



Australian-German Institute Inc.

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

FEDERKIEL



No. LVIII, March 2015

Immanuel Kant

The German philosopher, Immanuel Kant, is recognised as one of the leading lights of modern philosophy. Although one of the great philosophers of his time, he also dabbled in the physical sciences and was possibly the first to suggest that the solar system had coalesced from a huge gas cloud in space.

Born in 1724, he is not known to have travelled more than 100 km from his home city of Königsberg, where he died in 1804.

The article below is reprinted from the "Stuhmer Heimatbrief", December 2014.

Der deutsche Philosoph Immanuel Kant ist bekannt als einer der führenden Vertreter der modernen Philosophie. Als einer der großen Philosophen seiner Zeit, beschäftigte er sich aber nebenher auch mit den Naturwissenschaften und war möglicherweise der Erste, der darauf hinwies, dass das Sonnensystem sich im Weltall aus einer riesigen Gaswolke gebildet hatte.

Im Jahre 1724 wurde er geboren, und soweit bekannt ist, hat er sich nie weiter als 100 km von seiner Heimatstadt Königsberg entfernt, wo er auch 1804 starb.

Der nachfolgende Artikel stammt aus dem *Stuhmer Heimatbrief*, Ausgabe vom Dezember 2014.

translation by *Margitta Acker*

Zitate von Immanuel Kant (1724-1804)

Deutscher Philosoph

Aus so krummen Holz, als woraus der Mensch gemacht ist, kann kein ganz Gerades gezimmert werden.

German philosopher

Nothing straightforward can be fashioned from the bent wood of which man is made.



Immanuel Kant

Wenn die einen genießen wollen, ohne zu arbeiten, so werden andere arbeiten müssen, ohne zu genießen.

When a man would have the pleasure of something without working for it, another has to work for it without its pleasures.

Irrtümer entspringen nicht allein daher, weil man gewisse Dinge nicht weiß, sondern weil man sich zu urteilen unternimmt, obgleich man noch nicht alles weiß, was dazu erfordert wird.

Mistakes not only originate because a man does not know specific things, but because he chooses to decide, although he does not know all the facts, what it will cost.

Der Himmel hat den Menschen als Gegengewicht zu den vielen Mühseligkeiten des Lebens drei Dinge gegeben: die Hoffnung, den Schlaf und das Lachen.

Heaven has given man three things to balance out the many labours of life: hope, sleep and laughter.

I have tried to translate the quotations as best I can but invite readers to contribute alternative translations which better capture the wording and spirit of Kant's work.

Please forward them to: das.zentrum@apex.net.au

Phil Maier

reprinted with the kind permission of: Heimatkreisvertretung des Heimatkreis Stuhm, Westpreußen

German settlement in the Riverina

In Australia, a number of German settlements in the Riverina established in the late nineteenth century. The settlements were populated by Germans migrating both from established German settlements in South Australia and directly from Germany. Due to the distinct religious and language difference between the new settlers and the established Anglo-Celtic community in the Riverina, these settlements maintained a distinct cultural identity.

Australia became a popular destination for German immigrants from as early as 1838 when religious persecution in Prussia led to the first organised group migration of Old Lutherans to South Australia. What was to follow was a progressive chain migration from the areas in northern and eastern Prussia, that was to last until the end of the nineteenth century. However, with this influx, land soon became difficult to obtain at reasonable prices. Also, land holdings in South Australia proved too small for sustainable cropping with Australian soils unable to cope with the type of intensive farming that was traditional practice of German farmers in the homeland. These factors, combined with the desire of the Germans to live in homogenous communities, their land inheritance practices, and the typically large size of German families, culminated to instigate a second migrational wave from South Australia to the colonies of New South Wales and Victoria from the 1860s. Substantial numbers of German settlers left South Australia to select land in the Southern Riverina.



Zion Lutheran Church in Walla Walla

The Albury region had long been a settlement area for Catholic Germans, particularly farmers and wine growers from the Rhineland, who had begun to melt in with the Anglo-Celtic population. The first South Australian Germans to reconnoitre the Riverina took up land in May 1866. By the end of 1866 Germans had selected seven parcels of land, totalling 1,470 acres (5.9 km²). In the following year an additional 55 properties with a combined area of 7,680 acres (31.1 km²) had been selected by German settlers, while in 1868 a further 51 properties (with 4,503 acres) were selected. While some of those moving to the Riverina were original immigrants who had come to Australia from Germany, the majority were apparently first generation Australia-born Germans. Ethnically, many of the Germans were in fact Wendish or Sorbs, an ethnic community in north-eastern Germany. Even though most were Australian-born, the German and Wendish settlers in the Riverina remained culturally Germans with little if any acculturation to the English environment. This cultural

identity could be maintained because these German settlers formed close-knit communities held together by Lutheran Christianity, and also due to their adherence to the German language. As in South Australia, both factors became the distinguishing element from mainstream New South Wales.

