

VI: BABY BOOM, CLASS DISPUTES: 1907-1914

Erdmüthe Alice Nannj Tjyralla took everyone by surprise when she arrived in *Blumenstraße 15* two months earlier than expected on the evening of August 7th, 1907.¹ Anecdotes abound about how she spent her first months in an 'incubator,' which is hardly surprising since at 30 weeks her chances of survival were predictably slim. Even in 1925, 36 percent of all infant deaths were due to premature birth², so given Germany's high infant mortality rate of one in four, she'll no doubt have sent more than a shiver up just-wed mum and dad's spines, despite the mid-summer's heat!



But *Kleine Nannj*, as she fondly came to be known, would always be special. Instead of becoming another representative statistic of infant mortality (despite weighing approximately half that of a more typical newborn) she fought against the odds for her survival. And my how she did it! Unlike today's premature youngsters, nursed at the nearest infants' hospital, this Prussian princess spent her first months 'incubated' in a kitchen cubby hole normally used for keeping warm the coffee! Wrapped in swaddling clothes and isolated from the world around her, the oven bricks she rested upon warmed her until she outgrew her makeshift cradle.

There was actually little alternative, since during the early twentieth century most doctors did not believe much could be done to help the infants they called 'weaklings.' 'Pre-emies' were therefore left at home (where most babies were usually born) in what invariably became the 'survival of the fittest.' But some doctors were different. Take for instance Martin A. Couney. He was not your average pediatrician. Born in Breslau in 1870, he travelled to Leipzig (just like Little Nannj's father and grand-father), where he studied medicine. By the mid 1890's he'd moved on to Paris to study the pathology of prematurely born babies, during which time he designed the modern baby incubator. Yet it was another thirty years or so before his life-saving devices would find a regular place in hospitals (see the text box overleaf).

Fortunately Little Nannj's survival didn't depend on an incubator, and in a remarkable feat of resilience she outgrew the kitchen cove for her own crib. So whereas in Goethe's tragic play, Faust and Gretchen lose their illegitimate child, in the Tjyrallas' rendition they got to keep theirs (because she was born legitimately). It made for an auspicious start for the Little Tjyralla, who barely fifteen years later went on to become a (very) modest showgirl in her own right!

¹ Birth certificate no. 2816 of the Leipzig Standesamt I

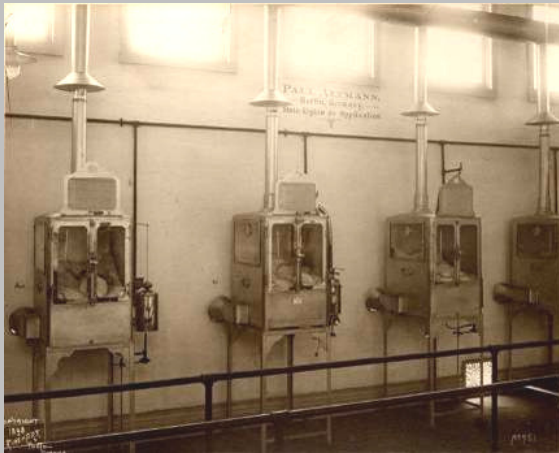
² www.atlanticcityexperience.org/index.php/the-prohibition-era/incubator-babies

6.1 'The Incubator Doctor'

Dr. Martin A Couney is credited with having invented the infant incubator. In 1896 he took his 'Lion' prototype to the Berlin Exposition. The city's Charity Hospital loaned him several premature babies, all of whom they assumed would die. Yet Couney rehabilitated each of the infants lives through careful control of heat, 'Kinder-brutanstalt 5 hygiene,' and alimentation. His makeshift hospital drew big crowds as visitors watched the tiny patients receive treatments, recuperate and grow.

Couney was something of a showman and called his Berlin display the 'child hatchery' or 'baby-hatching apparatus.' According to *Wikipedia*, the display's name took on a life of its own, becoming "celebrated in comic songs and music-hall gags in Berlin, even before the exposition opened."

From 1898 Couney took his incubator technology on the road, exhibiting it at prominent expositions in Omaha, Paris and New York often under the monicker "All the World Loves a Baby." The incubators worked by drawing in air from the outside, passing it through an elaborate filtering system and a heated coil into the baby's chamber and then out through the top. In this way the baby enjoyed a complete change of atmosphere every five seconds while attendant nurses observed the strictest rules of hygiene. By some estimates, Couney was able to rehabilitate 90 percent of the premature infants placed within what Janet Golden, an American medical historian described as "a crude metal and glass cabinet that looks something like a pie safe."

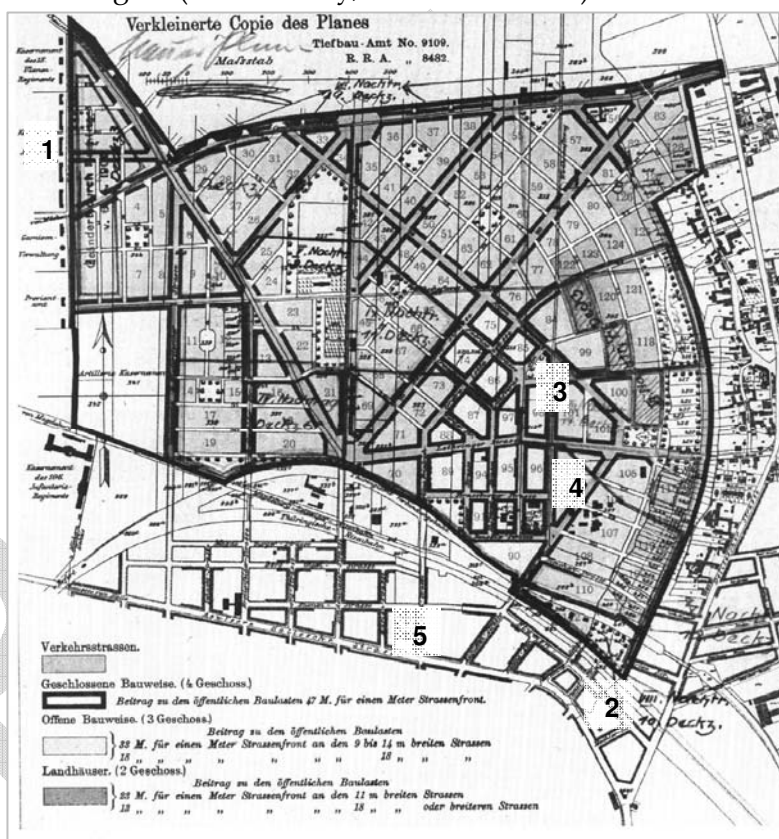


Nannj's name was nearly identical to her mother's, save for Sophie being replaced by *Alice*. Alice is a Germanic name and means 'of a noble kind.'⁵ At the height of its usage in 1906 it ranked eighth in popularity, with 1.5 percent of all baby girls being so named. This was partly thanks to the classic 1865 children's novel, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* but also Queen Victoria's daughter Princess Alice (who married a German prince). A century later, however, *Alyssa* was by far the more popular form.

