

Schilling-Courier



Descendants of the Burgmann Heinrich Schilling von Lahnstein who died in 1221

News of the Schilling Association e.V. with annual report 2021

Family reunion at historic sites After visiting Lahneck Castle, wonderful trip on the Rhine



Family reunion on the sightseeing boat „Deutsches Eck“

Twice the family reunion had to be postponed because of Corona. But this year it could finally be held from 3 June with an additional programme until 6 June in Lahnstein and Rüdesheim. It was also an anniversary: the 20th meeting of the Schilling Association after the Second World War. And 104 members and guests from five countries gathered again. Unfortunately, no one came from Canada and the USA this

time, because of Corona. All the more warmly welcomed was Christian Fuchs-Camprobi from Peru, who had made the long journey from South America to attend the reunion. Again, most of the members came from the eastern branch, namely 57, from the western branch there were 23 and only 13 from the southern branch. In addition, there were 18 guests. The youngest participants (twins) were under one year old, the oldest over 80.

On Friday, the guests arrived at the “Wyndham Garden” hotel in Lahnstein until late in the evening. On Saturday morning, three bus shuttles took us to our ancestral castle “Burg Lahneck”. The castle was bought by the imperial vice admiral Robert Mischke in 1907. It later came into the possession of the von Preuschen family by marriage and today it belongs to a community of heirs who have furnished the castle with beautiful old furniture

and objects and opened it for tours. The guests that morning, supposedly descendants of the Burgmann Heinrich Schilling von Lahnstein, were led through the interesting rooms in different groups by a competent guide. Heinrich is said to have died in 1221, almost exactly 800 years ago.

Parallel to the individual castle tours, the archery experts Ute and Hubertus had invited us to a great archery shoot.

In the afternoon, the wonderful seven-hour trip on the Rhine to Bacharach and back began in glorious weather, passing other magnificent castles and the much-sung-about Lorelei. The next day began with an impressive devotion held by Barbara Schilling together with son Roland and daughter Hildegard in memory of her husband Bernd who died last year. Before he died, Bernd had prepared the prayer himself. Roland played the trumpet beautifully. The general meeting was then opened by the new chairman Christian. He thanked the former board members for their many years of service. Helmuth and Hans had always been a perfectly complementary board duo, who had worked with great commitment for the association. For this reason, the new board wanted to declare Helmuth, who had been chairman for 22 years, an honorary member of the association. Christian also thanked advisory board member Frank Schilling for his generous support of the



Lahnstein Castle in the evening



A Lüster female in the castle



Archery, organised by Hubertus v.S. (r.), l. Gregor Schilling

printing costs of the Schilling Courier. The meeting postponed a planned change to the bylaws to future meetings. So far, all second-generation descendants

who are not name bearers can only become supporting members, i.e. they have no voting rights. However, there has been a recent trend towards

an increase in the number of these members. For this reason, some members have requested an amendment to the statutes, which others, however, oppose. Therefore, a discussion is now to be initiated among all members in order to find a suitable formulation on this issue. Our member Henning Klinkenberg, a lawyer, wants to help in this search.

Furthermore, the decision on the location for the next family reunion is to be made only after a survey of all voting members. So far, the following proposals have been made: Malta, where the Grand Prior of the Order of St John, George Schilling von Canstatt resided, the east of Canada, where several Schillings of the eastern branch live, Westphalia/Münster and Saxony.

In the afternoon, the bus set off for the interesting Schilling tour in the Rhineland. Guided by the very competent Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Schmid, we first went to Kottenheim, where we could admire the epitaph of Junker Konrad Schilling, who was very



The youngest participants had fun too

popular because of a donation, in the parish church. In the parish church of Kempenich, a wall monument shows Konrad's sister-in-law Elisabeth Schilling in an elegant gown with a tight-fitting bonnet. Passing the Maria Laach monastery, we then went to the magnificent Liebfrauenkirche in Andernach, where a very beautiful epitaph of the knight Daniel Schilling (c. 1448-1541) can be seen. Daniel was also once

mayor and alderman of the town.

