



The Embassy of Ireland,
in collaboration with the Goethe-Institut Irland,
is delighted to invite you to the launch of the Goethe-Institut's app

GERMAN TRACES IN IRELAND

Featuring contributions from **Hugo Hamilton**, author of "The Speckled People" and other German-Irish Stories;
Ralf Sotscheck, Irish correspondent, tageszeitung & co-author of the app;
Mechtild Manus, Goethe-Institut Dublin
And **Denise Quinn**, Tourism Ireland Frankfurt

On Wednesday, 26 November 2014, at 6.30PM

Embassy of Ireland, Jägerstraße 51, Berlin 10117

RSVP by 19 November to the RSVP address listed on
<https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/germany/contact-us/>



Background

The evening, which will be conducted largely in German, will feature a welcome from the Ambassador of Ireland to Germany, Michael Collins, together with contributions from Hugo Hamilton, author of "The Speckled People" and other German-Irish Stories; Ralf Sotscheck, Irish correspondent, tageszeitung & co-author of the app; Mechtild Manus, Goethe-Institut Dublin; and Denise Quinn, Tourism Ireland Frankfurt. Guests are encouraged to download the app, which is available in the iTunes store, in advance of the event <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/german-traces/id587799106?mt=8>

With the help of 30 German and Irish organisations, the Goethe-Institut identified those German traces in Ireland, complimented and complemented these with comprehensive audio visual material into one travel app. Director Mechtild Manus explains: "This free travel app is attractive for both Germans and Irish. It attempts to convey a better understanding of each other and covers a period from the 7th century to the present."

"Irish and German lives have been intertwined over many centuries", adds Fintan O'Toole, editor at the "Irish Times" and one of the app's authors. "At a time when the European ideal is under strain, it is good to be reminded that the sense of a European connection has very deep roots." he emphasises. "German Trances is for curious travellers, but I hope it also maps a bigger journey of mutual curiosity."

A similar view is expressed by Ralf Sotscheck, correspondent of the tageszeitung and the other author of "German Traces in Ireland". An example for a little known connection between Ireland and German is the hydroelectric power station Ardnacrusha, which played an elementary role in a newly independent Ireland and its leap into the modern age. It was built in the 1920s by German and Irish engineers. Or "Operation Shamrock": the Irish Red Cross saved 500 children by bringing them to host families in Ireland after World War II. Sean Wallace, whose family welcomed three of the children, remembers that he learned German and travelled to Germany regularly to stay in touch with his foster siblings.

With this app the visitor can travel through Ireland following the traces of many artists, writers and historical figures from Germany: George Frederick Handel, architect Richard Castle, Friedrich Engels, singer Agnes Bernelle, sculptor Imogen Stuart or Heinrich Böll, they all left traces in Ireland. You can, for example, listen to Heinrich Böll reading from his "Irish Journal" on the app. His house on Achill Island is open to German writers for residencies. Judith Hermann completed her novel "Aller Liebe Anfang" there recently.

The contents of the app "German Traces in Ireland" is also available on the Goethe-Institut Irland's website in German and English. They can be used offline by, for example, by the approx. 65,000 people who learn German in Ireland. App and website are extended and brought up-to-date every four months. Signage at all the locations refer to the app. A user based campaign helps to identify new traces. www.goethe.de/irland