

Axel Freiherr von Campenhausen (1934-2025)

Axel Freiherr von Campenhausen, born 23 January 1934 in Göttingen, passed away on 12 August 2025 in Hanover. He was one of the first members of the European Consortium of Church and State Research. Axel v. Campenhausen was scion of an old Baltic noble family and clearly cultivated the appearance of such decent.

After having studied law, Protestant theology and political science at the universities of Heidelberg, Göttingen, Cologne, Bonn, Paris and London, Axel v. Campenhausen received his doctorate from the University of Göttingen in 1962. He was professor of ecclesiastical law at the University of Munich for ten years, then professor of public law and ecclesiastical law in Göttingen. There, he was also the director of the Institute of Ecclesiastical Law of the Protestant Church in Germany from 1970 to 2008.

Axel v. Campenhausen was active in many fields and honorary capacities. From 1976 to 1979, Axel v. Campenhausen served as State Secretary in the Lower Saxony Ministry of Science and the Arts. In 1978 he was appointed president of the Hanover Monastery Chamber, a state agency administering large foundations of former church assets which had been taken over by the secular ruler during the Protestant Reformation. From 1993 to 2002, Axel v. Campenhausen was a member of the board of the Association of German Foundations and from 1996 its chairman; with his retirement he was elected an honorary member. For several years, he was co-publisher of the weekly newspaper Rheinischer Merkur.

With Axel v. Campenhausen, the European Consortium for Church and State Research has lost a remarkable colleague.

Gerhard Robbers