

Schilling-Courier



Descendants of the Burgmann Heinrich Schilling who died in 1221

News from the Schilling-association e.V. with Annual Report 2024

Successful family reunion in Dresden

Over 100 participants visited the royal city and enjoyed wonderful excursions

The meteorologists had not predicted that Friday 30 May would be a beautiful day. The 'family reunion' adventure began at 10 a.m. with a trip in two buses to Dresden city centre. King Johann of Saxony, riding on a high pedestal, sent a large group on an extensive city tour with Mr Kay Gerich, during which they repeatedly encountered works by our famous family member Johannes Schilling. Some curious visitors went underground to experience a somewhat different kind of city tour underneath Brühl's Terrace, an informative walk through historic vaults, corridors and casemates in the 'Fortress Dresden'.

The afternoon was magical. We visited Schönhof Castle, which is linked to the Schilling family via Maria Schilling. In Schilling Courier No. 23, we reported on Maria (1551-1623), who played a formative role in the Saxon Schilling line (article by Eric Bawor). Her epitaph can be viewed in Dresden's Kreuzkirche. Today, every year, renowned magicians,



King John of Saxony (by Johannes Schilling 1889)

ans, including Mr Gerich, gather in the late 16th-century castle.

As a big surprise, he put on an exciting magic show for young and old alike. For example, a wedding ring suddenly disappeared and was happily found again in a bag of jelly bears that was given as a replacement for the loss. Of course, no one figured out how the tricks worked.

On the next day, 31 May, a visit to Mittweida was on the agenda.

The town is known as the birthplace of Johannes Schilling and the location of our family archive. This archive was established in 2005, at the same time as the museum's grand opening. Since our long-standing chairman Helmut Baron v. Schilling maintains close contact with Mittweida and is a frequent guest there, the relationship is strong and positive. Mayor Ralf Schreiber, Micha-

el Kreskowsky, chairman of the Museum's Friends Association, Christian SvC and Helmuth gave very entertaining and informative speeches. As an expression of our great confidence in the work of museum director Sybille Karsch and her staff, the family association donated €4,000, and €400 for the valuable work of the Museum's Friends Association. The donations will hopefully be an encouragement for further work. Helmuth regretted that Heiko Weber, the long-standing director of the 'Alte Pfarrhäuser' museum and the actual initiator of the Schilling-Haus, was unable to attend for health reasons.

To everyone's delight, Mara Klinkenberg provided a translation of the speeches.

A small group of participants left Mittweida early to admire the impressive ceiling paintings by the painter Adam Schilling from 1494/95 in the Nikolaikirche in Krailsheim.

Full of different impressions, the groups were then quickly brought back to Dresden. It was time to refresh themselves and get ready for the grand gala dinner in the ball room of the Ballhaus Watzke. A delicious buffet had been set up in the festively decorated hall, offering something to suit everyone's taste. There were plenty of good drinks to go with it. The young people enjoyed themselves with games, while the older and elderly guests engaged in lively conversation. A wonderful evening!

On Sunday at 10 a.m., the general meeting was held at the hotel. Several important decisions were made, please refer to the family news.

Then it was time to say goodbye to the participants who wan-



At Schönfeld Castle: Mr Kay Gerich with Schilling group



Dinner at Watzke's

ted to go home and to the small group who were taking part in an additional programme in Moritzburg to gain further impressions.

E.v.Sch. und Ralph S.v.C.



Merry Canadians



*Darius and Michael
refresh themselves*



Dance into May



Christian hands over the donation



Wagon ride in Moritzburg



Mara translates

The Schilling family owned the castle of the magicians

Over 700 years ago, in 1315, a Dresden document mentions a ‚Syfirt von Schoninvelt‘ for the first time. In the centuries that followed, Schönfeld was owned by the Ziegler and von Karraß families, Georg von Carlowitz, Duke Moritz of Saxony (Elector since 1547) and, since 1555, Hans von Dehn-Rothfelser.

In 1568, the brothers Hans and Moritz von Dehn were forced to sell the estate they had inherited from their father to the Saxon Council member Dr. Georg Cracow (1525-1575) *‘because they were burdened with debts, harassed by creditors and did not know how else to satisfy them’*. The letter of enfeoffment for Dr. Cracow regarding the Schönfeld estate was issued to him on 12 October 1568.

At this time, the doctor was at the height of his power and influence at the Saxon court. His position as ‘secret, trusted principal court councillor’ was similar to that of a prime minister.

