

Centre news

No. 7 September 2005

Introduction

As you will see we have been busy since the last newsletter (spring 2004) – we have organised three international conferences and a number of other events and produced a number of publications. For the latest update of our work visit our website at <http://www.ul.ie/~lcs/irish-german.html>

Conferences

Intercultural Connections within German and Irish Children's Literature

On 23 and 24 April 2004 the Centre for Irish-German Studies held a conference at Mary Immaculate College and the University of Limerick on intercultural aspects of Irish and German-language children's literature and the intersections between the children's literature of Ireland and the German-speaking world.

The conference began with keynote speaker Professor Emer O'Sullivan (Lüneburg), not only a world expert in the field of children's literature, and winner of the prestigious International Research Society for Children's Literature Award in 2000, but herself co-author with Dietmar Rösler of a number of extremely popular dual language German/English works for young people. The latter were then explored in a conference paper by Susan Tebbutt (MIC). O'Sullivan related comparative children's literature studies to examples from Irish and German children's literature, and set the scene for a most stimulating conference.

Guest speaker Gabriel Rosenstock, author/translator of over one hundred books, himself active in publishing in the Irish language, a member of Aosdána and a former chairman of Poetry Ireland gave a fascinating talk including examples of his own work as a writer. The second keynote speaker, Celia Keenan from St Patrick's College, Dublin, founder member and current president of ISSCL, the Irish Society for the Study of Children's Literature, spoke about the strange case of Irish-published authors who were adopted by British publishers in the late 1980s and 1990s. Many prize-winning writers, including Kate Thompson, Maeve Friel, Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick and Eoin Colfer were 'adopted' by British publishers, with subsequent changes to their work once they were 're-colonised'. The third

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keynote speaker, Professor Stefan Neuhaus (Innsbruck), talked of the politics of fairy tales and the connections between the work of Oscar Wilde and the German tradition. Wilde, like the German writer E.T.A. Hoffmann, had a hidden focus on the social and political circumstances of the time, and used supernatural elements to reveal how the 'natural' is in fact a construct.

Grimms' fairy tales were also central to Professor Winfred Kaminski's paper, (Frankfurt), who spoke of their multicultural origins, the processes behind the collection of the tales, and the fact that the fairy tales had Oriental, Greek, Roman, Italian and French sources, but almost no German elements. Roibeárd Ó Cathasaigh (MIC) compared German and Irish versions of 'The wolf and the seven little kids' and highlighted the contrast between the written and the oral tradition of tales. Moving away from fairy tales, Stefanie Weber (MIC) also made German-Irish connections in her analysis of Swift and Kästner entitled 'Of little people and big follies', and Frank Flanagan (MIC) gave a fascinating insight into the work of Bengali poet and Nobel Laureate, Rabindaranath Tagore's play *The Post Office* (1911), and how it intersected with the lives of Irish patriot Patrick H. Pearse and the Polish paediatrician Dr Janusz Korczak, who produced the play in the Warsaw Ghetto. Patrick Studer and Helen Hauser (UL/MIC) gave a joint paper on the Irish dimension in the children's books by Gabrielle Alioth, who was born in Switzerland but now lives in Ireland.

All participants agreed that the conference had been extremely stimulating, and revealed a far wider network of connections across the cultures than had been anticipated.

Ardnacrusha 75

From 15 – 17 April 2004, the Centre for Irish-German Studies together with the Electricity Supply Board (ESB), the Hunt Museum, Limerick and Siemens Ireland organised the interdisciplinary conference 'Ardnacrusha 75' to mark the 75th anniversary of the official opening of the hydro-electric power station at Ardnacrusha, built between 1925 and 1929 by the Berlin firm Siemens-Schuckert.

