

**The German Academy  
of Sciences**

# **Leopoldina**

**History  
Structure  
Tasks**



**Fourth Edition  
Halle (Saale)**





*The main building of the Academy (erected in 1904) with a coat of arms in the apse of its portal (in the foreground). Behind is the president's villa, today used as offices for president, presidium and administration of the Academy. In the background the Library of the University. (phot.: Schütze/Rodemann, Halle/S.)*

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## The German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina

The German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina (or Leopoldina for short) is a non-profit and charitable institution that was given the legal status of a registered association in 1991. Since 1878, it has been seated in Halle on the Saale river. It was founded in 1652 as the *Academia Naturae Curiosorum* in the Free Imperial City of Schweinfurt on the forward-looking initiative of some physicians who were genuinely interested in acquiring an in-depth knowledge of natural science insights that they could put to use in medicine. It is the world's oldest academy involved in natural sciences that has been permanently in existence, and in terms of its age, size and scientific relevance, it is comparable with the *Royal Society* in London (founded in 1660) as well as with the *Académie des sciences* in Paris (founded in 1666) and the *Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei* in Rome (founded in 1603). In 1677, it was officially recognised by Emperor LEOPOLD I, and in 1687, it was vested with the privileges of an Imperial Academy, which it continued to enjoy after the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire of German Nations (1806), and which were only relinquished by the Academy itself towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. – During the decades of the National Socialist dictatorship in Germany and throughout the era of the communist regime in the GDR, the Academy was largely, to the extent that it was possible, able to maintain its political and academic independence.

The Leopoldina sees its chief mission in promoting science, in interdisciplinary deliberations of scientific insights and their dissemination. To this end, it runs various events on a regular basis (biennial assemblies, biennial conferences, symposia, meetings, monthly sessions) in Halle and in other places. It appoints *ad-hoc* commissions to discuss scientific problems with a societal and social policy background. All results are printed and published in the Academy journals.

The Academy comprises a maximum of one thousand elected members under the age of 75 years in 28 subject sections (see p. 16) that include all natural science and medicine disciplines as well as some borderline areas of the empirical behavioural and social sciences as well as the humanities. The election of Academy members is carried out in a free and secret ballot by the Presidium on the submittal of applications by the members. Around three quarters of the members live in their German-speaking home countries (Germany, Austria, Switzerland), while a quarter are residents of other countries around the world.

The Academy is headed by a Presidium acting in an honorary capacity and is advised on pertinent matters by a Senate elected by the members. All aspects of management are dealt with in accordance with the Statute (see p. 34), the Presidium standing orders, and the rules governing the election.

A total of 25 salaried employees are involved in fulfilling the tasks and objectives of the Leopoldina; additionally, some history of science research programmes are carried out. The Leopoldina awards grants in a funding programme for junior scientists from the countries the Leopoldina members come from in order to facilitate longer research visits to leading laboratories throughout the world.

In its endeavour to combine tradition with current developments in science, the Leopoldina promotes interdisciplinary discourse and the dissemination of scientific insights in accordance with its founders' motto of exploring nature for the benefit of the people.



*Johann Laurentius Bausch (1605 to 1665), city physician in Schweinfurt and initiator of the Academia Naturae Curiosorum, today's German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. This oil painting was done by an unknown artist from Southern Germany. The original is among the Schweinfurt City Collections (M-2241 alt).*

## Founding and History

On the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1652, four physicians founded the *Academia Naturae Curiosorum* in the Free Imperial City of Schweinfurt. They elected Johann Laurentius BAUSCH (1605–1665), the initiator of the venture, as its first President. BAUSCH had imported the inspiration to found a private academy on German territory from his *peregrinatio academica*, his educational journey, to Italy, where he had also become acquainted with the *Accademia Secretorum Naturae* in Naples and the *Accademia dei Lincei* in Rome. The mythological comparison of the venture with the Argonauts' campaign, honouring of members with academic epithets, the Academy's motto of *nunquam otiosus* (never idle) as well as the objectives and the symbols of the young scholars' society go back to examples set south of the Alps.

The Academy Statutes or *leges*, which were first printed in Latin in 1662, comprise 18 articles. The purpose of the *Academia* is presented in a preamble: "The glory of God, the enlightenment of the art of healing and the benefit resulting from this for our fellow men be the goal and the only guide of the Academy of Sciences." The articles following describe the tasks and duties of the academicians and the Academy's insignias. The latter comprise a golden ring that two serpents have wound themselves around. The serpents are holding a book that has been opened up, and one page shows the eye exploring nature, while the other displays a symbolic plant that was later on replaced in the coat of arms by the Academy's motto.

The printing of the first complete monograph by Breslau member Philipp Jakob SACHS VON LEWENHAIMB (1627–1672) led to the founding of the *Ephemeriden*, the world's first medical and natural science journal, in 1670 (also see p. 20). With the self-confident goal of gaining the highest possible reputation, following the example set by the *Royal Society*, from the very first volume on, the journal was dedicated to Emperor LEOPOLD I (1640–1705), who guided the fortunes of the Holy Empire of German Nations for more than 40 years. He was well-known for his lively interest in the arts and sciences of his era. The increasing importance of the Schweinfurt Academy, which explicitly regarded itself as a national institution, was ultimately recognised by LEOPOLD I in 1677 when he awarded it the title of *Sacri Romani Imperii Academia Naturae Curiosorum*. By then, the number of registered members had already grown to 73, and in addition to practising physicians they also comprised distinguished university professors and scientists from abroad.

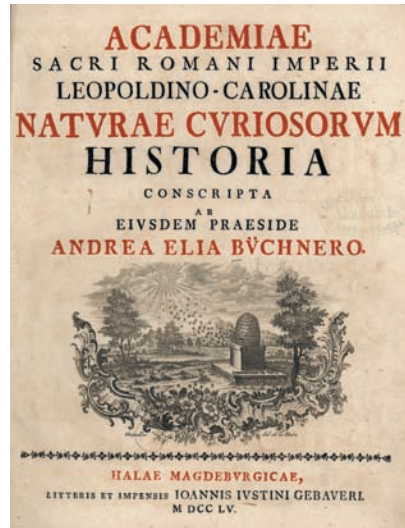
The Academy's activities were to reach an initial climax under Presidents Johann Michael FEHR (1610–1688) and Johann Georg VOLCKAMER (1616 to 1693), when LEOPOLD I elevated it to the *Sacri Romani Imperii Academia Caesareo-Leopoldina Naturae Curiosorum*, to the Imperial Academy, bestowed titles on its Presidents and Directores Ephemeridum and appointed them Personal Physicians of the Emperor and Count Palatines of the Holy Palace of Lateran and vested them with a number of further remarkable privileges. These included the right to award academic degrees and to legitimise illegitimate children and to appoint public notaries and judges as well as complete freedom from censorship of all its publications. This considerably boosted the esteem and attractiveness of the institution, introducing developments that ultimately created the foundations for the status and significance of the Leopoldina today. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the privileges were newly confirmed by Emperor KARL VI (1712) and once again extended by Emperor KARL VII (1742), until they were thought to be superfluous in the course of a radical reform of the Academy (1872).