And it was Cracow who, around 1573, started building the Renaissance Schönfeld Castle. But in the following year, his life was to take a dramatic turn. The lawyer and former professor at the University of Wittenberg had close ties to scholars who sought a humanistic renewal of the church and school system as well as science in line with the teachings of Philipp Melancthon (known as ‘Philippinists’). They were also open to the positions of the Reformed Church.

Finally, court intrigues prompted the increasingly suspicious Elector to dismiss his powerful advisor. Accused of secretly introducing Calvinism, he had Cracow arrested and taken prisoner to Leipzig’s Pleißenburg Castle, where he died on 17 March 1575 as a result of the conditions of his imprisonment and torture.

The heirs sold the estate, including the castle, which was only completed in 1577 – two years after Cracow’s death – to Gregor Schilling. As electoral chamberlain, Gregor had been in charge of the court and state treasury since 1581, making him one of the most important officials in financial administration.

The deed of sale is dated 3 February 1585; the enfeoffment by the elector of Saxony followed with a letter of enfeoffment dated 25 January of the following year: *‘We have graciously granted and lent to our chamberlain and dear loyal subject Gregor Schillingen and his legitimate of Schönfeld with the property described below (...) as a fiefdom.’*

Gregor was, as it were, granted the right to use the land, buildings, taxes, services, jurisdiction and hunting rights. At that time, the Schönfeld estate and its associated manorial rights comprised the villages of Schönfeld (with 38 ‘possessed men’ – i.e. families), Schullwitz (34 possessed men), Reitzendorf (21 possessed men), Zanschendorf (15 possessed men), Malschendorf (10 possessed



Schönfeld Castle

men), as well as the Selchstädt farmstead in the Stolpen district and a windmill. In addition, Gregor and his brothers Hans, Peter and Friedrich received the sum of 5,000 guilders as a so-called 'money loan', which the family could use profitably – *'at his humble request and because of his loyal service, which he has rendered Us laboriously and can continue to render and perform in the future'*.

However, the Elector was unable to enjoy these services for long: Elector August died just seventeen days later. Although his successor, Christian I, confirmed Gregor Schilling's enfeoffment with the Schönfeld estate, he lost his position as chamberlain in the course of personnel changes. The title is no longer listed in the new feudal letter dated 10 January 1587. Gregor Unwürde succeeded him in the office of chamberlain.

Gregor himself also died soon afterwards. The Schönfeld estate passed to his son Hans, who was enfeoffed on 22 May 1592 and again on 5 February 1602. In 1611, the Schilling family sold it for 29,000 talers to Joachim von Loß (1576-1633) of Pilnitz and Gaupa. This was the beginning of a difficult period for the farmers, as the new landlord was harsh and strict. He significantly increased the taxes and duties imposed on his subjects and did not shy away from using violence to enforce them. According to legend, the 'evil Loß' still roams at midnight in the form of a large black dog.

When Joachim von Loß died in 1733, he left no sons. His daughter's husband, Ba-

ron Heinrich von Friesen, inherited the estate and castle, and his descendants owned it for over 100 years. His grandson Heinrich Friedrich Graf von Friesen received a special honour: in 1725, he married Augusta Constantia Gräfin von Cosel. His bride, who was 28 years his junior, was the illegitimate daughter of August the Strong and his mistress Anna Constantia Reichsgräfin von Cosel. But their happiness was short-lived. Just three years later, the beautiful young countess died of smallpox at the age of 20. She was laid to rest in the family crypt of Schönfeld Church. Rumours that the countess had been buried while still alive could never be proven. The Schönfeld church records provide no clues.

With the death of her son August Heinrich in 1755, the Schönfeld line of the Friesen family died out. The inheritance dispute, which lasted for over three decades, only came to an end when Elector August III acquired the Schönfeld estate from his private fortune. In the 19th century, the castle served as a court office. The prison cells on the ground floor still bear witness to this today. After the closure of the court (1873), the manor was sold by the treasury back into private ownership. The new owner of the castle was the banker Bernhard Gutmann. He was the father of Eugen Gutmann, the founder of the Dresdner Bank. The new owners also left visible traces in the castle. They were responsible for designing the 'hunting room' and the so-called 'drinking room'. The last owner was

expropriated in 1945 as part of the 'land reform'. Among other things the castle was converted into a cardboard factory, residential and school rooms, a country cinema and a school canteen.

In the 1990s, the municipality was able to gradually begin the urgently needed renovation work, and since 1999 this has been carried out under the aegis of the state capital Dresden. The days of Schönfeld's landownership may be a thing of the past. But for more than 20 years, the Kunst- und Kulturverein Schloss Schönfeld e.V. (Schönfeld Castle Art and Culture Association) has succeeded in breathing new life into the castle: as a theatre venue unique in Europe – 'Germany's castle of the magicians'.