The conference started off on Thursday 15 April at Ardnacrusha Power Station with lectures by Brendan Delany (ESB), who gave an overview of the Shannon Scheme, and Ron Cox (TCD) on 'Bridge-building and Ardnacrusha' followed by a reception and a brief tour of the station. On Friday the event moved to the Hunt Museum where former Minister Justin Keating spoke about his father, Irish painter Seán Keating, who painted the

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progress of the Shannon Scheme works, and his contribution to visual arts in Ireland. To emphasise the inter-disciplinary nature of the conference this was followed by Paul Duffy's lecture on 'Engineering perspectives on Ardnacrusha'. On Saturday, the conference concluded with a day of lectures at the University of Limerick. Jürgen Elvert (University of Cologne) spoke on 'Germany and Ireland in the 1920's: Political and Economic Relations' and Wilfried Feldenkirchen (University of Erlangen/Nürnberg & Siemens Archives, Munich) on 'Siemens in the 1920's and the importance of the Shannon Scheme'. Other lectures were by Peter Carroll (Building Consulting Group, ESBI) on 'Architectural perspectives of Ardnacrusha Power Station' and by Gerald O'Beirne (Siemens Ireland) on 'The Shannon Scheme & Siemens in Ireland'.

In the afternoon Michael McCarthy (Dublin) gave a lecture on 'Security Issues for the Shannon Scheme' and Mark Maguire (Dublin Business School) spoke on 'Social consequences of Ardnacrusha and electrification'. Joachim Fischer (University of Limerick) rounded up the conference with a lecture on 'Literary Images of the Shannon Scheme'. In the evening Fritz Lang's 1927 classic *Metropolis* in the restored version with original score by Gottfried Huppertz was screened in association with the UL Arts Office. The final event was a concert by Desi Wilkinson & friends who performed 'Songs of Ardnacrusha and more...' in the Scholars Bar, University of Limerick. The conference was one of several events to mark the 75th Anniversary of the official opening of Ardnacrusha Power Station, among them the performance of a specially commissioned piece by Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin and the exhibition of Sean Keating's Shannon Scheme paintings in the Hunt Museum which ran from 7 – 28 April 2004.

The various events were attended by a large audience. The Centre obtained considerable funding for this conference from the ESB without whose support, in particular that of the Archive and Heritage Manager Brendan Delaney, the conference could not have happened.

German-speaking Exiles in Ireland 1933-1945

This conference, held between 10-12 June 2004 at the University of Limerick, was part of the 'German-speaking Exiles in Ireland 1933-1945 Project', led by Dr Gisela Holfter and supported by the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS). It sprung from research carried out by Dr Gisela Holfter and Dr Hermann Rasche on one such exile, John Hennig, who had to flee his home because he married a

Jewish woman. Hennig and his family were among the relatively small number of German-speaking refugees who found safety in Ireland. The project examines the situation of all German-speaking refugees who came to Ireland in the 1930s and 40s. It aims to establish who came to Ireland, how these refugees managed to overcome the restrictive immigration policy and how their lives turned out in Ireland. It is the first ever attempt to look closely at the impact German-speaking exiles had on Ireland as the first significant group of immigrants to Ireland in the 20th century.

The conference was opened by Prof. Noel Whelan, Vice-President of the University, whose presence and words highlighted the forgotten importance of the exiles in Ireland. The significance of the presence of the German and Austrian Ambassadors added weight to this. The conference was the first to place the continuing research in Ireland in the context of research done on exiles who came to Britain and other countries. The attendance and contributions of noted international exile scholars, such as Professor Dr. Wolfgang Benz, Professor Hamish Ritchie and Professor Dermot Keogh brought attention to the extensive work that is done elsewhere on this fledgling area in Ireland and indicated the amount of work still waiting to be done. The conference was a three-day event that consisted of Prof. Benz' lecture on the history of exile studies and how he foresees its future. Prof. Keogh focused on the Irish situation in particular. Other speakers included Ruth Braunizer (Erwin Schrödinger's daughter), Monica Schefold (John Hennig's daughter) John Cooke (Grandson of Hans Sachs) and Eva Gross, who gave the audience personal insights into the tragedies but also the lighter side of exile life in Ireland with all its cultural diversity and idiosyncrasies. Dr Wolfgang Muchitsch (Director, Joanneum Museum Graz) looked in particular at the experiences of the Austrian refugees who came to Ireland while Raphael Siev (Curator, Jewish Museum Dublin) commented on the events from an Irish-Jewish perspective. Other scholars such as Dr Horst Dickel (Wiesbaden), Dr Gisela Holfter (Limerick), Dr Hermann Rasche (Galway) and Dr Colin Walker (Belfast), enthralled the delegates with their histories of eminent exiles who made it to Ireland, sometimes against all the odds, and the contributions these new residents of Ireland made to their new home. Two PhD students at the University of Limerick and members of the Exiles in Ireland Project team, Siobhán O' Connor, Birte Schulz, and Austrian lektor Heidi Tomitz, also presented their work to date.

