

centre *news* –

März 2001

**Centre for
Irish-German
S t u d i e s**

Neues aus dem Zentrum

für deutsch-irische Studien an der Universität Limerick

Introduction

Dear **Members & Friends**
of the **CENTRE FOR IRISH-GERMAN STUDIES**,
welcome to the new *centrenews* edition.

This is issue number four of *centrenews* and we hope that you will find it interesting reading. Our newsletter is published for Members & Friends of the Centre and for all those with an interest in relations between Ireland and the German speaking world.

**WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU ALL
TO THE BOOKLAUNCH OF YEARBOOK 2000/2001
ON THURSDAY, 10 MAY, 3 PM, IN PLASSEY HOUSE
UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK**

At the launch of the 2nd yearbook on 26 May 2000, we were honoured by the presence of the Austrian Ambassador to Ireland, Dr Paul Leifer.

In line with this year's emphasis on Switzerland, Mr Michel A. Faillettaz from the Swiss Embassy in Dublin will be launching the new issue.

Yearbook 2000/2001

The **3rd edition** of the **YEARBOOK OF THE CENTRE FOR GERMAN-IRISH STUDIES** is currently in print. Due out in May, it will hopefully build on the success of the first two issues.

The editors have again endeavoured to provide all those interested in Ireland and the German-speaking countries with up-to-date information on current affairs, historical developments, and new perspectives in Irish-German relations.

We have been fortunate to attract contributors from very different professional backgrounds, both academic and non-academic, so as to ensure that the **YEARBOOK**

transcends the traditional borders of scholarly publications and encompasses the widest possible spectrum of viewpoints and perspectives. Consequently, we have again given a platform to those engaged in the practice of Irish-German relations: the section “The year’s work in Irish-German relations” which has in the past issues been particularly welcomed by our readers. *If your organisation / institution is interested in being included in this section, please contact Marieke Krajenbrink (00 353-61-20 2453, marieke.krajenbrink@ul.ie).*

Last year’s feature on Austria has been followed up with more contributions on Irish-Austrian and Austrian affairs. The continuing commitment of the Centre towards all German-speaking countries is reflected in the **feature** on **Switzerland** in this issue.

With this issue, Marieke Krajenbrink is taking over as joint editor from Gisela Holfter, reflecting the introduction of a system by which the editorship of the Yearbook rotates among the Centre’s research team.

The 2000/2001 issue is due to appear in early May, 2000. You can purchase the current issue for 15 IR£ or buy all three editions (98/99, 99/00 and 00/01) for 30 IR£ only, incl. p&p. (Back editions are 12 IR£, authors pay 5 IR£ & have one free copy.)

Donations

The Centre gratefully received a contribution of 500 IR£ towards the publishing costs of the Yearbook 00/01 from ROWA Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Bantry, Co. Cork.

CIGS online

The Centre for Irish-German Studies
is on the internet now!

The Centre’s homepage does provide information on upcoming events, details of the Limerick Conferences in Irish-German Studies, the Centre’s book and video-collection, information on current research projects and the Centre’s publications. In addition, you can access previous editions of *centrenews* and use our collection of links to visit homepages of other Irish-German organizations.

Visit us at <http://www.ul.ie/~lcs/irish-german.html> and see for yourself.

Publications

New publications of the Centre's research team in the field of German-Irish studies include:

Veronica O'Regan:

"Dieses Spannungsverhältnis, an dem wir wachsen":
Growth and Decay in Ingeborg Bachmann's 'Simultan'.

Austrian Culture, Vol 32. Publ. Date: 2000., ISBN: 0-8204-4539-8, -[Peter Lang Pub](#)- 49.95 \$



Joachim Fischer

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

Heidelberg: Carl Winter Verlag, 2000

Diss.. Anglistische Forschungen Bd.284.
XV, 680 S. m. 11 Bildtaf. 24,5 cm. Kartoniert. 1128gr.
ISBN: 3-8253-1061-2, KNO-NR: 09 26 07 61

138.00 DM - 1007.00 öS - 123.00 sFr

Collection

There are two sites on campus where the Centre's collections can be found.

The **collection of German and Irish books** is accessible on the ground floor in the UL Library Building. The **collection of video tapes and CD-ROMs** is located in the Language Resource Area (Main Building, A1). In both locations items can be used during opening hours.

We are in the process of revising the database of published material available in the collection which is already to be accessed on the Centre's homepage.