By Andreas Bednara, Historikerguppe Kunst- und Kulturverein Schloss Schönfeld e.



Stone Epitaph in the Kreuzkirche Maria Schilling, Gregor's wife. She was 'the woman in the background' for him and supported him wholeheartedly.

From the various branches



Western Branch

Discovering family

Lasting Memories: Walking in the Footsteps of our Ancestors

We want to share with you the wonderful experience that we had attending the Schilling Association 2025 “Family Days” in Dresden. We are Michael and Roberta Schilling from Columbus/Buckeye Lake, Ohio/USA. We have two sons that are married. And two grandsons. We hope to pass on our love of “tracing our heritage” to all of them. We joined the Schilling Association several years ago in anticipation of attending a reunion.

The opportunity came when the association announced a trip to Dresden and surrounding area to discover the history of our ancestor Johannes Schilling, the famous sculptor.

Planning this trip took months of research on our part so we could also visit our ancestral town of Schlitz. Michael’s great grandfather Emil Schilling lived in Schlitz and arrived in Columbus, Ohio USA in 1865.

We were so excited and nervous at the same time to take this trip. We had no idea what to expect when meeting around 80 of our relatives (who we had never met before). Our cousins embraced us with open arms, making us feel part of the family. This reunion turned out to be a heartwarming experience filled with laughter and lasting memories.

The trips planned by the association around the Dresden area were so well organized. And many of our relatives

stepped up to help us with the language barrier. Dresden is an extraordinarily historical city with beautiful architecture and so many sculpture pieces from Johannes Schilling.

The subsequent trip to Schloss Schönfeld was like stepping back in time to visit Gregor and Maria Schilling’s home.

The next day, visiting Mittweida, the birthplace of Johannes Schilling, gave us insight into how much this town admired him and his work as an artist. Like most Schilling trips in the US, our German cousins could not pass up a trip to get ice cream on our walk back to the bus.

We loved the city of Dresden so much that we stayed an extra day to visit Moritzburg, (about 8 km from Dres-

den) with August the Strong’s Hunting Lodge with several of our family members. The horse and wagon ride across the surroundings near the castle was so much fun with our relatives.

We all ate together afterwards at the Bärenhäusl restaurant near the castle. (Editor’s note: and as a secret surprise they covered the cost of food and beverages for all cousins. Thank you so much!)

Some of the best times we had were gathering with our relatives at breakfast, lunch or dinner. We got to know many of them that way and now have contacts all over the world.

We even stayed another day to go back and see more of Dresden, including the Green Vault and the Cathedral St. Trinitatis.

From Dresden, we took the train to Fulda and made our way by taxi to Schlitz, “The Romantic Castle Town” (in Vogelsbergkreis, Hessen), where our Schilling ancestors were first mentioned in the year 1459.



Moritzburg Castle

We stayed in one of 4 castles and a large keep (known as the rear tower) surrounding the town square with all its cobblestone and brick walkways

Little did we know that our relative Christian Fuchs from Chile, decided to meet us there after being introduced to him for the first time in Dresden.

He belongs to our Schlitz Red Line, and his ancestor went to Argentina from there. Christian was a true blessing for us due to his fluent German, English and Spanish. And his love of genealogy.

We walked the first evening with Christian to Sandkirche, a mile up north of the town. There we saw the Schilling tomb and family coat of arms above the entrance. Our ancestors are buried beneath the tomb now with a memorial inside for the dead of both world wars. We were overwhelmed with emotions that the Schilling family tomb was so well preserved.

Later we ate at Braustübchen in the main part of town for some Schlitzerland specialities.

The next day brought many surprises. Christian met us at the hotel with the knowledge of where our ancestor's home was in town.

Background of this is back in 1685 our ancestor Johannes Schilling, church elder, linen merchant and mayor of Schlitz had 8 children. The last three of his children, Johann Philip, linen weaver and councilor started the Blue line, Johann Georg, linen weaver, started the White line, and Johann Nikolaus, merchant and linen weaver, started the Red line.

Michael & Christian are from the Red line and we had no knowledge of where this house was situated. But in our walks

that day we discovered the Blue Line house (now Volksbank) and Christian showed us the Red Line house (now white) around the corner from there that he had found the night before. Both have a plaque on the house stating this history.

We also walked by the linen factory, that just closed this year. Then, we found a Schilling residence that was once the home of Michael's distant Aunt Luisa, who played the organ at the Lutheran Church across from our hotel. She passed away in the 1970s.

