

Internship in Dresden Summer 2019 — Corinne Muller '21 and Katie Christoph '21
(Written last summer.)

Viele Grüße aus Dresden! It's Katie and Corinne, writing from the Florence on the Elbe. This summer, we're completing two of the German Department's internships in one of Europe's most culturally-rich cities. Corinne has spent the past seven weeks at the Dresden State Art Collections, translating a collections catalogue from German to English and assisting curators in preparing a new permanent exhibition of ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern sculpture. Katie has been working at the *Stiftung Frauenkirche Dresden*, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the unique Baroque architecture and rich spiritual life of Dresden's most iconic landmark, where she is completing numerous translation projects and creating an oral history of the church's diverse visitorship while assisting the team when it is open to the public. Dresden's extensive network of museums dates back to the 16th century, when the Saxon kings began collecting art during the Baroque. Dresden's *Skulpturensammlung* allows Corinne to interact with sculptures, ceramics, and funerary objects ranging from 5,000 to 200 years old. The most thrilling experience of her work thus far has been being able to hold in her own hands an approximately 4,600-year-old Cycladic idol figurine (especially exciting after having taken Bryan Burns' Bronze Age Archaeology class this past spring!).

Dresden's *Frauenkirche* was originally constructed in the 18th century and its unique bell-shaped dome now commands the skyline — but that wouldn't have been the case if you were looking over the river twenty years ago. The church was destroyed during the Allied bombing of Dresden in 1945; after the war's end, the ruins of the church remained in the center of the city as an anti-war memorial until reconstruction began after the reunification of Germany. One of the most rewarding aspects of Katie's work so far has been the opportunity to speak with visitors from across Germany during open church hours to create a quasi-oral history. It's quite emotional.



Beyond Dresden, we have been able to travel to other destinations in eastern Germany and Europe including Prague, Leipzig, the Sächsische Schweiz, and most recently, Berlin! We're enjoying the opportunity to learn about German culture by visiting museums like Dresden's Military History Museum and the Pergamon Museum in Berlin, watching Dirty Dancing at Dresden's open-air cinema on the Elbe (dubbed in German, which makes the delivery of the iconic line "Nobody puts Baby in a corner" markedly less moving, we must say), and eating more than our fair share of the *Brot und Kuchen* (bread and cake!) for which Germany is so famous—all while practicing our German and trying to make sense of *Sächsisch*, one of Germany's most peculiar dialects.