For more than 200 years, the seat of the Academy shifted to the places the respective presidents were working at, and the library also had to move several times. These were the most varied stages in its history. Following the founding city of Schweinfurt, the following towns were able to decorate themselves with the seat of the Academy in chronological order: Nuremberg, Augsburg, Altdorf, Erfurt, Halle (1745–1769), Nuremberg, Erlangen, Bonn, Breslau, Jena, Dresden, and, since 1878, Halle again. The status and significance of the Academy in the academic landscape of a regionalised Germany also fluctuated, usually depending on the esteem and involvement of the respective President. A prosperous phase under the sixth President Andreas Elias BÜCHNER (1701–1769) was only followed again in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by a long phase of continuing academic relevance under Christian Gottfried NEES VON ESENBECK (1776–1858), who was in office for 40 years and appointed GOETHE, Dietrich Georg KIESER (1779–1862) and, finally, Carl Gustav CARUS (1789 to 1869) to Leopoldina membership. NEES VON ESENBECK's and KIESER's attempts to elevate the Academy, which had been devoid of an overarching authority since the end of the Holy Roman Empire of German Nations, to a “national institute”, which implied a German central academy, remains a remarkable approach to national consciousness. At that time, however, it was doomed to failure both politically and academically.

Under the presidency of zoologist Wilhelm Friedrich Georg BEHN (1808 to 1878), the statute and the structure of the Academy were radically changed.



*Title page of the Leopoldina's first comprehensive history, which was written by its sixth President, Andreas Elias Büchner, on the occasion of the Academy's centenary celebrations in Halle in 1775. The standard account of the Leopoldina's history by the historian J. F. D. Neigebaur, marking its second centenary (Neigebaur 1860, see p. 38) was also based on this publication. For its 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Academy's foundation, the members and staff dedicated themselves to compiling a Festschrift with a critical review of the Academy ("350 Jahre Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher Leopoldina – Anspruch und Wirklichkeit").*



Between 1870 and 1876, the Leopoldina was divided into natural science and medicine sections and, geographically, into districts, the elected subject boards and spokesmen of which formed the Academy's Senate, as is the case today. Under BEHN's successor, professor of physics Carl Hermann KNOBLAUCH (1820–1895), the Academy moved to Halle, where it was to be permanently located. The library, which had grown considerably in the meantime, soon gave rise to the plan for the Academy to acquire land of its own and erect a generous building complex. In 1904, under successor Karl VON FRITSCH (1838–1906), Professor of Geology and Mineralogy in Halle, the building was officially opened. More land was purchased later, and today, the Academy is in possession of four buildings.

In principle, the Statutes approved by the majority of the members in 1872 formed the structures, missions and regulations valid for the Academy up to its recent past. With the introduction of monthly sessions under President Johannes WALTHER (1860–1937) in 1924, the hitherto prevalent character of a correspondence academy was enriched with the "moral obligation to be present" which at least had to be observed by the local members. In 1932, under his successor Emil ABDERHALDEN (1877–1950), a necessary reorganisation of the sections was carried out. The areas of the medicine and natural science sections were adapted to the latest developments, and the section for

the history of the natural sciences and medicine was newly introduced. In this context, the Academy took up editing *Goethe's Schriften zu Naturwissenschaft* (notes on natural science – see p. 21 and 29). And it was Emil ABDERHALDEN who initiated and actively supported the series *Lebensdarstellungen deutscher Naturforscher* (Biographies of German natural scientists). By and large, to the degree that was at all possible in those times, he succeeded in saving the Leopoldina from the totalitarian attack of the National Socialist state.

After the Second World War, a long struggle began for the *de jure* recognition of the Academy, which continued to exist *de facto*, initially in the territory of the Soviet Occupation Zone, and in the GDR after 1949. Until his death in 1950, President ABDERHALDEN was only available to the Academy from a distance, for the Americans had evacuated him together with several other scientists when retreating from Halle in 1945. Day-to-day activities and responsibility rested on the shoulders of the Academy's Vice-President, and later (1952/53) President, Otto SCHLÜTER (1872–1959).

In tough negotiations, SCHLÜTER succeeded in preventing the Leopoldina from become affiliated with a GDR state academy, which had been attempted from the outside, and, on the occasion of its tricentenary celebration, in achieving its reanimation. The official recognition of the Leopoldina as an all-German scientific institution after the division of the country into East and West Germany preserved its inviolability with respect to direct political intervention. It saw itself as a supranational, German-speaking, free society of scholars. One important aspect here was that membership remained restricted to natural and medical scientists. The successors in the presidential office, Kurt MOTHE (1900–1983) and Heinz BETHGE (1919–2001), remained faithful to these unwritten principles.

As soon as he took office, MOTHE declared his commitment to preserving the unity of science in Germany despite the GDR Government's increased focus on separation. This conviction of the Presidium resulted in numerous science-policy and ideological confrontations with the rulers, who were establishing a socialist state in East Germany. In this struggle, state security repression of the "all-German" Leopoldina institution and its representatives was exercised. The desire to maintain permanent relations between members in both parts of Germany was explicitly expressed with the appointment of an "external", i.e. West German Vice-President and with the intention of having Halle and the founding city of Schweinfurt taking turns in hosting the Annual Conferences. However, the construction of the Wall in 1961 resulted in an invitation to the Biennial Assembly prepared in Schweinfurt being declined

*The chain of office donated by West German Leopoldina members and the City of Schweinfurt under the presidency of Kurt Mothes. Just like the Carus Award donated by the City of Schweinfurt for the Carus Medal, it is a symbol of the Leopoldina's uninterrupted all-German tradition. The chain of office was designed by Karl Müller (Halle/S.) and made by Renate Greff (Halle/S.) in 1956/57.*



because MÖTHES rejected special permits for himself and the Presidium to travel. The GDR tried to bring the Leopoldina to its knees politically and regiment it at administrative level. The result of its attitude, which had remained consistent, was that the state authorities refrained from further attempts to interfere with its activities and the Leopoldina continued to elect members of its own choice, award honours and organise national and international symposia. In times of a strict policy of demarcation on the part of the GDR, it became the most important link in inner-German exchange of academic thought and experience.

Under President BETHGE, the range of events was extended by the Leopoldina Meetings, in which special topics are discussed in one to two day sessions. Under difficult conditions, the surrounding framework for the events was significantly improved with the aid of generous donations made by the Alfred Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation and the Volkswagen Foundation with which a lecture hall and conference rooms were set up. Improvements such as these without any concessions being made to politics were not only a



*The Biennial Assemblies are the highlights in the academic and social life of the Leopoldina. "Evolution and Human Development" provided the frame for the three-day event in 2005. Basic papers were read and discussions were held from the festive opening ceremony through the scientific specialists lectures to the final panel discussion.*

*The photo shows the lecture hall during the event and Wolfgang OSCHMANN, Frankfurt (Main) lecturing on "Evolution and death of dinosaurs".*

result of BETHGE's pragmatic negotiating skills but also reflected new tactical mobility against the background of the international diplomatic recognition of the East German sub-state.

