



Faschiana

Summer 2020
Volume 24

Newsletter of the International
Fasch Society, Zerbst/Anhalt, Germany

Dear Friends of Fasch,

it's summer and hence time for our annual newsletter. But what kind of times!

All of our lives have been impacted by a virus, and cultural life has suffered tremendously as a result. The Fasch Society has not been immune either. The upcoming International Fasch Festival – it will be the 16th – is scheduled to take place in April 2021 in Zerbst/Anhalt. At this time, nobody can predict under which conditions concerts will be presented, if at all. But you can rest assured that IFS's Executive Board and the City of Zerbst/Anhalt are working through various scenarios, and we are positive that we will come up with good ideas.

And there are rays of hope already (see p. 7)! In fact, we have been able to meet many of our goals, including the publication of the 2019 Fasch Conference Report. Thank you to Barbara M. Reul and Konstanze Musketa for all their work!

New Fasch sources also continue to come to light. Some recently found their way into the archival collection of the Zerbst Franciscum Library (p. 6).

In closing, I hope you will enjoy reading this issue, expertly prepared as usual by Barbara M. Reul.

Best wishes – and stay healthy!
Bert Siegmund, IFS president

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Important Dates and Announcements (2020):

- The **IFS Executive Board** will meet next on 15 September 2020, 6:30 pm local time, Zerbst City Hall.
- The next **AGM** of the International Fasch Society will take place on **10 October 2020, 4 pm**, Ratssaal, Zerbst City Hall, Zerbst/Anhalt. Invitations will be sent out in August and contain all necessary physical distancing information.
- The annual **IFS Christmas Concert** featuring the “Johann Friedrich Reichardt” University Chorus Halle/Saale will take place on Sunday, 13 December 2020, 5 pm local time at the Stadthalle Zerbst/Anhalt. Tickets can be ordered via e-mailing us or by calling our headquarters as well as via the Zerbst Tourist Information.
- Please visit our Facebook site (“International Fasch Society”) and our website (www.fasch.net) for additional updates regarding 2020/2021.





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Preview of the 16th International Fasch Festival, “Celebrating Johann Friedrich Fasch’s 333rd Birthday”, from 15–18 April 2020, in Zerbst/Anhalt, Germany

Without access to a crystal ball it is rather difficult to predict whether the next Fasch Festival will take place as scheduled. To that end, the International Fasch Society and the City of Zerbst/Anhalt will figure out a “Plan B” – and as they say, hope is the last to die! If all goes well, we will present a varied festival programme featuring renowned artists from Germany, France, and Austria next year, along with appealing non-musical events.

The 16th International Fasch Festival begins on 15 April 2021 with the official opening held at 7 pm at the Stadthalle Zerbst/Anhalt’s Katharina-Saal. Once again, the Fasch Prize of the City of Zerbst will be awarded during the ceremony – we will let you know more about the recipient early in the new year. At 8 pm, *L’Orchestre Heroique* directed by the world-famous violinist Anton Steck (Trossingen), will perform a wonderful programme of birthday music for the Zerbst Kapellmeister Johann Friedrich Fasch; he would have turned 333 years old on 15 April.

An international scholarly conference will take place on Friday, 16 April, most likely at the Ratssaal (Zerbst City Hall). Scholars will focus on the impact of Fasch senior and Fasch junior in Berlin, and also present new research findings on Kapellmeister Fasch’s life and works as well as musical life in Zerbst during the 18th century. Zerbst school children, their teachers, and their parents can look forward to – the always popular – school concerts at the Stadthalle Zerbst’s Katharina-Saal. A memorial concert entitled “Those who sow with

tears” to mark the 76th anniversary of the destruction of Zerbst/Anhalt, will begin at 8 pm at St. Trinitatis Church. The Sing-Akademie zu Berlin and the Lautten Compagny Berlin directed by Wolfgang Katschner will perform sacred music by Fasch senior and junior.

