

German Historical Institute

40 year anniversary





The German Historical Institute London opened on 4 November 1976 as an independent German academic outpost. It was conceived by British and German historians in a spirit of mutual scholarly regard. Forty years later it has become an established and respected part of Bloomsbury's and Great Britain's academic scene.

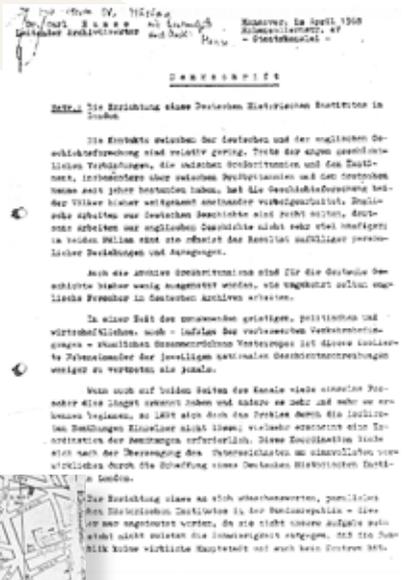
Foundation and first years (1976-1982)

In 1968 Carl Haase, director of the Hanover State Archives, proposed the creation of a London-based German Historical Institute (GHIL) to parallel similar institutions in Rome and Paris. His idea was welcomed by contemporary scholars in Britain and Germany and in 1969 the first step towards a permanent organisation was formalized with the founding of the German-British Historical Association. The Association staged annual academic conferences, provided scholarships to German and British PhD students, and set up a small office in Chancery Lane. It soon became a focal point for German researchers visiting Britain.

From 1975 the Association gained government funding from the German Ministry for Research and Technology and on 4 November 1976 a permanent and independent scholarly body was established: the German Historical Institute London. It was to be a centre for study and conferences, for practical advice to historians working on Anglo-German and related histories, to promote individual and co-operative schemes of research, to house historical books and journals and publish its own specialized monographs, editions of source materials and study guides. In the wake of Britain joining the European Community, the Institute represented, in the words of British historian, Geoffrey Dickens, 'a constant and intimate cooperation between the working historians of our two countries.'

In 1977 the first director, Paul Kluge, who had steered the German-British Historical Association to its goal of becoming the German Historical Institute, was succeeded by Wolfgang J. Mommsen, the renowned historian of Imperial Germany and Max Weber. Under him, the Institute found a permanent home at 17 Bloomsbury Square and began to build its reputation for open dialogue and pioneering approaches to history.

Memorandum by Carl Haase, proposing the creation of a German Historical Institute in London, April 1968, p. 1.



Searching for the ideal location for the German Historical Institute London.



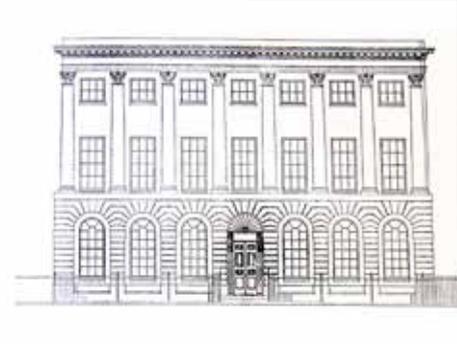
Bloomsbury Square from the south eastern corner, 1787, from the mezzotint by Pollard and Jukes. No 17 is at the left hand corner. The grand building in the background is Southampton House, later Bedford House, which took up the fourth side of the square until c.1800.

17 Bloomsbury Square: From John Nash to the Royal Pharmaceutical Society

Bloomsbury Square was landscaped in the mid-1600s by the Earl of Southampton and was one of London's first formal garden squares. It was a fashionable residential area and the typical terraced houses were inhabited by the upper classes. The corner house at No. 17 changed little for almost 100 years but was transformed under the ownership of John Rushout, 1st Baron Northwick. In 1777/8 he engaged the architect John Nash to remodel the building and the house was divided into two, with one entrance on Bloomsbury Square and the other on Great Russell Street. Nash

added the magnificent staircases surmounted by glass cupolas, designed the neo-classical front façade with Corinthian pilasters and commissioned the famous Adam brothers to undertake this work, using the new stucco technique. The ornate ceilings in the first floor reception rooms are also credited to Nash or the Adam brothers. 17 Bloomsbury Square was at the forefront of late 18th century London architecture and interior design, and these signature features can still be seen today.

No. 17 Bloomsbury Square, elevation drawing by John Nash, undated (c.1780s).



The Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain at 17 Bloomsbury Square, 1890s.



Over the 19th century, Bloomsbury became renowned for its concentration of academic establishments, such as the British Museum and University College London. Bloomsbury Square itself was occupied by middle class professionals and eventually became a haven for firms, foundations, associations and institutions. No. 17 fitted into both of these trends when it was leased to the newly established Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, in 1841. Sixteen years later the society

expanded into neighbouring 72 Great Russell Street, and in 1859 the buildings were re-joined, an additional third storey built, the porch added and the society's name engraved in the exterior frieze. The Pharmaceutical Society housed a School of Pharmacy, museum, lecture theatre, examination rooms, meeting rooms, offices, library and several laboratories. It remained at No. 17 until 1976 when it relocated to Lambeth, becoming the Royal Pharmaceutical Society in 1988.

Renovating 17 Bloomsbury Square: The Home of the German Historical Institute

In the late 1960s the British government announced plans to demolish a 7.5 acre site in Bloomsbury to make way for the new British Library building. They included 17 Bloomsbury Square. In response, a local citizens' initiative was formed, known as The Bloomsbury Association. During the early 1970s the group, led by George Wagner, an émigré from Nazi Germany, vigorously campaigned against the plans because the area was a long-settled London neighbourhood and part of the Bloomsbury Conservation Area.

