

Programme of Events 2003-2004

The theme of tradition and innovation will feature prominently in the Ingeborg Bachmann Centre's programme for this year, with a three-day conference on Adalbert Stifter, and workshops on Robert Musil and Joseph Roth, the latter organised in collaboration with the London Jewish Cultural Centre.

Evelyn Schlag, one of Austria's most prolific contemporary writers, will follow Walter Grend and Wolfgang Hermann as the Centre's writer-in-residence in the spring, her stay coinciding with the publication of a new volume of poetry, whilst the eminent Freud scholar, Peter Gay, is expected to give the first biennial Lecture, details of which will be announced in due course.

Established in 2002 at the University of London's Institute of Germanic Studies, the Centre's activities continue to be supported by the Erste Bank and the Österreich Kooperation.

Events are open to all who are interested.

Autumn 2003

Ingeborg Bachmann Centre
INSTITUTE OF GERMANIC STUDIES
University of London School of Advanced Study
29 Russell Square
London WC1B 5DP
Telephone: +44 (0)20- 7862 8965/6
Facsimile: +44 (0)20- 7860 8970
E-mail: igs@sas.ac.uk
Internet: www.sas.ac.uk/igs

CONFERENCE

Wednesday, 10 to
Friday, 12 December 2003

Stifter and Modernism

As a proponent of a specific aesthetic and moral order, Adalbert Stifter has long been regarded as a natural heir to the Great Classical Tradition. Yet even critics persuaded of this view have often detected troubling sub-texts within his fiction. More recently, some commentators have seen him as an important precursor of modern writing (from Kafka to Bernhard and Sebald). In any event, the extraordinary stylistic provocation of his work has lost none of its power to challenge and unsettle the reader.

The first Stifter event of note to be held in this country for almost twenty years, the conference aims to contribute to a major re-evaluation of the author's work as we approach the bicentenary of his birth.

A detailed programme will be available in September.

WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE

March 2004

EVELYN SCHLAG's novels, short stories and poetry show a strong affinity with English literature and culture, and have been highly praised for their characteristic verbal sensitivity. She has also translated Douglas Dunn's *Elegies* into German. On 5 March 2004 Evelyn Schlag will read extracts from her latest novel, *Das L in Laura*, and selected poems.

WORKSHOP

Friday, 14 May 2004

Robert Musil. From Construction to Fragmentation of Reality

Debate about the scope of modern science and the limitations of technical progress played a significant role in Musil's intellectual development. An engineer by training, and heavily influenced by both Mach's positivism and Nietzsche's nihilism, Musil's ambivalence towards science ranged from Socratic optimism and the belief in the value of technological progress to the almost indifferent acceptance of scientific advancement displayed in his way of life. A detailed programme will be available in March.

The workshop complements the Institute's Thursday evening lecture series 'Tales from the Laboratory' (please refer to separate leaflet).

WORKSHOP

Thursday, 10 June 2004

Joseph Roth - Revisited or Reinvented? The Reception of Roth's Works in Britain

Critics claim, and an increasing number of new readers testify, that the works of Joseph Roth are currently enjoying a remarkable renaissance, particularly – and somewhat surprisingly – in the English-speaking world. This workshop will examine the reasons for the recent rise in Roth's popularity. Publishers, critics and scholars will discuss this phenomenon and assess the impact of Roth on contemporary readers. The acclaimed writer, Michael Hoffmann, will read from his translations of Roth's work.

Organised in collaboration with the London Jewish Cultural Centre, the workshop will take place at the Institute of Germanic Studies; the reading and reception will be held at the London Jewish Cultural Centre's new premises at Ivy House in Hampstead.

A detailed programme will be available in March.

READING GROUP

First Meeting: Wednesday, 8 October 2003
3 – 5 p.m.

Robert Musil's *Der Mann ohne Eigenschaften*

The reading group will continue to meet on a monthly basis under the chairmanship of the Centre's Co-Ordinator, Dr Martin Liebscher, focusing this year on the first part of Musil's novel, and discussing it in the light of the author's understanding of science.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr Martin Liebscher, Centre Co-Ordinator, at the Institute of Germanic Studies (address overleaf).
Telephone: +44 (0)20- 7862 8959 E-mail: martin.liebscher@sas.ac.uk

