

China

Heartfield and his brother Wieland pose with a sculpture that he probably brought back from his trip to China in 1957. It is a 'figure made of the roots of a tea bush regarded as a bringer of good luck in ancient China, and all the more valuable, the less obvious the wood carving', as Wieland Herzfelde said. Root sculptures are doused in tea during a tea ceremony, but given its size this lion is not likely to have been used for that purpose. Heartfield brings the 'tea root lion' face to face with his own 'domestic tiger'. Brecht commissioned a cover for his *Hundert Gedichte* anthology, and the tea root lion featured in the design for some of the copies. Brecht wrote a short poem likening the carved wooden animal to his own poetry.