



ASSOCIATION for MODERN GERMAN STUDIES

30 September 2006

Dear AMGS-Member,

I am sending you in first place information about our next **Workshop on Writing Skills** which will take place on **Saturday 4 November 2006** at the Goethe Institute (11 am to 5 pm) and notification of this year's **Annual General Meeting** which we will now be holding on the same day.

This AGM will be held on Saturday, 4 November from 10.00 – 10.30 am and we urge you to attend. We are proposing to invite anyone interested to join us on the panel for one year (without obligation) to find out more about the way the AMGS works and to help you decide after that year whether you might want to take on or share an existing duty or a new one if it falls vacant. If you cannot attend the Workshop but are still interested in getting to know the AMGS as outlined please contact me or any of the other panel members.

The theme of the Writing Skills Workshop **“Die Welt zu Gast bei Freunden: Deutschland im WM-Fieber”** (see details attached) is thematically linked to our April 2006 Sports conference in Birmingham. Chris Young (Cambridge) and Dan Hough (Sussex) supported the planning of the April event substantially and Chris also provided the AMGS with the essential contacts for the November workshop. The keynote speaker will be Martina Esser (Exeter College).

The aim of the workshops is to provide teachers and lecturers with strategies and materials for developing the writing skills of A/AS Level students and first-year undergraduates. Primary material from newspapers and modern media such as pod-casting will be used to address some of the following issues:

How Germany sought to present itself at the 2006 World Cup  
Foreign visitors' reactions to Germany  
German patriotism and nationalism: 'Feier, Auszeit oder Wendepunkt?'  
Sport and national identity

By the end of the workshop sessions, teachers will have enough material and ideas for several weeks of class-room teaching and projects.

#### ***German as a Foreign Language***

As you know AMGS joined forces with the fully refereed academic online journal *German as a foreign language* available at <http://www.gfl-journal.de>.

AMGS Panel member Peter Barker who is also our Joint General Editor & Reviews Editor for the Journal has passed on the following details of publications originating from recent AMGS conferences:

GFL 2/2005 The second volume from the Transformation conference (2004)  
*Transformationsprozesse in den neuen Bundesländern*  
ed. Klaus-Dieter Rossade

GFL 1/2006 The first volume from the film conference (2005)  
*German film since the Wende*  
ed. Joanne Leal

The second volume will appear in GFL 3/2006.

**Website:** [www.amgs.org.uk](http://www.amgs.org.uk) and [www.amgs.co.uk](http://www.amgs.co.uk)

Maintenance of our websites has now moved to UCL, represented by Christine Hoffmann. Paul Hogan provides his technical expertise for maintaining the site. Thanks to Norbert Pachler (IoE), who supported the website since its inception and keeping it very much alive despite other commitments. Thanks also to Christine and Paul for their support in the future (of course, equally despite their commitments elsewhere). For the moment the cost of running the web to the AMGS is minimal. The association will need to consider ways of making the site more attractive for members as this is one area where the AMGS can support its members irrespectively of whether or not they can attend our conference events. There is however not much room for this as current active panel members are already giving much of their time to keep normal activities running. The Convenor proposes to make this a main discussion item for the December panel meeting.

#### **November 2005 Film & Classroom workshop**

This workshop on using films in the class room, run by Elke Hughes (Dublin), took place at the Goethe-Institute. Due to unforeseen circumstances none of the panel members could attend but Astrid Küllmann-Lee sent two language assistants to stand in for her. Our contact at the GI was Reinhold Schulze-Tammena. Anecdotal reports indicate that the workshop was a success. The cost to the Association for this conference has been minimal and the theme fitted well with the April conference (on film). Overall this event was supporting the aims of the AMGS and was of benefit to its members.

#### **April 2006 Sports conference**

This one day event took place in Birmingham and turned out to be a small but stimulating event. Chris Young (Cambridge), who could not attend on the day, was a key person in the planning because of his subject expertise which none on the panel had. He has also provided the AMGS with contacts for a writing workshop on the theme (see above). Gabi Steinke was the key organiser on location, and rooms were kindly provided for free thanks to Dietmar Wozniak.

#### **Gisela Shaw Prize**

This has been awarded for the second year running with one winner (Alan Scott, Manchester) and a runner-up (Bettina Goebels, Cambridge). Gisela Shaw attended the April conference and presented the awards to the two visibly happy winners. Prize money in total was £150 in book vouchers. Unfortunately only four entries have been received and while there is no question that the prizes were fully justified, some thought needs to be given to how marketing of this prize could be improved. This prize was originally planned to run for three years only, i.e. until next year, and then the AMGS will have to decide about its future. Carol Tully has kindly taken on the planning of the next prize cycle.

#### **Please note the following Call for Papers: *Migrant experiences in post-unification Germany / Migrationserfahrungen im vereinten Deutschland.***

On Friday 27 and Saturday 28 April 2007 the Association for Modern German Studies will hold a conference at the Goethe Institute, London on the theme of migrants in Germany in order to explore the enormous impact on German culture since reunification made both by those who have come to Germany more recently and by the second- and third-generation descendents of earlier migrants. Papers are welcome on historical and political aspects of this topic, as well as on the contributions made to film, literature and other cultural forms by those from Germany's various ethnic communities. Contributions on aspects of migrant experiences in Austria are also welcome. Papers will be 30 minutes in length. - Proposals for papers should be sent to Joanne Leal at [j.leal@bbk.ac.uk](mailto:j.leal@bbk.ac.uk) by 30 November 2006.

**More details of the Convenor's report, especially with regard to further co-operation with the Goethe Institute, the UK Council for Area Studies Associations (UKCASA), the Association for Language Learning, the German Teacher Award and the German Embassy will be sent to you after the AGM and next Panel Meeting in December.**

**With best wishes from your AMGS Panel Members.  
Ingrid KJ Williams, AMGS Membership Secretary.**