

## Programme of Events 2004-2005

As of this autumn the Bachmann Centre will be an integral part of the newly created Institute of Germanic and Romance Studies. The important role played by the Centre reflects the success of its work in the two years since it was founded at the Institute of Germanic Studies, which has been widely acknowledged beyond the confines of the University. With the continued support of the Austrian Cultural Forum and the Österreich Kooperation, the Centre can look forward to the future with optimism.

This year's programme looks ahead to the fiftieth anniversary of the Austrian 'Staatsvertrag', which the Centre will mark with a conference in the autumn of 2005. Leading up to this event will be a series of lectures on regional Austrian literature, including one by Sigurd Paul Scheichl, and a workshop on the state of Austrian literature post-1945.

Bettina Balàka follows in the footsteps of Evelyn Schlag and Erich Wolfgang Skwara as the Centre's writer-in-residence early in 2005 and, by popular demand, there will be a second postgraduate workshop on Austrian literature in the summer term. The Musil Reading Group will continue to meet this year, and there will be a seminar series on sirens in Austrian literature.

Events are open to all who are interested.

Autumn 2004

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READING GROUP      First Meeting: Wednesday, 13 October 2004  
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 Martin Liebscher. This year the Group will focus on the second part of the novel with particular reference to its mystical implications, and will examine the variants of the *Nachlass* as an example of Musil's essay-writing technique.

SEMINAR SERIES      First meeting: Wednesday, 20 October 2004  
3 – 5 p.m.

### **The Sirens in Austrian Literature**

The mythological sirens embody a concept of love that alternates between seduction and destruction, between an instinctive longing for intimacy on the one hand and a conscious desire for detachment on the other. These monthly seminars, led by Martin Liebscher, will examine the sirens as symbols of the ambivalence of love in twentieth-century Austrian Literature.

LECTURE SERIES      First lecture: Thursday, 20 January 2005  
5.30 for 6 p.m.

### **The Regional Literature of the Austrian Federal States**

Sigurd Paul Scheichl will be one of four invited speakers who will reflect on regional Austrian literature in the period following 1945. The series will focus on the symbolic and metaphorical significance of the setting in literary works, and will pay special attention to the use of landscape in Austrian literature.

Lectures will take place on Thursdays, on 20 January, 24 February, 21 April, and 19 May. Details of the first two lectures will be announced in December. Information regarding the lectures in April and May will be available in March.

WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE      March 2005

Born in Salzburg in 1966, Bettina Balàka is an important voice in contemporary Austrian poetry and prose. Her work addresses the problems faced by minorities (*Der langangehaltene Atem*, 2000), as well as gender issues confronting Austrian society. Her latest collection of short stories (*Unter Jägern*, 2002) deals with the (im)possibility of individual self-definition in modern society. Among the many prizes that Balàka has been awarded are the Meta-Merz-Preis (1999) and the Theodor Körner-Preis (2004). She is the current holder of the Robert-Musil-Stipendium.

WORKSHOP      Friday, 13 May 2005

### **Literarischer (Wieder)aufbau in Österreich nach 1945**

The way in which post-1945 Austrian literature was perceived by writers varied widely according to their position in society and their ideology, ranging from the conservatism of Alexander Lernet-Holenia to the critical view of 'Mödern und Irren' taken by Bachmann. The workshop will examine these differing perspectives, taking into account the views of writers working in exile and those who returned, and will attempt to identify the point at which a distinctive late twentieth-century Austrian literature emerged. A detailed programme will be available in March.

WORKSHOP      Friday, 3 June 2005

### **Second Postgraduate Workshop on Current Research in Austrian Literature**

This annual workshop offers postgraduate students working in the field of Austrian literature the opportunity to present their work and discuss aspects of it with colleagues and other specialists. A detailed programme will be available in March.

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