On Saturday, 17 April, the Zerbst Schlosskonditorei, a local pastry shop and restaurant, will host a “musical Fasch Matinée” including a “Fasch Breakfast”. Johannes Pramsohler (violin, Paris) and Philippe Grisvard (fortepiano, Paris) will perform a chamber music concert at 3 pm at St. Bartholomäi Church, to be repeated on Sunday, 18 April, 3 pm, at the Baroque Church Burgkennitz. The Zerbst hotel “von Rephuns Garten” will serve a tasty “Fasch Menu” at 5:30 pm, in time for festival visitors to attend a gala concert at 8 pm presented by the Austrian “Concilium Musicum Wien” ensemble directed by Christoph Angerer.

On Sunday, 19 April 2021, a festive worship service will be held at St. Bartholomäi Church and, as has been our

tradition, feature Zerbster Kantorei choir; in 2021, it will also include the modern premiere of a church cantata by J. F. Fasch. After the service, we meet briefly at the Fasch Memorial Stone located on nearby Neue Brücke Street. The annual general meeting of the International Fasch Society is scheduled to take place at 12 noon at the Stadthalle’s Fasch Saal. The 16th International Fasch Festival concludes, once again, with a cross-over concert, featuring “SPARK | Die klassische Band” at the Stadthalle’s Katharina-Saal.

Tickets can be ordered online at <https://www.reservix.de/tickets-internationale-fasch-festtage/t10123>. Please visit our website and our Facebook profile (“International Fasch Society”) regularly for updates regarding scheduling and programme changes.





The new *Fasch Studies* volume, no. 15, is here – “Musik in Anhalt-Zerbst” (“Music in Anhalt-Zerbst”)!

Fasch-Studien, vol. 15, Ortus, 2019, 374 pp. Editors: Barbara M. Reul and Konstanze Musketa, on behalf of the International Fasch Society and the City of Zerbst/Anhalt. 39,50 EUR, www.ortus.de.

Volume 15 of our *Fasch Studies* series appeared in late March 2020 (print run: 300 copies). It features 14 articles, with 12 being based on conference papers read in April 2019 in Zerbst/Anhalt, and two additional ones submitted on time to be included. All articles are, once again, preceded by short summaries in English and/or German to help readers access the information easily.

This volume focuses on musical life in the town of Zerbst and the principality of Anhalt-Zerbst during the tenure of J. F. Fasch (1722–1758) as Kapellmeister. Special mention should be made of the number of scholarly insights based on examination of unknown archival sources that researchers from around the world, including Germany, New Zealand, Russia, and Austria present in this volume.

Barbara M. Reul (Regina, Canada), last year’s keynote speaker, scrutinizes numerous unfamiliar sources extant at the Landesarchiv Sachsen-Anhalt in Dessau. Evidently, Zerbst court and town musicians as well as Cantors and organists took their jobs in the “princely counties” (“fürstliche Ämter”) of Zerbst, Coswig, and Rosslau very seriously and documented quarrels in detail for decades; Zerbst court officials had to mediate amongst them frequently.

Maik Richter (Halle/S.-Weissenfels) introduces new printed sources regarding musical performances that took place in Zerbst in 1717 in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Reformation. The vibrant musical life at Zerbst churches prior to J. F. Fasch’s arrival in the late summer of 1722, especially in the former Court and Collegiate Church St. Bartholomäi, is discussed in detail by Brian Clark (Arbroath, Great Britain). Gottfried Gille (Bad Langensalza) and Marc-Roderich Pfau (Berlin) turn their respective attention to sacred music by Fasch at the Zerbst Court Chapel, specifically as part of carefully designed worship services during the 1735/36 church year and on so-called Disciple Day holidays. Rashid-S. Pegah (Berlin) addresses the Zerbst enclave Jever as a preferred destination of North German Cantors. Tatiana Shabalina (St. Petersburg, Russia) introduces unknown treatises by the dancing master Gottfried Taubert who died in Zerbst in 1746; they have been preserved at the Russian National Library in St. Petersburg. Hanna Walsdorf (Leipzig), in turn, focuses on Taubert and his predecessor Anton Albrecht Borckmann and their impact on the town of Zerbst and the Zerbst court. Readers will learn about the skills of *Kapellknaben* (junior Kapelle musicians) in Zerbst and at Lutheran courts from Samantha Owens (Wellington, New Zealand). While Klaus Hubmann (Graz, Austria) sheds light on the bassoon during Fasch’s lifetime in general, Ursula Kramer (Mainz) reports on a bassoonist with the Zerbst Kapelle, Johann Christian Klotsch, whose fate had a sad financial but artistically successful ending. In contrast, musicians from the Anhalt region thrived in the Russian Empire, according to Annegret Mainzer (Zerbst/Anhalt). Janice Stockigt (Melbourne, Australia) then investigates a mysterious, short stay in Leipzig of Kapellmeister Fasch on 1 May 1738. Readers who would like to know more about how the Zerbst court made representation a priority during the first half of the 18th century should take a close look at the article by Paul Beckus (Halle/Saale).

