

V: LEIPZIG: NEXUS 1900-1907

The word nexus represents a point where a group becomes connected or bound together. Leipzig was such a point for Paul Týralla (as his name was now spelt) and Friedrich Hinsch. Together with Friedrich's wife Marie, daughter Nannÿ and son Fritz, our principal characters are all now known. Only their personal relationships to one another were missing. Almost as if in theatre, Leipzig becomes their stage, where each plays a brief but critical role. Yet barely 30 years on, just Friedrich's son and his estranged grandson remained... almost as if putting out the lights and locking the door. Was this all Leipzig was: theatre? If so, it might as well have been *Goethe*, where Paul plays Faust, Leipzig is Mephisto and Nannÿ appears as Gretchen. Well, enter stage right the next Prussian to arrive on Saxon soil...

The blank page accompanying Paul Týralla at the start of Chapter IV no longer exists. We now know his origins, his ethnicity and class, thanks to parish registers, history books and residential records. His first steps on Leipzig's stage were to emerge from the *Magdeburger Bahnhof* in September 1900. And how about that for a first impression? Leipzig was that grand it had two train stations side-by-side! Yet both were owned by different companies; the *Magdeburger* was owned by Prussia, while the *Dresdner Bahnhof* by Saxony.¹



The Prussian Magdeburger Bahnhof (left) with Saxony's Dresdner Bahnhof to its right, 1907 (*Lehmstedt*)

Paul arrived in Leipzig a foreigner or 'Auslander.' First and foremost he was Silesian, but compounding this, he was Slav, which will have rendered him particularly unpopular.² But I suspect the ambitious 18 year old will have been unperturbed by that prospect and initially in awe of Leipzig's bustle and dynamism, recalling the outlook the city had when we concluded Chapter III. Come 1900 Leipzig was vying with Breslau to be Germany's third largest city after Berlin and Hamburg.³ A job seeker who arrived around 1900 describes the impression the city left on him, as follows:

I find Leipzig interesting. The big-city buildings really impress me, even more the nice wide streets. It all reminds me of Chicago ...I'm really glad to be breathing the air of a big city again. [But] unfortunately the regrettable spectre of grinding poverty appears also all too often. Hordes of unemployed stream through the city⁴

¹ The *Thüringer Bahnhof* which the Hinsch's used to reach Querfurt (see Chapter III) lay northeast of these stations.

² Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920. Dobson, 2001. pg. 12, 125

³ Germany: A New Social and Economic History. Ogilvie & Overy, pg. 49

⁴ Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920. Dobson, 2001. pg. 15. See also Chapter III.

The years 1900-1902 were characterized by economic recession, which will have made it harder for Paul to find a willing master to train with. Job tip-offs will not have been easy to come by, especially with no central labour exchange to rely on.⁵ To succeed in this less than welcoming environment Paul will have had to rely on fellow workers or hearsay to obtain information on job openings (*ibid*). Indeed, the above reaction came from a new arrival like Paul, someone who had already passed through three smaller towns before trying his luck in the 'big city' (*ibid*).

But I suspect Paul was fortunate in that he was aided by his fellow Jewish workers, whether they be from Zülz, Breslau or Waldenburg. In fact, I doubt he would have come to Leipzig had he not already been quite sure opportunity awaited him.

Within Chapter IV we learned that many Jews had migrated in large numbers westwards during the 1880s and that in-migration swelled the existing numbers in Leipzig such that by 1910, of the nine thousand there, immigrants constituted around two thirds.⁶ Interestingly, this figure pales next to those counted in Breslau (24,500 in 1905), however, according to Robert Willingham, the foreign-born population there was just 8.6 percent. Only Berlin then had a similar ratio to Leipzig.⁷



Fur traders along Brühl during the Leipzig Messe, 1900
(Wikipedia Bruhl_Leipzig)

Jewish growth there was driven by opportunity, as many successfully established themselves cigarmakers, tailors and shoemakers. Ruth Gay writes in her 1992 book, *The Jews of Germany: A Historical Portrait*, that they often combined retail sales with their crafts as artisans and became proprietors of small shops. So as the fur trade grew thanks to Leipzig's railways, a great variety of related businesses developed, with the clothing store 'Bamberger & Hertz' on *Augustusplatz* for instance being one of the biggest.⁸ By 1914 a staggering 50 percent of the registered firms in Leipzig were in Jewish hands, as was almost all the city's fur trade and coat industry along *Brühl* and *Nikolaistrasse*.⁹ As Willingham writes, "Like Berlin, Leipzig was the beneficiary of a massive immigration of Jews from Eastern Europe."

Why did they flock to central Germany? Many saw it as a place free of superstition and prejudice, "where life was civilised, and thought was free," continues Gay. It was deemed a world of plenty, of order, opportunity, and reasonable relationships between people. "People there ate three or four times a day, and had meat at least once a day, dressed neatly and lived in a way that was worthy of the dignity of a human being" wrote one Jew of the time. Even private life guaranteed happiness: "If he had a wife he could go for a walk with her, and have a rational conversation."

⁵ Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920. Dobson, 2001. pg. 111, 337

⁶ Ruth Gay (1992). *The Jews of Germany: A Historical Portrait*. According to Robert A Willingham in his dissertation '*Jews in Leipzig: nationality and community in the 20th century*' for the University of Texas (2005, Pg.18), Leipzig's Jewish community grew as follows: 1838: 162; 1871; 1739; 1880; 3179. Karl Czok in „*Leipzig, Fotografien 1867 bis 1929*,“ continues the coverage in 1991, noting that in 1890 there were 4300 and that in 1900 there were 6000.

⁷ Robert A Willingham: '*Jews in Leipzig: nationality and community in the 20th century*' University of Texas, 2005. Pg.19.

⁸ Leipzig, Fotografien 1867 bis 1929. Karl Czok, 1991.

⁹ Ruth Gay (1992). *The Jews of Germany: A Historical Portrait*.

Jews were so numerous in Leipzig by the turn of the century that they had their own associations, school and later even private hospital. Karl Czok in his photo compendium acknowledges their community did much for Leipzig's economy and culture too. In addition to *Felix Mendelssohn*, the famous *Gewandhaus* conductor and composer who also founded the city's music conservatory, others were responsible for Leipzig's first synagogue in *Zentralstraße* (1855), cemetery (1864), Germany's first business school (1898) and the town's first kindergarten (1872).¹⁰

So how did the Jewish community aid Paul? We do not know specifically but what we can see is that Paul's residence in Leipzig was quickly established. For instance, his first home was in *Reichstraße*, just a few doors down from a furrier named *Christian Heuer* (see his price list in the collage further on)! Heuer operated out of *Reichstraße 34*, and during Paul's first six weeks in Leipzig he lived at number 37, in a IVth floor apartment with a family called *Besser*. Number 37 is shown in the centre of the picture right, just after the small alleyway. This is how the street appeared in 1900. The passage we can see to the left was known as *Schuhmacher-gäßchen* (cobblers' alley) and it was here that he next moved – to No. 3 (III) and the home of the *Janns*, where he spent his first winter.

These two locations (both marked '1' on the map on pg.88) couldn't have been more central. They were also a stone's throw from *Brühl*, since whichever end of *Schuhmachergäßchen* Paul emerged, both *Reichstraße* and *Nikolaistraße* (to the east) led north to it. I suspect it was here that Paul consolidated his education over the coming years.

The fur trade along *Brühl* continued to grow during this period. *Wikipedia.de* (under *Bruhl_Leipzig*) gives a fascinating insight into the working environment along this thoroughfare. A common characteristic for instance was the smell caused by preservatives such as camphor and naphthalene, and the sweet scent of raw hides. Goods were continuously delivered in huge quantities by *Markthelfer* from nearby farms to the dealers along the street and in the yards, packed in huge quantities on bag barrows, carts or woven baskets. Some of these yards lay hidden from view behind *Brühl*, and were decorated with beautiful wooden galleries. After 1900, these courtyards became less places of relaxation and more environs for beating the furs, so as to dust them and protect them from moth infestations.



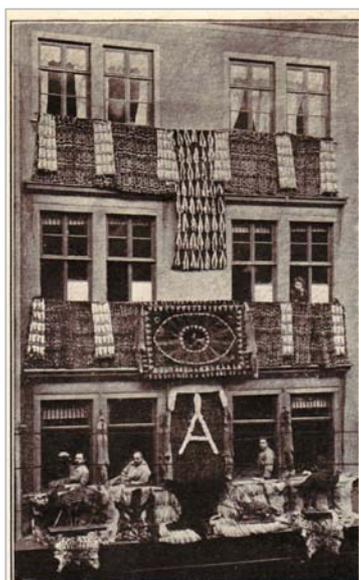
Above: Paul Tyrallas first port of call, *Reichstraße 37*.



Left: The view down *Schuhmachergäßchen* in 1905 or so, where Paul spent the winter of 1900.

