

# albert

prince of coburg

1819-**1861** 

ENGLISH VERSION



#### A word of welcome

#### Andreas, Prince of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha



lbert Prince of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha is my great-great-grand-father. In 1840 he married Victoria, the British Queen, and in 1857 he received the British title "Prince Consort" – but part of his heart always belonged to Coburg.

As the current head of the family in Coburg, I am very pleased that the institutions introduced here are honouring Prince Albert on the 150th anniversary of his death with exhibitions and events in his home town.

This joint project provides an insight into Prince Albert's fascinating personality and emphasises the diversity of his fields of influence. I would like to sincerely thank everyone involved with my best wishes for success and hope for numerous interested visitors.

Andreas Prinz um Seechsen Crowy und Gotha

Albert Prince of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha 1842 Franz Xaver Winterhalter (1805–1873) Duchy Art Collection SCG Schloss Callenberg, Coburg



Albert Prince of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha with Victoria Queen of Great Britain and Ireland (in the mirror) 1840 Franz Hanfstaengl (1804–1877) Duchy Art Collection SCG Schloss Callenberg, Coburg

#### A word of welcome

#### Executive Mayor Norbert Kastner



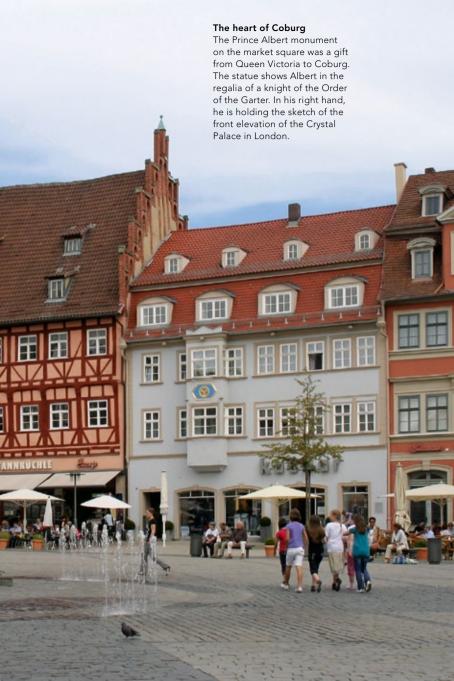
n his lifetime, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha was an ambassador for his home town, as he still is today. In his day, he represented the interests of Coburg at the English court. Today, tourists from far and wide travel to Coburg in order to visit the places where Queen Victoria's husband was born and grew up.

Coburg is the cradle of European nobility, a town with many facets. Magnificent palaces and parks bear witness to the splendid past of the duchy – modern art and theatre performances bridge the gap to the present. On the 150th anniversary of Prince Albert's death, Coburg makes the prince the centre of the town's cultural life and presents him in a new light. This year, but also in the years to come in Coburg, we will carry you away into the short but exciting life of the prince, and look back on his life work.

In the name of the town of Coburg, I am pleased to warmly welcome all visitors to the Veste town. I would also like to invite the people of Coburg to rediscover their home town and Prince Albert.







#### Prince Albert - a Picture of a Man

#### EXHIBITION

# Veste Coburg Art Collections

9 September – 6 November 2011

daily 9:30-17:00

Veste Coburg 96450 Coburg Tel (09561) 879-0 Fax (09561) 879-66

www.kunstsammlungen-coburg.de fuehrungen@kunstsammlungen-coburg.de

rince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha (1819–1861), Queen Victoria's Prince Consort, was one of the most important men in the 19th century. Prince Albert,

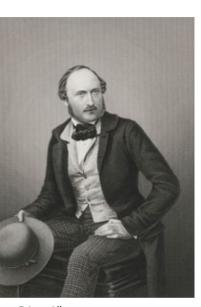
like no other, stands for German-British cultural exchange and politics that strives for peace. For the first time in Germany, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of his death, a museum exhibition is solely dedicated to him. It strives to trace the life of this fascinating personality with the help of works of art, to impart a vivid image of the prince and to remind us of his cultural achievements.