Business Lecture Series

The Centre continues its successful spring semester lecture series with three lectures on Irish-German business connections in 2001.

The 1st lecture was given by the director of the German-Irish Chamber of Commerce Dublin, Mr Ralf Lissek, on 6 March 2001.

Dr Heike Knorz, who is teaching at the PH Karlsruhe, contributed to the series with a seminar on 21 March at 4 p.m. (room S 205). Her topic was “Ökonomische Entwicklung und Lebensstandard in der DDR und ihre Konsequenzen für die BRD.”

The 3rd lecture will be held by Peter Martin from Lotus Ireland on 3 April, 3 p.m. (room P1-004).

For further information please contact Dr Gisela Holfter (00 353-61-20 2395, gisela.holfter@ul.ie).

German-Irish Masterclasses

In preparation are the **4TH IRISH-GERMAN MASTERCLASSES FOR WOODWIND- AND BRASS INSTRUMENTS, HARP AND ACCOMPANIMENT.**

They are to take place at the University of Limerick from 14 to 26 August 2001.

Again, they are organised in cooperation with GIC Promotions, the Irish World Music Centre and the Centre for Irish-German Studies at the University of Limerick under the auspices of the Goethe-Institut Dublin.

For further information see <http://www.kurs-irland.de/>

Call for Papers

Coming up this year is the Conference **GERMANY AND THE CELTIC COUNTRIES IN HISTORY** which is to be held at the University of Ulster, Derry/Londonderry, 13-15 September 2001.

The conference aims to investigate historical relations between Germany and all of the Celtic countries throughout the ages. Papers may cover any aspect of this relationship, whether in the mediaeval or modern era. Celtic missionary activity in Germany; Celtic

exiles in German-speaking Europe; Germany and Brittany in WW2; German soldiers and Palatine refugees in Ireland; Historical German writing on the Celtic countries and vice versa; The German study of the Celts in history – these are just some of the themes that conference papers might address.

Abstracts of not more than 200 words should be submitted **by 30 March 2001**. The advisory panel – Prof. T. G. Fraser (Ulster), Prof. S. Heinz (Vienna), Dr. G. Holfter (Limerick), Prof. S. Mac Mathúna (Ulster), Dr. D. McLaughlin (Heriot Watt, Edinburgh), Prof. A. Ó Corráin (Ulster) – will then select papers and announce the program in April 2001.

CONTACT:

Dr Pol O'Dochartaigh, School of Languages and Literature, Faculty of Arts,
University of Ulster, Coleraine, Co. Derry, BT52 1SA, Northern Ireland.
Tel: 00 44-(0)28-7032-4548, Fax: -4962, E-mail: p.odochartaigh@ulst.ac.uk

3rd Limerick Conference

The 3rd Limerick Conference

**IRELAND AND THE GERMAN SPEAKING COUNTRIES. QUESTIONS OF CULTURAL
IDENTITY IN IRELAND, AUSTRIA AND SWITZERLAND ...**

... will focus on Irish-Austrian and Irish-Swiss relations with a particular emphasis on construction and negotiation of identities in these countries.

The preliminary date for the conference that is to be held at the University of Limerick is Thursday, 4 April to Saturday, 6 April 2002.

A Call for Papers will be published soon, please check our website; the deadline for proposals of 300 words will be 31 October 2001.

Wagner-Konferenz

For 9-10 August 2002 a conference on **RICHARD WAGNER IN IRELAND AND
GERMANY** is planned at the University of Limerick

as part of a Wagner week featuring the first ever Irish performance of Wagner's *Ring des Nibelungen* by the National Youth Orchestra of Ireland. The conference will focus on Wagner's impact on intellectual and artistic life in both countries.

For further information please contact joachim.fischer@ul.ie or
<mailto:marieke.krajenbrink@ul.ie>

Research

Two new projects of the research team of the centre have received funding from UL since the last newsletter was published. Both of them are undertaken in collaboration with colleagues from other universities:

Gisela Holfter & Hermann Rasche, NUI Galway, Ireland:

“JOHN HENNIG’S WRITINGS ON GERMAN-IRISH RELATIONS”.
A STUDY ON JOHN HENNIG’S LIFE AND AN EDITION OF HIS WORKS
ON IRISH-GERMAN RELATIONS AND SOME OF HIS PERSONAL WRITINGS.