The conference concluded with a lively and interesting round-table discussion panelled by Prof Hamish Ritchie (Sheffield/London), Dr Deborah Vietor-Engländer (Darmstadt/London), Prof Anthony McElligott (Limerick) and Dr Pól Ó Dochartaigh (Coleraine) and with plenty of audience participation.

The sombre film *No More Blooms* produced by Louis Lentin added another dimension to the event while the arousing Concert & Céili performed by Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin & students on the BA Traditional Irish Music programme provided more relaxed entertainment. The German Embassy in Dublin sponsored a wine reception and also made a generous contribution to the university library.

Other Events

'Uufgschtellti Schwiitz – Swiss Media and Society' Event / Book Launch

On Thursday, 25 November 2004, the Swiss Event 'Uufgschtellti Schwiitz – Swiss Media and Society', a cooperation of the Centre for Irish-German Studies at the University of Limerick and the Department of German Studies at Mary Immaculate College, took place in the Wood Room of Plassey House. The event was supported by the Embassy of Switzerland in Dublin, Presence Switzerland, the Centre for European Studies and the Department of Languages and Cultural Studies at the University of Limerick. The event, organized by Ines Brunhart, was opened by Dr. Eugene O'Brien, Assistant Dean of Research, with Swiss journalist Hans-Peter Kunisch chairing.

The keynote speaker, lic. iur. François Baur, presented a paper entitled "'It's Professionalism, Stupid!": How professional communication has changed public opinion on same sex orientation in Switzerland'. The speaker was President of Pink Cross, the National Swiss umbrella organisation for gay rights, and is currently working as an officer in Brussels for the Secretariat of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). His presentation was followed by a talk on 'Swiss Public Opinion: Winds of Change?' presented by Dr. Tobias Theiler (UCD) and Dr. Veronica O'Regan's presentation "'Mündige Bürger": German-Swiss Media Constructions of Irish-EU relations'. The seminar was wound up by a discussion.

Afterwards, Swiss and Austrian attachés, Ernst Balzli (Switzerland) and Dr. Peter Mikl (Austria), jointly launched *Connections and Identities: Ireland, Austria and Switzerland*, edited by Gisela Holfter, Marieke Krajenbrink & Edward Moxon-Browne, and published by Peter Lang, Bern.

Annette Pehnt Reading, 30 November 2004

Annette Pehnt read from her novel *Insel 34* on 30th November in the Wood Room, Plassey House, University of Limerick. Annette Pehnt has lived in Ireland, Scotland and the USA and has been the recipient of a number of literary prizes (Förderpreis NRW, Mara-Cassens-Preis, Stipendium des Deutschen Literaturfonds and the Ingeborg Bachmann Jury Prize in 2002).

Annual Christmas Reception / Book Launch

The Annual Christmas Reception of the Centre for Irish-German took place on 6 December 2004 at Plassey House, University of Limerick. The reception included the launch of *Irish-German Studies 1* (Yearbook of the Centre for Irish-German Studies 2001/2), edited by Joachim Fischer, Pól Ó Dochartaigh and Helen Kelly-Holmes.

Gender, Memory and Modernity Day School

The 'Gender, Memory and Modernity Day School' was organized in collaboration with Women's Studies at University of Limerick and held on 26 May 2005 at Plassey House, University of Limerick. The speakers were:

Dr Yvonne McKenna, IRHSS Post-Doctoral Fellow, Women's Studies, University of Limerick, presented a paper entitled 'Remembering Home, Seeking Belonging, Experiencing Return'. The paper drew on the oral history testimonies of Irish women religious living in or returned from England to explore how they articulate a sense of self in relation to their experiences of returning to Ireland temporarily and permanently.