With his comprehensive education, Prince Albert from Coburg knew how to earn the respect of his contemporaries with his wealth of knowledge and his pleasant manner. After his marriage, he advanced to become an indispensable advisor for the young Queen Victoria on all political matters so it was, ultimately Prince Albert who essentially formed Victorian politics. In his personal life, he and Victoria shared the love of music, literature and art. They were particularly close to each other when making music together, drawing and in constant exchange about art. Victoria and Albert commissioned numerous works of art of outstanding quality and stunning beauty. They provoke a re-

Albert of Saxe-Coburg at the age of 7 years 1826 Sebastian Eckardt

(1782 - 1846)





Prince Albert, in private clothes A three-quarter figure sitting on a chair, hat in hand, around 1855/60 Unknown artist

evaluation of the art of historism and the Victorian epoch. The art commissioned and purchased by the couple, as well as their gifts to each other, extended the royal collections considerably. The rapidly growing family alone was captured in innumerable individual and group portraits – welcome gifts on every occasion. The relatives in Coburg were also richly endowed with works of art as gifts and some found their way into the art collections in the Veste Coburg.

The Coburg collections about Prince Albert form the foundation of the exhibition, which is to be supplemented by distinguished loans from the Royal Collection and the British Museum. The scope of eight chapters

poses, among other things, questions about the various Albert portraits, about the public and private roles Albert played and the fact that he lived on in posthumous memorials. In the process, the exhibition provides an insight into the motivation behind the art commissioned by Victoria and Albert: it was, on the one hand, visual propaganda for the British monarchy, on the other hand, it was the expression of a private culture of remembrance.

#### Portrait of Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha in traditional Scottish attire

1862–64 Karl (Carl) Meinelt (1825–1900)



#### PERMANENT EXHIBITION

#### Schloss Rosenau

Viewing only possible with a guided tour April – Sept: hourly 9:00 – 17:00 Oct – March: hourly 13:00 – 15:00 Mon closed

Rosenau 1 96472 Rödental Tel (09563) 3084-10 Fax (09563) 3084-29

www.sgvcoburg.de sgvcoburg@bsv.bayern.de

Schloss Rosenau Marmorsaal and view of the Park Rosenau

n 26 August 1819, at eight in the morning, Prince Albert, the second eldest son of Duke Ernst I, saw the light of day for the first time in the castle of Rosenau, the summer residence of the Dukes of Coburg that had been newly refurbished from 1808 to 1817. He was baptised in the Marmorsaal, or Marble Hall, on 19 September. Throughout his life, Rosenau remained important to him; after all he was reminded of his happy childhood there. The nursery was at the very top of the house. He had his own playground and garden fortress in the park. In 1845. Albert visited the castle with his wife. Oueen Victoria, who enthused: "Were I not what I am, this would be my real home." When she returned in 1862, she wrote in the guest book: "Victoria reg., the desolate widow of my beloved Albert." In the castle today, portraits and a cradle remind the visitors of Prince Albert.

S. HEYM





# Schloss Callenberg and the Family History of the House of Coburg

PERMANENT AND SPECIAL EXHIBITION

#### **Schloss Callenberg**

Tue-Sun & Public Holidays: 11:00-17:00 Guided tours: Sun & Public Holiday: 14:00-15:00 and by arrangement

Schloss Callenberg, Coburg Duchy Art Collection SCG & German Rifle Museum Callenberg 1 96450 Coburg Tel (09561) 5515-0 Fax (09561) 5515-55

www.schloss-callenberg.de www.sachsen-coburg-gotha.de mail@schloss-callenberg.de

Prince Albert and his brother, Crown Prince Ernst, with a white rabbit around 1825 Ludwig Doell (1789–1863) Duchy Art Collection SCG Schloss Callenberg, Coburg rince Albert is the most famous representative of the House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha in the world.
Schloss Callenberg is in the care of his descendants who reside in Coburg to this day. The private art collection exhibited there documents the extraordinary family history – before Prince Albert, in his day and afterwards.

The interesting presentation provides an insight into the international marriage policy in the course of the 19th century. It explains the rapid development of the ducal family to an aristocratic dynasty of global dimensions. Their family name headed four royal houses - and still does today in some: Belgium, Portugal, Great Britain and Bulgaria.

The family links with the European aristocracy are almost unlimited. Prince Albert and Queen Victoria—who was his cousin and thus also of Coburg origin—also made a decisive contribution to this unique success story. Both remained in constant contact with Duke Ernst II, their only brother and brother-in-law, who reigned in Coburg and Gotha. They were in close contact with the Duke and his wife Alexandrine by post and visited the couple frequently in Schloss Callenberg.





In 1842, when he was still Crown Prince, Ernst II asked his father, Ernst I, for the castle as the main residence for himself and his bride, using the following convincing words: "I know how attached you are to Callenberg. Our request may be great, but there is no greater pleasure you can give us, than to grant it."

