

From Hackett. -3 DEC 1959

1939

Copy of Mrs. Schroedinger's Notes on Events leading up to
Professor Schroedinger's coming to Dublin in 1939

When my husband got the very honourable call to Berlin in 1927 as successor to Max Planck he said to me: "I don't know what is going to happen but I have the feeling that I am not staying in Berlin for decades." Planck held the chair uninterrupted for 40 years. My husband's feelings were right. In the summer 1933 we left Berlin for good and went to Oxford. Three years later in 1936 my husband got a call to Edinburgh and at the same time another one to Graz (Austria). It was rather difficult to choose, the decision fell on Graz. We gave up our nice little house in Oxford and moved to our house in the country. It never occurred to us that this step might turn out to be rather foolish, even dangerous. Many of our friends shook their heads and soon we understood their attitudes. In March 1938 Austria was invaded. Although my husband got several "invitations" to foreign countries, he was not allowed to accept them. It was more than unpleasant to watch the situation in our beloved country and especially in Graz, which was called "Stadt der Volkserhebung". Of course we wished we could leave Austria - but legally it was impossible so we had to stay and wait ... I spent most of the time in Vienna with my dear old mother and only came to Graz for short visits. On one of these occasions we got a letter from my mother with an enclosed slip of paper, a tiny slip not more than 4 x 5" with a few lines handwritten by somebody we did not know, approximately running like that:
Mr. de Valéra intends to create an Institute for Advanced Studies. Would you be principally prepared to take up a post there. No signature - nothing.

