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The frontispiece shows the Neumayer-Research-Station, Antarctica.
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Preface

With the symposium "Perspectives of Modern Polar Research" (from 24 to 26 June 2001) POLLICHIA reentered the territory of international science. It was initiated by Georg von Neumayer's 175th anniversary. As Society of Natural Sciences and Protection of the Environment POLLICHIA owes many thanks to that great scientist.

Also being busy in the Palatinate Georg von Neumayer mainly worked in Hamburg. There he founded the German Marine Institute and was in charge of it for 27 years. So we are very pleased that Prof. Dr. Peter Ehlers – representing the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency – participated in our symposium.

Prof. Dr. Jörn Thiede from Alfred-Wegener-Institute for Polar and Marine Research in Bremerhaven highly contributed to the programme of the symposium. His activities and the participation of many of his scientists emphasize the close relationship between Georg von Neumayer and the tasks of Alfred-Wegener-Institute.

Moreover, Prof. Dr. Eugen Seibold, former president of the German Research Foundation (DFG), took part in the conference and represented one of the most important German research communities. Prof. Dr. Georg Kleinschmidt, president of German Society for Polar Research, participated as well.

In addition scientists from the United States, Great Britain, Denmark, Norway, Russia and Israel joined the symposium. Above all we were pleased to welcome Prof. Dr. Leonard Johnson from the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. He is the holder of the Neumayer-Medal 2001 which was awarded to him by POLLICHIA for his contribution to international polar research.

Oliver Röller, secretary of POLLICHIA, was in overall charge of the symposium. I thank him for his outstanding commitment.

By the present "Proceedings" POLLICHIA is in the position to publish nearly all lectures given in our symposium. In their variety they provide an idea of the complexity of modern polar research: lithospheric breakup, rotation hypothesis, grounding icebergs, decadal variability, distribution of zooplankton and marine invertebrates are only some aspects.

The documentation of the symposium – including the summarizing report and two short items which were not given in Bad Dürkheim but belong to the subject "Neumayer and polar research" – could be realized because all lecturers authorized POLLICHIA to publish their contributions.

I say many thanks to the executive editor of the present "Proceedings" Dr. Klaus Kremb and his son and co-editor stud.ing. Carsten Kremb. I also thank Walter Maul (Rockenhausen), Alfred Blauth (Winnweiler), Helga Lörscher (Kaiserslautern), Peter Brünker (Bolanden), Friedrich Hüttenberger (Kaiserslautern) and Florian Sperling (Bischheim) for translations.

I am handing over the "Proceedings" as a supplement of volume 88 (2001) of our "Mitteilungen" and as an independent print.

Finally I hope that the first "Proceedings" will initiate more issues, the latest in 2007 when the next POLLICHIA polar symposium will be held. And for this next meeting I hope to realize another project: publishing the first volume of Neumayer's collected works.

E. Friedrich

Bad Dürkheim, Germany
March 2002

President of POLLICHIA
Prof. Dr. Eckhard Friedrich

Foreword

What do Rhineland-Palatinate and the Antarctic Ocean have in common? Why did famous scientists from all over the world between 24 and 26 June 2001 pick Bad Dürkheim in the Palatinate for an international symposium in order to attend to lectures about polar explorations? The answer is fairly simple: Georg von Neumayer.

Born in Kirchheimbolanden on 21 June 1826, deceased in Neustadt a. d. W. on 24 May 1909, Georg von Neumayer has remained an internationally acclaimed and very renowned model citizen of our federal state up to almost one hundred years after his death, especially because of his scientific merits. The fact that a polar station, which was built by German explorers in Antarctica twenty years ago, bears his name proves the point. As an excellent, internationally renowned navigator and geophysicist, founder of the Flagstaff Observatory in Melbourne and first director of the German Naval Observatory, he never forgot his Palatine origins. Although not exactly located in polar regions, Bad Dürkheim in Rhineland-Palatinate is for this very reason quite fitting a place for a first-rate international symposium about perspectives of polar exploration 175 years after Neumayer's birth.

