

ARCHIVE: Deutsches Literatur Archiv, Marbach am Neckar

FULL ARCHIVAL REFERENCE: Deutsches Literatur Archiv, Marbach am Neckar, A: Koselleck/Geschichtliche Grundbegriffe 2008.0095 and Koselleck 2008.0095

PERSON: Helmut Coing

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF CONTENT: 2 letters from Reinhart Koselleck to Helmut Coing, 1 letter from Helmut Coing to Reinhart Koselleck, and a Memorandum attached to Coing's letter.

PERSON VISITING ARCHIVE: Tommaso Beggio

DATE VISITED: 13.-14.2.2014

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NOTES ON THE ARCHIVAL SOURCE:

In a folder containing different kinds of documents and letters from Reinhart Koselleck to Helmut Coing, and vice versa, from Dolf Sternberger to Helmut Coing, and viceversa, plus a letter by Helmut Coing to Welter, two letters written by Reinhart Koselleck to Helmut Coing and a letter written by the letter to Reinhart Koselleck (with a "Memorandum" attached). The three letters are all typewritten.

1. Deutsches Literatur Archiv – A: Koselleck/Geschichtliche Grundbegriffe 2008.0095

A letter by Reinhart Koselleck to Helmut Coing, 2<sup>nd</sup> of January, 1966. Two pages long (only the second is numbered). A request by Koselleck, in the name of Professor Wener Conze too, connected to the publication of the "Lexicon der politischen und sozialen Begriffe der Neuzeit" (Koselleck and Conze themselves, together with Otto Brunner, were the editors). Aim of the work was a political and sociological study of some fundamental terms and their evolution from the time of political and industrial revolution to their days. Some of these terms, in particular, have a specific juridical meaning too (Koselleck mentions: "Gerechtigkeit", "Frieden", "Naturrecht", "Recht"). That's why Koselleck and his colleagues ask Coing if he would like to take part in the project, or if he knows someone else (colleagues or "Mitarbeiter") who could do it. Both Koselleck and Conze are willing to go to Frankfurt a.M. to talk about this work, if necessary.

2. Deutsches Literatur Archiv – A: Koselleck 2008.0095

Letter by Reinhart Koselleck to Helmut Coing, 21<sup>st</sup> of October, 1975. Three pages long. The pages are numbered, but the numeration on the top of the page and the one on the bottom are different. The latter begins from number 2 and it stops on the second page. Koselleck replies to a previous letter by Coing [Tommaso Beggio: see the following document], who invited the first to take part in a

conference of the Thyssen-Stiftung. Furthermore Coing sent a “Memorandum” about a project on “die Rechtsstellung der Einzelperson und der privatrechtlich organisierten Verbände”. Koselleck finds the project really interesting and thinks that many historians too could be interested to collaborate on it. Koselleck then deals with the second volume of the work “Geschichtlichen Grundbegriffe” [Tommaso Beggio: see above, first letter] and communicates some names of new potential collaborators. Moreover he points out some topics that could be interesting for Coing’s research project. He argues that some anthropologist could decide to participate and he mentions, for example, Prof. Dirk Blasius.

### 3. Deutsches Literatur Archiv – A: Koselleck 2008.0095

Letter written by Helmut Coing to Reinhart Koselleck, 3<sup>rd</sup> of September, 1975. One page long. Coing replies to a previous letter, in which Koselleck informed him he couldn’t take part in the congress on History of Law of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century organized by the Thyssen-Stiftung. He attaches a “Memorandum” about a new project he would like to develop at the Max-Plank-Institut on the “Geschichte der Rechtsnormen im Bereich des Privatrechts in der Neuzeit” too. One of the topics it would deal with is “Die Rechtsstellung der Einzel person und der privatrechtlich organisierten Verbände”. Coing invites Koselleck to involve in the discussion or collaboration to this project some historians too.

### 4. “Memorandum zum Projekt Rechtsstellung der Einzelperson und Organisationen des Provatrechts” – attached to the previous letter written by Coing.

The “Memorandum” introduces a description of the subject, dealing with the problem of the capacities of individuals, with regards to obligations, business and crimes, and then with the topic of the rights of the juridical personality.

The study aims to be a juridical-historical one and so the meanings of the juridical capacity of individuals should be studied in its development since the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Century onwards. A guideline concerns the development from Roman Law to the modern systems (see p. 2). Another topic to be studied, according to Coing, is the influence of Roman Law and the theory of “status familias” on the foundation and development of the individual rights.

Another guideline, on the other hand, concerns the influence of the Ancien Régime and its patriarchal basis.

With regards to the individual rights then is to be investigated when the need to recognize and safeguard them appeared (connected is the acknowledgement of them as personal rights). Coing is of course very interested in a study in depth of the development of Law during the Middle-Age too. At page eleven there is a description of the organization of the work, divided in two sub-studies.