(*Wikipedia: Herman Walter*)

¹⁰ Leipzig, Fotografien 1867 bis 1929. Karl Czok, 1991 and Robert A Willingham in his dissertation 'Jews in Leipzig: nationality and community in the 20th century' for the University of Texas (2005, Pg.17-18).

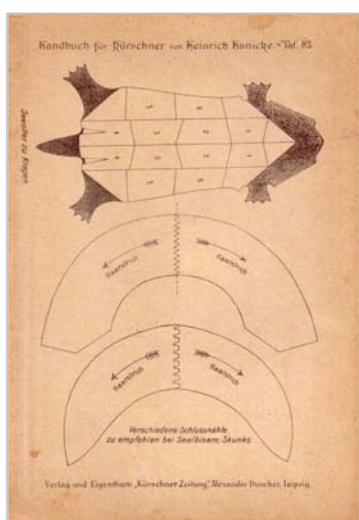


Dealers were omnipresent in their typical long white coats (see picture opposite), as they sought to snag potential customers before they fell to neighbouring competitors. It doesn't sound much like they took advantage of the 9,479 telephone lines in use by 1902! But even if they did, *Wikipedia.de* reports their banter was generally friendly and that it was not just during bad weather that they sat in the surrounding cafes and restaurants like the nearby *Reichskanzler* (between *Brühl* and *Goethestraße*) or the kosher *Restaurant Zellner* (in *Nikolaistraße*).

By the second half of the 19th century, the furriers' shops resembled a bazaar. Furs were suspended from almost every house in order to draw the attention of passers by. By the 1860s and 70s, the *Leipziger Messe* and the *mêlée* it caused for the six weeks it lasted was considered so great a safety risk that a police constable had to be on hand where the *Nikolaistraße* intersected with *Brühl* to supervise the traffic. Paul must've been rather aghast the first time he saw the crowds gather, coming as he did from a quiet rural place like *Radstein*! Particularly striking were the then still 'picturesquely' dressed Greeks and the 'Old Testament *Kaftanträger*' from Russia, wearing gowns similar to those worn by Poles, as the 1822 satire left shows. Armenians, British, French and others were also well represented.



In his pursuit of qualification as a furrier, Paul probably will have relied plenty upon what I imagine was the furriers' 'bible', the hundred page *Handbuch für Kürschner – Instructions for Efficient Skinning* by *Heinrich Hanicke*, 1895. That the guide was published in Leipzig indicates how the city was a centre for the publishing world too.¹¹ Other snapshots from his everyday life are shown in the collage opposite.



The paid working week at this time remained long, 60 hours or thereabouts.¹² However, Jews were renowned for being reluctant to work on the *Sabbath* so I wonder whether Paul might have been permitted to ease off a bit on Saturdays too? With his free day he might instead have taken an interest in sport, noting that in 1900 the German football association was founded in Leipzig and three years later, *VfB Leipzig* won the championship!

Above top: *Friedrich März*, Leipzig Furriers, 1905 (*Wiki/Bruhl_Leipzig*)
 Centre: Poles along *Brühl*, 1822 (*Wikimedia Commons: Furriers in Leipzig*)
 Below: Extract from *Hanicke's Handbook for Furriers*, 1895.
 (*Wiki/Bruhl_Leipzig*)

¹¹ According to *Czok* in *Leipzig, Fotografien 1867 bis 1929*, by 1900 there were 144 book printers employing around 100 within 20 large companies. Average annual production in 1890 was 3200 titles while by 1914, it was 5500.

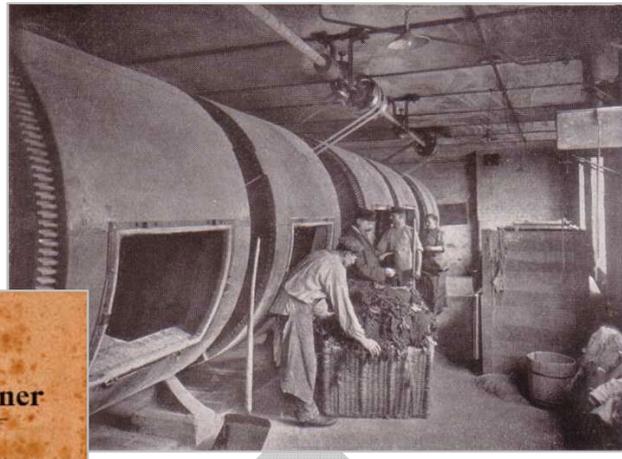
¹² *Foerster*, 1997 (page ref. would be good)

CHR. HEUER, Pelzwaren-Konfektion, LEIPZIG.

ABTEILUNG:
PELZWAREN-KONFEKTION.

Collerettes und Halskrausen.

		per Stück Mark
1600	Bisam, seal	16.—
1600 a	electric	16.50
1601 c	Chinchilla	58.—
1603 b	Bisam, zobelfarbig	15.—
1603 c	nerzfärbig	15.—
1603 d	skunkfarbig	15.—
1603 e	castoree	15.—
1610	Nutria	
1611	Persianer	
1612	Skunks, natur echt	
1615	Nerz	
1615 b	Japan	
1615 c	Kolinsky, zobelfarbig	
1615 d		
1618 a	Fehrlücken	
1700 a	Bisam, electric	
1701 c	Chinchilla	
1701 d	Hermelin	
1710	Nutria	
1711	Persianer	
1711 b	Astrachan	
1711 d	Breitschwanz	
1720 a	Bisam, electric	
1721 c	Chinchilla	
1721 d	Hermelin	
1723 b	Bisam, zobelfarbig	
1723 c	nerzfärbig	
1723 d	skunkfarbig	
1723 e	castoree	
1726	Kanin, seal I	
1726	II	
1727	Kanin, electric	
1727 b	chinchilla	
1729 c	Marmel, Orenburger, nerz	

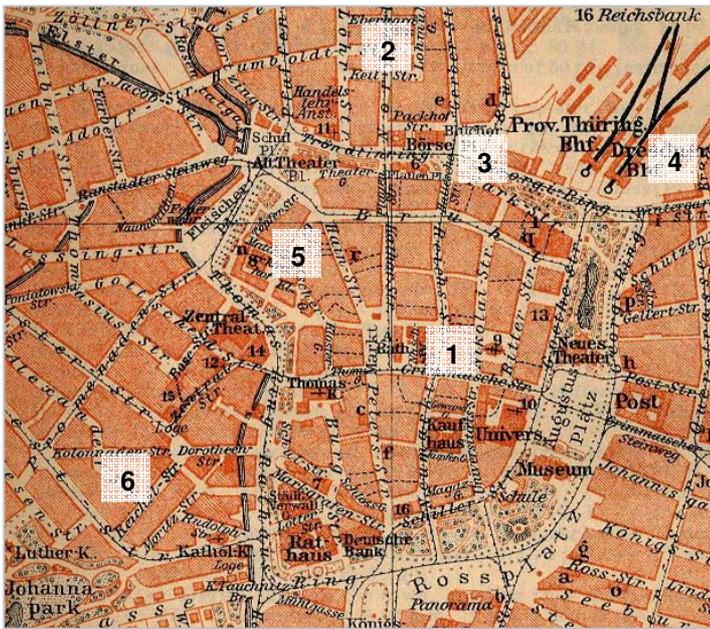


Clockwise from top: Christian Heuer's wholesale price list, 1908; Fur cleaning and fuller machines, 1905; Popular ladies' fur articles; Furriers ledger, 1896; *Brühl* during the 1905 *Messe*; Fur dealers in their white coats along *Brühl*, 1926 and *Hanicke's Handbook for Furriers*, 1895. (Wikipedia: *Bruhl_Leipzig*)

Herrn Constanten Pappa		Leipzig	
1896	an Cassa	1896	an Cassa
1896	an Cassa	1896	an Cassa
1896	an Cassa	1896	an Cassa
1896	an Cassa	1896	an Cassa
1896	an Cassa	1896	an Cassa

Since Paul was theoretically still *'auf der waltz'* (it should have lasted three years and in Chapter IV I surmise he began in the summer of 1899, right after his apprenticeship), one might wonder where (and when) exactly did he complete this? *Braunschweig* (Brunswick) and *Frankfurt am Main* to the west had been significant German speaking fur trade centres in the 18th century¹³, so Paul's original intent might have been to continue in this direction.¹⁴

Yet by all accounts he chose to stay in Leipzig. Six months after his arrival, Paul moved to a IVth floor apartment in *Eberhardstraße 5* in April 1901. It lay just north of the Leipzig's centre and its ring (see '2' on the 1910 map left). That implies he 'settled' in Leipzig. Could he have been offered a too-good-to-refuse opportunity? Could he just decide against any further travelling?¹⁵ After all, being Europe's centre for fur, there could be no better place for a *Kürschner* to finish up his learning and find good job prospects, than in the heart of 'furrier's land' and among those who we assume had helped bring him to Leipzig in the first place.



