

Marcus Köhler,
Joachim Wolschke-Bulmahn (eds.)

Hanover and England

– a garden and personal union?



CGL-STUDIES 25

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Welcome addresses

Klaus Hulek

Welcome Address by the Vice President for Research, Leibniz University of Hannover

Ambassador, my Lord Mayor, Dr Schwandner, Dr Henning, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with great pleasure that I'm able to welcome you in the name of Leibniz Universität Hannover to the Symposium 'Hanover and England – a garden and personal union? German and British garden culture between 1714 and today', here in Herrenhausen. This symposium marks the 300th anniversary of the Personal Union between Great Britain and Hannover.

Ambassador, you came here with their Royal Highnesses the Princesses Beatrix and Eugenie a little over a year ago, on 18th January 2013, for the opening of the reconstructed Schloss Herrenhausen, just a few hundred yards along the road from here. The palace, which today houses the scientific conference centre of the Volkswagen Foundation, is a symbol set in stone of the Personal Union. For us it is a great honour that you are visiting Hannover again today.

The 300th anniversary of the Personal Union is being marked in Hannover, Lower Saxony and Britain by many cultural and scientific events, symposia, exhibitions, concerts and much more besides.

The exhibition 'William Kent – Designing Georgian Britain' taking place in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London from 22nd March to 13th July deserves special mention, as it is probably the most relevant to our symposium here at Leibniz Universität. As one of the originators of the English landscape garden, the landscape painter and eminent landscape architect William Kent (1685-1748) had a major impact on subsequent developments on the Continent and in Germany.

We are pleased that today's symposium at Leibniz Universität is one of the first, if not THE first major event to celebrate this year's jubilee, and we are proud that the British Ambassador and the Lord Mayor of Hannover as well as you, Dr. Schwandner as a representative of the ministry, are taking part in the opening of this scientific event.

The talks will cover 300 years of garden history, and our speakers will take us into the world of gardens from the early 18th century to the present day – and this evening Prof. James Hitchmough will take us into the 21st century with his lecture 'Landscape Architecture in early 21st century Britain – Issues and Challenges'.

This symposium, which is supported by the Lower Saxony Ministry for Science and Culture, is also of particular significance for Leibniz Universität Hannover,

because it underlines the excellent relations and cooperation that we traditionally have with British universities. We are pleased to welcome eminent speakers from Great Britain here today.

Leibniz Universität Hannover has Erasmus exchange programmes and numerous cooperation agreements with British universities and research organizations. The list of joint research projects with universities in the UK that was recently compiled by the International Office of our university runs to nearly 100 joint projects. Of these I would like to mention just one today, namely GEO 600, the gravitational wave detector located in nearby Ruthe. This was established jointly by Leibniz Universität Hannover, the Max-Planck Albert Einstein Institute and the Universities of Glasgow in Scotland and Cardiff in Wales. In the meantime other British universities have also become members of GEO 600, the Universities of Birmingham and Sheffield as well as Cambridge University. This is a truly important German-British research cooperation.

But let's return to this conference.

In a few minutes the organisers will provide a specialist introduction to the symposium, which is staged by the Centre of Garden Art and Landscape Architecture (CGL) in cooperation with Technische Universität Dresden, and from there, Prof. Dr. Marcus Köhler. In the late 1990s Prof. Köhler was incidentally a scientific assistant at what was to become CGL. I am very pleased about this cooperation between our university and TU Dresden. Let me say a few words about CGL, which is perhaps not so familiar to everybody here.

CGL was established as an interdisciplinary research centre on the decision of the Senate of our university in 2002. Today it is one of eight research centres – together with the Laboratory of Nano and Quantum Engineering and the Centre for Biomolecular Drug Research, to name just two. Since 2002 it has developed into one of the leading research centres for garden culture in Europe. The many publications in the 'CGL Studies' series bear witness to this. Today's symposium will certainly be a highlight of its 12-year history.

I wish you every success for your conference. I would be delighted if you also made use of the chance to have a look at our university, which is so beautifully situated on the edge of the Herrenhausen Gardens, or more to the point IN the Herrenhausen Gardens – as our Welfengarten is, of course, part of these gardens.