With its highly topical events, which were regularly attended by top researchers from abroad, the Leopoldina remained an attractive platform that reached far beyond the area of influence of the GDR's academic institutions and was, last but not least, open to academic new blood.

The Academy's library attained a hitherto unexpected significance through the acquisition of western literature that it received as gifts or members' donations, unlike most of the other scientific libraries in the GDR. The interested public benefited both from this and the stocks of the Leopoldina's archive.

Benno PARTHIER became the President on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1990, the same day when the currency conversion in the former GDR took effect. After reunification, he reorganised the academy's administrative structure and its mode of operation to make it responsive to the scientific demands of its new responsibilities that now had to fit with the all-German scientific system. This included the reorganisation of the sections and the Senate, as a result of which younger members were elected, and the interdisciplinary diversification of the Academy while maintaining its concentration on the natural science and medicine disciplines.

In February 2003 Volker TER MEULEN from Würzburg became the XXV. President. He is the first President from outside Halle since 1878.

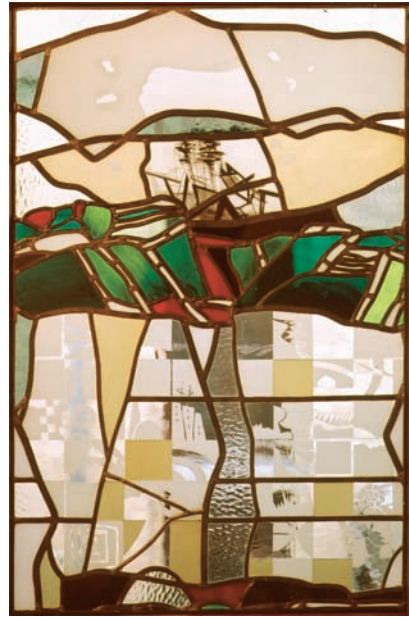


## The Academy's Status, Structure and Mission

Following German reunification, and with the implementation of the Senate resolution of the 5<sup>th</sup> April 1991, the Leopoldina was given the legal status of a non-profit, registered Association (reg. Ass.). The Statute establishes that the Leopoldina is based in the German-speaking home countries of Germany, Austria and Switzerland; additionally, a quarter of the members from non-German-speaking countries ensure the Academy's supranational character. Up to the age of 70, all members have the same rights and duties, after which members cannot be elected to posts.

On the basis of the Framework Agreement on Research Funding of 28<sup>th</sup> November 1975 in accordance with Article 91b of the Basic Law, the Leopoldina was jointly funded and financially safeguarded by the Federal and Land Governments. This arrangement of institutional support was confirmed in an agreement between the Federal Government and the Government of the Land of Saxony-Anhalt concluded on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1999. The budget, which has an average annual volume of around 1.6 million Euro, is provided by the Federal Government (Federal Ministry for Education and Research, 80 %) and the Land Saxony-Anhalt (20 %).

*The four glass windows in the conference room of the lecture building that was officially opened in 1988 represent the range of the Academy's subjects, relating to the astronomical and physical*



### *Structure and Membership*

Until recently, the Leopoldina members were divided into two departments: natural scientists and physicians. However, world-wide scientific developments and societal changes prompted the Academy to include also natural science and medicine borderline areas with close links to empirically founded behaviourally oriented, social, economic and psychological disciplines without adopting the humanities in the true sense in their system of subject sections. Thus several new sections were founded and some existing ones were merged. The Academy expects these measures to result in an even stronger inter- and cross-disciplinary integration of its events, committees and commissions.

The Academy currently comprises 28 sections. Each member belongs to a section corresponding to his discipline. Three quarters of the members come from their home countries of Germany, Austria and Switzerland, while around a quarter are from more than 30 other countries. The number of members below the age of 75 is limited to 1,000. Among them are several Nobel Prize winners many of whom were elected well before they were awarded the prize.

Scientists are elected members who represent subject areas corresponding to the Leopoldina's section structure and who have distinguished themselves by

*subjects, the life sciences, medicine and the earth sciences (from left to right). They were designed by Ms. Ch. Schwarze-Kalkoff (Halle/S.).*

demonstrating academic excellence. They are elected by the Presidium upon proposals submitted by members and on the basis of an assessment required by the Academy's election regulations.

The *Presidium* comprises: the President, four Vice-Presidents, two Secretaries and up to five further members. All Presidium members are elected by the Academy Senate. The President and the Vice-Presidents form the executive board in the legal sense.

The *Senate* consists of one elected representative of each of the 28 sections and one elected representative respectively from Switzerland and Austria. As senators, they represent the interests of the members in the Senate. In addition, up to ten further personalities in leading positions representing research organisations or other research funding institutions belong to the

### *Sections*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Mathematics                                 | 16. Internal Medicine and Dermatology                    |
| 2. Informatics                                 | 17. Surgery, Orthopaedics, Anaesthesiology               |
| 3. Physics                                     | 18. Gynaecology and Paediatrics                          |
| 4. Chemistry                                   | 19. Neurosciences  |
| 5. Earth Sciences                              | 20. Ophthalmology, Oto-Rhino-Laryngology and Stomatology |
| 6. Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences       | 21. Radiology  |
| 7. Ecological Sciences                         | 22. Veterinary Medicine                                  |
| 8. Organismic and Evolutionary Biology         | 23. History of Science and Medicine                      |
| 9. Genetics/Molecular Biology and Cell Biology | 24. Epistemology   |
| 10. Biochemistry and Biophysics                | 25. Economics and Empirical Social Sciences              |
| 11. Anatomy and Anthropology                   | 26. Empirical Psychology and Cognitive Sciences          |
| 12. Pathology and Forensic Medicine            | 27. Engineering Sciences                                 |
| 13. Microbiology and Immunology                | 28. Cultural Sciences                                    |
| 14. Human Genetics and Molecular Medicine      |  |
| 15. Physiology and Pharmacology/Toxicology     |  |



Senate. Honorary members of the Leopoldina belong to the Senate in an advisory capacity. The duties, rights and tasks of the Senate are set out in the Statutes (see p. 36).

The Leopoldina employs 25 staff on a salaried employee basis. In accordance with the Presidium rules and regulations, they are instructed by a Secretary-General either in co-ordination with the President or in self-responsibility. The Secretary-General sees to the day-to-day business and is in charge of administrative procedures, is responsible for public relations activities, represents the Academy's legal affairs, etc. The staff members work in the archive, the library, the editorial offices, the history of science working group, and in scientific and technical service areas as well as administration in the narrower sense.

## Mission and Activities

The Academy's chief mission results from the objectives of promoting natural science and medicine research as well as their science history, economic and social science and psychological borderline areas in accordance with its founders' motto of exploring nature to the benefit of the human being. Further tasks comprise deepening and disseminating insights in natural science both orally and in writing. To this end, the Academy conducts academic events and issues printed publications (see p. 20).