As always, the appendix to this conference report contains indexes of locations and names prepared by Dr. Konstanze Musketa. Perhaps, some readers who live in Zerbst will find their own names among them. Short biographies of all contributing authors follow.





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It is remarkable that *Musik in Anhalt-Zerbst* was published by Ortus only eleven months after the conference was held in April 2019 (all volumes in the *Fasch Studies* series that have been published since 2008 can be ordered from Ortus as well). Once authors have submitted their written versions to the editor, it usually takes about two years for scholarly publications of this kind to appear in print, if not longer due to technical problems and scheduling issues. Since the printing costs of Fasch Conference Reports are covered by the City of Zerbst/Anhalt and have to be calculated by the end of the respective calendar year, the editing of the manuscript must be done as to be done as quickly as possible. Consequently, the main editor kept all contributors – and herself! – on their toes during the summer and early autumn of 2019 and would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their wonderful cooperation. The first complete draft of this nearly 400-page book manuscript reached the publisher, Ortus, in record time, i.e. at the end of October 2019! Proof copies were sent in December, and at the beginning of March 2020 the new *Fasch Studies* volume was finally “done and dusted”. Moreover, we got lucky at the very end because the final version of the manuscript reached the printers before the Corona virus brought everything to a standstill. Thanks to the efficiency of the German Postal Service, most authors received their complimentary copy before Easter! We hope you enjoy reading the volume.

Barbara M. Reul und Konstanze Musketa

Fasch-Question and -Answer

- *Is there still anything to be researched as far as Fasch is concerned? Won't topics become too specialized and be of use only to a small number of individuals?*

On the contrary! To date Fasch scholars have only awakened a fraction of important musical and printed/handwritten primary sources from their long archival slumber (see, e.g., the article on recent acquisitions made by the the Zerbst Franciscum Library, p. 6). It is significant that international performers and musicologists have been closely collaborating for decades. In particular, Fasch Prize recipients – including University Music Director Jens Lorenz (1995) and Dr. Gottfried Gille (2013) as well as Brian Clark (1997), Prof. Dr. Manfred Fechner (2017), and Anne Schumann (2019) – have been putting together new Fasch projects with much enthusiasm. To present music composed by our Kapellmeister to Zerbst audiences has always been and will continue to be an important goal of the International Fasch Society.



Happy 60th and 65th birthday wishes to three “Friends of Fasch”!

- We extend our best wishes on the occasion of their 60th birthday to Prof. Dr. **Wolfgang Hirschmann** (Halle/Saale), who has promoted the International Fasch Society for many years in his role as the president of the MBM (Mitteldeutsche Barockmusik in Sachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt und Thüringen, i.e. the Society for Central German Baroque Music in Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, and Thuringia), as well as to Dr. **Stephan Blaut** (Leipzig); he volunteered his time as a member of the Executive Board of the IFS for over 20 years (see *Faschiana* 2018, p. 9). We wish them both good health and hope that they will continue to support the IFS for the next 60 years!
- **Matthias Erben** (Halle/Saale) celebrates his 65th birthday in 2020. He has supported the International Fasch Society since the early 1990s as the director of the Johann Friedrich Fasch Ensemble, the Academic Orchestra of the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (Fasch Prize recipient 2003), and of the Central German Salon Orchestra. And he has always been a welcome guest in Zerbst!