While the Germans made up the greatest non-British Isles immigrant community in NSW, their overall numbers were not that large. What made the Germans so visible was the clustered nature of their settlements: two thirds of all German holdings were concentrated in the four postal town areas of Albury, Jindera (57 properties each), Walla Walla (28 properties) and Gerogory (27 properties) all of which were located close to each other.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_settlements_in_the_Riverina

Jindera

Jindera is a town in the South West Slopes section of the Riverina region of New South Wales. The town is situated in the Greater Hume Shire local government area, 15 kilometres (9.3 mi) north of the regional centre of Albury. At the 2006 census, Jindera had a population of 1,048 residents.

Jindera's chief attraction is the Pioneer Museum, which is contained within an old store and home that belonged to the pioneering Wagner family. The "store" is stocked with authentic goods of the 19th century, while the living area at the rear is furnished in the original style of the era.

Hamilton Hume and William Hovell were two early explorers who passed through the area, travelling from Sydney to Geelong in 1824. The township was originally known as "Dight's Forest", after John Dight who was a relative of Hamilton Hume. Although likely to be aboriginal, the origin of the place name "Jindera" is now obscure.

During the nineteenth century Jindera saw a substantial population of German Australians who had migrated to the Riverina in the 1860s, principally from South Australia.

Dight's Forest Post Office opened on 1 January 1870 and was renamed Jindera in 1885.

The Lutheran pioneers of 1868 had just arrived in Jindera after an overland trek from South Australia, when they erected a log cabin classroom which became St John's Lutheran Church Primary School. Soon afterwards, Jindera Public School was established in 1876. Jindera Public School moved to its current premises in 1972. In 2009, the St Mary McKillop College, Albury opened in the grounds of St Mary's Church, Jindera.

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jindera>

Paul Foelsche – Northern Territory Policeman

Paul Heinrich Matthias Foelsche (1831-1914), police inspector, was born on 30 March 1831 at Moorburg, near Hamburg, Germany, son of Matthias Foelsche. At 18 he enlisted in a German Hussar Regiment and at 25 migrated to South Australia. In November 1856 he was appointed trooper third class in the Mounted Police. He was transferred to Strathalbyn where on 5 January 1860 he married Charlotte Georgina Smith. He devoted much time to firearms and as an expert in colouring stocks and barrels his services were in great demand by local volunteer corps. While at Strathalbyn he was appointed sub-inspector in charge of the newly-formed Northern Territory Mounted Police. In January 1870 he arrived in the Northern Territory where he spent his remaining years apart from brief visits to Adelaide in 1884 and China in 1897.

After establishing a modest home in Palmerston (Darwin) Foelsche sent for his wife and two daughters. He adapted well to the difficult environment and set an example to the settlers. He remained cheerful and optimistic when others were complaining of hardship and sacrifice. As 'the very best man that could have been selected for the position at that time' he became a great force in the community. He was an excellent conversationalist, speaking and understanding English as well as his German and was very popular. He became 'a perfect encyclopaedia on Northern Territory affairs and people'. He also won repute as a dentist and had a large collection of the best dental instruments.

As a policeman Foelsche was a 'veritable sleuthhound of the law', with a natural detective instinct and mental powers that made him dreaded by criminals. His knowledge of the law was such that he was said to be the best lawyer outside the South Australian Bar. He had a keen intellect, studious habits and a retentive memory. When stationed at Strathalbyn he was often selected for special duty where exceptional tact and discretion were required. Police Commissioner George Hamilton (1812-1883) considered him one of the most capable men in the police force, and Lord Kintore, governor of South Australia, described him as intelligent and efficient. In pursuit of his police duties Foelsche was unrelenting and displayed exceptional energy and courage when he led the search for native murderers. His cunning stratagems invariably led to the apprehension of suspects. Soon after he arrived in the Northern Territory he realized the difficulty in administering justice to the natives and made a systematic study of Aboriginal customs and language. On 2 August 1881 his authoritative paper, 'Notes on the Aborigines of North Australia', was read to the Royal Society of South Australia.