Eberhardstraße guaranteed lower rent than the city centre, while the *Elektrische Straßenbahn* meant it remained easily accessible. Lines 1 and 21 saw Paul pass Leipzig's principal railway stations daily on the way down to *Brühl*, besides *Blücherplatz* and the *Handelsbörse* shown left (see '3' on the map). Trams were in fact a critical form of mobility for Leipzigers. The year 1902 for instance saw 63.1 million riders, where each journey cost 10 *Pfennigs*.¹⁶ Viewed from today's

vantage point, I imagine it must have been a joy travelling in an environment without cars and nothing more than the rumble of trams and chatter of crowds!

Right:
Blücherplatz
and the
Handelsbörse,
cca. 1900
(Source:
LeipzigInfo.de)

Above top:
Leipzig, 1910

¹³ <http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kürschner#Geschichte>

¹⁴ <http://adressbuecher.genealogy.net/entry/show/1996788>

¹⁵ According to: <http://adressbuecher.genealogy.net/entry/show/1996788>, in 1901 a *Kaufmann* (merchant or salesman) named Paul Týralla is listed in the address books of a small Sachsen/Sorbian town of Pulsnitz (population: 4000 in 1900 and famed for *Pfefferkuchen*). It lies some 25km northeast of neighbouring Dresden. I am not convinced a furrier could find grounds to develop his abilities here. I am therefore inclined to think it was another chap with the same name (see for instance textbox 8.7)

¹⁶ *Das war das 20. Jahrhundert in LEIPZIG*. Martina Güldemann, 1999

As scripted, Paul appears to have completed his career as a journeyman in mid-1902 when he moved straight into military service. Germany's 1871 constitution decreed that all males were called up in the year of their 20th birthday by their local muster district office,¹⁷ a which typically lasted two years.¹⁸ It seems because Paul was now a resident of Leipzig, he was bound to complete his service with the *sächsische Armee* (Royal Saxon Army).

I wonder to what extent Paul was pre-disposed to military training? In Chapter II, I observed it was far from popular, although "many members of the bourgeoisie aspired to join the reserve officer corps...in order to achieve the status mark of a duelling scar." Yet the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-71 had seen Poles object to fighting and rather side with the French, much as the Saxons had done during the Napoleonic Wars. In fact the Saxons had fought against the Prussians as recently as 1866 and even after unification in 1871, retained limited autonomy in military matters during peace time.¹⁹ Could there have been then a sense of affinity within Paul for Saxony as the 'underdog,' that also allowed him to express his ethnicity a little more freely than in Teutonic Prussia? Or was his sojourn there purely down to economic opportunity and little else?

The Silesian's service was completed to the north of Leipzig in Gohlis, a locale which had been incorporated into the city boundaries on 1st January 1890. It lay about 1500m north of his home and although tram 6 now ran all the way to the military barracks, he will have been stationed there for the duration of his service (see text box overleaf).

The military compound was Saxony's newest and housed the XIX Army Corps (2nd Royal Saxon).²⁰ Construction had begun in 1895, once its garrison's move from the *Pleissenburg* castle had been agreed with the city of Leipzig (its *Neues Rathaus* now stood almost complete in its place). The *Prinz Johann Georg* barracks (pictured right) was one of the first to be constructed and by the turn of the century was occupied by *Infanterie Regiment 107*.



Above top: the *Prinz Johann Georg* barracks and below: Entrance to the military compound (Hermann Walter and leipzig-gohlis.de)

¹⁷ See: www.greatwar.com/scripts/openExtra.asp?extra=10

¹⁸ Paul Knoppe makes reference to this in *Die Geschichte des Königlich Sächsischen Reserve-Infanterie-Regiments Nr. 241*. Dresden, 1936 on Pg. 24, as does R.Willingham when describing the military service completed by Richard Frank on pg. 137 in 'Jews in Leipzig: nationality and community in the 20th century' University of Texas, 2005. Further text at: [http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deutsches_Heer_\(Deutsches_Kaiserreich\)#Aktive_Dienstpflicht](http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deutsches_Heer_(Deutsches_Kaiserreich)#Aktive_Dienstpflicht) describes in more detail the military life of those on muster duty.

¹⁹ At en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Saxon_Army one can read more about the resistance of the Royal Saxon Army to being integrated within the Prussian.

²⁰ en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Saxon_Army. Most likely part of the [24th Division \(2nd Royal Saxon\)](#)

5.1: Snapshots of Paul Týralla's Life as a Trainee Soldier

A soldier's training began in October, starting with assignment to a specific company based upon height, with the tallest assigned to the 1st, 5th, and 9th *Kompagnies* of each regiment, the shortest to the last *Kompagnies* in each *Battalion*, the 4th, 8th, and 12th. Uniforms were issued and after several weeks of basic preparatory discipline and drill, the solemn oath was undertaken. This involved placing the left hand on the staff of the colors and raising the right for God and the Fatherland. This personalized ceremony made a lasting impression upon each recruit, where the weight of responsibility and duty emphasized could never be taken lightly or easily forgotten, even under the most trying of circumstances.



Soldiers' quarters consisted of large brick or stone barracks for between ten and 20 men. Each soldier had a wooden wall locker for storage of uniforms and equipment, while rifles were locked away in an arms rack. Wooden bunks came with straw mattresses and heat was provided by steam, or individual stoves of tile or cast iron.

A soldier's day began at 0445, after which he washed, shaved, and cleaned his barracks. At about 0545, personal inspections took place. Breakfast followed in the mess hall (next to the barracks), usually coffee with milk and rye bread with whatever toppings were available through various sources. The same hall also included a barber's, tailors, shoe/bootmakers and so on, making it a hub of activity for the new recruits. However, the brick walled enclosed military *Kasernes* were off limits to all civilian and unauthorized personnel. Special approval had to be granted for any foreign officer to enter the compound.

After breakfast the *Kompagnie* commander handed out punishments, made decisions regarding leave (e.g. home visits), etc.. The soldiers then marched to the drill field, returning at about 1115 hours for the noonday meal. Individual barracks training consisted of hygiene, physical training, bayonet drill, and rifle manual of arms accompanied by practice sighting and dry fire. The substantial noon meal was usually a cooked one of stew (beef, mutton, or pork) prepared in large kettles. In the afternoon, the troops were drilled on the parade ground, put through physical exercises, or participated in other unit activities. Upon completion of the assigned daily routine, they returned to the barracks and prepared for the evening meal, usually a light supper of tea, coffee, or chocolate and bread. Soup was served on occasions. Fruits and desserts were not.

The subsistence was meagre, but it taught the soldier frugality and endurance which would prove useful at the front. The soldier was expected to add to his meal from his own pocket, particularly breakfast and supper, after which they were free to visit the canteen where five *pfennings* bought half a litre of beer and one *pfenning* a pipe of tobacco. But the pay of a German soldier was not high. In 1904, he received his salary on the 1st, 11th, and 21st of each month – an equivalent of USD 1.65 (cca. 2.5 Marks.)* This taught the soldier to spend his money on necessities alone. However, the rations also forced families to send food, money and creature comforts, thus greatly reducing the expenses of the government. In addition, soldiers' families were forced to become a part of the military machine by playing an important role in the subsistence and comfort of each of 'their' soldiers. This was no accident.

By the 11-12th week of training, recruits began live fire exercises. Meanwhile, weekly trips with full packs to the field increased their stamina, where loads were increased to a maximum of 27kgs by training's end. By the first week of February, the unit was ready for inspection. The new recruits then went on to *Kompagnie*-level training which lasted six weeks, after which they were expected to perform all *Kompagnie* manoeuvres and drills. Upon satisfactory completion, the company went on to *Battalion*-drill for two weeks. Summer field exercise training began in May to prepare for regimental inspection in August. Divisional exercises then followed, and in September, *Korps*-manoeuvres took place.

The yearly mock engagements to which many foreign heads of state and other dignitaries were invited involved the *Armee Korps*. September was an ideal month since the weather was usually good, crops had been harvested, and the soldiers due for discharge were in their last month of duty. After these the units returned to garrison, while those due for discharge were released and new recruits inducted. Seldom did a two year recruit receive any rank, with promotions reserved for the career soldiers.

Summarised from Great War Militaria at: <http://www.greatwar.com/scripts/openExtra.asp?extra=10>

* <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ukrodess/page13.html>

In his 1926 book entitled *'Gohlis: the History of one of Leipzig's Suburbs,'* Willy Ebert devoted a whole chapter to the military garrison. In it he stressed the significance of its influence on the development of the city's north. Maps reveal why. In 1890 much of the land to the north of Gohlis had been open expanse (see right). However, by 1896 it had been parceled up for development (see plan beneath).