I hope that despite their busy schedules, all participants from Germany and abroad took the chance to enjoy the sights of our sun-kissed Palatinate home and the hospitality of its people. Maybe they were able to take some of it with them to their often chilly exploration sites. The publication of the lectures of this symposium will hopefully make the results of the First International Neumayer Symposium available to a larger audience and thereby support international polar exploration and oceanography.

After the success of the first symposium, as the Prime Minister of Rhineland-Palatinate I therefore look forward to an equally successful Second International Neumayer Symposium in Rhineland-Palatinate very soon.



Mainz, Germany
March 2002

Prime Minister
Kurt Beck

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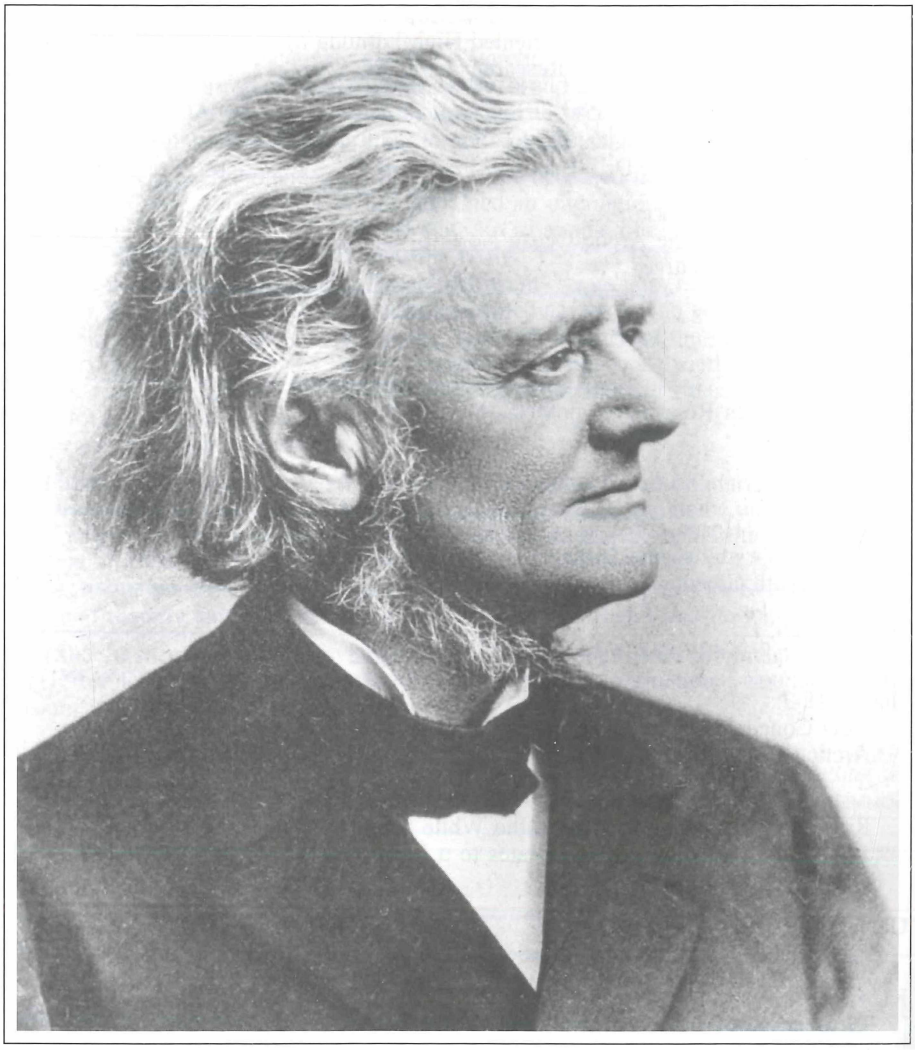
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