In addition to regular lecture sessions taking place every month, the Leopoldina stages symposia lasting several days as well as one-and-a-half-day meetings. The major Biennial Assemblies take place at intervals of two years, and each of them is devoted to a framework topic (see p. 18) that links up mathematics, natural sciences, medicine, engineering sciences and the neighbouring areas as well as the history of science. As a rule, the Biennial Assemblies are followed by discussion circles treating a more specialised problem of the framework topic in greater depth in an exchange of scientific views. In the years between the Biennial Assemblies, the Academy has been organising Leopoldina Biennial Conferences since 2004. These Biennial Conferences are dedicated to a topic that is not as embracing as that of the Biennial Assemblies. They take place at university places of members in the home countries of the Academy. In addition symposia and Leopoldina meetings, important specialist problems are sounded with lectures and discussions with regard to their topicality and their interdisciplinary context. All Leopoldina events are open to the public.

A selection of the titles of symposia and meetings conducted over the last few years illustrates the academic variety, the impact on the public and the social policy relevance of the topics. The opening of the borders between east and west after 1989 enabled events to be run outside the seat of the Academy, Halle, not only in other places in Germany but also in Austria and Switzerland as well as in other countries.

***Biennial Assemblies, Biennial Conferences and Anniversary Events***

1952	Tricentenary Celebration of the German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina
1955	Biennial Assembly (without a special topic)
1957	The Virus Problem
1959	The Time Problem
1963	Nervous Physiology from a Contemporary Point of View
1965	Radiation
1967	Biological Models
1969	Structure and Function
1971	Informatics
1973	Evolution
1975	Systems and System Limits
1977	Process Kinetics
1980	Space and Time
1983	Non-equilibrium Processes – Dynamic Structures
1985	Singularities
1987	The Elementary – Continuance and Change
1989	Anomalies
1991	Pattern Formation and Pattern Recognition
1993	Growth and Limits of Growth
1995	Signal Transformation and Information Processing
1997	What Can Natural Science Research Achieve?
1999	Ageing and Lifetime
2001	Water – Vital Resource and Habitat
2002	350 Years of the Leopoldina (with Symposium Science and Society)
2003	Energy
2004	Microbes in Malignancy (Biennial Conference)
2005	Evolution and Human Development
2006	Embryonic and Somatic Stem Cells – Regenerative Systems for Cell and Tissue Repair (Biennial Conference)
2007	Migration

With reunification in 1990 and on account of the subsequent political, academic and cultural and social changes in East Germany and Eastern Europe, new tasks also arose for the Leopoldina without having to give up its well-

### ***Selection of Symposia and Meetings over the last few Years***

Changes of the Earth's Surface in the Past Millennium; Chemistry and Art in Theory and Practice; Relativistic Astrophysics – Einstein's Legacy; BSE – Status quo and Quo vadis?; Johann Laurentius Bausch on his 400<sup>th</sup> Birthday: The Foundation of the Leopoldina (*Academia Naturae Curiosorum*) in the Context of History; Christian Gottfried Nees von Esenbeck: The Role of Botany as a Natural Science in the First Half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century – Methods and Pathways of Development; Climate and Climate Change before Influence of Man; Biodiversity and Land Use; Cloning – Research and Ethics in Conflict; BSE – Madness and Reality; The Availability of Life; Problems of Relevant Infectious Diseases; Nutritional Chains – Risks through Pathogens, Products of Genetic Engineering and Additives; The National Elite in the Third Reich – the Relations of Academies and their Academic Environment to National Socialism; Nonlinear Dynamics and the Spatiotemporal Principles of Biology; Parasitism, Commensalism, Symbiosis – Common Themes, Different Outcome; Imaging and Tumour Healing; Preserving and Changing in the Context of Biological and Cultural Evolution; From Nanoscience to Nanotechnology; Science and Music – the Impact of Music, From Plant Taxonomy to Evolutionary Biology; Threat of Infection

established traditions. The Academy has no research institutions of its own but has addressed research projects in the history of science area in particular (see p. 28), and in the framework of the *Leopoldina Promotional Programme* (see p. 30), which awards research grants that are provided by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. The monthly *Wissenschaftshistorisches Seminar* (history of science seminar), which was introduced a few years ago, has met with a lively response.

Among our activities, special attention is given to the *Ad-hoc Commissions* dealing with aspects of science discussed in public, often linked with introductory or concluding symposia. Complexes of issues such as “Combating infectious diseases”, “Drug therapy in childhood”, “Vaccines – Innovation and human health”, “Risks in nutritional chains” (including the entire BSE issue) or “Energy research and energy policy put to the test” have thus been discussed by leading experts, and proposals have been worked out for relevant decision-makers in politics and society. Together with acatech, the Convent for Engineering Sciences, the Leopoldina formed a working group on “Opportunities and problems of an aging society – The world of work and lifelong learning” in 2005. The target of the work which the group plans to complete in three years (2006–2008) is to develop and present the best scientific evidence and alternatives for comprehensive options for social reform. The group will work out reports and recommendations and present them to the public.

## Academy Publications

It was the original intention of the Academy founders that all members extensively explore natural science objects corresponding to their inclinations and have a half-yearly monograph printed according to common guidelines and under Academy supervision. The just under 40 “*ad normam et formam Academiae Naturae Curiosorum*” volumes, which albeit appeared at considerable intervals, suggest that they would have ultimately resulted in a formidable “Encyclopaedia of Medicines”. Although this programme could not be maintained, one of the Academy’s pressing concerns was always that of contributing to the advancement of science with its publications. Entirely in line with this, Breslau city physician SACHS VON LEWENHAIMB founded the Academy’s scientific journal under the baroque-complicated title *Miscellanea curiosa medico-physica Academiae Naturae Curiosorum sive Ephemeridum medico-physicarum germanicarum curiosarum annus primus* – the world’s very first natural science and medicine journal – the predecessor of *Nova Acta Leopoldina* (NAL), which still appear today. Despite several alterations of the title and gaps in appearance, continuity of tradition remains unbroken. With their tasteful design, the Leopoldina publications already attained an excellent reputation under President NEES VON ESENBECK. In previous decades, the *Nova Acta Leopoldina* above all served the purpose of publishing the President’s

*The oldest medicine and natural science journal in the world in its present form (Nova Acta Leopoldina 1999) and in its baroque livery (Miscellanea 1670).*



speeches and the lectures given at the Biennial Assemblies, the publication of papers of the Leopoldina symposia and meetings and the appearance of monographs written by Leopoldina members or their students. The journal reflects the range of events organised by the Academy and makes the results accessible for topical academic and science policy discussions among the public at large.

Since 1990, all activities of the Academy that have taken place in the course of a calendar year, announcements by the President, changes in membership, laudations for the members, reports on events and monthly lecture sessions as well as treatises and speeches have been appearing the Academy's *Jahrbuch* (yearbook). It forms the continuation of the *Leopoldina* (series 3), which had satisfied the desire to report on the activities of the Academy on a regular basis since 1955 and was in the tradition of the *Leopoldina, Amtliches Organ ...* (1858–1923) and its successor *Leopoldina, Berichte ...* (1926–1930).