On our way back, it started to rain, so we walked into a studio that had books and calendars of pictures, old and new of Schlitz. The owner Thomas Landgraf, talked with Christian in German for almost an hour about why we were in Schlitz.

Thomas arranged a private tour for us through the Burgmuseum, outer castle Vorderburg. This place was closed but opened just for us. We all felt very



At Schlitz

humbled to have such treatment. Of course, on our walks, we always had to stop at an icecream store for a nice treat. This time though since it was raining, we had freshly made hot chocolate with Baileys!!!

On our last day in Schlitz, after Christian left, we toured



Robert, Mike and Christian Fuchs

churches, shops, castles, and the Schlitz Distillery (originating in Schlitz 1585). We even walked back to the cemetery and found more Schilling head stones in the cemetery. We always had conversations with residents along the way, at least those that spoke English. Everyone was very friendly and always willing to help. Thank you so much to the Schilling Association and all the dedication from board for creating an opportunity for us to travel to Germany.



House of the Blue Line

Authors

Michael and Roberta Schilling



House of the Red Line

Where do the Schlitz Schillings come from?

A medieval criminal report by Eric Bawor

In a letter dated 25 February 1949, the then family researcher Heinar Schilling writes: 'Although the connection between the Schilling family from Schlitz and the Erik family cannot yet be proven by documentary evidence, the current research will undoubtedly bring the desired result in the foreseeable future (...), so that this large family can also be affiliated.'

It was not until many years later that Gretel Bauermann developed a possible theory about the origins of this family line. She suspected that the descendants of a man named Rudolf from Lahnstein had migrated and had connections to the local nobility of Schlitz.

In fact, there is another theory that will be presented here for the first time, which almost has the potential for a crime novel, but actually really happened.

To answer this question, we need to go back several centuries. The ancestors of the western branch were serving the Wettin dynasty in the Rhineland around Altwied. They which is kept in the Mei-

were involved in the Wettin's policy of eastward colonisation and thus came to settle in central Germany and Saxony. An isolated outpost of the Wettin dynasty was Treffurt Castle, located between the present border between Thuringia and Hesse.

Around 1360, a man named Hermann Schilling served there as a Wettin Burgmann (castle keeper) and founded a side line of the family, which later settled in the Henneberg area.

In a directory from 1556 listing the noble families residing in



Not only in 1340, as shown in this 16th-century picture, but also in the following decades, the lords of Schlitz were involved in the politics of the entire Rhön region. This may have made them interesting as employers for the missing Schilling brothers.

ningen Henneberg and their incomes, kept in the Meiningen State Archives, a vague entry on Schilling raises more questions than answers. According to this, the orphaned and still under age brothers Friedrich and Hermann were supposed to have received income from two villages near Römheld in 1437. No further information is available. What is the significance of a reference to the year 1437 in 1556? The seemingly outdated data had its origins in a legal dispute in 1446. The two brothers had an older sister named Anna, who was married to Jörg von Pferdsdorf in her second marriage. He brought a lawsuit against the Counts of Henneberg, who wanted to confiscate the Schilling fiefdom. Right at the beginning, there is a serious accusation. Rumours were circulating in the country that the Schillings were dead. Pferdsdorf had already been asked to comment on this in 1445, but he had not responded.

Therefore, the Schilling family was considered dead and the fiefdom would fall to the counts. Jörg von Pferdsdorf disagreed, claiming to know nothing about this. He said the Schilling family was abroad, but no one knew where. However, he would be entitled to the fiefdom through his wife. The counts disagree, and the dispute continues. Two members of the Herbilstadt family sit in court. Under today's law, they would perhaps be considered biased, because the Herbilstadt family would be next in line to inherit the fiefdom through Anna Schilling's first husband Steffen von Herbilstadt, if she were to win her case.

Therefore, no verdict is given in favour of the counts,

but Jörg von Pferdsdorf is given one year to prove that the Schilling family is still alive, in which case he may remain as guardian of the fiefdom.

The year passes, but the question remains. In 1447, Pferdsdorf still claims that the Schilling family has gone abroad, but is still alive. The court reaches a settlement. The counts are given the farms, but Pferdsdorf is allowed to continue using the fiefdom, which can be redeemed at any time for 100 guilders. He would have to hand over these 100 guilders to the Schilling family if they returned. A few decades later, the Hennebergers actually realised this option and paid the agreed 100 guilders to the presumed grandson of Anna Schilling, Jörg von Herbilstadt, in 1490. The Schilling family was still missing, so that he was still listed in the above-mentioned register in 1556.