When the Bloomsbury Association won their case, in 1974, a compulsory purchase order on No. 17 fell through, and the house was left vacant. It began to fall into a state of disrepair while waiting to be sold at auction and, in the late 1970s, was occupied by a squatter's community of artists and craftspeople, known as the Bloomsbury Co-operative. They wanted to act as caretakers for the historic building, pending its permanent use. They took steps to legitimize their occupation of the property and turned No. 17 into a sort of community arts centre. Occupants and outside groups used the rooms for painting, sculpting, screen printing, as a photographic

Squatters protesting at Bloomsbury Square, 15 November 1979.



Richard von Weizsäcker, Mayor of West Berlin and later President of the Federal Republic of Germany (1984–94), at the opening of the German Historical Institute London, 2 December 1982.



The Grade II listed building at 17 Bloomsbury Square underwent considerable renovations, courtesy of the Volkswagen Foundation. The Nash staircases with their wrought-iron balustrades and glass domed roofs were faithfully restored, the elaborate ceilings on the first floor were repainted using original 18th century pattern books, and exact replicas of the original crystal chandeliers were hung in the reception rooms.

laboratory, and theatre rehearsal space. Local bands also performed there at weekends.

During this tempestuous time, the German Historical Institute London migrated between offices in Chancery Lane, Bloomsbury Square and Russell Square. The Institute's director, Wolfgang J. Mommsen, appealed to the German government to purchase 17 Bloomsbury Square as a permanent home for the Institute. He foresaw it as a flagship building for Anglo-German scholarly cooperation and friendship. It was the Volkswagen Foundation, however, a

generous supporter of the Institute since its early years, who proved most sympathetic to the prospect. They bought the historic building in February 1980 and leased it to the German Historical Institute and, initially, three other Anglo-German organisations, including the German Academic Exchange Service. On 2 December 1982 the building was officially opened in the presence of the Duke of Gloucester and representatives of the British and German governments.

The German Historical Institute Today

The German Historical Institute has been overseen by six directors since 1976 and now solely occupies the whole premises of 17 Bloomsbury Square. Over the years, it has grown to encompass an academic team of ten historians from Germany, most of whom are contracted to complete a *Habilitation* (a second book project, a formal, post-doctoral qualification in Germany). A visiting professor from Germany (sponsored by the Gerda Henkel Foundation) works jointly at the Institute and the London School of Economics. In addition, there are a number of editors and translators, a team of librarians and administrative staff as well as a steady stream of interns and scholarship holders who come to work and study for periods of up to six months.

As a German institute abroad, the Institute bridges the historical professions in Britain and Germany. It builds upon the traditions of research in both countries and seeks to bring together contemporary research agendas and debates. The name 'German Historical Institute' suggests a focus on German history, but the Institute has always promoted a wider historical perspective. In particular, the histories of Great Britain, her Empire and Commonwealth as well as those of Germany and Anglo-German relations.

The Institute's work spans the historical epochs from medieval through to contemporary history and covers political, economic, social and cultural aspects. It varies at any one time in accordance with the individual projects undertaken by the research fellows, the historical specialism of the incumbent director and wider historiographical trends and developments. Currently, the emphases are on cultural approaches to political history, the history of welfare and social solidarity, and on global and colonial history.



Staff at the German Historical Institute, the early 1980s.



Staff at the German Historical Institute, 17 Bloomsbury Square, 1994.



Staff at the German Historical Institute, 17 Bloomsbury Square, 2004.

Staff at the German Historical Institute, 17 Bloomsbury Square, 2016.



Research Focus I: British and Comparative History

British history has always been a key research area at the German Historical Institute. Works that focus exclusively on British history are often undertaken by the research fellows as independent *Habilitation* projects and have included political, social and cultural topics, ranging from 14th century town development in East Anglia to 'honourable speculators' in 17th and 18th century London to criminology in civil society.

At the same time, British historical research has been pursued in collaborative forums in the broader context of imperial, Commonwealth and European history, international relations, or in terms of comparative historical phenomena – with comparisons routinely made with Germany. In 1978, for example, then director Wolfgang J. Mommsen organized a conference on the *Social History of the Reformation in England and Germany*. This was considered a path-breaking initiative at the time for its cross-border comparisons, and heavily influenced new understandings of

the field. Likewise, the conference organized by John Brewer and Eckhart Hellmuth on *Rethinking Leviathan* (1991) challenged prevailing assumptions about the 18th century modern state being strong in the Prussian and German cases, but weak in Britain.

Other major topics that have dealt with British history in comparative terms include the emergence of the welfare state, the development of trade unionism, British and German social norms, concepts of nation, historical organisations and cultural forms of self-understanding. This comparative tendency became even more pronounced following the reunification of Germany in 1990, when German perceptions of their divided past visibly began to alter. It has continued over the years and taken on greater European contours with the enlargement of Europe and Germany's evolving role in the European Union.



British history in the German language: the German Historical Institute's publication series, the 'Deutsche Reihe'.

Research Focus II: Anglo-German Relations

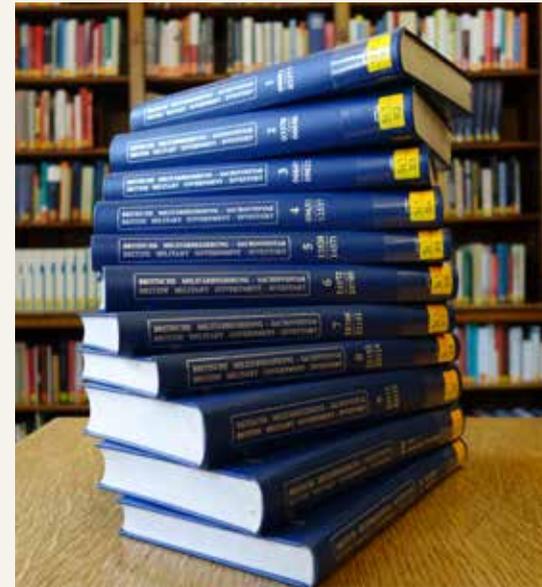
One of the key themes on the German Historical Institute's earliest research agenda was the personal union between the Kingdom of Hanover and Great Britain. (The two kingdoms shared their monarchs 1714-1837). However, Anglo-German relations have had a much broader and enduring appeal.

