

ANGLO-GERMAN SEMINAR



THE ANGLO-GERMAN READING NATION, 1750-1850

Friday, 28 October 2022

Richard Eden Suite | Clare Hall Cambridge

Zoom Live Stream from Clare Hall starts at 08:45 GMT

09:00–09:45

Alessandra Tosi (Open Book Publishers & Clare Hall): William St Clair and Open Book Publishing

09:45–10:30

Roger Paulin (Trinity): Romantic Poetry and Cosmological Connections—Tiedge and Keats

11:00–11:45

John Guthrie (Murray Edwards): Henry Fuseli's Drawings of Shakespeare's *Richard III*

11:45–12:30

Graham Jefcoate (Former Director Radboud UL): Henry Bohn and The British Foreign Library, 1831–1846

14:00–14:45

Sibylle Erle (Lincoln University): Staging the Face: Joanna Baillie and Johann Caspar Lavater

14:45–15:30

Susanne Schmid (Freie Universität Berlin): The Countess Blessington and Bernhard Tauchnitz

15:45–16:30

James Vigus (Queen Mary University in London): 'Ambition! And the Desire to become a Millionaire!' Mary Wollstonecraft and Hamburg Capitalism

This is a free event. Please book your place at: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/403405515757

For full details please visit: www.anglo-german.org/colloquium2022/

THE ANGLO-GERMAN READING NATION, 1750-1850

In tribute to William St Clair (1937–2021), we are pleased to host our fourth Anglo-German Seminar on *The Anglo-German Reading Nation, 1750–1850*. This one-day seminar on Friday, 28 October 2022, brings together leading scholars in Anglo-German studies, Romanticism, Library studies, and the History of the Book, for a conversation exploring Anglo-German reading and readers against the backdrop of William St Clair's seminal *The Reading Nation in the Romantic Period* (2004).

As always, the focus of our seminar is on lively discussion and exchange of recent research. We very much look forward to hearing, learning, and discussing the recent work of our speakers in the spirit of lively *Ideenaustausch*. All are welcome. We hope you can join us in person at Clare Hall or via Zoom.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The history of the book in Britain and the history of the book in Germany are constructed on national paradigms that obscure the transnational circulation of books crossing borders to transnational readers. The book-historian James Raven has argued that after the mid-eighteenth century the history of the book is actually the 'Transnational History of the Circulation of the Book'. But who were the readers of transnational circulating books? How were these texts acquired transnationally? What was being read in translation and/or in the original language?

Mindful of some of the intriguing examinations of reading in William St Clair's *The Reading Nation in the Romantic Period*—access to books (particularly costs); the brief copyright window of 1774–1808 when texts of 'the old canon' enter public domain; the impact of a text on readers days, weeks, or centuries removed from the writing of the text, and; lack of chronological linearity in reading—our fourth colloquium explores Anglo-German reading and readers from 1750–1850.

What German books were read in England and what English books were read in Germany? Who comprises the Anglo-German reading nation selecting, acquiring, discussing, reviewing, translating and debating English and German texts, and how did these texts circulate? Which genres, authors, formats, periodicals, were most popular and which were most valued by Anglo-German readers? What was the role of translations, illustrations, pirated editions, library collections, book clubs/*Lesegesellschaften*, travel, and salon/coffee-house culture, on the reader? Why did the translations of German texts into English increase in the 1820s, and how did the acceptability of German texts impact the market, copyright, booksellers's distribution networks, and accessibility of German literature and thought in England? Is there an equivalent development in the German reading nation?

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