

Centre *news*

No. 17 November 2014

Five books, a conference, a colloquium and some other activities...

It has been a very busy time for the Centre for Irish-German Studies since the last newsletter in April of this year! Four books have already appeared and a fifth will be ready for a celebration of this publishing record of the Centre in December at our annual Mulled Wine reception (see below). This newsletter will give you a taste of the diversity of current research in Irish-German Studies and provide introductions to all five volumes. Furthermore, we have the 15th Limerick Conference in Irish-German Studies “25 Jahre Mauerfall – Reflections on GDR literature, its legacy and the connections between the GDR and Ireland” coming up in UL on 7/8 November and a colloquium at the Royal Irish Academy on “Reception of Refugees in Ireland – Legacy and Lessons” on 19 November.

Upcoming Events

15th Limerick Conference in Irish-German Studies / DAAD Alumni Conference:

25 Jahre Mauerfall – Reflections on GDR literature, its legacy and the connections between the GDR and Ireland.

The conference will take place on **7/8 November 2014** at the University of Limerick. The event will be opened by the Vice-President of the University of Limerick, the German Ambassador to Ireland (or representative) and Dr Georg Krawietz, Director DAAD London. Acclaimed German authors **Kathrin Schmidt** (recipient of the German Book Prize, 2009) and **Katja Lange-Müller** (recipient of the Kleistpreis, 2013) have confirmed their participation, whose reading and the following discussion will be chaired by Prof. Ian Wallace.

Further contributors are: Dr Deirdre Byrnes, NUI Galway; Dr Marieke Krajenbrink, University of Limerick; Dr Therese Hörnigk, Präsidentin der Christa-Wolf Gesellschaft, Berlin; Prof Frank Hörnigk, Berlin; Dr Jean Conacher, University of Limerick; Dr Sabine Egger, Mary

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Immaculate College, Limerick; Dr Jérôme aan de Wiel, University College Cork/University of Limerick; Derek Scally, *Irish Times*, Berlin; Dr Joachim Fischer, University of Limerick; Dr Michaela Schrage-Früh, University of Limerick; Dr Fergal Lenehan, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena; Dr Gisela Holfter, University of Limerick. The conference will also see the launch of Jérôme aan de Wiel's book *Résumé of East German Intelligence and Ireland, 1949-90; Espionage, Terrorism & Diplomacy*. The conference dinner will be in honour of Prof Em. Eda Sagarra (TCD), with short presentations by Prof Jürgen Barkhoff, TCD; Prof Em. Eoin Bourke, NUI Galway and Prof Em. Hugh Ridley, UCD.

The conference is organised by Dr Deirdre Byrnes (NUI Galway), Dr Jean Conacher (German Section, UL) and Dr Gisela Holfter.

Colloquium of the Centre for Irish-German Studies

“Reception of Refugees in Ireland – Legacy and Lessons”

This colloquium will take place on 19 November 2014, 2.30pm-5pm, at the **Royal Irish Academy** in Dawson Street, Dublin 2. Speakers include: Prof Bryan Fanning (UCD); Dr Gisela Holfter (UL); Dr Mark Maguire (NUI Maynooth); and Dr Siobhán O'Connor (Ennis CDP and formerly Doras Luimní) as well as a roundtable discussion including Sue Conlan (CEO, Irish Refugee Council, Dublin). The colloquium is followed by the launch of the book *The Irish Context of 'Kristallnacht': Refugees and Helpers*, edited by Gisela Holfter (*Irish-German Studies* 8, Trier: WVT 2014) at 5.30pm with H.E. Thomas Nader (Austrian Ambassador to Ireland) and H.E. Matthias Höpfner (German Ambassador to Ireland). The attendance of the colloquium is free of charge but please email Maria.Rieder@ul.ie by 17 November to register. The support of the Irish Research Council and the Irish Royal Academy is gratefully acknowledged.

Mulled Wine Reception

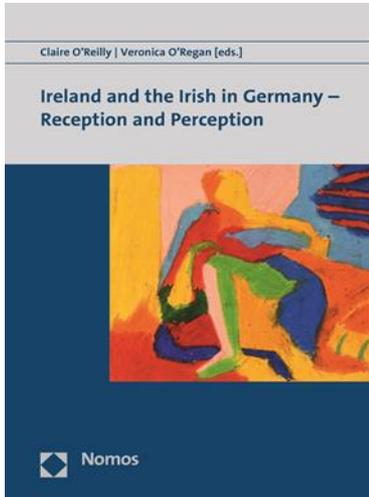
The annual Mulled Wine Reception is very likely to take place on the afternoon of Thursday, 11 December, in the East Room, Plassey House. The five books in Irish-German Studies that have been published in the second half of 2014 will be introduced and the event is organised this year in cooperation with the Irish Palatine Association.