The next day, a small group of 23 participants went to the magnificent Niederwald Monument by the sculptor Johannes Schilling in Rüdesheim, which commemorates the Franco-German War and German unification in 1871. In glorious weather, one could float up to the monument by cable car. There we met the mayor of Rüdesheim, Klaus Zapp, talked about the Johannes Schilling House in his native town Mittweida and brought greetings from the mayor there, Ralf Schreiber.

A cosy get-together in a beautiful tavern on the world-famous Drosselgasse concluded this successful family reunion.

Helmuth von Schilling



The previous chairman (l) and his successor

From the various branches



Western branch

New Year's reception in summer

Johannes Schilling was remembered again in Mittweida



The New Year's reception in Mittweida in Saxony, the birthplace of the sculptor Johannes Schilling, took place this year in summer, on 8 July, because of Corona. Due to the pandemic, the reception had to be cancelled in the last two years. The commemoration of the 194th birthday of Mittweida's first honorary citizen was also held on a smaller scale this year, not as usual in the „Johannes Schilling Haus“, but in the museum „Alte Pfarrhäuser“. But this time, as usual, every guest got the obligatory Schilling ducat with the coffee. Ina Schilling-Nickel assured that next year her great-grandfather's 195th birthday would again be celebrated on a somewhat larger scale.

The Schilling Association was also invited to the summer reception with around 300 guests, and Advisory Board member Helmuth v.S. had the opportunity to speak at length with Mayor Ralf Schreiber. The head of the city assured once again that the Schilling House, which was so ceremoniously opened on 4 June 2005 on the occasion of a family will reunion. A few years ago,



Christian Andreis presents the Schilling banner

there had been discussions about relocating the Schilling exhibition to a refurbished building from the 16th century. The extension of this house has now been completed, said Schreiber, and furnished with other exhibits that are well worth seeing. But there is no room for the Schilling exhibits.

At this year's Summer Reception, the magnificent Schilling banner, designed by the President of the University Sports Association, Christian Andreis, also hung in the hall. „We present it at every major sporting event in the region to point out the importance of Johannes Schilling“, Andreis emphasised at the reception in Mittweida.

Helmuth von Schilling

Of the western branch instead of Paul SvC?

Is our member Nikolay Ilinskiy from Russia possibly not a descendant of the famous explorer Paul Schilling v. Canstatt (1786-1837) after all?

Nikolay's research has revealed that his great-great-grandfather is the shoemaker Magnus Schilling, who was born in Stralsund in Pomerania around 1798 and died in Riga (now Latvia) in 1871. Were Nikolay's ancestors perhaps members of the western Schilling branch who went from Stralsund to the Baltic States?

The youngest of Magnus' 8 children was Ivan Ivanovich (Johann Alexander Schilling), Nikolay's great-grandfather, who after his training at the Imperial Medical Academy in St. Petersburg worked in various military clinics, held the rank of collegiate advisor and received many honours. One of his three children, who all received a high education, was Nikolay's grandfather. How could the children of a simple shoemaker have such a career back then? Perhaps children born out of wedlock or adopted were sometimes given a considerable allowance. Had the shoemaker, also a Schilling, adopted Paul's illegitimate child as his son? Paul is said to be unmarried and childless. Association member Nikolay always wonders what could serve as the basis or motive for the creation of the legend of Paul's descendants. Perhaps the legend does have a realistic background after all...



Heitersheim buys the castle

Social institution planned after withdrawal of the Chinese

The Maltese Castle in Heitersheim, where Georg Schilling v.C. resided as Grand Prior of the Knights of the German Tongue of the Order of St John (later for the Catholic Church Order of the knights of Malta) at the end of the 16th century, continues to make headlines. After the Chinese investor withdrew from the acquisition and establishment of a private boarding school, as reported in detail in Schilling-Courier 2021, there is now a new buyer: the town of Heitersheim. The municipality acquired the castle for 4.95 million euros from the Order of the Sisters of Mercy of Saint Vincent in Freiburg. The purchase contract has already been signed. The handover and payment are scheduled to happen on 1 January 2023.