Birte Schulz, IRCHSS Postgraduate Scholar, Centre for Irish-German Studies, spoke about 'The role of memory in the experience of German-speaking exiles in Ireland 1933-45'. She investigated possibilities and theories about how the imposed exile, i.e. the change of physical location together with the loss of linguistic and cultural community or even family, affected the sense of identity, using the example of Paul Tillich's dialectic model of the experience of exile for analysing written and oral sources.

Later on Dr Gisela Holfter gave a talk about 'German-speaking Exiles in Ireland: Writing Family Histories as Case Studies'. She presented initial results of her study and spoke about difficulties encountered by using the

example of two refugee families. The paper included a closer look at the situation of women and children in exile.

Master class for Postgraduates by Prof. Ian Wallace, Bath

The first Masterclass of the Centre, organised by Gisela Holfter, took place 19/20. April 2005. After individual presentations by the postgraduates in a plenary session each had an individual session with Prof Wallace. This was followed the next day by an enjoyable dinner with postgraduates, members of the German section, the Dept of German at MIC and Dr Hermann Rasche (NUI Galway). Prof Wallace kindly agreed to come back in spring 2006 for the third Masterclass. The second Masterclass will be taught by Prof Wolfgang Benz, Berlin.

Publications

Books

Fischer, J., P. Ó Dochartaigh and H. Kelly-Holmes (eds): *Yearbook of the Centre for Irish-German Studies 2001/2002 / Irish-German Studies 1*, Trier: Wissenschaftlicher Verlag Trier 2004, 183pp.

Holfter, G., Krajenbrink, M., Moxon-Browne, E. (eds): *Connections and Identities: Austria, Ireland and Switzerland*, series Wechselwirkungen vol. 6, Bern: Peter Lang, 2004, 381 p.

Holfter, G., Rasche, H. (eds) *John Hennig's Exile in Ireland*, Arlen: Galway 2004. 96 p. (translation [of our introduction, pp 11-51 and excerpts of the autobiography] of our 2002 publication).

Stuhlmann, A., Studer, P. (eds), *Language - Text - Bildung: Essays in Honour of Beate Dreike*. Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 2005, 347 p.

Articles/ Contributions to books

Conlan, P.: Enlargement: reflecting on some Irish experiences of membership sovereignty of the people: The Nice referendum in context. In: Milczarek, D.; Nowak, A.Z. (eds.), *On the Road to the European Union. Applicant Countries' Perspective*, Warsaw: University Centre for Europe, University of Warsaw, 2003, pp. 159-178.

Fischer, J.: Kenny Dodd goes mad: or, Charles Lever's unsentimental journey through Germany. In: H. Rasche and C. Schönfeld (eds), *Denkbilder - Festschrift für Eoin Bourke*. Würzburg: Königshausen & Neumann 2004.

Fischer, J.: „...und notiere, während ich den Motor anlasse: C., county C. Ireland“: Anmerkungen zum Bild der Stadt Cork in der deutschsprachigen Irland-Literatur. In: A. Stuhlmann, P. Studer (eds), *Language - Text - Bildung: Essays in Honour of Beate Dreike*. Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 2005.

Fischer, J., Erstes Großkraftwerk von Irland: Siemens baute am Shannon das Wasserkraftwerk. *Industrie-kultur*, 2/2005, pp. 8-9.

Hauser, H., together with Tebbutt, S.: Ein neues Irlandbild?: Die Schweizer Autoren Gabrielle Alioth and Hansjörg Schertenleib erzählen lange verschwiegene irische Geschichten. In: G. Holfter, M. Krajenbrink, E. Moxon-Browne (eds), *Beziehungen und Identitäten: Österreich, Irland und die Schweiz - Connections and Identities: Austria, Ireland and Switzerland*, Berne et al: Peter Lang, 2004, pp. 255-274.

