



Photo: MPS Archive

New Beginnings in the Cafeteria

Two men, one word: On February 26, 1948, Otto Hahn (right, standing) and Lower Saxony's Minister of Cultural Affairs Adolf Grimme seal the foundation of the Max Planck Society. High-caliber scientists, including several Nobel laureates, attended the event. The gathering took place in the fellowship house of the dismantled Aerodynamic Research Institute in Göttingen. Such were the modest beginnings of the successor organization of the tradition-rich Kaiser Wilhelm Society. The rustic rooms, however, still serve as a venue for gatherings today: the place where venerable men came together at simple wooden tables more than 60 years ago to open a new chapter in Germany's research history is the place where the staff of the Max Planck Institute for Dynamics and Self-Organization gather today to enjoy their lunch together.