The military facility (at the time one of the largest in Germany) lay due west of Gohlis' boundary (in an enlarged version of the plan below the words *Kasernement des 107 Infanterie Regiment* can be distinguished at upper left). Their construction and maintenance was indeed of major economic importance to Leipzig. It meant employment for its masons, carpenters, joiners, roofers and painters, writes local military historian, *Dieter Kürschner*, and a need for the constant supply of food and beverages to the military personnel – and horses – besides uniforms and weaponry, heating and energy.²¹ Although Leipzig's bourgeoisie was far from enthusiastic for the military's presence, the thriving micro-industry and permanent revenue benefitted many. Postcard publishers, photographers, restauraters, pub-owners, inn-keepers, prostitutes and landlords also thrived, which in turn contributed to a not inconsiderable economic and urban upswing.

The deployment of the military in Leipzig led to an unprecedented militarization of life too, says Kürschner. The blue coats of the soldiers were everywhere. Military marches were a spectacle rolled out in the most populous of areas, to which the Saxon King, Friedrich August III was also treated in 1905. The aim was to foster a "*Lust aufs military*" – a love for the military.

The education of the population towards militarism and chauvinism was relentless, beginning with children, who like all young people, were encouraged to joyfully prepare to join the military, for 'the flag.' Kürschner's accounts are illuminating. He adds; "Young soldiers were sworn to the emperor and his policy of expansion." The propaganda was effective: in 1900 alone, 4 officers, 10 sergeants (*unter offiziers*) and 79 soldiers from Infantry Regiment 107 volunteered to suppress the "Boxer Rebellion" in China. Just four years later, more volunteered to suppress the Herero uprising in German Southwest Africa. Letters home show that Leipzig's soldiers were willing to act with the expected severity and cruelty against the natives.



Above: Gohlis in 1890
Below: Gohlis as envisaged in 1896
(Wikipedia: Gohlis_(Leipzig))

²¹ The history of Leipzig's military at: <http://www.leipzig-gohlis.de/historie/militaer.html>

What went on behind the barrack walls remained mostly hidden to those from Gohlis, because talking about it was strictly forbidden – and prosecuted. In addition to the drill, many young men suffered harassment in Leipzig. Although this may not have been as serious as within the Prussian army, the treatment of the teams in the Leipzig barracks was often humiliating and inhuman. Consider the following: by 1898 over 250 troops had been abused by their superiors, while between 1889 and 1900, 60 young men committed suicide. The reasons were that the vast majority sought better conditions beyond the barracks.

Kürschner continues that even after service, the ideological influence went on, first of all through the veterans' associations or 'military clubs.' In Gohlis there was not just the club 'camaraderie' but also the meeting places of those formerly of Regiment 107, plus the lancers, the gunners and others. These associations were not only meeting points that relived the memories of old comrades, but were extremely effective tools for communicating nationalistic, chauvinistic and militaristic ideas, fostered by those in high positions above. Usually the members of the military clubs were sat in state and municipal bodies, working within them as exponents of militarism. It was this second mechanism that helped propagate the view, what was a good citizen worth if he was without military rank?

Paul completed his service in July of 1904, which by all accounts appears to have been several months early given that the usual completion date was autumn. I find no explanation for this. Once he was discharged he will have been on the lists of reserves of the *Landsturm Ober Ersatz Kommission* for the next four or five years, during which time he could be called upon for exercises or military operations, including probably the 1905 event reported on the previous page. In fact, each man could be called out up to two times per year for training sessions.²² Afterwards Paul would become part of the *Landwehr* (ie. from 1908/1909) for around 11 years. But it was only from the age of 39 that he would be free from call-up for training duty, during a noted second phase within the *Landsturm*. (*ibid*)

Paul went back to his learned profession, a furrier. As he left the barracks, it seems he returned to his former home address in *Eberhardstraße* (since this did not change until 1907). But before starting a new chapter in his life, I wonder whether he managed a visit to his mother and siblings back in Silesia.²³ It was a long way home, eight hours or more by train, but unless he'd been home for Christmas and New Year, it might have been as many as five years since he'd last seen Radstein. He certainly would have good reason to return. In May 1904, his closest sibling and four years elder sister, Julianna, had died, aged 26 while his elder brother Johannes now had a family of his own.

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²² <http://www.greatwar.com/scripts/openExtra.asp?extra=10>

²³ His residential record doesn't suggest this, but its also not something that might have necessarily been declared if he was still duty bound to the *Ersatz Kommission* and retained some official leave.

Living in Leipzig, Paul won't have struggled with its native tongue quite as much as Friedrich Hinsch. As the language map within Chapter III shows, the *Hochdeutsche* or 'Standard German' he'll have picked up in Zülz should have served him well enough in Leipzig. He may have been a little challenged by its *Osterländisch* dialect but here he had an advantage over Friedrich too, since according to André Loh-Kliesch, author of *www.leipzig-lexikon.de*, it relies on a number of words derived from Slavic. Examples include 'pietschn' (from 'pitj') instead of 'trinken' (to drink) or 'Nüschl' for 'Kopf' (head). Even the word Leipzig itself is derived from the Sorbian/Slavic 'Lipsk,' which means 'settlement where the linden trees stand.' This Slavic link may have been another, albeit tenuous, reason why Paul adopted Leipzig.

One day after returning to work in the autumn of 1904, Paul's path crossed with that of Friedrich's, after he'd requested a neighbouring *Kürschnermeister* to procure a bundle of mink pelts for a set of fur-trimmed coats he'd been commissioned for.²⁴ Neighbouring Albert Stamm asked a dealer over on *Brühl* to arrange this, who duly couriered them over with Paul Tÿralla, his new trade assistant. When he arrived at *Rosßplatz 9* bearing the bundle, he was directed to Friedrich's *Stube*. He hung around long enough to exchange a few polite words with the *Schneidermeister* when it transpired neither he nor Friedrich were local. As they bid farewell, a photo on the sidetable of a young *Fräulein* named Nannÿ caught Paul's eye (as he in turn caught Friedrich's)! Neither gave much more of a thought to their encounter – not least until 1906 - although Friedrich did happen to mention Paul to his wife and daughter over supper.

Friedrich's *Schneiderstube* was meanwhile thriving. One profitable line of work he'd developed was his service to the entertainment sector. In early 1900 he'd been made a sub-contractor for Leipzig's nearby *Krystallpalast* theatre! The venue lay just outside the old town in *Wintergartenstraße* (see '4' on the map on pg. 88) and had become hugely popular since opening in 1882. Besides performances by its resident *Zirkus Renz* and those of the *Busch* and *Corty&Althoff* empires, it also offered variety shows, concerts and serious theatre too.²⁵

Friedrich's good fortune arose thanks to his appointment as costume designer for one of the theatre's principle acts, a male ensemble called the *Krystallpalast-Sängers*.²⁶ The theatre's manager, *Eduard Berthold*, appreciated Friedrich's work and from that point on put many more opportunities his way, including a 30-something impresario called *Oswald Büttner*, who managed a variety act called the *Original Dornfels-Ensemble*. They had been regulars at the *Krystallpalast* since 1902, when *Büttner* arrived from Radeburg (in Saxony).



April 1903 postcard of the
Original Dornfels-Ensemble
(Source: Universität Osnabrück)

²⁴ What follows on this page is pure conjecture, based on the known facts.

²⁵ de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Krystallpalast_Varieté

²⁶ http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leipziger_Krystallpalast-Sänger

The address books and civil registration data reveal there'd been little change as far as Herr Hinsch's family was concerned, other than his son arriving in *Düsseldorf* in April 1899, two years into his *Waltz*, to begin his military service.²⁷



Cigar makers by Johannes Marx, 1899
(Wikipedia: Zigarren)

His presence there appears to have been largely thanks to the tobacco industry, since the centre of German manufacturing was nearby *Bünde*, a town of 4,500 inhabitants. Nicknamed the '*Zigarrenstadt*,' its more than 20 factories, 84 companies and nearly 4,000 workers produced the majority of cigars sold in Germany.²⁸ Compared to other more noisy industries, cigar factories were peaceful which made them pleasant places to work - 'brown gold' could even be rolled into cigars at home.²⁹ Prior to arriving in Düsseldorf, Fritz probably 'journeyed' to one or more of 40 German towns that had established tobacco workers' associations, following Berlin's lead in 1848.

After completing his service a little over two years later in June 1901 with the *1. Ersatz Bataillon*,³⁰ Fritz spent nine more months on the road. Barring a brief stop in Leipzig in February 1902, he was back by April, this time from Munich.



Hedwig Bährtz,
wife of Fritz Hinsch

Fritz briefly moved back in with his parents and sister Nannj. His occupation according to Leipzig's *Stadtarchiv* over the coming years was simply that of a *Kommis* (office clerk) or *Handlungsgehilfe* (trade assistant),³¹ the same essentially as Paul Tjyralla.³² But if our Paul was busy looking for a wife, it was Fritz who beat him to it, marrying *Eugenie Hedwig Bährtz* on 11th April, 1905.

