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978-0-521-84769-8 - Popular Culture and the Public Sphere in the Rhineland,  
1800-1850

James M. Brophy

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## POPULAR CULTURE AND THE PUBLIC SPHERE IN THE RHINELAND, 1800–1850

The age of revolution challenged the *ancien régime's* political world, introducing Europeans to new ideals of citizenship. German society was no less affected. Following the Napoleonic era, a political culture of partisan choice undermined the official restoration of absolutism. Bourgeois and popular classes took part in the new political landscape of civil society, producing an impressive social base for participatory politics by the 1830s. Because of severe restrictions on speech and assembly, ordinary Germans formed political opinions in irregular ways. This book looks at the sites and forms of culture that facilitated political communication. With chapters devoted to reading, singing, public space, carnival, tumult, and religion, James Brophy argues that popular culture played a critical role in linking ordinary Rhinelanders to the public sphere. Moving beyond conventional explanations of opinion formation, he breaks new ground by exposing the broad cultural infrastructure that enabled popular classes to join the political nation.

JAMES M. BROPHY is Associate Professor of History at the University of Delaware. He is the author of *Capitalism, Politics, and Railroads in Prussia, 1830–1870* (1998) and is co-editor of the primary source reader, *Perspectives from the Past: Readings in Western Civilizations* (3rd edition, 2005).

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JAMES M. BROPHY

*University of Delaware*



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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press  
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521847698](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521847698)

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First published 2007

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

ISBN 978-0-521-84769-8 hardback

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*To my parents*

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## *Acknowledgments*

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the numerous debts that I have incurred while researching and writing this book. The National Endowment of the Humanities and the American Philosophical Society provided indispensable financial support for archival research in 1998–9; although overdue, my thanks are no less diminished. I am furthermore grateful to the University of Delaware and Princeton University Library, which provided short-term grants for travel, research, and time to write. Many archivists and librarians in Germany and the United States assisted me in my research, and I am indebted to them all. They are too many to mention by name but Dr. Walter Rummel of the Landesarchiv Koblenz, Frau Barbara Boock of the Deutsches Volksliedarchiv, and especially Dr. Eberhard Illner of the Historisches Archiv der Stadt Köln have my deepest thanks for their advice and efforts in locating important source material. Dr. Werner Schäfke and the staff of the Kölnisches Stadtmuseum are also warmly thanked for their uncomplicated cooperation with research and image reproduction. With indefatigable efficiency, the Interlibrary Loan Office at the University of Delaware's Morris Library assisted me with numerous and obscure requests. I am extremely grateful for this staff's extra efforts, as well as its tolerance toward late returns.

Rarely is scholarship achieved in isolation, and certainly this project came to fruition because of friends and generous colleagues. To break with a last-but-not-least convention, I want to express my gratitude to Susan McKenna, my wife, for her assistance, companionship, and unfailing kindness. She not only lent willing ears and eyes to this project but also juggled a busy family life and her own academic career to give time to me. My two children, Sarah and Matthew, also have my eternal thanks for their encouragement, good cheer, and optimistic perspective on life. In a similar vein, I am immeasurably grateful to Marlene Albrecht-Illner, Eberhard Illner, and their children, Katja, Cornelius, and

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Fabian. During the principal period of research in 1998–9, the Illner family helped out with lodging, Kindergarten, and sundry necessities of family survival. The late Frau Erika Illner selflessly assumed the role of a German grandmother for our two children. My family will always remember her and the kindness of the entire Illner family.

