

SUMMER SEMINAR IN GERMANY 2002

For the tenth time since 1990, the GHI, with the generous financial and administrative support of the German Department at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and the Nanovic Institute for European Studies at the University of Notre Dame, held its Summer Seminar in Germany for advanced graduate students. Between June 2 and June 15, thirteen participants from eight American universities and from five different disciplines attended events aimed at preparing them for their prospective dissertation research trips. The group visited research institutions in four different German cities and had conversations with German and American scholars about research methods and working in German archives and libraries.

As in the past three years, the program began its itinerary in Koblenz. The Landeshauptarchiv of the state of Rheinland-Pfalz served as our home base. Students spent five mornings working through historical documents written in old German script. The instructor for this intensive exercise was the inimitable Walter Rummel, who took the students through the paces of deciphering and decoding handwritten documents from the sixteenth through nineteenth centuries. During the first week, the participants also visited the Bundesarchiv, where Tilman Koops introduced the Reichskammergericht collection and Hans-Dieter Kreikamp gave us a tour of the impressive facilities on the Karthause.

Philipp Gassert of the University of Heidelberg joined us in the middle of the week to discuss his current research project, a biography of former West German chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger. Gassert's presentation was meant to explore the methods and methodology of writing contemporary history, as well as answer students' questions about working in archives and tracking down elusive sources.

The last item on the week's agenda was a trip to Mannheim and the Deutsches Spracharchiv. Here, Peter Wagener introduced us to a database of recordings of German dialects and speech patterns, accessible in part through the Internet. Since the middle of the last century, linguists have collected bits and pieces of spoken German from throughout the country. It proved fascinating to listen to these "speech events" and to rediscover the variety of spoken German, something often lost sight of in the era of *Denglish*.

On Saturday the group relocated downriver to Cologne. That afternoon we met with Norbert Finzsch, a professor at the University of Cologne, and one of his graduate students, Eva Bischoff. The campus of the university was unusually quiet on account of an ongoing student strike

that was protesting the proposed introduction of student fees at universities in the state of Nordrhein-Westfalen. A Ph.D. student, Bischoff presented her dissertation project, titled "Menschenfresser – Totmacher: Zur Genealogie von Alterität zwischen 1900 und 1933." Bischoff is looking at the history and societal discourse surrounding a group of criminals in the Weimar Republic, who were accused of cannibalism ("white cannibals"). Following the presentation, the group engaged in a lively discussion of the topic and the methods and theory involved.

On Monday we spent the day at the Historisches Archiv der Stadt Köln where archivists Eberhard Illner and Joachim Deeters were our hosts. In our tour of this extensive and venerable archive, we learned about how a modern city archive goes about its business of not only conserving the official public record but also actively pursuing the acquisition of ephemera and personal papers of prominent individuals. Because Cologne has played such an important part in the cultural life of Germany, particularly in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the collections here are wonderfully rich and varied. Our visit to the Historisches Archiv prompted the students to reflect on various ways of tracking down materials related to their individual projects.

The next day we visited the Historisches Archiv des Erzbistums Köln. Our host, Joachim Oepen, briefly described the relation between church history and German history, using the example of the Cologne archbishopric. Oepen showed how church records have been reshuffled in response to administrative processes and political events. He also stressed the value of church records for different kinds of projects. In conclusion, Oepen gave the students a chance to practice their newly acquired skills at reading old German script, as well as demonstrated by example what finding aids can and cannot tell you about the holdings of a particular collection.

The last leg of our journey began with a five-hour train trip across central Germany, from west to east, to the small, former residential city of Gotha in the Free State of Thuringia. Again this year we were hosted by the Forschungsbibliothek Gotha, housed in the Schloss Friedenstein and part of the University of Erfurt. The first morning, Rupert Schaab, the library's head, gave the participants a fascinating tour of the stacks, exposing everyone to this amazing collection of manuscripts and published books. The history of the library dates back to the seventeenth century, when Duke Ernst der Fromme began building the collection, parts of which came to Gotha as spoils of the Thirty Years' War. The library contains over half a million printed books, of which nearly 350,000 were published before 1900. In addition, the library is home to nearly 10,000 volumes of manuscripts, including rare materials brought back from the

Orient. Noteworthy also are the collection of Protestant hymnals and the large collection of bound eulogies. In addition to exploring the Forschungsbibliothek's holdings, the students also received brief introductions to the German library system, medieval manuscripts, early modern personal papers, and the first published books (incunables). Cornelia Hopf, one of the library's helpful and knowledgeable staff members, assisted with these presentations.