In addition, the Academy has been publishing the journal *Acta Historica Leopoldina* (AHL), founded in 1962 by the then *Director Ephemeridum* Rudolph ZAUNICK (1893–1967). It addresses the history of science and, in particular, the history of the Academy as an important area the Leopoldina itself is active in. Since 2000, the history of science seminars and free treatises on the history of science and medicine have been published on an annual basis in a volume of the AHL as *Vorträge und Abhandlungen zur Wissenschaftsgeschichte* (lectures and treatises on the history of science).

Until 2002, NAL and AHL were commissioned to be published by Publishers Johann Ambrosius Barth (originally based in Leipzig). Since 2003, the Wissenschaftliche Verlagsgesellschaft mbH Stuttgart has been the commissioner for the Academy's publications, which are distributed *via* bookshops. At present, the Presidium is conducting talks with global publishers, together with other international academies to establish an international *open-access* journal for publication of reviews and original contributions. The Academy's *Jahrbuch* above all serves members, sponsors and friends of the Academy as a source of information and can be obtained *via* the booksellers by anyone interested.

The edition of the Leopoldina issue *Goethe: Die Schriften zur Naturwissenschaft* (see p. 29), which was established by Karl Lothar WOLF (1909–1969), Wilhelm TROLL (1897–1978) and Günther SCHMID (1888–1949), and of which Dorothea KUHN, Wolf von ENGELHARDT and Irmgard MÜLLER are in charge today, is regarded as one of the gems in the range of Leopoldina publications.

The Leopoldina issues biennially an up-to-date list of recent members (*Struktur und Mitgliederbestand*) and, twice a year, the *Informationen* of the Academy, which informs the members on subject and staff changes in the Leopoldina, its activities and the status of its projects.

## Library

After years of preparation, the Leopoldina's fifth President, Johann Jakob BAIER (1677–1735), founded the Academy library with the Foundation Charter of the 17<sup>th</sup> September 1731. He sent a circular to all the members calling on them to support this institution by donating books. Today, its stocks comprise around 260,000 volumes, with material published by the members and journals received from other societies *via* exchange forming the typical and most extensive part of the collection. In addition, literature on the current state of knowledge and on the history of natural sciences and medicine is an important focus of the collection. It also comprises offprints of essays written



*Modernised reading room (2000) and historic stockroom (1904) of the Leopoldina library.*

by members for journals with articles providing overviews and biographic, science history and science policy material.

The library receives publications written or published by the members as voluntary donations as well as other monographs and journals, including complete unpublished works or parts of them. By and large, it is these donations by members that dominate new acquisitions. Thus the library also serves as a permanent archive for the publications of the Academy members.

*A gem in the Leopoldina library. Plants imprinted on paper by Johannes Hieronymus Knipf Hof (1704–1763). Not only did Knipf Hof earn a reputation by mastering these scientifically excellent duplicating methods, but he also played an important role in developing the library and the collection of natural history specimens of the Leopoldina as its first librarian in Erfurt.*



The Academy receives complete series of publications from other academies in Germany and abroad *via* the exchange of papers with publications of the Leopoldina. Thanks to the quality of the *Nova Acta Leopoldina* soon being recognised, important academies and scientific societies were won over as partners to exchange material with from the 19<sup>th</sup> century on. Today, the Academy maintains exchange relations with more than 500 partners in all continents of the world *via* which it obtains more than 900 series of publications and journals as well as monographs and doctoral theses.

These academic publications as well as valuable and important monographs are the library's most significant stocks. With works from six centuries, they document the development of the natural sciences and medicine to which the Academy members have contributed. Since the famous scholars of their times have been among them, the stocks contain important ancient and modern encyclopaedias, anatomical atlases, books on herbs, accounts of expeditions

and much more, in spite of the loss of almost 7,000 of the most important volumes, including all incunabula, as a result of the transfer of material in the Second World War.

The stockroom of the building the Academy moved into in 1904 (Halle is the sixth place the library has been accommodated in, and there were removals within the different towns as well) was designed for 100 years, thus in 2000, it reached the limits of its capacity. This year, it was possible to extensively rebuild the library, and an extension to the stockroom was added. In the reading room with its new, modern interior, workplaces equipped with an Internet link are available for the user. However, the essential features of interior design have been retained and still create the original impression.

The volumes are systematically arranged in 58 subject groups on six magazine floors. The stocks can be accessed *via* alphabetical and systematic volume, card index and computer catalogues. The literature, which has been established for machine-reading since 1992, is catalogued in the common library interlocked network (PICA Catalogue in Göttingen), while journals and series can also be researched comfortably and in their entirety in the Internet. The cataloguing of older stocks for the network catalogues is in preparation. The Academy Library is open to anyone working in research and teaching who is interested as well as to members of the public in general. The stocks can be used in the reading room or externally *via* local or long-distance lending as well as direct supply services for documents.

Together with the University library, the Academy library building still forms an architectural unit today (see illustration on p. 2), which is not incidentally. With its novel skeleton structure, the Halle University library, which was explicitly designed as a functional building, was rightly regarded as the most modern library construction in the whole of Germany when it was built in 1880, and the Leopoldina applied the same concept to its buildings twenty years later. So in the townscape of Halle, the ensemble, which has since been excellently restored, is also a symbol of the plain, practical but nevertheless impressive style of the libraries in that era.



## Archive

Ever since the Academy was founded, the new members have been obliged to submit a *curriculum vitae* and a list of their papers to the president. Even in the oldest printed Statutes of 1662, it is stipulated that the president has to “enter the names of the individual academicians in a special book, together with a reference to their home countries, date of birth, place of birth, their former and current offices: of whom the President adds the day of death when the time has come”. What is so valuable about the Leopoldina archive today is that these enrolment books as well as several original *curricula vitae* of physicians and natural scientists of the past over 350 years are preserved in it. They form the foundation of the archive. Despite a number of blanks mainly in the stock removed to other places at the end of Second World War, the traditional sources provide a multi-faceted picture of the Academy’s past and also of the history of the natural sciences and of medicine, in general.

The value of such an archive was recognised again and again by the presidents of the Leopoldina. Since the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, portraits of the members were collected in addition to the *curricula vitae*. They were collected in voluminous tomes. This practice was not restricted to living members, but wherever possible, engravings of deceased members going back to the founders of the Academy were obtained as well. However, the pictorial material also contains reproductions of valuable Academy archives and history of science documents, last but not least because the Leopoldina devoted particular attention to photographic duplication methods in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. President Emil ABDERHALDEN (in office 1932–1950) promoted the Leopoldina’s efforts to advance the history of natural science research and medicine and was already planning substantial extensions of the library. These intentions were addressed by President Kurt MOTHES (in office 1954–1974) and Rudolph ZAUNICK (1893–1967) as *Director Ephemeridum* and were to materialise ultimately in 1968 under the Director of the Archive, Georg USCHMANN (1913–1986), with the construction of special rooms for the archive material, which used to be accommodated in the library building. The construction and occupation of a new building with modern stockrooms under President Benno PARTHIER (in office 1990–2003) improved working conditions considerably.

