The Adam von Trott Memorial Appeal

What it has achieved
Why it deserves your support
Who was Adam von Trott?

Adam von Trott zu Solz, a central figure in the conspiracy to kill Hitler, was put to death in Berlin in 1944. Born in Potsdam in 1909, he trained as a lawyer in Germany, and studied at Oxford. He travelled widely and made many international contacts. He loved his country, but hated the Nazis, and with other opponents of the regime made plans for post-war Europe. His life was shaped by his experience of Oxford, and his vision of European co-operation has resonance for today.

Adam von Trott deserves to be regarded as one of the most symbolic presences in the history of Europe in the last century. He immersed himself in the resistance against Nazism in Germany, while reaching out to men and women abroad. A principled idealist and committed internationalist, he knew the terrible cost of maintaining these values in a dangerous world.

Dr Andrew Chandler (University of Chichester)
The legacy of our father and his friends can still inspire us when we consider the future of Europe today. They reflected and planned for the rule of law, self-government, decentralisation, minority rights, and policies that provide the space for free and responsible citizenship. These are values for which we still have to struggle.

Verena Onken von Trott & Clarita Müller-Plantenberg (daughters of Adam von Trott)

Why Mansfield College?

Adam was invited to Oxford in 1929 by the Principal of Mansfield College, where he studied theology and politics. He wrote that this experience helped him to learn what democracy means. He returned to Oxford in 1931-33 to study philosophy, politics and economics at Balliol College as a Rhodes Scholar.
The Adam von Trott Memorial Appeal

The Appeal, which was launched at Mansfield College in 2004, organises annual lectures and other events on themes relevant to the life and ideas of Adam von Trott, and it supports the Adam von Trott Scholarship which brings German students to Oxford.

Through the Appeal the memory of Adam von Trott lives on today in his own spirit as a symbol of peace, goodwill, and friendship between peoples. The Appeal’s work helps to strengthen understanding between Germany and Britain, and fosters Adam von Trott's vision among the younger generation.

Dr Peter Ammon (German Ambassador to the Court of St. James)

The annual lecture is given by a distinguished scholar. You can see reports of the lectures and other events at www.mansfield.ox.ac.uk/alumni/adamvontrott. These outreach activities are open to students and the public, and we plan to develop them in future in order to bring Adam von Trott’s ideas to a wider audience.
The Adam von Trott Scholarship

The Scholarship contributes to Anglo-German understanding by bringing young German students to Oxford for two years to study for a Master’s degree in Politics or International Relations. Since 2010 it has been awarded by Mansfield College, jointly with Oxford University’s Department of Politics and International Relations, with the support of the Adam von Trott Memorial Appeal Fund.

The Scholarship has been awarded every second year, and up to now there have been four Scholars: Diana Koester, Bernhard Clemm, David Hagebölling and Leonie Janisch. You can read about them in the following pages.

The German Foreign Office, of which Adam von Trott was a member, has now decided to contribute generously to the Scholarship, commencing in academic year 2016/17. This new support is a tribute to the success that we have achieved since 2010, and will help us to secure the Scholarship on a sustainable basis. Our aim now is for the Scholarship to be awarded annually, instead of every two years.
Patrons and Officers

The Patrons of the Appeal are the German Ambassador to the United Kingdom (His Excellency Dr Peter Ammon), the Principal of Mansfield College (Baroness Kennedy QC), The Revd Dr Paul Oestreicher, and Dr Levin von Trott zu Solz.

Dr Elaine Kaye, the Reverend Geoffrey Beck, and the Reverend Tony Tucker, who helped to found the Appeal, have received the Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. The honour was given in recognition of their contribution ‘to remembrance and education, to reconciliation and to understanding between Britain and Germany’.

The Appeal is managed by a Committee whose Officers are Graham Avery (Convenor), Helen Jones (Secretary), and Jonathan Scheele (Treasurer). The Committee acts on a voluntary basis, and its work is unpaid. Support for its activities is provided by Mansfield College.
The vision of Adam von Trott was of a Europe that would be at peace with itself and set a good example to the wider world.

Lord Hannay (former British Ambassador to the European Union & the United Nations)
Our Scholars

Diana Koester (2010-2012)

Born in 1987, Diana grew up in Mannheim, and at the age of sixteen went to a high school in the United States for a year. After her school-leaving Abitur she studied at the London School of Economics, taking summer work with the Senate in Paris, a consulting firm in Berlin, the UN in Vienna, and NGOs in Buenos Aires. At Oxford, where she was the first Adam von Trott Scholar at Mansfield College, she obtained a MPhil in Politics with distinction; her thesis analysed post-conflict violence against women, using fieldwork in Kosovo and Bosnia-Herzegovina. In 2012 she became a Fellow with the OECD in Paris, developing guidance for donors in integrating a gender perspective into state-building.

In 2013 she was awarded a DPhil scholarship by Green Templeton College, Oxford, and is currently pursuing research on gender and state-building. She is an associate member of the OECD’s Governance for Development and Peace team, and editor of the academic journal Human Welfare.

“I feel immensely honoured and deeply grateful to have been the first Adam von Trott Scholar. Beyond the financial support, the committee’s example, their keen interest in my wellbeing and my desire to live up to the expectations vested in me have been critical to my academic success. I am delighted to remain a part of this outstanding initiative and to take its cause of promoting peaceful European and global exchange with me wherever I go.”
Bernhard Clemm von Hohenberg (2012-2014)

Born in 1988, Bernhard grew up in Munich, and at the age of 16 had a year at school in Britain. In 2008 he began studies in Philosophy and Economics at the University of Bayreuth. In France he studied at the Sorbonne University in Paris, and was intern at the German Embassy. In 2012 he co-founded the project Euroskop. Struck by the lack of communication between European peoples, he travelled through 20 countries to interview young people about their opinions on European integration, and published the results in a report for the Open Society Foundation as well as in articles for Die Zeit and The European.

At Oxford he studied for the MPhil in European Politics and Society; his thesis on the integration of immigrants analysed the effect of policies of multiculturalism on support for liberal-democratic values. Having returned to Germany, he is now editor-in-chief at the Berlin-based media start-up Pressekompass for which he manages a team of student authors.

“I have always been fascinated by the German resistance, in which Adam von Trott took part, so I felt truly honoured to be awarded this Scholarship. He wanted better mutual understanding between Europe’s peoples, which is one of my own concerns. We Europeans still have a lot to learn from and about each other. The Scholarship contributes to that by bringing together students from Germany and Britain through lectures, seminars and life at Mansfield College. “
Born in 1992, David grew up in Cologne, and – after school-leaving exams in Germany (Abitur) and France (Baccalauréat) – completed his German Civilian Service in a church community. In 2010, he began studies in international politics and economics at the University of Cologne, and then enrolled at the European campus of Sciences Po in Nancy. After a year at the London School of Economics specialising in strategic studies, economics and Chinese language and civilisation, he graduated from Sciences Po summa cum laude. At Oxford, David’s studies have involved historical and theoretical approaches to international relations and training in research methods, and his MPhil thesis in International Relations was awarded a distinction. His other activities at Oxford included rowing for Mansfield College and being on the editorial team of a peer-reviewed international affairs journal. David has now been awarded an Economic and Social Research Council scholarship and is pursuing research for a DPhil at St Antony’s College, Oxford.

“The Adam von Trott Scholarship and Mansfield College have given me the opportunity to study a subject about which I am passionate in one of the most intellectually stimulating places that I have known. My generation of Germans has benefitted from a peaceful and unified Europe. To receive the scholarship is not only an honour but a reminder of our responsibility to preserve the great achievement that European cooperation represents.”
Born in 1993, Leonie grew up in a small town close to Wiesbaden. After high school she spent a year in New Zealand which sparked her interest in politics and economics. In 2013 she began studies at the University of Mannheim, focusing on international relations, comparative politics and political methodology. In her research into the resistance to the Nazi regime she wrote a paper on Adam von Trott’s relationship with the UK. In her bachelor’s thesis Leonie collected data on post-civil war state reconstruction and analysed processes of reconstruction. Besides her studies she was a board member of the local European Students’ Forum. At Oxford she reads for the MPhil in Political Science specializing in comparative government, which involves different theoretical approaches and training in research methods. Leonie plans to explore aspects of reconstruction in post-civil war countries, and to focus on topics such as regime transition, constitutional and institutional design in new democracies. She looks forward to benefitting from the opportunities offered by Mansfield College and Oxford University.

“I feel honoured to be chosen as an Adam von Trott Scholar. The trust placed in me gives me the opportunity to develop in one of the most stimulating academic environments in Europe. The Scholarship highlights the strength of Anglo-German relations and the importance of global exchange in securing peace. In times when relations within Europe are under strain, we need mutual understanding to build trust among our peoples.”
Adam von Trott, 1943