



Australian-German Institute Inc.

a link between Australia and the German-speaking regions of Europe

FEDERKIEL



No: XLVII, May 2011



National Multicultural Festival 2011

Thank you to all the volunteers who worked tirelessly to coordinate and to serve hundreds of customers at Das Zentrum's food stall at the National Multicultural Festival on 12-13 February 2011. Through the sale of food and drinks including some traditional German fare, we were able to raise funds which will assist to maintain, and to develop and improve our resource centre.

This year's festival attracted record numbers with over 240,000 people attending over the three days. The ACT Government has also expressed their thanks to all participants who helped to make the festival such a big success.

In this edition:

- * **Silesia – Part 1 of history of this fascinating region**
- * **Invitations: Ken Helm Wine Presentation & Winter Solstice Dinner**
- * **Events coming soon – book in to your diary now!**

Schlesien

Schlesien ist eine Landschaft, die beiderseits der mittleren und oberen Oder liegt. Nach Süden ist Schlesien von der Ost-Abdachung des Sudeten-Gebirgsland und den Westkarpaten umfasst. Meist ist Schlesien Tiefebene, doch im Riesengebirge, auf dessen Kamm die schlesisch-böhmische Grenze verläuft, erhebt sich die Schneekoppe (polnisch Sniezka) bis zu 1603 Meter. Das Land ist sehr fruchtbar, besonders im Süden und Südwesten. Von höchster Bedeutung aber sind seine Mineralvorkommen. Seine Kohlelager gehören zu den wichtigsten Europas und es gibt auch reiche Vorkommen von Eisen, Blei und Zink. Viele andere Industrien werden betrieben.

Die Hauptstädte sind (in Polen) Wroclaw (dt. Breslau), Opole (Oppeln), Katowice (Kattowitz) Bytom (Beuthen), Chorzow (Königshutte), und (in der Tschechei) Opava (Troppau). Den Hauptteil nahm die preußische Provinz Schlesien (1919-34 und 1941-45 Ober- und Niederschlesien) ein. Sie bestand aus den Regierungsbezirken Liegnitz (Legnica), Breslau und Oppeln. Die Hauptstadt war Breslau. 1945 kam die Provinz Schlesien bis zur Oder-Neiße Linie unter polnische Verwaltung, die Gebiete westlich dieser Linie (nämlich das Land Sachsen, das 1952 auf die Bezirke Dresden und Cottbus aufgeteilt wurde) zur sowjetischen Besatzungszone. Die gleiche Linie bestimmt die Grenze zwischen Polen und der heutigen Bundesrepublik Deutschlands.

Dessen Name leitet sich wahrscheinlich vom wandalischen Teilstamm der Silingen ab, der sich von etwa 300 vor Christus bis 350 nach Christus an der Oder siedelte. Im 6. Jahrhundert wurde das Gebiet, nach dem Abzug des Hauptteils der Germanen, von slawischen Stämmen eingenommen. Seit dem 10. Jahrhundert herrschten in Schlesien die Dynastie der polnischen Piasten. Auf Anlass polnischer Thronstreitigkeiten griff der Staufer Kaiser Friedrich 1., (Friedrich Rotbart bzw. Barbarossa genannt), in Polen ein, und erreichte 1163 die Bildung zweier schlesischen Herzogtümer: Breslau unter Boleslav und Ratibor (polnisch Raciborz) unter Mieszko. Von diesen beiden Herzögen stammen die zahlreichen schlesischen Piastenlinien ab, die im Mittelalter mehrere Teilfürstentümer gründeten. Die Herzöge Heinrich I. und Heinrich II. bemühten sich während des 13. Jahrhunderts durch Ansiedlung deutscher



Silesia is a region occupying both sides of the middle and upper Oder. Towards the south Silesia is enclosed by the eastern escarpment of the Sudeten mountains and the west Carpathians. Silesia is mostly low lying plains but in the Riesengebirge mountain range the Schneekoppe (polish Sniezka) rises to 1603 metres. The land is very fertile, especially in the south and south-west. Of greatest importance, however, are its mineral resources. Its coalfields are among the most important in Europe and there are also rich deposits of iron, lead and zinc. There are many other industries too.

