



ASSOCIATION for MODERN GERMAN STUDIES

London, 01/11/2001

Newsletter

Dear Member,

As last year we will hold our **Annual General Meeting** during the lunch recess of our next conference *Berlin 2001: A City Odyssey* on Saturday, 17th November at the LSE. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who gave time and thought to this year's discussions and events. Thank you, too, for your loyalty and your continued support.

First and foremost we would like to thank **Ulrike Cohen** from the Goethe-Institut who during her four years in the UK has given us the most generous support to all our endeavours. We hope to welcome her as guest of honour on November 17 and look forward to hearing her tell us about her new post in Berlin. Through her restless efforts we were able to meet and hear **Mirjam Pressler**, the German writer and translator during our June conference on 'Kinder- und Jugendliteratur', a most rewarding event which many more members, we are sure, would have benefitted from. We are most grateful to our AMGS panel member Susan Tebbutt who organised both Parts 1 and 2 of this conference and who contributed to it together with Norbert Pachler and many others. Visit our website <http://www.amgs.org.uk> to read a short story by the Austrian writer **Renate Welsh**, examples of our creative writing session, 'Sprachspiele' and two short pieces by the Swiss writer **Jürg Schubiger** as well as other useful information relating to the topic 'Kinder- und Jugendliteratur'. The academic contributions will be published before the end of this year (see below).

We finally have to say good-bye and offer sincere thanks to our long standing treasurer Geoff Plow. We wish him plenty of time and energy from now on for the completion of his PhD. While Gisela Shaw and James Jordan will continue giving their valued help as Panel Members, four others are resigning: Elisabeth Lazarus, Helen Hughes, Stephen Barbour and William Niven. We thank them for their many contributions to the AMGS. However, we are now in dire need of a few new faces. Please contact any of us if you consider volunteering to join our Panel. You don't need to live in London and in any case we have not yet buried our old plans for regional representatives and members who might want to organise events outside London. Remember that, thanks to Norbert Pachler, we can now utilize greatly improved on-line facilities.

Another one of our still unfulfilled wishes is to take up the idea of the German Ambassador to establish a **German Teacher Award** before this 'Year of European Languages' comes to an end. We would like to hear from our AMGS members, esp. schoolteachers, how you think we might - with some chance of success - put forward a concrete proposal.

We are very pleased, however, that our intention announced last year for a two day-conference on ab initio issues and other challenges for language teaching and learning has already met with an offer from Dr Hans-Ludwig Bauer from the Goethe-Institut with a possible date. Please make a note in your diary for 13th and 14th September 2002. We are delighted that Irmgard Wanner and Dr Christian Fandrych from the German Department and Language Centre of King's College London have agreed to collaborate with us on this ambitious plan as a follow-on from their own conference on 'The future of German Teaching at British Schools' in June this year. We will give you more information as soon as we have settled on a title and have decided on one or two main speakers from abroad.

You may have read already, either on our website or on the enclosed updated AMGS Flyer, that we have formalized our collaboration with the GFL journal, which is supported by the DAAD and Goethe-Institut and available free of charge at <http://www.gfl-journal.de>. The AMGS will have Norbert Pachler for one year as a member on the Editorial Committee and Peter Barker on the Advisory Board. We would contribute AMGS reviews to the journal and submit for publication so-called 'Sondernummern' or 'Themenhefte' relating to our conferences – so far one on *Kinder-und Jugendliteratur* in 2001 and one on *Berlin* in (early) 2002. We hope that AMGS members will also submit manuscripts for publication in the GFL journal that are unrelated to our conferences.

Please find enclosed - apart from the flyer - the programme and registration form for our Berlin-conference which has been organised by Dr Joanne Leal almost single handedly! We look forward to a successful event and hope that many of you will be able to attend. Details of a possible follow-up workshop for teachers next year will be announced later. We would like to repeat here our thanks to the Director of the LSE Language Centre, Nick Byrne, who has offered us premises free of charge.

Finally, when you fill in the enclosed **New Standing Order Authority** you will notice that we have decided to design our own form. After a series of mix-ups at the NatWest bank branches (not of our making) they have now agreed to keep Geoff Plow's former branch details with Reinhild Weiss and Astrid Kuellmann-Lee as the AMGS' two signatories. We apologize to all members for this delay. Please help us by filling in your bank's details once again and submit this as quickly as you can to your own Bank who will forward it to the Pinner branch. We would appreciate it if you could inform our Treasurer Reinhild Weiss that you have done so by sending her the slip at the bottom of the new mandate form.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon and to seeing you on Saturday, 17th November.

With best wishes,
Dr Christine Hoffmann