

MARX-ENGELS-GESAMTAUSGABE (MEGA)

Work began on the MEGA, i.e. the publication of the complete writings of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, in Moscow and (East-)Berlin during the 1960s. The MEGA soon acquired a formidable reputation among specialists. In the wake of the dramatic changes in East Germany in 1989 scholars throughout the world pressed for the continued publication of the MEGA, which also received top marks from an international panel of experts. In 1990, Amsterdam's respected International Institute of Social History (IISG), which also held most of the original manuscripts, was instrumental in setting up an International Marx Engels Foundation (IMES) that assumed scientific responsibility for the project.

The politically independent IMES is an international network that includes, alongside the IISG, the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences (BBAW), the Karl Marx House (KMH) in Trier, Germany, the Russian State Archive for Social/Political History (RGA) and the Russian Independent Institute for the Study of Social and National Problems (RNI). The aim of the IMES is to complete the MEGA as a historical-critical edition of the complete works of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. The scope of the MEGA has been reduced to 122 volumes of which 49 have already appeared. At the present time, teams of scholars from Germany, Russia, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Denmark, the USA, and Japan are working on the MEGA, making it the most important international project of its kind. The MEGA is also sponsored by the European Union.

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ISBN 3-05-003440-8. DM 298, .

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Editionsrichtlinien der Marx-Engels-Gesamtausgabe (MEGA). Berlin 1993, 239 S.

ISBN 3-05-003350-9. DM 42, .

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KARL MARX, FRIEDRICH ENGELS: GESAMTAUSGABE (MEGA)

Herausgegeben von der Internationalen Marx-Engels-Stiftung

Vierte Abteilung: Exzerpte. Notizen. Marginalien

Band 3: Karl Marx: Exzerpte und Notizen. Sommer 1844 bis Anfang 1847

Bearbeitet von Georgij Bagaturija, Lev urbanov, Ol'ga Koroleva und Ljudmila Vasina.
Unter Mitwirkung von Jürgen Rojahn

Berlin: Akademie Verlag, 1998. Text: IX, 434 p.; Apparatus: pp. 435 864; 18 ill.

ISBN 3-05-003398-3. DM 298,

The volume contains excerpts and notes that Marx made during the last months of his first stay in Paris (October 1843 to February 1845) and in the first months of his stay in Brussels (February 1845 to March 1848). Also, it contains Marx's personal notebook from the years 1844 47. Most of these materials have not been published previously.

The excerpts, from the works of thirty authors, document Marx's economic studies between the summer of 1844, when he drafted the *Economic and Philosophical*

Manuscripts, and his first trip to England in July/August 1845. While he was still in Paris, Marx made excerpts from works of Boisguillebert, Law, and Lauderdale. In particular, Marx's excerpts from Boisguillebert and his comments on them are closely related to the *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts*.

The majority of the excerpts six of the eight excerpt notebooks date from the Brussels period. They are from general works on political economy (Storch, Rossi), books and articles on the situation of the working classes in various countries (Buret, Sismondi, La Sagra), books on the "machinery question" (Gasparin, Babbage, Ure), and works on the "History of Political Economy" (Pecchio, MacCulloch, Ganilh, Blanqui et al.). At that time Marx was primarily interested in the sources of public and private wealth, the causes of social differences, the role of private property, the emergence and development of class conflict, the nature of money, problem of defining value, and the concept of capital. As the French scholar Maximilien Rubel stated, these notebooks are especially important because they give detailed information about the intellectual sources of Marx's ideas during the months that he developed his materialistic theory of history, outlined for the first time in *The German Ideology* (1845/46). However, some of the excerpts published in the volume also reveal the sources of fundamental Marxian concepts developed only at a later time; e.g. it is from a book by Villegardelle that Marx took the idea that the proletarian revolution would have to "break" the bourgeois state machine.

The contents of Marx's personal notebook from the years 1844-47 mainly consist of lists of books - books that Marx already owned or that had aroused his particular interest and that he planned to purchase and/or read. These lists represent an indispensable source of information regarding the wide range of Marx's reading at that time. Also, this notebook contains Marx's famous "Theses on Feuerbach," in which, according to Engels, "the brilliant germ of the new world view" was set down. They are published here for the first time in their original context.

KARL MARX, FRIEDRICH ENGELS: GESAMTAUSGABE (MEGA)

Herausgegeben von der Internationalen Marx-Engels-Stiftung

Vierte Abteilung: Exzerpte. Notizen. Marginalien

Band 31: Karl Marx/Friedrich Engels: Naturwissenschaftliche Exzerpte und Notizen
Mitte 1877 bis Anfang 1983

Bearbeitet von Anneliese Griese, Friederun Fessen, Peter Jäckel und Gerd Pawelzig.

Berlin: Akademie Verlag, 1999. Text: XV, 614 p.; Apparatus: pp. 615 1055; 22 ill.

ISBN 3-05-003399-1. DM 298,

Karl Marx was one of the last great polymaths. Until recently his natural scientific studies were a little known aspect of his theoretical work. As early as the 'Economic

and Philosophical Manuscripts' of 1844 he had developed a concept of the unity of man and nature: man is an active being in Nature. Natural science has transformed human life by means of industry, preparing the way for human emancipation. The actual presuppositions of history as stated in the 'German Ideology', written in conjunction with Friedrich Engels are the physical creativity of men and the given natural conditions. 'All historical writing must proceed from this natural basis and its modification in the course of history through the action of men.'

