

Liebe Leserinnen und Leser,

wir betrachten unseren Newsletter als ein Unterhaltungs- und Informationsblatt für die Mitglieder unserer Gesellschaft (und natürlich auch für die anderen Leser, die ihn ebenfalls erhalten). Wir freuen uns aber auch immer, wenn interessante Beiträge von den Mitgliedern kommen. In dieser Ausgabe können Sie deshalb wieder einen Bericht von **Peter Hasse** lesen, in dem er seine Eindrücke von einer Reise in die Toskana schildert. Sie finden seinen Beitrag gleich im Anschluss an dieses Vorwort.

Nicht jedem ist vielleicht bewusst, dass die Welt so manche technische oder kulturelle Errungenschaft, die gerne den Engländern als globalen Briten zugeschrieben wird, einem Schotten zu verdanken hat. Nicht wenige Schotten haben es zu internationalem Ruhm gebracht. Als ein Beispiel wäre da Alexander Fleming, der Entdecker des Penizillins, zu nennen. Auch der Erfinder des Telefons, Alexander Graham Bell, wurde in Schottland geboren. Und ohne die Dampfmaschine des Schotten James Watt hätte die industrielle Revolution möglicherweise nicht in Großbritannien begonnen. In einem Beitrag auf Seite 7 möchten wir an einen Schotten erinnern, dessen Geburtstag sich im Juni zum 150. Mal jährt. Charles Rennie Mackintosh, der einen großen Einfluss auf die Art Nouveau-Bewegung des ausgehenden 19. Jahrhunderts hatte und dem modernen Design wichtige Impulse gab, ist vielleicht nicht weltweit bekannt. In Glasgow sind die Spuren seines Wirkens jedoch allgegenwärtig.

Großbritannien ist dafür bekannt, dass dort oftmals recht skurrile Dinge passieren, wie z.B. Rad fahren im Adams- bzw. Eva- Kostüm. Einzelheiten dazu sowie weitere Meldungen von der "Insel" können Sie ab Seite 9 lesen.

Wer schon immer mal englische Fernsehserien in Originalversion sehen wollte, hat jetzt am Freitagabend bei ARD-alpha die Gelegenheit dazu. Momentan läuft die BBC-Serie "Horrible Histories", die auf den Büchern gleichen Namens von Terry Deary basiert, in denen Ereignisse der Weltgeschichte auf unkonventionelle und humorvolle Weise behandelt werden.

Zum Schluss müssen wir leider eine traurige Nachricht bekannt geben. Wie wir vor kurzem erfahren haben, ist unser Ehrenmitglied

Günter Wagenzink

Ende Februar verstorben.

Günter Wagenzink war Gründungsmitglied der DBG Chemnitz und hat im Vorstand viele Jahre die Geschicke unserer Gesellschaft mitbestimmt. Wir werden sein Andenken stets in Ehren halten.

Wir hoffen, dass Ihnen der Inhalt unserer neuesten Ausgabe zusagt und wünschen Ihnen viel Spaß beim Lesen.

Die Redaktion

A Tour of Tuscany

Medieval towns, Etruscan ruins, artifacts of the Roman epoch, a hilly romantic landscape and last not least a fundamental influence of the Renaissance on European history – this is Tuscany, a province in Italy.



It was my long standing wish to visit this region, to experience personally what I thought to know in theory.

To visit Pisa, Siena, San Gimignano, Lucca and of course Florence, the capital of Tuscany, by coach, I booked a guided group tour.

Fortunately the autumn sun was shining and the temperature was warm.

At first our group stayed in Pisa to admire the Cathedral Square with the "has to be seen" leaning tower. This square, surrounded by baptistery, cathedral and leaning bell tower, shining in white Carrara marble, is a splendid miracle!

Unfortunately a great mob of pushy hawkers disturbed our group during sightseeing.

I got an unforgettable impression in the medieval-style city of San Gimignano, though this charming little town wasn't of significance to the history of Tuscany. By chance, in this case by

lack of money, the typical tower-like construction of ancient home building was not destroyed. At the first glance it is not explainable why the residents liked to reside in such homes, obviously unsuitable for defence. The reasons are found in pride and ostentation of the towns folk. Everybody wanted to be better than his neighbours, so the symbol was an elevated tower house.