But already in September 2022 the Order handed over the castle largely vacated after a last traditional vesper. Our chairman Christian Frh. Schilling v. C., a member of the Sovereign Order of Malta, gave a speech about

his ancestor Georg Schilling v.C. to conclude the celebrations. The sisters moved to the Motherhouse in Freiburg. The town wants to sell on most of the castle buildings to a new investor who will realise social uses and, thanks to the leasehold, will have the say over the area. Nursery schools, homes for the elderly and refugees as well as museums and restaurants are planned. The church will be profaned and - as assured by the town - used in a dignified manner.

Many citizens of Heitersheim expressed relief about the withdrawal of the Chinese investor. A reader of the "Badische Zeitung" wrote: "The behaviour of the Chinese leadership in Hong Kong, their treatment of regime critics, the Uyghurs or their behaviour in Tibet, the threats directed against Taiwan and much more should be warning enough for the former supporters of the school in the castle. The autocracy China stands by the despot Putin. This behavior has nothing to do with our democracy and the rule of law. For-

tunately, the chalice has passed Heitersheim by."

The architect in charge is also satisfied that the castle does not have to be converted into a school for 300 young people with boarding facilities. The fire safety regulations would have been very strict. He gives an example: "We would have had to rebuild and extend the whole barn. The wooden building was to become a school canteen and science rooms, with a small new building behind it." But the problems for the redevelopment remain. "We have problems with the redevelopment," says the architect. "Especially in the basement. And with the sanitary installations. Just the other day a water pipe broke."

Heitersheim Castle has a long history. The original fief or manor house was already mentioned in documents in the 8th century. In 1276 the estate became the property of the Order of St John and in 1428 it became the seat of the Grand Prior. From the 16th century onwards, it was converted into a fortified castle. In 1548, it became the seat of the former principality of Heitersheim. 125 years ago, the Order of the Vincentian Sisters acquired the castle complex. The castle stands as the largest moated castle of special significance in the state of Baden-Württemberg as a cultural monument. From October 2022, Heitersheim may call itself a Maltese town.

Helmuth von Schilling and "Badische Zeitung"



Eastern Branch

Helene rests in native soil

Urn of the long-time executive director of our association buried in Estonia



The urn burial in Järva Jaani. In front Pastor Katrin Melder

Our tireless family researcher and long-time executive director, Helene Baronesse v. Schilling, born on 26 February 1924 in Reval/Tallinn in Estonia, died on 26 December 2021 at the age of 97 in Tönisvorst on the Lower Rhine. After the solemn funeral service with great participation in the Christuskirche in Tönisvorst on 29 January 2022, the impressive urn burial took place in Järva Jaani in Estonia on 23 April at the burial ground of the Orgena branch of the Eastern line of our family. The newly renovated old patronal church of the family (even previously unknown remains of frescoes can be seen again) was well filled with around 60 mourners. The service was celebrated by Katrin Melder, the



the pastor of the church of St. Johannis, and three other theologians, all of whom knew Helene well. Pastor Melder recalled in her touching sermon that Helene had written at the end of her memoirs:

“God bless Estonia and the Estonians.“ A highly topical wish in the present time, which is also threatening for Estonia. And the pastor continued: ”Today we can express our gratitude for having met Helene personally and for having experienced her joy, love and kindness.”

Helene was the managing director and treasurer of our association for 25 years. She got her great family history interest from her father, who had been the executive director of the association before her. Helene has sent an infinite number of documents all over the world, all written on her old typewriter without a computer. Her main work was the 362-page book about the family, affectionately called



In the Church of St. Johannis: Pastor Melder and Helmuth v.S.

the family, affectionately called “Blue Helene“ because of the blue cover. In 2010, she also wrote the impressive booklet “From Reval to the Lower Rhine“. She lived in Tönisvorst on the Lower Rhine for 72 years, by far the longest period of her life.

Helene had to leave Estonia with her parents in 1939 at the age of only 15 after the Hitler-Stalin Pact and forced resettlement. The family first found a place to stay in Warthegau, Poland, which had been conquered by Germany, and then fled further west in 1945, and finally Helene came to Tönisvorst and trained as a chemical technician.