The first major undertaking in this area came to fruition in 1993 under the directorship of Adolf M. Birke, and was based upon six years of archival research. It comprised an 11-volume inventory of 30,000 British Control Commission files held at the National Archives, Kew. This extensive work provided a unique research tool on British occupation policy in Germany after the Second World War.

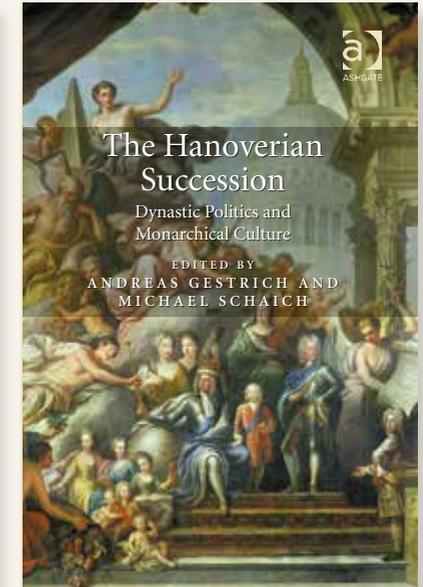
The second major output was initiated by the director Peter Wende and concerned 19th century diplomatic history. It has since become the Institute's longest running project. The two editorial series *British Envoys to Germany* and *British Envoys to the Kaiserreich* include a selection of transcribed and annotated dispatches sent to the Foreign

Office by British diplomats posted to the German states of Austria, Baden, Bavaria, Hanover, Hesse, Prussia, and Württemberg. They cover the years when the states were fully independent (1815-1866) and as they were subsequently forged into the German Empire (1871-1897). The dispatches are significant as they do not simply refer to 'high politics' but also provide British insights into German local and regional events, German regional perspectives on international issues, as well as political, social and cultural affairs. The first volume was published in 2000 and the fifth instalment in 2016.

The Institute's research agenda lately came full circle with the tercentenary of the Hanoverian accession to the British throne (2014). The Institute organized two international conferences to commemorate the occasion. These events provided fresh insights into the British, European and German dynamics of a dynasty that gave rise to British global power, yet has often, mistakenly, been perceived as dull and boring.



Adolf Birke, Hans Booms, Otto Merker (eds), Akten der britischen Militärregierung in Deutschland. Control Commission for Germany, British element. Sachinventar 1945-1955 (1993).



Publication to mark the tercentenary of the Hanoverian Succession, edited by the Institute's Director and Deputy Director, Andreas Gestrich and Michael Schaich (2015)



British Envoys to Germany and British Envoys to the Kaiserreich.

Research Focus III: Imperial and Global History

The German Historical Institute London has always extended its historical gaze beyond Germany and the British Isles to the former British Empire and the Commonwealth. Increasingly, it has also embraced research agendas that deal with the wider world.

In the 1980s the Institute pursued a dual approach to imperial history that, on the one hand, revolved around institutions, structures and Great Men and, on the other, adopted the more interdisciplinary approach known as Area Studies, which focused on the characteristics of particular geographical, national, regional or cultural zones. Conferences, for example, assessed the politically-charged 'Scramble for Africa' at the *Berlin West Africa Conference 1884/5* (1985) as well as zonal policies and practices. In the 1990s, the focus came to be more on the intellectual side of imperial history.

Since the millennium, transnational perspectives have become essential to the Institute's work. In addition to the histories of the British Empire and Commonwealth, global histories of colonialism and the colonies are now also significant. In 2013, under

the stewardship of the present director, Andreas Gestrich, the German Historical Institute London set up the interdisciplinary *Transnational Research Group* (TRG) on 'Poverty and Education in India' with the Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi, India), the University of Göttingen (Germany) and the King's India Institute (UK). The TRG is based in New Delhi and brings together doctoral and post-doctoral students, and principal investigators, from diverse fields including history, anthropology, sociology, teaching and religion. Its focus is on regional and global comparative approaches to social and educational policy in India since the 19th century. The German Historical Institute London was the first German humanities institute abroad to initiate such an approach to international research networks, and it has provided an innovative model of international co-operation.



Panel discussion at the official launch of the Transnational Research Group, New Delhi, 2015.

The Transnational Research Group on 'Poverty and Education in India' at a seminar in London, 2014.



A selection of publications by the German Historical Institute and its staff members in the field of imperial and global history.



Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park, a former royal residence that became an educational charity in 1947. Amy Buller (author of *Darkness Over Germany*, 1943) had wanted to establish a place where university students could reflect on the moral and spiritual issues of the day, to help combat extremism and work towards the betterment of society. It was a fitting place to debate the Third Reich.

Research Focus IV: German History

The Institute has naturally focused on German history in order to respond to its host nation's scholarly interests. Since the early years it has tackled some of the burning questions associated with Nazism and the Second World War including the nature of the Nazi system, political terrorism, the policies of appeasement and the failure of resistance movements in Germany. In fact, the Institute helped to shape historiography on the Third Reich as early as 1979 when it staged the Cumberland Lodge conference on *The Führer State: Myth and Reality. Structure and Politics of the Third Reich*. This pivotal event gave rise to a fierce debate between 'functionalist' and

'intentionalist' historians about the role of Hitler. Was Hitler a strong dictator who drove the Third Reich according to his own ideological intentions, or did he preside as a weak dictator over a regime that was chaotically driven by its own inner structural determinants? The question polarized historians throughout the 1980s, continued to be debated into the 1990s, and the terms (coined at the conference) are still relevant today.

