6 The Aftermath of the *Principia Mathematica*
6.1 The Warrior’s Careers up to 1687

From 1677 Leibniz is serving the Hanoverians and is occupied with judicial, political, historical and administrative work. He corresponds on a worldwide level, returns from time to time to mathematical and physical questions, but has no longer partners for correspondence within the Royal Society. The year 1684 sees the first publication of Leibniz’s differential calculus in the Acta Eruditorum.

Meanwhile, Newton lives his reclusive and solitary life as Lucasian professor in Cambridge. His fame is growing in England but for the time being there are no further contacts with Leibniz. Then a real thunderbolt: in 1687 his epoch-making work Philosophiae Naturalis Prinicipia Mathematica (Mathematical principles of natural philosophy) appears for the first time; it is no less than the natal hour of modern physics.

6.1.1 The Privy Councillor Leibniz – Stranded in Hanover

Already in February 1677 Leibniz asked his Duke John Frederick to introduce him officially into his rights and obligations as a privy councillor and to increase his salary [Müller/Kröner 1969, p. 48]:

‘Since I can honestly desire no less, after having had decent appointments already 10 years ago and being only a librarian would have better suited me in the 20th year of my life. Hence I have to be careful what matches my age and my work in the eyes of those who had an eye on me in the past and in particular that I do not have to feel ashamed if I have to compare myself with those who were not my equals but have come to better positions now: Your Serene Highness knows that the people working with books alone are sparseley respected and are considered being inept to do other things: all the more it would damage my reputation since in the past I was involved in judicial business. Moreover, the profession of a librarian is only respected by dukes of tremendous minds like Your Serene Highness, but at this court it is not, as the library is not public.’

(Denn ich zuvörderst ehrenthalben nicht weniger begehren kan, nachdem ich bereits vor 10 jahren gradum angenommen, anständige voca-

tizen gehabt, und die bloße verrichtung eines Bibliothecarii mir beßer im 20ten jahr meines alters als iezo angestanden hätte, also bis dahin bedacht seyn muß, wie ich meinem alter und prefectibus nach also stehen möge, daß ich deßen bey denen so vor diesen einiges absehen auff mich gehabt, und sonderlich bey denen die vor jahren mir nicht gleich gewesen, aniezo aber zu dergleichen stellen gelanget seyn, nicht