On Wednesday afternoon the group traveled to Weimar. At the Goethe National Museum, Ulrike Müller-Harang led us on a tour of the permanent exhibit, emphasizing in particular the ideas behind the assemblage of various artifacts from Goethe's life and cultural community. At the Goethe-Schiller-Archiv Weimar, Director Jochen Goltz showed us around the facility. In the evening the group traveled to Schnepfenthal in the Thuringian Forest where we were treated to the hospitality of Ursula Lehmkuhl, vice president of the University of Erfurt, and her husband Wolfgang Helbich, a retired professor from the University of Bochum. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful evening of conversation, debate, and delicious food and drink.

Continuing our speakers' series, Cordula Grewe from the GHI and Warren Breckman from the University of Pennsylvania gave presentations on their respective work. Grewe is an art historian working on nineteenth-century German religious painting. Breckman is an intellectual historian who talked about his book on Marx and the young Hegelians. Both discussed method and methodology with the participants, touching on the pitfalls and promises of doing independent archival research. A lively question-and-answer session followed.

The final event of the Summer Seminar came in the form of a presentation by Juliane Bransch. She is currently working on the third volume of the diaries of Friedrich I, duke of Saxony-Gotha-Coburg. Two volumes have already appeared in print, containing transcriptions of the diaries. The third volume will contain commentary and explanatory notes. Bransch explained how she set about learning how to read Friedrich's often difficult handwriting, then to decipher the diary entries, and finally to track down the various personalities and topics contained therein.

The GHI would like to thank its American collaborators and its numerous German partners for helping to make the tenth Summer Seminar in Germany a success. For information on the 2003 program, see the "Announcements" section of this issue.

Daniel Mattern



Lunch at "Zur Malzmühle" in Cologne, with Dr. Eberhard Illners of the Historisches Stadtarchiv

Participants and Their Projects

CHRISTOPHER C.W. BAUERMEISTER, History, Purdue University; dissertation topic: "Enlightenment and Administrative Reform in Electoral Hanover"

SHANNON E. HUNT, History, University of Virginia; dissertation topic: "The German Court, the Crisis of Aristocracy, and the Civilizing Process: A Study of Challenges to German Aristocratic Court Culture in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries"

HOI-EUN KIM, History, Harvard University; dissertation topic: "Physicians on the Move: German Physicians in Meiji-Japan and Japanese Medical Students in Imperial Germany"

JONATHAN KREGOR, Music History, Harvard University; dissertation topic: "Virtuosity, Performativity, and Bourgeois Culture: French Music in the Formation of a German Identity, 1848–1871"

ANTJE KRÜGER, German Literature, University of Wisconsin–Madison; dissertation topic: "Trivial Literature as Public Discourse in the Eighteenth Century"

KIMBERLY A. MILLER, German Linguistics, University of Wisconsin–Madison; dissertation topic: "Loss of Case in Low German"

JEANNE-MARIE MUSTO, Art History, Bryn Mawr College; dissertation topic: "Shaping a Discipline and a Nation: The Early Art History of Speyer Cathedral"

LARA OSTARIC, Philosophy, University of Notre Dame; dissertation topic: "The Concept of Genius in Kant's Philosophy"

DAVID J. PIZZO, History, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; dissertation topic: "German Conquest, Hehe Resistance, and Colonial Power: The German–Hehe War in Southern Tanganyika, 1891–1898"

THOMAS A. RYLKO, History, University of Delaware; dissertation topic: "Mass Politics and National Identity in Catholic Germany, 1870–1880"

ADAM R. SEIPP, History, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; dissertation topic: "Between Peace and Order: Demobilization, International Politics, and Urban Protest in Europe, 1917–1921"

LAURA C. SMITH, German Linguistics, University of Wisconsin–Madison; dissertation topic: "Prosodic Change in Germanic: A Template Approach"

LAURA STOKES, History, University of Virginia; dissertation topic: "Patterns from Chaos: German and Swiss Witch Trials, 1430–1530"