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Books published in 2014

Dr Claire O'Reilly and Dr Veronica O'Regan (eds.), *Ireland and the Irish in Germany: Reception and Perception*.

Baden Baden, Nomos, 2014



The collection begins with a contribution by *Helmut Flachenecker* who examines the impact of a small group of Irish Benedictines who arrived in Regensburg in the late 11th century. Irish monks were sent from here to other monasteries in the region which became part of a union of monasteries after 1215, later known as *Schottenklöster*. Flachenecker shows that the memory of the Irish monks continued to resonate through various local pilgrimages which lasted into the 17th century and devotional practices still exist in parts of southern

Germany today. *Mark Hull* traces the activities and exploits of Irish citizens in Germany during the Second World War, drawing on archival sources to shed light on an area which has not been to the forefront of public consciousness. Hull discusses the role of a number of Irish nationals in Germany, from civilians inadvertently caught up in the conflagration, to the Irish diplomats who maintained an official Irish presence in Berlin, to more controversial figures who actively collaborated with the Nazi regime. Irish humanitarian relief to Germany after World War II is appraised by *Mervyn O'Driscoll*, who underlines its crucial role in the lives of ordinary Germans in the immediate aftermath of the war, when Germany was isolated by much of the rest of the world. O'Driscoll shows that Ireland's post-war aid to Europe which included the defeated nations, although at times misinterpreted by the Allies, was motivated by a sense of duty and altruism on the part of the Irish people. He also discusses Operation Shamrock which saw around 500 German children cared for by Irish foster families. The subject of Irish-German literary relations is the focus of attention in *Heinz Kosok's* contribution, "Thomas Crofton Croker, the Brothers Grimm and the German Image of Ireland". Croker's publication of *The Fairy Legends and Traditions of the South of Ireland* (1825) and already a year later a translation was published by the Grimm Brothers in Leipzig. In her chapter, "From the

Particular to the Universal (and back again?): Irish Children’s Literature in Germany”, *Emer O’Sullivan* examines developments in the reception of Irish children’s literature in Germany: from interest in stories set in the idyllic Irish countryside to the emergence of modern Irish children’s books in German translation in the 1990s. Current perceptions of Ireland and the Irish in Germany are discussed in *Joachim Schwend’s* contribution “Diaspora and Nostalgia – Germany and Ireland”. This chapter discusses the wave of labour emigration from Ireland following the financial crash of 2008 within this paradigm. In “German Media Perceptions of Ireland since the Bailout: From ‘Problem Child’ to ‘Model Pupil’?”, *Veronica O’Regan* investigates Ireland’s image against the backdrop of the Eurozone crisis and the collapse of the Celtic Tiger by analysing some of the dominant constructions of Ireland in the mainstream media from the perspective of Critical Discourse Analysis. She traces the contested and evolving nature of the coverage in German print and broadcast media, noting the presence of diverse ideologies and economic metanarratives which shape reporting on Ireland. *Fergal Lenehan* analyses a number of examples of popular culture through the lens of Cultural Studies, including Irish-German crossover figures from the world of popular music. In “Irish-German Interconnections in Popular Culture: Rock and Popular Music and Michael Fassbender’s German-Irish Celebrity”, Lenehan notes that the influences go both ways and are not limited to Anglophone trends flowing from Ireland to Germany. In his chapter, “German-Irish Relations as seen from the Embassy of Ireland in Berlin”, *Daniel Mulhall*, Irish ambassador to Germany from 2009 to 2013, provides an appraisal of Irish-German relations prior to and during this critical period. Mulhall underlines the deepening of political ties between Ireland and Germany since 2009, which he views as unprecedented in the history of Irish-German relations.

