



German History in Documents and Images

Volume 4. Forging an Empire: Bismarckian Germany, 1866-1890

Practical Courses Offered by the Vocational Schools of the Lette Association (1871-1872; 1879)

In nineteenth-century Germany, women were not yet admitted to university studies. However, their education became more important and attracted more public discussion as the century wore on. Whereas the regular public school system did not afford women many opportunities, private initiatives sometimes filled the need for women's vocational and "business" training. As illustrated in this list of courses offered by the Lette Association – founded in 1866 by Wilhelm A. Lette (1799-1868) – emphasis was put on traditional domestic roles and fund-raising activities for women, not on higher intellectual or scientific pursuits.

I. Business school of the Lette Association (as of 1871/72)

Admission requirements: 1st or 2nd grade of the higher (secondary) school for girls, at least 15 years of age.

Duration: 1 year (12 hours a week);

School fees: 50 thalers and 2 thalers fees;

Cost of full board: 17 thalers a month.

Subjects: Business correspondence,
business mathematics,
office work and correspondence,
accounting,
business and trade studies,
monetary and exchange system, coins, weights and measures, etc.
English and French languages,
correspondence and conversation 6 hrs. a week
German 4 hrs. a week

Management of the school: Professor Clement

II. Vocational school of the Lette Association (as of 1871/72)

Industrial drafting	(1 year or ½, 8 hours a week, 4 thalers per month)
Practical tailoring, clothes-making and ready-made clothing	(2 months, 6-9 hours a week, 5 thalers per month)
Linen tailoring	(3 months, 4 hours a week, 2 thalers per month)
Sewing instruction for hand-sewing, linen embroidery, and invisible mending	(monthly, 6 hours a week, 1 thaler)
Machine sewing	(monthly, 4 hours a week, 4 thalers per month)
Wreath and bouquet making	(3 months, 4 hours a week, 4 thalers per month)
Cleaning class	(3 months, 4 hours a week, 4 thalers per month)

Management of the school: Karl Weiß

III. State of the schools in 1879

Business school	83 female students
Drafting school	55
Sculpting course	8
Course for needlework teachers	43
Needlework	193
Craft work school	36
Tailoring class	354
Cleaning class	134
Machine sewing	133
Linen tailoring	104
Wreath and bouquet making	9
Hairdressing	22
Cooking school	65
Laundry and ironing institute	140
Typesetter school	c. 30
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	1,409 female students

IV. Additional facilities of the Lette Association (as of 1879)

Viktoria Foundation (boarding)
Viktoria Bazaar
Ladies' restaurant
Loan society
Sewing machine fund
Further education school

Assets in 1879	6,577.34 marks
Revenue	<u>41,406.99 marks</u>
	47,984.33 marks
Expenditures	<u>41,824.26 marks</u>
<u>Balance</u>	<u>6,160.07 marks</u>

Source: (for I and II) *Frauen-Anwalt* [Women's Advocate] 3, no. 2 (1872-1873): pp. 90-91; *Frauen-Anwalt* [Women's Advocate] no. 4 (1880): pp. 121ff.

Original German texts reprinted in Margrit Twellmann, *Die Deutsche Frauenbewegung im Spiegel repräsentativer Frauenzeitschriften. Ihre Anfänge und erste Entwicklung* [The German Women's Movement as Reflected in Representative Women's Journals: Its Beginnings and Initial Development], 2 vols., vol. 2, *Quellen 1843-1889* [Sources 1843-1889]. Meisenheim am Glan: A. Hain, 1972, pp. 453-55.

Translation: Erwin Fink