

THE HERZOG-ERNST-SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME OF THE FRITZ THYSSEN FOUNDATION AT THE RESEARCH LIBRARY GOTHA AND THE GOTHA RESEARCH CENTRE OF ERFURT UNIVERSITY

I. THE GOTHA RESEARCH LIBRARY

The Research Library, situated in Gotha's Friedenstein Castle, holds a remarkable collection on early modern and modern cultural history. After Berlin and Munich and alongside the Herzog August Library in Wolfenbüttel, it houses the most significant collection in Germany of historical sources from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century. To these were added in 2003 the Perthes Collection Gotha from the holdings of the *Justus Perthes Gotha* press, established in 1785. It is considered one of the most significant cartographic collections worldwide.

The library holds, keeps, and catalogues these sources, which are part of a European cultural heritage. The library collection encompasses c. 700,000 prints, of which about 350,000 are early modern. To this are added c. 11,500 manuscript volumes containing a considerable collection of manuscripts, autographs, and literary remains pertaining, among other things, to the cultural history of early modern Protestantism, as well as a collection of some 3,500 oriental manuscripts – the third largest of its kind in Germany. Moreover, the library holds a remarkable collection of letters by German emigrants to America.

The Perthes collection with its collection of maps, cartographic library, and the press archives offers a unique collection in situ. The cartographic collection is comprised of c. 185,000 maps from the eighteenth to the twentieth century, produced by Perthes and other cartographic printers throughout the world. The cartographic-geographic library holds 120,000 volumes, a genealogical-statistical book collection, as well as a complete exemplar of the *Almanach de Gotha*, produced by the Perthes press. The press' archive, with 800 linear metres of archival material, includes, inter alia, the transmission of the editing of *Petermann's Geographische Mitteilungen*, a collection of the press' specimen copies, as well as 1,650 copper plates. The Perthes collection is housed in the Perthes-Forum close-by Friedenstein Castle.

II. THE GOTHA RESEARCH CENTRE

The Gotha Research Centre is an internationally renowned research institute of the Erfurt University, maintaining close ties to the Gotha Research Library and the museums at Friedenstein Castle. Our main objective is to conduct and facilitate international interdisciplinary research projects in the field of cultural and intellectual history of the modern period. A large part of our research is closely related to the remarkable holdings of the adjacent Research Library. Current research projects include e.g. work on Pietism, natural history, history of cartography from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries, and on Numismatics. In addition, the Research Centre offers a rich programme of (guest) lectures, conferences, and colloquia. Our goal is to serve as a platform where scholars from all over the world can conduct research and discuss their ideas and work in progress in a challenging and congenial atmosphere. The Gotha Research Centre is headed by Prof. Martin Mulsow (early modern intellectual history) and co-director Prof. Iris Schröder (nineteenth-century global history).

III. THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

1. CONTENT AND DIRECTION OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

The research support programme for visiting academics of the Herzog-Ernst-Scholarship aims to promote academic research through the use of the resources of the Research Library Gotha and of the associated historic collection of the Justus Perthes Gotha Publishing House as well as collections held by the Schloss Friedenstein Trust.

The academic orientation of the scholarship programme is intended to carry on the universal spirit of the library itself and its diverse resources. In this sense, the programme possesses an open thematic

and disciplinary character. Still, the following focal points are emphasized and applications should reflect the clear-cut fields of the Research Library:

- The Ducal court in Gotha as an example for German and European court culture
- History of publishing and book trade
- History of science and cultures of knowledge as global history, history of transfer, and entangled history, 16th to 20th century
- History of European literature, particularly 16th to early 19th century
- Early Modern and 19th-century study of Classical religions, history of Protestantism, and Islam
- Philosophy and history of the German and European Enlightenment
- Heterodoxy, dissidence, and subversion
- History of the humanities, e.g. numismatics, oriental studies, philology
- History of natural science, e.g. alchemy, astronomy, physics and botany
- History of spatially oriented disciplines, 16th to 20th century, e.g. ethnology, geology, geography and statistics
- History of cartography and imperial history
- Cartography and "critical geopolitics"
- History of objects and the historical study of material culture

Also available for researchers are the holdings of the Thuringian State Archives of Gotha, which is located in the Perthes-Forum. In addition to this, the collection of medieval and early modern manuscripts, and early prints at the *Bibliotheca Amploniana* and other historical collections at the university library in Erfurt offer a valuable addition to the Gotha holdings. The collections at the Herzogin Anna Amalia Library in nearby Weimar are also readily available.

2. THE CONDITIONS OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

For academic engagement with the resources held in Gotha, research scholarships for Ph.D. students will be awarded for periods of up to nine months (€ 1,100 per month) and postdoctoral scholarships for up to six months (€ 1,600 per month), starting on **1st February 2019**. Please note: German language skills are not necessarily a requirement for admission into the programme.

Moreover, we welcome in particular applications corresponding to the following grant types: exploration stipends for PhD candidates embarking of their dissertation as well as "text and object" stipends for PhD candidates and postdocs, applying themselves to the relations between texts and objects. Applications for "profile stipends" for projects related to one of the research focuses at the Centre are likewise especially welcome. Senior scholars are invited to apply for a **Hiob Ludolf-Fellowship** (a monthly grant of up to € 1,200 for one or two months to help cover travel and boarding expenses). The Research Centre is particularly happy to receive applications by female scholars. In 2015 the Erfurt University was certificated as family-friendly institution. In the case of visiting scholars with children we are happy to assist in finding appropriate child care.

The scholarship holders are associated with the Gotha Research Centre. A public presentation of the research project will be required. Upon completion of the project, a short report regarding the outcome of the studies at Gotha Research Library has to be handed in, highlighting any relevant new findings. Scholarship holders are asked to mention the Herzog-Ernst-Scholarship programme supported by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation in any publication based upon the research in Gotha. Three complimentary copies of any publication aided through the scholarship programme are to be sent to the Head of the Selection Committee.

Applicants are requested to include **the following documents** to their application:

1. Application Form
2. Curriculum Vitae
3. A brief outline of the project (2–5 pages) including a statement why it is necessary to do research in Gotha
4. Two letters of recommendation regarding the proposed project (both experts should be named in the application form); can be sent separately by post or e-mail
5. Copies of relevant certificates
6. A list of publications, where applicable

Applications for the scholarship can be made under the heading "Herzog-Ernst-Scholarship of the Fritz Thyssen Foundation" until **15th October 2018**. Applications are accepted in German and English.

Applications can be handed in **electronically only** to the following e-mail-address:
herzogernst@uni-erfurt.de. Where necessary, insight into the documents may be requested.

For further information please contact:

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