She was the daughter, *ohne Beruf*, of *Bäckermeister* (Master baker) *Paul Bährtz* and *Hedwig Vogel*. At the time she lived in *Hainstraße* 37 within old Leipzig (see '5' on map, pg. 88), although her parents' bakery and home was to be found respectively on the ground and third floor of *Reichstraße* 37 (coincidentally the same building where Paul Tjyralla had lived five years earlier, a floor above)! At 19, Hedwig was seven years Fritz's junior and even two years younger than his sister Nannj. She obviously turned heads, and meanwhile captured Fritz's heart!

²⁷ *Einwohner Der Stadt 1876 Bis 1889*: (POA Nr 166/Bl.37).

²⁸ <http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bünde>

²⁹ <http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zigarre>

³⁰ Thereafter he was in the *Düsseldorf Ersatz Reserve*, according to his residential record, a 12 year stint which lasted until he was 32 (ie. 1913) according to: [de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deutsches_Heer_\(Deutsches_Kaiserreich\)#Ersatz-Reserve-Pflicht](http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deutsches_Heer_(Deutsches_Kaiserreich)#Ersatz-Reserve-Pflicht) after which he remained eligible for call-up until 1920 (see: de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Preußische_Armee#Wehrpflicht).

³¹ The term *Kommis* was dropped during world war one according to de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kommis owing to its French nature. German alternatives were *Handlungsgehilfe* (trade assistant) and *Kaufmann*.

³² *Stadtarchiv* communication, 31st May, 2000 citing *Einwohner der Stadt Leipzig 1876-1899* (166/37).

The pair was married at the *Thomaskirche*, the grandest and most famous of Leipzig's churches. It had been renovated not long before in 1885 and lay just west of the *Markt* in the heart of Leipzig's Lutheran parish. Yet oddly enough neither Fritz' parents nor his sister served as witnesses of their civil marriage, while other names appear on the certificate, for instance, the 60 year old former *Schumacher* and *Privatmann Friedrich Franz Thieme*,³³ alongside 28 year old *Max Martin Thumstädter* (paymaster at the Royal Saxon Army's military garrison at Gohlis). Does that imply their relationship did not win the approval of Friedrich Hinsch?

Fritz and Hedwig began their common lives in a home in *Kolonnaden Straße 20*, in what his *Einwohnermeldekarte* indicates was a *Hofgebäude* (courtyard-facing apartment). At the same time Fritz opened a tobacconist shop (*Zigarettenhandlung*) at No.17 according to the 1905 Leipzig address books. Their home's location is marked '6' on the map on page 88 and is pictured right. The street lies to the west of the old town centre, a fifteen minute walk or so from his parents' and sister's home at *Roßplatz*. Of particular interest is the grille above the shop's doorway (shown below right), which highlights the importance to him of the premises by virtue of its inclusion of his (or their) initials. Curiously it also shows the tools of a smith (hammers and a pincer) rather than those of a tobacconist. Perhaps it was the emblem of an artisan? Or was it simply a gift from the smith who made it?³⁴



Above: *Kolonnaden Str. 17*, site of Fritz Hinsch first cigarette business (as it looked in the year 2000)

Below: Grille above the front door of *Kolonnaden Str. 17* revealing "H.F.," believed to stand for Hinsch Fritz



³³ Possibly a relative of *Gustav Thieme*, the military effects shopkeeper who had lived at *Gewand Gässchen 5* in 1893.

³⁴ A curious feature of this period regarding Fritz business is the fact that in July 1905 he spent a day in police detention and was fined RM 5 for a business malpractice, according to his *Einwohnermeldekarte*. Further detail is unavailable.

In his book, *Leipzig-Fotografien 1867 bis 1929*, Czok³⁵ writes that the petty bourgeoisie enjoyed very modest living quarters. Piped running water was already commonplace, however, the creation of an effective sanitation system still took decades as the installation of underground sewage disposal meant digging up streets, long since paved and taken for granted by Leipzig's citizens, he adds.



Volksbrausebäder 'II' (Hermann Walter)

Public baths (*volksbrausebäder*) opened in July 1904 at *Taubchenweg/ Dresdner Straße (Stadtbad I)*, *Connewitzer Kreuz (II)* and *Aurelienstraße (IV)* and were popular among those who had not the space, nor the means to bathe at home. For 10 pfennigs, writes Martina Güldemann in *Das war das 20 Jahrhundert in LEIPZIG*, citizens would receive a towel and soap to go! Meanwhile, the brown coal 'briquettes' that had taken over from black coal for home heating in the 1880s³⁶ were replaced by cleaner gas (which I also imagine saw the local air quality improve) and by 1905,

more than 1500 private households were connected to the electricity supply network. Thanks to electricity the town was well lit by lightbulbs and arc lamps. Individual motorized transport was available to the town's more affluent citizens, according to a "taximeter."



Neues Rathaus, 1905 (Foerster)

Just down the road from the Hinsch home, Leipzig's skyline gained a new landmark in 1905 with the completion of the fortress-like *Neues Rathaus* (above left), becoming the largest in Germany with its 114m tower, emitting a sense of both wealth and power. At the same time a refit of the *Altes Rathaus* began on the *Markt* and so Leipzig grew into a modern metropolitan city.

Its politicians sought to heighten Leipzig's commercial and international standing, and at the same time to eliminate social and political conflicts. However, this did not stem the rising influence of social democracy in urban-industrial working class suburbs, thanks also to the growth of trade unions. In 1903 the social democrats won their first Leipzig seat in the *Reichstag*. The Russian Revolution and the *Ruhr* miners' picket subsequently fueled mass strikes in Leipzig, and in late 1905 about 20,000 social democrats marched before the town hall chanting "Long live, the universal right to vote!"³⁷ In so doing, Saxony earns itself the reputation of Germany's liberal "Red Kingdom."

³⁵ *Fachbuchverlag Leipzig*, 1991.

³⁶ Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920. Dobson, 2001. pg. 12.

³⁷ *Ibid.* pg. 93

As business premises expanded within the city and large department stores multiplied. Banks flourished alongside insurance companies, commercial and office buildings, hotels and restaurants, leaving less and less room in the city center for flats and homes. At the same time green space diminished, with gardens in the old city district reduced by more than 40 percent between 1875 and 1890 (even if come 1899/1900, at 4.31m² per person, Leipzig's share was relatively high compared to other non-residential cities such as Hamburg and Frankfurt am Main).³⁸

The completion of the *Städtisches Kaufhaus* in 1901, opposite the Hinsch's former home in *Gewand Gässchen* marked the advent of a new kind of fair, a permanent fixture, almost an arcade, for advertising mass-produced goods to a nascent consumer society. Its owners were no longer the city, but increasingly private entrepreneurs or companies. This strengthened Leipzig's international standing and its rank within the German Reich, writes Czok.³⁹

Consequently the city spawned a number of millionaires in the early 20th century. Czok notes that most of them could be found in magnificent villas⁴⁰ in quiet residential areas like Gohlis. The bourgeoisie increasingly joined the elite there. For example, while in 1891 just three percent of Leipzig's residents lived in suburban villas,⁴¹ in the period between 1893 and 1913 as many as 57 percent of the *alter Mittelstand* left the city too.⁴² A good number of them escaped the crowded city centre in search of peace, tranquility, better air and greener suburbs, but not least because it also lent exclusivity. By 1905, perhaps a little surprisingly, Friedrich Hinsch had done the same.

My grandmother (Friedrich's granddaughter) had often talked of a big *Landhaus* where together with her siblings and cousins she shared many a memory, a mixture of both good and bad (but perhaps more of the bad). After it was sold in 1952, its location began to slip from our collective memory and when questioned on its whereabouts, some like her eldest daughter, Tina believed it to be in *Schleswig-Holstein*. However, if my grandmother had spent her summers there, it would have made for long journeys north, and such were never referred to.



Friedrich Hinsch's Landhaus, the location of which remained a mystery for many years to our family
March, 1906

³⁸ Tomomi Hotoka. Contact with nature as urban culture in the modern age: The gardening movement in the second imperial age in Germany, pg. 131. In *New Directions in Urban History. Aspects of European Art, Health, Tourism and Leisure since the Enlightenment*. Borsay, Hirschfelder and Mohrmann (Eds). 2000.

³⁹ Leipzig, Fotografien 1867 bis 1929. Karl Czok, 1991.

⁴⁰ Villa originally meant a detached house with a large garden. Ibid, pg. 130.

⁴¹ Statistic is from 1891. Ibid, pg. 130.