Born in Saxony, Little Nannj's nationality nevertheless remained Prussian like that of her parents. Her faith was Evangelical-Lutheran which means she took her father's name but not his Catholic religion (to learn why, read footnote 24)!

She grew up in Gohlis, that suburb of 'New Leipzig.' When it was incorporated within the city boundaries in 1890, its population had been almost 20,000. Yet by the time Little Nannj was born, it was over 37,000.⁶

In his 1926 book (*ibid.*), Willy Ebert remarks how Gohlis' new status brought many changes. Between 1886 and 1890 for instance, the village school was twice relocated to larger premises, whereafter its last site on *Kirch platz* played host to Gohlis' rectory, police station, town office, bank and post office. More new schools were necessary and these sprang up between the 1880s and early 1900s when the area north of the railway line (shown in the map above) underwent significant development after 1898. The introduction of piped water in 1904 thanks to Saxony's new military compound (see '1' to the map's top left), as well as municipal waste collection, naturally added to the attraction for those tempted to move out of 'Old Leipzig' for cheaper rents. Enterprise was very much a part of the suburb, which among Leipzig's most-famous included the industrialist, Adolf Bleichert, whose ironworks employed 1500 locals.



'New Gohlis':
Building Plan of
May, 1898

Together with other important concerns in Leipzig such as Europe's largest cotton mill in Lindenau, a thriving book publishing sector, agricultural machinery and the construction industry, by 1907 the city could claim to be Saxony's largest industrial town – and one of Germany's biggest, notes Güldemann.

⁵ From: <http://www.babynamespedia.com/meaning/Alice/f>

⁶ Gohlis: *Aus der Geschichte einse Leipziger Vorortes*, 1926, pg. 113.

Little Nanný's home at *Blumenstraße 15* (whose entrance hall is shown below in the year 2000) lay to the north of Gohlis old town centre. It was about 200 metres south of the former boundary created by the *Thüringische-Eisenbahn* (see '2', bottom right on the previous page's map). It was also a minute or so's walk from trams 10 and 11, which brought her father directly to Leipzig's *Hauptbahnhof* – and thus to work.



It seems the family jointly rented the apartment with a family or person named *Schuster*, according to her father's *Einwohnermeldekarte*. Living alongside other tenants was not entirely unusual at the turn of the century, but more typically occurred among unskilled workers, notes Sean Dobson in his period analysis of Leipzig.⁷ The Tŷrallas spent two years in *Blumenstraße* (while unskilled workers more typically moved several times annually). If *Schuster* was a family friend or business acquaintance, the Tŷrallas may even have been offered temporary use of the flat as a wedding gift. The years 1907-9 were recession years, and with a newborn, help was never more needed...

One of Gohlis's attractions was probably its well-to-do residential areas. Bleichert's turn-of-the-century '*Villa Hilda*' for instance was a short walk from the western end of *Blumenstraße*, while 600 metres northwest of the Tŷrallas' home lay the bourgeois *Französisches Viertel* or French Quarter: a classy district with elegant streets named after 'French' towns such as Strasburg, Paris and Metz (see below).



Above top:
Entry hall to the Tŷrallas first home

Beneath:
Strasburg Straße in the Französischen Viertel,
New-Gohlis around 1900 (*Wikimedia_Gohlis*)

Such 'privileges,' however, came at a cost. In his contribution to *Germany: A New Social and Economic History since 1800*, Breuilly indicates how districts like these 'for the middling sort' (pg. 215) contributed to class division in German cities. Dobson in fact devotes his entire book to this subject, illustrating the animosity between classes, by noting how Leipzig's annual *Volksfest* became an occasion for its proletarian youth (dressed as cowboys, Indians and trappers) to band together in hordes and run amok in conflict with one another whooping wild war cries (pg.55). Supported by their proletarian parents, this typically occurred in neighbourhoods where 'white-collar' employees and owners of small businesses lived. The game was one of 'scare the bourgeoisie' – or *Bürgerschreck*.

⁷ *Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920*. Sean Dobson, 2001. Pg. 34

During their first days in *Blumenstraße* I imagine Nannÿ Tÿralla was to be seen proudly strolling her namesake around Gohlis in view of the neighbours. Besides urban development, the suburb maintained a sense of nature with its picturesque park *Rosental* a short stretch south of Gohlis' old town centre. Bounded by waterways (both streams and canals), forded by bridges and surrounded by walkways, the 118 acre floodplain forest was a popular spot amongst locals for Sunday walks. This included Nannÿ's brother's family too, as their grandson later confirmed. The park made the perfect backdrop for both the city-owned *Gohliser Schlösschen* (an open baroque country manor) as well as Leipzig's Zoo.



Above: The two Nannÿs stroll along Gohlis' ArtillerieStrasse and Goldene Hohe, accompanied by an on-looker, a short distance from *Blumenstraße* (Ebert, 1926)

Below: Old 1900 Postcard of the *Rosentalberg* (Wikimedia Commons: *Rosental* (Leipzig))

A particular favourite was the *Rosentalberg*, an artificial mound toward its northwest, that gained notoriety thanks to the many locals who dumped 120,000m³ (or 60,000 horse carts') worth of household waste between 1887 and 1895. In a case of what only as recently as 1992 has been termed 'brownfield development' by the environment sector, those cunning Leipzigers cultivated the area in 1896 with shrubs, plants and grasses. The result was a 20 metre hill atop which a 15 metre high wooden observation tower was built.^{8 9}



No wonder a favourite saying of Leipzigers was: "*Wem's nicht wohl is, der geh' nach Gohlis*"¹⁰ which loosely translated means: "Whoever doesn't feel good (in Leipzig) goes to Gohlis!" I guess the Tÿrallas agreed! Their new home allowed my grandmother's father, Paul Tÿralla proximity to his work and gave his wife a taste of the country – something she'd not had time to savour in 1906 since she returned so quickly to the city from *WenigMachern* when Paul's courtship of her began.

For Nannÿ's brother and his family, however, it was a quite different story. On April 10th, 1907, ten days before Paul and Nannÿ were married, Fritz, Hedwig and their six month old son, Frits Lothar, moved to the very heart of the city and its most affluent part, the old centre.¹¹ It was their third move in as many years. In the same year, Hedwig's family opened a bakery in nearby *Kleiner Fleischergasse*, close to the *Thomaskirche* where both Nannÿ and her brother had married earlier that decade.

⁸ [http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosental_\(Leipzig\)](http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosental_(Leipzig))

⁹ During world war two the tower burned completely. In 1975 it was replaced by a new steel structure.

¹⁰ *Gohlis: Aus der Geschichte eines Leipziger Vorortes*. Willy Ebert, 1926.

