

EU Travel-Research Grant Trip Report

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Thanks to the Graduate Travel Research Grant from the Centre of European Studies at Carleton University, I was able to conduct archival research in Paris, Berlin, and Frankfurt during the month of June 2009. The primary research that I was able to complete at the national archives and at the archives of the national central banks of France and Germany, respectively, has greatly contributed to my M.A. thesis.

My initial research question was: “How did the German victory and subsequent occupation of France in 1940 reorient French economic and foreign policy and public opinion towards Europe, and how did it impact the creation of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) in 1951 and the European Economic Community (EEC) in 1957?” The archival research I conducted in France and Germany has proven to be invaluable to my research. It confirmed my hypothesis that the economic relationship between France and Germany intensified in the period between 1940 and 1944, especially in matters concerning coal and steel. I now have very useful quantitative evidence on this topic.

Furthermore, I was able to learn a great deal about the diplomatic relations in which France engaged with Great Britain and Germany, respectively. These discoveries have allowed me to more accurately formulate my hypotheses and to strengthen my arguments with vital primary resources that would have remained inaccessible to me from this side of the Atlantic. The secondary research that I had read before traveling to Europe had left a number of areas unaddressed; with the primary research I was able to complete thanks to the Graduate Travel Research Grant, however, I will be able to develop these and hopefully make a significant contribution to the literature on the history of European integration.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Joan DeBardeleben, Director, Dr. Robert Gould, Associate Director and Olga Arnaoudova, EU Programs Coordinator. The support I have received from CES has greatly improved my own research, which will in turn result in a better M.A. thesis and, I hope, a more significant contribution to the literature on the history of European integration.