GASTVORTRAG

im Kolloquium Wissenschaftsgeschichte

Critique and Culture: The Battle of Antiquarianism and the Purpose of the Past in Enlightenment Germany

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The paper discusses a group of scholars, known as the Klotzianer, around the Halle professor Christian Adolph Klotz. During the late 1760s, Klotz and his followers attempted to revive the hedonism and paganism of the ancients to challenge Christian morality. They introduced a new educational program, employing coins and engraved stones to cultivate aesthetic sensibility and critical thinking. This program immediately provoked strong reactions, much debate and inspired several of their contemporaries to rethink the relationship between past and present. One prominent example is Johann Gottfried Herder, who developed his philosophy of history in reaction to the Klotzianer. Another example, which shortly will be discussed, is the Göttingen professor Christian Gottlob Heyne, who probably found inspiration in the debates for more professional, and less moral and political, version of art history. So, the debates surrounding the Klotzianer mark an important turn not only in the history of antiquarianism, but also in the modern German academic interpretation of the past.

Zum Gastvortrag ergeht herzliche Einladung
Eine Anmeldung ist nicht notwendig