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Thomas Adam

Transnational Philanthropy

The Mond Family's Support for Public Institutions in Western Europe from 1890 to 1938

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To Christopher Coleman

Preface

Each book has its own history, and the history of this book began about 20 years ago, when I learned about Sir Alfred and Sir Robert Mond's involvement with the founding of the Royal Ontario Museum in the context of my research into the philanthropic establishment of Toronto. My interest in the Mond family's philanthropic activities was renewed when I was asked in 2006 to review Julia Laura Rischbieter's biography of Henriette Hertz, which in my view greatly distorted the role Henriette Hertz had played in the founding of the Bibliotheca Hertziana. I published a rather critical review of this book on the Internet group H-German to which I received several emails from various scholars in Great Britain who welcomed my review. I have never received so many (positive) responses to a book review before or since.

Among them was an email from Christopher Coleman, who had been a Lecturer in History at the University College London for over 20 years. In his own work, Coleman had come across the philanthropic support provided by Sir Robert Mond for various archaeological institutions. And it was this experience that caused his life-long interest in the Mond family. He encouraged me to pursue this topic and to write a longer article about the Mond family's role in the founding of the Bibliotheca Hertziana and maybe also to explore the other philanthropic interests of this prominent English family. Initially, I hesitated because the sources were scarce and dispersed over many archives and libraries in various countries. And most of the documents seemed to have been lost to history. Coleman assured me that he would support my endeavor and supply documents he had saved from destruction. Among the documents he had saved, as it turned

out, were original letters and pictures of various members of the Mond family as well as government documents. Since this first email exchange in March 2007, Coleman provided me with many original documents and photocopies, which served as the basis for this book. It became clear to me in the process of collecting additional material that the story of the Mond family's philanthropic engagement was too big to fit into a journal article, and the constant flow of documents provided by Coleman convinced me that this in fact was the stuff of a book. Since I would never have been able to write this book without the documents and the insight provided by Christopher Coleman, who also arranged for me to be introduced to Ludwig Mond's descendants Peter Melchett, the fourth Baron Melchett, and Major Piers Dunn, I would like to dedicate this book to him. His postal packages brought to me letters, pictures, and manuscripts, and I was feeling like a little child at Christmas Eve every time I opened my mailbox and saw that another of these packages had arrived.

Coleman also pointed me to the many archives in London—the archive of the National Gallery, the archive of the Egypt Exploration Society, the archive of the Palestine Exploration Fund, the archive of the Petrie Museum, and the archive of the British Museum—in which I found so many additional documents about the Monds' support for these institutions and their endeavors. Without Coleman's help I would have neither been aware of the documents stored away in these archives nor granted access to them. I would also like to thank Susanna Avery-Quash, who helped me in accessing the documents about the Mond Bequest at the archive of the National Gallery, and Stephen Quirke, who permitted me to study the documents about Sir Robert Mond's support for the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem, Flinders Petrie, and the Petrie Museum at the University College London. The Fritz-Thyssen Foundation made it possible for me to travel to London and to spend two weeks thoroughly searching through these archives and collecting documents. I would also like to thank George Gosling, who provided guidance in London and organized a very nice welcome dinner with friends and colleagues.

During various stays in Germany, I was able to visit various archives in Munich, Heidelberg, Cassel, and Berlin where I found many important documents cited in this book. These travels were supported by various institutions, including the Center for Advanced Studies at the Ludwig Maximilians University in Munich and the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin. I would like to thank Christof Mauch and

Dieter Hoffmann, in particular, for inviting me and thereby enabling me to pursue this research project. I also wanted to thank Sabrina Zinke, archivist at the archive of the University of Heidelberg, for helping me in locating documents about Ludwig Mond's bequest for that university and for arranging the reproduction of scans from the *Wissenschaftsatlas of Heidelberg University*. I am also extremely thankful to Alexandra Lutz and Petra Krenz, archivists at the City Archive of Cassel, for allowing me to study documents on days at which this archive was closed to the public.

I am especially grateful to Elisabeth Kieven, the director of the Bibliotheca Hertziana from 1999 to 2014, for her invitation to give a lecture on my research project and to conduct research in the archive of that library in April 2013. The Bibliotheca Hertziana has been very liberal and generous in allowing me to access the documents about Henriette Hertz in their archive and in providing me with scans of unique books and publications such as the Henriette Hertz novel *Alide*.

I am indebted to my two doctoral students, Nicole Leopoldie and Isabelle Rispler, who helped me with translating French documents about Sir Robert Mond and his philanthropic activities in France. I am also very grateful to Caroline Sternberg, archivist at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich, who provided me with the statistical data for the table about the share of foreign students at this institution.

Coleman read my manuscript in its entirety and provided very helpful suggestions for improving its quality and adding important information. Daniela L. Caglioti read the chapter on "Transnational Giving in the Age of National Confrontation" and offered her expertise on the British treatment of the property of enemy aliens after World War I. I am very grateful to these readers as well as to the anonymous reader for their thoughtful and helpful comments which helped shape this book manuscript. My wife, Burcu, I thank for giving me the space to write this book and for her moral support during the seemingly never-ending waiting for the outside reports to arrive in my mailbox.

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