The remarkable towns of Lucca and Siena have a heroic history as an independent community, often engaged in rivalry and feud with Florence. Though these cities do not represent a common ensemble of ancient buildings by itself, such impressive cathedrals, churches, town halls with sculptures and frescos, in Romanesque, Gothic and Baroque style, leave the visitor astonished.

The citizens of Siena keep their unfriendly relationship to Florence alive, every year officially commemorating a victorious battle of 1260!

Twice every year the locals carry out a horse-race around the market place, "Piazza del Campo". Dressed in historical coats, every municipal district starts with one horseman only. The winner isn't the horseman but the horse, even if the rider slumps before the finish line!

Florence, the capital of Tuscany, is the historical center of the Renaissance, related to the names of famous painters, architects, scientist, as well as museums, rulers and promoters of art like the Medici family.

The guided tour lasted only few hours, so I got a short glance only, deploring this fact very much. With a stay of some days, Florence is worth a trip for itself, I think.

It is impossible to describe all sights. Highlights are too many, for instance the marble statue "David" by Michelangelo. This artifact isn't only an embodiment of liberty and self-confidence but also an icon for the fusion of Christianity with the antique Greek ideals - and a pilgrimage of art-disciples from all over the world as well.

In the 15th - 16th centuries lived and worked there a well-known theoretician of politics – Machiavelli. His basic cynical statement

"The end justifies the means"

very often has guided politics, diplomacy and security service up to now.

Tuscany isn't the heritage site of the Renaissance only. Well-known spas are located there as well as the vineyards of the famous Chianti wine! Staying overnight in a winery also used as hotel, I felt in the last gleaming daylight the harmony of the landscape, possibly an inspiring feeling to many in the past and at present.

This journey gave me a delightful feeling and some initial knowledge about our fundamental European art and culture.

Peter Hasse



San Gimignano

(Photos: Peter Hasse)

Review of the last months

25 January 2018

"From Manchester to North Wales"

In the first talk of this year, **Silvia Langhoff** took the audience to places that certainly brought back memories to some of the members who had taken part in journeys to these areas in Britain that our society organized in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

Mrs Langhoff began with showing a map in which the places were marked that she together with her - at that time - future husband had visited. The first destination was Manchester, the twin city of Chemnitz. She gave some historical facts of the city that dates back to Roman times and mentioned the nicknames that were given to Manchester: Warehouse City, Cotton City, and even Madchester.

She showed several photos of the modern architecture you can see there beside many old buildings that survived the air raids of World War II and the IRA – bomb that devastated the city centre in 1996 (by the way, only 2 weeks after our visit to this part of the town!). We also saw some funny pictures: a sign at the entrance

of a barber shop saying “Mind your head”, and the name of a tea room that is a play on words – “Propertea” (property).

For those who are interested in football there is one place in Manchester that is a must-see: Old Trafford, the stadium of Manchester United. Mrs Langhoff and her partner took part in a guided tour of the stadium and even had the chance to see the dressing room and take a picture of herself next to the football shirt of Bastian Schweinsteiger.

The next place they visited was Chester. The cathedral, the almost complete city wall and nice old houses are characteristic for this city. One of her photos showed the first parts of a model of the cathedral made with LEGO tiles for which visitors are asked for a donation of £1 per tile. Mrs Langhoff mentioned an old law that is still valid in Chester stating that a Welshman who is still inside the city wall after sunset may be killed with bow and arrow.

They continued their journey to the northern part of Wales where they stopped at Convey with its impressive castle and where you can see the smallest house in Britain, in Llandudno, at Beaumaris Castle and at the imposing Caernarfon Castle, which was used for the investiture of the Prince of Wales. We saw photos of the train station with the longest name beginning with Llanfair and ending with ... gogogoch, where trains only stop on request, and the South Stack Lighthouse near Holyhead. Mrs Langhoff also spoke about their train ride up the Snowdon that ended half way because the top of the mountain was hidden in thick clouds, and the parking of their car that later proved to be rather expensive.

Their last destination was Wrexham, where they stayed for one night. Interestingly, during dinner in a pub they saw a report about Chemnitz on TV that covered the story of the failed detention of a terrorist. Mrs Langhoff's account was again very entertaining and the many photos made it really illustrative.

