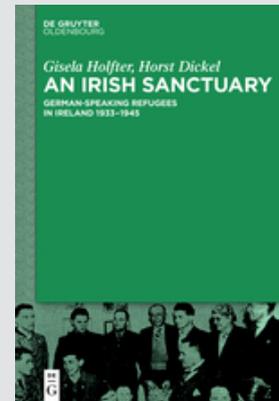


Gisela Holfter, Horst Dickel

AN IRISH SANCTUARY

German-speaking Refugees in Ireland 1933–1945



The monograph provides the first comprehensive, detailed account of German-speaking refugees in Ireland 1933–1945 - where they came from, immigration policy towards them and how their lives turned out in Ireland and afterwards. Thanks to unprecedented access to thousands of files of the Irish Department of Justice (all still officially closed) as well as extensive archive research in Ireland, Germany, England, Austria as well as the US and numerous interviews it is possible for the first time to give an almost complete overview of how many people came, how they contributed to Ireland, how this fits in with the history of migration to Ireland and what can be learned from it.

While Exile studies are a well-developed research area and have benefited from the work of research centres and archives in Germany, Austria, Great Britain and the USA (Frankfurt/M, Leipzig, Hamburg, Berlin, Innsbruck, Graz, Vienna, London and SUNY Albany and the Leo Baeck Institutes), Ireland was long neglected in this regard. Instead of the usual narrative of "no one was let in" or "only a handful came to Ireland" the authors identified more than 300 refugees through interviews and intensive research in Irish, German and Austrian archives. German-speaking exiles were the first main group of immigrants that came to the young Irish Free State from 1933 onwards and they had a considerable impact on academic, industrial and religious developments in Ireland.

"This study (...) is a successful balancing act, putting Ireland's chequered refugee story in the 1930s and 1940s in a national and international context. (...) This important book is not about flattering the Irish by playing up the modest response to refugees' pleas for help in the Nazi era. Instead it corrects the assumption that small numbers of arrivals meant a small effect, or that small numbers required little effort (...) [The book] makes a compelling and timely case for widening and deepening the Irish historical narrative to include those who became part of our society during a time of crisis – and those who helped them."

Irish Times, 4 Februar 2017

xii, 449 pages

Hardcover:

RRP *€ [D] 59.95 / *US\$ 84.00 /
*GBP 44.99
ISBN 978-3-11-035144-6

eBook:

RRP *€ [D] 59.95 / *US\$ 84.00 /
*GBP 44.99
PDF ISBN 978-3-11-035145-3
EPUB ISBN 978-3-11-039575-4

Print/eBook:

RRP *€ [D] 89.95 / *US\$ 126.00 /
*GBP 67.99
ISBN 978-3-11-035146-0

Date of Publication: December 2016

Language of Publication: English

Subjects:

Historical Periods ▶ Contemporary History
until 1945 ▶ Other Topics
Topics in History ▶ Exile History

Of interest to: Historians and exile
researchers in Germany, Ireland, the United
Kingdom; a broad academic audience in
Ireland

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