The whole case seems du-

bious and like a conspiracy. Did Jörg von Pferdsdorf secretly dispose of the Schillings and now wanted to enrich himself? Or are his claims justified after all and the counts took advantage of his ignorance? We will never know for sure. After all, it speaks in favour of Pferdsdorf that the fiefdoms were rather small, and even the compensation payment of 100 guilders is not a fortune in itself. Perhaps the young brothers did indeed try their luck 'abroad', i.e. outside Henneberg, in search of more lucrative employment.

In 1459, a tenant farmer of the later Counts Schlitz von Görtz appears for the first time in Rimpach near Schlitz. 'Henne' is a short form of 'Heinrich', but also of "Hennemann" or 'Hermann'. He is the ancestor of the Schlitz family. Could he also be one of Anna Schilling's long-lost brothers?

The Schillings in the Peasants' War

It has now been half a century since unrest broke out in the German states and culminated in a bloody conflict. Explained in very short terms, the Peasants' War can be seen as the result of a series of individual interests that were irreconcilably opposed to each other and, conversely, intertwined with each other during a period of profound upheaval in all areas of the society. The pain of leaving the Middle Ages behind; the birth pangs of the modern era, a turning point in history in any case.

A few years ago, I wrote an article on the Schillings in the Reformation; there are many points of reference here. On the other hand, the selection of sources is limited, which makes it clear that

religious connection to the Peasants' War was by no means the most important factor. Furthermore, no evidence of involvement



with the ‚peasants‘ has so far been found among the family lines.

Closer to the upheavals of that time, the Schilling von Canstatt family can be found as actors, but even with them, a direct connection to 1525 is rather tenuous. I finally found what I was looking for in the region of southern Thuringia, the cradle of the Schilling families of Suhl and Zella-Mehlis.

One of the earlier Schilling families lived in Meiningen, which at that time was under the jurisdiction of the Prince-Bishopric of Würzburg, and represented the town on the council. In the spring of 1525, the Meiningen council was ultimately forced by the ‚Bildhauser Haufen‘ to join this alliance and take up arms against the Prince-Bishop and the Count of Henneberg. Between 3 June and 5 June 1525, this alliance was decisively defeated by an electoral army in the Battle of Meiningen. As the leaders and instigators faced the death penalty, this Schilling also pleaded for his life.

His brother-in-law Philipp Reinhard recounts an eyewitness account in their petition for pardon: *„In the same outrage (revolt), my brother-in-law Klaus Schilling, the mayor, was sent to the army camp in Mellrichstadt because of his office, and when he got there, (Hans) Schnabel and Hans Scharr, the captains, had moved away (moved on), and the whole group (troop) at Mellrichstadt elected him as their captain, which my brother-in-law did not want to accept under any circumstances. He says he was not sent there for that reason. (To which) they replied: ‚In short, if he does not want to, he must; they are his masters and the masters of the citizens of Meiningen.‘ (So) they forced him, restrained him and compelled him to stay with them, which he can prove with sufficient evidence and testimony from the council of the*

municipality of Mellrichstadt.“

What may sound a little like an excuse was, however, probably true. At that time, it was a well-established and widely used method of making uncertain allies take on more responsibility and tie them to oneself by forcing them into a leadership role. A well-known example of this is Götz von Berlichingen.

At least the councillors of Meiningen managed to extricate themselves from the unpopular alliance using the same tactic. When the leaders Scharr and Schnabel realised that the battle was hopeless, they wanted to leave Meiningen with their men, but were forced by the citizens to remain in the town. Finally, as a political signal, the city council handed over the leaders to Elector Johann den Beständigen (the Steadfast) of Saxony. The elector was a very cautious man who, on the one hand, used his army to restore order by force, but on the other hand offered himself as a mediator and advocate for the defeated. As documents from his office reveal, he wanted to pacify the heated atmosphere in the community through forbearance and conciliatory action.

Nicholas and other protagonists were handed over by the Elector to the Count of Henneberg, who imprisoned them, presumably at Untermaßfeld Castle.

Two petitions for clemency addressed to the Bishop of Würzburg, who was the sovereign ruler of Meiningen at the time, have been preserved from those days. However, Nikolaus sent them to Elector Johann with a request for mediation, which the latter actually did. Accordingly, Nikolaus was arrested until at least January 1526 and faced banishment: *‘That I, poor man, may come to what is mine and remain in what is mine, that I, poor man, may not be deprived of anything and dispossessed.’ In-*

stead‘, he asked to be declared innocent and allowed to return home.