Siegfried Rosch

22 February 2018

"Namibia from the Air"

On 22nd February we gathered in the Education Room of the Museum of Natural History to watch another self-made video film by **Siegfried Rosch** taking us on an extraordinary tour through a far away country.

Right at the beginning he explained the title of his talk. As the tourist group he belonged to had to bridge long distances in Namibia, they often used two Cessna airplanes.

It took them, for example, only one hour to reach an area which was 365 km away.

Another advantage of taking the airplane was the fantastic view of the countryside.

The travelling time was in the so-called rainy season so all the plants were green and in full blossom.

The journey started and ended in Windhoek and a sightseeing tour was compulsory, of course. There you can follow several traces of the German colonial era. The Christ Church, a landmark of the capital, is such a relic. It was built between 1907 and 1910 and even today there are services held in German. The Old Fortress, which served as headquarters of the colonial military force, is a museum now. The street names are often a mix of English, Dutch and German. Having had a look at the modern city centre with its green Zoo Park, we were shocked by the bad housing conditions in the poor districts.

In the coastal town Swakopmund, located between the Atlantic Ocean and the desert, not only old buildings remind us of Germany. Surprisingly, we saw a picture of a primary school with a German motto on its wall.

A flight into the desert offered us again marvellous views of the environment. The different colours of the desert as well as the mighty sand dunes (altogether 45) were very impressive. There are bizarre remains of ancient trees in the Dead Vlei, a lake which dried out.

A boat tour from Walvis Bay to a large seal colony was another highlight for the tourists. A pelican visited them on the boat, and a seal getting fish from the guide on the boat amused the tourists.

Tours in an off-road vehicle took the holiday-makers through the wonderful national parks and wildlife resorts. In this way they had the unique chance to observe the animals at a close range in their real environment, among them zebras, giraffes, rhinoceroses, springboks, lions and lots of various beautiful birds on the trees. I was surprised that they seemed to feel not disturbed by the presence of the tourists and the many cameras.

Twyfelfontein is famous for its numerous drawings on rock walls. Since 2007 they have been known as a UNESCO world heritage site. On a tour the tourists also saw desert elephants. They walk hundreds of kilometres a year to find water and food.

Another high spot was the visit to the Etosha National Park, which lies in the north of Namibia. This park is the vastest national reservation with an area of 22,000 square kilometres. It contains a large dry lake bed whose soil is covered with salt.

All in all this journey was an enormous adventure for the tourists. Moreover, it was a great pleasure for us to watch this film in excellent quality. We thanked Mr. Rosch with friendly applause.

Marion Rotstein

22 March 2018

"Why I love Chemnitz"

For this talk, we were very pleased to have the principal of the Chemnitz Music School, **Nancy Gibson**, as the speaker. Five years ago, she had given a very entertaining talk to our society about her way from Canada to Germany and so the expectations of the audience were high. And they were not disappointed.

Mrs Gibson divided her talk into two parts: a general one and the one about Chemnitz. In the first part she explained where she comes from and described Toronto in the 1960s as a boring city. She showed several private photos of her parents and herself as a child and mentioned that at that time it was not usual for women in Canada to work. She also touched on the different health systems in Canada and Germany and expressed her astonishment about the division of the German health system into public and private sectors.

At the end of the general part she asked the audience if there were any questions and got into a discussion with a man from Britain about the class system in the UK.

The second part began with a photo of the ruined building of the Marmorpalast. Mrs Gibson said that, when she came to Chemnitz in the early 1990s, she thought this town to be dull and grey. The Marmorpalast, however, that was then used by the Opera house for rehearsals was for her a fascinating building and she felt pity that it was abandoned to dilapidation.

She listed the museums, theatres and all the other cultural institutions in Chemnitz that should be promoted much more and criticized the supposed lack of pride of the inhabitants of what has been achieved since the unification. At this point she mentioned that, until the early 2000s, her parents very often had come to visit her and how positively surprised they were at the changes.

Mrs Gibson also praised the many parks and green areas in town and pointed out the interesting regions around Chemnitz and how fast they can be reached. At the same time she uttered some critical words: She would like to see fewer cars in Chemnitz.

An old factory chimney as a symbol of the industrial past of Chemnitz was the last picture she showed. But it was not a photo of the colourful one, about which she spoke very enthusiastically.