But her heart remained in Estonia. As soon as the Baltics began fighting for independence from the Soviet Union, Helene was committed to her old homeland. She travelled to Estonia at least once a year as early as 1989 and then almost every year until her old age. Except Tallinn, she mainly visited the village of Järva Jaani/

St. Johannis with the ancestral estate Orgena. She was committed to the church of St. Johannis and organised a partnership with the Christuskirche in Tönisvorst in 1993. With the help of the family association, she campaigned for the renovation of the church and for the replacement of two bells that were cast in Germany. In 2011, she was awarded the Medal of Merit of the EELK (Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church) for her commitment. She had already received the “Order of the Red Cross“ awarded by the President of the Republic.

On 19 November 2009, Helene was interviewed on Estonian Television for 40 minutes about the resettlement and her life in the former Estonia. When asked what significance Estonia has for her today, she replied: ”A very big one. I live in Tönisvorst now, but Estonia is still my home. During my frequent visits to Estonia, I have met numerous Estonians and I have made friends with many of

them. And by welcoming me so warmly, they made me feel that Estonia is our common home.” Helene wrote at the end of her booklet ‘From Reval to the Lower Rhine’: “An Irish proverb says: On the way through life, the wind does not always blow from behind. Naturally I have had this experience in my past life, too, but I am still consciously grateful for a sheltered life, good health and last but not least for the many, many warm contacts with relatives and friends as well as completely unexpected attention from strangers. As I am childless, I have much joy in my seven godchildren and am grateful that their parents ensured that contact with them was maintained. As the eldest of the inner family, I don’t feel left alone, for that I thank all those who have accompanied and still accompany my life.” Now Helene has returned home to her native soil. After the urn was lowered, not only did the new bells ring out, the church choir also sang old chorales that she loved so very much.

Helmuth von Schilling

Commemoration of an honorary knight

On the death of Nicolai Baron v. Schilling

Nicolai passed away in Salzgitter on 9 June at the age of 92. He had been a loyal member of the family association since 1957.

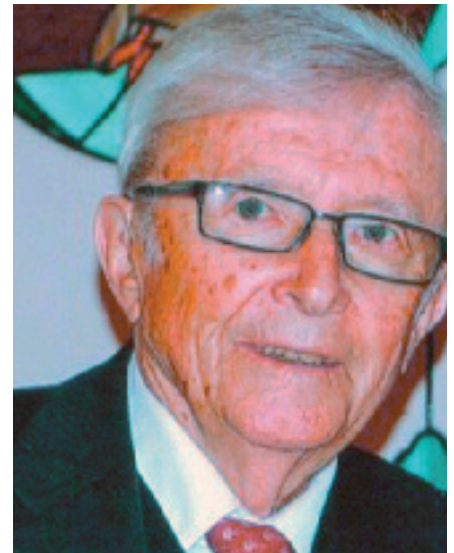
Nicolai, called Nicki, was born like his three brothers on the Sipp estate in Estonia. His twin brother George (Jürgen) has lived in Canada since 1953, his eldest brother Andreas died in 2013 and his youngest brother Helmuth was chairman of the family association for many years. Like most Baltic Germans, the family was resettled in German-occupied Poland in 1939 and had to flee to West Germany in 1945. There, the family lived in a small village in Lower Saxony.

Nicki first learned to be a tree nurseryman and later made a career as a merchant in the steel industry. Until his retirement,

he held an important position at the Salzgitter AG. He would have liked to emigrate to Canada with his twin brother, but after an accident in a tree nursery in Wuppertal in which he suffered a fractured pelvis, he could no longer work in his old profession and preferred to stay in Germany.

The deceased attended many family reunions, especially the reunions in Estonia, which he naturally combined with a side trip to the Sipp Estate. During their first visit to independent Estonia in 1992, the twins even met their old playmates, the brothers Fridel and Endel Drell from long ago, and also an old maid, Luise Hopi, who could still remember her time on the estate very well. A great meeting!

Nicolai was involved with the



Association of Baltic Knights and was made an honorary knight with the Order of St John. He is survived by two children and 7 grandchildren. His wife Ruth passed away 11 years ago.

At the impressive funeral service on 29 June in Salzgitter, Nicolai's urn was lowered into the ground next to Ruth.