Another example of the pioneering approach to German history welcomed by the Institute was that of British historians David Blackbourn and Geoff Eley. In the 1980s they found a willing

audience and platform for their revisionist interpretations of the influential German *Sonderweg* thesis ('Germany's special path to modernity'). They contested the German idea of a so-called German 'deviant' path because this idealized Western paths to modernity as 'normal'. As with the debate between functionalists and intentionalists, this enlivened historiography about Germany for many years.

In addition to overarching approaches to historical periods, the Institute has also engaged (and continues to do so) in research about leading historical personalities, such as Max Weber and Karl Marx. In-depth case

studies are also an approach pursued at the Institute and these have ranged from micro level studies such as Early Modern 'Residenzstädte' and 'Landowner Towns' to the macro e.g. Holocaust remembrance in the USA, Britain and Germany.

Library

When the German Historical Institute moved into 17 Bloomsbury Square in 1982 the Pharmaceutical Society's former library rooms were preserved for continued library use, complete with their antique bookshelves sourced from London's International Exhibition (held at Crystal Palace in 1862). It was a rare opportunity to refresh and continue the legacy of a scholarly library space in such a beautiful, historical building.

Created in 1976, at the same time as the establishment of the Institute, the Institute's own research library has become a major asset. To date it has some 86,000 holdings in German and English, covering general history, German history, Anglo-German relations, and the history of the British Empire and Commonwealth, from the Middle Ages to the present day. Approximately half of the collection is on German history. It is the most up-to-date library on German

history in the UK and there is a growing demand for German specialist works that have been translated into English.

In addition to books, the Institute subscribes to 230 periodicals, including all important German regional history journals – these publications are available in either electronic format or hard copy. The library also has copies of major English and German newspapers and magazines as well as access to bibliographical databases, full-text electronic resources and audio-visual archives.

Today, the library rooms are found on the first floor, ground floor and also expand into the basement. It is a research library rather than a lending library, but books are freely accessible to all registered readers. It is open to the general public as well as scholars and students.



The German Historical Institute's library today.

The Pharmaceutical Society's library, 1883/4.



Events and publications

The activities of the German Historical Institute London comprise a wide range of research and discussion forums, public seminars, lectures and exhibitions, and scholarly publications. The Institute caters largely to an academic audience but does also reach out to the wider public for whom historical topics, or the impact of history on current affairs, are of interest.

Since the early years, the Institute has organized academic conferences. These bring together scholars from all over the world and are often collaborative enterprises, organized with universities and other institutions. They provide an essential platform for the exchange of theoretical and methodological ideas and empirical results in a wide range of historical fields. On many occasions, the conference proceedings are subsequently published. In any one year some 15–20 conferences take place.

The Institute also organizes a programme of annual events.

The *Postgraduate Students Conference* has been held for some twenty years now and gives PhD candidates from the UK and Ireland, working on all aspects of German history, an opportunity to present their work-in-progress.

The Institute organizes and hosts a lecture and seminar series in the autumn, spring and summer terms of each year, to which British and German historians are invited. This includes collaborations with Oxford University's History Department and the Institute for Historical Research London. Other events include a *Summer School* for German university students on themes in British history, the *Early Modern German History Workshop*, in conjunction with the German History Society and the German Historical Institute Washington, and the biennial *Medieval History Seminar*, also jointly organized with the German Historical Institute Washington.

One of the highlights of the Institute's calendar is the *Annual Lecture*, delivered by an eminent historian. On this occasion the *Prize of the German Historical Institute* (for an outstanding PhD thesis on German, British or Anglo-German history) is also awarded, as is the *Wolfgang J. Mommsen Prize* (for an exceptional German-language study on British history to be translated into English).



Political Cartoons as Historical Sources, conference at the German Historical Institute, May 2004. Captured in cartoon format by a professional Private Eye cartoonist.



Tobias Wolffhardt (Left) and Andreas Gestrich (Right) at the presentation of the first Wolfgang J. Mommsen Prize in 2010. The event was attended by members of the Mommsen family. Wolffhardt's work on Knowledge-Production as a Task of the State. Colin Mackenzie (c.1753–1821) and the Project of Surveying India is due for publication imminently.



Nostalgia – Historicizing the Longing for the Past, conference at the German Historical Institute, October 2015.

Denkschrift

Betr.: Die Errichtung eines Deutschen Historischen Institutes in London

Die Kontakte zwischen der deutschen und der englischen Geschichtsforschung sind relativ gering. Trotz der engen geschichtlichen Verbindungen, die zwischen Großbritannien und dem Kontinent, insbesondere aber zwischen Großbritannien und dem deutschen Raume seit jeher bestanden haben, hat die Geschichtsforschung beider Völker bisher weitgehend aneinander vorbeigearbeitet. Englische Arbeiten zur deutschen Geschichte sind recht selten, deutsche Arbeiten zur englischen Geschichte nicht sehr viel häufiger; in beiden Fällen sind sie zumeist das Resultat zufälliger persönlicher Beziehungen und Anregungen.

Auch die Archive Großbritanniens sind für die deutsche Geschichte bisher wenig ausgenutzt worden, wie umgekehrt selten englische Forscher in deutschen Archiven arbeiten.