¹¹ *Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920*. Dobson, 2001. Pg. 49



Above: The Naschmarkt (LeipzigInfo.de)
Below: Cigarren Haus Hinsch
(Stadtgeschichtliches Museum Leipzig)



Salzgäßchen is a narrow thoroughfare that leads east off Leipzig's *Altmarkt*. Their home at No.5 looked onto the *Naschmarkt*, a square which lay to the rear of the *Altes Rathaus* (shown to the left of the adjacent picture). The square's northern end hosted the *Alte Handelsbörse*, Leipzig's old stock exchange that was built in 1678.¹² Both landmarks still stand today. The Hinsch's home lay just to the right and rear of the *Alte Börse*, where in the photo left a banner can almost be seen between the II and III floor windows. Careful examination reveals it says *Cigarren Haus*!

In fact, a more detailed photograph of their home has been obtained, no small thanks to the *Stadtgeschichtliches Museum Leipzig* (Museum of City History).¹³ It was made in 1909 by Leipzig's premier photographer, Hermann Walter, shortly before he died. It is shown below left.

A closer look also reveals two residents in a second floor window. Since the Hinsch's resided on this floor, it is likely *Herr Walter* caught Little Nanny's cousin, Frits perhaps with his maternal grandmother, Hedwig Bähitz, who may have dropped in to help out!

Leipzig's 1907 *Adreßbuch* tells us Fritz Hinsch not only moved into trading cigars that year (even if according to Wikipedia.de/zigarren, by the turn of the century the cigarette had overtaken it in popularity), but *Konfiturhandlung* too – i.e. he traded preserves, jams and spreads. That also reveals a growing tie with Hedwig's own family business. Discovery these details regarding my grandmother's uncle, facts and photos which we had virtually no inkling of previously, was nothing short of miraculous and a huge boon to my research.

¹² [http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alte_Handelsbörse_\(Leipzig\)](http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alte_Handelsbörse_(Leipzig))

¹³ http://museum.zib.de/sgml_internet/img.php?img=bb044385&width=600

A close up of Fritz's storefront (to the right of the pictured building) is included in the enlargement right. That shop window provides a wealth of insight into Little Nanny's uncle's business practice. It shows he was selling *Engelhardt Cigaretten of Cairo: Bremen* which tells us something about his international trading practice.

Leopold Engelhardt was in fact one of the largest cigarette manufacturers in Egypt in 1906.¹⁴ His was a Bremen-based partnership that by the turn of the century was also at the forefront of tobacco manufacturing in Cuba and Puerto Rico.¹⁵ In Germany it had a factory in the small town of *Witzenhausen*, about 250km east of *Düsseldorf*,¹⁶ a locale where Fritz of course had journeyed to *auf der Waltz* as a would-be *Kaufmann* around 1899 (implying he probably spent time at Engelhardt's then).¹⁷



According to Relli Shechter, Chair of the Department of Middle Eastern Studies at the Ben-Gurion University of Beer Sheva in Israel (see footnote below), *Leopold Engelhardt* kept 'retail rooms' in Cairo, Alexandria, Suez and Luxor as well as further afield in Khartoum (Sudan), while his international sales were promoted through distributors and agents across Europe, the colonies, and the United States. His products were shipped directly to social clubs and the international nobility. With Germany being the biggest importer of Egyptian cigarettes between 1903 and 1914, Fritz Hinsch looks to have been Engelhardt's retailer and wholesaler in Leipzig.¹⁸

Shechter's paper allows us the luxury of picturing what products we might have found inside *Cigarren Versand Haus Hinsch*, even to imagine what his store interior might have looked like, impressions which are summarised in the text box overleaf.

Let's also explore what lay outside the Hinsch store. A careful look at the photograph opposite reveals the main groundfloor entrance to the family's home lay between Fritz's shop window and the corset trader next door (to the left as one faces it). Neighbouring stores sold '*Landesprodukte*' and '*Kolonial Waren*' (e.g. rum, *Sauerkraut* and eggs), while another sold bed linen and a third, clothing. The Hinsch's doorway was also the entry point for businesses on the first and fourth floors of the building. I wonder how many times my grandmother visited Uncle Fritz and her cousins here in the town centre.

¹⁴ Relli Shechter, Selling Luxury: The Rise of the Egyptian Cigarette and the Transformation of the Egyptian Tobacco Market, 1850-1914. *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 35, No. 1 (Feb., 2003), pp. 51-75, online at: http://www.bgu.ac.il/~rellish/publications/selling_luxury.pdf

¹⁵ From Handcrafted Tobacco Rolls to Machinemade Cigarettes: the Transformation and Americanisation of Puerto-Rican Tobacco, 1847-1903. *Centro Journal*, Vol. XVII, No.2, Fall 2005. Juan José Baldrich. Online at: <http://redalyc.uaemex.mx/pdf/377/37717209.pdf>

¹⁶ According to the 41st Edition of the World Tobacco Directory, it was still there in 1993 – see: http://tobaccodocuments.org/ness/2723.html?zoom=750&ocr_position=&start_page=41

¹⁷ The occupation he now had, according to his *Einwohnermeldekarte*. This included anything from wholesaling to trading and from manufacturing to merchandising, as well as being a firm executive.

¹⁸ According to Schechter, family names were typically often better known than their own brands, since the manufacturers themselves controlled product distribution too. See the example in the text box overleaf.



The Naschmarkt sans *Burgkeller-Blocks* in 1908, with the Hinsch home at the far right of the scene (Wikipedia)

While the Hinsch's move to the very centre of Leipzig may have made commercial sense, in other regards its timing was less ideal. The *Altes Rathaus* was undergoing heavy renovation when they arrived, then shortly afterwards the *Burgkeller-Blocks* across the Naschmarkt were torn down in front of their home. Not an ideal time for Fritz's wife, Hedwig to be pregnant with number two, but that in reality was what happened.

6.2 Cigarette Retailing in Egypt – A Source of Inspiration?

Egyptian tobacco stores at the turn of the century “offered consumers a new shopping experience by adopting the facades and retail practices of Europe” wrote Relli Shechter in 2003. The new stores lured consumers with their attractive windows. Information available on the interiors of those shops suggests they were lavishly decorated to attract customers.

For patrons, these exclusive stores were a place to shop, socialize and smoke. While shopping they received service from knowledgeable salespeople, who spoke several different languages. Their location in the more fashionable districts of the cities, near to coffee houses and big hotels, further integrated cigarette shopping with other modes of socialization and leisure.

Cigarette stores were highly specialized and offered a wide selection of brands, individually packaged rather than sold in bulk. Each brand was distinguished by the quality of the tobacco blend, the size of the cigarette, the type of paper and the type of filter (called tip).

