

The History of English Studies at the University of Basel

1885	Germanisch-Romanisches Seminar founded Gustav Soldan – Professor of Comparative Romance Philology who also taught English Philology	The department occupied a room at the 'Lesegesellschaft'. In 1896 an English section was added to the Germanisches-Romanisches Seminar.
1900s	1895 <i>venia legendi</i> awarded to Gustav Binz Gustav Binz is remembered for publishing the Basel traveller Thomas Platter's account of seeing a play at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, the only one of its kind.	The department moved to the Bischofshof in 1900, to Augustinergasse 8 in 1907, to Stapfelberg 7 in 1917. In 1904 the English section became independent (Gustav Binz was director until 1908).
1910s	1908-1922 Hans Hecht (with interruptions due to World War I) In 1912 Hecht became first chair in English Philology	In 1913 the Department of English becomes a member of the <i>Deutsche Shakespeare Gesellschaft</i> .
1920s	1923-1937 Gustav Binz (lecturer and librarian at the UB; Modern Literature) 1925-1930 Gustav Hübener (chair of English; Medieval Language and Literature and American Literature)	
	Literature	Linguistics / Medieval Literature
1930s	1930-1960 German-American scholar Henry Lüdeke , Professor of English Literature who promoted American Literature (chair and head of English; <i>Geschichte der amerikanischen Literatur</i> , publ. 1952) 1936-1972 Maria Schubiger became 'Hilfslektorin', taught phonetics and intonation (In 1958 her position was changed into 'Lektorin' and she retired in 1972) 1939-1946 Eudo C. Mason, lector in Basel, initiated the theatre group (together with Lüdeke) 1954-1959 Herbert G. Wright	1932-1953 Karl Jost , Professor of Historical Linguistics and Medieval Literature 1936-1972 Maria Schubiger became 'Hilfslektorin', taught phonetics and intonation (In 1958 her position was changed into 'Lektorin' and she retired in 1972) 1939-1946 Eudo C. Mason, lector in Basel, initiated the theatre group (together with Lüdeke) 1954-1959 Herbert G. Wright
1940s		1952 establishment of the <i>James Fenimore Cooper Foundation</i> .
1950s		Student numbers in 1931: 23 Student numbers in 1939: 43 Student numbers in 1940: 40 Student numbers in 1953: 53
1960s	1960-1980 Rudolf Stamm , Professor of English and American Literature (<i>Geschichte des englischen Theaters</i> , publ. 1951) 1966-1968 first assistant Jörg Hasler 1969 first secretary Marianne Aversa	In 1966 Eduard Kolb published a seminal atlas of English dialects entitled: <i>Phonological Atlas of the Northern Region. The Six Northern Counties, North Lincolnshire and the Isle of Man</i> . The department moved to Nadelberg 6/8 in 1968. Student numbers in 1968: 130 In 1970 and 1972 a second and third assistant were hired. In 1972 the <i>Englisch-Deutsche Studienausgabe der Dramen Shakespeares</i> was initiated. Student numbers in 1972: 250
1970s		
1980s	1980-2007 Balz Engler (English Literature)	1981-2004 Hartwig Isernhagen (American and Commonwealth Literatures) 1980-2003 D.J. Allerton (Modern Linguistics)
1990s		1990-2003 Willy Elmer (Medieval Literature and Historical Linguistics)
2000s	2007- Ina Habermann (Modern English Literature and Culture) 2005-2008 Christoph Ribbat 2009- Philipp Schweighauser (North American and General Literature) 2005- Heike Behrens (Cognitive Linguistics and Language Acquisition) 2003-2008 Ingrid Piller (English Sociolinguistics and the Sociology of English as a Global Language) 2008- Miriam Locher (The Linguistics of English)	Students completing a degree in 2012: 87 Students completing a degree in 2013: 74 Students completing a degree in 2014: 75 Students completing a degree in 2015: 70 Students completing a degree in 2016: 88 Students completing a degree in 2017: 73 Students completing a degree in 2018: 81



Staff members in 2/2002

Sources: Iris Wahlen's Lizentiatsarbeit "English Studies at Basel University – A Historical Survey" (2000) and <https://english.philhist.unibas.ch/en/about-us/history/>. Please note: the list of employees is not complete.