John Hennig (1911-1986), who came to Ireland as a refugee in the 1930s, has been described by many scholars as the most prolific researcher on Irish-German relations. He was the first to establish “Irlandkunde” in Germany. His writings on Irish-German connections in the 18th and 19th centuries, and on the Irish connections of German writers such as Goethe and Jean Paul and musicians such as Beethoven, remain in many instances the most in-depth studies on those subjects.

Hennig published more than nine hundred articles. However, he researched and published his work over many years in a situation of severe financial difficulties and never had the security of an academic position.

The study and collection will combine Hennig’s academic writing on Ireland with private documents relating to his personal experiences of Ireland and the Irish as well as excerpts from his privately published autobiography. This work will also provide an insight into the life of German refugees to Ireland such as Erwin Schrödinger (whom Hennig met on the ship over to England).

Joachim Lerchenmueller & Jürgen Elvert, University of Cologne:

THE CORRESPONDENCE OF
SIR ROGER CASEMENT IN GERMANY.
IRISH-GERMAN RELATIONS 1904–1922.

Among the holdings of the ‘Political Archives of the German Foreign Office’ in Berlin are numerous files relating to Casement’s sojourn in Imperial Germany between late 1914 and 1916. The documents contain dozens of letters, memoranda and submissions by Casement to the German authorities; the official replies by the Government; internal correspondence between Reich ministries and the Prussian military authorities; and the correspondence between Clann na nGael in the U.S., the Imperial Government and Casement. These documents concern themselves with various aspects of Irish-German collaboration in World War One: formulation of German policy on the “Irish Question”; German military support for a “Rising” in Ireland and the formation of an “Irish Brigade” from among British POWs of Catholic Irish descent;

the fostering of collaboration between Irish-American and German-American organisations; etc.

The project aims to critically edit a corpus of documents addressing these issues. The edition will make publicly available, for the first time, all of Casement's extensive correspondence with German authorities and his detailed assessment of the political situation in Ireland during the Great War. The edition will also contain an introduction to German policy on Ireland and German-Irish relations during the period 1904-1922.

Postgraduates at the CIGS

There are five postgraduate students currently affiliated to the Centre:

Thomas Hoffmann joined the Centre in Sept. 2000. His 'Diplomarbeit' researching "Grundlagen für die phonetische Ausbildung irischer GermanistikstudentInnen" is jointly supervised at the University Halle-Wittenberg and by Joachim Fischer.

Andreas Hüther joined UL as a doctoral student in Sept. 2000, having studied History at Mannheim, Durham, and Freiburg universities. He was awarded the Scholarship in German of the Dept. of Languages & Cultural Studies; his thesis "The Irish Celt: A Nineteenth-Century German Construct?" is supervised by Joachim Lerchenmueller.

Fiona Hynes is the recipient of the second Würth Scholarship in Irish-German Studies. She returned to UL last September to start research for her M.A. thesis which is supervised by Joachim Fischer. Her topic is "Phonetik im Deutsch als Fremdsprache-Unterricht an irischen Hochschulen und Fachhochschulen".

Claire O'Reilly is in the final stages of her research, her doctoral thesis is titled "The Expatriate Life: a Study of German Expatriates Living and Working in Ireland and the Development of Culture Training and Expatriate Support to Aid the Relocation and Adjustment Process". A graduate of UL, she was awarded one of the Würth Scholarships in Irish-German Studies. Her research is supervised by Gisela Holfter.

Birgit Ryschka is a graduate of Graz University and has been a member of the German Section at the University of Limerick for some years. She registered as a postgraduate student in Sept. 2000 and is supervised by Veronica O'Regan. Her topic is "The Mediation of social criticism in the plays of Felix Mitterer and Tom Murphy".

Thanks

It is the express aim of the Centre to initiate, moderate and further collaboration between people & institutions in Ireland and the German speaking countries.

The Centre would therefore avail of the opportunity to thank everybody in Austria, Germany, Ireland and Switzerland who has, in the course of this year, extended their advice, support and collaboration to the Centre. In particular, we would like to express our gratitude to the German Embassy in Dublin, to Euro Film & Media Ltd., Holmes O'Malley Sexton; Kostal Ireland; ROWA Pharmaceuticals, Sifa and Teles Ireland Ltd.

The Centre is looking forward to another enterprising year.
We would very much like to welcome you here at UL –
as a fellow academic, a visitor to one of our events,
and as a Member or Friend of the Centre for Irish-German Studies