Holfter, G., Bossé, E.: Zu Aspekten und Diskussionen der deutschen Gegenwartsliteratur. In: A. Stuhlmann, P. Studer (eds), *Language - Text - Bildung: Essays in Honour of Beate Dreike*. Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 2005, pp. 165-180.

Holfter, G., Krajenbrink, M.: Austria - Hibernia - Helvetia: Zu österreichisch- und schweizerisch-irischen Beziehungen und Fragen der Identität. In: *Identitäten und Beziehungen - Irland, Österreich und die Schweiz*, series Wechselwirkungen vol. 6, Bern: Peter Lang, 2004, pp. 11-23.

Holfter, G. (with H. Rasche): John Hennig: His life and work. In: *John Hennig's Exile in Ireland*, Arlen: Galway, 2004, pp. 11-52 & 87-96 (notes) [translation of Exil in Ireland].

Holfter, G.: Projects in Business German: A way towards intercultural competence and self directed studies. In: M. Smith (ed.), *Readings in the Teaching of Culture*, Dublin: Institiúid Teangeolaíochta Eireann, 2004, pp. 65-70.

Holfter, G.: Die deutschsprachige Rezeption Nordirlands. In: H. Rasche und C. Schönfeld (eds), *Denk-Bilder - Festschrift für Eoin Bourke*, Würzburg: Königshausen & Neumann, 2004, pp. 306-313.

Kelly-Holmes, H., O'Regan, V.: 'The spoilt children of Europe'. German press coverage of the Nice Treaty referenda in Ireland. *Journal of Language & Politics*, Vol. 3 (1), 2004, pp. 81-116.

O'Regan, V.: Mündige Bürger: German-Swiss Media Representation of Ireland's Rejection of the Nice Treaty. In: G. Holfter, M. Krajenbrink & E.

Moxon-Brown (eds.), *Beziehungen und Identitäten: Österreich, Irland und die Schweiz*, Bern: Peter Lang, 2004, pp. 303-321.

Studer, P.: „Not much happening in Switzerland: Style and Identity in Early Editions of Neue Zürcher Zeitung, in: A. Stuhlmann, P. Studer (eds), *Language - Text - Bildung: Essays in Honour of Beate Dreike*. Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 2005, pp. 47-60.

Forthcoming publications

Conlan, P.: Nationality and derivative rights: Potential factors in the trafficking of women?. In: Beate Rudolf (ed.), *Women and international law*. Frankfurt: Nomos Verlag.

Conlan, P.: John Maurice Kelly 1931-1991. In: Holfter/Fischer (eds.), *Irish-German Encounters*.

Egger, S. and P. Studer (eds): *From the Margins to the Centre: Irish Germanists on Swiss Culture and Literature*, Oxford/Bern: Peter Lang (including a chapter of each editor).

Fischer, J. / Neville, G. (eds.): *As Others Saw Us: Cork through European Eyes*. Cork: Collins Press (funded by Cork 2005 European Capital of Culture)

Fischer, J.: Review of P. Ó Dochartaigh, *Julius Pokorny*. Dublin 2003. *European History Quarterly*.

Fischer, J.: Wagner, Bayreuth and the Irish image of Germany. In: M. Murphy, J. Smaczny (eds), *Music in Nineteenth Century Ireland*. Dublin: Four Courts Press

Holfter, G.: From bestseller to failure? Heinrich Böll's *Irishes Tagebuch* to *Irland und seine Kinder*. In: C. Schönfeld (ed): *Processes of Transposition: German Literature and Film*, Amsterdamer Beiträge zur neueren Germanistik, Amsterdam/Atlanta: Rodopi 2005/6 (15 pp)

Holfter, G (ed): *German-speaking exiles in Ireland*, Amsterdam/Atlanta: Rodopi 2006 (including two chapters by G. Holfter).

O'Connor, S.: Reaction against social change in policy and the media: Ireland's treatment of German-Speaking refugees 1933-1945. Annual Journal of the UL History Department , 2005.

O'Regan, V.: From the Margins to the Centre. In: S. Egger / P. Studer (eds): *From the Margins to the Centre: Irish Germanists on Swiss Culture and Literature*, Frankfurt/New York: Peter Lang.