About 1873 Foelsche succeeded Captain Samuel White Sweet as leading photographer of the Northern Territory where his work became the main pictorial record of natives, scenery and industries for the next twenty years. At his own expense he distributed thousands of his photographs to prominent persons and societies at home and abroad, spreading his belief in the potential of the northern colony. Anthropological studies sent to Germany earned him the gratitude of the Kaiser, who presented him with a gold hunting watch and signed portrait. As late as 1920 copies of Foelsche's Aboriginal studies were being sent to universities overseas. Many of his original prints survive in Australian archives, and many negatives are in the Noye collection (PLSA) and in the South Australian Museum.

Foelsche was a useful botanical collector and correspondent for Ferdinand Mueller, who named in his honour *Euc. Foelscheana*, a well-known Northern Territory tree. In the territory a mountain, river, headland and street in Darwin bear his name. A notable Freemason, he helped to found the Port Darwin Lodge which was named after him. He retired from the police force in January 1904, and was awarded the Imperial Service Order. In his last two years he was confined to his chair and suffered much pain before he died on 31 January 1914.

R. J. Noye, 'Foelsche, Paul Heinrich Matthias (1831–1914)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/foelsche-paul-heinrich-matthias-3543/text5467>, published first in hardcopy 1972, accessed online 10 March 2015.

This article was first published in hardcopy in Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 4, (MUP), 1972

Weißt du wie viel Sternlein stehen...

(von *Winfried Bliwernitz*,
früher Budisch, West Preußen)

Unser Zug hielt spät abends in Altfelde an. Meine Mutter schleppte unsere beiden Koffer aus dem Abteil die paar Stufen runter auf den kleinen, trüb beleuchteten Bahnsteig. Außer einem Bahnbeamten war kein Mensch zu sehen. Wo waren unser Onkel und Tante, die uns mit der Kutsche nach Budisch abholen sollten?

Der Zug fuhr langsam ab, weiter Richtung Marienburg, und wir beide standen im Halbdunkel auf dem schmalen, kurzen Bahnsteig und warteten. Von unseren Verwandten war keine Spur. Überwältigend für mich war der riesige Sternenhimmel über uns. Tausende über tausende Sterne die viel größer und heller erschienen als ich sie von Hause in Erinnerung hatte. Ich malte mir irgendwie aus, dass unsere Verwandten in einer Gegend wohnten die dem Himmel viel näher lag als unsere Nachbarschaft. Wir standen und warteten, ich wie ein „Hans-guck-in-die-Luft“.

Nach einer Weile sprach Mutti mit dem Bahnangestellten, der ihr erlaubte, unsere Koffer in dem kleinen Wartesaal unterzustellen bevor er das Gebäude abschloss. Es ist mir immer noch unklar, warum sie nicht versuchte, unsere Verwandten telefonisch zu erreichen. Vielleicht war dort für das Publikum keine Telefonmöglichkeit. Ein Handy hatte sie damals wohl noch nicht. Es war Frühling 1944.

Wir waren mit dem Zug aus Königsberg, Ostpreußen, gekommen wo wir unser Zuhause hatten. Meine Mutter hatte die Erlaubnis von der Reichspost erhalten, ihre Arbeit am Postamt dort aufzugeben, um in der Landwirtschaft auf den Höfen ihrer Eltern und Geschwister in Budisch in West-Preußen zu helfen. Wir beide wohnten alleine in unserem Haus in Tannenwalde, ein Vorort von Königsberg.

Doch jetzt standen wir beide etwas verblüfft alleine im Halbdunkel auf dem kleinen Altfelder Bahnsteig. Unweit von der Haltestelle konnte man die Lichter der großen Zuckerfabrik am Rande Altfeldes erkennen. Mutti entschloss sich zu Fuß mit mir nach Budisch zu gehen, knöpfte meinen Mantel zu und nahm mich bei der Hand. Wir gingen vom Bahnsteig links ab auf die Landstraße gen Süden, Richtung Budisch.

Es war dunkel, doch das holprige Kopfsteinpflaster machte sich erkennbar, nachdem sich die Augen an das schummerige Licht gewöhnt hatten. Über uns eine Sternenpracht am wolkenlosen Himmel. Die riesigen Lindenbäume beiderseits der schmalen, alten Landstraße überdeckten unseren Weg teilweise, doch die Sterne blinzelten hell durch die Öffnungen in dem Baumeslaub und erschienen so nahe, dass ich sie beinahe berühren konnte.