Retail stores sold cigarettes in cardboard and tin boxes in different quantities – ten, twenty, fifty, or one hundred, like that one can see above (a similar example of which remains in our family's possession as a makeshift button box today)! They included the name of the manufacturer, the brand name, the words ‘Egypt’ or ‘Egyptian,’ and praise of the quality of the cigarette. Packages also carried a variety of graphic images: pictures, trademarks, banners, and medals. When exported, the colorful nature stood out among the European and U.S. competition or that of the Ottoman (Turkish) Empire, where manufacturers printed mostly in monochrome.

In testimony to their exclusivity, the packages carried slogans in English or French rather than Arabic. Elitist advertising helped imply that, by purchasing their cigarettes, the consumer would join an exclusive group. Therefore banners and titles disclosed their most distinguished customers – European and non-European nobility – to whom they provided cigarettes “by appointment.” In the example shown, Engelhardt's cigarettes contained the slogan “*Hoflieferant S.H. (Seiner Erlauchten Hoheit) des Khedive*” or Purveyor of His Illustrious Highness the Khedive.

Manufacturers also used other advertising tools that were in tune with international means of promoting cigarettes. During the first quarter of the twentieth century, twenty-seven companies in Egypt circulated 130 different series of cigarette cards – small printed pictures or photographs that were included inside cigarette packages. The purpose of the cards was to induce smokers to continue purchasing the same brand in order to collect the entire series. The majority of these cards were pictures of women in sexually suggestive poses. This indicates that manufacturers addressed their advertising campaigns predominantly to male consumers. Other cards depicted Egyptian landscapes as well as famous actors and actresses.



Source: Relli Shechter (see footnote 14 on the previous page)

Two months after *Kleine Nannj's* birth, *Horst Wolf Felix Hinsch* arrived on October 21st, 1907. He was also born premature like Little Nannj, however, Felix was less fortunate. Four months later he passed away, in February 1908. Perhaps the demolition dust outside their home bore the brunt of the blame for his death.

In early summer of that same year, Leipzig's biggest military spectacle since 1870 took place. It was hosted from June 1st-3rd and marked the bicentenary of Saxony's 106th and 107th *Infanterie Regiments*.¹⁹ Gohlis was the heart of the Kingdom's armed forces and so will have thrummed to the sound of marching feet and one if not all eight of its military bands. Being reservists, both Little Nannj's father: Paul Tjyralla and probably Fritz Hinsch will have joined the festivities, I suspect together with Fritz and Nannj's father, Friedrich, himself a veteran of the 1870 Franco-Prussian war.

Little Nannj's mother probably relished the parade, since by this time she was pregnant again. Not to be outdone, Hedwig was too and during the autumn of 1908 two more 'new kids on the block' arrived: *Erdmann Paul Theodor Tjyralla* on September 12th and *Friedrich Eugen Martin Hinsch* on November 10th.

Born in *BlumenstraÙe* too, Little Nannj's brother arrived barely a year after she and quickly became her fond favourite. He obviously bore their father's name, but Theo, as he came to be known, just might rather have been the namesake of *Paul Theodor Schnetger*, the same chap who I surmise had brought Paul and Nannj Tjyralla together in April 1906 at *Schloss Machern*. Friedrich Eugen Martin Hinsch obviously bore both parents' names but became more popularly known as *Martin*.

If 1908 was full of excitement, then 1909 was hardly dissimilar. It began cold and dry but in the second half of January a succession of low pressure systems laden with moisture arrived from the northwest. Central Europe's cold air was slow to depart and heavy snow fell over the course of four days. Around 25 cm fell in Leipzig alone on the morning of February 3rd.²⁰

A rapid thaw followed accompanied by rain. Rivers and streams turned into torrents and quickly burst their banks,²¹ with the so called 'century flood' arriving on February 6th. Gohlis' Rosental was the floodplain for several rivers that flowed through Leipzig. However, it was less adversely affected than the suburbs of *Plagwitz* or *Schleußig* upstream, as can be seen right.



Leipzig's Century Flood, 1909
(Stadtgeschichtliches Museum Leipzig)

¹⁹ *Das war das 20. Jahrhundert in LEIPZIG*. Martina Güldemann, 1999

²⁰ http://www.daxstein-wetter.de/specials/Hochwasser_1909.htm

²¹ <http://www.wetterzentrale.de/cgi-bin/wetterchronik/home.pl?read=1&jump1=region&jump2=8>

In an incident unlikely to have been related, on April 1st, 1909 the Tŷrallas departed *BlumenstraÙe*. One reason may have been the lease running out on their home. However, their next destination makes for a curious choice, especially with Little Nannŷ just over 18 months and Theo barely seven.

Today, like yesterday, 'Oetzsch,' some 10 km south of Leipzig, retains an air of grace and nobility. Well-known for its role in the 1813 'Battle of Leipzig' as well as its neighbouring brown coal fields, I doubt, however, Paul Tŷralla made a sudden career change. Part of its attraction might have been its magnificent villas, castles and country houses, which thanks to the *Leipziger AuÙenbahn*²² were now within easy reach as trams ran all the way from Gohlis on through to the suburb of *Connewitz*, from where trains journeyed on to Oetzsch. So did Paul spend the next five months commuting farther to work, while Nannŷ relished quiet country life on a par with her parents?



Oetzsch HauptstraÙe today with No. 40 on the right

I suppose the pair might also have been invited to house-sit, and if their apartment at *HauptstraÙe 40* (shown left) was more spacious and private than their former home, moving there will doubly have made sense, not least since Nannŷ was pregnant again – barely four months after Theo's arrival! Perhaps the answer is that she was under doctor's orders to convalesce during the spring/summer of 1909.

Mobility patterns aside, in some respects this growing family was a little at odds with the trends observed in Germany at the time.

Following the 'sexual revolution' of the nineteenth century, the country's fertility rates experienced an abrupt decline during the latter part of the century and the early part of the next. Partly this was due to infants' increasing survival, but also because couples consciously made efforts to have smaller families.²³ Put another way, while the average late 1880s German wife gave birth to over five children, her counterpart in 1910 had just 3.5.

Strictly speaking though, Nannŷ Tŷralla belonged to a group whose fertility rate had declined even lower in the second half of the previous century: her parents being a case in point. They were now role models for young workers' wives who began to desire only two children, "just like their bourgeois counterparts." (*ibid*)

The explanation appears to lie with the fact that Nannŷ married a 'Catholic' whose tradition for larger families took precedence: Paul was of course one of nine children. It was also rural Catholic areas (i.e. Paul's homeland) that experienced the so-called 'fertility transition' later.²⁴

²² http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geschichte_des_StraÙenbahnnetzes_Leipzig

²³ Germany: A New Social and Economic History since 1800, Ogilvie and Overy, Pg. 310 and pg.53.

²⁴ When Paul married into the Hinsch family he also became Evangelical-Lutheran. Why? First, Leipzig was 92 percent Lutheran (even if only 20 percent of them in its two largest parishes in 1910 actually attended service according to Dobson, pg. 82-3). Second, Catholics had been deemed 'enemies of the Reich' during Bismarck's 1870s

However, if these arguments justify why Nannj Tjralla went beyond the birthing average, they don't explain why Hedwig Hinsch was doing the same. Within months of Nannj, she was expecting once again. Was the pair in competition?!?

