

## REMARKS ABOUT THE HISTORY OF ABELIAN GROUPS IN ENGLAND AND GERMANY

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**1. Introduction and precautions.** A historian told me that history does not end in the past but goes on into the present time; moreover, it tries to predict the future. Accordingly, my report will end with some unpublished papers and forthcoming PhD theses (completed in 2002), but I will not speculate about the direction into which abelian groups in the UK and Germany might develop. Moreover, the reader of these notes should be aware of the fact that this paper reflects my very personal point of view. I will naturally be more explicit in areas close to my own (research) interests, this because I know them better than others. I intend to cover the other areas of the now wide range of abelian groups but, despite the desire to be fairly conclusive, this turns out to be a hopeless task. Fortunately, abelian groups of the last decades have grown fascinatingly in depth and breadth, thus I must and will be brief whenever I have the opportunity to refer to a monograph or to a survey article. Moreover, it seems impossible to isolate developments of abelian groups from international activities; this is particularly obvious from progress over the last 50 years. I will try to stay loosely in the requested coordinates and rarely mention the tremendous input from outside, most notably from the USA, Russia and other European countries; thus, this report should be seen as part of the other reports on the history of abelian groups published in this volume.

The sections of this paper are dictated, as I see this, by the developments around the world and essentially cut down to activities in the UK and Germany. Another restriction is necessary. I will only discuss (some of) those papers related to more general module theory which at the same time extend visibly our knowledge on abelian groups; otherwise, as is well known, I would have to report endlessly about the activities in the UK and Germany. A good excuse for these additional

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