



German  
Historical  
Institute  
London

in cooperation with the

DEPARTMENT OF GERMAN AND DUTCH  
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

**MARK CHINCA and CHRISTOPHER YOUNG (Cambridge)**

will speak on

The Mythification of Charlemagne: An Introduction to and Reading  
from the *Kaiserchronik*

at the German Historical Institute, Seminar Room  
on Tuesday, 14 February 2017, at 6.30 p.m.

Charlemagne (768–814) ruled over regions and territories that today form part of several European countries. As a result, in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries his legacy was disputed, as both French and German historians claimed him as the father of their respective countries. Today, the Frankish ruler is praised as a father of a unified Europe and as a patron of learning and the arts in the Carolingian Renaissance.

The mythification of the emperor, however, had already begun in his lifetime. In the Middle Ages, in particular, his memory was manipulated to serve a variety of needs. He was not only remembered as the first Christian Emperor, but also became a literary figure at whose court Frankish and French heroes gathered. And he could also be seen as a crusading hero himself. In 1165, in the incipient conflicts between French and German claims to his tradition, the emperor was even declared a saint.

Mark Chinca, Reader in Medieval and Early Modern German Literature, and Christopher Young, Professor of Modern and Medieval German Studies at the University of Cambridge, will provide an introduction to the *Kaiserchronik*, the first vernacular verse chronicle in Europe, and a central source for twelfth-century historical memory in general and the image of Charlemagne in the Holy Roman Empire in particular. The introductory remarks will be followed by a reading from the new English translation of the *Kaiserchronik*.

The seminar is the concluding part of a workshop on the memory and the myth of Charlemagne which will take place on 14 February from 2 p.m. For further details visit:  
[https://www.ghil.ac.uk/the\\_mythification\\_of\\_charlemagne.html](https://www.ghil.ac.uk/the_mythification_of_charlemagne.html)

**Please check for any last minute changes on 020 7309 2050 (tel.) or visit: <http://www.ghil.ac.uk>**  
This lecture will be held at 6.30 p.m. in the Seminar Room of the German Historical Institute London, 17 Bloomsbury Square, LONDON WC1A 2NJ.