Helmuth v. Schilling

A life for others and music

In memoriam Anna Baronin v. Korff (1946-2021)



Our long-time member Anna Baronin v. Korff from the Eastern Branch, who passed away last year, remains unforgettable. Anna was born in Salzburg on 14.10.1946, the only daughter of the academic painter Wahnfried v. Spaun and his wife Maggie v. Gruenewaldt, after three brothers.

"I was allowed to grow up in the city of Mozart", Anna wrote, "my path to music began on the arm of my father, who passed on to me the joy of music. My Baltic mother, who despite many hardships in life and expulsion from Riga (now Latvia) has always been able to make the best of everything, has shaped me no less." Anna was married to the association member Peter Baron v. Korff.

Her mother's versatility, her frugal, positive improvisational skills got her and her family through the war and post-war years, such as with tailoring work in exchange for food. And a musical pastor's wife took Anna into her children's

choir at the age of 10 and taught her the recorder and piano. Berta Höller, a well-known harpist, was her musical foster mother until her old age. Anna learned early to hold her voice in four-part singing and yodelling. After a shortened training as an elementary school teacher, she studied the recorder and the traverse flute at the Academy of Music and the Conservatory in Vienna. At the age of only 22, Anna obtained a permanent position as a flute teacher at the conservatory in Klagenfurt and was often younger than her students!

Soon after the wedding, house concerts began, the tradition of which developed into two annual events with 30 to 45 guests each, a total of more

than 70 house concerts in her lifetime! The musical spectrum ranged from yodelling to folk music, including songs for the dead, to Schubert and Bach.

Anna taught flute for children at the music schools in Inning and Herrsching for 42 years, sang in the Herrsching church choir and enjoyed volunteering to play at church services and devotions, for example at the Baltic German Knights' Centre in Höhnscheid Castle and also often at the Schillings' family reunions. She organised orchestra camps for young people, which she modestly called music camps, and even wrote sheet music for the respective instrument on the computer after contacting the child's music teachers. Anna's life was a life for others, a life with music!

Peter Baron v. Korff

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Photos: p.1: Christian Schilling v.C., **p.2.:** Frank Schilling, (top), Alexander Schilling v.C. (centre and bottom), **p.3:** Alexander Schilling v.C. (top), Christiane Friedrichsen (bottom), **p.4:** Michael Brix (2), **p.5:** Badische Zeitung, **p.6** St. Johannis (top), Helmuth v. Schilling (centre), **p.7:** St. Johannis, **p.8:** Reichert family (top), Peter v. Korff (bottom), **p.9:** Helmuth v. Schilling, **p.10:** Ruta Fumonavičienė (top), **p.11 and p.12:** Eric Bawor.

Farewell to Detlef Rüter, an impressive man

On 17 July 2022, our cousin Detlef Rüter died at the age of 86 in the nursing home Haus Wilkinghege in the presence of his wife Ingrid and his three children Friederike, Hans and Anne.

He was born on 25 May 1936 in Dortmund as the eldest of triplet brothers (Jochen and Burchard), son of Ursula Baronesse Schilling from the house of Jürgensberg (Seydel) and the pastor Hermann Rüter. Two other siblings, his sister Uschi Struwe-Rüter and the youngest brother Hans Wolfgang completed the pastor's family in the Dortmund Höchsten/Syburg parish in the 1940s.

After various stages of his studies of protestant theology in Münster, Heidelberg, Zurich/Basel, Marburg and Tübingen, Detlef spent his life as a pastor with his family in Dortmund parishes.

The contact with the close Schilling family, his grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins was familiar to him through his mother, during his studies he attended various student events and balls of the Baltic Knighthood, but it was only in the 10 years before his retirement that the connection to the large family association became more intensive: Full of enthusiasm for the history of the family and the Baltic States, he took part in family reunions, was fascinated on his first trip to Estonia, because he could see what his mother had told about. At that time, he established his friendship with the long-time executive director Helene,



