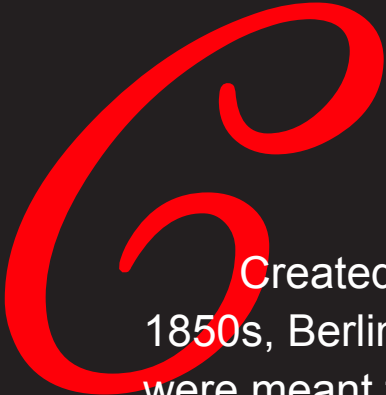


***They stood out like giant
exclamation marks,
they screamed, their thick
letters danced a never ending
Cancan.***

Peter Fritzsche



Created by Ernst Litfass in the 1850s, Berlin's pillars (or Litfasssäulen) were meant to provide an orderly forum for city postings. But by the 1920s these pillars boasted the chaos and bustle of city life.

Ads, theatre notices, political declarations, and nightspot broadsides formed strange and telling collages. Bold colours and big letters shouted at passers-by. Red, an ink once reserved for murder reports, spelled out the names of boot brands and shoe polish hoping to snag eyes from the crowded sidewalks.