Mama versuchte mich zu amüsieren oder wenigstens, mich etwas zu unterhalten, um mir den langen Weg etwas zu erleichtern. Sie erzählte Geschichten von ihrer Kinderzeit in Budisch, von Sonntagsfahrten zur Mennoniten-Kirche bei Trankwitz in der guten, geschlossenen Kutsche, der Kutscher auf dem Bock und die besten Pferde vorgespannt. Ihre Eltern und die vielen Geschwister saßen eng beieinander und sie als die Jüngste musste oft auf dem Fußboden der Kutsche kauern.

Oder sie erinnerte sich an harte Bonbons die der Alte Fritz, der Stallknecht, ihr und ihrem Bruder Erich von Spinders Kneipe brachte, Bonbons, die er lose in seiner Arbeitshosentasche steckte, in der er auch gewöhnlich seinen Priemtabak hatte, was den Süßigkeiten noch einen besonderen Beigeschmack gab. Der Alte Fritz wohnte im

Pferdestall, oder hatte wenigstens sein Quartier dort, ein Abteil das seine Pritsche und die wenigen Sachen die seinen Besitz bildeten, enthielt. Fritz war Alkoholiker und bekam damals noch vor oder während dem Ersten Weltkrieg täglich zur Mittagszeit seine „zwei Dittche“ von meinem Großvater Gerhard Entz. Fritz watschelte dann sogleich die paar hundert Meter zu Spinders, um die zwei Dittchen in einen oder vielleicht zwei Gläser Korn zu verwandeln. Die Bonbons für die Kinder bekam er wohl gratis.

Obwohl Muttis Geschichten interessant waren, blieb meine Begeisterung von dem hellen Sternenhimmel gefesselt. Ich versuchte, mir irgendwie auszumalen wie die Sterne da oben am Firmament befestigt waren, und wem die alle gehörten. Ich besaß zu dieser Zeit ein schönes, langes Nachthemd und jedes Mal, wenn ich da reingesteckt wurde, bewunderte ich die beiden goldenen Sterne, einer an jedem Ärmel, die als Knöpfe diente. Diese „Ärmelsterne“ blitzelten hell, wenn ich abends ins Bett gebracht wurde. Ich kam auf die Idee, dass die Engel die doch alle im Himmel lebten, nachts dieselben Nachthemden trugen wie ich.

Ich fragte Mutti, ob das möglich wäre. Sie sagte „natürlich ist das möglich“. Ich stellte mir vor, dass wenn die vielen Engel sich abends im Himmel zur Ruhe auf das Firmament legten, und ihren Kopf seitlich auf ihre zusammengefalteten Hände legten, dass dann jeder Engel wenigstens einen goldenen Knopf zu uns auf die Erde richtet, der auf uns herunterscheint. Und diese These ist in der Wissenschaft und Sternkunde dann auch bestätigt worden, dass jeder Stern am Nachthemd eines Engels befestigt ist und dass der Himmel viel niedriger über Budisch steht als anderswo in der weiten Welt.

Wir hörten das Klipklop von Pferdehufen auf dem Steinpflaster uns entgegenkommen und sahen fahle Laternenlichter. Eine Kutsche aus Budisch.

Wenn Engel reisen...

Weißt du wie viel Sternlein stehen

An dem blauen Himmelszelt

Weißt du wie viel Wolken gehen

Weithin über alle Welt

Gott der Herr hat sie gezählet

Dass ihm auch nicht eines fehlet

An der ganzen großen Zahl

An der ganzen großen Zahl.

The article above recounts some special some memories of Winfried Bliwernitz, as she was moved around in the chaos of the last year of WW2 and is reproduced from the "Stuhmerheimatbrief", December 2014. It is used with the kind permission of Heimatkreisvertretung des Heimatkreis Stuhm, Westpreußen.

COMING SOON...

The Goethe Institute Australia presents the 14th Audi Festival of German Films in cities around Australia from 13 to 30 May 2015. The largest German-language film festival outside of Germany visits Palace Electric Cinema in Canberra from 20 to 27 May, 2015.

For more information:

www.goethe.de/ozfilmfest



LANGUAGE COURSES in 2015

Do you speak German? A little bit? Or actually pretty well? No matter – *Das Zentrum's* language classes have something on offer to suit your needs. Our experienced, highly qualified teachers will ensure individual attention to make the most of your ability and potential. (class size 8 – 14 students) teaching in a small group environment.

You must be a member of *Das Zentrum* (membership \$50 / \$30 concession), which gives you free access to our library resources (books, magazines, videos & DVDs). We meet at *Das Zentrum* on the first floor of the Griffin Centre in Civic.