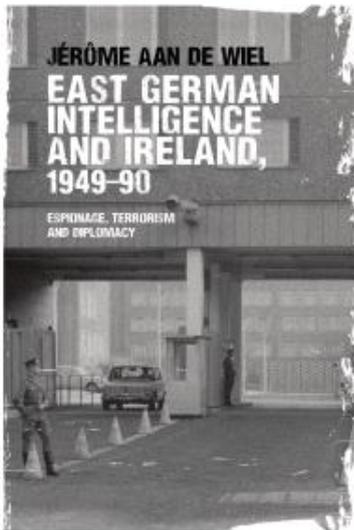
Jérôme aan de Wiel, *Résumé of East German Intelligence and Ireland, 1949-90; Espionage, Terrorism & Diplomacy*

Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2014

Ireland’s role during the Cold War in Europe has not been the object of many studies. Despite the fact that diplomatic relations between Ireland and the German Democratic Republic (GDR) were officially established

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only in 1980, research has unearthed quite a surprising amount of material. Research for this project was undertaken in numerous archives in Germany, Ireland and Belgium. This book analyses Irish-East German relations at political/diplomatic, intelligence, strategic, economic and cultural levels, including the following themes: The Stasi's interest in Ireland and Northern Ireland; Diplomatic recognition between Ireland and the GDR; Commercial relations between Ireland and the GDR; Cultural relations between Ireland and the GDR; Ireland's strategic situation and politico-military matters during the Cold War; Propaganda war and media; The triangular relations between the SED (East German Communist party), CPI and SF/WP; Religious contacts.



The book chapters are as follows:

PART I: Relations between Ireland and East Germany

- 1) History of the relations between Ireland/Northern Ireland and the GDR

PART II: Intelligence

- 2) Stasi history and sources
- 3) Keeping informed and spying on Ireland
- 4) Northern Ireland in the *Zentralen Personendatenbank* (ZPDB)
- 5) Watching the PIRA, the INLA and BAOR, 1970s-1980s

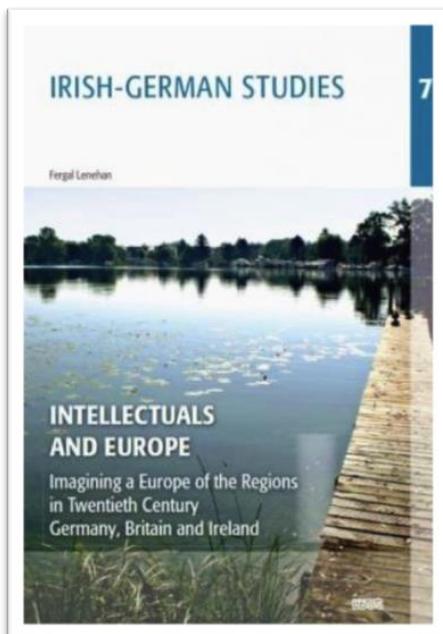
In the first part, the bilateral relations between Ireland and the GDR are explored, notably the unique history of diplomatic recognition involving the repatriation of the remains of Frank Ryan in which the Stasi played a key role, trade problems, propaganda duels between the media of the two countries, religious contacts, the lives of a handful of Irish idealists in the GDR, cultural issues, the embarrassment of comparisons between Ireland/Northern Ireland and West Germany/East Germany for Walter Ulbricht's regime and the uneasy *ménage à trois* between the Communist Party of Ireland (CPI), Sinn Féin/the Workers' Party (SF/WP) and the East German Communist party (SED). As is explained, the Stasi was never too far from all these activities.

In the second part, the Stasi's interest in Ireland and Northern Ireland is revealed. The Stasi's HVA (*Hauptverwaltung Aufklärung*, Foreign

Intelligence Main Directorate) was in charge of intelligence gathering, essentially in West Germany. It did not specifically carry out operations in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Yet, it did collect information on Ireland and Northern Ireland mainly in Belgium (Belgian Foreign Ministry and the European institutions) and also in Vienna where it had moles. The Stasi's Department XXII (HA-XXII) in charge of terrorism watched and analysed the activities of the Provisional IRA (PIRA) and the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) not only in Ireland, Northern Ireland and Britain but also in West Germany as these two groups targeted British diplomatic personnel and the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR). The names of some agents and sources are revealed. Hopefully, the book will convince the reader that Ireland was not without interest for East German Intelligence.

Fergal Lenehan, *Intellectuals and Europe: Imagining a Europe of the Regions in Twentieth Century Germany, Britain and Ireland.* (Irish-German Studies 7), Trier: WVT, 2014.

Visions of Europe have, in many ways, dominated trans-European discourse in the past 6 years. This debate has often been framed in terms of 'crisis'. The monograph *Intellectuals and Europe: Imagining a Europe of the Regions in Twentieth Century Germany, Britain and Ireland* is a timely discussion of two earlier 'crisis' periods; World War 2 and the fall of Communism at the end of the 1980s, and the re-moulding of territory suggested then by some thinkers in Germany, Britain and Ireland. The connecting thread that unites these European visions, sometimes ideologically vastly diverse, is the need for a new decentralised European spatiality that should, the authors consistently argue, supersede the nation-state structure. Combining theories from cultural geography and methodologically informed by intellectual history and *Begriffsgeschichte*, this book discusses eight principle thinkers and situates them within their social, cultural and ideational context.



