

### **3rd International Chamisso Conference**

**Worldwide Journeys: Recording, preserving, passing on – Forster, Humboldt, Chamisso  
February 24th to 26th, 2016 Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – Preußischer Kulturbesitz  
(Berlin State Library – Prussian Cultural Heritage)**

The 3rd International Chamisso Conference is dedicated to (worldwide)journeys that started from Germany around 1800. The names Reinhold and Georg Forster, Alexander von Humboldt and Adelbert von Chamisso can be identified with a widening of the intellectual horizon in the German speaking countries that did not only mark the beginning of the modernity but essentially contributed to its definition. The reference to the mentioned travelers is therefore important for the development of modern orders of knowledge. Moreover, it can be made useful as a starting point for shifting the focal point in understanding our own present and future. In the context of a post-national Europe we may look at Forster's, Humboldt's and Chamisso's command of various languages and their experiences as 'travelers', as 'foreigners', as 'nomads', and as migrants. In light of current debates on the Anthropocene, it is interesting to investigate the close epistemological relationship of the concepts nature and culture in the works of the travelers. Dealing with these concepts does not depict subjects who pass through a motionless topography, but rather the mobility and flexibility of categories such as „Prussia“, „Europe“, „Empiricism“, „World“, or „Modernity“.

Besides their well-known publications the mentioned authors have left texts, sketches, drawings, as well as artefacts and natural history objects in collections, which in recent years have increasingly become a pivot of scientific research. They objectify a thematic array between the notion and semantics of nature and culture – fauna and flora in the countries visited, landscapes, cartography, the idea of humanity around 1800. These themes have to be related to the formats in which they appear: journals, notebooks, sketchbooks, paintings, correspondences, collections. They propel hermeneutic tasks and ask for methods of conservation and scholarly edition which, as current basic research, adopt means, methods and perspectives of the digital humanities and incorporate them into the historical interpretation.

The conference will take place at the closure of the exhibition „Weltreise“ which is going to be presented by the Berlin State Library jointly with the film-maker Ulrike Ottinger. The conference will be organized by the Berlin State Library in cooperation with the Berlin-

Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, the University of Potsdam, and the Chamisso Society.

Contributions are welcome that deal with one or more of the mentioned authors and/or are related to methodological or systematic questions in the given context. These may include:

- Contributions on selected aspects of the authors' works focusing on landscape, animals, plants, or anthropology.
- Contributions on the published travel reports or their preliminary stages or additions in journals, notes, sketches.
- Contributions on collections of natural history objects and artefacts.
- Contributions on the literary estates, especially on scientific/literary networks and correspondents.
- Contributions on traditional and digital editing projects in the context of manuscripts, travel journals and/or scientific collections.

The organizers will make an effort to sponsor the authors' stay and travel expenses.

Conference languages are German, English, and French. The papers should not be longer than 20 – 25 minutes. Please send your abstract (max. 500 words) **before July 1<sup>st</sup> 2015** to:

Dr. Jutta Weber

Berlin State Library – Prussian Cultural Heritage

Potsdamer Str. 33, 10785 Berlin

Tel.: +49-(0)30-266-435100

[jutta.weber@sbb.spk-berlin.de](mailto:jutta.weber@sbb.spk-berlin.de)

or

Dr. Julian Drews

Universität Potsdam – Institut für Romanistik

Komplex I, Haus 19, Raum 2.21a, 14469 Potsdam

Tel. +49 (0)331-977 1815

[jdrews@uni-potsdam.de](mailto:jdrews@uni-potsdam.de)

**Organizers:**

Dr. Jutta Weber, [jutta.weber@sbb.spk-berlin.de](mailto:jutta.weber@sbb.spk-berlin.de)

Berlin State Library – Prussian Cultural Heritage

Prof. Dr. Ottmar Ette, [ette@uni-potsdam.de](mailto:ette@uni-potsdam.de)

University of Potsdam – Department of Romance Philology

Dr. Julian Drews, [jdrews@uni-potsdam.de](mailto:jdrews@uni-potsdam.de)

University of Potsdam – Department of Romance Philology

Dr. Tobias Kraft, [kraft@bbaw.de](mailto:kraft@bbaw.de)

Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities