

## EDITORIAL PRINCIPLES AND TECHNICAL DETAILS

This second volume comprises a selection of official reports sent by the British envoys in Germany to the Foreign Office between 1830 and 1847. Since there was far more original material in the Public Record Office than for the years covered by the first volume (1816–1829) the selection process had to be even more rigorous. Due to limited space there are also more omissions in the texts selected than in the first volume. In general, however, the editorial principles in the first volume have been retained (cf. vol. 1, xviii–xxi).

From 1838 onwards the six familiar legations were joined by the new legation of Hanover. Until 1837 Hanover had a chancellery in London headed by a minister with cabinet rank, which dealt with all affairs directly on the spot. This chancellery was disbanded when the personal union between England and Hanover ended with the death of William IV in 1837. It was not until then, when Ernst August had come to power in Hanover, that a British legation was established and continued to exist until 1866. A selection of its correspondence has been included in the second volume.

The correspondence of the British consulate for the Hansa towns of Hamburg, Bremen, and Lübeck is not included, even though this consulate, based in Hamburg, acquired legation status after 1837 and retained it until relations were broken off in 1870. Even after this change in status the correspondence remained essentially that of a consulate, for two reasons. Firstly, there was no change in personnel: Consul-General Henry Canning, who had been in office since 1823, continued to be in charge after 1837 until he handed over to Sir George Floyd Hodges in 1841. Secondly, Britain's relations with the Hansa towns were mainly economic rather than political, and were therefore very different from the relations maintained with the individual German states via envoys at the courts. Had reports from Hamburg been included, this would have altered the character of the reports considered for this volume, even though certain reports from the Hamburg legation are not without interest, for example those by Sir George Floyd Hodges on the great fire in Hamburg in 1842.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>20</sup> Cf. FO 33/92: Sir George Floyd Hodges to Earl of Aberdeen, unnumbered, Hamburg, 6 May 1842; FO 33/92: Sir George Floyd Hodges to Earl of Aberdeen, No. 7, 10 May 1842; neither of these despatches included in this volume.

The reports by the British envoys to the states of the German Confederation are not always confined to one particular state as envoys were often accredited to several courts at the same time and therefore had to report on events in different states. It should be borne in mind that from 1836 onwards the envoys accredited to the Württemberg court at Stuttgart were simultaneously accredited to the Grand Duchy of Baden. From the 1840s onwards the British envoys to the Prussian court in Berlin were also accredited to Anhalt-Dessau, Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Mecklenburg-Strelitz. The envoys to Saxony with residence in Dresden were simultaneously accredited to Saxe-Altenburg, Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, Saxe-Meiningen and Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach; and the envoys to the German Confederation with its permanent representative Diet assembled in Frankfurt were simultaneously accredited to Hesse-Kassel, Hesse-Darmstadt and the Duchy of Nassau.