In einer Zeit des zunehmenden geistigen, politischen und wirtschaftlichen, auch - infolge der verbesserten Verkehrsbedingungen - räumlichen Zusammenrückens Westeuropas ist dieses isolierte Nebeneinander der jeweiligen nationalen Geschichtsschreibungen weniger zu vertreten als jemals.

Wenn auch auf beiden Seiten des Kanals viele einzelne Forscher dies längst erkannt haben und andere es mehr und mehr zu erkennen beginnen, so läßt sich doch das Problem durch die isolierten Bemühungen Einzelner nicht lösen; vielmehr erscheint eine Koordination der Bemühungen erforderlich. Diese Koordination ließe sich nach der Überzeugung des Unterzeichneten am sinnvollsten verwirklichen durch die Schaffung eines Deutschen Historischen Institutes in London.

Der Errichtung eines an sich wünschenswerten, parallelen Britischen Historischen Institutes in der Bundesrepublik - dies kann hier nur angedeutet werden, da sie nicht unsere Aufgabe sein kann - steht nicht zuletzt die Schwierigkeit entgegen, daß die Bundesrepublik keine wirkliche Hauptstadt und auch kein Zentrum hat,

an dem sich die Quellen für die deutsch-britischen Beziehungen in den Archiven besonders häufen.

Anders dagegen ist die Lage in Großbritannien: Hier ist in der Hauptstadt London eine Fülle von Quellen im einzigen Staatsarchiv des Landes, im Public Record Office, konzentriert, hier befindet sich die Zentralstelle für das, was wir etwa "Nichtstaatliche Archivpflege" nennen, in der "Historical Manuscripts Commission" mit ihrer eigenen Editionsabteilung; hier findet man mit der Bibliothek des Britischen Museums eine der größten Bibliotheken der Welt, die überdies über eine Fülle von historisch bedeutsamen Nachlässen und anderen Quellen verfügt; hier ist zudem die größte Universität des Landes, und die beiden wichtigsten Universitäten, Oxford und Cambridge, sind leicht zu erreichen. Hinzu kommen die Schätze von Stadtarchiv, Gildearchiv und College of Arms.

Es wird daher vorgeschlagen, ein Deutsches Historisches Institut in London ins Leben zu rufen.

Das Modell für ein derartiges Institut (nicht unbedingt für seine Größenordnung) ist entweder im Deutschen Historischen Institut in Rom oder im Deutschen Historischen Institut in Paris zu sehen. Das heißt: Es müßte die Grundfrage geklärt werden, ob einem solchen Institut über Kontakt- und Beratungsfunktionen hinaus von vornherein fest umrissene Aufgaben gestellt werden sollten, die unabhängig von der Person und den speziellen Interessen des jeweiligen Institutsleiters, das Rückgrat der Institutsarbeit bilden, oder ob das Institut ohne derartige feste Aufgaben bleiben und sich mit Kontaktfunktionen zur britischen Forschung oder mit Beratungsfunktionen für deutsche Historiker, die in London arbeiten, begnügen soll.

Der Unterzeichnete würde der römischen Lösung den Vorzug geben. Er ist der Ansicht, daß man, wenn (etwa wegen der Struktur der Quellen in den englischen Archiven) die Stellung fester Aufgaben als nicht sinnvoll oder als unrentabel erscheint, die Institutsgründung unterlassen sollte.

Im Einzelnen:

A Aufgaben

1.) Quelleneditionen

Der Unterzeichnete kennt die Quellenlage in den britischen Archiven zu wenig, um übersehen zu können, ob es dort eine breite

Fülle wichtiger Quellengruppen gibt, welche nach ihrer Struktur (wie etwa die vatikanischen Quellen für das "Repertorium Germanicum") zu ihrer Durcharbeitung und Erschließung einer Seriensedition und damit des Rückhaltes eines Instituts bedürfen, oder ob nicht die Quellenedition mittels Forschungsstipendien und Verfilmungsaktionen (bei Einzeldurcharbeitung am häuslichen Schreibtisch) der sinnvollere Weg ist. Wenn er es richtig sieht, so bedeutet das Fehlen von Editionen bei zahlreichen Gruppen englischer Archivalien zur Zeit den Verzicht auf ausreichende wissenschaftliche Auswertung, weil a) die Ausleihe nach Art der Quelle und auf Grund von englischen Bestimmungen nicht möglich ist,

- b) ein Aufenthalt in England von erforderlicher Dauer für den Einzelnen im allgemeinen zu kostspielig ist und
- c) die massenweise Bearbeitung von Mikrofilmen an heimatischen Lesegeräten wegen der damit verbundenen Augenschäden schwer verantwortbar ist.

So glaubt er, dem Institut sollte, wenn das möglich ist, als Hauptaufgabe und Rückgrat der Institutsarbeit die Edition fest umrissener Quellengruppen zur deutschen Geschichte bzw. zur Geschichte der deutsch-britischen Beziehungen gestellt werden. Er schlägt daher vor, drei Serien derartiger Quelleneditionen in Gang zu bringen, je eine für Mittelalter, Neuzeit und neueste Zeit. Er wäre dankbar, wenn entsprechende Vorschläge aus der Kenntnis der englischen Archive heraus gemacht werden könnten. Dabei ist zu bedenken, daß seit dem 1. Januar 1968 für das Public Record Office ein gleitendes Grenzzjahr von 30 Jahren eingeführt worden ist, so daß die englischen Quellen zur europäischen Politik schon bis 1937 einschließlich zur Verfügung stehen und die Quellen zur Vorgeschichte und Geschichte des 2. Weltkrieges in Kürze zur Verfügung stehen werden.