The Tjrallas' moved to *GottschallstraÙe 4* (shown below) in September. The move was timed to perfection. At seven o'clock the following morning (September 21st, 1909) *Maria Sophie Eva* was born. The namesake of both her 25 year old mother and grandmother, she joined her two year old sister, Nannj and year old brother, Theo.

Their new (and probably larger) home lay 250 metres north of the *Französisches Viertel* (see '3' on the map on pg. 111). This was now the outskirts of Gohlis and overlooked Leipzig's '*Garten Kolonies*.' Probably it afforded them more peace and privacy than their former Gohlis dwelling – away from the threat of '*Bürgerschreck*' and might even have brought them the luxury of a bath tub and separate bedrooms for *Kleine Nannj* and Theo. The apartment could have been brand new, which would explain the short sojourn to Oetzsch, were the building still being completed.

The new address served as the family home for the next three and a half years.²⁵ One glance at the building's entrance hall (see photo below right) evinces bourgeois chique. As in *BlumenstraÙe*, the Tjrallas lived on the groundfloor, which meant it was easier to come and go with the youngsters. Groundfloor occupation was more typical of affluent families too, according to Sean Dobson, while top floors were proletarian domain. The following account of a local who grew up on such a top floor, gives us an insight as to what life might have been like for the Tjrallas' neighbours:

"Unlike the dwellers of the upper floors...the 'better families' remained reserved, almost fearful, and cut themselves off from us. ...What did we know about those who lived under us and what they thought of us?"



Inside and Out: *GottschallstraÙe 4*, a hundred years after it served as home to the Tjrallas



Kulturkampf (see Chapter IV). Third, and most importantly, converting guaranteed their daughter would be born Lutheran – and therefore Prussian.

²⁵ According to Leipzig *AdreÙBuch*, the Tjrallas did not own the property. In 1913 just 1.5 percent of lower white-collar workers owned housing stock in the city. This according to Dobson's survey of household heads among 250 randomly selected entries from the *AdreÙBuch*. See: *Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920*. Pg. 33, 55, 68.

From this description, one gets a greater sense of the social distance that existed between *Arbeiter* (workers) and *Bürger* (bourgeoisie), even at close quarters. Another anecdote allows us more of the Tjrrallas' perspective:

"Children from families of higher social rank did not participate in the games of the proletarian children; nor did we allow them. They sought in vain to join in, but if they succeeded because we needed more playmates, [our] rough ways made them cry for their Mamas, at which point we had nothing more to do with them."



With park Rosental now a fair distance beyond the railway line, I imagine the Tjrrallas strolled their new-born around *Bretschneider Park* and its tranquil lake (shown left). It lay to the eastern end of their street, while beyond that was the *Eutritzscher Markt*, where trams 14 and 16 could be taken to *Augustus Platz*. Along the way Nannj no doubt envied what Czok describes in his 1991 book, *Leipzig: Fotografien 1867 bis 1929* as "manifold façade decorations on doors, windows and bay windows" and new "houses... adorned with front yards... bordered by iron fences."



Photographs reveal the family also got out of Leipzig altogether, to join Nannj's parents and brother's family for weekend getaways in Machern. In finer weather, there was its *SchlossPark* to savour, while on that picture left (perhaps the first of the Tjrrallas since their wedding) one sees them at her parents. Nannj holds a dog while Paul cuts a lean figure to her left, enjoying a smoke. Perhaps cradling Theo or Frits Lothar to her right is Nannj's father, Friedrich. The first floor with its balcony is where the Hinsch's lived.



The photo left shows excursions were also common in winter. Here the two Nannjs stand side by side with 'Tante Hedy' (Fritz's wife) in the centre. To her left are Marie (now 52) and Friedrich Hinsch (now 58). Note the ladies wear fur, also how portly, dapper and proud Friedrich is! (The elder chap on the left I believe was the gardener).

Above top: *Bretschneider Park* in New Gohlis
Beneath: Prussian pride... in *WenigMachern*, 1910

Friedrich and Marie Hinsch had relocated to Machern from Leipzig's *Rosßplatz* in 1906 to savour a more sedentary lifestyle now, accompanied by several dogs – a popular pastime among the middle class in twentieth century Germany, especially those with free time and long-term security. Domestic pets added 'identity' and emphasised sentimentality, according to Boria Sax.²⁶

Being a '*Privatmann*' meant Friedrich paid no income tax (nor in principle received any support from the state). But with four acres of land, including orchards, at his disposal, he and his wife likely spent their retirement farming, bottling and trading.²⁷

In addition, like true *Junkers*, the Hinsch's probably leased land to small-scale agricultural farmers and let rooms too. Until recently the front door evidenced there were as many as four domiciles and although discussions with their grandchildren suggest they rented land and rooms from the 1930s, evidence reveals they started as early as 1920. Given the opportunities available in 1910, I'd contend they started even earlier, evidenced by a host of unnamed characters in several photographs.

Machern's population rapidly grew alongside Leipzig's, which meant a veritable pool of tenants already existed.²⁸ Demand for housing was on the rise: the average number of residents per building in Leipzig had increased from 7.1 in 1870 to 10.4 by 1913. Also, as all new housing constructed in the city during those years was built with the purpose of meeting workers' housing needs, it was farm labourers (many of them Polish migrants in search of better livelihoods) who filled Leipzig's surrounding countryside, replacing those who moved to the city. Male workers made for ideal tenants, since they were more accustomed to land work and/or commuting several hours each day.²⁹

The only trait that doesn't resonate with that of a *Privatmann* is his high level of social commitment, which more typically was reflected in a willingness to donate to welfare and assume honorary positions.³⁰ In fact, according to later eye witness accounts, the Hinsch's practically retired from all forms of public life during the years that followed, effectively cutting themselves off from the neighbours.

But despite his parents' apparent introversion, I suspect Fritz, was a regular in the most common forms of association among Leipzig's men at the time: clubs (or *Vereine*). As of 1907 there were some 850, dedicated to everything from theatre to cycling and from gardening to Esperanto! In most cases, there were two clubs for each activity: one for the middle class and one for the workers.³¹ This naturally did much to strengthen the collective identities of their members (and in turn foster society's segregation).³²

²⁶ Boria Sax, scholar in animal studies. His article is: societyandanimalsforum.org/sa/sa5.1/sax.html

²⁷ By 1924 Machern, renowned for its 'gardens' and orchards, had 30 subsistence farmers.

²⁸ In 1819 for instance, Machern had 40 houses and 190 residents, yet by 1924 it had more than 100 of the former – and a population eleven times that.