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A Year in Review with the International Fasch Society (08/2019–07/2020)

- **August:** 14 scholars from all over the world and the editorial team work feverishly on the 2019 Fasch Conference Report (*Fasch Studies*, vol. 15).
- **September:** On 3 September, the Fasch Board of Trustees and the Executive Board of the IFS meet and discuss initial plans for the 16th International Fasch Festival in April 2021. On the “Day of the Open Monument” on 8 September, and during the Zerbst “Bollenmarkt” (lit. “Onion Fair”) on 28 September, visitors admire our Fasch Exhibit at the Zerbst Palace.
- **October:** The first complete draft of vol. 15 of *Fasch Studies* is sent to the publisher, Ortus, on 29 October.
- **November:** On Sunday, 17 November, two works composed by our Zerbst Kapellmeister are performed by the Purcell Kammerorkest Amsterdam at the Engelske Kerk in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. On 18 November, the Fasch Board of Trustees approves the programme for the 16th International Fasch Festival in April 2021 as proposed by the IFS Executive Board.
- **December:** The annual Christmas concert featuring the “Johann Friedrich Reichardt” University Chorus Halle-Wittenberg directed by University Music Director Jens Lorenz takes place on 7 December at the Zerbst St. Trinitatis Church. Dr. Gottfried Gille, Fasch Prize recipient 2013, travels spontaneously from Bad Langensalza to Zerbst/Anhalt to visit the Francisceum Library and examines the newly acquired printed texts documenting musical performances at the Zerbst court between 1746 and 1758 for inclusion in the latest edition of the *Fasch-Repertorium*; the IFS gifts the Francisceum Library with ten 18th-century archival sources (see p. 6).
- **January 2020:** Dr. Reginald Sanders, Kenyon College (Gambier, Ohio, USA), lets the IFS know that he is preparing a new edition of Carl Fasch’s *Mass for 16 voices*. He will make it available to the Sing-Akademie zu Berlin who will perform the work during the 16th International Fasch Festival in 2021.
- **February:** On 15 February, Ensemble Sirventes Berlin directed by Stefan Schuck premieres all of J. F. Fasch’s psalm settings. The concert is being recorded by Deutschlandradio Kultur and broadcast on 20 February; Dr. Gottfried Gille, Fasch Prize recipient 2013, writes the programme notes. In mid-February Dr. Gille provides the IFS with the new edition (December 2019) of his *Fasch-Repertorium*s, the thematic catalogue of vocal works by Johann Friedrich Fasch. We thank Dr. Gille very much for his untiring work on this important scholarly endeavour which he continues to make available for free (download it via www.fasch.net).
- **March:** In mid-March COVID-19 paralyzes the entire (musical) world. *Musik in Anhalt-Zerbst*, vol. 15 of *Fasch Studies*, appears in print in late March (www.ortus.de).
- **April:** To celebrate J. F. Fasch’s 332nd birthday, Zerbst tourist guide Jana Reifarth takes him (i.e. a small Playmobil figure in his stead, see picture/private) on a discovery tour through Zerbst.
- **May:** Unfortunately, our Fasch-Exhibit at the Zerbst Palace is not open to the public as the building remains closed due to COVID-19.
- **June:** The IFS Executive Board meets face-to-face in Zerbst/Anhalt (city hall board room), with strict health guidelines in place. Preparations for the 16th International Fasch Festival 2021 continue to be made.
- **July:** IFS members receive a letter from our general manager, Dr. Werner, informing them about past and future IFS activities.





New (Fasch) Sources at the Zerbst Franciscum Library

In November 2019, the Franciscum Library in Zerbst/Anhalt acquired an important volume of rare primary sources. They document musical performances involving the court Kapelle at the Zerbst court from 1746 to 1763, specifically at the court chapel and the palace. Corresponding scores and/or parts do not appear to be extant, but the majority of the 52 sources illustrate an important duty of Kapellmeister Johann Friedrich Fasch: he had to supply occasional music for the court of Anhalt-Zerbst on an annual basis.



To that end, three title pages bear his name. In 1756 Fasch composed a birthday “Tafelmusik” (“Table Music”) each for the Russian Grand Duchess Catherine (see the figure to the left, D-ZEo, 2°, 13m, no. 24) and her brother, Prince Friedrich August of Anhalt-Zerbst (no. 27), and one for the latter’s birthday in 1757 (no. 31). Sacred works typically do not contain references to the composer which is the case for the 12 cantata texts which Fasch set to music between 1746 and 1758 on the occasion of princely birthdays and weddings in Zerbst and births in Russia. Fasch’s authorship is beyond doubt, however, because there are no entries in the relevant Zerbst court records (extant at the Landesarchiv Sachsen-Anhalt, Dessau) that indicate payments had been made to other composers by the Zerbst court.