O'Regan, V. und P. Studer: "Typisch schweizeric": Foreigners and the speeding phenomenon in the Swiss press." In: S. Egger / P. Studer (eds): *From the Margins to the Centre: Irish Germanists on Swiss Culture and Literature*.

Tebbutt, S., Fischer, J (eds): *Intercultural Connections within German and Irish Children's Literature* (Irish-German Studies II).

Representing the Centre

Fischer, J.: 'Conveying Images of Ireland and Germany in the 19th century'. *Lecture accompanying the exhibition "A German Dream"*. National Library of Ireland, October 2004

Fischer, J.: Seminars on 'Jim Sheridan's *The Field*' and on 'Visual Representation of Ireland on German TV'. Pädagogische Hochschule Karlsruhe, June 2005.

Fischer, J., Lilburn, D., 'Glimpses of Four Cities: Dublin – Berlin – Moscow – Warsaw', *IMPACT IV – International Printmaking Conference*, Berlin/Poznan, September 2005

Holfter, G.: Die Rolle der Schweiz am Zentrum für deutsch-irische Studien, 2nd Swiss Day 2004, Mary Immaculate College, 12 March 2004.

Holfter, G.: From Heinrich Böll's Irish Journal to Children of Eire, 9th Galway Colloquium 2004, Literature to Film - Film to Literature, Galway, 2-4 April 2004.

Holfter, G.: 'Dr Ernst Scheyer', German-speaking Exiles in Ireland 1933-1945, 7th Limerick Conference in Irish-German Studies, Limerick, 10-12 June 2004

Holfter, G.: 'Heinrich Böll's reception in Ireland', Public Lecture, Mary Immaculate College, 2 November 2004.

Holfter, G.: (with H. Rasche) 'An introduction to Annette Pehnt', Goethe-Institut Dublin, 29 November 2005.

Holfter, G.: 'New trends in travel literature', invited guest lecture, University of Stockholm, 8 February 2005.

Holfter, G.: 'Heinrich Bölls *Irishes Tagebuch*', invited guest lecture, Göteborg University, 9 February 2005.

Holfter, G.: 'Exilland Irland in ausgewählten Biografien und Autobiografien deutschsprachiger Exilanten', Jahrestagung der Gesellschaft für Exilforschung, Frankfurt, 10-12 March 2005.

Holfter, G.: 'Exile in Ireland', Double Vision conference, UCD, Dublin, 18-20 March 2005.

O'Connor, S.: 'German speaking Refugees in Ireland 1933-1945: Policy-Making and Public Opinion', Humanities Postgraduate Research Seminar, MIC & UL, April 2004.

O'Connor, S.: 'The Obliviousness of the Fortunate: Policy and Public Opinion toward German Refugees 1933-1945', 7th Limerick Conference in Irish-German Studies, 10.-12. June 2004.

O'Connor, S.: 'Reaction against social change in policy and the media: Ireland's treatment of German-Speaking refugees 1933-1945', The Economic and Social History Society of Ireland Annual Conference, NUI Maynooth, 12./13. November 2004.

O'Connor, S.: 'The Situation of German-Speaking Refugees in Ireland, 1933-1945', 7th Annual Grian Conference in New York University, March 2005.

O'Connor, S.: 'A vision of Ireland and the reality in relation to German-speaking Refugees in Ireland from 1932-1939', Double Vision Conference UCD, Dublin, 18-20.3.2005.

O'Regan, V.: 'Writing against war', Seminar for Ingeborg Bachmann Exhibition, University of Limerick, 18. Nov. 2004.

O'Regan, V.: 'Swiss Media Perception of Ireland', Seminar Swiss Day, University of Limerick, Nov. 2004.

O'Regan, V.: "'Typisch schweizeric": Foreigners and the speeding phenomenon in the Swiss press', CALS Research Day, University of Limerick, 9. June 2005.

Ryschka, B.: 'The longing to belong: The construction of national identity in selected dramatic works of Tom Murphy and Felix Mitterer'. University of London, National Postgraduate Colloquium in German Studies, April 2004.