The main cities are (in Poland) Wroclaw, Opole, Katowice, Bytom, Chorzow and (in the Czech Republic) Opava. Most of it was part of the Prussian Province 1919-34 and 1941-45 of Upper and Lower Silesia. It consisted of the administrative districts of Legnica, Wroclaw and Opole. The capital was Wroclaw. In 1945 the Province of Silesia up to the Oder-Neisse Line came under Polish control, to the west of this line it became, in 1952, part of the soviet occupation zone, divided between the districts of Dresden and Cottbus in Saxony. It is the same line that determines the boundary between Poland and the present day Federal Republic of Germany.

The name probably derives from the Vandal clan of the Silingen which settled on the Oder between 300 B.C. and 350 A.D. In the 6th century, after the withdrawal of the main part of the German tribe, the area was taken over by Slavic tribes. From the 10th century the Polish Piast dynasty ruled Silesia. Taking advantage of Polish throne disputes the Staufer Emperor Friedrich I (Friedrich

Kolonisten ihr Land kulturell zu heben. Die Zuwanderer kamen aus den Gebieten westlich des Queis besonders aus Thüringen, Obersachsen, Franken, dem Rhein-Main Gebiet und Hessen. Sie kamen als Bergleute, Handwerker, Bauern und Kaufleute. Es scheint also, dass die Deutschen ursprünglich als Gastarbeiter nach Schlesien kamen. Bis etwa 1350 wurden 120 Städte und mehr als 1200 Dörfer gegründet. Bis 1350 hatte die Zahl der Deutschen bis zu ungefähr 90.000, vielleicht mehr, zugenommen. Die zahlenmäßig schwachen Slawen der Ebene wurden aufgesogen, die Gebirgsgegenden neu erschlossen. Oberschlesien blieb ein Übergangsgebiet mit starkem slawischen Bevölkerungsanteil. Die Ostkolonisation endete mit dem Schwarzen Tod, der Pest, die Europa 1347-52 heimsuchte.

Durch verschiedene Verträge während des 14. Jahrhunderts verzichteten die polnische Könige auf ihre schlesischen Ansprüche. Infolgedessen trat Schlesien unter die Lehnshoheit der Könige von Böhmen, die seit 1526 die Habsburger waren. Die schlesischen Fürstentümer bewahrten sich jedoch ihre Eigenständigkeit. Dies zeigte sich bei der Ausbreitung der Reformation.

Die Reformation und die Gegenreformation führten zum Ausbruch des Dreißigjährigen Krieges. Während des Krieges 1618-1648 wurde Schlesien von aufeinanderfolgenden Besatzungsheeren von Sachsen, dem Kaiserreich und Schweden besetzt. Dabei litt Schlesien heftige Bedrängnisse. Beim Westfälischen Frieden 1648, welcher den Dreißigjährigenkrieg beendete, kehrte Schlesien wieder zur Herrschaft Österreichs zurück.

1675, beim Sterben des letzten Piasten, fügte Österreich die Piastengebiete in die Herrschaftsbereiche der böhmischen Krone ein. Bis dann hatte in Schlesien die Gegenreformation beträchtliche Fortschritte gemacht, obwohl in Breslau und in einigen anderen Gebieten der Protestantismus toleriert wurde. Karl XII. von Schweden erreichte 1707, durch den Vertrag zu Altranstadt, die Rückgabe von 128 Kirchen an die Protestanten und das Recht die 6 Gnadenkirchen (zu Sagan, Freystadt, Militsch, Landeshut, Teschen und Hirschberg) zu bauen.

Die Habsburger Herrschaft und die zunehmende Verdeutschung lösten die historischen Verbindungen zwischen Schlesien und Polen. Noch vor dem Aussterben der Piastendynastie in 1675

Barbarossa) invaded Poland and in 1163 achieved the establishment of two Silesian duchys: Wroclaw under Boleslav and Raciborz under Mieszko. From these two dukes derive the numerous branches of the Piast dynasty which in the middle ages established several principalities. During the 13th century the dukes Heinrich I and Heinrich II took steps to raise the cultural standing of their land by settling German colonists. The immigrants came from regions west of the Quei, in particular Thuringen, Upper Saxony, Franconia, the Rhein-Main region and Hessen. They came as mine workers, craftsmen, farmers and merchants. Thus it appears the Germans originally came to Silesia as guest workers. By about 1350, 120 towns and more than 1200 villages had been established. The number of Germans had increased to about 90,000, perhaps more. The numerically weak Slavs of the plains were absorbed and the mountain regions were opened up again. Upper Silesia remained a transition region with a strong Slav component. The east colonisation ended with the Black Death, the plague that ravaged Europe in the years 1347-52.