Zu erwägen wären etwa folgende Editionen (willkürliche Beispiele):

- a) Mittelalter: Quellen zur Handels- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte des Nord- und Ostseeraumes im Spätmittelalter aus englischen Archiven (Customs Accounts, Dockets, Controlments, im Public Record Office; Prozesse des Exchequer-Gerichts usw.).
Quellen zur Geschichte der hansischen Kontore im Rahmen der deutschen und englischen Wirtschaftsgeschichte.
Neuedition der ältesten Quellen über die norddeutsch - englischen Beziehungen. (Tower-Rotuli im Public Record Office etc.;

eventuell auszudehnen auf eine Bearbeitung der religiösen, literarischen, künstlerischen und paläographischen Beziehungen zwischen Deutschland und England im frühen und hohen Mittelalter). Systematische Durchsicht der "close rolls".

- b) Neuzeit: Quellen (Gesandtschaftsberichte) zur Reformationsgeschichte oder zur Geschichte des Dreißigjährigen Krieges. Zu denken wäre auch an die Edition der Akten der Merchants Adventures in ihren Beziehungen zu Hamburg, Stade, Elbing, Danzig etc. oder an Quellen zur deutsch-englischen Geistesgeschichte (Royal Society; Zeitungen etc.).
- c) Neueste Zeit: Quellen zur Vorgeschichte des zweiten Weltkrieges. Quellen zur Geschichte der wirtschaftlichen Verflechtungen zwischen Deutschland und England im 19. und 20. Jahrhundert (Ballin, Warburg etc.).

Intensive Arbeit in den Archiven und Bibliotheken mit festen Zielen ist zugleich die beste Grundlage für die Erfüllung weiterer Institutsaufgaben, nämlich:

2.) Kontaktpflege zur britischen Forschung

Das Institut sollte die Kontakte zur britischen Geschichtsforschung, zu den Archiven, den Universitäten, den großen Bibliotheken und Instituten, zur Royal Historical Society usw. pflegen und ausbauen, um so zu helfen, die englische Forschung nicht nur stärker an Deutschland, sondern überhaupt an den Kontinent heranzuführen. Es sollte auf diesem Gebiet eng mit der deutschen Botschaft, aber auch mit dem deutschen Kulturinstitut in London zusammenarbeiten.

Insbesondere sollte das Institut jedoch auch in der Lage sein, englische Forscher, die in Deutschland arbeiten wollen, zu beraten und zu fördern. Es sollte also eine genaue Kenntnis der deutschen Archive und ihrer Bestände wie auch der wichtigsten deutschen Bibliotheken mit ihren jeweiligen Sammelschwerpunkten besitzen. (Die Bibliothek des Instituts müßte diesen Gesichtspunkt berücksichtigen).

Dazu gehört auch, daß das Institut die Forschungsmöglichkeiten etwa in der "DDR" und in Polen übersieht und englische Forscher auch über die dortigen Archivbestände und die Möglichkeiten ihrer Zugänglichkeit beraten kann; wie die Dinge heute liegen, ist Forschung zur deutschen Geschichte in vielen Bereichen ohne Benutzung

beispielsweise der im Deutschen Zentralarchiv in Potsdam und in Mersburg liegenden Archivalien nun einmal nicht möglich. Eine gewisse Beweglichkeit und ein hinreichender Handlungsspielraum des Instituts in dieser Hinsicht, unabhängig von der jeweiligen politischen Lage, erscheinen unumgänglich, wenn es seine Aufgabe der Kontaktpflege zur britischen Forschung voll erfüllen will.

3.) Fachliche Unterstützung deutscher Forscher

Deutsche Forscher, die an britischen Forschungsstätten arbeiten wollen, sollten vom Institut unterstützt werden. Auch hier geht es in erster Linie um fachliche Beratung und Ebnung der Wege, die der Einzelne oft nur mühsam findet, insbesondere wenn er noch Doktorand ist und keine persönlichen Verbindungen besitzt. Auch hier sollte beim Aufbau einer Bücherei für das Institut dieser Gesichtspunkt berücksichtigt werden. Die Beratung sollte auch schriftliche Auskünfte auf Anfragen einbeziehen.

Zu erwägen ist ferner die Frage, wie weit derartige Forschungen durch vom Institut zu vergebende Stipendien unterstützt werden könnten und sollten.

B Leitung und Personal

Die Leitung des Instituts sollte einer qualifizierten und ausgewiesenen Forscherpersönlichkeit übertragen werden, welche bereits auf dem Gebiete der englischen Geschichte oder der Geschichte der deutsch-englischen Beziehungen gearbeitet hat und auch persönliche Beziehungen zu englischen Forschern mitbringt. Der Leiter sollte überdies kontaktfreudig und bereit sein, in Zusammenarbeit mit Botschaft und Kulturinstitut die Bundesrepublik würdig zu repräsentieren.

Die Dotierung einer derartigen Persönlichkeit müßte entsprechend hoch sein, um einen hinreichenden Anreiz zu bieten, den Lehrstuhl an einer deutschen Universität aufzugeben.

Von der Wahl des Leiters hängt letztlich alles ab. Ein Kompromiß ist hier nicht möglich. Gelingt es nicht, dafür eine hochqualifizierte Persönlichkeit zu gewinnen (etwa weil die Dotierung der Stelle nicht entsprechend ist), so sollte auf den Plan von vornherein verzichtet werden.

Der Leiter sollte einen hauptamtlichen Vertreter haben,

welcher mit ihm zusammen die unter 2) und 3) genannten Aufgaben wahrnimmt.

Dem Leiter sollten für die drei Editionsprojekte mindestens je ein qualifizierter Forscher zur Verfügung stehen, der fest angestellt und ebenfalls entsprechend so hoch besoldet wird, daß er zu dem Risiko bereit ist, für eine befristete Zeit oder für dauernd aus dem Gesichtskreis der deutschen Universitäten auszuscheiden und damit eventuell die Anwartschaft auf eine akademische Laufbahn aufzugeben. Zu empfehlen wäre die Anstellung von Beamten aus der Archivlaufbahn.