The evening was finished with a lively round of questions and answers in which several aspects of the talk were discussed.

It was very interesting to learn about the view on Chemnitz of somebody who wasn't born here.

Siegfried Rosch

Vorschau auf unsere nächsten Veranstaltungen

Do., 26.4.2018, 19 Uhr, Leseraum der Stadtbibliothek: "Leonard Cohen - A Canadian Poet", Vortrag in englischer Sprache von Einde O'Callaghan

Do., 31.5.2018, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungssaal im DASTietz: "The smac - A Museum for Everyone", Vortrag in englischer Sprache von Dr. Sabine Wolfram, Direktorin des smac

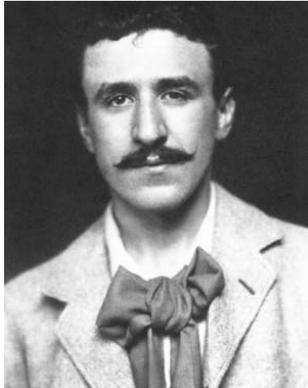
Do., 28.6.2018, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungssaal im DASTietz: "Brexit", Vortrag in deutscher Sprache von Prof. Dr. Klaus Stolz (TU Chemnitz)

Im Juli findet wegen der Sommerpause kein Vortrag statt.

(Änderungen vorbehalten)

Scottish design

When you hear the word 'Mackintosh' (or 'Macintosh', without 'k') then for some of you one of the early personal computers may come to mind or perhaps you think of a raincoat. But it is also the name of a Scottish designer, architect and artist who was born 150 years ago.



Charles Rennie Mackintosh was born in Glasgow on 7 June 1868. He lived there most of his life.

Glasgow had one of the greatest production centres of heavy engineering and shipbuilding in the world during the time of the Industrial Revolution. As the city grew and prospered, it was necessary to respond to growing demand for consumer goods and arts. Mass-produced items started to become popular. Along with the Industrial Revolution, Asian style and emerging modernist ideas influenced their designs.

When Japan opened itself to globalisation, it resulted in growing influence around the world. Japanese design became more accessible and gained great popularity. It became so popular that the western world's fascination and preoccupation with Japanese art gave rise to the new term *Japonism*.

Mackintosh admired this style because of its economy of means, its simple forms and natural materials. In the western style, furniture was seen as ornament that displayed the wealth of its owner and the value of the piece was determined according to the length of time spent creating it. In the Japanese arts furniture and design focused on the quality of the space, which was meant to evoke a calming and organic feeling to the interior.

At the same time a new philosophy concerned with creating functional and practical design was emerging throughout Europe: the so-called "modernist ideas". The main concept of the Modernist movement was to develop innovative ideas and new technology: design concerned with the present and the future, rather than with history and tradition.

Even though Mackintosh became known as the 'pioneer' of the movement, he took his inspirations from his Scottish upbringing and blended them with the flourish of Art Nouveau and the simplicity of Japanese forms.

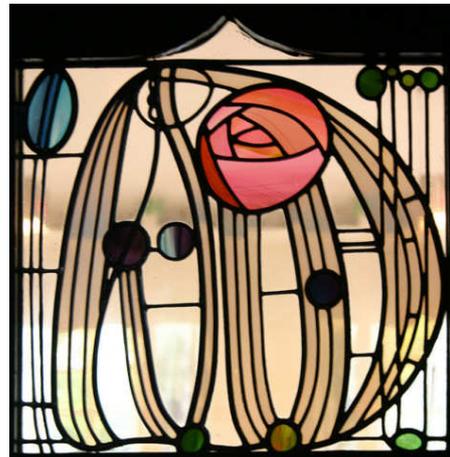
While working in architecture, he developed his own style: a contrast between strong right angles and floral-inspired decorative motifs with subtle curves, for instance the Mackintosh Rose motif, along with some references to traditional Scottish architecture. His architectural designs often included extensive specifications for the detailing, decoration, and furnishing of his buildings.

The project that made him known internationally was the Glasgow School of Art (1897–1909). During the early stages of the School Mackintosh also completed the Queen's Cross Church project in Maryhill, Glasgow. It is the only church by the Glasgow born artist to be built and is now the headquarters of the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society.

Mackintosh's architectural career was a relatively short one, but of significant quality and impact. All his major commissions were between 1895 and 1906, including designs for private homes, commercial buildings and interior renovations.

