Dear Friends and Colleagues.

As announced in my EM of 12/22/2017, I am sending herewith some detailed information for our **2018 Annual Meeting**, which will take place **in Görlitz between September 7 - 10 2018**. Following Peter Wogart’s and my visit on December 18 and, we have received the attached draft program from Dr. Andreas Bednarek, Director of the Academic Travel Services at Gorlitz.

We are convinced that participants will enjoy the historic city and its surroundings. Since Gorlitz itself is a border city with Poland on both sides of the River Neisse, we will not only have a chance to walk over the bridge and enjoy an evening there but will also plan to engage in a discussion with local participants on economic, political and social issues of Germany’s most eastern city. In addition, the Sunday excursion to the “Oberlausitz” will present a couple of spectacular sights and discoveries, which may be new even for people who have been in Gorlitz earlier.

Our visit takes place during a time of strong tourism demand, especially since that weekend the citizen celebrate their Annual Museums Day. With relatively few first-class hotels available we booked the two top ones, which reserved a sufficient contingent of rooms at very reasonable prices. The **Tuchmacher Hotel**("Cloth Maker“) - <http://www.tuchmacher.de/index.php/hotel.htmli-> is located in the historic city center. At the Neisse River we booked a limited number of rooms with the modern and comfortable **Park Hotel Görlitz**: <http://parkhotel-goerlitz.de/en/> Hotel prices we have been offered are as follows: Tuchmacher - € 125,40 for a double and € 86,45 for a single room; Parkhotel - € 118,50 for a double and € 105,00 for a single room. Breakfast is always included.

For the above-mentioned reasons, we recommend booking early and seriously consider taking out travel insurance in order to get the deposits returned when cancelling on a short notice.

The current participation cost estimates of about € 300 – 350 per person are based on an anticipated participation of 40 and 60 people and similar to the participation fee for the 2017 Strasbourg meeting. In case we have more than 60 participants, there might be a small decrease in the fee. We will share with you more details in the coming weeks. We currently have colleagues and friends from France and Poland, who have shown interest.

For those planning to come by plane to either Dresden or Berlin and connect from there to Görlitz, we would kindly ask for relevant information by the end of June. Train connections from Berlin to Görlitz are better than those from Dresden to Görlitz. For those arriving in Dresden, the organizer of our meeting would arrange for a shuttle service which would be cheaper than a taxi. Depending upon the arrival time, participants may have to wait for about one hour at Dresden airport for those arriving a little later. We will provide more information once we know the respective flight schedules.

Roughly two months before the Meeting we will send the menu selections and the agenda of our Board and Member Meeting. One major issue of the Meeting is the selection of two new board members. Since Diethard Hubatsch and myself are not considering re-election, we would be happy to receive early notification of possible candidates for the offices of Treasurer and Speaker.

A further point of the Agenda is the selection of the 2019 Meeting. Since the last meetings in Switzerland and Austria 7 and 3 years have passed. It would be great to receive possible proposals from either of the two countries.

A number of interested participants have shown interest to combine the Görlitz visit with excursions not only to Dresden and Breslau but also to other well known places north and east of Görlitz. This can be arranged with Dr. Bednarek. We will be in touch with him of what his Travel Service has to offer.

Liebe Grüße/Best regards

Franz Kaps

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