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Part 1 of the book deals with the World War 2 period. The British Catholic convert, historian and philosopher of history, Christopher Dawson, argued for the re-initiation of a spiritually based ‘Europeanness’, inspired by nostalgia for medieval Christendom. He marries this vision with an aristocratic regionalism based upon the local authority of the aristocracy and the church. The German essayist and author, and sometime nationalist, Ernst Jünger proffered the idea of an outwardly authoritarian new European *Reich* that would, internally, be a space marked by a quasi-anarchistic tribal regionalism; a vision, ultimately, that embraces a type of Europeanist quasi-nationalism. Leopold Kohr, who fled to North America from the Nazis and is an early green thinker who has recently been rediscovered by the occupy movement, argued for a Europe of Districts, based upon pre-nation-state spaces reacquiring central political agency. The Belfast-born essayist and poet, John Hewitt, embraced an Ulster regionalism, within a European context, that was inspired by American regionalist thinking. Contemporaneously, Séan O’Faolain argued for the Irish state to embrace a new European institution that would empower smaller states.

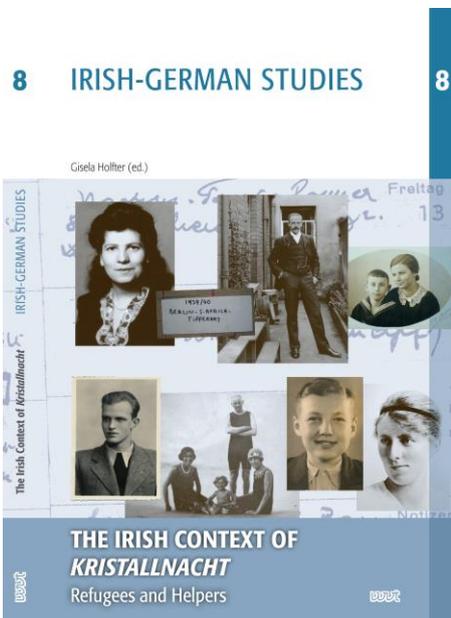
Part 2 of the monograph deals with the late 1980s and early 1990s period marked, especially, by the fall of Communism. Drawing on eclectic inspirational sources – including post-modern theory, the anarchism of Pierre-Joseph Proudhon, the co-operative ideas of George Russell and EU rhetoric surrounding 1992 – the Irish philosopher and public intellectual Richard Kearney argued for a new Europe of the regions space that would transcend the nation-state and, he believed, potentially solve the Northern Irish ‘Troubles’. Contemporaneously in Germany the writer, academic and social democrat Peter Glotz argued in a similar manner. Fearing the reconstitution of a large German nation-state at the heart of Europe, he looked for a “European solution” that simultaneously centralised and decentralised power and was inspired by a benign view of the Habsburg Empire, as well as Austro-Marxist theory. Likewise Neal Ascherson’s writing and journalism at this time was inspired by a future Europe of the regions that would transcend nation-state sovereignty – while also allowing Scotland the pleasure of being a quasi-nation-state. Hans Magnus Enzensberger, on the contrary, argued for the retention of the present nation-states – with their inherent, as he sees it, quasi-libertarian spaces and groupings that remain essentially centrally

uncontrollable – and against what he sees as the culturally homogenising processes unleashed by ‘Brussels’.

It is ultimately argued that this archive of decentralised European ideas may provide a basis for the contemporary reimagining of the continent. The need for European Studies at university level to also take into account philosophical and cultural forms of Europe is also emphasised.

Gisela Holfter (ed.), *The Irish Context of Kristallnacht – Refugees and Helpers*

(Irish-German Studies 8), Trier: VWT, 2014



This collection is based on the papers given at the 14th Limerick Conference in Irish-German Studies, “Context of *Kristallnacht*: Ireland and the German-speaking refugees 1933–45 – A colloquium on German-speaking exiles, Irish helpers and the national and international context seventy-five years ago”. The event, organised by the editor of the volume, took place at the University of Limerick on 7/8 November 2013. Several aspects were at the core of the conference – to remind us again of what happened on these days three quarters of a century earlier, in November 1938, the

violence and barbarity, the incarceration of tens of thousands of mostly Jewish men. The conference also focused on the impact these events had on Ireland, looking at the people who came here as refugees on the one hand but also identifying some of the Irish groups and individuals who reached out and helped. The voices of the refugees and helpers, often remembered only by their family members, were combined with the voices of academics who presented current research on Nazi Germany, refugees in Ireland and Great Britain, and Irish policy towards them.

Several contributors did not speak at the conference but kindly agreed to add to this volume. There are not many witnesses left to the events of 1938. We were fortunate to hear and see some of them at the conference. The urgency of this collection was emphasised at the conference, as the

children of the refugees and the children of the Irish helpers, who have personal memories of refugees, are no longer teenagers. Some of the grandchildren are close to retiring. The speedy appearance of this volume less than a year after the conference, and including a number of new contributions, was made possible thanks to a grant from the Irish Research Council under their New Foundations scheme.

While providing historical, academic and cultural contextualisations, at the heart of both the conference and this volume are personal experiences and reflections. The forewords were written by *Thomas Nader*, *Austrian Ambassador to Ireland* and Harald Seibel from the German Embassy followed by *Gerald Dawe's* poem 'Kristallnacht, 1938' and an introduction by *Gisela Holfter*. This is followed by Part I: Personal Reflections from Refugees to Ireland and their Families: *Stephen Weil*: "Children of Goethe": The Scheyer-Weil Family; *Klaus Unger*: On Herbert Unger; *Hans Reiss*: My Coming to Ireland; *Herbert Karrach*: The Karrach Family; *Sophia Kingshill*: Willi und Trudi Königsberger in Tipperary; *Paul Dubsy*: The Dubsy Family; *Denis Henderson*: On Ruth Henderson and her Parents, Peter and Else Brandenburg. Part II looks at the Irish Helpers: *Philip Jacob*: The Religious Society of Friends and the "Helpers" Side; *Kevin McCarthy*: An Introduction to Robert Briscoe's Extraordinary Immigration Initiative, 1933-1938; *Glynn Douglas*: Norah Douglas and the Belfast Committee for German Refugees; *Michael Kennedy*: Werner Cahn-Garnier's Story; *Mary Rose Doorly*: Sabina Wizniak Shorts; *Hugo Hamilton*: 'Blind Eye' – Film Script. In Part III the contexts of Kristallnacht are discussed: *Eoin Burke*: In Memory of George Clare; *Yanky Fachler*: The Context of *Kristallnacht* in my Family; *Siobhán O'Connor*: Public and Policy Response towards the Exiles; *David O'Donoghue*: The Nazis in 1930s Ireland; *Ian Wallace*: The Impact of *Kristallnacht* in the UK.

Sabine Egger (ed.), *Cultural/Literary Translators – Selected Irish-German Biographies* (Irish-German Studies 9). Trier: WVT, 2014.

The volume contains biographical sketches of twelve 20th century authors, journalists and translators, whose work and lives have been of significance to Irish-German cultural relations. The collection is of particular value as a work of reference both for researchers in the area and a broader readership, since it brings together biographies of

individuals who had a significant role in creating cultural links between Ireland and the German-speaking countries. Some of them would not be widely known in this context. On the one hand, the collection focuses on the lives and work of professional translators, with regard to the impact of their work as a form of cultural mediation and to their own understanding of it. On the other, these biographies are complemented by those of individuals from other professions who could be seen as “cultural translators” in a broader sense. The collection, which will be published in December 2014, thus also opens different perspectives on the idea of translating cultures.

Contents: *Sabine Egger*: Introduction; Part I: Cultural Translators: *Deirdre Mulrooney*: Erina Brady (1891-1961): Irish/German Harbinger of Modern Dance to 1940s Ireland; *Joachim Fischer*: Denis Johnston (1901-1984); *Claire O'Reilly*: Author, Activist and Anglo-Irish Émigré: The Life and Work of Christabel Bielenberg (1909-2003); *Sabine Egger*: Elizabeth Shaw (1920-1992): The Irish Caricaturist Who Left Her Mark on East German Children's Literature; *Mervyn O'Driscoll*: The 'Half-Irish' Herbert Remmel (*1937); *Susan Tebbutt*: German-Irish and Other Encounters in Children's Literature: Emer O'Sullivan (*1957); Part II: Literary Translators: *Hermann Rasche*: Elisabeth Schnack (1899-1992): 'Translators: They are five to a penny' – 'But there's no one like me'; *Gisela Holfter*: Annemarie Böll (1910-2004): Out of the Limelight; *Sabine Strümper-Krobb*: Translator, Performer and Artist – Harry Rowohlt (*1945) as Mediator of Irish Literature; *John F. Deane*: Eva Bourke (*1946): A Transnational Poet and Translator; *Lesa Ni Mhunghaile*: Gabriel Rosenstock (*1949): 'The Rejection of the Early Morning Dew'; *Marion Winters*: Hans-Christian Oeser (*1950): Translation Strategies of a Literary Translator; *Rachel McNicholl*: Gabriele Haefs (*1953).