Schloss Callenberg has preserved its enchanting charm to this day. Idyllically

situated in the midst of wooded landscape, it tempts its visitors to stroll and linger. The intimate atmosphere of the castle and grounds, with the magnificent castle chapel and the heavenly rose garden, emanates harmonious tranquillity, so that the last reigning Duchess, Victoria Adelheid, also declared it to be her favourite place. In this way, when the monarchy came to an end, the castle passed into family ownership. Today, Schloss Callenberg is open to all interested visitors. From late summer 2011, it will also offer a small presentation about Ernst and Albert as brothers, as well as Albert's nine children.

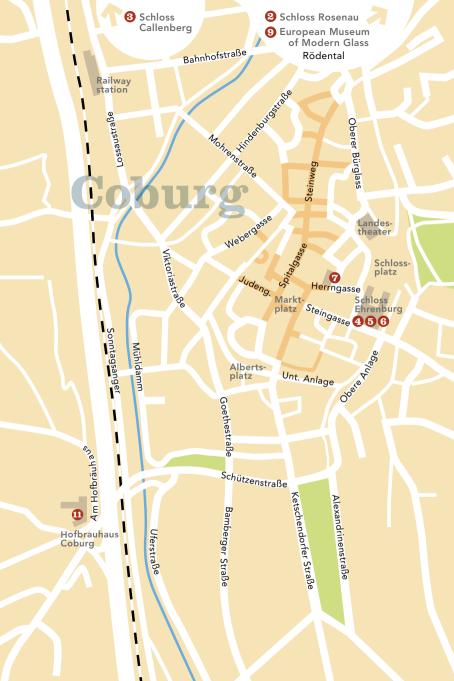
Schloss Callenberg, Coburg

2008
Aerial view
Dr Otmar Fugmann
The Duke of Saxe-Coburg
and Gotha's Family
Foundation

#### Prince Albert and his brother, Crown Prince Ernst, in Renaissance costume with the insignia of the Order of the Garter

1851 Robert Thorburn (1818–1885) Duchy Art Collection SCG





G.Freytag-Weg

Veste Coburg

Festungsstaße 8

Natural History Museum Coburg

Kunstverein Coburg Veste Coburg Art Collections

Prince Albert - A Picture of a Man

Schloss Rosenau

Prince Albert and Schloss Rosenau

Schloss Callenberg

Schloss Callenberg and the Family History of the House of Coburg

Schloss Ehrenburg

Schloss Ehrenburg – Town Residence of the Dukes of Coburg

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"All the Country Folk and their Fine Clothes" – a Royal Dream of the Simple Life

Regional Library Coburg

Bedford's Coburg – Revisited

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European Museum of Modern Glass

Studio Glass from Great Britain

Kunstverein, local art association, Coburg

Drawing, Permanence and Place.

An Exhibition of Contemporary British Enamel

1 Hofbrauhaus Coburg

The Study of Design in Germany since 1851

#### Schloss Ehrenburg – Town Residence of the Dukes of Coburg

#### **Schloss Ehrenburg**

Guided tours
April – Sept: hourly 9:00 – 17:00
Oct – March: hourly 10:00 – 15:00
Mon closed

Schlossplatz 1 96450 Coburg Tel (09561) 8088-32 Fax (09561) 8088-31

www.schloss-ehrenburg.de

chloss Ehrenburg was established as a town residence for the Dukes of Coburg in 1543. The impressive Riesensaal, or Giants' Hall, the palace and the magnificent stucces preserved.

chapel and the magnificent stuccos preserved in some rooms have survived from the baroque period. At the beginning of the 19th century, the castle received its characteristic neo-gothic façades according to designs by the architect Karl Friedrich Schinkel. Decorated in the Empire Style, the apartments are, in themselves, unique works of art of their time.

As the residence of the Saxe-Coburg and Gotha dynasty, in the 19th century Schloss Ehrenburg was a gathering place for the high-ranking nobility in Europe. Duke Ernst I (1784–1844) and his generation began that fateful family policy that was to bring the House of Coburg to a position of enigmatic power that lasted for three generations. Family links were forged close to home and far afield: initially with Württemberg, Russia and Portugal.

A brother of Ernst I, Leopold (who had previously lived in London for some time as the widower of the heir to the English throne, Charlotte), was the first king to ascend to the Belgian throne. The weight of the House of Coburg now shifts to England, where a niece of Ernst I begins to reign, Queen Victoria. In 1840, she marries Albert, the younger son of the Duke of Coburg.