Detlef and Helene during a trip to Estonia

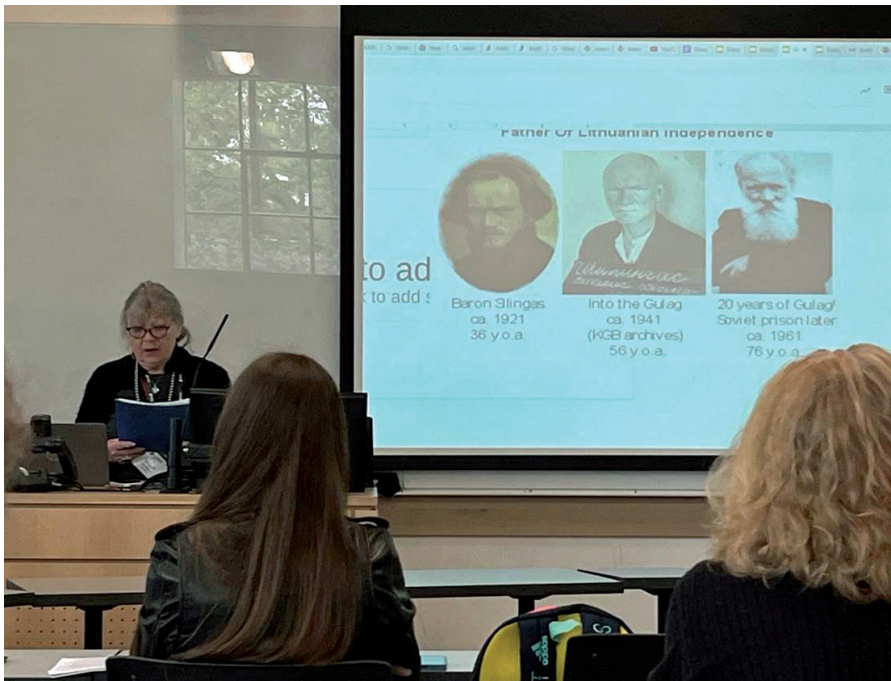
who was also born in Estonia. Particularly typical of Detlef, who loved classical music and literature and was attentive to every person's life, not only in his profession as a pastor, was his unconcern for conventions, his joy in what he was confronted with and encountered and the spontaneity of his reactions. Some will remember that, on the Estonia trip in 1994, he would just sit down at the organ in St. Johannis in Jerwen to play for the family and sing together with them. Later, he held the Sunday devotion before the family association meetings and said the travel blessing for the many relatives.

Some members of the family association accompanied Detlef's farewell in Dortmund in the old church of St. Peter at Syburg, which had been a familiar place for him since childhood, not only for family gatherings under the love of God.

Anne Rüter

“Love letters from hell”

Lecture on Soviet terror based on the example of Stasys Silingas



Svaja Vansauskas Worthington speaking about the horrors of the Gulag. On screen Stasys Silingas (Stanislaus von Schilling) at different ages.

Our new member Ruta Furmonaviciene, who comes from an eastern family line previously thought to be extinct and who moved to England from Lithuania, sent us an interesting piece of information.

At the end of May this year, she and her husband attended a conference in Seattle, USA, hosted by the University of Washington.

The event was organised by the renowned Society for the Promotion and Dissemination of the Languages, History, Culture and Mythology of the three Baltic States, whose members are international scholars, politicians, independent researchers and students. One of the lectures was about the terrible conditions in the Baltic States during the Soviet period since 1939, especially the deportation (title of the lecture: "Writing and dealing with trauma: Gulag, deportation and exile").

Ruta's great-uncle Stanislaus v. Schilling (Stasys Silingas), about whom we wrote in detail in the last Courier, is an example of the terrible experiences. The title of the lecture in Seattle by independent researcher Svaja Vansauskas Worthington on Stasys Silingas was: "Violence of Silence: Stasy's Letters from the Gulag or Grandfather's Love Letters from Hell." Worthington is also the founder of a Lithuanian Museum and Library in Alaska and an Honorary Consul of Lithuania in that US state.

Stasys Silingas was a founding father of independent Lithuania and twice a minister between the world wars, he was even depicted on a postage stamp. Born in 1885, he was sent to a Soviet penal camp in 1941, was released seriously ill in 1961 and died a year later. Washington University is the

only one in the USA to offer information on the spiritual life of the three Baltic states and courses in their languages.

