

16/8/48

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ACCADEMIA BRITANNICA
VALLE GIULIA
ROMA

Dear Professor Baethgen,

I obtained your address this afternoon from Dr. Hagemann, at present librarian of the German library which is housed in the Vatican. I had called to tell him that although since May I had twice written to Dr. Henning to ask if I could come to Pommersfelden during the summer vacation to consult him and to work through the diplomas of the emperor Henry VI of Hohenstaufen, which in our previous correspondence Dr. Henning had said were to be found there, I had received no reply. Dr. Hagemann answered that he too had for some months passed received no reply to his letters to Dr. Henning and Dr. Opitz and in fact the only news he had had from MHG had been a letter from yourself. He therefore advised me to write to you at your Munich address.

A foreigner, as you are probably aware, may not at present enter Germany unless a request for his or her presence has been made to the American authority by a German institution. I should be most grateful if the Reichsinstitute would make such a request on my behalf for the month of September. My reason for wishing to come is that, during the coming year, as Suzette-Taylor Fellow of Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford I hope to complete my D.Phil. thesis on conditions, political and administrative in S. Italy between 1190 and 1198. This entails careful study of those diplomas of the emperor Henry VI which concern the kingdom of Sicily, and Dr. Henning to whom I wrote early in the year then replied that the work on these diplomas was far advanced and there was no need to rely solely on Stumpf's register. In addition since in October I hope to travel extensively in S. Italy in search of the diplomas of Henry's rival Tancred, I am anxious to familiarise myself with the work already done on the diplomas of Henry VI in order to supplement without duplicating.

Please excuse me for not having written in German, which I read quite easily but seldom write, as well as for troubling you with a matter so tedious as that of a permit.

Yours sincerely,

D. Clementi