²⁹ *Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920*. Sean Dobson, pg. 27, 47, 91

³⁰ See for instance: <http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Privatier>

³¹ *Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920*. Sean Dobson, pg. 56-8

³² Veterans' organisations (*Militärvereine*) may have appealed to Friedrich, which, in addition to regular social gatherings, espoused strong support for German *weltpolitik* as well as ceaseless propaganda against the workers' political representatives, the social democrats. They even barred socialist veterans from their clubs!

Fritz was a member of Leipzig's 'elite' largely thanks to his membership of its *Gewandhaus Orchestra*. He was one of its reserve pianists which granted him entry to even the most exclusive of Leipzig's Freemason Lodges: communities that counted bank directors, factory owners and high public officials among their members.

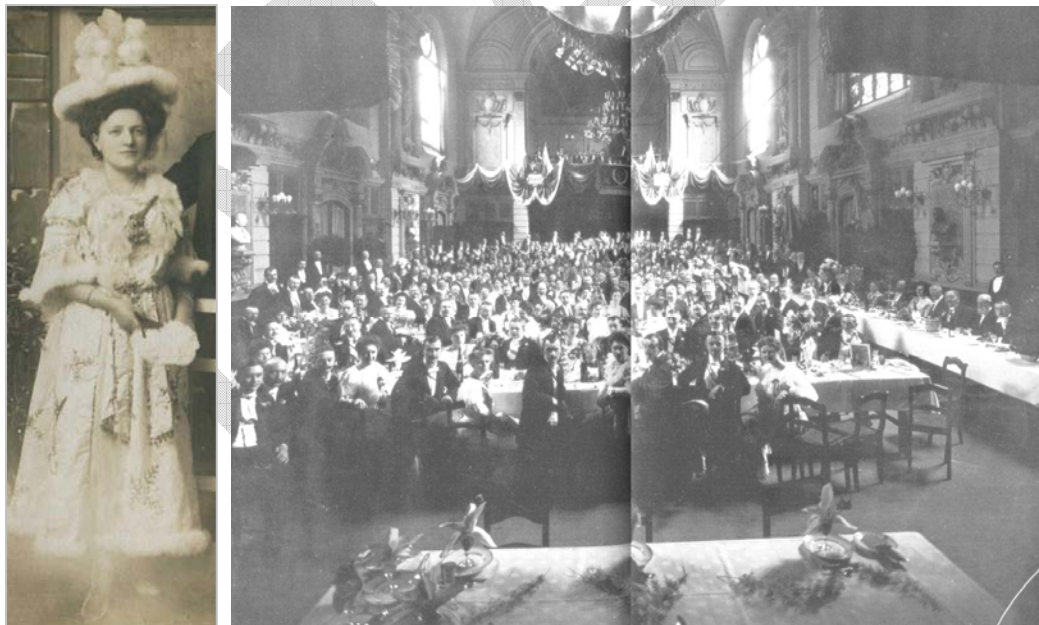
Such clientele though will have suited his business intents perfectly – after all, what better way to promote luxury cigarettes and cigars than mingling among men of distinction with fat wallets? Because the elite's membership of the abovementioned clubs overlapped significantly, participating in even just one or two could yield dividends to a trader of exclusive goods like Fritz. Namely, by associating with all its members, each patron in turn became a reference who could promote his products, services and reputation by word of mouth within other clubs.

The agenda of the Freemason's Lodges (and many other clubs) was self-improvement through education (*Bildung*). In reality, however, much of this was rather superficial. Some clubs, like the *Kolonialgesellschaft* or Colonial Society fostered *Kultur* and 'welfare' by donating for instance to grand war memorials (see for example pg. 137-8).³³ But others, like the Leipzig Businessmen's Club did little more come 1914 than host soirees and masked balls.

I imagine Leipzig's *Harmonie* and *Concordia* Societies were nevertheless firm favourites of Fritz and sister, Nannj, was known to tag along (see photo below, left). Imagine Fritz sponsored one of their charity balls, a known highlight of the social season. That alone could represent extremely fertile ground for business.³⁴

Left:
Frau
Nannj
Tyralla
at a
masked
ball, 1906

Right:
Festival
Banquet
of the
Corps
Lusatia,
key
members
of the
Colonial
Society,
1907
(Walter)



³³ The *Kolonialgesellschaft* had 835 members, among them a rather exclusive bunch of Leipzig's 'elite' that included politicians, factory owners, judges, pastors and professors, besides prominent student fraternities such as the University of Leipzig's *Corps Lusatia*. Machern-local Robert Voigtlander for instance was a member, besides I suspect Karl Fritzche, who lived just down the road in the *Schöttler's* old villa (the assumption being that he was a relative of confirmed member, *Hermann Fritzche*). It's a long shot, however, whether Friedrich Hinsch frequented this association since the society was somewhat averse to master artisans, according to Sean Dobson in *Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920*. Pg. 58. (although he may have been granted entry by invitation or via his son).

³⁴ *Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920*. Sean Dobson. pg. 58-60, 309, 315

Clubs like these offered significant forums for social networking, politicking, even trade, the ideal complement to the Hinsch's Prussian work ethics of industry and discipline. But what if Fritz's father contrived the wealth his son now enjoyed, recalling my mention in Chapter III as to how Leipzig's old middle class had feared for their children's 'downward social movement'?

This indeed occurred since between the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as many as 43 percent of the *alter Mittelstand's* children slid into proletarian trades.³⁵ Yet Fritz bucked that trend. Even with his lottery win, I imagine *Schneidermeister* Friedrich Hinsch could be proud of his son's success. But what about his daughter, Nannö? Her family's story and success during Germany's last few years of peace and prosperity will be examined in more detail in the second half of this chapter.

But before we get to that, a word or two about other family members: For instance, did any from Friedrich's home in Schleswig-Holstein make their way to Saxony in order to 'piggy back' on his success? We know only of an *Arbeiter* named *August Hinsch*, who lived in *Leipzig Lindenau* in 1909 (home to Europe's largest cotton mill). There was also a C. Hinsch, an *Arbeiter* too, who lived in east Leipzig between 1896 and 1900 in *Volkmarsdorf*. And then of course there was Marie Hinsch's cousin, *Oskar Lieberoth*, who, if still in the picture, lived in *Paunsdorf*, east Leipzig. Now 43, he would probably have been known to all the Hinsch grandchildren as '*Onkel Oskar*.' No one, however, bears any such recollection.

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³⁵ *Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920*. Sean Dobson. 2001. Pg. 44.

6.3 Weltuntergang (or The End of the World)

In April 1910, the Hinsch's and Tŷrallas were treated to a particularly exciting celestial event. On April 20th, Halley's Comet came into view for its 'twice in a lifetime' visit. Its relatively close approach made it a spectacular sight, although I suspect even the eldest of our baby boom generation wouldn't recall the event come their adult lives.