Another Reunion of the Eastern Branch

Next year there will be another reunion of the eastern branch, from 25-27 August, once again at Schloss Höhnscheid of the Baltic Knighthoods near Kassel. The last reunion of the eastern branch took place in Estonia in 2018. In 2015, Höhnscheid was also the location of the reunion. Normally, the reunion takes place every three years, always one year after the family reunion. Because of Corona, such a long break had to be taken.

A trip to Kassel-Wilhelmshöhe is also planned, where we can admire the Hercules Monument. For children in particular, a visit to Grimmwelt is envisaged, an exhibition on the works of the storytellers the Grimm brothers. In addition, Dr Hans-Peter Danckworth will give a presentation on his humanitarian transports to Eastern Europe. This year he was in Latvia, among other places.



Hercules

Confusion over family coat of arms

Struggles of the Schillings 1761 over their heraldic symbol



The epitaph for Marten "von" Schilling

For a long time, the old ancestral coat of arms of the Saxon Schilling was forgotten, although it still greets church visitors from two well-preserved epitaphs in Possendorf. It was also painted by Adam Schilling in Finsterwalde in 1592, about whom we have already reported in detail. At least in the 16th century, this coat of arms, which shows the Meissen lion, was well known. But it was considered provocative. How did this happen?

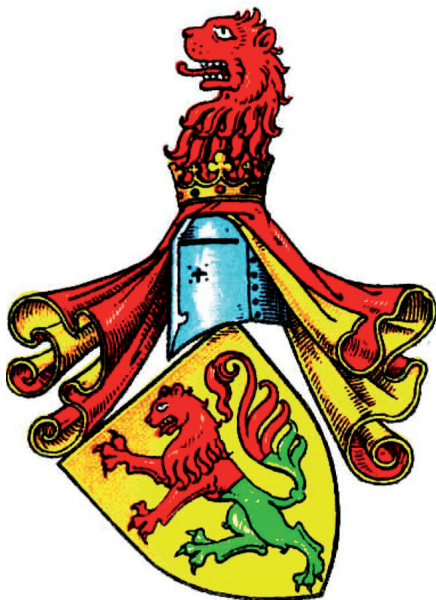
A very important line of our ancestors lived and worked in Freiberg in Saxony at this time. There, they appeared in public office as early as the 15th century and belonged to the wealthy middle class. Interestingly, the fortune did not come from mining, but from the butcher's trade, which the family had pursued in Freiberg over the centuries.

Work may well ennoble, in any case the brothers Antonius and Marten then called themselves "von Schilling" around 1550.

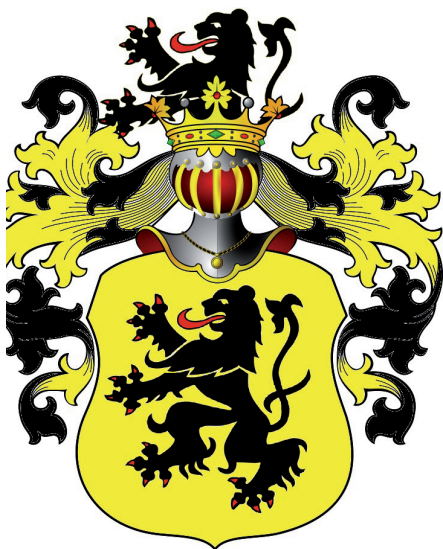
Unfortunately, not much is known about their life and income nor about the origin of their nobility. The two, who were unmarried and childless, acquired the Kleinopitz manor as a retirement home when they were already older. Before that, they had owned the house at Obermarkt 7 in Freiberg in a prominent location, from where they ran their business, as well as an estate close to the city.