Through various treaties during the 14th century the Polish kings relinquished their Silesian claims and as a result Silesia came under the feudal lordship of the kings of Bohemia who, from 1526, were the Habsburgs. Even so, the Silesian principalities preserved their independence. This became apparent with the spreading of the Reformation.

The Reformation and the Counterreformation led to the outbreak of the Thirty Years War. During the war 1618-1648 Silesia was occupied by successive armies of occupation from Saxony, the Holy Roman Empire and Sweden. In the process Silesia suffered grievous afflictions. With the Peace of Westphalia 1648 Silesia reverted to Austrian rule.

With the death of the last Piast in 1675, Austria incorporated the Piast regions in the realm of the Bohemian crown. The Counter Reformation had by then made considerable progress in Silesia, although in Wroclaw and in some other districts Protestantism was tolerated. In 1707, by the Treaty of Altranstadt, Karl XII of Sweden procured the return of 128 churches to the Protestants and their right to build 6 Grace and Favour churches (at Sagan, Freystadt, Militsch, Landeshut, Teschen and Hirschberg).

wurde 1523 die Markgrafschaft von Jägerndorf von einem Nebenstamm des Hohenzollerner Herrschergeschlechts von Brandenburg gekauft. Später behauptete es das Erbfolgerecht zu weiteren schlesischen Lehngütern. Außerdem schloß 1537 der Kurfürst Joachim II von Brandenburg mit dem Piasten Herzog eine Allianz ab, wobei Brandenburg die Piastenfürstentümer, wenn die Piasten Dynastie aussterben sollte, erben würde. (Dieser Vertrag wurde vom König Ferdinand I von Böhmen (später Kaiser Ferdinand I) für ungültig erklärt.)

Auf diesen zweifelhaften Gründen machte 1740 König Friederich II von Preußen (genannt der Große), als Erbe des Hauses Brandenburg, Ansprüche auf einen großen Teil Schlesiens von Maria Theresia, die gerade vor kurzem die Erbfolge Österreichs, Böhmens und Ungarns angenommen hatte. Aber das Erbfolgerecht Maria Theresias begründete sich auf der sogenannten Pragmatischen Sanktion von 1713, d.h. einer Verkündigung des Kaisers Karl IV, wobei die Habsburger Länder, - nämlich Österreich, Böhmen, die Südniederlande und Gebiete in Italien - ungeteilt bleiben sollten und welche außerdem die Erbfolge der Tochter zuerkannte. Einige der europäischen Mächte bestritten jedoch Maria Theresias Erbfolge, was am Ende zum Österreichischen Erbfolgekrieg führte. Der Anspruch Friedrichs II auf Schlesien und sein Angebot, Maria Theresia Hilfe in dem bevorstehenden Krieg zu leisten, wurden von der Königin abgelehnt. Es ist bemerkenswert, dass zwar zu dieser Zeit preußische Truppen bereits im Begriff waren, in Schlesien einzumarschieren! Letztendlich gelten als Hauptgründe für den Österreichischen Erbfolgekrieg das aggressive Trachten von Preußen, das immer stärker wurde, und seine Konkurrenz mit Österreich in Mitteleuropa.

So früh wie Januar 1741 besetzten preußische Truppen fast das ganze Schlesien. Bis Ende des ersten schlesischen Krieg 1742 sah sich Maria Theresia gezwungen, im Vorfrieden von Breslau und dann im Frieden von Berlin, Schlesien bis zur Oppa und die Grafschaft Glatz an Preußen abzutreten.

Habsburg rule and the increasing Germanisation dissolved the historical connections between Silesia and Poland. Even before the dying out of the Piast dynasty in 1675 the margraveship of Jägerndorf was bought by a side branch of the Hohenzollern ruling family of Brandenburg. It later claimed the succession to further feudal possessions in Silesia. Moreover, in 1537, the Elector Joachim II of Brandenburg struck an alliance with the Piast duke by which Brandenburg would inherit the Piast principalities on the extinction of the Piast dynasty. (This treaty was declared invalid by King Ferdinand I of Bohemia, later Emperor Ferdinand I.)

