

Centre for Anglo-German
Cultural Relations (CAGCR)
Annual Report for the Academic
Year 2006-2007



Introduction

It is most gratifying to present the First Annual report of the Centre for Anglo-German Cultural Relations at Queen Mary, University of London.

In line with its mission and academic objectives it already provides a forum for innovative research, intellectual debate and cultural exchange. Its launch in late autumn 2005, together with the development of its own MA, which is now on offer for the first time, are landmarks in the study of these immensely rich and fertile cultural relations.

Both the College and its Faculty of Arts (most notably the Departments of History, English and Drama, and Politics), and the School of Languages, Linguistics and Film with its Department of German, provide an ideal framework for our Centre. Colleagues from the various disciplines contribute actively to the life of the Centre.

Furthermore, the Centre benefits from support and close collaboration with the German Embassy, the DAAD, the Goethe Institut and the Stifterverband für die deutsche Wissenschaft. This support includes the funding of one full-time academic post and the setting up of a special library collection on the history of Anglo-German Cultural Relations, the Fontane Collection.

Close collaboration with academic institutions in Germany and Austria, such as the Johannes Gutenberg Universität in Mainz, Universität Potsdam, the Centre for British Studies in Bamberg and, in connection with its MA, the Universität Wien, ensures that the Centre contributes actively to the realisation of the Bologna Process. This Process aims to guide us towards an integrated approach to higher education within the European Union in general and the German speaking cultures in particular.

Professor Rüdiger Görner
Director of the CAGCR



Aims and Structure of the CAGCR

The Centre for Anglo-German Cultural Relations at Queen Mary, University of London was founded in December 2005.

The Centre is housed in the Department of German, within the School of Languages, Linguistics and Film. The Centre's website can be found at:

www.sllf.qmul.ac.uk/research/anglogerman/

The CAGCR aims to: facilitate research on Anglo-German cultural relations with special reference to the fields of literature, language, intellectual history and comparative cultural practice; disseminate said research through colloquia, international conferences, and the CAGCR Yearbook *Angermion* (see item 8); provide high quality postgraduate teaching through the Centre's MA Programme on Anglo-German Cultural Relations (see item 7).



Professor Rüdiger Görner introducing Professor Kurt Hübner at the British Museum

The CAGCR's Director is Professor Rüdiger Görner, with Dr Angus Nicholls as Deputy Director. Dr Sibylle Erle is Junior Research Fellow and Ms Susanne Frane MA runs the CAGCR Writer in Residence Programme.

The Centre's research activities are divided into the following four sections of research interest, each of which are convened by a staff member in the Department of German at Queen Mary:

- Literature (Dr Astrid Köhler)
- Language and Linguistics (Dr Falco Pfalzgraf)
- Intellectual History (Dr Angus Nicholls)
- Cultural Transfers and Drama (Dr Robert Gillett)

Within any given academic year, one of these sections functions as the principal area of research interest for the CAGCR. The principal area of research interest for the years 2006-7 and 2007-8 is **Language and Linguistics**.

Aims and Structure of the CAGCR (cont)

2 Focus Area for the 2006-7 Academic Year

The Linguistic Dimensions of Anglo-German Cultural Relations

Guided by the premise that linguistic issues are of fundamental importance to Anglo-German Cultural Relations, the CAGCR's principal area of research interest during the 2006-7 academic year was Anglo-German linguistic relations.

The convenor of the Language and Linguistics section, Dr Falco Pfalzgraf, organised a series of lectures given by eminent authorities in the field.

Speakers and titles included:

- Anthony Stanforth (Emeritus Professor, formerly Chair of Modern Languages at Heriot-Watt University), 'The Influence of German on English'
- David Yeandle (Professor of German at King's College London), 'English Loan Words and their Gender in German – An Etymological Perspective'
- Felicity Rash (Professor of German at Queen Mary, London), 'The Influence of English on Swiss German'
- Rudolf Muhr (Professor of Austrian German at the University of Graz / Austria), 'Anglizismen und Pseudo-Anglizismen im Österreichischen Deutsch'

Professor Muhr's lecture was financed by the Austrian Cultural Forum and attended by her Excellency, the Ambassador of Austria.

A further lecture, to be delivered by Professor Csaba Földes (Professor of German at the University of Pannonia, Veszprém / Hungary) and entitled 'Das Verhältnis des Deutschen zum Englischen: Aspekte von Dominanz – und Kontaktdruck. Betrachtungen aus ostmitteleuropäischer Perspektive', is to be held in November 2007 and financed by the Hungarian Cultural Centre.

The Centre's focus on Anglo-German Linguistic Relations in 2006-7 will culminate in an international conference on this theme, co-organised by Dr Pfalzgraf and Professor Felicity Rash, to be held on 9-10 November 2007.

3 Existing and Proposed Collaborations with Partner Institutions

The CAGCR has an existing collaborative agreement with the Comparative Literature Department at the University of Mainz. This arrangement led to a Postgraduate Workshop on the Reception of Ancient Greek Myth in Post-War British and German Literature, co-ordinated by Professors Rüdiger Görner and Dieter Lamping (Mainz), and held on 3 November 2006. This event was subsequently followed by a conference on recent literary renderings of the Orpheus myth, held on 5 July 2007, in Mainz.

Future partner institutions will include the Universities of Potsdam, Bamberg (Centre for British Studies), Vienna, and Frankfurt/Oder (Viadrina).