Prof. Dr. Klaus Hulek

Vice President, Leibniz University of Hannover

Simon McDonald

Welcome address by the British Ambassador to Germany

Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren,

I am glad to be in Hanover for the opening of this symposium. This is one of many events being held in Lower Saxony this year to mark the 300th anniversary of the start of the Personal Union. I am also looking forward to the opening in May of the major *Landesausstellung* organised by the *Niedersächsisches Landesmuseum*. As British Ambassador I must also mention that I will host our annual Queens Birthday Party reception in Schloss Herrenhausen just a few weeks later. Of course there is always a Queens Birthday Party in Hanover, organised by our exemplary honorary Consul, but this year we will make it bigger and turn it into our main diplomatic event in the whole of Germany for the whole of 2014.

Major museums and institutions in the UK are also celebrating what in Britain is better known as the Georgian era. Since November, the British Library has been holding an exhibition entitled “Georgians Revealed: Life, Style and the Making of Modern Britain” – the title alone suggests the importance of the age in Britain’s development. And earlier this month, the Foundling Museum in London opened an exhibition exploring the music of Georg Friedrich Händel, the outstanding German-British composer of the 18th century.

This seminar focuses on another aspect of the diverse cultural exchange which took place during the Personal Union, namely garden and landscape design. I see the seminar as a positive contribution to the series of events in Hanover and the UK for three reasons:

First, because it continues the strong tradition of academic exchange between the University of Hanover and higher education institutions in the UK. Hanover has official *Kooperationen* with five British universities, and welcomes students from many more under the aegis of the Erasmus programme. Academic exchange and cooperation takes place in all subjects, from *Maschinenbau* to law and from electrical engineering to, *eben*, landscape sciences. I am delighted that representatives of the University of Sheffield and Anglia Ruskin University will speak at this symposium.

Secondly, this symposium will explore in detail the cultural exchange which took place between Hanover and Britain from 1714. It is often presented as a *Selbstverständlichkeit* (also by me) that the Personal Union was a time of intensive mutual exchange between Britain and Hanover. But in what areas exactly did this transfer take place, and in what direction? And where did tastes perhaps differ between the British and Hanoverian courts? The symposium will explore these questions and many more.

In this context, I might mention that Hanover's most famous gardens, at Schloss Herrenhausen, resisted British influence in the eighteenth century. I have been told that this is because George III did not like Hanover (I apologise for mentioning this possibility) so did not visit Hanover for his entire 60 year reign. Consequently he attached no priority to the upkeep of his main Hanover residence at Herrenhausen, whose gardens remained in the French style even as other German owners adapted their grounds to the English style fashionable in the late eighteenth century. By the time George IV paid a triumphant visit in 1821, fashion had moved on again so he was not tempted to replace the formal flowerbeds and parterres with parkland, artificial lakes and false temples.

Finally, this symposium is important because it also looks at the period from the end of the Personal Union to the present day. As a historian and a diplomat, I firmly believe that any bilateral relationship is informed by its shared history. This year we commemorate two other important anniversaries: 100 years since the start of the First World War and 75 years since the start of the Second. Both play a major role in the history of British-German relations. But our shared history goes back much further and is much *facettenreicher*. The story of British-German relations is one of trade, royalty, religion, of art, education, culture and philosophy, of travel and sport. It forms the basis for our cooperation as partners in Europe and world today.

Many thanks for inviting me to speak at your symposium. I wish you interesting and fruitful discussions.

Simon Gerard McDonald
British Ambassador to Germany

Stefan Schostok

Welcome address by the Lord Mayor of the City of Hannover

Your Excellency, Ambassador McDonald, Mr Hulek, Dr Schwandner, Ladies and Gentlemen,

2014, the great year of anniversaries, is already well under way. A major feature of the year in our city will be the commemoration of the fall of the wall that divided Germany, 25 years ago; and we will also be specially remembering the victims of the First World War, which began a hundred years ago this year.

But before these other anniversaries, from mid-May onwards we will be turning our attention to the period of 123 years during which Hannover – initially as an Electorate and later as a Kingdom – was linked to Great Britain. From 1714 until 1837 the same person reigned over both countries in Personal Union; and this very special relationship began exactly 300 years ago.