Benötigt werden ferner: Ein tüchtiger Inspektor, der die Verwaltung führt, möglichst aber auch darüber hinaus beraten und Auskünfte erteilen kann (empfohlen: ausgebildeter Archivinspektor), sowie etwa 3 Schreibkräfte und ein Hausmeister.

Vorgeschlagener Stellenplan:

1 Institutsdirektor:	Besoldungsgruppe	B 3
1 Vertreter des Institutsdirektors:	Besoldungsgruppe	A 15
3 wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiter:	Besoldungsgruppe	A 13/14
1 Büroleiter:	Besoldungsgruppe	A 9/10
1 Hausmeister:	Besoldungsgruppe	A 4
1 Schreibkraft:	Vergütungsgruppe	BAT VI b
2 Schreibkräfte:	Vergütungsgruppe	BAT VIII/VII

Für alle Bedienstete sollten die Auslandszulagen vorgesehen werden, welche die Bediensteten des Deutschen Historischen Instituts in Rom erhalten.

Zusatz:

Die Niedersächsische Archivverwaltung hat mit dem Deutschen Historischen Institut in Rom ein Abkommen getroffen, wonach in jeweils 2- bis 3-jährigem Wechsel ein Beamter des höheren Archivdienstes (die Archivverwaltung verfügt über 30 Beamte des höheren Dienstes) des Landes Niedersachsen ohne Bezüge beurlaubt und an das Institut für dessen Editionsprojekte abgeordnet wird.

Eine Umfrage des Unterzeichneten ergab, daß bei zahlreichen Beamten ein Interesse daran bestehen würde, in ähnlicher Form für eine befristete Zeit an einem entsprechenden Institut in London zu arbeiten.

Der Unterzeichnete wäre daher bereit, mit einem Deutschen

Historischen Institut in London ein ähnliches Abkommen zu treffen und ihm jeweils (so lange unter den Beamten Interessenten vorhanden sind) im Wechsel von 2 bis 3 Jahren einen Beamten des höheren Archivdienstes zur Verfügung zu stellen.

Darüber hinaus wäre der Unterzeichnete bereit, um weiteres Personal für ein derartiges Institut bemüht zu sein, insbesondere auch um Wissenschaftler mit zusätzlicher Archivausbildung für die Quelleneditionen.

C R e s s o r t i e r u n g u n d F i n a n z i e r u n g

Ein derartiges Institut sollte, wiederum nach dem Vorbilde des Institutes in Rom, vom Forschungsministerium ressortieren. Dieses müßte auch die laufenden Personal- und Sachkosten übernehmen.

Für die Initial-Finanzierung sollte der Versuch gemacht werden, Mittel aus deutschen Stiftungen zu erhalten.

Die Frage der Errichtung eines wissenschaftlichen Beirates, der die Aufgabenstellung des Institutes berät und koordiniert usw., bedarf noch besonderer Überlegung.

D W e i t e r e s V o r g e h e n

Der Unterzeichnete versendet diese Denkschrift an eine beschränkte Anzahl von Herren (siehe Verteiler), von denen er annimmt, daß sie an einem derartigen Unternehmen nicht uninteressiert sind.

Er bittet alle Angeschriebenen um - möglichst baldige - Stellungnahme. Er bittet vorweg um die Genehmigung, diese Stellungnahmen für etwaige weitere Schritte benutzen zu dürfen.

Es wäre dann die Frage zu prüfen, wie weit der Plan bei den englischen Historikern und Archivaren Gegenliebe findet. Ohne deren wohlwollende Unterstützung wäre er ja von vornherein zum Scheitern verurteilt.

Sollte sich ein größere Anzahl von Angeschriebenen positiv äußern, so würde der Unterzeichnete versuchen (eventuell nach einigen persönlichen Vorbesprechungen), einen gemeinsamen Schritt beim Forschungsministerium wie bei der Volkswagen-Stiftung (beiden wird diese Denkschrift bereits ad personam zugeleitet) einzuleiten.

Noch lieber wäre es dem Unterzeichneten allerdings, wenn einer der ~~angeschriebenen Herren~~ Ordinarien diese Denkschrift für sich selbst als Anlaß betrachten würde, die Angelegenheit in die Hand zu nehmen. Es ist selbstverständlich, daß der Leiter einer Archivverwaltung für ein derartiges Unternehmen allenfalls den Anstoß geben und seine Hilfe anbieten kann (siehe Zusatz zu B). Ohne das entschiedene Engagement der zuständigen Ordinarien der Hochschulen und endlich ohne die Übernahme des Vorhabens in ihre Hände kann es nicht zu einem Erfolge geführt werden. Der Unterzeichnete erklärt daher hiermit auch ausdrücklich, daß er, falls diese Initiative zu einem Erfolge führen sollte (was er im Interesse der Sache von Herzen wünscht), auf keinen Fall irgendeine Funktion dabei anstrebt. Er fühlt sich nur verpflichtet, einen Gedanken, dessen Realisierung er für nützlich, wenn nicht gar für notwendig erachtet, der wissenschaftlichen Öffentlichkeit zu unterbreiten.

THE GERMAN HISTORICAL INSTITUTE

By A. G. Dickens

Throughout the fifties and sixties a number of British and German historians maintained sporadic contacts, lectured and studied in one another's universities. The British Council, the German Academic Exchange Service (D.A.A.D.) and other official bodies promoted individual visits, though most effectively at the levels of undergraduate and pre-doctoral studies. On the other hand, between established historians there existed no solid institutional links, not even a regular series of bilateral conferences. On our side financial stringency and an overriding preoccupation with the expansion of our own universities doubtless contributed to a certain limitation of vision. Happily, this phase has now come to a close. On 4 November will occur the formal opening by the Federal Republic of its German Historical Institute in London, an event which crowns a long effort to achieve a constant and intimate co-operation between the working historians of our two countries.