One of the greatest treasures is the original of the document with the Great Imperial Seal by which LEOPOLD I vested the Academy with privileges. In addition, the archives keep paintings, medals and a variety of documents relating to the Academy’s history, its administrative papers and academic activities

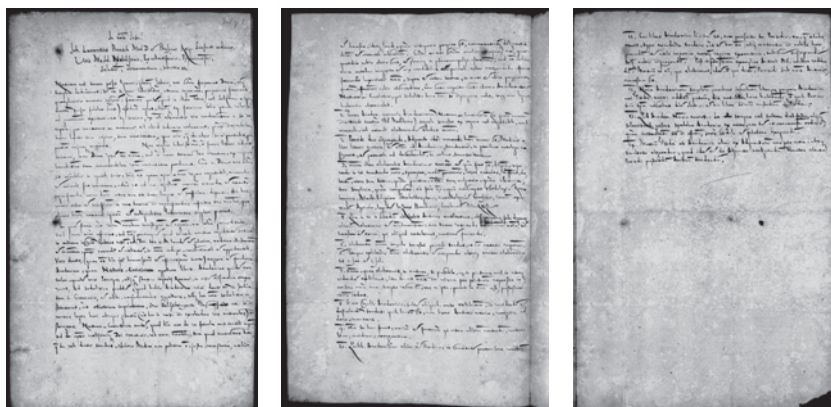


*The great privilege with which Emperor Leopold I elevated the Academy to the Leopoldina Academy of Natural Scientists of the Holy Roman Empire of German Nations. Today, the baroque document with the large imperial seal is one of the most valuable artefacts of the Academy archive.*

through more than 350 years. Scientific estates of Leopoldina members and other researchers and a collection of over 20,000 offprints are also kept. Many stocks are computerized, the remaining material will follow gradually. The archived material is not only catalogued generally, biographical and subjects catalogues are also developed. The Academy's website will make research and use even more comfortable for all users in future.

In addition to maintaining, systematizing and recording the Academy stocks, the archive also does intensive scientific work, responds to inquiries received from all over the world and provides other services to users. In the reading room, which contains a modest exhibition on the history of the Academy, all those interested in the history of science can study the documents.

The archive of the founding city of Schweinfurt also keeps important material documenting the early history of the Academy. In addition to the official documents of the city physicians, it is the personal unfinished works of Johann Laurentius BAUSCH that above all ought to be mentioned. Apart from valuable biographical testimonials (PhD certificate, testament), they contain the chronicles of the city he himself wrote in several volumes – a top-rank contemporary history source – as well as his library, the foundation of which was laid by his father, Leonhard BAUSCH (1574–1636). With its 1,830 volumes, this library, which was extended by his heirs belonging to the physician family of the SCHMIDT's, can be regarded as an example par excellence of a library of scholars of German renaissance humanism in the early modern times.



*The oldest written records of the Academy's Statutes (leges) are kept neither in the Leopoldina Archive nor in the city archive of Schweinfurt. They are contained in this document of 1652, Johann Laurentius Bausch's letter of invitation to membership (Epistola invitatoria) with the draft statute in 14 paragraphs written by the co-founder of the Academia Naturae Curiosorum, Georg Baltasar Metzger (1623–1687). It is obviously the original concept for the idea to found the institution, which was resolved by the four Schweinfurt physicians on New Year's Day, 1652. Today, the letter is kept in the University Library of Erlangen (UB Erlangen-Nbg. Slg. Trew, Bausch Nr. 2). Reproduction by kind permission.*

## Research Projects on the History of the Academy and the History of Science

The Academy has no research institutes of its own. Prior to German reunification, history of sciences had only been conducted in the Leopoldina in the context of archive work. Since 1992, the Academy has been making use of the opportunities it has now obtained access to for research funding. With a small staff, and on the basis of limited contracts, history of science projects are carried out that are funded, for example, by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the Land Saxony-Anhalt, the donor's association and the Volkswagen Foundation. The research topics above all relate to the Academy's own history and other history of science areas as well as contemporary history issues.

In the framework of three research projects, the history of the Leopoldina and its members in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, especially in the Third Reich, in the Soviet-occupied Zone and in the GDR, was examined. A "Leopoldina History 1932–1954: The struggle of a scholars' society for independence under the conditions of state dictatorship" research project conceived for a period of three years was funded by the then Federal Ministry of Research and Technology. The study of the documents in the various archives yielded such a multitude of interesting material that funding of the project with a focus on "The post-war years and the preservation of the Academy's all-German character in the SOZ/GDR from 1945–1954" was approved for a further three years. The Leopoldina's special situation owing to its close ties with Halle offered the unique opportunity to compare the struggle of a scholars' society for independence under different conditions of state dictatorship. To this end, the Volkswagen Foundation funded a Leopoldina research project on "The German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina in times of state dictatorship: a comparison of the Leopoldina's situation in the GDR era with that in the Third Reich" for a period of three years. As a result of the research work, it was established that the relation between resistance and compromises or adaptation as a response to attempts to bring academics into line with the various dictatorships of National Socialism, the SOZ and, later on, the GDR, differed considerably and that while Germany was divided, the Leopoldina played an important bridgehead role as an all-German representative of science. The results of these activities have been published mainly in Leopoldina journals. In addition, the Leopoldina's history of science research were published in a *Festschrift* commemorating the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Academy (see p. 38).

Another project was “Genetics in the area of conflict between two dictatorships – by the example of Paula Hertwig as university teacher and Leopoldina member” (financed by the Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft).

Via the co-ordinated academy programme resulting from the Union of the German Academies of Sciences and Humanities and with funding by the Federal and Land Governments, the continuation of the edition *Goethe: Die Schriften zur Naturwissenschaft* (Goethe’s notes on natural science), inaugurated by the Leopoldina in 1942, is being supported up to its completion in 2010. This Leopoldina edition has long become one of the standard works consulted in research on GOETHE. It follows GOETHE’S natural science activities from his notes to the finished text, and in the extensive volumes of the second section (supplements and explanatory comments), it documents all the material GOETHE had at his disposal as well as testimonials by his contemporaries and explanatory comments from the critique of texts up to a history of the impact GOETHE’S poetic works have had and the natural sciences of his times. In the more than 20 volumes of this historical-critical edition that have already been printed of GOETHE’S studies on the art of colours, mineralogy, geology, morphology and many other topics, aspects essential to an understanding of GOETHE as a natural scientist and Leopoldina member and his work have been contributed.

*Goethea cauliflora*. Botanists Chr. G. Nees von Esenbeck and C. Fr. Ph. von Martius, both of whom stood in the tradition of Goethe’s way of looking at nature, had named a genus of Brazilian hibiscus plants after their genius, “because it does the botanist good to symbolically address the heads and sponsors of his science under fresh plants and at the same time behold these plants flourishing in green and blossoming.” Made as a copper engraving for publishing in the *Nova Acta* Vol. XI (1823) of the Leopoldina (Table VIII) and coloured by hand in Goethe’s Library in the Weimar Classicist Period Foundation/Goethe National Museum. Reproduction by kind permission.



