

Dawn Shedden
Dissertation Research Trip Progress Report
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I have recently completed my trip to archives in Germany for my dissertation entitled, "Crossing Boundary Lines: Religion, Revolution, and Nationalism on the French-German Border, 1789-1840." My work examines three German families in the Trier/Coblenz area near the French border: Samuel, Heinrich and Cerf Marx, Joseph Görres and Franz Lassaulx, and Josef Hommer. Though from different religious backgrounds, they all wove their lives through the turmoil of rapidly changing cultural climates of the late eighteenth century.

I visited four archives during my stay. In Mainz, the Wissenschaftliche Stadtbibliothek Mainz and the Universitätsbibliothek Mainz provided valuable materials on Görres and Lassaulx. Especially helpful were Görres's personal letters and Lassaulx's writings about the Napoleonic Code and how it should be implemented in Germany. As one of the major sites in the lives of the individuals I am studying, Trier was among the most valuable of my stops. I discovered that the religious lives of the Marx and Hommer families intersected in one critical area in Trier, proving the flexibility of religious boundaries in this era. At the Stadtbibliothek Weberbach Trier, I spent considerable time with Josef von Hommer's records studying his careful attempt to understand and regulate the volatile issue of mixed marriages within his bishopric. Finally, at the Landeshauptarchiv Coblenz I gathered important letters by Samuel Marx and Josef von Hommer as well as some very interesting documents on Prussian attempts to convert Jews within their new domains. I also visited the buildings in which almost all of my subjects were educated in Enlightenment ideals and the Napoleonic Code.

Thank you again for your support of my research trip. The documents that I collected greatly enriched my understanding of this era and the challenges faced by those living through it. I have attached receipts here. Please let me know if you will need anything else.

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