Although moderately popular (for a period) in Scotland, most of Mackintosh's more ambitious designs were not built. Designs for various buildings for the 1901 Glasgow International Exhibition were not constructed, neither was his "House for an Art Lover" of the same year. He competed in the 1903 design competition for Liverpool Cathedral, but failed to gain a place on the shortlist (the winner was Giles Gilbert Scott).

Mackintosh, his future wife Margaret MacDonald, her sister Frances MacDonald, and Herbert MacNair met at evening classes at the Glasgow School of Art. They became known as "The Glasgow Four", a collaborative group, and were prominent members of the "Glasgow School" movement. The group exhibited in Glasgow, London and Vienna, and these exhibitions helped establish Mackintosh's reputation. Around 1900, the so-called "Glasgow Style" influenced the Viennese Art Nouveau movement known as the Vienna Secession (Szeessionstil).



Mackintosh also worked in interior design, furniture, textiles and metalwork. Much of this work combines his own designs with those of his wife, whose flowing, floral style complemented his more formal, rectilinear work.

Mackintosh died on 10 December 1928. His designs gained in popularity in the decades following his death. The revival of public interest led to the refurbishment and opening of more buildings to the public, such as the Willow Tea Rooms in Glasgow in 1983. His "House for an Art Lover" was built in Glasgow's Bellahouston Park in 1996, and the University of Glasgow (which owns most of his watercolour work) rebuilt the interior of a terraced house Mackintosh had designed and which is part of the university's Hunterian Museum, and furnished it with his and Margaret's work. The Glasgow School of Art building (now "The Mackintosh Building") is cited by architectural critics as among the finest buildings in the UK.

The Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society was established in 1973 and wants to encourage greater awareness of the work of Mackintosh as an architect, artist and designer. The rediscovery of Mackintosh as a significant figure in design has been attributed to the designation of Glasgow as European City of Culture in 1990, and an exhibition of his work which accompanied the year-long festival. His enduring popularity since has been fuelled by further exhibitions, books and memorabilia which have illustrated aspects of his life and work.

(Source: Wikipedia)

This and that from the 'island'

Year of the Sea

In 2018, Wales is celebrating its outstanding coastline, and inviting visitors to discover new experiences all around its shores, with special events and attractions throughout the year.

It builds on the success of the Year of Adventure 2016 which focused on adrenaline fuelled, literary and culinary adventure, and the Year of Legends 2017 which celebrated Wales' past, present and future.

Wales is famous for aquatic adventure sports like surfing, stand-up paddleboarding and coasteering, an physical activity pioneered in Pembrokeshire.



The 870-mile Wales Coast Path runs the whole length of the Welsh coastline, passing seascapes of breathtaking variety, from fens to towering cliffs, featuring hundreds of harbours, coves, inlets and islands, and 230 beaches. Representing the world's first continuous coastal path, it has attracted international praise since its opening in 2012.

Year of the Sea also offers the opportunity to promote Wales as a 21st-century coastal destination and a distinctive place to visit.



Woodhenge

A 4000-year-old 'woodhenge' that has laid hidden for centuries under farmland has been spotted in aerial surveys at Little Catwick Quarry near Hornsea, Yorkshire.

Thousands of years ago the exceptionally rare monument would have been seen for miles around and may have been a site for ritual cremation or even as a sauna - similar to a Native American sweat lodge.

Constructed in the late Neolithic to Bronze Age, the monument was made from wooden posts and might have looked like the infamous Stonehenge in Wiltshire.

In the middle of the henge a pit was discovered



containing burnt stones. Researchers have already hand-sieved 95 tonnes of earth from the surrounding ditches.

"We found a lot of burnt stones, but they weren't burned in situ and therefore we think you could have ritual cremation there", said lead archaeologist John Tibbles. "It is possible that bodies were brought there to be cremated and then the remains buried elsewhere", he said.

Naked bikers

The **World Naked Bike Ride (WNBR)**, which takes place in the United Kingdom in June, is an international clothing-optional bike ride in which participants plan, meet and ride together *en masse* on human-powered transport (the vast majority on bicycles, but some on skateboards and inline skates), to "deliver a vision of a cleaner, safer, body-positive world."