On the scholarly front, I thank Dr. Jürgen Herres for his generous collegiality in providing materials and answering numerous inquiries about Rhenish history. Tom Prasch, Barbara Boock, and Celia Applegate read earlier versions of individual chapters, and I thank them for their suggestions. Jonathan Sperber offered critical support in early phases of the project and also read the final typescript. His trenchant criticisms sharpened the argument, and I thank him for his time and concern. David E. Barclay also offered invaluable advice in the book's planning stages, and I greatly appreciate his willingness to share his expertise. Dr. Désirée Schauz and Dr. Christina Frohn provided me with not-yet-published theses, and I thank them for their willingness to share their research. The Max Planck Institute for History in Göttingen, the University of Chemnitz, Rutgers University, the University of Oregon, and the Mid-Atlantic Seminar for German History provided congenial forums for presenting preliminary versions of my research. *Past & Present* printed an earlier version of chapter ; and sections from chapters and drew on essays published in the *Journal of Social History* and *German History* – my thanks to these journals for their permission to reprint material. I further thank editor Michael Watson, assistant editor Isabelle Dambricourt, series editor Chris Clark, and the anonymous referees at Cambridge University Press for their assistance and excellent advice. In North America, Margaret L. Anderson, David Gramit, Peter Fritzsche, and Arne Koch offered support and suggestions of various kinds; in Germany, Frau Beatrix Alexander, Dr. Bärbel Holz, and Dr. Michael Knieriem provided materials and archival recommendations. Herr Josef E. Reich of Waldkirch kindly photographed his barrel organ for this book; and Dr. Ulrich Wimmer of Düsseldorf took a day to educate me about mechanical music. At the University of Delaware, both the Department of History and the administration have offered consistent support for this research, and I express my sincerest appreciation. Other colleagues at my university warrant special thanks: the Morris Library staff, especially Elise Calvi of the Preservation Department, who meticulously restored water-damaged material after a library flood; Linda W. Parrish of the Geography Department for her map of the Rhineland; Angie Hoseth and Tracy Jentsch of the History Media Center for their

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help with technical matters; Karen Kral of IT Services for her software solutions; and, finally, Professors Dan Callahan, Annette Giesecke, and Bruno Thibault for their help with certain translations. It goes without saying that any errors found within these covers are solely mine.

This book is dedicated to my parents, Elizabeth Bergen Brophy and James David Brophy, a gesture that inadequately acknowledges their friendship, love, and support through the years.

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<i>ADB</i>	<i>Allgemeine Deutsche Biographie</i>
AEK	Historisches Archiv des Erzbistums Kölns
<i>AfS</i>	<i>Archiv für Sozialgeschichte</i>
<i>AHR</i>	<i>American Historical Review</i>
BM	Bürgermeister, Mayor
<i>CEH</i>	<i>Central European History</i>
DVA	Deutsches Volksliedarchiv Freiburg im Breisgau
<i>GiK</i>	<i>Geschichte in Köln</i>
GLA	General Landesarchiv Karlsruhe
GS	Graphische Sammlung
<i>GSKP</i>	<i>Gesetz-Sammlung für die Königlichen Preussischen Staaten</i>
GStAPK	Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preußischer Kulturbesitz Dahlem-Berlin
HAStK	Historisches Archiv der Stadt Köln
HStAD	Hauptstaatsarchiv des Rheinland-Westfalens Düsseldorf
HStAM	Hessisches Staatsarchiv Marburg
<i>HZ</i>	<i>Historische Zeitschrift</i>
IM	Innenminister, Minister of the Interior
<i>JbwL</i>	<i>Jahrbuch für westdeutsche Landesgeschichte</i>
<i>JMH</i>	<i>Journal of Modern History</i>
<i>JSH</i>	<i>Journal of Social History</i>
KSM	Kölnisches Stadtmuseum
LAS	Landesarchiv Speyer
LHAK	Landeshauptarchiv Koblenz
LR	Landrat, Prefect
<i>NDB</i>	<i>Neue Deutsche Biographie</i>
OBM	Oberbürgermeister, Lord Mayor
OP	Oberpräsident, Provincial Governor
<i>P&amp;P</i>	<i>Past &amp; Present</i>

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PD	Polizeidirektor, Police Director
Pr	Präsidialregistratur
RA	Regierung Aachen
RBSCPU	Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University
RD	Regierung Düsseldorf
<i>RhBA</i>	<i>Rheinische Briefe und Akten zur Geschichte der politischen Bewegungen</i>
RK	Regierung Köln
RP	Regierungspräsident, District Governor

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Fig. 1 Map of the Rhineland in 1832.