



ASSOCIATION for MODERN GERMAN STUDIES

Newsletter: February 8th, 2004

Dear AMGS-Member,

1. You may remember from our posting last September that we received so many interesting offers of papers for our next conference that the AMGS and the Goethe-Institut decided to turn it into a two day event, to be held on Saturday+Sunday, April 24th and 25th, 2004. The conference will be of interest to German teachers at AS/A Level and to students and lecturers in higher education. We hope to be able to distribute accompanying Arbeitsmaterialien again.

Please find enclosed now the full final programme of the conference on **Transformation Processes in Eastern Germany**. We are delighted to be able to offer a concessionary rate again to fully paid-up AMGS-members, details of which are given on the enclosed **Application Form**.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the number of applications Dr Peter Barker has already received we urge you to complete and return your form and cheque to him as soon as possible. Do not leave it until 1 April, which he gave as the date of return on the application form.

2. The proceedings of our last conference **Focus on Skills** (Nov 15th, 2003) - organised jointly by the Goethe-Institut London, Kings German Department and Language Centre, UCL's Language Centre and the AMGS - will be published again as a Special Issue in **GFL Online** <http://www.gfl-journal.de/> and a summary on our website <http://www.amgs.org.uk>

3. At the **Annual General Meeting** of the **AMGS** the Convenor **Dr Christine Hoffmann** reported on the success of the last two linguistics-based Focus conferences and our intention to hold another one next autumn. In view of the fact that the majority of participants are from the Secondary School Sector she emphasized the hope that more of them would join and become active members of our association.

The **Treasurer** also made a plea in her report for members from all over the UK to join the panel and to become more actively involved in the running of the association. She pointed out that the financial situation of the AMGS had improved significantly since 2002 and that funding has been made available to cover travel expenses and to support conference attendance and further worthwhile projects.

Members also benefit from our online publications and website, its links and publishing opportunities, book reviews etc. Please do help us by suggesting improvements and by adding new information relevant to the German teaching profession.

According to the **Membership Secretary** there is a firm base of loyal supporters of over 100 members and around 50 'uncertain' candidates who do not reply to letters, emails or polite reminders. Some 20-30 members were deleted from the database, as they have either resigned, mainly due to retirement, or left the profession or the UK. Thanks to all of them for their support, in some cases for over 20 years!

We end this newsletter with a big thank you to our Secretary and one year Acting Secretary, **Astrid Kuellmann-Lee** and hope that she will enjoy her next role as AMGS Conference Organiser just as much! We welcome her successor, **Dr Joanne Leal**, and look forward to working with her.

**With kind regards and good wishes to all our members,
Your AMGS team of Officers and Panel Members.**