⁴² Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920. Dobson, 2001. pg. 336



1901 Schnellzug (Wikipedia.de/Bahnstrecke Leipzig–Dresden)



Schloss Machern, August 2000

The villa actually lay 20 km east of Leipzig, well away from the industrial suburbs and just outside a place called *Machern* (shown on the 1860 map left courtesy of *DavidRumsey.com*). Accessible by rail and road, it was relatively easy to reach. In fact it lay on the first ever long distance track in Germany, which had linked Leipzig and Dresden since 1839. Departing with Royal Saxon State Railways from the *Dresdner Bahnhof*, it took maybe 90 minutes or so to reach.⁴³

According to Annett Müller, *Bestandsreferentin* at the *Leipzig Stadtarchiv*, Machern was an oft-frequented destination for summer excursions. Leipzigers savoured walks around its sixteenth century castle, *Schloss Machern* and gardens which once had a moat (until railway construction drained it and left it with just a pond – the *Schwemmteich*).⁴⁴ At the end of the eighteenth century the last royal resident, count *Carl Heinrich August von Lindenau* (son of the Elector of Saxony) had English gardens added to the east and northern aspects of the castle grounds, enhancing its romantic and idyllic nature. At the start of the nineteenth century a family of Leipzig merchants named *Paul and Hildegard Schmetger* took it over.

Residential records show Friedrich and Marie Hinsch moved in to the villa in early March 1906. However, district archives reveal the site was purchased three years prior to that, in 1903. One might presume the house was built by them, however, local Machern historian, Professor Heinz Mielke and others (e.g. Friedrich's great grandson, Lothar) believe the house was already standing when it was purchased.⁴⁵

⁴³ Chapters 8 and 9 reveal the train stopped in nearby Wurzen. That required a one hour walk to Machern.

⁴⁴ http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schloss_Machern

⁴⁵ District archives only indicate the plot of land traded hands many times before it entered into Hinsch ownership and says nothing about the house.

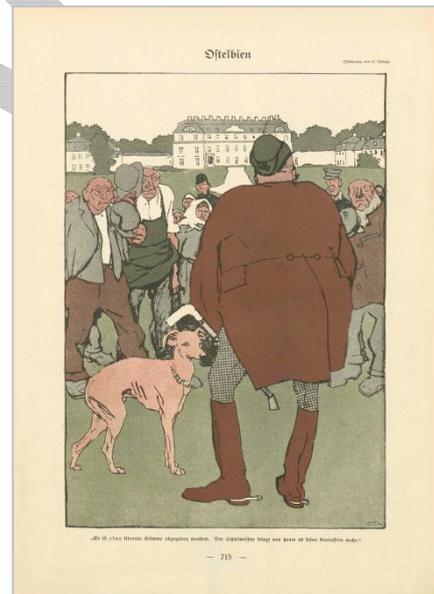
In my twentyfirst century mind I can't help but wonder why would Friedrich and Marie wish to leave the urban magnet Leipzig had been for them just 30 years' earlier?⁴⁶ Having looked upon this villa (think: maintenance costs!) and remoteness (think: social company), I only find arguments to remain a city dweller. Water, gas and electricity were widely available there, while at 54 he was surely too young to retire.

One might counter the railway made the difference. For example, Friedrich could undertake repair 'work from home' and deliveries through his son. Personal consultations could also be combined with visits to the city while even in 'a wild spot in the Muldental valley,'⁴⁷ perhaps some of the essential utilities – gas, electricity and water – were becoming available too. But I still couldn't rationalise those counter arguments.

Perhaps a *Simplicissimus* cartoon from 1912 – 'East Elbia' by *Eduard Thöny* – gives us a clue. It shows the back of a portly *Junker* in spurred boots, with a riding crop and a whippet. In the far background is a big house, with four storeys and two side wings. The Junker can be seen addressing a small crowd: weather-beaten country people, doffing their caps and bending slightly in deference. The cold authority of the lord and the cowed position of the farm workers and dependent peasants are in abundant evidence.

Friedrich Hinsch grew up in East Elbia.⁴⁸ From his humble beginnings as a *Käthner's* son becoming the lord of his own manor was surely a dream come true. The leaser, not the leaseholder! In Machern he would be his own lord. Yet it actually turns out to have been none of his own doing – it was all rather thanks to his son whose uncanny win on the lottery led to the proceeds being invested in the villa.

"Yes, the villa was purchased with gold marks based on a lottery win,"⁴⁹ confirmed his great granddaughter, Irene, in September 2012 (a story believed by her cousin too). That at least explains the mystery of the district records listing Fritz the owner from 1903. Afterwards he moved his parents there in 1906 as resident managers, while he and his wife awaited their first child. Two months later, in May 1906, the young couple themselves moved in to a rented second floor apartment at *Kolonnaden Straße 18*.



Thöny's satirical cartoon 'Ostelbien' (www.simplicissimus.info/booklet/919)

⁴⁶ In 2007, 72 percent of Europeans live in urban areas. They are key to growth and employment, states the European Commission's 2009 Action Plan on Urban Mobility

⁴⁷ *Vollständiges Staats-, Post, und Zeitungslexikon von Sachsen*. August Schumann. Leipzig, 1957

⁴⁸ The River Elbe's eastern watershed which begins in Czech Bohemia, flows through Dresden and Saxony, past Hamburg into the North Sea

⁴⁹ See also: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_gold_mark. Between 1873-1914 the mark was linked to gold.

5.2: Who was the *Junker* and what did he have to do with Friedrich Hinsch?

'*Junker*' in German means 'young lord' (derivation of '*Jung Herr*'), and can be interpreted to mean a *country squire*. He was a member of the landed nobility of Prussia and dominated the Kingdom into the twentieth century.

Plenty has been written about their characteristics and their origins, a 'class' closely linked to the Prussian military, says Jonathan Osmond in *Germany: A new social and economic history* (see pg. 96). Much of this discourse reflected on the balance between noble and bourgeois in their social make-up, and that between capitalist entrepreneurship and reactionary agrarianism in their economic behaviour. The fact is that all these ingredients played their part in defining their identity – for which there were many myths and stereotypes.

Some of these are reflected on in the memoirs of a chap called *Elard von Oldenburg-Januschau*, a leading figure in the *Bund der Landwirte* (Federation of Farmers founded in 1893) and the German Conservatives. Time and again he highlights the importance of *Bodenständigkeit* (rootedness in the soil): 'For a family stands and falls with the possession of land. The home (*Heimat*) on the land holds a family together, while fluttering off to the town and leaving one's own piece of land scatters it to the four winds.' The motto on the *Januschau's* family fireplace reinforced this rejection of the urban and the importance of staying where one belonged:

*The nobility should flee the chatter of the towns,
And not without need leave its' own hearth;
That way its growing lineage will blossom.
That is the old custom and right of the nobility.*

Yet while he emphasizes the value of land, at the same time he recounts apparent contradictions: the complicated history of land sales and purchases, bourgeois marriage alliances, heavy borrowing, and international trade – all standard practice for *Junker* families. For men to be away from home in the defence of Prussia was no conflict of interest to him, but the same could scarcely be said about politicking in Berlin or the changes over the centuries where *Januschau's* family seat actually was: first near Bremen, then Mecklenburg, then east Prussia, then West Prussia.

Even if Friedrich didn't fancy himself as a bit of *Junker*, it should neither be forgotten that many Germans had migrated to cities from the countryside in the preceding decades (see Chapters II and III). In fact, the term 'provincial' may have been a label that some older Germans post-unification accepted "as a badge of honour, a guarantor of solidity, a marker of genuine Germanness" (Blackbourn & Retallack; *Localism, Landscape, and the Ambiguities of Place*, 2007). Given the opportunity, many, like *Herr Hinsch* probably welcomed a return.

Sources: Jonathan Osmond in *Germany: A new social and economic history* (see pg. 96), besides en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Junker and en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prussia



According to Professor Mielke, Friedrich was not the only 'king of the castle' in Machern. At his website on the town's local history, he explains the Schnetgers had sold various plots of land from within their castle grounds (see '1' on the map to the left). The 'Hinsch' villa ('2') was the second or third to be built on these plots,⁵⁰ and was situated in what was then known as *Mark WenigMachern* (*Mark* meaning borderland, *Wenig* meaning Little).⁵¹ As late as 1922, the then village 'PC,' *Hauptwachtmeister V. Schulz*, reported "In Wenigmachern there are only four houses."

⁵⁰ <http://www.uni-leipzig.de/~mielke/villen/villen2.htm>

⁵¹ Administratively speaking *WenigMachern* belonged to *Dögnitz*, several kilometres to its northeast. This explains why records note the Hinsch's lived in '*Dögnitz bei Grimma*.' It eventually became part of Machern in 1956.

That the house was isolated is evident from the photograph right. The owners of those which lay closer to Machern's centre were all wealthy merchants and industrialists – big Leipzig names. For instance, between the *Schloss* and the railway line on *Wurzener Straße* (see map on the previous page) lay *Landhaus Louise*, the 1900 purchase of *Alexander Duncker*. His was not a new villa, and until then had served as the '*Gasthof zur Eisenbahn*,' a popular watering hole and rest-station for travelers en route to the Leipzig trade fair. Duncker owned a thriving publishing house in Leipzig and among his series of prestigious journals was the *Kürschner Zeitung* or Furriers' Newspaper.



