

**FRIEDRICH SCHLEGEL'S
RELATIONS WITH REICHARDT
AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO
"DEUTSCHLAND", VOL. IX.- NO.**

2

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No. 2 by Samuel Paul Capen

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PREFACE.

In the following paper¹ I have confined myself to the statement of those facts in Friedrich Schlegel's early career which were necessary to the explanation of his connection with Reichardt. Considerable biographical setting was called for and here I have drawn upon the best known sources, frequently without the use of quotation marks. On the other hand I have felt justified in omitting or passing over with brief mention certain phases of the first twenty-five years of his life which, however interesting they might be as matters of biography, had no bearing upon the subject in hand; for instance A. W. Schlegel's relations to Schiller and the consequences to him of Friedrich's break with the latter. What I have tried to do is to bring new material and add new details to a matter which most students of German Literature have previously accorded little attention. In certain cases also there is an attempt at a new interpretation.

Schlegel's literary productions in this early period have been criticised and discussed by many able scholars. Where it has been necessary I have used their results, not being bound to any one authority, but, in cases of variation, availing myself of the privilege of selection. But little space, however, has been devoted to the consideration of the works themselves. It would have been a daring undertaking, particularly for a foreigner, to enter the lists against men like Haym, Dilthey and Walzel, and a mere parrot-like repetition would have been of no value. For the most part I have limited myself to a discussion of the influences which led to the writing of his earlier essays and a consideration of the results which they produced.

S. P. CAPEN.

Leipzig, April 1, 1902.

¹ Thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

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FRIEDRICH SCHLEGEL'S CONNECTION WITH
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I.

FR. SCHLEGEL'S EARLY LIFE.

One of the most pregnant periods in Friedrich Schlegel's career was the period of his connection with Reichardt. Not only was this connection of first importance to Schlegel himself and his literary development, but it exercised also indirectly no inconsiderable influence upon the direction of the Romantic School, and through it upon the course of German Literature in the nineteenth century. In this short space of time, scarcely more than a year and a half, there came to light in Schlegel's writings two striking tendencies, on the one side the propensity for cutting literary polemic which embroiled him with Schiller, on the other the method of "characteristic" which combined with his keen analytical faculty formed the basis of the Schlegel system of literary criticism.

Friedrich Schlegel¹ was born in Hanover, March 10th, 1772, the son of Johann Adolf Schlegel. As a child he was full of whims and caprices, an enigma to his parents and a source of great care. The home atmosphere was strictly religious,—his father was pastor of the Neustädter Hof- und Stadtkirche. The regularity and system which we observe in August Wilhelm Schlegel's work were charac-

¹ For Fr. Schlegel's biography, see Walzel, *Deutsche National-Litteratur*, vol. 143. Introduction: Muncker, *Allgemeine Deutsche Biographie*, vol. 33, p. 738 ff; and Walzel, *Fr. Schlegel's Briefe an seinen Bruder* (cited hereafter as Walzel).