The dress code motto is "bare as you dare". Full or partial nudity is encouraged, but not mandatory. There is no mandate to cover intimate parts; this is a distinguishing feature of the WNBR against other cycling events.

Creative expression is also encouraged to generate a fun and immersive atmosphere during the ride, capture the attention and imagination of the public and media, and make the experience more personalized and fulfilling for the riders. Body art, such as body painting, are common forms of creative expression, as well as costumes, art bikes, portable sound reinforcement systems (such as public address systems, bullhorns and

boom boxes) and musical instruments or other types of noisemakers.

Initially the message of the WNBR was protesting against oil dependency and celebrating the power and individuality of the human body. In 2006, there was a shift towards simplifying the message and focusing on cycling advocacy. While the ride does include and appeal to participants from social nudity circles, the ride is not focused on promoting social nudity directly as much as cycling.

The 2004 WNBR saw events in 28 cities, in ten countries on four continents. By 2010, WNBR had expanded to stage rides in 74 cities, in 17 countries, from the United States to United Kingdom and Hungary to Paraguay.

(Sources: Internet, Daily Mail)

Our language section

fewer or less

Viele Deutsche, aber auch so mancher englische Muttersprachler, haben häufig Probleme mit der korrekten Verwendung der Worte *fewer* und *less* für das deutsche *weniger*. Oft wird *less* benutzt, wo eigentlich *fewer* verwendet werden müsste. Man muss sich immer vergegenwärtigen, dass *fewer* für eine bestimmte Anzahl von Dingen benutzt wird, *less* jedoch für eine unzählbare Menge.

Für die Entscheidung, wann man welches Wort anwendet, gibt es eine ganz einfache Regel: *fewer* wird benutzt, wenn das folgende Wort in der Mehrzahl steht. Ist das folgende Wort hingegen in der Einzahl, verwendet man *less*.

Beispiele: In some parts of the country, there are *fewer men* than women.

Less butter means *fewer calories*.

Es gibt allerdings auch Sonderfälle, bei denen diese Regel nicht sofort erkennbar ist. So ist beispielsweise "*less than 20 miles away*" korrekt, obwohl "*miles*" ja eigentlich ein Wort im Plural ist. Das hängt damit zusammen, dass "*20 miles*" als eine Entfernung und nicht als 20 einzelne Meilen angesehen wird.

Weitere Worte, bei denen wir Deutsche manchmal Probleme bei deren korrekter Verwendung haben, sind *much* und *many*. Die Ursachen dieser Schwierigkeiten sind sicherlich darin begründet, dass wir im Deutschen dafür, wie auch bei *fewer* und *less* der Fall, nur ein Wort haben. Doch auch dafür gibt es eine Eselsbrücke: *much* gilt für unzählbare Dinge, während *many* für zählbare Dinge genommen wird.

Beispiele: How *much* **time** have we got for the project?

Many **houses** were destroyed by the hurricane.

Warum sagt man dann aber "*much* money", obwohl man Geld doch zählen kann? Auch in diesem Fall wird "money" als eine Menge und nicht als einzelne Geldscheine oder Münzen angesehen.

Odd one out

In jeder Reihe befindet sich ein Wort, das nicht zu den anderen drei Begriffen passt. Finden Sie es?

1. mouse, scanner, windscreen, keyboard
2. lawn, pavement, flowers, bed
3. boot, handlebar, steering wheel, bonnet
4. track, goal, kick, score
5. jazz, pop, reggae, classic

Auflösung aus Newsletter Nr. 81 "Christmas grammar"

- 1.a) If it snows tonight, we'll go skiing tomorrow.
- 2.a) I was decorating the Christmas tree when the doorbell rang.
- 3.b) Thanks, but I don't want any more gingerbread.
- 4.a) This photo of our Christmas tree was taken by my brother.
- 5.b) The children have been waiting for Santa Claus for three hours.
- 6.b) If the weather had been good, we could have gone out for a snowball fight.

A letter from a college

Son to father

Dear Dad, school is really great. I am making lots of friends and studying very hard. I simply can't think of anything I need, so if you would like, you can just send me a card, as I would love to hear from you.

Love, Your Son

Father to son

Dear son, I know that astronomy, economics and oceanography are enough to keep even an honors student busy. Do not forget that studying is noble, and you can never study enough.

Love, Dad