

INSTITUTE OF GERMANIC STUDIES

INGEBORG BACHMANN CENTRE FOR AUSTRIAN LITERATURE

The Austrian contribution to modern German-language literature has been both rich and varied, embracing major novelists (Kafka, Musil), dramatists (Schnitzler, Bernhard), and poets (Rilke, Celan) of international repute.

The Ingeborg Bachmann Centre, recently established at the Institute with the support of the Erste Bank, the Österreichische Nationalbank, the Austrian Cultural Forum and the Österreich Kooperation, will explore this contribution with writers-in-residence and through a programme of lectures, seminars, workshops and reading groups co-ordinated by an Austrian *Lektor*.

The outcome of an innovative form of cross-institutional co-operation, this exciting academic initiative will concentrate on Austrian literature of the twentieth century, focusing above all on developments from 1945 onwards and taking as its figurehead Ingeborg Bachmann, whose poem 'Abschied von England' encapsulates the challenge presented by other cultures and the difficulty of comprehending them.

Events are open to all who are interested.

Autumn 2002

Ingeborg Bachmann Centre
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PROGRAMME 2002-2003

OPENING OF THE CENTRE
AND READING Thursday, 17 October 2002
at 6 p.m.

The Centre will be opened by Professor Rüdiger Görner (Director, Institute of Germanic Studies) and Mr Michael Zimmermann (Director, Austrian Cultural Forum in London). This will be followed by a Reading by the President of the Österreichische Gesellschaft für Literatur, Vienna, **MARIANNE GRUBER**.

WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE November-December 2002

WALTER GROND (*1957), the innovative Austrian writer, will be the Centre's writer-in-residence this year. Chiefly concerned for the future of the written word in the cyberspace age, he is best known for his novels *Der Soldat und das Schöne* (1998) and *Old Danube House* (2000), and the essays collected in *Vom neuen Erzählen* (2001). Walter Grond will contribute to the Workshop 'Reading in the Twentieth Century' at the Institute on 22 November.

SYMPOSIUM Wednesday, 12 and
Thursday, 13 February 2003

David Josef Bach and Austrian Culture between the Wars

As Director of the *Sozialdemokratische Kunststelle* from 1919, David Josef Bach (*Lemberg, 1874, London, 1947) was a pivotal figure in Vienna's cultural life, earning enormous respect for a dynamic programme of events that strove towards cultural consensus in a society increasingly polarized between Right and Left.

The first day of the symposium (accompanied by an exhibition that includes original works and manuscripts by Kokoschka, Kraus and Schoenberg) will take place at the Austrian Cultural Forum, the second at the Institute of Germanic Studies.

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WORKSHOP

Friday, 28 February 2003

Celan and the Poetics of Translation

Translations were an integral part of Celan's poetry and the workshop will explore the ramifications of his translation practice for his poetics. Recent research, by younger scholars in particular, will be at the centre of discussion. CONTACT: Professor Leonard Olschner, Department of German, Queen Mary, University of London, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS. Telephone: +44 (0)20- 7882 3375 E-mail: l.m.olschner@qmul.ac.uk

READING GROUP First Meeting: Wednesday, 23 October 2002
3 - 5 p.m.

Robert Musil's *Der Mann ohne Eigenschaften*

The group will focus on the intellectual and aesthetic challenge presented by the narrator's ironic portrayal of Mach's positivism, Nietzsche's perspectivism and the neo-positivism of the *Wiener Kreis*. The concept of a 'subject without qualities' and its significance for late twentieth-century Austrian literature will be examined. The group will meet monthly under the chairmanship of the Centre's Co-Ordinator, Lektor Dr Martin Liebscher. CONTACT: Dr Martin Liebscher, Ingeborg Bachmann Centre, Institute of Germanic Studies, 29 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DP. Telephone: +44 (0)20- 7862 8965/6 E-mail: igs@sas.ac.uk

SEMINAR SERIES First Meeting: Tuesday, 22 October 2002
3 - 5 p.m.

Wittgenstein and Austrian Literature after 1945: The Example of Bachmann, Bernhard and Handke

Dr Liebscher's monthly seminars will assess the impact of Wittgenstein's thought on three prominent Austrian writers, and discuss the literary transformations of aspects of his philosophy of language and communication. Texts to be discussed will be *Das dreißigste Jahr*, *Malina*, *Gehen*, *Wittgensteins Neffe*, *Ritter Dene Voss*, *Kaspar* and *Wunschloses Unglück*. CONTACT: Dr Martin Liebscher, Ingeborg Bachmann Centre, Institute of Germanic Studies, 29 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DP. Telephone: +44 (0)20- 7862 8965/6 E-mail: igs@sas.ac.uk

