



Einladung zu einem Vortrag in englischer Sprache

Essen, den 23.09.10

**Prof. Dr. John L. Flood (University of London)**

“Who would be a Poet Laureate?”

**Dienstag, den 5. Oktober 2010 um 19:00 Uhr**  
**RüKONTOR (5. Etage), Rüttenscheider Str. 144, 45131 Essen**

Taking the appointment of Carol Ann Duffy as Britain's official Poet Laureate in 2009 as its starting point, this illustrated lecture will not only survey the history of this post, which is so steeped in tradition, but also place it in the broader context of the remarkable development of the curious literary role of the Poet Laureate in Europe since the days of Petrarch, even in the Holy Roman Empire, in which – practically forgotten now – the Emperors conferred the laurel on the heads of hundreds of poets. The lecture concludes with a look at the on-going interest in new Poets Laureate even today, especially in the English-speaking world.

DEUTSCH-ENGLISCHE  
GESELLSCHAFT RUHR e.V.

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**John Flood** (b. 1938) is Emeritus Professor of German in the University of London. He studied Modern and Medieval Languages at the Universities of Nottingham, Munich and Kiel, and taught at the Universities of Erlangen-Nürnberg, Nottingham, and King's College London before becoming Deputy Director of the University of London Institute of Germanic Studies. In 2002 he was awarded the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany for his services to German Studies.

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Although he has taught and researched in the fields of medieval studies, linguistics, and the history of medicine, his principal field of enquiry has been in the history of the book in Germany: recent publications include articles on the Frankfurt Book Fair, and the history of the book in Germany and Austria in *The Oxford Companion to the Book* (Oxford University Press, 2010). In 1995 he edited *The German Book 1450–1750*, published by the British Library. He is a past President of the Bibliographical Society (London) and a corresponding member of the "Historische Kommission des Börsenvereins des Deutschen Buchhandels (Frankfurt am Main)". His chief scholarly interests currently lie in the Early Modern period, which provides the background to his highly acclaimed four-volume handbook *Poets Laureate in the Holy Roman Empire*, published at Berlin in 2006, which forms the basis of today's lecture.

Unser Vortragsraum befindet sich in der 5. Etage des RüKONTOR (Aufzug vorhanden), Rüttenscheider Str. 144/Eingang Gregorstraße, gegenüber dem Girardet Haus. Parkmöglichkeiten auf den anliegenden Strassen, auf den Parkplätzen des Girardethauses und am Ende der Gregorstraße vorhanden. U-Bahn Verbindung von Essen-Hbf: Linien U11, U101 und U107, Station Martinstraße (3 Minuten Fußweg). Busse von der Haltestelle Girardet Haus (Linie 142) und von der Haltestelle Martinstraße (Linien 142, 160 und 161).