In analogous fashion, the Academy has been supervising the Academy project on the “Letter edition Christian Gottfried Nees von Esenbeck”, funded by the Federal and Land Governments. As the Academy’s eleventh President (in office 1818–1858), botanist NEES VON ESENBECK (1776–1858) made a considerable contribution to the Academy and science of his days. For the first time, this letter edition makes source material accessible to research that is important to the history of science as well as in understanding cultural history and science policy in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The history of science projects and Academy programmes are advised by an external Commission on “Historical Projects”.

## Leopoldina Promotional Programme

Shortly after German reunification, what is now the Federal Ministry of Education and Research launched a Leopoldina Promotional Programme aimed at supporting junior scientists from the *New Länder* who had demonstrated academic excellence in their careers. Following the successful conclusion of this initial funding phase covering five years, the programme was opened to applicants from throughout Germany, Austria and Switzerland in 1997. The research grants enables post-doctorate fellows who have not yet reached the age of 36 years to conduct their research projects independently at leading science institutions abroad for a period of two to three years. On the basis of reviewed project applications, a grants commission decides on the approval of the grants, the financial volume of which is oriented on the guidelines of the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft*. Since the funding programme was launched, around 265 scientists have been supported.

As a rule, applications should be submitted or seconded by Leopoldina members or by institute and department heads of the home institutions. The Leopoldina Promotional Programme is financed by a generous contribution from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and is explicitly targeted at the best academics among the up-and-coming generation of scientists. In the framework of the funds provided, the jury comprising Leopoldina members and a representative of the Federal Ministry awards around 40 Leopoldina grants a year on the basis of external reviews.

## Honours, Medals and Awards

Running competitions in which special scientific problems had to be solved was among the early characteristic activities of scientific academies. For the Leopoldina, the Personal Physician of Prussia's King FREDERICK II, Christian Andreas COTHENIUS (1708–1789), established a foundation to this end. The interest earned from its assets was to be used to reward whoever found the best solution to a prize question in the field of practical medicine with a commemorative coin decorated with the image of its founder. It was awarded for



the first time in 1792. In more recent times, the Leopoldina's golden *Cothenius Medal* (see illustration) has been awarded to distinguished researchers – as a rule members – to honour an outstanding lifework in natural science or medicine.

Set up in 1864, the Carus Foundation was aimed at supporting junior researchers in devoting themselves to the sciences in the spirit of CARUS. This is what the *Carus Medal* goes back to. Since 1961, it has been complemented by the *City of Schweinfurt's Carus Award*, with which, as a rule, younger natural scientists or physicians are awarded who have distinguished themselves with pioneering research achievements.

After the Second World War, the *Schleiden Medal* and the *Mendel Medal* were introduced to honour “significant achievements in the field of cell research” or “special contributions to general biology” (molecular biology and genetics).

Since 1993, the Academy has awarded a *Prize for Junior Scientists* on an biennial basis. Candidates should not have reached the age of 30 years and are

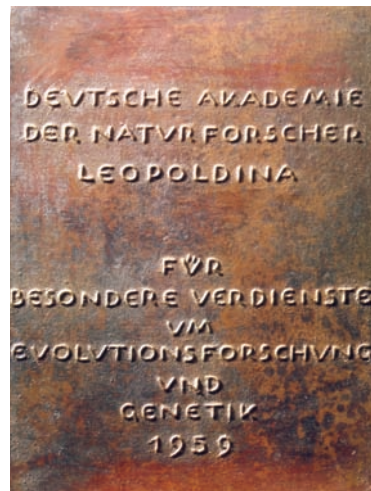
required to have performed outstanding scientific work in the natural sciences, medicine or other fields appropriate to the Leopoldina.

The *Georg Uschmann Award for the History of Science*, which was launched by Eugen and Ilse SEIBOLD in 1997, goes to junior scientists who have written an excellent PhD thesis in the fields of science and medicine history.

In 2001, the *Leopoldina Research Award*, donated by the Commerzbank Foundation and endowed with 15,000 Euro, was awarded for the first time. It honours outstanding achievements of active younger scientists in contemporary research fields of the natural sciences, medicine and engineering sciences represented in the Leopoldina.

In 2007, the *Leopoldina Thieme Award for Medicine*, endowed with 15,000 Euro, will be awarded for the first time. It will honour young scientists who have performed significant new research achievements in aetiology, pathogenesis, therapy, and in the prevention of human diseases.

While the above-mentioned honours are regularly awarded at the Biennial Assembly, the order of merit is awarded at irregular intervals to commemorate major contributions promoting the notion and the reputation of the Academy. One side of the medal shows the portrait in relief of whoever has been honoured. – The award of the *Darwin Badge* (see illustration) in 1959 to 18 leading geneticists and evolution researchers world-wide commemorating the





100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of DARWIN'S essential work *The Origin of Species* remains a unique event.

However, the Leopoldina's highest honour is that of *honorary membership*, which is limited to only a few members.

## The Young Academy

*The Young Academy* was founded in June 2000 as a joint project in the framework of a medium-term co-operation between the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities and the Leopoldina – as an Academy for junior scientists for an initial ten-year period. *The Young Academy* is independent regarding the contents of its academic activities and organises itself under the superordinate responsibility of the presidents of the two parent academies, although it is not supervised by them. Its activities focus on maintaining scientific discourse and co-operation among the disciplines, carrying out projects of considerable academic importance and promoting initiatives at the interface between science and society. Outstanding representatives of up-and-coming post-doctorates are elected as members for a term of five years and each endowed with 25,000 Euro for further academic projects. Membership of *The Young Academy* is limited to 50 members. Its central office is in Berlin.

## Leopoldina Sponsors' Circle

In 1955, former Leopoldina Vice-President and Nobel Prize Winner Adolf BUTENANDT (1903–1995) opened a bank account in Tübingen to collect donations from West German, Swiss and Austrian members for the activities of the German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina based in the currency territory of the GDR, in Halle. After currency conversion in 1990, this account was adopted by the newly founded non-profit *Adolf Butenandt Sponsors' Circle for Natural Scientists of the Leopoldina*, reg. Ass., Munich. The members of the Sponsoring Circle support the Academy's interdisciplinary scientific activities with their donations.

## Statutes

On the 5<sup>th</sup> April 1991, and on the basis of the previous Statutes of 1942, the Senate of the Academy passed Statutes adapted to today's conditions for the scholars' society, which acts in a charitable, non-profit capacity. Some of the passages of these Statutes were modified at the Members' General Assembly on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 1993, the 9<sup>th</sup> April 1994, the 8<sup>th</sup> December 1998 and the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2003, and they now read as follows:

### Statutes

#### German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, rec. Ass., as of the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2003

##### § 1 Name and seat

The Academy is named "German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina". It is seated in Halle an der Saale, where it has been registered in the Local Court's list of associations.