4 CAGCR Writer in Residence Programme

Established in 2005, the CAGCR Writer-in-Residence Programme showcases recent developments in contemporary German, Austrian and Swiss literature. This initiative is financed by the Deutscher Literaturfonds, and administered by the German Department's German Academic Exchange Service Lektorin, Susanne Frane. The CAGCR hosts writers whose work is representative of critically acclaimed contemporary literature in German and enables visiting authors to reside at Queen Mary for short periods (approximately ten weeks). The writers invited to Queen Mary as part of this programme thus far have been Terézia Mora (2005), Michael Wildenhain (2006), and Sibylle Lewitscharoff (Spring 2007). The writer in residence for Autumn 2007 will be Angelika Overath.



Frauenkirche Dresden

5 Research Colloquium and International Conference –

Anglo-German Mythologies in Literature, the Visual Arts and Cultural Theory – 25-27 April, 2007

Between October 2005 and March 2007, a research colloquium on Anglo-German Mythologies in Literature, the Visual Arts and Cultural Theory was coordinated and organised by Dr Angus Nicholls. This colloquium focused on the reception and conceptualisation of myth in the English and German speaking worlds. The colloquium provided both academic staff and research students with a forum in which to exchange ideas and present academic papers in an informal setting, and as such it contributed to the research training of Queen Mary postgraduates.

The research colloquium was also designed as a form of preparation for an international conference on Anglo-German Mythologies, which was held at Queen Mary on 25-27 April 2007, and organised by Professor Rüdiger Görner and Dr Angus Nicholls. Successful funding applications for this event were made to the British Academy and the Gerda Henkel Stiftung, and further financial and logistical assistance was provided by the British Museum, the Austrian Cultural Forum, the German Historical Institute and the German Embassy. The highlight of this event was a keynote lecture delivered by Professor Kurt Hübner (Kiel) in the Sackler Rooms of the British Museum. An edited volume including selected papers given at the conference will be published in 2008.

Aims and Structure of the CAGCR (cont)

6 Other CAGCR Events Held During the 2006-7 Academic Year

The various section convenors working within the CAGCR have organised a number of individual events of interest to the Centre. Two books written by Queen Mary academics – John Ramsden's *Don't Mention the War: The British and the Germans Since 1890* (Little, Brown, 2006) and Paul Hamilton's *Coleridge and German Philosophy: the Poet in the Land of Logic* (Continuum, 2007) – have been launched through the Centre.

Where section convenors have been aware of colleagues from other institutions working on issues pertaining to Anglo-German cultural relations, such colleagues have been invited to give occasional lectures at the Centre. In February 2007, Dr Greg Moore of St Andrews University spoke on the topic of 'A Moral Force: Carlyle in Germany', while in October 2006, Dr Gerlinde Röder-Bolton (University of Surrey) gave a lecture on 'George Eliot in Germany'.



Coventry Cathedral

7 MA Programme in Anglo-German Cultural Relations

The Centre's new MA programme in Anglo-German Cultural Relations will run for the first time in the 2007-8 academic year. The programme will combine a core course on the 'Theory and Practice of Anglo-German Cultural Transfers' with optional modules on intercultural prejudice, translation studies, Anglo-German travel writing, and Anglo-German aesthetic theory. As from 2008/09 an exchange agreement with the University of Vienna (Institute for Comparative Literature) will enable MA students from Vienna to take individual modules of the CAGCR MA and vice versa.

8 Yearbook for Anglo-German Cultural Relations: *Angermion*

During 2006 an agreement was reached between the publisher Walter de Gruyter (Berlin and New York) and the CAGCR, to publish a refereed yearbook on Anglo-German cultural relations, under the title of *Angermion*. The yearbook will publish essays on historical and contemporary Anglo-German cultural transfers, mediations and reception processes, with an emphasis upon literary criticism, literary theory, cultural studies, media studies and the history of ideas. A call for submissions was sent out to prospective contributors in June, with the first issue scheduled for publication in Autumn 2008.

9 External Evaluation of the Claussen-Simon Foundation Research Lectureship in German and Comparative Literature

The Deputy Director of the CAGCR, Dr Angus Nicholls, holds the externally funded post of Claussen-Simon Foundation Research Lecturer in German and Comparative Literature.

This post is funded by the Claussen-Simon Stiftung, through the Stifterverband für die deutsche Wissenschaft. The initial funding period was for three years, with an additional three years of funding to be granted in the event of a positive external assessment of the post. Between September 2006 and January 2007, Dr Nicholls' post was externally assessed by three German specialists and one British specialist in the field. Following a positive assessment of both Dr Nicholls' research and the work of the CAGCR in general, the Stifterverband agreed to extend Dr Nicholls' post until the end of September 2010.



Lock-keeper's Cottage Graduate Centre

10 Planning for the 2007-8 Academic Year

During the 2007-8 academic year, language and linguistics will continue to be the principal area of focus for the CAGCR, with Dr Pfalzgraf planning three further lectures in his series on Anglo-German Linguistic Relations. This series will be completed by the international conference on Anglo-German Linguistic Relations, scheduled for 9-10 November 2007.

2007-8 will also see a new level of collaboration between the CAGCR and the German Historical Institute (GHI) in Bloomsbury. Commencing in late October 2007, the CAGCR and the GHI will jointly convene a research seminar series on *Geschichtsbilder (Images of History) Literary Constructions of Historical Worlds in Britain and Germany after 1900*. Monthly sessions held between October 2007 and April 2008 will alternate between Queen Mary and the GHI in Bloomsbury, culminating in an international conference on *Geschichtsbilder*, to be held in late September 2008.

For further information

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