But the occasion will have certainly got their parents' talking! One of the substances discovered in the tail was the toxic gas cyanogen, which led one astronomer to claim that when the Earth passed through its tail on 18th May, the gas "would impregnate the atmosphere and possibly snuff out all life on the planet." His pronouncement led to panic buying of gas masks, quack 'anti-comet pills' and 'umbrellas' by the public. But as other astronomers were quick to point out, the gas was sufficiently diffuse that the world would suffer no ill effects.

Probably watched from the Tŷrallas backyard, Halley's 1910 apparition was the first for which photographs exist. It reappeared in 1986 and will next return in mid-2061. But in January 1910, four months before Halley arrived, the Hinsch's and Tŷrallas were treated to an even more spectacular sight, when the *Great Daylight Comet* put in an appearance. That surpassed Halley in brilliance and was obviously visible during the daytime too!

Summarised from: [wikipedia.org/Halley's Comet](http://wikipedia.org/Halley's_Comet)



In November 1909, shortly after Fritz Hinsch added lottery ticket sales to his cigar/ette business,³⁶ his wife Hedwig bore their fourth child. *Heinz Herbert Helmut Rüdiger* arrived on February 1st, 1910 to join Frits, (now three and a half) and Martin (one). He was to be Fritz's musical heir. Later that year, Hedwig's father, Paul, opened a new bakery a few doors up from the Hinsch's at *Salzgäßchen 9*, obviously with intent to ensure his family stayed well-fed and looked after!



Naschmarkt
and Goethe,
1905
(Trenkler
Co)

Opposite their homes, the *Handelshof* exhibition hall now stood in place of the *Burgkeller-Blocks*, allowing the Hinsch's to enjoy Leipzig's city centre at its urban high point. The terraces along the *Naschmarkt* filled once more with coffee drinkers, while each end of the square was graced by elegant sculptures; the *Löwenbrunnen* at one end, a statue of Goethe at the other (who studied in Leipzig between 1765 and 1768). The renovated *Altes Rathaus* stood proudly once more at *Salzgäßchen's* western entrance (as is pictured on page 186 within Chapter VIII).

³⁶ A winning combination, recalling the Hinsch's next door neighbour in *Kurprinzstraße* sold cigars with lottery tickets in 1883.

The new decade saw Leipzig overtake Dresden in the population stakes too. Another administrative enlargement enlisted *Möckern* (northeast of Gohlis, where the military facilities were located), making it now the kingdom's largest city. The city Zoo gained new residents too, with the addition of an aquarium.³⁷ It lay to the south of Gohlis, at park Rosental. One can almost imagine Little Nannÿ being taken along with cousin Frits and perhaps Theo too. The photo below shows the Tÿralla kids clearly enjoying each other's company – either that or Nannÿ had learnt to smile for the camera and Theo looked up to his big sister in earnest!

The kids wear white, but one colour they would never be seen in was red. The social democratic party was strong in Saxony (the state was even nicknamed the *Red Kingdom*). However, efforts had long been made by the ruling classes, Prussia's *Junkers*, to restrain its members, for instance through censorship. To this end, the Criminal Code restricted free speech, even to the extent that the flying of red flags and the wearing of a simple red kerchief around the neck was forbidden!

The social democrats' response was hardly surprising. Following the first 'red' revolution in Russia in 1905, they organised spontaneous demonstrations in public places calling for universal suffrage. The verse below expresses their point of view on Labour Day, a date typically celebrated by the working classes:

*May 1st finds the philistine bourgeois scared out of his wits.
And in fact his predicament is grave and pitiable.
Stötteritz is the destination of the masses...
They search for the powerful lever,
So that the state will sink into rubble
When this red demon gives the signal.*³⁸

May 1st was not then a day one likely found the Hinsch's, nor the Tÿrallas in the vicinity of any of Leipzig's squares. Neither though was August 25th, because on that date Eva Tÿralla passed away at home, almost a year after she'd arrived. The cause of death is not disclosed on the respective certificate, but what is apparent is she missed one lucky charm: the name *Erdmuthe*! As Chapter 3 reveals, the name was a form of protection against 'infant death spirit.'

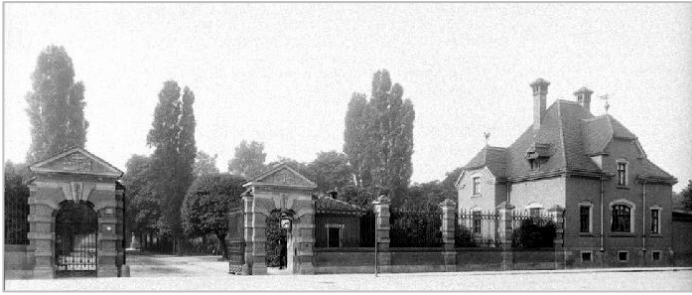


Above: Zoo Leipzig (LeipzigInfo.de)
Below: Nannÿ and Theo, summer 1910
Far Below:
Notification of Eva's final resting place



³⁷ *Das war das 20. Jahrhundert in LEIPZIG*. Martina Güldemann, 1999

³⁸ Stötteritz was a workers' district in east Leipzig. *Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig*. pg. 85, 93, 95, 98



'Evchen' was laid to rest in the *Neuer Johannis Friedhof* on August 28th, as is indicated in the notification on page 125. The cemetery, whose entrance is shown left in 1900, oddly enough lies less than a kilometre from *Stötteritz*.³⁹ Her father's occupation: *Handlungsgehilfen* is noted beneath her name.

So what of the *Handlungsgehilfe*; Paul Tŷralla? According to *Wikipedia*, the industry which had brought him to Saxony was booming, with around one third of the world's fur skins being traded in Leipzig by 1913.⁴⁰ This was spurring the growth of numerous secondary services, for example the trade of tools and manufacturing machines. Their purchase by international customers (notably Russians and Americans) enhanced the city's international role and status as the '*Pelzstadt*.' Not surprisingly, the sector's share of tax revenues in that same year was a staggering 40 percent, a figure which kept growing until the late 1920s.

Paul Tŷralla surely collected his share of that wealth. Having apprenticed in Zŷlŷ, Silesia, he'd begun his working life in Leipzig a furrier (*Kŷrschner*) and then trade assistant (*Handlungsgehilfe*). *Wikipedia* explains the latter involved "commercial services for a performance-related fee."⁴¹ I imagine he might have looked a bit like one of those whitecoated wholesale dealers we see early in Chapter V, which means his livelihood will have depended on his having the 'gift of the gab' – or an ability to speak easily, confidently and persuasively to potential customers.⁴² I expect he was on his feet most of the time even if his work was regarded more routinely a desk-job, not least because the average number of employees per firm in 1913 was just seven (a number which had increased 36.3 percent since 1888)!⁴³ In other words, all employees will have felt a sense of responsibility for their company's success.

