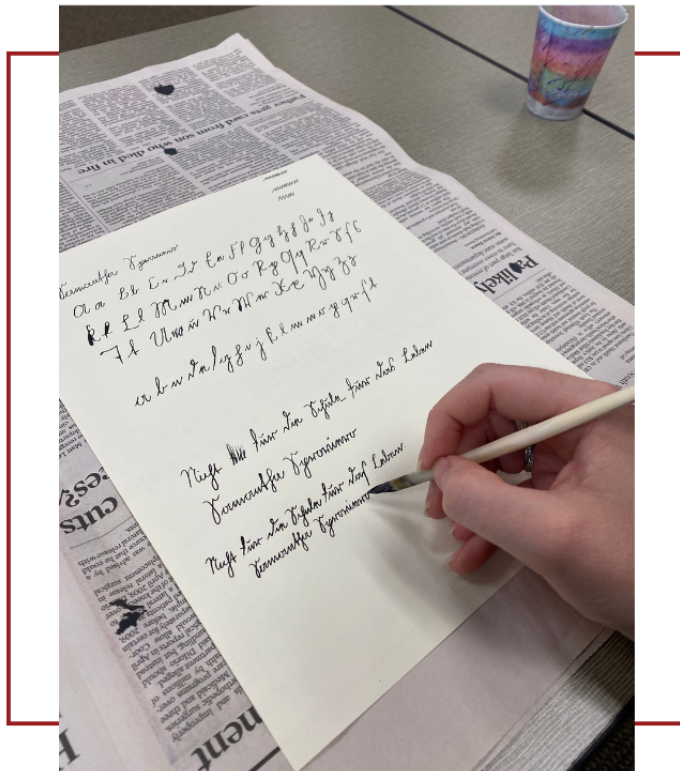


Research Report: Samantha Sproviero

Editor’s note: Samantha Sproviero reports on her recent research trips, supported by CENFAD and the College of Liberal Arts.



Samantha Sproviero practicing writing German script using a quill as a part of the Moravian Archive's course. (Photo Courtesy of Samantha Sproviero)

Samantha Sproviero: Over the past few semesters, I have been fortunate to benefit from several financial awards. Each of these awards have supported research crucial to my dissertation, “Fashioning a Monarchy: Queen Luise, Gender, and Representation in Prussia.” After being awarded a Marvin

Wachman Fellowship in Fall of 2023, I was able to complete Moravian Archive’s German Script Course in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. This two-week long course is one of the only German script training courses in the country. Each summer, 15 participants are accepted to join their intensive sessions to study, practice, read, and write the German Kurrent script. Completing this intensive course has allowed me to read and understand primary sources crucial to my research, which focuses on the role of Queen Luise of Prussia in matters of war and diplomacy during the Napoleonic Wars. The official documents concerning the reigns of Prussian queens like Luise are handwritten in this special German script, which I can now read and write!

After completing Moravian Archive’s German Script Course, I was awarded a Research Award for Advanced Doctoral Students from the College of Liberal Arts and put my new script reading skills to the test. I traveled to Germany to conduct research at the *Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz* (the Prussian Secret State Archives) in Berlin, Germany and the *Brandenburgisches Landeshauptarchiv* (or the Brandenburg Main State Archive) in Potsdam. I was also able to spend time

accessing secondary sources at *Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin* (Berlin State Library.) During this trip, I found documents supporting the creation of Luise's special feminized military uniforms, and court records of her actions as a ceremonial commander of a regiment of Prussian Dragoons. I also became particularly interested in her time at the German spa town of Pyrmont. These documents have supported several chapters of my dissertation and are the foundation for several upcoming conference papers: one at the Consortium of the Revolutionary Era (CRE) in May 2026 and another at the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians' Annual Meeting in June of 2026.

This past semester, I used additional CENFAD funding to take a short trip to Providence, RI. There, I was able to access the Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection at Brown University and view a nineteenth century illustrated print created in France under Napoleon. This print is crucial to the fifth chapter of my dissertation, which focuses on French representations of the Queen of Prussia used to criticize the Prussian monarchy. I am incredibly grateful for all the financial support I received to fund these trips - they have allowed me to make significant progress on my dissertation.



Sproviero looking at a nineteenth century print at Brown University.

(Photo Courtesy of Samantha Sproviero)

Samantha Sproviero (she/her) is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of History at Temple University. Samantha graduated summa cum laude from Ramapo College with her B.A. in history and received her M.A. in history from West Virginia University. While at Temple, she has completed both the graduate certificate in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies and the graduate certificate in Teaching in Higher Education. Alongside her doctorate, she is currently in the process of completing the Barnes-de Mazia Certificate Program in art interpretation through the Barnes Foundation. In 2024, she was awarded the College of Liberal Arts Graduate Teaching Award for instructors of record.