Ryschka, B.: 'Discursive strategies in the construction of national identity in the plays *Famine* by Tom Murphy and *Kein schöner Land* by Felix Mitterer'. CALS-Postgraduate Conference at UL, May 2004.

Ryschka, B.: 'In Search for a National Identity: The construction of national identity in the theatre of Tom Murphy and Felix Mitterer'. IALIC Conference in DCU Politics, Plurilingualism and Linguistic Identity, Nov. 2004.

Ryschka, B.: 'In Search of National Identity: Literary representations in the theatre of Tom Murphy and Felix Mitterer'. Irish Studies Conference at the University of Sunderland, Nov. 2004.

Studer, P.: 'The foreign dimension in Gabrielle Alioth's children's literature', Intercultural connections within German and Irish children's literature, April 2004.

Coming up - planned events for autumn/winter 2005

Second Masterclass for Postgraduates of the Centre by Prof. Wolfgang Benz, Berlin, 3-4 October 2005, supported by UL seedfunding and the Dean of Graduate Studies (further info: G. Holfter).

Heinrich Böll Weekend on Achill Island, 14-16 October. Invited lecture by Gisela Holfter, 14 October 2005, Hugo Hamilton 15 Oct. 2005.

The Business German in Ireland Working Group will meet this autumn in Dublin, Goethe-Institut, 4 November 2005 (further info: G. Holfter).

An evening with Romantic songs by Schubert, Schumann and Wolf will take place 7 November 2005 in UL (supported by the CoH, info: G. Holfter)

The German section is organising a "German afternoon" for senior pupils taking German and their teachers on 9 November 2005 with "Schnupperkurse", info on studying German at UL, a tour of the campus and German food (further info: Head of German, Dr M. Krajenbrink, marieke.krajenbrink@ul.ie, 061/202453)

Heinrich Böll Symposium in Shanghai, China 14-16 November with invited plenary speech by Gisela Holfter.

The Austrian writers Doron Rabinovici and Anna Mitgutsch are coming as part of the Centre's lecture series on Questions of Identity in German-speaking countries. Doron Rabinovici will read on 24 November 2005 and Anna Mitgutsch will read on 29 November 2005. The readings are supported by the College of Humanities Teaching Fund and the Austrian Embassy, Dublin (further info: G. Holfter). All members welcome!

The Swiss writer Peter Stamm will be writer-in-residence in UL and Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, in December 2005, supported by the UL College of Humanities teaching fund (further info: M. Krajenbrink, marieke.krajenbrink@ul.ie and Patrick Studer, Patrick.Studer@mic.ul.ie).

The Christmas reception 2005 is planned for Thursday 8 December, following a reading by Peter Stamm.

Postgraduate Research Projects

Completed Research

Anne-Marie O'Brien, MIC, Univ. Limerick, supervised by Dr Susan Tebbutt has successfully completed her MA research 'An exploratory study of Doyé's concept of the teacher as an "Intercultural Education Manager" with reference to the teaching of foreign languages at primary school level, focusing specifically on the impact of the teacher as a native or non-native speaker'.

Fiona Maher successfully completed her Master's thesis on 'Ireland in the 1950s: Stagnation and Change through Irish and German Eyes' under the supervision of Dr Joachim Fischer.

New Postgraduates in 2004/5

Emmanuelle Bossé, supervised by Dr G. Holfter and funded by the Advanced Scholar's Programme and Plassey Campus Centre, is working on an MA on 'Berlin after the Wall and the children of the reunification: Portrayal of the new metropolis and its inhabitants in the fiction of female authors born between 1963 and 1972.' She is concentrating on the novels which focus on the fall of the Berlin Wall and its consequences on the generation that was between 13 and 25 years old when the wall fell.

Bill O'Keeffe, PhD: 'Literary Occupiers': A comparative study of the writers Heinrich Böll and Felix Hartlaub'. This is an examination of the body of literature produced by these and other soldier-writers, the noted diarist Ernst Jünger foremost, who - francophiles all - found themselves in the anomalous position of having to discharge conflicting duties - to their public and to their private, 'inner' professions. The thesis is supervised by Dr G. Holfter.

