

centre*news* – December 1998

Introduction

Dear Members & Friends of the
Centre for Irish-German Studies,
We are very happy to issue the first edition of
centrenews.

centrenews will be published regularly for the Members and Friends of the Centre for Irish-German Studies and for all those with an interest in the relations between Ireland and the German-speaking world.

We hope you will find *centrenews* an informative publication giving you information about the Centre's work, its activities & development and about upcoming events in German-Irish / Irish-German relations.

centrenews will be the channel through which information flows from the Centre to its membership and the wider community. It will hopefully play a useful part in realizing the aims of the Centre for Irish-German Studies –

to encourage and facilitate interdisciplinary research into all aspects of German-Irish contacts;

to create a forum of discussion for interested parties, in the form of seminars, guest lectures and conferences;

to co-ordinate and encourage the compilation of Irish material on German-speaking countries and German language material on Ireland as a resource base for researchers;

to increase knowledge about German speaking countries, their society and cultures as well as Irish-German relations in the region, and further promote mutual understanding.

The Centre is headed by Joachim Fischer and Gisela Holfter, Joint Directors. They are supported in their endeavours by Eoin Bourke, Marieke Krajenbrink, Joachim Lerchenmueller, Liam Ó Dochartaigh and Hermann Rasche.

We hope you will find that both the Centre and its publications have a meaningful role to play in the increasingly interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary field of Irish-German Studies, and your contribution is very much appreciated, be it academic or financial.

Make the connection – and join the Centre for Irish-German Studies today.

Dr Joachim Fischer
Joint Director

Dr Gisela Holfter
Joint Director

Dr Joachim Lerchenmueller
Editor, *centrenews*

What we have been doing ...

The First Limerick Conference titled »Irish-German Connections – Culture / Business / Politics« took place on 4-6 September 1997 at the University of Limerick.

It was organized by Drs Gisela Holfter and Joachim Fischer in coordination with the Heinrich Böll Stiftung, Berlin. The Conference, opened by the then German Ambassador to Ireland, His Excellency Horst Pakowski, attracted over 80 participants and proved to be a highly successful event. The organizers appreciated the sponsorship for the conference of the Heinrich Böll Stiftung, the Goethe-Institut, Dublin, the German Ireland Fund, the German Embassy in Dublin, the Plassey Campus Centre and the Irish Translators' Association. Prof. Eda Sagarra, of Trinity College Dublin, officially launched the Centre for Irish-German Studies during the conference.

The Conference Proceedings, which have just been published under the title »Deutsch–Irische Verbindungen« contain papers in the areas of literature, history and translation. A selection of the contributions in the areas of politics, cultural relations and business will appear in the Centre's Yearbook (see below).

The Centre has instituted a series of Irish-German Business lectures to take place each spring semester. The series began in spring 1998. The speakers of the first series were Mr. *Philipp Hergett*, Hon. Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany in Galway; Dr *Dieter Tscherning*, Director of the German-Irish Chamber of Commerce, Dublin; and Mrs *Johanna Saar*, Managing Director, Irish Dresden.

Addressing cultural issues, the Centre welcomed in March 1998 Dr *Paul F. and Silvia Botheroyd* of Ruhr Universität Bochum who lectured on »The wondrous world of screen translation«, and *Donato Tangredi M.A.*, Universität Tübingen who introduced UL students to the »Tübinger Modell einer integrativen Landeskunde«.

Mia Lerm-Hayes, of University College Dublin, visited the Centre in November 1998 to give a lecture on the influence of James Joyce on the work of Joseph Beuys, one of post-war Germany's most influential and controversial artists. Another distinguished guest lecturer to have visited the Centre in November was *Dr Ian King*, of South Bank University, London, who presented his assessment of »The German Elections: A Red/Green Future?«.

This summer, the Centre was instrumental in bringing the First German-Irish Masterclasses for Wind / Brass Instruments and Harp to the University of Limerick. They were organized jointly by the Goethe Institute, Dublin, GIC Promotions, Düsseldorf and the Centre for German–Irish Studies. Taught by highly acclaimed musicians, the Masterclasses attracted many students from both Ireland and Germany. A highlight was the final concert in the Jean Monnet Theatre on 18 July.

