archive. In 1988 it was acquired by Brian Deutsch, who has since added the Keystone, Fox and Central Press News archives to the collection, and in 1992/3 he also finalised arrangements for the representation of Reuter News Picture Service and the management of Syndication International.

More than 15 million black and white and colour images now fill the Hulton Deutsch Collection's special filing systems, including an extensive archive of 19th century photographs. With the quality and extent of this material it has been described by Harold Evans, renowned author of many books on photojournalism and currently president of Random House publishing, as "the greatest library of photojournalism in the world".

Recently, there have been many more remarkable finds at the Hulton Deutsch in a project which was undertaken to locate and identify the many hidden treasures within the collection. This task, more akin to an archaeological dig, has unearthed many interesting collections and individual images. This includes work by famous photographers of the 19th and 20th centuries such as Julia Margaret Cameron, Andre Kertesz, Man Ray and Bill Brandt, to name but a few.

The Hulton Deutsch is not only a custodian of these treasures of photography, but also a living, growing collection which is establishing links with leading names in the computer industry. This will enable the universe of pictures to reach as wide an audience as possible. "Bill Brandt - The Picture Post Years" is the latest in a series of multimedia products to be produced by the Hulton Deutsch Collection.

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For further details about other multimedia products, please contact:

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