In 1740 on these dubious grounds King Friedrich II of Prussia (the Great) as heir of the House of Brandenburg made claims to a large part of Silesia from Maria Theresia who had just then assumed the Austrian, Bohemian and Hungarian succession. But Maria Theresia's succession was based on the Pragmatic Sanction of 1713, ie. a proclamation by Emperor Karl IV according to which the Habsburg lands – namely, Austria, Bohemia, the Southern Netherlands and districts in Italy- were to remain undivided and which, moreover, recognised the daughter's succession. However, some of the European powers disputed Maria Theresia's succession, and that led ultimately to the War of the Austrian Succession. Friedrich II's Silesian claim and his offer to help Maria Theresia in the imminent war were rejected by the Queen. It is interesting to note that at this very time Prussian troops were already in the process of invading Silesia! In the final analysis a chief reason for the War of the Austrian Succession was the aggressive ambitions of Prussia, which was becoming increasingly strong, and its rivalry with Austria in Central Europe.

As early as January 1741 Prussian troops were occupying almost all Silesia. By the end of the first Silesian War in 1742 in the Peace of Wroclaw and then in the Peace of Berlin Maria Theresia saw herself with no option but to cede to Prussia Silesia as far as the Oppa and the County of Glatz.

Written by: Gavan Cashman

Reference sources: Der Neue Brockhaus, Everyman's Encyclopedia and the online Columbia Encyclopedia
Part 2 of this article in our next edition.

Winter Solstice Dinner

Invitation for members and friends

Join us at the Ridge Restaurant at Farrer Shops
Thursday 23 June 2011 at 6.30pm

Two course meal (main and dessert) for \$38.00
Drinks: BYO \$3 corkage per bottle.

Bookings are essential by Tuesday 14 June 2011.
Ring Paul on 6281 0486 or email: pgamp@orac.net.au



German and Australian Riesling Wines

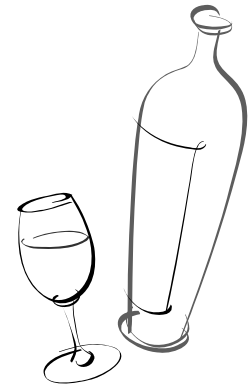
Last year local award-winning wine maker Ken Helm was invited by German wine makers to travel to Germany to undertake judging of German wines. We welcome Ken back to *Das Zentrum* to talk about his experience, and about wines of Germany and Australia.

Thursday 16 June at 7.30pm
at Das Zentrum in the Griffin Centre

Ken and Judith started the vineyard, winery and cellar door in 1973 and have built it into one of the leading wineries in the Canberra District. It continues to be a family affair with all of the family (including recent additions) playing an integral part in the business.

The winemakers are Ken Helm and daughter Stephanie, who are fourth and fifth generation descendants of German vinedressers from the Rhineland, who established vineyards near Albury and Rutherglen in the 1860s.

Ken's flagship wines are Riesling and Cabernets and he has connections with Riesling makers from all over the world, eg: Dr Loosen and Katharina Prüm in the Mosel region and Dr Alexander Kohen from the German Wine School in Koblenz. Trips to the vineyards and wineries of the Mosel and Rhine valleys and Bordeaux have fine-tuned the Helm wines. In 2000, Ken instigated the Canberra International Riesling Challenge and his continuing role as chairman allows him to constantly keep abreast of new developments in Rieslings around the world.



Member Survey

Shortly we will be conducting a survey inviting members to tell us about your needs and expectations of Das Zentrum, such as:

- Do you have any requests for materials for the resource centre?
- Any activities or functions you would like to take part in?
- Do the current opening hours suit your needs?

The survey will be conducted in an on-line format. If you do not have internet access or would prefer to receive a hard copy of the survey, please contact us and we can forward the survey form by mail. If you have not provided your email address, or it has changed, please forward your current email address to



FAR AWAY SO CLOSE German life and culture in Australia.

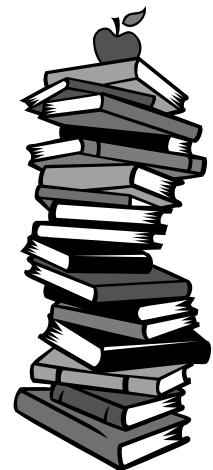
The German Embassy Canberra in cooperation with the Goethe Institute Australia presents this exhibition in the Canberra Centre on the upper floor from 29 April to 22 May.