No less than five major exhibitions, supported and coordinated by the State of Lower Saxony, will be investigating various facets of this remarkable period, and looking into political, economic and cultural circumstances arising out of, or associated with, the personal union or Union of Crowns.

Our city is proud of the fact that no less than four of these exhibitions are taking place here in our marvellous museums.

I am very pleased that the State Government has launched this initiative, and hope that the exhibitions and accompanying events will not only contribute to deepening people's knowledge about Great Britain and Hannover in the 18th and early 19th centuries, but will also help to strengthen the people of Lower Saxony's awareness of historical identity.

Because just think, Ladies and Gentlemen: the time of the Union of Crowns is at the same time the period in which Great Britain sets about becoming the world's leading maritime and commercial power, it is the time of the Enlightenment and a time of Revolutions - in France and in North America. And it is the age of groundbreaking developments, in engineering, in agriculture and in the economy, as industrialisation gathers speed. These were truly eventful and stirring times – and precisely in these times, the throne in London was occupied by the Hanoverians.

Far be it from me, however, to ignore the fact that the two political entities that were parties to the Union of Crowns differed substantially from each other. When Elector Georg Ludwig ascended the throne of Great Britain as King George in 1714, his own home state of Hannover, which covered an area of around 21,000 square kilometres, had a population of some 600,000 people.

Great Britain was more than ten times as large, and had over 7 million inhabitants. There were as many people living in London alone as in the whole of the Electorate of Hannover!

I would like to convey my very special thanks to you, Ambassador McDonald, for coming to be with us, and joining with us to open this conference on aspects of Anglo-German horticultural history.

Your presence here today is a demonstration of your regard for our interest in the transfer of ideas between Great Britain and Hannover, and in the mutual influence of scholars and academics on both sides of the English Channel.

The conference today and tomorrow is concerned with a very specific area of this mutual exchange: the culture of gardens. You will not be surprised that for me as Mayor of the City of Hannover this is a topic that is particularly close to my heart, because like all the people of Hannover I am very proud of our rich ensemble of gardens in Herrenhausen, consisting of the Baroque Großer Garten, the botanical Berggarten, the Welfengarten, and Georgengarten, which is laid out in emulation of English models.

I think that such a constellation of four parks that are so different, yet at the same time complement each other so harmoniously, must be unparalleled in Europe. And with the reconstruction of Herrenhausen Palace by the Volkswagen Foundation last year, this ensemble has had its architectural focus restored. What's more: inside it, in our Palace Museum, you can learn everything about the development of the palaces and gardens of Herrenhausen – from their first beginnings right down to the present day.

Against the background of this unique cultural heritage, my thanks are particularly due to you, Professor Wolschke-Bulmahn, and to you, Professor Köhler, for having arranged this conference, thereby giving due recognition to the significance of garden culture at the time of the Union of Crowns.

Numerous recognised authorities amongst your colleagues have responded to your 'call for papers' and are contributing the results of their most recent research, which promise to be quite fascinating, to the proceedings. In addition to investigations of specific individual phenomena, such as House Söder, House Bothmer at Klütz in Mecklenburg, or the Herrenhausen Great Fountain, there are also studies of personalities who left their mark in this field, such as Queen Charlotte or the early Georges.

And despite this profusion of subject matter, there is no neglect of fundamental considerations that contribute the necessary contextual knowledge, for example in the fields of political history and the history of art.

I am very pleased that this symposium is taking place, as it will serve to expand our knowledge about the splendid garden ensemble in Herrenhausen and its significance in cultural history. I wish the conference all the best in every respect and

many stimulating discussions, and I hope that you will find you have a little time to spare for a *real encounter* with the gardens; because they are always a very special experience, even in winter.

Thank you very much!

Stefan Schostok
Lord Mayor of the City of Hannover

Annette Schwandner

Welcome address by the Ministry of Science and Culture, Lower Saxony

Your Excellency, (Ambassador McDonald),
Lord Mayor Schostok,
Vice-President Hulek,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to cordially welcome you on behalf of the Lower Saxony Ministry of Science and Cultural Affairs. It is a great pleasure for me to address a few words to you at the beginning of this symposium.

