Two Centuries of Anglo-German Correspondences:
Celebrating Queen Victoria, Prince Albert,
George Elit and Theodor Fontane

Wednesday 26 – Friday 28 June 2019
17.00 – 20.00 & 10.00 – 17.00

The Lydia & Manfred Gorvy Lecture Theatre
Victoria and Albert Museum

This international conference marks the outstanding contributions to British-German cultural exchange by four key figures, all born in 1819: Queen Victoria, Prince Albert, George Eliot and Theodor Fontane. Four major themes will be discussed in relation to 19th-century British-German interactions: literature and philosophy, travel, science and knowledge, the arts and music.

Wednesday 26th June

17.00 Registration
17.30 Opening Chair: Rüdiger Görner, Queen Mary University of London (QMUL)
17.40 Prince Hubertus of Coburg
18.00 Keynote: Rosemary Ashton, ‘A Sketch of Anglo-German Relations in the Nineteenth Century’, introduced by Rüdiger Görner
19.00 Reception

Thursday 27th June 2019

Morning session: Literature
Chair: James Vigus, QMUL

10.00 Coffee
10.30 Juliette Atkinson, UCL – ‘George Eliot as Realist Novelist’
11.15 Helen Chambers, University of St Andrews – ‘Fontane as Realist Novelist’
12.00 Rüdiger Görner, QMUL – ‘Early Victorian Thoughts on the Land of Poets and Thinkers. Notes on British-German Intellectualism at the beginning of the Long Century’
12.45 Lunch break (by own arrangements)
**Afternoon session: Travel**  
*Chair: Astrid Köhler, QMUL*

14.30  Patricia Howe, QMUL – ‘Theodor Fontane: A German Traveller in England and Scotland’

15.15  John Rignall, Warwick University – ‘George Eliot’s Travels in Germany’

16.00  Tea

16.30  A.N. Wilson, London – ‘Travels of Victoria and Albert’

End of Day 1

**Friday 28th June 2019**

**Morning session: Science/Knowledge**  
*Chair: Tim Boon, Science Museum London*

10.00  Coffee

10.30  Eckhard Mönnig, Naturkundemuseum Coburg, Germany – ‘The History of the Natural History Museum Coburg’

11.15  Jana Riedel, QMUL and Victoria and Albert Museum – ‘Prince Albert’s Collecting Practices’

12.00  John R. Davis, Historic Royal Palaces – ‘Exhibitions in Germany and Britain’

12.45  Lunch (by own arrangements)

**Afternoon session: Arts & Music**  
*Chair: Daniel Johnson, London*

14.30  Norbert Meyn, Royal College of Music – ‘Mendelssohn, Albert and Anglo-German Connections in 19th Century Music’

15.15  Julius Bryant, Victoria and Albert Museum – ‘Prince Albert and Anglo-German Architecture’

16.00  Tea

16.30  Susanna Avery-Quash, National Gallery London – ‘The Reception of Early German and Netherlandish Art in Britain during the Victorian Era’

**End of Conference.**

This conference is supported by the Victoria and Albert Museum (South Kensington), Stadt Coburg (Germany), the Centre for Anglo-German Cultural Relations, the Queen Mary Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences, and the School for Language Linguistics and Film at Queen Mary University of London.