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Daniel Schönflug, Technical University of Berlin, „Der Straßburger Jakobinerclub—  
Werkstatt französisch-deutscher Wahrnehmungen, 1790–1794.”  
Ronald Trapp, University of Hamburg, „Preußen und die erste Bundesstaatskrise 1848.“

*Andreas W Daum*

## Summer Program June 6–19, 1999

The GHI Summer Program in paleography and archival studies, co-funded by the German Department of the University of Wisconsin at Madison, was an unambiguous success—at least according to the feedback from the participants. Ten graduate students attended this year’s course, which aimed to provide participants with an introduction to various types of German handwriting from earlier centuries and a working overview of the complexity of the German

archival landscape. The program had three basic components: (1) instruction in German handwriting of the sixteenth through the twentieth centuries; (2) instruction in the use of archives to conduct scholarly research; and (3) a tour of German archives in the western part of the Federal Republic.

The program kicked off in Koblenz, home to the Bundesarchiv and the Landeshauptarchiv of Rhineland-Palatinate. Mornings were spent with Walter Rummel, who introduced the participants to the art and practice of reading old German handwriting. Afternoons were spent with Michael Hollmann, who guided the students through the thicket of the German archival landscape and the development of German administrative bureaucracy—a legacy of the Kleinstaateri of pre-unification Germany. One question was on everyone’s mind at the end of these sessions: “Wer war zuständig?”—an invaluable query when trying to track down records that might shed light on the historian’s Fragestellung. Participants were delighted to have the chance to speak with the president of the Bundesarchiv, Friedrich Kahlenberg, who warmly welcomed the group to his institution. The group toured both Koblenz facilities and received an impression of the kinds of materials housed in each. The participants also were given the opportunity to think about the kinds of questions that historians need to ask archivists. In addition to the official program, the group also had the opportunity to visit a local wine cellar in the Moselle River Valley.

From Koblenz we traveled first to Heidelberg, where we visited the archive of Germany’s oldest university. In a meeting with the director, Werner Moritz, the group became acquainted with the purpose and chronological depth of this academic archive. We also were impressed with the terrific growth of its holdings over the course of the twentieth century, reflecting the general trend regarding paper records of all types.

The next stop was the Politisches Archiv of the Auswärtiges Amt in Bonn. The director, Ludwig Biewer, gave a clear and precise lecture on the history of the foreign affairs archive and its rather complicated development, mirroring of course the twists and turns in modern Germany’s history. The archive had prepared for the group a display of some of what one will find in its stacks, e.g., a copy of the Wannsee Conference protocols, the German copy of the Rapallo treaty, and so forth.

From Bonn we moved on to Cologne, which was just then gearing up for the G-8 Summit and the arrival of the political leaders of the leading industrial countries (plus Russia). Appropriately, we began our stay in this city by visiting the Historisches Archiv der Stadt Köln. There, we were hosted by Eberhard Illner, who provided the participants with an excellent overview of the city's history and its significance for German and wider European history, and Joachim Deeters, who guided us through the medieval collections. We were permitted a look at some of the archive's oldest holdings, including parchment documents from as far back as the eighth century. Furthermore, the group had the chance to consult with historian James Brophy of the University of Delaware, who was completing a year in Germany, about the ins and outs of archival research.

The following day we visited the stacks of the Rheinisch-Westfälisches Wirtschaftsarchiv (RWWA) located north of the city in an industrial zone. There we were met by the director, Klara van Eyll, her deputy, Ulrich S. Soenius, and archivist Jürgen Weise. The students caught a glimpse of the difference between the production of official records and their preservation in an official archive, and the collection of materials relating to the operation of a business and the difficulty of saving this material for use by future historians.

After the visit to the RWWA, the Bayer Corporation in nearby Leverkusen invited the group to lunch at its casino. This filling repast was followed by a tour of the visitors' center and the enormous Bayer factory along the Rhine. We were especially impressed with the environmental measures undertaken by Bayer to reduce pollution from its operations and to invest heavily in systems that recycle water used to produce a variety of chemicals.

Midweek saw a visit to the sprawling complex of the Westdeutscher Rundfunk (WDR) in downtown Cologne. There we were greeted by Klaus Heimann and Heide Kunde, who introduced us to the purpose and function of this very different kind of archive. The WDR facilities are very modern and technologically up-to-date, necessitated by the fact that journalists and producers use the collections to support the rapid and incessant production of radio and television programming. The participants were surprised to learn that in the world of broadcasting, there are more than 24 hours in a day.

The morning of the final day was spent at the Historisches Archiv des Erzbistums zu Köln, where we were greeted by its director, Toni

Diederich. We were then treated to a fine introduction to church history by archivist Joachim Oepen. The participants came to understand that it is often very difficult to draw clear boundaries between church history and the history of Germany generally—both contain the cultural, political, and social history that is essential for understanding historical developments. In addition, the students got to view some ancient as well as modern exhibits from the collections, e.g., a document mentioning the first bishop of Cologne, the Holy Maternus, and a letter from U.S. President Ronald Reagan to the bishop of Cologne regarding the situation in Poland during the rise of Solidarity.

Despite favorable reviews of the program from the students, there are a few improvements to be made. First, before embarking on the program, people selected to participate will be asked to acquaint themselves with the alphabet of Altdeutscher Schrift before arriving in Germany. To this end appropriate materials will be sent to them in advance. Second, we hope to extend the length of course on handwriting by a day to give students more time to absorb what they have learned. Third, because the program aims to include graduate students working on historical topics in a variety of disciplines, we hope to visit other types of institutions, such as libraries or special collections repositories, in order to address the interests of all participants in a more balanced way.

The GHI plans to organize the Summer Program, renamed the Summer Seminar, again next June. The announcement regarding the application deadline can be found on page 66 of this issue.

*Daniel S. Mattern*