Founded in Schweinfurt in 1652, and vested with privileges by Emperor LEOPOLD I in 1687 that were confirmed by Emperor KARL VII in 1742, the Academy is identical with and constitutes the uninterrupted continuation of its predecessor, the "Imperial Leopoldina Carolina German Academy of Natural Scientists".

##### § 2 Nature, purpose and mission

1. The German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina (referred to as the Academy in the following) is a mainly natural science and medicine scholars' society that is based in its home countries of Germany, Austria and Switzerland and is represented at supranational level by members outside this area.

2. Its mission is that of promoting science in national and international co-operation, traditionally for the benefit of humankind and nature, among other things by academic events and commissions, publishing results obtained, maintaining a scientific archive and a scientific library, and by awarding honours and prizes, aimed among other things at promoting junior scientists.

3. The Academy runs the necessary facilities to pursue these tasks.

4. The Academy operates in a charitable capacity. It exclusively pursues immediately non-profit purposes in the sense of the section on "tax-privileged purposes" in the tax code as opposed to profitable activities.

The Academy's assets may only be used for purposes stipulated in the Statutes. The members receive no subsidies from Academy assets in their role as members. No person may benefit from expenditure that does not serve the Academy's purpose or from a disproportionately high level of remuneration.

### **§ 3 Members, honorary members and honorary sponsors**

#### **1. Members**

Scientists are elected as members who have distinguished themselves by academic achievements of excellence.

They are elected by the Presidium in accordance with the ballot regulations to be passed by the Senate.

Accepting the result of the ballot simultaneously acts as a declaration of membership in the sense of the law of associations.

The members belong on the one hand to the section relating to their discipline and on the other in Austria and Switzerland to their district. They are entitled to attend the Academy's events, issue scientific reports and submit applications on the election of new members. No membership subscriptions are charged.

A member can declare his withdrawal from the Academy in written form addressed to the President.

In the event of gross misconduct that is damaging to the Academy's reputation, a member can be expelled from the Academy. The corresponding procedures are governed by the ballot regulations.

The right to vote is independent of age, while eligibility for an office expires with the completion of the 70th year of a member's life.

#### **2. Honorary members**

Honorary membership is the greatest honour the Academy awards to members who have distinguished themselves by their Academy and academic achievements. They have a seat and a consultative voice in the Senate.

#### **3. Honorary sponsors**

The Academy declares non-members honorary sponsors in honour of their having demonstrated special achievements in their areas of activity and having promoted the development of the Academy to a considerable degree.

### **§ 4 Sections and district circles**

In terms of disciplines, the Academy is divided into sections, while it is also divided into districts in Austria and Switzerland.

The sections and districts elect their spokespersons.

Details on structuring in accordance with Clause 1 and the members' belonging to a section are stipulated in regulations to be approved by the Senate.

### **§ 5 Organs**

The Academy's organs are the Presidium, the Senate and the Members' General Assembly.

### **§ 6 Presidium**

1. The elected Presidium consists of the President, up to four Vice-Presidents, two Secretaries and up to five further members. The Presidium adopts rules of procedure.

2. The President and the Vice-Presidents form the executive board in the legal sense. Legally binding statements require the participation of two executive board members. The President heads the Academy's affairs. He heads the meetings of the Presidium and the Senate as well as the Members' General Assembly. The President's Deputy is the respective most senior Vice-president. One Vice-President holds the office of the Treasurer.

3. The members of the Presidium are elected with a simple majority in a secret written ballot. The period in office of the President and the other members of the Presidium is five years. Re-election is permitted once.

4. The Secretary-General, who works as a salaried employee, supports the Presidium in heading the Academy's affairs. He attends the meetings of the Presidium with a consultative voice and as the Keeper of the Minutes.

## **§ 7 Senate**

1. The Senate comprises:

- a) a representative (Obmann) for each section;
- b) one spokesperson from Austria and one from Switzerland;
- c) up to ten further persons with whom the Senate can be supplemented by additional balloting who do not have to be Academy members.

The Senators referred to in a) and b) can be represented in the Senate meetings by elected deputies.

The Senate represents the members in the Presidium and acts as its advisory committee. It elects the members of the Presidium and the honorary members, reviews and accepts the Presidium's reports and accounts, elects auditors and rules on the expulsion of members. It approves the ballot regulations for members, representatives and spokesman, the Senators and their deputies, the Presidium and the structural regulations for the sections and districts.

2. The meetings of the Senate are announced and headed by the President or his Deputy, and the members of the Presidium attend the meetings with a consultative voice. Decisions made by the Senate can also be obtained in written form and by telex. Minutes are to be written of the decisions made by the Senate and are to be signed by the President and a further member of the Presidium.

3. The Senate decides on the award of Academy honours.

## **§ 8 Members' General Assembly**

1. The members meet in the General Assembly according to the need to do so as stipulated by law or the Statutes. The President is required to invite members to the General Assembly, stating the agenda, and with at least four weeks' notice.

2. Each General Assembly that has been correctly announced is qualified to decide by vote. Decisions on applications are taken with a simple majority, unless required otherwise by the Statutes.

3. Minutes are to be written of the General Assembly and its resolutions that are to be signed by the President and another member of the Presidium.

## **§ 9 Secretariat**

The Secretariat handles the Academy's day-to-day affairs and supports its organs. It is headed by the Secretary-general. Details are specified in the rules and regulations for the Presidium.

## **§ 10 Alterations of the Statutes**

Resolutions to be prepared by the Senate that contain alterations of the Statutes require a three-quarter majority of the members attending the Members' General Assembly.

## **§ 11 Dissolution of the Academy**

1. The dissolution of the Academy can only be resolved by an extraordinary Members' General Assembly specially announced for this purpose with a majority of two thirds of all members, the votes of whom can also be obtained in written form.
2. In the case of the dissolution or the suspension of the Academy or in the event of its existing purposes being annulled, the assets of the Academy go to the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, which is required to use them immediately and exclusively for non-profit purposes.

(Translation: Mike GARDNER)

## Selected Publications about the Academy

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- Festliche Übergabe des Präsidentenamtes von Benno Parthier an Volker ter Meulen am 13. Februar 2003 im Freylinghausen-Saal der Franckeschen Stiftungen zu Halle (Saale). Hrsg. vom Präsidium der Akademie. Nova Acta Leopoldina N. F., Bd. 89, Nr. 335, 2003
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- Parthier, B. (Hrsg.): Academia 350. Die Leopoldina-Feiern in Schweinfurt und Halle 2002. Nova Acta Leopoldina N. F., Bd. 87, Nr. 325, 2003
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*The Academy publications are bibliographed in the following catalogues:*

- Verzeichnis der noch lieferbaren Veröffentlichungen 1869–1977. Beil. zu Leopoldina (R. 3) 30 (Halle 1986)
- Verzeichnis der Veröffentlichungen 1977–1995. Mit einem Überblick: 325 Jahre periodische Schriften der Akademie (von Kaasch, M., und Kaasch, J.). Halle 1995
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