The file in the Meiningen State Archives does not contain a verdict on this matter, but in 1538 the ‚High Registry‘ in Würzburg mentions Nikolaus as a ‚fugitive‘ and assigns his property in Meiningen to someone else. However, a legal dispute from 1536 preserved in the Meiningen State Archives reveals that he lived only about 10 km from Meiningen, but outside the territory of the Bishop of Würzburg.

The result for Nikolaus Schilling was both a beginning and an end: He regained his personal freedom and preserved his life and his bourgeois existence. Together with him, however, Meiningen also lost many of its former freedoms, which led to a change in the city’s significance, from a relatively free city of the bourgeoisie to a later princely residence. And the Schillings? A few generations later, the rise began in Suhl and Zella-Mehlis.

Eric Bawor



Elector Johann v. Sachsen

An interesting coat of arms discovery in Lower Lusatia

‘There is then no doubt that (...) the true origin of this noble family can be traced back to Switzerland...’

These meaningful words can be found on page 4 of a long essay that Raphael from the eastern branch of the family had written in connection with his elevation to the rank of Count Schilling von Schillingshof in 1781.

The belief in Swiss origins can be found in various traces in the different lines of the Schilling family. Traces of this legend can also be found in the legendary translations by Ludwig Schilling from 1774, as large parts of the stories there originate in the region around Basel. This assumption connects the various Schilling families with one another, regardless of the historical content of these legends.

A coincidence has now provided further evidence of the reception of the Swiss origin belief. For several years, I have been loosely researching a branch of the Anhalt Schilling family that settled in Lower Lusatia before 1500 and disappeared somewhat ingloriously into Upper Lusatia after 1650.

Although some written testimonies from this branch have been preserved in the archives, I have not yet been able to draw any conclusions about their coat of arms from a seal. The relevant literature on the nobility in Lusatia does not provide any insight here either, and epitaphs and other monuments have not

survived to the present day.

In the course of my research, I came across the small village of Kümmeritz near Luckau. The modest manor had belonged to the von Birkholz family. As the Schilling family owned estates in the surrounding area of Luckau and Dahme/Mark, there were direct family ties here. Anna Elisabeth von Schilling had married Heinrich Luckau, district elder of Luckau in her second marriage. A grandson from this mar-

riage, the Saxon cavalry general Georg Wilhelm von Birkholz (1679-1747), had the ancient church in Kümmeritz redesigned after 1700 and, among other things, had a family tree with 32 coats of arms painted on the royal box. So the Schilling family crest had to be there too.

I had expected a lot, but my surprise was even greater when I received pictures from Kümmeritz and looked at the shield that General von Birkholz had given for his grandmother. It shows the coat of arms of the Swiss Schillings from the Basel/Rheinfelden area.

Eric Bawor



In the middle of a lonely village in Lower Lusatia we find the coat of arms of the Schilling family from Basel as the ancestral coat of arms for a side line of the western branch of the family.

Coffee and cake and sculptor

197th birthday of Johannes Schilling celebrated in Mittweida

On 23 June this year, time had come again. Johannes Schilling's great-great-granddaughter, Ricarda Firkert, had invited guests to coffee and cake in Mittweida, this time to celebrate the sculptor's 197th birthday. The meeting was organised for the 19th time. Previously, Johannes Schilling's great-granddaughter, Ina Schilling-Nickel, Ricarda's mother, was responsible for this event. Some time ago, she handed over the organisation to her daughter for health reasons.

Once again, over 20 guests gathered at the 'Alte Erbgericht', where the birthday party has been held for some time now instead of at the Johannes-

Schilling-Haus due to space limitations. Among the guests were prominent persons such as Mittweida's Mayor Ralf Schreiber. Helmuth von Schilling, the long-standing chairman of the Schilling association and now a board member, had also travelled to Mittweida again. The former museum director Heiko Weber, who, as previously reported, was unable to attend the family reunion for health reasons, was present as well. Ricarda had once again baked delicious cakes and, as every year, there were of course the delicious Schilling ducks with the Schilling coat of arms. After coffee and cake, an interesting film was shown: a



One of the artworks from the sculpture symposium

young girl's interview with Ina Schilling-Nickel. Johannes' great-granddaughter emphasised how important the annual coffee party is, and she hopes that the meeting in three years' time, on Johannes' 200th birthday, will be a very big event.

This time, however, the birthday party began an hour earlier, because this year also saw the 5th sculpture symposium since 2023, held in Mittweida in the garden of the 'Alte Pfarrhäuser Museum'. Since 18 June, six artists had been creating wonderful works of art from sandstone blocks using chisels and mallets. The organisers took the opportunity to present the works to the city in the presence of the birthday guests. Now, possible locations for exhibiting these beautiful works of art are being looked for in the city.

Helmuth von Schilling



Ricarda Firkert welcomes the guests, right: Mayor Ralf Schreiber, left: Helmuth



In Mittweida, a dispute is brewing over the name Schilling. The traditional restaurant 'Schwanenschlösschen', built 140 years ago and vacant since 2023, is being restored and is to be given a new name when it reopens next year: 'Restaurant Schilling Mittweida', even though the establishment has no connection to Johannes Schilling. The sculptor never lived there and never mentioned it. 'It's a shame it's no longer called Schwanenschlösschen,' is written in many comments on Facebook. Others question the name change, saying that 'Schilling' does not fit.

'Every town is proud of its traditional restaurants, and there are not that many left in our town.' They say the renaming is a 'crazy idea'. Generations of Mittweida residents went dancing in the restaurant and enjoyed themselves in the beer garden. For all of them, it was a case of 'we're going to the Schwane'.

Mayor Ralf Schreiber also commented on the name change, but apparently has no objection to it, stating: 'I'm looking forward to my first beer at the Schwane im Schilling.' The restaurant will be run by the Mittweida Gastronomie und Service GmbH in future. One of the company's owners, Michael Kiesewetter, explains: „The name change is intended to underline a new beginning. We want to develop something new for Mittweida and the surrounding area.'

Franziska Bernhardt-Muth,
Freie Presse

With bow and arrow to mental health and strength

Interview with Ute and Hubertus von Schilling

On 25 March of this year the "Hildesheimer Allgemeine Zeitung" published an interesting report about our archery couple Ute and Hubertus von Schilling (Eastern Branch). This is the text:

"I am a ball dyslexic" says Ute von Schilling and laughs. What she means is that ball sports does not suit her. But she is almost unbeatable in another discipline. The 53-year-old is a multiple German archery champion and was a member of the national squad.

This newspaper has often reported on the successes of the Giessen native, who lived in Hildesheim since

1999 and works as a pediatrician but never about the secrets of her success - and rarely about archery itself.

Her husband Hubertus von Schilling is also completely dedicated to this sport. Formerly a successful archer himself, he is now a coach and entrepreneur. The 59-year-old has the highest trainer A licence and founded his own company twelve years ago: "von Schilling Bogensport" at the Technologie Zentrum Hildesheim in Richthofenstraße.

He gives courses and seminars, organizes events and sells bows, arrows and accessories. He works with clubs and the adult



Caption: Ute von Schilling takes aim, her husband Hubertus von Schilling watches her

education center, among others. "Archery is the perfect combination of strength, fitness and concentration," he explains.

His wife nods in agreement: "As a doctor, I am often under stress and sometimes have to experience and deal with unpleasant things. I need a balance to calm down." And she has been finding that balance in archery for many years.

Together with her husband, she has developed "mental rituals": "Before every training session and competition, I put the bad thoughts in a drawer and only allow positive thoughts." These are quite banal things like "I am looking forward to training, my equipment is good, I'm meeting nice people."

Before she starts, she often sits down and closes her eyes. She calls it "mental shooting": "I draw the bow in my mind and shoot 30 times at the target." Keeping this up is often more strenuous than the real competitions, but the advantage: "It's a kind of meditation. You don't think about anything else."

There is a fixed mental ritual at the shooting range. First: stand firmly, second: place your finger on the bowstring, third: turn your arm out, fourth: don't move your hand, fifth: anchor firmly, sixth: release backwards - and...Shot!

"As soon the arrow leaves the string, a good shooter knows whether it's going to be a good or bad shot," she remarks. Bad shots are very rare for Ute von Schilling. But what if it does go wrong? "Check it off quickly," she says. Brooding is no good at all. In any case, you should only ever concentrate on the next arrow: "The next arrow is always the most important."

She has long since internalized these rituals. "They have become automatic," she explains. But it wasn't always easy to get there. "You need patience and perseverance."

Hubertus von Schilling is firmly convinced of the "positive effect" of archery in all facets. In his courses, he places great emphasis on the mental aspect. "I know people who suffered from severe sleep disorders and were able to rest better at night thanks to archery," he says. "One participant had severe depression. When the arrow flew into the middle of the target for the first time, she laughed out loud." It was a first small step towards recovery.

The coach adds that the alteration between tension and relaxation is also beneficial and healing for physically impaired people: "Archery is a sport for all ages and is also suitable for wheelchair users."

As a paediatrician, Ute von Schilling knows that even children with behavioural problems or hyperactive children can become calmer and more focused when using a bow and arrow. "And they are successful - all the better."