Course offerings (Vorlesungsverzeichnis) - then and now

1969

UNIVERSITÄT BASEL	Englische Philologie
Dozenten- und Vorlesungsverzeichnis	
Sommer-Semester 1969	
Rudolf Stamm, o. Prof.	343. Shakespeare I, Mo. Di. Fr. 10–11. 344. Die englische Lyrik im 18. Jahrhundert, Di. 9–10. 345. Englische Prosa: Einführung in die englische Literaturwissenschaft (durch Dr. J. Hasler), Mo. 18–19. 346. Englische Seminare: Shakespeares Problem Plays, Fr. 16–18. 349. Englische Oberseminar: The Elizabethan Sonnet, Mo. 16–18.
Eduard Kolb, o. Prof.	354. English Semantics, Mo. Do. 9–10. 355. Englische Lyrik, Mi. 14–16. 352. Englische Prosa: Einführung in die englische Sprachwissenschaft, Mo. 16–18. 353. Englische Seminar: Das Englische in Schottland, Mi. 8–10.
N. Christoph von Nagg, P. D., o. Prof. an der Universität Bern.	356. Allgemeine Phonetik, Di. 16–17, Fr. 9–10. 357. Englische Intonationsfragen, Di. 13–15.
Maria Schubiger, Lehrerin.	360. Allgemeine Phonetik, Di. 16–17, Fr. 9–10. 357. Englische Intonationsfragen, Di. 13–15.
Colin C. Ranscombe, Lektor.	358. English Grammar: Composition and Translation for Intermediate Students, Di. 10–12. 359. English Grammar: Composition and Translation for Advanced Students I, Di. 13–15. 360. English Grammar: Composition and Translation for Advanced Students II, Di. 13–15.
161. Lectures: The Development of the English Theatre, Do. 19–20.	362. Repertoirefragen, Di. 17–18.

Timetable AT 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
08:00-09:00 Creative Writing: Songs and Poems New at the weekend	08:00-09:00 Academic Writing in English I	08:00-09:00 American Literature: Survey 1919: Modernism and Modernism	08:00-09:00 Academic Writing in English I	08:00-09:00 Academic Writing in English I Second Language Acquisition
09:00-10:00 Introduction to Literature Studies	09:00-10:00 Research methodology in Linguistics	09:00-10:00 Introduction to English Linguistics: Structure and use	09:00-10:00 Introduction to English Linguistics: Structure and use	09:00-10:00 Literature in English I: Poetry
10:00-11:00 Translation, Language Learning, and Foreign-Anglist Linguistics of English	10:00-11:00 Making Old English a Living Language: Mary Oliver, Germanic Heritage	10:00-11:00 Literature to Live	10:00-11:00 A Survey of English Literature II: Romanticism and Victorians	10:00-11:00 Introduction to English Linguistics II: Language and the mind
11:00-12:00 Contemporary Poetry	11:00-12:00 Temporal reference	11:00-12:00 Stand Up	11:00-12:00	11:00-12:00
12:00-13:00 Academic Writing in English I	12:00-13:00 Current Research in English Literature and Linguistics	12:00-13:00 Agents Interpretation: readings of culture	12:00-13:00 Introduction to English Linguistics II: Language and the mind	12:00-13:00 English Linguistics I: Sound to sentence
13:00-14:00 The American Renaissance: Research in English Linguistics	13:00-14:00	13:00-14:00 Critical Texts: a survey of world literature	13:00-14:00 Introduction to English Linguistics II: Language and the mind	13:00-14:00 The English Language in Use
14:00-15:00 Space and time in language	14:00-15:00 Introduction to literary and phonetics	14:00-15:00 Field methods in English sociolinguistics	14:00-15:00 Learning English through bilingual education: Policies, practices, and perspectives	14:00-15:00 Introduction I: Literary Studies
15:00-16:00 The Star Wars Franchise	15:00-16:00 Academic Writing in English I	15:00-16:00 Introduction to English Linguistics II: Language and the mind	15:00-16:00 Oscar Wilde and the Poet's Poet	15:00-16:00
16:00-17:00 English as a Lingua Franca	16:00-17:00 Introduction to English Linguistics I: Structure and use	16:00-17:00 Sound & Literature	16:00-17:00 Out of Africa: Novels in English from Chinua Achebe to Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	16:00-17:00