Birte Schulz (IRCHSS postgraduate scholar), 'Questions of Identity – German-speaking exiles in Ireland 1933-1945'. She investigates possibilities

and theories about how exile affected the sense of identity among German-speaking exiles in Ireland. The thesis is supervised by Dr G. Holfter.

Co-Supervision and PhD cooperation with European Universities:

Thorsten M. Pöpplow (Göteborg) is working on a PhD on 'Heinrich Bölls *Irishes Tagebuch*'. He is co-supervised by Prof Edgar Platen, University of Göteborg, Sweden and Dr G. Holfter. Thorsten will come to Limerick for the academic year 2005/2006.

Gabriele Andersson (Stockholm) is working on a PhD on 'Die Frau auf Reisen in Texten des 15.-18. Jahrhunderts'. She is co-supervised by Prof Elisabeth Waghäll-Nivre and Dr G. Holfter.

Current Research Students

PhD

Birgit Ryschka, 'The Construction and Deconstruction of National Identity in Selected Plays of Tom Murphy and Felix Mitterer' (M Krajenbrink)

Deirdre Ní Chuanacháin, MA (UCC) 'Irish utopian thought in the 18th and 19th centuries' (T. Moylan, J. Fischer, M Griffin)

Kate Uí Chiobháin's, MA (UL) 'Distant familiarity: Travel writing in Irish from 1900 to the present day' (J. Fischer with Dr R. Ní Fhrighil, St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra / DCU).

Siobhán O'Connor, MA (NUI Maynooth), 'Policy and Public Opinion towards German-speaking exiles in Ireland 1933-1945' (G. Holfter)

MA Research

Cornelia Wahly 'Attitudes of Irish students of German at primary and secondary level toward the learning of German as a foreign language' (A. O'Keefe and S. Egger, MIC)

Trainees / Praktikanten

The Centre also welcomed its new trainee Kasim Mohamed (student of Cultural Sciences, Fachhochschule Krefeld) over the summer 2005. Kasim helped with administrative work, formatting and scanning of documents as well as sorting the book collection. He also contributed to updating the Centre website and this edition of Centre *news*. Not to be forgotten is also his immediate contribution to the UL German soccer team for the DAAD soccer tournament between the German departments in Ireland which took place in Dublin at the end of April 2005 (UL got 4th!). Thanks, Kasim!

A new trainee, Steffi Nothnagel, MA, from the Technical University of Chemnitz will be with the Centre for six months from October 2005 onwards.

Book collection

The book collection was boosted by a substantial amount of Irish/German books donated by Dr. Rainer Gerold, Director of Research at the EU Commission and his sister Sybille Casanova. This wonderful gift, a book collection on Ireland by the late mother of Dr Gerold and Ms Casanova, Marianne Gerold, is much appreciated!

For the first time the Centre collection was able to present some books to UL library. Ca. 300 volumes of literature by German-speaking authors have been donated to the general book collection.

Special thanks

We would like to thank Dr Gerold, Ms Casanova, the Goethe Institut Dublin, the German, Swiss and Austrian Embassies in Dublin and the Irish Embassy in Berlin for their support, cooperation and especially for the donation of books and material.

Other news

Future of German Roundtable / Retirement of Dr. Beate Dreike (NUI Cork)

To mark the occasion of her retirement and thank her for her enormous work and contribution to German Studies in Cork and Ireland, a roundtable discussion on the future of German took place on 3 June 2005. The director of the London DAAD branch, Dr Nina Lemmens, Prof Nigel Reeves (Aston), Prof emer. Eoin Bourke (Galway), Dr Catriona Leahy (Dublin) and Dr Gisela Holfter took part in the lively discussion. Andreas Stuhlmann (Cork), one of the editors of a Festschrift in her honour, moderated. We wish her a wonderful time in her retirement and hope to see her often.

Dr Claire O'Reilly, the first PhD student of the Centre and subsequently Junior Professor at the Technische Universität Chemnitz has secured a position in the German Department at University College Cork. Congratulations, Claire! We are looking forward to new links and more possibilities for cooperation with UCC in the years to come.

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