Germany and Australia are FAR AWAY from each other and yet SO CLOSE. Discover footprints of German life and culture in Australia. Explore why Germans made Australia their home and experience unusual people and outstanding portraits.

For more information visit: www.goethe.de/ins/au/lp/ges/far/ort/enindex.htm

New books

Thanks to the Goethe Institute we have some new books in our library. Drop in and see what has been added to our shelves. Looking for books or DVDs in particular? Let us know and we can try to source materials on request and make them available for our members.





INFORMATION ABOUT US.....

VISIT US AT:

Griffin Centre
Level 1, Room 1.03
20 Genge Street
Civic

OPENING HOURS

Tuesday to Friday
11:30am to 2:30pm
Friday
5:30pm to 8:00pm

BY MAIL:

Das Zentrum
Griffin Centre
1.03/20 Genge St
Canberra ACT 2601

YOUR COMMITTEE

President: Paul Gamp, ph: 6281 0486
Secretary: Rachel Cremer, ph: 6259 5205
Treasurer: Bill Maude, ph: 6295 3565
Language course enquiries: Patricia Schiessl,
bezi@bigpond.net.au

CONTACT US:

Phone 6230 0441 during opening hours
Email: pgamp@orac.net.au or rachelcremer@hotmail.com
Or visit: www.daszentrum.org.au

Das Zentrum is a library, resource centre, and meeting place for anyone with an interest in the German speaking regions of Europe.

- Are you a visitor from Germany looking for up-to-date magazines or newspapers?
- Are you a student studying the German language who needs study material or German DVDs to help develop your language skills?
- Are you looking for German-speaking people to help you retain your language skills in an informal environment?

Das Zentrum can help with the above and more. Information on our language courses and upcoming events is enclosed. Or if you need more details just drop in or contact us on the numbers above.

★ The publication of this newsletter was made possible by the support of the **ACT Government's Multicultural Grants Program 2010-11.**

★ Contributions, ideas and/or complaints are invited!

Please contact Rachel at: rachelcremer@hotmail.com.



Calendar of Events

of Das Zentrum

Book in to your diaries now...

German language classes – Semester 1 is currently underway with Semester 2 starting in July – classes are:

- Mondays 6-8pm** **For continuing students** – For information please contact Patricia by email: bezi@bigpond.net.au.
- Tuesdays 6-8pm** **For continuing beginners** is on Tuesday evenings. Contact Patricia for more details.
- Wednesdays 6-8pm** **For intermediate students** please contact Susanne at email: gross.susanne@gmail.com.
- Every Thursday 7.30pm until late** **German conversation group** continues weekly at *Das Zentrum*. Cost for this popular group is \$30 per six months. Contact Paul for more details on 6281 0486 or pgamp@orac.net.au.
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Thurs 19 May 7.30pm Talk presented by Dr Klaiber "**Is Germany turning Green?**" Dr Klaiber is a former German Ambassador to Australia who now resides with his family here in Canberra. The citizens of his home State of Baden - Wuerttemberg have recently elected a green red State Government for the first time in its history. This will make for an interesting talk and discussion. Starts at 7.30pm at Das Zentrum in the Griffin Centre.

Thurs 16 June 7.30pm "**German and Australian Riesling Wines**" talk presented by local wine maker Ken Helm. Ken is a producer of award winning Riesling wines. Last year Ken was invited by German wine makers to go to Germany to judge German wines . Ken will talk about his experience in wine making and the differences between Germany and Australia. Presentation at Das Zentrum in the Griffin Centre.

Friday evenings from 6.30pm **Freitag Filmabend** – DVD screening on the first Friday of each month at 6.30 PM at Das Zentrum in the Griffin Centre. Films vary from modern or award-winning classics, television series or documentaries. Please check our website for latest film titles prior to screening. Entry by gold coin donation.

Thurs 23 June 6.30pm	Winter Solstice Dinner for members and friends at the Ridge Restaurant at the Farrer Shops. Two course meal (main and dessert) for \$38.00. Drinks: BYO \$3 corkage per bottle. Bookings are essential by Tuesday 14 June 2011. Ring Paul on 6281 0486 or email: pgamp@orac.net.au .
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