At that time, Freiberg was also home to a number of long-established noble families, particularly notable the von Schönbergs. The butcher's trade of the Schillings, however, seemed questionable to this famous noble family who felt provoked by the rise of the Freiberg line, as the Schillings' coat of arms resembles that of the Schönbergs. Although a resemblance does not mean a match and the Schönbergs divided their lion into two colours, it was enough for them to complain to the electoral court. Although the Schillings were

summoned to Wittenberg in June 1561 for clarification, the concept of the summons, which can be found in the Staatsarchiv Sachsen, 10004, Kopiale Nr. 137, Bl. 102b, reveals the difficulties the court had with the nobility and the coat of arms of the two brothers. How the coat of arms dispute was decided is not directly handed down. But since the brothers were still using their coat of arms (and their title of nobility) decades later, the outcome in Wittenberg seems not to have been exactly unfavourable, despite the legal action of the old nobility. What is to be said at all about the heraldic history of the Western branch in the Saxon lines? Here, too, one can easily speak of coat of arms confusion, especially because between 1600 and 1700 there were changes of coat of arms that are astonishing from today's point of view. It should be noted, however, that in earlier times changes of coat of arms were common, especially due to increases or changes of status, even up to the higher nobility, where the original ancestral coat of arms not infrequently became an accessory or sometimes disappeared altogether. This also applies to the eastern branch, which also recorded its status anew and proudly in the Baroque period with its present coat of arms. As described at the beginning, the lion's coat of arms has been handed down for the Rochlitz and Freiberg dynasties. In addition, according to Meltzer's Schneeberg chronicle from 1716, the Schneeberg Schillings, as ancestors of the House of Proschwitz, had the lion's coat of arms, but with a miner as the crest.



The Schönberg coat of arms



Coat of arms of the Freiberg Schillings

The lion coat of arms is valuable evidence of the genealogical connection of these Schilling lines, which had already separated after 1400. The coat of arms is therefore likely to be very old, but can only be proven with certainty with the above legal dispute at the earliest. On the other hand, the coat of arms of the related Kleckewitz line is known since the 15th century, a bandage shield, occupied by twelve balls, a speaking coat of arms, since the number twelve was also called "Schilling"

(as was the number thirty).

Naturally the family history reaches further into the prehistoric times, but no older seal impressions or coat of arms illustrations have survived, so that no statement can be made as to whether the twelve-ball coat of arms or the lion coat of arms is older. A reference to the old coat of arms of the Wettins, as whose vassals the Schillings came to the Meissen region, can be assumed in our coat of arms and, according to Siebmacher, is not unique among the Saxon dynasties.

Heir to the two brothers von Schilling on Kleinopitz, who died in 1580 and 1586, was Gregor the Elder from Freiberg. His son Gregor the Younger, Saxon chamberlain and lord of Schönfeld Castle, already had a different coat of arms, whose shield showed the alchemical symbol of mercury. It is well preserved on the epitaph of his widow in the Dresden Kreuzkirche, but also on some documents in the Dresden State Archives. This new coat of arms fits into that time and the Saxon court under Elector August I. In fact, alchemical experiments have been handed down for Gregor, so he discovered with others a process for refining copper ore. Furthermore, the coat of arms bears references to mining and trade. There are also documented changes of coat of arms in the Rochlitz line due to the life paths in crafts, peasantry and bourgeoisie. Thus, our painter Adam the Elder himself primarily carried the guild coat of arms of painters together with his initials. Another descendant of the Rochlitz line, the nobleman

Jacob Schilling, who lived for a time in a village called Winkeln, in 1658 carried a signet depicting a compass and an angle, no doubt in reference to his craft activity and place of residence.

However, we are particularly familiar with the change of arms of the Proschwitz people. Judging by two seal impressions in the Dresden State Archives, their ancestor Dr. Jacob Friedrich bore the Silesian linden leaf coat of arms instead of the lion from about 1700. In family history, the so-called "Trial of 1720" is well-known, in which Silesian estates are said to have been at stake and as a result of which the inheritance arrangements of the family and the family tree were established. In fact, however, there is a legal document from 1729 in Vienna in which the Proschwitz line had its lawyer state that the use of the Silesian coat of arms was not objectionable, since the descent of the Proschwitz line from the Silesian line was clear. The only evidence presented was a copy of the coat of arms document of 1506 for the Alsatian/Silesian cousins. The linden leaf coat of arms was established as the coat of arms for the entire western branch in 1927 by the association's founder Heinar Schilling from Dresden. There is no doubt that the Proschwitz line took over the tradition of the Silesians, but there is also no doubt that the direct descent from this line has been disproved. Where the real coat of arms document came from therefore remains a mystery, coat of arms confusion to this day.

Eric Bawor