The couple is constantly on the lookout for new ideas and offers. In collaboration with the VHS, Hubertus von Schilling offers an interesting combination: archery and Hatha yoga - a way to find yourself. "Tense, relax and meet" is the motto. The course is very popular, says Hubertus von Schilling. There will also soon be a course for autistic people.

Then he tells another anecdote: "I once had a bodybuilder in one of my courses with bulging biceps. He claimed that archery was child's play. but he

gave up after the tenth shot." Ute von Schilling explains: "The draw weight for archery is up to 20 kilograms." She does this up to 80 times per competition.

"It's not about strong upper arms," she remarks with a smile. "It's also about other muscle groups and, above all, technique. Even the arrogant muscle man knows that now."

But beginners and older people need have no fear. "We train with much lighter weights," promises Hubertus von Schilling. Finally a tip for all ball dyslexics: if you can't hit the goal in soccer or handball, you might want to try a bow and arrow.

Thorsten Berner

How can you learn archery?

You can find out about the classes and offers from Hubertus and Ute von Schilling at www.von-schilling-bogensport.de. Email: info@von-schilling-bogensport.de Naturally, you can also practise the sport in a club, such clubs are now everywhere.

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page 8 bottom: Eric Bawor, pages 9 to 11 : Eric Bawor, **page 12:** (2): Heiko Weber,

page 13: Werner Kaiser, **page 15:** E. v. Schilling

Farewell in Finland

Sigrid Kinnunen died at the age of 97

Our long-standing member Sigrid Kinnunen, née Baronesse von Schilling, passed away on 13 January this year, one day before her 97th birthday, in Vantaa, Finland. Sigrid was a very loyal member who attended many family reunions. The last reunion she attended was in Köngen near Stuttgart in 2016. She particularly enjoyed the additional programme at the butterfly house on Mainau Island on Lake Constance. She loved butterflies.

Sigrid came from the eastern branch of our association. Her father was Bodo vS, who married his cousin Ingeborg vS in 1927. The couple had five children (two daughters and three sons). All were loyal members of the family association, but sadly, apart from the eldest son Wolter, they have all since died. Sigrid was the eldest child.

The family initially lived on the Sesslauken estate in Latvia and, like most Baltic Germans, was resettled in German occupied Poland in 1939. In 1945, Sigrid's mother fled with her children to West Germany to escape the advancing Red Army. Her father had fought as a soldier in Russia and died there in a military hospital in 1942.

The escape was very painful for Sigrid. The trekking wagon was caught up by the Russians and the girls had to hide. Eventually, however, they managed to cross the Oder River and reach West Germany, settling in the Lüneburg Heath, where close relatives had already found accommodation. While Sigrid's brothers and her

sister Karin emigrated to Canada and built a new life there, Sigrid met farmer Pennti Kinnunen while training in Finland, and they married in 1963. The couple had a son and a daughter.

The funeral service took place on 7 February in Finland. The blessing in the German Church in Helsinki, attended by the family, was very impressive.

Helmuth v. Schilling



Sigrid and the butterfly

Eastern branch reunion 2027 in Estonia

Christiane von Schilling-Klockenhoff and Martin von Schilling would like to tell you this: Thanks for taking part in our surveys in such large numbers. Since there is a desire for parents to travel to Estonia with their children or grandparents with their grandchildren who are still at school, we have moved the date to 2027. At the moment, the plan is as follows: The reunion is to be held in Tartu/Dorpat from 22 July to 25 July 2027. The idea behind this is to give eyewitnesses and the next generation the opportunity to travel together. Starting from there, the Schilling estates will be visited. Travel arrangements are to be made

ally. A visit to Tallinn/Reval is also on the agenda. Riga would be a possibility for a follow-up programme. Christiane and her daughter Charlotte will travel to Estonia next year to plan everything in detail.



Southern Branch

Schilling House in Neuffen restored

Anyone who wanted to visit the Schilling Museum in Neuffen (Baden-Württemberg) on Schillingstraße this year was shocked: There was a sign on the gate of the building saying that the museum was closed. Fortunately, however, the closure is not permanent. On the contrary: The building is undergoing extensive remodeling and renovation. The grand reopening is scheduled for the end of this year. Nevertheless, the museum can still be visited; one simply needs to contact the museum director, Mr Seewöster (Unterer Graben 26, 72639 Neuffen, phone: 00497025/3965). If Mr Seewöster is unable to give a tour of the house, visitors can collect the key and return it after viewing the house on their own.

The Schilling House, built in 1369, is the former residence of the Schilling von Canstatt family (southern branch) and displays a number of interesting documents from the family history of the southern branch. Participants in the 2017 family reunion visited the house.

Ralph SvC