Moreover, this volume contains princely birthday music that was written by Johann Georg Röllig (1710–1790). He served as the interim director of the Zerbst court Kapelle after Fasch’s death on 5 December 1758. Among the texts he set are more cantatas and serenatas for Grand Duchess Catherine and her brother Friedrich August. The latter had left Zerbst in April 1758 and lived in exile until his death in 1793; his wife, Princess Caroline Wilhelmine Sophie, died in Zerbst in 1759, while Dowager Duchess Johanna Elisabeth passed away in exile in 1760. For more information on these primary sources, see the respective entries in Dr. Gottfried Gille’s *Fasch-Repertorium* (December 2019 edition, www.fasch.net).

In mid-December 2019 Bert Siegmund and Dr. Inge Werner gifted the Franciscum Library with ten rare printed texts dating from 1722 to 1800. Among them is a booklet that contains the first eight cantatas (covering the period first Sunday in Advent to Sunday after Christmas) of the cantata cycle *Lob Gottes in der Gemein[d]e*. J. F. Fasch set these works to music and performed them in the 1741/42 church year at the Zerbst court chapel. These archival sources were part of the former Zerbst musik director Gerhard Preitz’s estate and were gifted to the IFS by his relative Helmut Schmundt (Gernrode).

B. M. Reul

Happy 75th and 85th birthday wishes to two “Friends of Fasch”!

- Dr. **Inge Werner** (Zerbst/Anhalt), who has served as the IFS’s general manager for many years and was made an honorary member of the IFS in April 2019, celebrates her 75th birthday in 2020 – we owe her a debt of gratitude for her unwavering commitment!



- Best wishes must also go to **Ellen Arndt** (Gommern). She turns 85 in 2020 and was the first general manager of the IFS as well as the first Fasch Prize recipient in 1993. She received the German Order of Merit in 2014 for her volunteer work and was made honorary IFS president in 2015.



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“There are also rays of hope” – a letter by Anne Schumann, Fasch Prize recipient 2019

Dear Friends of Fasch,

I was fortunate enough to receive the Fasch Prize of the City of Zerbst over a year ago. I cannot tell you how happy I am that the International Fasch Festival took place last year and without the Corona virus. We performed a wonderful programme, and we truly enjoyed the lovely concert as well as the days we rehearsed for it in Zerbst, etc. It is horrible to think that it would all have had to be called off! Since mid-March 2020 there have been daily cancellations, and there does not seem to be an end in sight. What is going to happen? When will we return to a normal concert life?

Every single project – which is not only fun, but also helps me make a living – that was scheduled until the fall has been cancelled. I had been looking forward to so many concerts for months! But there are rays of hope. On the “Fête de la musique Day” we played our traditional summer festival concert in Leipzig together with the “Chursächsische Capelle Leipzig” ensemble. It was a joy to see how we, the performers, and our audience (there was more than enough space on the lawn!) positively soaked up the music – it was a celebration.

How does a freelance Baroque violinist spend her time during lockdown and the imposed silence? Initially, I was in a state of shock, reacting to something that had never occurred before. We are all familiar with problems to

do with ourselves, the world, friends, or work; they happen and can be accepted as such somehow. But a tiny virus that makes an impact on the entire world – what is one supposed to do about that? Consequently, I have begun to change my usual approach and try to make the most of each day, enjoy it, and change my outlook on life without thinking of the future. Living in the Harz region is a blessing in this regard, too, as one does not encounter many people in the woods. Getting some exercise during the beautiful spring season was very good for me and managed to distract me from dark thoughts about the future.