The Centre has established contacts with several Irish-German societies and the Austrian-Irish Society. In August 1998, the president of the Würzburg German-Irish Society, Mr Jürgen Gottschalk and his wife came to visit the Centre and contributed a number of publications to the Centre's book collection.

Spreading the word ...

UL-based members of the Centre for Irish-German Studies attended a number of conferences over the past months, delivering papers which illustrate the wide range of interests and issues covered by the Centre.

— Joachim Fischer, *Irische Perspektiven. Zum Deutschlandbild in den Romanen Canon Sheehans. The Novel in Anglo-German Context: Cultural Cross-Currents and Affinities.* University of Leeds, September 1997.

— Joachim Fischer, *Ardnacrusha – a German perspective.* Lecture delivered to the Thomond Archaeological Society, 17 November 1997.

— Joachim Fischer, "Kultur – and our need of it". The image of Germany as a factor in the constructions of Irish national identity between 1890 and 1920. *Seventh International Conference on the Literature of Region and Nation*, Germersheim, August 1998.

— Joachim Fischer, 19th century travellers to Germany and their tales. *Das schwierige 19. Jahrhundert. Symposium anlässlich der Emeritierung von Eda Sagarra.* Trinity College Dublin, September 1998.

— Gisela Holfter, *Business German in Ireland. Languages for Specific Purposes & Academic Purposes – Integrating Theory and Practice*, University College Dublin, March 1998.

— Gisela Holfter, *Ireland – the troublesome country – a German Perspective, IASIL 1998*, University of Limerick, July 1998.

— Gisela Holfter, *Participation in TV studio discussion on Heinrich Böll (with Günter Wallraff, Reinhold Neven DuMont, Günter deBruyn, Wolfgang Niedecken)*, broadcast on WDR 18.12.1997.

— Gisela Holfter and Níolín Nic Bhloscaidh, *From Tomás Ó Criomhthain's 'An tOileánach' to Böll's 'Die Boote fahren nicht mehr aus', RIA 25. Annual Research Symposium on Transitions, Transpositions and Translations – Cross Currents in Language and Literature and the Other Arts*, Queens University Belfast, November 1998.

— Marieke Krajenbrink, *Transforming national myths. On reworkings of the Nibelungs and Parsifal in contemporary German-speaking drama, College of Humanities Annual Research Conference*, University of Limerick, June 1998.

— Joachim Lerchenmueller, *Von Krieg und Nach-Krieg. Vergangenheit und Vergangenheitskonflikte der Keltologie, Celtic Studies at the Humboldt University before and during the Nazi period*, Humboldt University Berlin, March 1998.

Funding & Donations

The Centre gratefully received Books worth £2,100 donated by a number of German publishing houses. They were added to the Centre's collection of German-Irish material.

The book collection, initially located in the Glucksman Centre, has now been relocated to the ground floor of the new Glucksman Library and Information Technology Building. The Centre also received a copy of the exhibition Heinrich Böll – Life and Work, from the Heinrich Böll Archive, Köln.

The work of the Centre is financially supported by its Friends (see application form on back page). Among the Centre's Founding Business Friends were Bayer Ltd. Ireland, Würth Ireland Ltd., Holmes O'Malley Sexton, and Shannon Development.

Members of the Centre received »Seed« Funding Awards by the University of Limerick worth £1,000 and £5,000 respectively, for research on »The correspondence of Myles Dillon 1922–25« (see books published), and »The Importance of Inter-Cultural Studies for German-Irish Business Transactions«.

Ongoing Research

To encourage research is one of the Centre's priorities, both at postgraduate and postdoctoral level.

In collaboration with Dr Hermann Rasche, of NUI Galway, Dr Gisela Holfter is involved in research on German refugees in Ireland, 1939-1945;

Dr Joachim Lerchenmueller is working on the history of the ill-fated »Irish Brigade« in Germany, the military unit set up within the German Army in late 1914 upon the suggestion of Sir Roger Casement;

Claire O'Reilly and Thomas Hippler, both postgraduate students, are carrying out research projects on the importance of inter-cultural studies for German-Irish business transactions, as part of a project supervised by Dr Gisela Holfter.

Books Published & Due Out

UL staff members associated with the Centre for Irish–German Studies have published, and are about to publish, a number of books that hopefully will contribute to a better understanding of German-Irish relations, past & present.