Schloss Ehrenburg and Memorial for Duke Ernst I.

#### Landesbibliothek Coburg

The Coburg State Library accommodated in Schloss Ehrenburg emerged from the ducal book collections. Even as a child, Prince Albert was familiar with the 16th century town residence with its books, halls, furniture and paintings.

He may have experienced his first musical inspiration in the ducal music room, which is one of the reading rooms today; and experienced the festive atmosphere of banquets in the dining room, the Silbersaal also known as the Spiegelsaal, or Hall of Mirrors, which is used for exhibitions today. Prince Albert's great affinity for books as a source of education and as cultural heritage is evident in his English collections just as much as in the Coburg collections; whether in the study library he used together with his brother Ernst; in the venerable volumes, some of which were gifts, bear inscriptions or are full of memories; in his own compositions or in the Luther library which he founded.

Between 10 September and 14 December 2011, the Coburg State Library is to offer a series of special guided tours in which these treasures can be seen in the original.

#### "All the Country Folk and their Fine Clothes" – a Royal Dream of the Simple Life

EXHIBITION

#### Landesbibliothek Coburg

12 September – 26 November 2011

Mon-Thur 10:00-17:00 Fri + Sat 10:00-13:00

Schlossplatz 1 (Ehrenburg) 96450 Coburg Tel (09561) 8538-0 Fax (09561) 8538-201

www.landesbibliothek-coburg.de geschaeftsstelle@ landesbibliothek-coburg.de



n 1845, Queen Victoria and her Prince Consort, Albert, travelled to the Duchy of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha for the first time. As Victoria's love of picturesque scenes and quaint costumes was well-known, Ernst II had, probably on Albert's suggestion, arranged the country people in traditional costume as if they were "living pictures". The country folk, dressed in quaint costume, lined the path of the royal couple, re-enacted a hay harvest and congratulated Albert's birthday.

Victoria's naive enthusiasm for these performances provoked heated criticism in England. For Victoria, who had been strictly shielded from the every-day life of the people since her childhood, the traditional costumes in Coburg remained a symbol of what she regarded as the ideal world in Albert's home. She commissioned drawings of traditional dress and made sketches herself.

Inspired by Victoria's perception of traditional costume in Coburg, the exhibition is covering the reception and evaluation of clothing typical for the region from the late 18th century to the 21st century.

B. JAUERNIG

### Modernised and historical traditional costume in Coburg, 2010

Left: The modernised festive traditional dress for the region of Coburg, from: Trachtenberatung Oberfranken (Traditional Dress Consulting, Upper Franconia)

Right: Historical traditional dress from around 1860, from: Gerätemuseum des Coburger Landes (The regional farming equipment museum), Ahorn



Girls in festive traditional dress Southern Thuringia, 1843, from: Landesbibliothek Coburg, L. sel. 90 (Coburg Folder)

#### **Bedford's Coburg - Revisited**

#### EXHIBITION

#### Landesbibliothek Coburg

12 December 2011 – 24 February 2012

Mon-Thur 10:00-17:00 Fri+Sat 10:00-13:00

Schlossplatz 1 (Ehrenburg) 96450 Coburg Tel (09561) 8538-0 Fax (09561) 8538-201

www.landesbibliothek-coburg.de geschaeftsstelle@ landesbibliothek-coburg.de n 1857 Queen Victoria gave Prince
Albert an album with photographs of
Coburg with its Veste, the castles of
Rosenau and Callenberg and the country
folk of Coburg in their "Sunday best" and in
their working clothes. Francis Bedford (1816–
1894), who was a very well-known photographer at the time, had taken the pictures in
June 1857.



Coburg has changed considerably since 1857. The little royal residence has developed into a modern medium-sized town, which is a regional centre today. For the exhibition, Manfred Nehab follows in the footsteps of Francis Bedford and demonstrates the transformation of Coburg in large-format black and white photos taken from the same perspectives as Bedford took his photographs.

#### Market Square, Coburg

The photos show the town hall with the Spenglersbrunnen, or Spengler's fountain, in the foreground. The Prince Albert memorial was erected in 1865, four years after the death of the Prince Consort.



#### In the Footsteps of Prince Albert in the Town Centre of Coburg

EXHIBITION

#### State Archive Coburg

9 September – 23 November 2011

Mon-Thurs 8:00-16:00 Fri 8:00-13:30

Herrngasse 11 96450 Coburg Tel. (09561) 427070 Fax (09561) 4270720

www.gda.bayern.de/ archive/coburg poststelle@staco.bayern.de rchives are the memories of the administration, as well as places of remembrance and identity of a town or region. In the State Archive

Coburg, documents constitute memorials in their own right.

In 1840, a legally binding contract was concluded on the marriage between Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, and an elaborate copy of it has survived. Furthermore, the State Archive has the documents from the occasion of the presentation of the insignia of the Order of the Garter, as can be seen on the Prince Albert memorial on the Market Square, and his investiture as Prince Consort. In spite of, or perhaps because of his obvious influence as the Oueen's advisor, Albert had had to wait for that title for years. Moreover, the copies of his birth, marriage and death certificates, the probate copy of his will and the letters exchanged with his brother Ernst grant an insight into Albert's personal outlook on life.

The documents can be viewed in the reading room. In autumn 2011, they will form the foundation of an exhibition in co-operation with the Prince Albert Society.

Marriage contract between Victoria and Albert from 1840 StACO, LA A Urk 161. de the mitgaling and mitgat I de the first for the first of graften of the formal of the first o

A letter from Albert to Ernst, 1840 StACO, LA A 6070

The **Prinz-Albert-Gesellschaft**, or Prince Albert Society, was founded on 7 March 1981 by the University of Bayreuth and the town of Coburg.

Their aim is to foster the German-British heritage of Prince Albert and to promote research into scientific, cultural and political aspects of the German-British relationship. They pursue their scientific concerns with annual German-British conferences in Coburg and London, accompanying seminars for students, their series of publications, as well as organising essay competitions in the context of the Duke of Gloucester's Essay Prize and the Hans-von-Herwarth-Prize.

Since their foundation, they have cultivated close co-operation with British scientists and research institutions. Currently, the society has around 260 members from diverse areas of education and professions, from Germany and English speaking countries.

More information is available from the Chairman of the society, Prof Dr Dieter Weiß (dieter.weiss@uni-bayreuth.de) and the Managing Director, Michael Eckstein MA. (MHGEckstein@arcor.de).



#### **Prince Albert and Natural History**

#### EXHIBITION

#### Naturkunde-Museum Coburg

18 September 2011 – 26 February 2012

daily 9:00-17:00

Park 6 96450 Coburg Tel (09561) 8081-0 Fax (09561) 8081-40

www.naturkunde-museumcoburg.de info@naturkunde-museumcoburg.de

#### Ichtyosaurus communis

The skull of a 180 million-yearold prehistoric fish from the lias cliffs of Lyme Regis was sent to Coburg by Prince Albert. t is not widely known that Albert from Saxe-Coburg and Gotha was greatly interested in the natural sciences. Even as a child, he began—with his brother Ernst—to compile a natural history cabinet, which consisted, in 1837, of stones and minerals as well as over 600 bird specimens. In 1844, the two founded the "Ducal Natural History Cabinet".

The development of the Ducal Natural History Cabinet is presented extensively in the exhibition. The contemporary bird specimens, fossils, snails and the scientific literature of the time are important exhibits. A different part of the exhibition is dedicated to natural history research in Victorian England. The role Albert played is demonstrated by the establishment of the first dinosaur park in Sydenham in 1854.





**Dapedium** 180 million-year-old Moon Fish from the lias cliffs of Lyme Regis



Achatinella sanguinea Endemic land snails from Hawaii

#### **Studio Glass from Great Britain**

#### EXHIBITION

# **European Museum of Modern Glass**

6 May – 6 November 2011

daily 9:30-13:00 + 13:30-17:00

Rosenau 10 96472 Rödental Tel (09563) 1606 Fax (09561) 879-66

www.kunstsammlungen-coburg.de glasmuseum@ kunstsammlungen-coburg.de he studio glass movement, which began in the early 1960s, received important impulses from Great Britain. The erection of a glass kiln at the Royal College of Art by Samuel Hermann in 1966 was decisive. Within only a few years, a lively, diverse and innovative glass scene is born in Great Britain. The exhibition provides an overview of British glass art over the last 50 years. Objects from the museum's own collections are complemented by outstanding pieces from national and international collections.