When I began pondering how I could use the time gifted to me to benefit my artistic endeavours, friends inspired us to organize private “living room concerts” online (see picture above/private). We recorded many short videos and then put them on Youtube; that way everyone can enjoy our contributions on their own time! We had endless fun coming up with a different setting and a suitable concert attire for each concert. I was lucky in that my “personal bass player” Klaus Voigt and his Viola da spalla are at my disposal at home; this made things a whole lot easier as well. I would love to send you links to some of these videos. Please contact me via e-mail – resonanzseite (at) gmail.com – if you are interested. Our “concert listeners” even paid for concert tickets as a sign of their gratitude and support! We were thrilled about that and now feel encouraged to finally tackle a CD project that has been many years in the making. It will not be a Fasch-CD, however, as only small ensembles are allowed. Fasch should have composed a few violin sonatas, you know...! His contemporary Johann Graf, concert master in Rudolstadt, is worth discovering. Perhaps, there were works by Fasch among the music which this court in Thuringia had acquired via Graf – or vice versa; we cannot be sure. In any case, we should be most grateful for any donations or preliminary CD orders!

And now you know what life is like for a Fasch Prize recipient one year after she received it. I am not going to give in, though. I want to continue bringing joy and comfort to people with my music. Perhaps, we can organize a live concert in your house or on your balcony very soon! Feel free to contact me if you are interested.



Best wishes from Anne Schumann



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“Fasch Trip” planned to Silesia (Poland) in Autumn 2021!

We hope to visit the town of Wrocław, Poland (known as Breslau in German) and the Hirschberg Valley. They are known for many carefully restored historical mansions surrounded by small parks. This destination was suggested by IFS members with family ties in that region. Was Fasch’s music known in Silesia? We have until next year to come up with the answer. Our tour guide will be Herr Prasse (Coswig/Anhalt). If you are interested in joining us, please send an e-mail to IFaschG@t-online.de.

Did you know that ...?

- Hans-Heinrich Kriegel (Fasch Prize Recipient 2011) has edited and published 7 oboe concertos (a1, G2, d2, d3, G9, 10, 11) and 4 Sinfonias (a1, A1, A2, A3) by J. F. Fasch with www.kammermusikverlag.de?
- Carl Friedrich Christian Fasch, born on 18 November 1736 in Zerbst/Anhalt and founder of the Sing-Akademie zu Berlin, died on 3 August 1800, i.e. 220 years ago this year?
- An article authored by Dr. Bernd Koska (Bach Archive Leipzig) on private students of J. S. Bach that appeared in the recent *Bach-Jahrbuch* 2019 issue contains information regarding Johann Heinrich Heil (1706–1764) whom Kapellmeister Fasch must have known personally? Heil, an organist, had already performed (albeit on violin) with the High Princely Court Kapelle in 1745. In 1758, Heil successfully applied for the vacant organist’s post at the former Court and Collegiate Church St. Bartholomäi, located near the Zerbst Palace. Archival materials extant at the Landesarchiv Sachsen-Anhalt in Dessau show that this musicians’s “slovenly way of life” annoyed his colleagues tremendously. Heil was approximately 58 years old when he died from alcohol abuse and gluttony.

Congratulations to all IFS members and Friends of Fasch celebrating a milestone birthday in 2020!

55th birthday: B. Siegmund (Heimburg); Dr. Elena Sawtschenko (Regensburg);

60th birthday: Prof. Dr. W. Hirschmann (Halle/S.); P. Krombholz (Zerbst/Anhalt); Dr. S. Blaut (Leipzig);

65th birthday: U. Schönefeld (Zerbst/Anhalt); S. Kulisch (Zerbst/Anhalt), M. Erben (Halle/Saale); K. Elß (Zerbst/Anhalt)

70th birthday: Dr. Dr. E. Gueinzus (Bitterfeld-Wolfen), J. Hauschildt (Zerbst/Anhalt); C. Goeldner (Magdeburg)

75th birthday: Dr. I. Werner (Zerbst/Anhalt); Dr. U. Fach (Zerbst/Anhalt);

80th birthday: T. Wendel (Zerbst/Anhalt); K.-P. Hanser (Tübingen); K. Drechsel (Zerbst/Anhalt); K. Krümmeling (Zerbst/Anhalt);

85th birthday: E. Arndt (Gommern); G. Kaufmann (Mülsen); U. Templin (Schönebeck),
Dr. F. E. Bruggen (The Netherlands);

284th birthday: Carl Friedrich Christian Fasch (born on 18 November 1736 in Zerbst)

332nd birthday: Johann Friedrich Fasch (born on 15 April 1688 in Buttstedt near Weimar)



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