The editor wishes to thank the German Embassy, Dublin, and the Centre for Irish-German Studies for their support.

Past Events

It would exceed available space in this newsletter to mention all events that were organised, the articles published and the papers given in the past six months (they will be included in our next newsletter). The two main past events were:

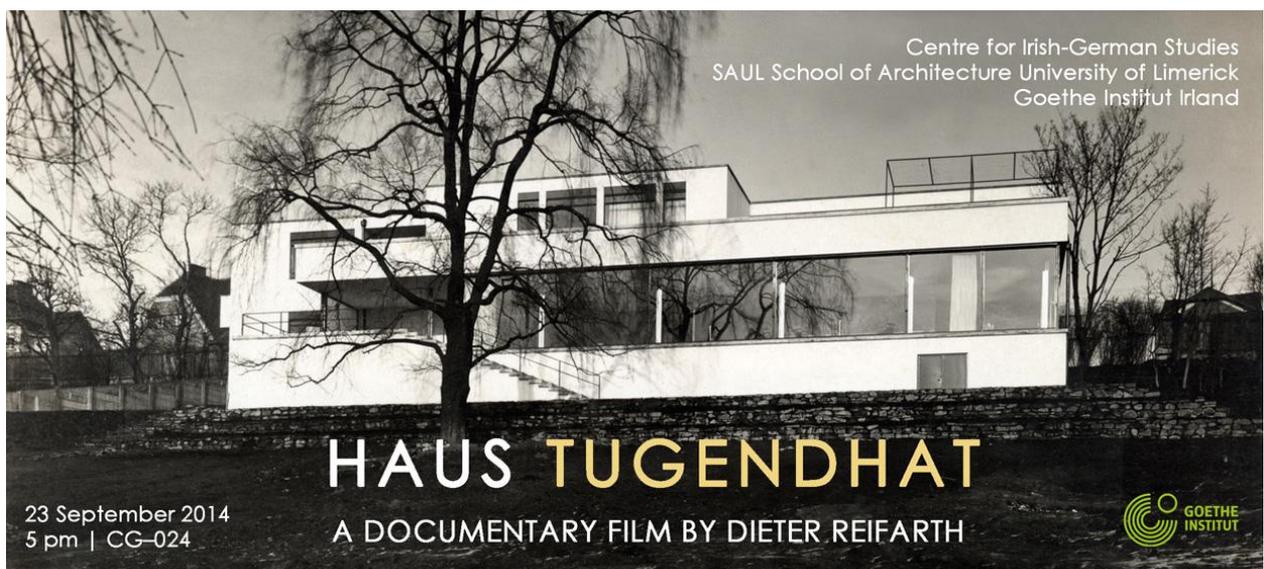
Reading by Hans Pleschinski from *Königsallee* (2013)

On the 29 May 2014 the Centre for Irish-German Studies had Hans Pleschinski read from *Königsallee* as part of the GIG conference “Begegnungen in Transiträumen/Transitorische Begegnungen”, organised by Dr Sabine Egger (MIC) in cooperation with Dr Withold Bonner und Prof. Ernest Hess-Lüttich. The reading will be accessible shortly on the Centre for Irish-German Studies website under Limericker Literaturgespräche.

Hans Pleschinski’s reading proved to be an outstanding success, with standing room only in the East Room and participants declaring afterwards that it had been the best reading they had ever attended. The event was organised by the Centre for Irish-German Studies and supported by the German Embassy in Dublin and the German Department at Mary Immaculate College.

Haus Tugendhat

On Tuesday, 23 September 2014, *Haus Tugendhat*, a beautiful and reflective documentary film about a house, its inhabitants and its place in history, was shown thanks to a collaboration of the Centre for Irish-German Studies and SAUL (School of Architecture at the University of Limerick) in co-operation with the Goethe-Institut Irland. The event, introduced by Centre member Jan Frohburg, SAUL, and Gisela Holfter, was very well attended and included a lively discussion afterwards.



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