Another big name was that of the successful cigar factory owners, *Horst* and *Walter Schöttler*. Their villa was built around 1906-7 at the end of *Plagwitzer Weg*, two kilometers or so from the Hinsch house.⁵² Near to their home lay the summer residence of *Carl Linnemann*, a book trader and music publisher whose business was located in Leipzig's *Springer Straße* (look out for this street again around 1917)!

Local noble, *Robert Voigtländer* was said to be "one of the most important German book dealers"⁵³ and built his villa in 1905 on the south side of the railway line while *Major Wolf von Ehrenstein* (a relative of Schnetger) built his in a similar locale in 1907. Another nearby villa was that of *Cäsar Sonnenkalb*, the owner of Leipzig Export-Import, who built his in 1872 and which between 1935-40 was then owned by the famous Leipzig publisher, *Hans Brockhaus*.

Obviously the Hinsch's were neighbours to some of Leipzig's elite and son Fritz will have relished every opportunity to be part of this rich man's 'club.' Indeed his parents nurtured a friendship of sorts with *Voigtlander*, although among those nearer by "frictions and complaints never cease[d]," reported *PC Schulz* in 1922.

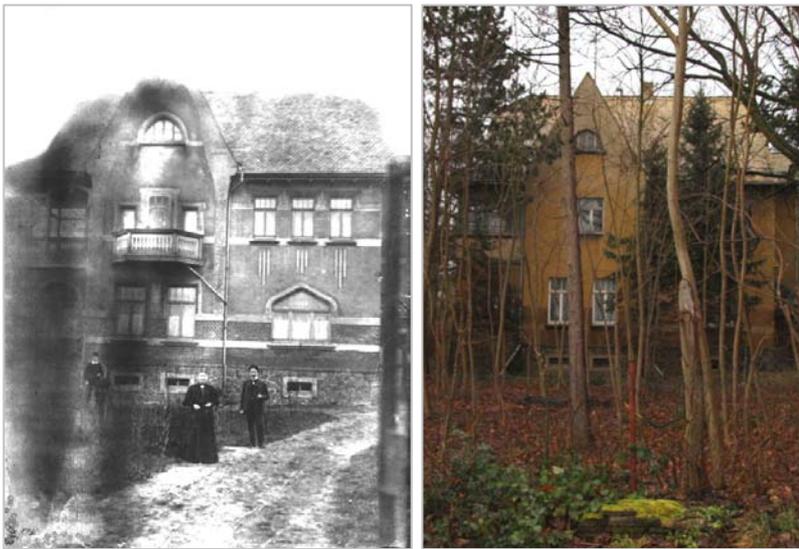
The home became known as Villa 17 and while spacious it was modest in comparison to the others mentioned above. In Mielke's words, "the house is simply decorated, but its size is demonstrative." It had a simple outbuilding behind (as seen from the main road), as opposed to servant, cook and coachmens' quarters. Yet at the same time it had something which all the other villas did not have: a bourgeois house crest, oozing identity (shown right).



⁵² See '3' on the map on the previous page. In 1910 it was sold to Dr. Karl Fritzsche, co-owner and main shareholder of Schimmel & Co. AG Miltitz (a fragrance company)

⁵³ <http://www.uni-leipzig.de/~mielke/villen/villen.htm>

The emblem on the western gable consists of three vertically mounted stone slabs of different size and shape. The outermost one is engraved with an intertwined 'F and H,' (today barely legible). One can still pick out the Latin word 'ANNO' (in the year) and below, '1905.' Since that was the year Fritz married Hedwig, the plaque, rather like that over his shop entrance, was likely commemorative. Mielke believes these written elements were originally embossed in gold and glistened in the western sun.

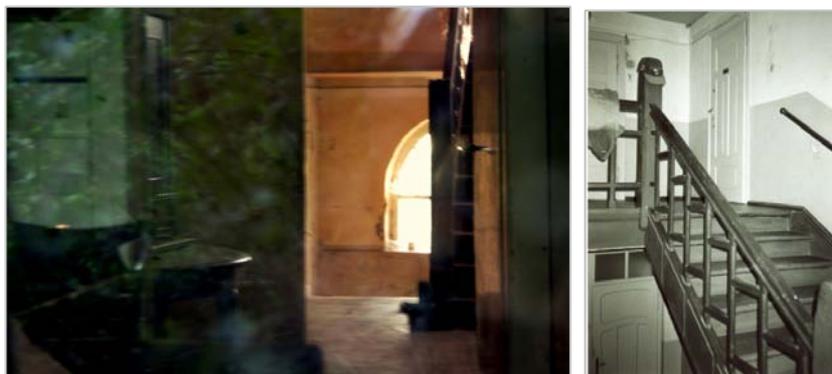


Then and 2012: Villa 17 from *Nepperwitz Weg*, where in 1906 Marie Hinsch stood waiting as host. A hundred years later, only trees whisper and wait..

Access to the house was via a track, as one can see in the photograph left, that led up from the nearby *Nepperwitz Weg*. The Hinsch crest lay directly above the front door (see pg. 89), from which visitors climbed the central staircase (see pictures below). This provided access to a first and second floor, attic and cellar. From the windows on the staircase, one could look west towards *Schloss Machern* and as my grandmother would relate, watch visitors coming up the road (the view is now obscured by trees). On each floor, three doors lead to separate rooms on the

north, east and south wings of the house. To its rear lay a sheltered terrace looking east across the property and the rolling hills beyond. An interesting feature that one no longer finds today is a balcony on the house's northern side, facing the front gate (see above left and right).

Even in 2012, then still overgrown and unkempt, the house remained imposing. Mielke notes it "was evidently built for a wealthy family," and whether bought or built by the Hinsch's, a true junker was not replete without estate and tenants. Family knowledge recalls the Hinsch's had cooks and gardeners, while tenants arrived some time later. The plot size, according to contracts from its 1949 sale was around 17,000m² or four acres (roughly two football pitches). Family lore also tells us there were orchards and a stable - practices that were also known to be typical of Machern, a settlement renowned for its horses and cherries. The plot's expanse is shown overleaf.



A century on: the staircase at Villa 17, first looking west through the back window and then looking east upon the 2nd and attic floors

Friedrich and Marie lived from the land. Unlike Claus Hinsch, he didn't need to rely on local poor relief or the state for his old-age insurance, which was anyway "too little to live on"⁵⁴ (although he probably received his share of France's five billion francs '1871' war indemnity or a military pension). From now on he became a 'Privatmann' hereafter.⁵⁵ On and off for the next twenty years, he and Marie 'privately' managed the estate, oft visited by their children and boarded by their grandchildren (see for example the picture on page 112).



The Hinsch plot is known to include at least the first three parcels in the diagram. Even adding the fourth (68b) still only amounts to cca. 12,000m² (not 17,000m²)

A month or so after the Hinsch's moved to Machern with daughter, Nannÿ, in late April 1906 the Schnetgers celebrated 100 years of their own family's residence.⁵⁶ In true bourgeois style there was a ball at *Schloss Machern* to which they were invited, besides many other members of high society such as the *Schöttlers* and *Alexander Duncker*. During the festivities, the Schnetgers' three children, Agnes (15), Gottfried (14) and Alexander (11) presented a theatrical verse to the revellers dressed respectively as a sailor, lord and fisherman. Champagne was in generous supply and everyone made the most of the opportunities to revel and dance the waltz.

It was on this occasion that Nannÿ Hinsch (now a fickle 22 year old) was introduced to Paul Tÿralla.⁵⁷ Duncker (shown right) had twisted Tÿralla's arm to come out to Machern for the party as his guest after interviewing him for a personal feature that ran in a recent issue of his trade newspaper, the *Kürschner Zeitung*. It had featured Paul's humble beginnings in Silesia, his experiences as an apprentice in Zülz, why he felt Jews should be recognized as citizens of Leipzig and what attracted him to the 'Red Kingdom.' Nannÿ had read the feature as her father was a subscriber. She noticed Paul and convinced Duncker to make their mutual acquaintance between waltzes. Friedrich looked on from a distance, trying to recall where he'd seen Paul's face before.



Matchmaker in a Homburg, Alexander Duncker (www.uni-leipzig.de/~mielke)

Nannÿ fell for Paul from the moment she set eyes on him. Tall, dashing and full of wit, he charmed her with his stories of home and how he journeyed daily from Radstein to learn his trade and had now progressed to a salesman. She saw her

⁵⁴ *Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920*. Sean Dobson, 2001. pg. 31

⁵⁵ de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Privatier notes the term entered the German language upon the rise of the bourgeoisie during the nineteenth century and typically functioned as a substitute for a professional title.