**Deutsch-irische Verbindungen. Geschichte – Literatur – Übersetzung
Irish-German Connections. History – Literature – Translation.
Akten der 1. Limericker Konferenz für deutsch-irische Studien, 2.-4. September 1997.**

Beiträge von Eoin Bourke; Heinz Kosok; Hugh Ridley; Robert K. Weninger; Hermann Rasche; Jürgen Elvert; Paul Weber; Enno Stephan; Cathy Molohan; Doris Dohmen; Rachel McNicholl; Róisín Ní Néill; Andrea Nic Thaidhg; Stephen Brewer. Herausgegeben von Joachim Fischer; Gisela Holfter; Eoin Bourke.

WVT: Trier 1998, 160 S., ISBN 3-88476-315-6, 38.50 DM.

Erlebnis Irland. Deutsche Reiseberichte über Irland im zwanzigsten Jahrhundert.

By Gisela Holfter.

WVT: Trier 1996, 317 S., ISBN 3-88476-161-7, 52.50 DM.

**Intertextualität als Konstruktionsprinzip. Transformationen des Kriminalromans
und des romantischen Romans bei Peter Handke und Botho Strauß.**

By Marieke Krajenbrink.

Editions Rodopi BV: Amsterdam, Atlanta, GA 1996, 364 S., ISBN 90-420-0016-3, 100 DM.

**»Keltischer Sprengstoff«. Eine wissenschaftsgeschichtliche Studie
über die deutsche Keltologie von 1900 bis 1945.**

By Joachim Lerchenmueller.

Max Niemeyer Verlag: Tübingen 1997, 500 S., ISBN 3-484-38024-1, 86 DM.

**Im Vorfeld des Massenmords. Germanistik und Nebenfächer im 2. Weltkrieg.
Eine Übersicht.**

By Joachim Lerchenmueller and Gerd Simon.

Ges. für interdisziplinäre Forschung: Tübingen 1997, 3. Aufl., 102 S., ISBN 3-932613-00-7,
45 DM.

**Anders und doch nicht fremd. Materialien zur interkulturellen Landeskunde
Irland – Deutschland, 4.**

By Susanne Dockrell; Joachim Fischer; Elke Hughes;
Jim Hayes; Margaret Mohan; Siobhán Supple.

Dublin: German Inspectorate, Dept. of Education and Science 1998.

**The Correspondence of Myles Dillon 1922–1925.
Irish–German Relations and Celtic Studies.**

Edited by Joachim Fischer; John Dillon.

Dublin: Four Courts Press 1998.

Das Deutschlandbild der Iren 1890-1939. Geschichte – Form – Funktion.

By Joachim Fischer.

Carl Winter Verlag: Heidelberg [due to appear in 1999].

New: Yearbook of the Centre

The first edition of The Yearbook of the Centre for German–Irish Studies is being prepared for publication. Due out in March, it will be the first publication of its kind to appear in Ireland.

The Yearbook aims to provide all those interested in Ireland and Germany with up-to-date information on current affairs, trends and new perspectives in Irish-German relations, covering matters political, social, economic, cultural and academic.

The 1998 Yearbook is due to appear in March, 1999. Members & Friends of the CIGS can avail of a reduced subscription rate, when ordering their copy before 1 February 1999.

2nd Limerick Conference 2–4 Sept 1999

The Centre will host its Second Limerick Conference on 2–4 September 1999, in collaboration with the Centre for European Studies at the University of Limerick and the German Academic Exchange Service (daad).

Ireland and Germany — 50 Years on

In 1949, the Republic of Ireland Act and both German constitutions were ratified. This conference is to mark these occasions and to compare experiences in both Ireland and Germany during the last 50 years. A number of well-known Irish and German experts from various fields will debate the issues that have been instrumental in shaping the island of Ireland and Germany in the post-war period.

Provisional Conference Programme

Thursday, 2 September 1999

Session 1: 1949: Two constitutions compared

Friday, 3 September 1999

Contrasting Irish and German experiences

Session 2

Experiences of division and unification

Session 3

Ireland, Germany and the EU

Session 4

The Celtic Tiger –

An Irish »Wirtschaftswunder?«

Session 5

Multiculturalism

Saturday, 4 September 1999

Linking Ireland and Germany

Session 6

Women

Session 7

Education & educational systems,

especially 3rd level

Session 8

Connections in cultural life

Session 9

The future of German-Irish relations