Payment for the course is due at the first lesson (cash please). Preferably, you will have arranged membership before the course begins. However, we can sort that out on the first night too.

To sign up or for further information on the particular courses, feel free to contact the relevant course teacher with your contact details (name, email & mobile number). For general language course enquiries, please contact Paul Gamp on 6281 0486 or email pgamp1@outlook.com.

All courses for this semester are booked out, except for the new one below.

Contact details for existing courses:

- Beginning German 1 Silke Ueberle email: sueberle@web.de
- Continuing German 1 Zayda Dollie email: zayda.dollie@gmail.com
- Intermediate German Suzanne Gross email: gross.susanne@gmail.com

Beginning German 1 (A1)

Monday 9 – 11:30 am
Start: 23 March 2015

Textbook: A1 Menschen
Kursbuch: Deutsch als
Fremdsprache (Hueber
Verlag)

A1 Menschen

Arbeitsbuch: Deutsch als
Fremdsprache (Hueber
Verlag)

Cost: \$250 for 10 two-
and-a-half-hour
sessions

contact Zayda Dollie
on
zayda.dollie@gmail.com

German conversation group

Every Tuesday
7.30 pm until late

Cost: \$30 for six months

This course is ideal for anyone who would like to start their week with a language lesson! Pensioners, students, public servants with flex-time are all welcome to enrol.

You will learn how to use everyday expressions and simple sentences to be able to satisfy concrete needs; ask others simple questions and respond to their questions. By the end of this course you will be able to converse with a native speaker on a basic level, make general descriptions and have mastered "survival German".

The course book and exercise book accompanying this class can be ordered online:

- <http://www.bookdepository.com/Menschen-Sandra-Evans/9783191019013>
- <http://www.bookdepository.com/Menschen-Sabine-Glas-Peters/9783191119010>

No prior knowledge is necessary, but even if you have a little knowledge of German this might be the right class for you.

The conversation group takes place weekly at *Das Zentrum*. It consists of informal conversation.

Contact Paul on 6281 0486 or
pgamp1@outlook.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS of *Das Zentrum*

Book in to your diaries now...

Viennese evening

**Saturday,
11 April 2015
6 pm**

**Austrian Club,
Heard Street,
Mawson**

featuring music by André Rieu

Das Zentrum invites its members and friends to take part in a Viennese evening; indulge in Austrian food, enjoy the music of the Vienna Waltz and dance.

A gold coin donation would be greatly appreciated.

Please RSVP by April 9 to das.zentrum@apex.net.au, but no later than the 3rd of April to reserve one of:

- roast pork with roast vegetables
- chicken schnitzel with roast potatoes and steamed vegetables

A vegetarian option is also available.

Dinner can also be ordered at the start of the evening.

**Talk presented by
His Excellency
the Ambassador
of Switzerland,
Mr Marcel Stutz**

**Tuesday,
21 April 2015
7.30 PM**

***Das Zentrum*,
Genge St., Civic**

“Introduction to Swiss Democracy”

It is said that Switzerland is the closest state in the world to a direct democracy. In Switzerland, Direct Democracy has a long tradition: the origins of Direct Democracy can be traced back to the late middle ages. It is also said that Switzerland’s extremely stable political system is based on federalism and frequent referendums. We are looking forward to a very interesting talk and a lively discussion.

Freitag Filmabend

**first and third
Friday of each
month**

DVD screenings of modern films, television series or documentaries - join us for classic German films or television screenings. A gold coin donation would be greatly appreciated.

INFORMATION ABOUT DAS ZENTRUM

A library, resource centre, and meeting place for anyone with an interest in the German speaking regions of Europe:

- visitors from Germany looking for up-to-date magazines or newspapers
- students of the German language seeking study material or German DVDs to help develop your language skills
- anyone seeking help with 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 below.

VISIT US AT:

Griffin Centre
Level 1, Room 1.03
20 Genge Street
Civic
Canberra 2601

OPENING HOURS:

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

CONTACT US:

mail

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

phone

6230 0441
during
opening
hours

email

pgamp@orac.net.au
das.zentrum@apex.net.au

website

www.daszentrum.org.au

Das Zentrum is now on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/zentrumcanberra>

YOUR COMMITTEE

President:	Paul Gamp	phone: 6281 0486
Secretary:	Rachel Cremer	phone: 6259 5205
Treasurer:	Doris Grosse	phone: 6101 2036

★ The publication of this newsletter is made possible by the support of the
ACT Government's Multicultural Grants Program



★ Contributions, ideas and/or complaints are invited!
Please contact the editor at: das.zentrum@apex.net.au