

SUMMER SEMINAR IN GERMANY 2003

Between June 1 and June 14, 2003, participants from nine American universities and three different disciplines attended this year's Summer Seminar. The group visited research institutions and met with scholars in three different German cities: Koblenz, Cologne, and Gotha. The aim of the seminar was threefold: first, the participants learned to decipher handwritten documents (old German script); second, the participants toured archives and libraries; and third, the group engaged in dialogue with German and American scholars about research methods and the practical experience of working in German facilities.

Koblenz once again served as the starting point for this year's seminar. We began at the Landeshauptarchiv near the Deutsches Eck, where Walter Rummel, our instructor, organized five sessions on paleography. Dr. Rummel used examples from the sixteenth through the twentieth centuries to illustrate different handwriting typologies. After a brief introduction to the problem of decoding old German script, the participants read texts aloud in order to practice their newfound skills. Also in Koblenz the group profited from a session with Hans-Dieter Kreikamp of the Bundesarchiv. Dr. Kreikamp led a "backstage" tour of the facility, explained the peculiarities of modern German *Verwaltung* and its file production, and discussed the process of requesting files from the stacks.

In addition to the paleography classes and the archive tours, the group met with Philipp Gassert from Heidelberg University. Dr. Gassert talked about his current research project on former West German chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger and explained how he identified archival material that was central to this project. He also discussed his note taking and information collecting process.

Our stay in Koblenz came to a close with a convivial get-together along the banks of the Mosel River at the Weinhaus Schwaab. The next day we departed for Cologne, the capital of the Rheinland and home to the puppetmasters of the *Rheinischer Karneval*.

In Cologne, we spent our first full day at the city's Historical Archive, where Drs. Eberhard Illner and Manfred Huiskes led the group on a tour of Germany's largest communal repository. They illustrated the evolving practice of preserving and conserving public records through fascinating examples from Cologne's venerable history. They also exemplified more recent efforts to collect other manuscripts, posters, private archives, and personal papers—particularly when these materials relate to Cologne's social, cultural, and economic life.

That evening we were guests of the Museum Ludwig at an exhibition opening honoring Prof. L. Fritz Gruber, an important collector of twentieth-century photographs and one of the museum's benefactors, on the

occasion of his ninety-fifth birthday. Many key figures from Cologne's cultural *Prominenz* were present at this special event and for the reception held on the museum's roof, from where we enjoyed a panoramic view of the city and its cathedral.

Saturday morning was spent as guests of the University of Cologne where William G. Gray, professor of history from Texas Tech University, related his experience of researching and writing his first book, which documents West Germany's efforts to undermine the German Democratic Republic during the Cold War. He imparted numerous valuable tips from the perspective of a former American graduate student. His presentation complemented that given by Philipp Gassert. Professor Gray focused on how to structure a research year and how to use the limited time abroad most efficiently. He also addressed the issue of finding the right moment to actually leave the archives behind and move into the process of writing. We would like to thank Prof. Norbert Finzsch for his hospitality at this event.

Following the break for the Pentecost holiday the group reconvened on Tuesday morning for a trip to the Historical Archive of the Cologne Archbishopric. Here the participants learned about the intimate relationship between Cologne's political and social history and its confessional history—particularly before the nineteenth century. Participants were given a chance to demonstrate their skill at using finding aids to locate relevant records.

We headed east to Thuringia the following afternoon. Arriving in Gotha on Wednesday in the early evening, the group decided to have dinner *al fresco* at a local brewpub in the center of this historic town. The next two days were spent at Gotha's famed Research Library, housed in the Schloß Friedenstein, which overlooks the former *Residenzstadt*. Our host, Rupert Schaab, welcomed the group and led us on a tour of the stacks, which are scattered throughout the rooms of this large Baroque palace. Dr. Schaab pointed out the highlights of the collection and discussed aspects of its history, including its temporary removal to Moscow in the mid 1940s.

In addition to the tour, the group attended four small workshops on the following topics: 1) handwriting and the development of manuscripts; 2) German libraries and Germany's library system; 3) codicology; and 4) the first published books (*Inkunabeln*). The introduction to German libraries was given by Antje Pautzke; the presentation on codices was delivered by Kathrin Paasch. We would like to thank them and Dr. Schaab for another interesting and rewarding visit to the Forschungsbibliothek Gotha.

The group celebrated its final evening, a genuine *geselliges Beisammensein*, at the Ratskeller across from the town hall. The participants

shared their views of the seminar and discussed their future plans for conducting their dissertation research in Germany.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all those individuals and organizations that contributed to the 2003 Summer Seminar in Germany. On behalf of the GHI we also would like to thank two organizations whose combined financial and organizational support was vital for the success of this year's seminar: the German Department of the University of Wisconsin, Madison and the Nanovic Institute for European Studies at the University of Notre Dame. Special thanks go to Joan Leffler at the University of Wisconsin for her cooperation and teamwork. An announcement of the program for the 2004 seminar appears in this issue of the Bulletin.

*Daniel S. Mattern
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Participants and Their Projects

CHRISTOPHER W. CLOSE, History, University of Pennsylvania; dissertation project: "Judicial Persecution and Practiced Tolerance of Religious Dissent in Sixteenth-Century Kaufbeuren."

AMY K. HAMLIN, Art History, New York University; dissertation project: "Between Allegory and Symbol: Max Beckmann and the Crisis of Expressionism."

DANIEL KREBS, History, Emory University; dissertation project: "German Prisoners of War in the American War of Independence."

JANA MEASELLS, History, Northwestern University; dissertation project: "The Economic Subject and the Subject of Economics: Individuality, Society, and the Role of the German Historical School of Economics in Late-Nineteenth-Century Social Science."

AMIR MINSKY, History, University of Pennsylvania; dissertation project: "Freedom Trees Do Not Thrive on German Soil: 'German Jacobins' Face the French Revolution, 1792–1815."

MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN, History, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; dissertation project: "Persevering Piety: Popular Catholicism and the Transformation of a Religious Community in the Rhineland and Westphalia, 1910–1960."

STEVEN M. SCHROEDER, History, University of Notre Dame; dissertation project: "Religion, Morality, and the German Encounter with the Occupying Powers, 1944–1955."

CONNIE MOON SEHAT, History, Rice University; dissertation project: "Engineering German Policy: Democratic and Socialist Values in Twentieth-Century Technology Museums."

SHAWN SEVERSON, German, University of Wisconsin, Madison; dissertation project: "A Sociohistorical Perspective on German in the Early Modern Period."

JENNIFER L. WELSH, History, Duke University; dissertation project: "Mother, Matron, Matriarch: The Cult of St. Anne in Late Medieval and Early Modern Germany."



Seminar participants at the Bundesarchiv Koblenz, June 2003