**Tunnel Vision III**Carl Nordbruch
(Isle of Wight \*1967)

**Untitled**Colin Reid
(Poynton, Cheshire \*1953)



# Drawing, Permanence and Place. An Exhibition of Contemporary British Enamel

EXHIBITION

#### Kunstverein, local art association, Coburg 3 September – 9 October 2011

Tue - Sat 14:00 - 17:00 Sun 10:00 - 12:30 + 14:00 - 17:00

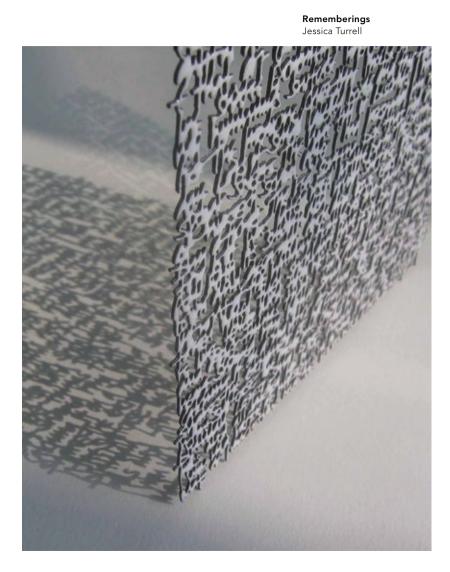
Park 4 96450 Coburg Tel (09561) 25808

www.kunstverein-coburg.de mail@kunstverein-coburg.de

n autumn 2011, the local art association will be showing British decorative arts under the title "Drawing, Permanence and Place", and will thus once again be true to its tradition as an "Art and Crafts Association". However, on the other hand 150 years after his death, it also commemorates the great son of the town of Coburg, Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's husband, as the decisive planner of the first World's Fair, the Great Exhibition, in London in 1851 and thus one of the greatest patrons of the arts and crafts.



**Weizenwoge** Beate Gegenwart



# The Study of Design in Germany since 1851

EXHIBITION

#### Hofbrauhaus Coburg Alte Darre

2 December 2011 – 5 January 2012

Opening hours on request

Am Hofbräuhaus 1 96450 Coburg Tel (09561) 3549540 Fax (09561) 3549549

www.c-d-o.de kontakt@c-d-o.de

#### **Crystal Palace**

The Great Exhibition in 1851 took place in Joseph Paxton's famous building.

hat is the connection between
Prince Albert and the University
of Applied Sciences? Historically
speaking, there is probably no

direct connection; after all when Queen Victoria's husband was alive, Coburg only had a small, regionally focused school for (builders) craftsmen, which is unlikely to have caught the attention of the art-minded Prince far away in England. However, as the Coburg University of Applied Sciences is descended from that school for craftsmen and today includes a widely-known faculty of design, it is possible to at least indirectly bridge the gap to Albert. It was namely the Great Exhibition, which Albert helped to initiate in London in 1851, which inspired the German architect Gottfried Semper



to write some fundamental considerations on a necessary reform of the study of design. For some time afterwards, Semper's thoughts, in diverse interpretations, were to influence the debates about programme, aims and didactics of the "schools of design", and not only in Germany



The Studio Exhibition is conceived and designed by students of interior design in the faculty of design at the Coburg University of Applied Sciences. In words and images, it aims – without claiming to be complete – to give a brief overview of the development of the study of design in Germany since 1851. Semper's ideas are at the centre, however, "modern", avant-garde educational institutes such as the Bauhaus or special regional approaches are also presented. And it is, after all, about which of the questions that arose from the Great Exhibition of 1851 are still relevant to the study of design today – particularly for the faculty of design at the Coburg University of Applied Sciences.

Hofbrauhaus Coburg
The interior design and
integrated product design
courses at the Coburg
University of Applied
Sciences have been
located here since 1999.

# Design: Aaron Rößner, CO3 Büro für Gestaltung

## albert

#### prince of coburg

#### 1819-**1861**

Tourist Herrngasse 4
Information 96450 Coburg

Tel (09561) 89-8000 Fax (09561) 89-8029 info@coburg-tourist.de www.coburg-tourist.de

OPENING HOURS APRIL - OCTOBER

Monday-Friday 9:00-18:30 Saturday 10:00-15:00 Sunday 10:00-14:00

NOVEMBER - MARCH

Monday-Friday 9:00-17:00 Saturday 10:00-15:00

Integriertes Stadtmarketing Herrngasse 4 96450 Coburg Tel (09561) 89-2335

Fax (09561) 89-62335 stadtmarketing@coburg.de www.stadtmarketing-coburg.de

Für die professionelle Übersetzung bedanken wir uns sehr herzlich bei der ASCO Sprachenschule Coburg.