This story began in April 1968, when Dr. Carl Haase, Director of Archives in Lower Saxony, circulated a number of leading German historians with a suggestion that a historical Institute be founded in London parallel to those already existing in Rome and Paris. A high proportion of the replies showed enthusiasm, and there emerged a pressure-group led by Professors Paul Kluge of Frankfurt, Gerhard A. Ritter of Münster (now Munich), Stephan Skalweit of Bonn, Manfred Schlenke and Fritz Trautz of Mannheim. Alongside them stood a second eminent archivist, President Mommsen of the Bundesarchiv at Koblenz, who acted until recently as Treasurer of the Group. Before the end of 1968 this initiative became known to a few senior British historians and archivists: consequently the campaign came to life as a bilateral enterprise in small but purposeful gatherings held in February 1969 at Frankfurt and in the subsequent November at the Institute of Historical Research in London. This latter, also the headquarters of the British National Committee of the International Congress of Historical Sciences, became the natural London focus of the newly founded

Anglo-German Group of Historians. Here as in Germany, archivists and librarians such as Murray Baillie, Albert Hollaender and Godfrey Scheele took at least as active a rôle in these early stages as did historians like Francis Carsten, James Joll, Donald Watt, W.O. Henderson, Pierre Chaplais and the present writer. But in Britain these original step-fathers of the scheme were simply those who heard first of the German initiative and could rapidly organise a response. And though the British National Committee of Historians took an equal part in the annual series of academic conferences which followed, the bulk of the funds came from the Volkswagen Foundation, while the effective pressure for governmental action could only arise from the persistent and growing enthusiasm of German academics. For their part, both the Volkswagen Trustees and the senior civil servants at Bonn exemplified that highly constructive internationalism which has characterized western Germany ever since the inception of the Federal Republic.

Naturally enough, the hard-headed men who had to justify substantial future expenditure to the Bundestag needed to ensure that the proposed London Institute would find not merely sympathizers but active helpers in British universities, institutes, libraries and archives. My own most vivid memory concerns a dinner given at Bonn in November 1970 by the influential Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik. After the conventional speeches, Dr. Scheidemann, a senior official in the Bundesministerium für Bildung und Wissenschaft, took me aside for a private discussion on the British background. But by this time I had some solid statistics concerning our own involvement in German history and Anglo-German relations, since the replies to my circular sent around our universities had shown that nearly two hundred of our professionals were working in these relevant fields. Moreover, one could also describe with conviction our vast resources - notably those of the British Library and the Public Record Office - for German as well as for British history. In due course this last all-important consideration was given concrete form. During the years 1970-75 Wilhelm Lenz, one of Carl Haase's young men, came over

and compiled with the help of innumerable British scholars, his 370-page guide, Manuscript Sources for the History of Germany since 1500 in Great Britain, issued as volume I of the Institute's publications. Merely in itself this remarkable work might well be taken to justify the new foundation.

The years following 1970 also saw five Anglo-German Conferences at which many excellent papers were read, and mainly by younger men and women too numerous to mention here, yet in the last resort taking a part at least as important as that of the founding fathers. It was they who now underpinned the original plan with a solid foundation of academic research and personal friendships. The rules of the Volkswagen Foundation demanded a concentration of papers within late 19th and 20th century history. This limitation will not, of course, apply to the Institute: and even so it proved no bad thing over those five years, because it occasioned frequent contacts between fifty or sixty activists, and so created a real sense of intellectual identity within the Anglo-German Group of Historians. Meanwhile the German ministerial sponsors continued to be favourably impressed, and despite a rather less favourable economic climate, they managed by the New Year of 1975 to steer the estimates through the maze of the Bundestag. Three years earlier Volkswagen had boldly anticipated this success by agreeing to finance a temporary 'contact bureau' in Chancery Lane, where under Dr. Lothar Kettenacker - since appointed Secretary of the new Institute - useful groundwork was accomplished.

From the early days His Excellency the German Ambassador and his Cultural Attaché Dr. Brigitte Lohmeyer, gave valuable encouragement, yet they too agreed that the Institute should be situated not in the diplomatic quarter of London, but in Bloomsbury, the world's richest centre of humanist libraries. Last year Professor Kluge, hitherto Chairman of the committee of management, consented to take office as Director for a maximum period of two years. Provisional quarters were found at 26 Bloomsbury Square, where the newly appointed staff have assumed their duties and where the library is rapidly taking shape.

Nevertheless, the search for larger and more permanent premises has already begun. The functions now envisaged correspond quite closely to the original vision of Carl Hanse. The Institute will be a centre for advice, study and conferences to serve both German and British historians working on all aspects and periods of German history, Anglo-German relations and - so far as the German staff is concerned - on British history too. It will support a gradually-shifting population of working historians, promote co-operative scheme of research, collect the more important German books as they emerge, display a wide range of German periodicals, publish specialised monographs, editions of sources and guides to study. Undoubtedly it will raise the morale of British historians, especially those working in London, where shortages of money and space have prevented significant innovation or expansion during the last decade. On our side we can now tell a success-story in which we played a humble yet essential part. We also find inspiration in this thought: that in the most prosperous state of Western Europe not only academics but civil servants and politicians still believe in sacrificial spending on the large-scale organization of postgraduate research in the humanities. May their civilizing enthusiasms prove contagious amid the lack of faith and cultural values which still afflict some sectors of our own governmental and academic world!

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