The Cooper Library at the University of Basel

By Balz Engler

The Cooper Library in the English department of Basel University consists of 1154 items, among them first editions, autographs and pieces of furniture. They were given to the department by the American writer and patron Clare Benedict. The collection represents the tastes of a wealthy, educated American woman who spent most of her life in Europe in the first half of the twentieth century.

Clare Benedict was born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1870. She was a distant relative of James Fenimore Cooper (her great-grandmother was his sister). She was wealthy and obviously never had to work for money; her wealth was based on steel and oranges (*The Benedicts Abroad* 30).

She spent much of her life in Europe, travelling with her aunt, the writer Constance Fenimore Woolson (1840–1894), later with her mother Clara (1844–1923), visiting places, attending festivals, concerts and theatrical performances. She died in 1961 in Lucerne, where she had lived since 1941, and is buried, like her aunt and her mother, at the Cimitero Acattolico in Rome.



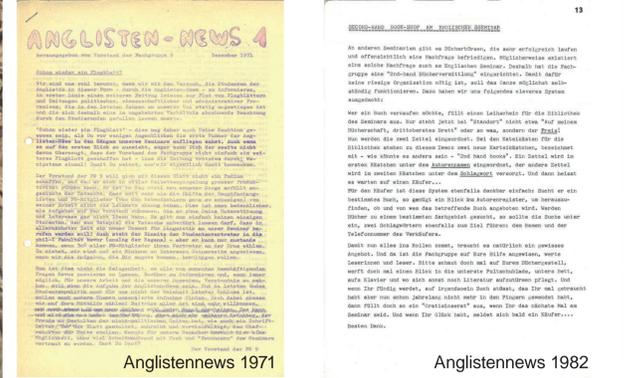
The English department of Basel university profited from her generosity in two ways: When she lived in Basel from 1939 to 1941 she became interested in the work done in the department, conducted by her countryman Henry Lüdeke. She helped to create the James Fenimore Cooper Stipendien-Fonds in 1952, to support the study of Anglo-Saxon language, literature and culture, by giving the sum of USD 20'000, equivalent to about USD 164'000 in 2010; and on her death in 1961 she bequeathed part of her library to the department.

Student Association (Fachgruppe Englisch) - then and now

1967
The Fachgruppe exhibited posters of English theatre productions in the Kollegiengebäude.

1968
According to the department's annual report, they organized an introduction evening for first-semester students for the first time and with great success.

1971
They published their first Anglistennews.



Anglistennews 1971 Anglistennews 1982

2019
The Fachgruppe still contributes to the department's lively culture and organizes pub crawls, Halloween parties, end-of-term barbecues and much more!



Halloween 2019 Word Night 2019

For more information on the Fachgruppe and their activities, please visit:

The gift to the English department did not only consist of books. In a move that may tell us something about her attitude to the practice of literature, Clare Benedict also gave along the shelves, a comfortable reading chair, a kidney-shaped table, an oriental rug, even a card table (including playing cards), the bronze statue of a dog, some cutlery, a cased drinking-glass given to her as a child by Henry James, and ribbons from the funeral of Henry Irving. The collection also includes photographs and autographs: an envelope addressed by Queen Victoria to the Queen of Belgium, letters by James Fenimore Cooper, Walter Scott, and Henry James. The holdings of the library were catalogued professionally by staff of the university library (according to author and shelf-mark).

Most of the books suggest a working library, but there are also some more precious items. There are first editions of works by Fenimore Cooper and Henry James. There is an early edition of Dickens's *Pickwick Papers*.



For more information on the Cooper Library, please visit: