

English Literature in Your Pocket: The Tauchnitz Edition and Other Paperback Series

Bernhard Tauchnitz' Collection of British and American Authors, initiated in 1841, was not only a successful entrepreneurial endeavour but a milestone in the history of print culture as well. The Leipzig-based Tauchnitz publisher, renowned all over the world for his series of affordable pocket books in English, produced more than 5000 volumes within the course of over 100 years. Cultural and literary repercussions of this unique achievement have been far-reaching since the late 19th century. It pioneered a new way of mass-market publishing, innovative copyright arrangements and a close cooperation with many important English-language novelists of the day. Still in present times, the Tauchnitz Edition and its successors are stimulating both academic research in various fields and the enthusiasm of collectors and readers.

The conference "English Literature in Your Pocket: The Tauchnitz Edition and Other Paperback Series" aims at uniting a broad variety of interests and different perspectives on the Tauchnitz legacy in particular and on English language paperback series in general, providing a platform for an interdisciplinary exchange of ideas and views at a historical location. We want to situate and evaluate this phenomenon in the context of our increasingly digital contemporary society.

Please notice: Access will be limited to people either fully vaccinated, recovered from COVID-19 or tested in the last 24 hours. If COVID numbers should rise significantly, there is a chance this might be further restricted to only vaccinated or recovered people.

Organisers

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<https://conference.uni-leipzig.de/tauchnitz2020/>



The conference is kindly supported by:



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Department of British Studies
Department of Book Studies



Conference 6 - 7 November 2021

**English Literature in Your
Pocket: The Tauchnitz Edition
and Other Paperback Series**

Universitätsbibliothek Leipzig - Vortragssaal, Beethovenstr. 6, 04107 Leipzig

Programme

5 November 2021

7–9 pm: Conference Warming at Special Surprise Venue

Meeting Point: 6:50 pm in front of the Nicholas Pillar at 4, Nikolaikirchhof (at the back of the Church of St. Nikolai)

6 November 2021

Venue: Universitätsbibliothek Leipzig, Vortragssaal (ground floor on the left), Beethovenstr. 6, 04107 Leipzig

8:30–9 am: REGISTRATION

9-9:15 am: Introduction and Welcome

9:15–10:15 am: Keynote by Prof. Dr. Charles Johanningsmeier (University of Nebraska, Omaha):

- Putting the ‘Cheap, Disposable Paperbacks’ Myth to Rest: How Real Readers Actually Interacted with Their Tauchnitz Volumes

10:15–10:45 am: COFFEE BREAK

10:45–1 pm: Panel 1 “Studying the Tauchnitz Edition” (Chair: PD Dr. Thomas Keiderling)

- Dr. Dietmar Böhnke; Melanie Mienert (Leipzig): The *Tauchnitz Edition*: General Survey, Statistics, Particularities
- Prof. Dr. Stefan Welz (Leipzig): More Than Successful Business: The *Tauchnitz Edition* as Literary Trendsetter
- Dr. Graham Hogg (Edinburgh): The Tauchnitz collection of Dr. Karl Heinz Pressler

1–2 pm: LUNCH BREAK

2–3:30 pm: Panel 2 “Tauchnitz in Context” – Part 1 (Chair: Melanie Mienert, M.A.)

- Prof. Dr. Ralf Haekel (Leipzig): ‘More is Different’– The *Tauchnitz Edition*, Mass Publication, and 19th-Century Media Change
- Prof. Dr. Alberto Gabriele (Cassino): Foreign-language Editions in the Continental European Market: the Nineteenth-Century Leipzig Book Industry and its Contested Model of Culture Transfer

3:30–3:45 pm: COFFEE BREAK

3:45–5:30 pm: Panel 2 “Tauchnitz in Context” – Part 2 (Chair: Dr. Dietmar Böhnke)

- Alastair Jollans (London): Tauchnitz and its Rivals: Competition in the Market for English Language Novels in Continental Europe 1840 – 1925
- Dr. Michele Troy (Hartford): A Dangerous Peace: The Post-War Fight to Be the Next Tauchnitz
- Prof. Dr. Outi Paloposki (Turku): Tauchnitz for Translators. The Circulation of English-language Literature in Finland

7–11 pm: Conference Dinner presented by SHARP at Auerbachs Keller (Mädler Passage, Grimmaische Strasse 2-4, 04109 Leipzig)

Please notice: A few of the papers will be delivered via video conference link.

7 November 2021

Venue: Universitätsbibliothek Leipzig (see 6 November)

9–9:15 am: REGISTRATION

9:15–10:45 am: Panel 3 “Tauchnitz Authors”

(Chair: Dr. Dietmar Böhnke)

- PD Dr. Susanne Schmid (Berlin): The Countess of Blessington and Bernhard Tauchnitz
- Dr. Harald Pittel (Potsdam): ‘Life is too short to learn German’: The Tauchnitz Editions of Oscar Wilde’s Works

10:45–11:15 am: COFFEE BREAK

11:15–1 pm: Panel 4 “Other Paperback Series”

(Chair: Prof. Dr. Stefan Welz)

- Prof. Dr. Ingo Berensmeyer (Munich): Everyman’s Letchworth: The Garden City and the Origins of *Everyman’s Library*
- Fatih Aşan (Istanbul): Imported Format, Indigenous Perspective: *Kitabhane-i Ebüzziya* as an Adaptation of *Universal-Bibliothek*
- Prof. Loretta De Franceschi (Urbino): *Treves Collection of British and American Authors*

1–3 pm: LUNCH BREAK

3-4:30 pm: Additional offer – Guided tour through the permanent exhibition “Signs – Books – Networks: from Cuneiform to Binary Code“ at the German Museum of Books and Writing (German National Library)

Address: DNB Leipzig, Deutscher Platz 1, 04103 Leipzig