

# Common Heritage

Documents and Sources relating to German-British Relations  
in the Archives and Collections of Windsor and Coburg

Volume 2: The Photograph Collections and Private Libraries

Edited by

Franz Bosbach, John R. Davis, Karina Urbach



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Franz Bosbach, John R. Davis, Karina Urbach

Compiled by  
Oliver Walton

Based on preliminary work by  
Sonja Schultheiß-Heinz



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*The editors dedicate this volume in fond and grateful memory to Hermione Hobhouse (1934–2014) and Asa Briggs (1921–2016), enthusiastic supporters of the Common Heritage Project and longstanding friends of scholarly exchange between Britain and Germany.*



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## Foreword

This is the second volume presenting the results of the project: “Common Heritage: The Collections of Windsor and Coburg.” The aim is to illuminate Anglo-German cultural and political relations by documenting the contents of the archive, library and photograph collections at Windsor, Coburg and parts of Gotha. A detailed outline of the project can be found in Vol. 1.

The first volume appeared in 2015 and surveys the manuscript material relating to British-German relations housed in the Royal Archives at Windsor Castle and in the State Archives and State Library at Coburg. There is also an appendix with an overview of the documents held at the State Archives in Gotha.

This second volume focuses on the collections of photographs and books from the time of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. It aims to facilitate better access to sources and media through the detailed research and presentation of data derived from contemporary inventories and catalogues.

In terms of the questions central to the Common Heritage Project – the course of relations between Britain and Germany – such collections have considerable value. They shed a light on the participants that cannot be gained from the archives. The established medium of books in the libraries reveals prominently the intellectual background and the knowledge available in printed form. The new medium of photography shows the images the participants formed of themselves and their contemporaries. The photographs subtly reveal the hierarchy within the Royal Family but also the way they wanted to be seen by the outside world.

The editors have benefited from generous support from institutions in Coburg and Windsor.

In particular they are grateful to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for permission to conduct research in the Royal Collection and to publish the results.

Furthermore, the staff of the Royal Collection has provided considerable support, in particular Frances Dimond, Dr Sophie Gordon, Lisa Heighway and Paul Stonell in the Royal Photograph Collection; Lady Jane Roberts, Oliver Urquhart Irvine, Bridget Wright, Emma Stuart and Martin Clayton in the Royal Library and Print Room.

In Coburg much gratitude is owed to the staff of the State Archive, which houses the Picture Collection: Dr Stefan Nöth, Horst Gehringer, Johannes

Haslauer, and their colleagues Rainer Grimm, Michael Stölzel and Holger Wöhner. The editors are further indebted to Dr Silvia Pfister, Dr Jürgen Erdmann and Rudi Mechthold at the State Library and Dr Klaus Weschenfelder, Dr Christiane Wiebel-Roth, and Rudolf Fuhrmann at the Art Collections at the Veste Coburg.

The editors would also like to thank the following institutions, without whose support, financial and otherwise, the project would not have been possible: the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, the Kulturfonds Bayern, the Oberfranken Stiftung, the Niederfüllbacher Stiftung, the town of Coburg, the German Historical Institute London, and the Karl-Graf-Spreti-Sonderfonds of the Bayerische Volksstiftung, and finally the universities of Kingston, Bayreuth and Duisburg-Essen.

They would also like to thank the members of the project who collected the data for this volume: Dr Walton was responsible at Windsor Castle for the Royal Photograph Collection and the historical catalogues in the Royal Library. In Coburg, Michael Eckstein M.A. was responsible for recording the photographs in the State Archives, while Natascha Stöber M.A. researched relevant books listed in the handwritten catalogues of the State Library. Dr Sonja Schultheiß-Heinz was responsible for the electronic collation of all data obtained by the researchers and the preparation of the original draft version of the manuscript. The project was also aided by numerous student assistants at the University of Bayreuth and the University of Duisburg-Essen, including, in particular, Gizem Halavurt, Melanie Meier, und Gina Schink. Preliminary work for the translation of German material into English was done by Dr Cordula Politis.

The editors owe special thanks to the contributors to this volume: Frances Dimond for the Photograph Collection, Oliver Urquhart Irvine for the book catalogues in Windsor, Dr Jürgen Erdmann about the Ducal Private Library in Coburg and Johannes Haslauer for the photographs in the State Archive.

After Dr Oliver Walton compiled the finished text based upon the preliminary work by Dr Schultheiß-Heinz and Dr Politis, Jonas Hübner oversaw the checking and revision of all the data. The editors would like to express their special thanks to them.

*Franz Bosbach  
John R. Davis  
Karina Urbach*

## Introduction

This second volume presents research findings from the Common Heritage Project in relation to two areas, on the one hand, the photograph collections in Windsor and Coburg, on the other, the private libraries of Queen Victoria, Prince Albert and the Dukes of Coburg. Due to the great volume of material it has been necessary to restrict the chronological span of research to the period ending with the death of Queen Victoria in 1901.

The selection of items listed here is determined by the questions at the heart of the Common Heritage Project: the aim is to document Anglo-German relations, and inquire what images the peoples formed of each other and were transmitted between them. This is literally true for the photographs, which capture actual depictions of people and places, but is also true for the libraries which brought together extensive material which could help make sense of the other country.

From the photograph collections in Coburg and Windsor pictures have been selected which were created during the lifetime of Queen Victoria and which, through either the depicted people or objects, or via the photographer, have a direct connection to the other country. The collection in Windsor is, as might be expected, much larger than the Coburg one which has grown slowly since the time of Ernst II and remains of modest size. Notable in Windsor are the early photographs; Queen Victoria and Prince Albert were interested in photography from the earliest days of the new medium, and used it systematically for private as well as public-purposes. In Coburg, the most illuminating parts of the collection deal with Duke Alfred. These photographs illustrate his whole life, from his childhood and sea voyages through to his reign as Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha and his burial. The wealth of material makes new insights into his life and character possible.

In surveying the libraries the project has made use of historic catalogues for the libraries of the principal figures connecting Britain, Coburg and Gotha: the private libraries of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, housed in Buckingham Palace, and the private library of the dukes of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. The examination of these catalogues has made it possible to reconstruct accurately the titles that existed in each collection. The catalogues of the private libraries of Queen Victoria from 1843 and the Dukes of Coburg from the early twentieth century have been examined using the methodology of the Common Heritage Project; that is to say, titles have been listed which – in Victoria's case – are in German, or are thematically or by dint of their author connected with Germany;