We have been greatly looking forward to 2014 for some time now. Over the past few years the Ministry of Science and Cultural Affairs and the Lower Saxony State Museum Hanover – together with a plethora of partners – have vigorously engaged in a major cooperation project between Great Britain and Hanover.

The symposium “Hanover and England – a garden and personal union?” is – so to speak – the prelude to the numerous activities in the fields of science and culture that focus on the 300th anniversary of the beginning of the personal union between Hanover and Great Britain.

All cultural activities in Hanover this year centre around the Lower Saxony State Exhibition “The Hanoverians on Britain’s Throne – Als die Royals aus Hannover kamen”. It will be held from mid-May to the beginning of October at five exhibition sites in Hanover and in the town of Celle with its former royal residence. It goes without saying that the rebuilt Herrenhausen Palace and the historical Royal Gardens of Herrenhausen are important parts of this anniversary year.

We are – and justifiably so – proud of this large-scale cooperation project. The topic “personal union” is well accepted in the City and Region of Hanover and far beyond. That is a great success. I am delighted at the fact that in the comprehensive accompanying program events in the fields of literature, music and theatre, lectures and readings, science will play an important role, too.

Inter alia, this year the 50th Conference of German Historians (Deutscher Historikertag) as well as the annual meeting of German anglicists (Jahrestagung des Deutschen Anglistenverbandes) will be held in Hanover and will both broach the issue of the personal union.

So especially this year it pays off to visit the state capitol of Lower Saxony. The fruitful exchange between Great Britain and Hanover on many areas also had major influence on the topic of “gardens”. As you know, Electress Sophie (together with Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz and with master gardener Martin Charbonnier)

significantly influenced the development of the grand baroque garden of Herrenhausen. Her son George Louis ascended the British throne as Georg I in 1714.

There are many reasons to believe that Sophie's passion for gardening and gardens was passed on within her family. It can reasonably be said that the House of Hanover played a key role in the development of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The later King George II and his wife Caroline moved to Richmond Lodge in 1718 and employed Charles Bridgeman and William Kent to develop the grounds.

Georg III inherited the Royal Gardens of Richmond and Kew and started re-designing them with the help of Lancelot "Capability" Brown, the outstanding initiator of English landscape gardening style.

Later on (1768), Brown was recommended to landscape the garden around Richmond Palace in Brunswick (Schloss Richmond in Braunschweig, one of the earliest landscape gardens in Northern Germany) for Princess Augusta, granddaughter of George II to make her feel more at home in Germany.

By the way: George II not only founded the Georg August University in Göttingen but also its famous Botanical Garden. His grand-son and successor, Georg III, has gone down in European garden history by the nickname "Farmer George". He was for certain the most passionate garden lover of all the Guelphs, and with his visions has been one of the main driving forces in developing Kew Gardens to a place of international reputation and a world-renowned research establishment. Thus he laid the foundation stone for the inscription of The Royal Gardens, Kew on the list of World Heritage Sites, announced by UNESCO some years ago (2003).

Let me share some personal experience: Kew Gardens is a wonderful place! Whenever I am in London, I take the opportunity to spend some time there and take a stroll through the gardens.

We would truly like the Royal Gardens of Herrenhausen to be awarded World Heritage status, too. Relevant scientific publications see them on equal terms with the Gardens of Versailles or the Belvedere Palace Gardens in Vienna.

To see both of these great gardens (Kew and Herrenhausen) side by side on the list of World Heritage Sites would be wonderful for our country.

Lower Saxony is proud of its historical gardens: alongside Herrenhausen, the palace gardens of Oldenburg and Jever are outstanding. Both gardens were designed on the precepts of English landscape gardening under Duke Peter Friedrich Ludwig's rule and are preserved largely unchanged down to this present day. This year Oldenburg Palace Gardens celebrate their 200th anniversary with numerous exhibitions and events (from April 26th to September – it is worth a visit, too).

Even this brief overview shows that in addition to the personal union between Hanover and England there truly was and still is a garden union between England and the entire area of today's Lower Saxony.

I wish this conference every success and thank you for your kind attention!

Anette Schwandner

(Ministerialdirigentin, Niedersächsisches Ministerium für Wissenschaft und Kultur)

Introduction

