

EDITORIAL PRINCIPLES AND TECHNICAL DETAILS

This third volume of *British Envoys to Germany* comprises a selection of official reports sent by the British diplomats in Germany to the Foreign Office between 1848 and 1850. All originals are held in The National Archives/Public Record Office, Kew.

In addition to the official reports from the seven British diplomatic missions in Germany (Frankfurt, Berlin, Hanover, Dresden, Stuttgart, Munich, and Vienna) included in the second volume, this volume also presents the dispatches written by the British consul-general and *chargé d'affaires* to the Hanse Towns at Hamburg. The reports of Sir Stratford Canning for the time of his special mission to the German courts in 1848, and the instructions to the British envoys by foreign minister Palmerston, are not taken into account.

As in the preceding volumes, the selection for this volume is based on the quality, originality of perspective, and informative value of the dispatches as well as on a balance between the individual missions. Each dispatch is provided with a standardized heading giving archive class mark (e.g. FO 68/72 = Foreign Office, general correspondence relating to Saxony, volume 72), author, addressee, number of dispatch, place and date of origin, and a brief summary composed by the editors. The transcribed reports, with few exceptions, are printed in their entirety, in order to maintain the authenticity of the sources. However, the standardized form of address and concluding formula are omitted. Enclosures to the original dispatches, which can be voluminous, are not reproduced, but are listed in footnotes. The orthography (including abbreviations), punctuation and emphases (underlining) of the originals are retained and, where necessary, explained in a footnote or in parentheses.

Annotations to the dispatches, in the form of brief footnotes, aim to provide all the information required for an understanding of the document which does not become apparent from the document itself. German expressions and terms are translated. Treaties, legislation, and publications mentioned in the reports are specified in the footnotes, and explained where necessary. In many cases, reference is made to other annotations and documents in the same volume. All individuals mentioned are identified, as far as possible, and listed

with brief biographies in the annotated index of names. An index of subjects and places completes the volume.

A combined subject and biographical index (including the short biographies) of the series is available online at <http://www.ghil.ac.uk/envoys/>. Additionally, all dispatches included in the volumes are listed and accessible via search tools. Data from volume 4 (1851–1866), as well as the volumes in the follow-up series, *British Envoys to the Kaiserreich* (1871–1914), will be added to the digital indexes as each volume is published.