⁵⁶ <http://www.uni-leipzig.de/~mielke/schnetgr/schnet.htm>

⁵⁷ What follows about the meeting of Paul and Nannÿ is conjecture, based on the available information

father in him...courageous, principled, and a hard-worker who yearned for the same as she. Not long after, she introduced him to her father (for whom the penny finally dropped) and accompanied by Marie they shared polite conversation throughout the evening about the comparative advantages of country life over the city and how long-distance travel had evolved in the 30 or so years since Friedrich had set foot in Leipzig. Along the way he also mentioned how he had become acquainted with Marie, who also found Paul pleasant company.



The Neues Theater on Augustusplatz, 1900 (wikimedia)

It was love at first sight. No sooner had Nannÿ moved to Machern, she was returning almost daily to Leipzig to meet Paul. A preferred meeting place for strangers, lovers and students was *Augustusplatz*, one of the most beautiful places within the city, writes Czok. Not only was the *Mende* fountain on its south side, a popular meeting point, but also the *Cafe Francais* at the entrance of *Grimmaische Straße*. Here one watched the world go by below the *Neues Theater*, the Museum of Fine Arts, the University and the *Pauline Kirche*. The square was there to emphasize the harmony of nature and architecture, as the photo left shows.

In between coffee and cake, Nannÿ found time to visit the photo ateliers. The *Apollo* lay just up the road from her brother's home and shop in *Kolonnaden Straße*. Suddenly football lost all its meaning for Paul (even if in 1906 *VFB Leipzig* won the title again)! Instead he was experiencing the '*Drallewatsch*' - the old Sachsen custom of "living and seeing" - which meant 'going out' from restaurant to restaurant and bierkeller to bierkeller within old Leipzig.



On weekends the pair was inseparable. At the invitation of the Schnetgers they went riding in Machern's *Schlosspark*. They would climb its 26m *Ritterburg* keep and enjoy the eastern panorama across the fields towards the Hinsch's new home, where Mielke's website notes "sunrise is an experience where the heart grows in love of the beautiful German homeland." They often enjoyed tea with mother at home and on many occasions there were private parties in Machern where they could hob-knob with the 'landed gentry'⁵⁸. On occasion they also took the 90 minute *schnellzug* to Dresden and spent the day strolling along the magnificent Elbe, romancing inside the *Zwinger* palace and taking boat trips down the valley to *Schloss Pillnitz*.

Attractive and cultivated, though not a beautiful, young woman. 'The best type of well-bred Prussian stock.' (Count Harry Kessler on) Nannÿ Hinsch, 1906

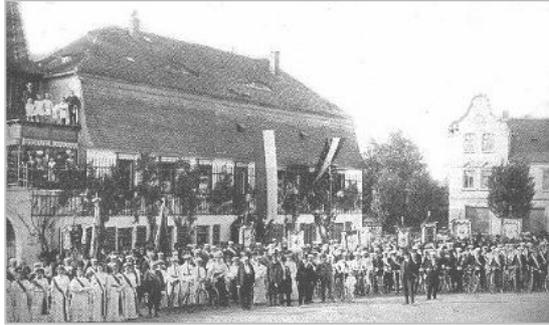
⁵⁸ Gentlemen who owned extensive land in the shape of country estates and thus were not required to work, except on the management of their own lands and in connected public services) together with their immediate families. The estates were often, but not always, made up of tenanted farms, in which case the gentleman could live entirely off rental income.

In September they celebrated Nannÿ's 23rd birthday. For her it marked the occasion where she realized she wanted to spend the rest of her life with Paul. On the back of one of her portraits she wrote: "*Nanny u. Paul. Zur eurige Erinnerung am 27 September 1906. Mark-Wenigmachern bei Leipzig.*" (Nanny and Paul, for your recollection)



Clockwise from top: Tea at the Hinsch's, Nannÿ and Paul, 1906; Daytripping in Dresden and on the Elbe, 1890; Nannÿ at the Apollo, 1906; the Ritterburg in Machern in early spring; Schloss Machern across the Schwenmteich; and Wilhelmsruhe in the SchlossPark. (Wikipedia)

Not long afterwards, Hedwig Hinsch gave birth to her and Fritz' first child, a son called *Frits Lothar Egon*. He was born on October 27th, 1906. Friedrich and Marie were grandparents! Nannÿ meanwhile spent more and more time with her brother and Hedwig in *Kolonnadenstraße*, leaving her parents increasingly alone in the country.⁵⁹ Christmas passed and Paul spoiled her with gifts of fur as Nannÿ grew molett – not uncommon in those pre-diet conscious days where food was in abundance and life was good.



For new year 1906/7 Paul and Nannÿ were invited to the Dunckers to celebrate at *Landhaus Louise*. The banquet was followed by music and dancing and the pair relished each others' company into the early morning hours. Duncker and his wife Louise were tickled, not least because they had introduced Paul and Nannÿ.

Landhaus Louise in 1907 (www.uni-leipzig.de/~mielke)

Nannÿ's Father, Friedrich, meanwhile had been watching on closely. While Paul was hardworking and ostensibly a Prussian, certain traits meant he was not quite the ideal son-in-law. For instance, he was a Catholic. He was also more Slav than German, and besides this, more proletariat than bourgeois. He neither had the ideal financial backing that some of the other more eligible local bachelors could offer. Despite his own humble beginnings, this left him perturbed and he regretted not having done more to fix her up with someone more suitable. But Nannÿ was insistent Paul was Mr. Right. And anyway, she was still young enough.



Friedrich and Marie 'host' their son, Fritz, 1907

Two months later, Friedrich learned that Nannÿ was pregnant. In pre-world war one Germany, every girl was supposed to keep themselves chaste as virginal collateral! That she had not only disrespected this Prussian virtue but was expectant invoked his anger,⁶⁰ and Paul was brought to book for not having taken precautions. After all, by the early twentieth century, high quality inexpensive condoms were available from many outlets in Germany, including drug stores, barber shops, pedlars - even through the mail!⁶¹ Nannÿ too was chastised for not having taken greater care – diaphragms had been available since the late 1890s and its cost and the necessary medical visit to fit were no excuse.

⁵⁹ *Kolonnadenstraße 17* is even indicated as Nannÿ's home address on her marriage certificate.

⁶⁰ Although the ratio of illegitimate births declined from the 1880s onwards, in 1900 the ratio of children born to unmarried women was still high, some 9.14 in towns, as opposed to 6.14 in rural areas. O&O

⁶¹ O&O, pg. 54

Friedrich and Marie saw history repeating, recalling their own promiscuous history. As on that occasion, there was no dignified alternative but to proceed with their marriage. Paul and Nannÿ's engagement was announced on Easter weekend, three weeks beforehand to allow for any objections. To address his father-in-law's concerns, Paul renounced his religious beliefs and became a Lutheran, no small thing for a Catholic. To ensure his son-in-law remained in Leipzig, Friedrich waived the wreath money he was supposed to contribute for taking Nannÿ's chastity, and instead provided a small dowry to start them off: she was after all his only daughter. And with this, Paul remained one of the 33.5 million Germans in 1907 who lived in a place other than that of their birth.⁶²



Above: Nannÿ and Paul upon their engagement

Below: *Blumenstraße, 15*, the first home of the Tÿrallas

Their courtship quickly over, preparations were made for the wedding as well as the arrival of their child. The pair married on Friday April 19th, 1907 and was registered by Leipzig's *Standesamt* as Nr. 505 of 1907. The civil marriage was undersigned by her brother and her mother but by none of Paul's Radstein-based family. Friedrich neither bore witness to his daughter's wedding. Formally children were supposed to seek their father's consent before marrying⁶³, but on this occasion, the die had already been cast. As a rebuff, Friedrich neither witnessed the marriage nor signed the certificate.



On Saturday April 20th, their public ceremony took place in Leipzig's *Thomaskirche*, that which had been made famous by Bach more than 150 years earlier (see text box 2.2). But despite the wealth of photographs available of Nannÿ and the relative novelty since 1905 of the bridal dress being white, none in our family's possession mark the occasion (for reasons that will become clear later). Nannÿ and Paul Tÿralla celebrated afterwards by touring Leipzig in a traditional stagecoach.

The following day, he carried her over the threshold of their new home in Gohlis, that burgeoning new settlement north of the centre of Leipzig, where in 1904 he had completed his military service. They lived in *Blumenstraße 15*, renting the ground floor apartment alongside a chap called *Schuster*. Their rollercoaster romance over, the trials and tribulations of parenthood lay just around the corner. And so the curtain fell on *Goethe's Faust* for the interval, with 'Gretchen' now expecting, according to the script. Paul meanwhile was now part of the Hinsch dynasty.

⁶² In other words, half of the country's population. Guinane, O&O, pg. 50-51

⁶³ O&O, pg. 358



Leipzig's Thomaskirche in 1906:
The venue for Nanný Hinsch and Paul Týralla's marriage a year later
(Courtesy of LeipzigInfo.de)