Marx's most intensive engagement with the natural sciences came in the period after 1870, when he completed comprehensive excerpts on physiology, mineralogy, geology, chemistry, physics and electricity. The major part of the present volume comprises his excerpts and notes on inorganic and organic chemistry. For chemistry 1870 represents a watershed, distinguished by the introduction of the periodic table of elements, molecular theories of chemical bonding, and theories concerning the structure of the atom. Marx made use of relevant standard works of that time (Lothar Meyer, Henry Enfield Roscoe, Carl Schorlemmer, Wilhelm Friedrich Kühne). Apart from the analysis of chemical compounds, he was interested in examples of their extraction, their properties and possibilities for use in industry and agriculture. He also concerned himself with questions as to how far he could demonstrate analogies between the fundamental principles of chemistry and those of political economy. After further excerpts on physics (Benjamin Witzschel), physiology (Ludimar Hermann, Johannes Ranke) and geology (Joseph Beete Jukes), the first part of the volume concludes with an excerpt on the theory of electricity (Édouard Hospitalier).

The second part of the volume contains two excerpt notebooks with passages from works by William Thomson and Peter Guthrie Tait, Carl Fraas and Hermann Helmholtz, which Engels used while writing the 'Dialectics of Nature' (MEGA, Bd. I/26). These notebooks allow us to see how Engels not only acquired expertise by using generally recognized works on mechanics and electricity, but also how he sketched out his line of argument for the chapters on 'Fundamental Forms of Motion', 'The Measure of Motion Work', and 'Electricity' by commenting critically at particular points. We also see how Marx notified Engels of the new standards for measuring electricity agreed in Paris in 1881.

The major part of the materials in this volume are published here for the first time.

KARL MARX, FRIEDRICH ENGELS: GESAMTAUSGABE (MEGA)

Herausgegeben von der Internationalen Marx-Engels-Stiftung

Vierte Abteilung: Exzerpte. Notizen. Marginalien

Vorauspublikation zu Band 32: Die Bibliotheken von Karl Marx und Friedrich Engels.
Annotiertes Verzeichnis des ermittelten Bestandes

Bearbeitet von Hans-Peter Harstick, Richard Sperl und Hanno Strauss. Unter Mitarbeit von Gerald Hubmann, Karl-Ludwig König, Larisa Mis'kevi und Ninel Rumjanceva

Berlin: Akademie Verlag, 1999. 738 p.; 32 ill.

ISBN 3-05-003440-8. DM 298,

Historians of the arts and sciences have long had the libraries of notable writers and intellectuals in their sights. Marx and Engels undoubtedly belong to that group of authors whose use of sources has inspired particular interest. In the specific case of Marx it is well known that he was a painstaking as well as polymathic reader. However, he was no bibliophile. For him books were 'intellectual tools' (Paul Lafargue). He wrote this (in English) about his relationship with books: 'I am a machine, condemned to devour them and, then, throw them, in a changed form, on the dunghill of history' (to Laura Lafargue, 11 April 1868). His own, ever-growing library was an especially important tool of his trade.

After Marx's death Engels merged the major part of his friend's collection with his own. This was 'a library so singular and at the same time so complete for the history and study of modern socialism as well as of all the sciences he referred to' (letter to Laura Lafargue and Eleanor Marx-Aveling, 14 November 1894). It was bequeathed by Engels to the German Social Democratic Party (SPD), which incorporated it into its library in Berlin. After 1933 that library was fatefully divided, and Marx and Engels' books were consequently dispersed over the whole of Europe.

This volume is the result of laborious searches lasting a decade. With 1,450 titles located representing 2,100 volumes nearly two-thirds of the original complement of Marx and Engels' library can be verified. Out of 800 volumes approximately 40,000 pages contain underlining and marginal notes.

The libraries of Marx and Engels were typical of those of 19th century intellectuals universalist rather than specialist. They comprised philosophical, economic, historical, natural scientific works, textbooks and dictionaries of different languages, works of belles lettres. There are books in a total of 10 languages. At least a third of the verified contents are in German, about a quarter in English, about a quarter in French, a sixth of the titles are in Russian.

The books that have been located are indexed in alphabetical order by author and title. Supplementary to this there is a subject index and a register of authors. After the exact bibliographical description of each book its present location is given. Dedications, marks of ownership and inscriptions are recorded. Also, the pages containing marginalia or other marks by Marx and Engels are noted. Finally there is documentation showing whether a particular work is included in one of the various lists compiled by Marx himself, whether there are excerpts from it, and whether it is mentioned in the writings of Marx or Engels as far as these are already published in the MEGA volumes or in the collected works in German (Marx-Engels Werke). In the introduction to the volume the turbulent history of the acquisition and reconstruction

of this unusual collection of books is laid out in detail.

For research on Marx and Engels this volume is indispensable. It originated in international cooperative research at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences as a preparatory publication for MEGA-Band IV/32. That volume will complement the catalogue of the library with a contextual edition of the marginalia, and a commentary on the significance of each book in its time and for Marx, based on the entire MEGA as ultimately completed.

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