Officially, however, Paul's salary probably paled in comparison with his brother-in-law's. According to Dobson, the *Handlungsgehilfe's* annual income started out as low as 1700 marks (while Fritz was probably at the upper end of the white-collar range on 3500 – the starting point also for elite executives). But add to this Paul's commissions (which I expect took him well over the 2290 average), and he probably had little to complain about. In making this assumption, let's consider the following too:

First, between 1870 and 1913 (Reich-wide), real wages (i.e. those adjusted for inflation) climbed 79 percent (sic!), from an across the board average of 466 to 834 marks. Leipzig's growth rate was probably even higher notes Dobson, since its economy was dominated by precisely those sectors in Germany performing best.⁴⁴

³⁹ Today it enjoys a new lease of life as the *FriedensPark*: [de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedenspark_\(Leipzig\)](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedenspark_(Leipzig))

⁴⁰ [http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brŷhl_\(Leipzig\)](http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brŷhl_(Leipzig))

⁴¹ <http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Handlungsgehilfe>. An early definition is detailed in the 1902 issue of the *Handelsgesetzbuch fŷr das Deutsche Reich Band 1* by Karl Lehmann and Viktor Ring which is available here: dlib-pr.mpier.mpg.de/m/kleioc/0010/exec/bigpage/%22167940_00000174.gif%22

⁴² Since he had made his way from rural Silesia to the big city, charmed Nannŷ Tŷralla and married into her noble family, he surely possessed plenty of dexterity in the communications skills department!

⁴³ *Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920*. Sean Dobson, pg. 16.

⁴⁴ *Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920*. Sean Dobson, pg. 27-8, 16. Oddly fur is not included!

Second, despite the city's relatively high cost of living, Nannÿ Tÿralla (and the kids!) didn't have to work to supplement the family's income. According to Dobson, around 38 percent of this will have been spent on food that will have included the consumption of twice as much meat as working families (also beef rather than pork or sausage). This allowed them to retain a reasonable margin for leisure, although there was typically little income left to save.⁴⁵

Third, Paul benefitted from a salary paid monthly (as opposed to an hourly working wage). He'll have had at least one week's paid vacation per year, plus some sort of health insurance, while his average week was surely less (strenuous) than the typical worker's 55-60 hours (0630 till 1900, six days a week).⁴⁶ Also his workplace was less prone to hazards (he may even have travelled outside of the city)⁴⁷ and his employer will have valued him for his 'faithful service.' This will have meant longer-term job security (white collars enjoyed average employment stints of 6.5 years) while a steady source of income also meant bank loans were easier to obtain.

With a large part of Leipzig's fur trade in Jewish hands, Paul's business connections with them may have led to common social calendars for the family. However, anti-Semitism was on the rise, particularly among white collars and the *alter Mittelstand*. Many white collars therefore grew dissatisfied with 'domineering' superiors for regarding them increasingly replaceable as their community grew. Feeling vulnerable, more and more among the *neuer Mittelstand* joined professional bodies.⁴⁸

However, there are reasons to believe Paul wasn't caught up in this Semitic backlash. His family's livelihood depended largely on Jewish trade, while he had decades (if not generations) of working relations with these people. Most of Leipzig's Jews, like he also had mutual concerns: they were in-migrants, 'foreigners,' and perhaps even 'casualties' of Bismarck's *Kulturkampf* (see Chapter IV). Then there was the fact that Paul never joined the leading white collar professional body, the *Angestellten Ausschuss*.⁴⁹ Considering the financial benefits Leipzig will have brought him and his family, I expect his Jewish acquaintances were more than held in high regard, while his and his wife's social interactions with them were probably not uncommon.

The photograph right shows Leipzig's 'fur district.' It also reveals one of the most significant inventions of the twentieth century: the motor car. Here it lines up alongside the more traditional forms of personal mobility; the stagecoach, bicycle, tricycle, tram and of course foot! Today a highly desirable 'modal split' for any city!



Leipzig's Brühl at Nikolai Straße, 1912
(Wikipedia_Brühl)

⁴⁵ A worker's average annual rent was between RM 250-350 for a flat with one or two heatable rooms. However, according to Paul Tÿralla's *Nachlass-Akte*: 8 NReg. 1494/16 held at the *Sächsisches Staatsarchiv*, his rent was RM650 per year from 1914 to 1916, which suggests the Tÿrallas lived in some style *Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920*. Sean Dobson. Pg. 335,32-3

⁴⁶ *Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920*. Sean Dobson. Pg. 159

⁴⁷ Something his residential record can on occasion have omitted, admits Martina Wermes, *Sächsisches Staatsarchivist*.

⁴⁸ *Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920*. Sean Dobson. Pg. 121

⁴⁹ In March 1913, Fritz and Hedwig Hinsch joined the *Angestellten Ausschuss* or lower white collar employee committee. While Paul Tÿralla didn't, his wife Nannÿ eventually did, in Sept., 1922

Between 1910 and 1913, in fact, the number of cars using Leipzig's roads jumped from 900 to 1400, while the usage of horse-drawn carts dwindled, from 600 to 400.⁵⁰ With the age of motorized transportation dawning, greater freedom of movement saw the wider dispersion and distribution of people and goods, far beyond that already seen with the proliferation of railways (Breuilly, O&O, pg. 212).

Technology drove other developments too. In Leipzig, more and more houses relied on gas as well as electricity for power. Overall, consumption increased by 76 and 109 percent respectively between 1905 and 1910! (see footnote 51). The telegraph, telephone and electric lightbulb were becoming commonplace fixtures among the well-to-do, while another development to harness that 'mysterious force called electricity' was cinema. Could 'the flicks' have tempted the Tŷrallas to part with a little of their disposable income? Reading on below, I wouldn't be surprised!

6.4 A Short History of German Cinema

It all started with a film projector called the *Bioskop*, that was demonstrated in November, 1895 at the *Wintergarten* music hall in Berlin.¹ In those early days, German cinema was perceived to be an attraction for upper class audiences. But the novelty of moving pictures soon spread to the working and lower-middle classes too, with trivial short films being shown as fairground attractions within booths known as *Kintopps*.

By 1907, Leipzig had opened its first cinema, the *Weisse Wand* (or 'white wall').² It lay, close to the so-called *Krystall Palast* exhibition centre, just beyond the city's railway stations. It had capacity for 300 guests. Before long there were two more; the *Weisse Wand II*, and the *Kammerlichtspiele*.³

At this time most films were being produced as though they were plays.⁴ Technically they were described as 'flickers' and 'galloping tin-types', although others were kinder, referring to them more affectionately as 'living picture affairs' and romantic devices that brought entertainment to the common people.⁵ Yet the era of film was rapidly advancing. In an environment where there were no language barriers, Danish and Italian films proved to be particularly popular. Then from 1912, Germany's own Babelsberg film studios (close to Berlin) began producing silent movies, a commodity which rapidly became one of the country's biggest exports.

By the time Nannŷ and Paul Tŷralla would have been hitting the town for a Friday night *sans* kids, they'd probably have been watching a mix of German and foreign short films, while film-makers with an artistic bent were already attempting longer movies based on literary models. An early example was a German Edgar Allan Poe adaptation, *The Student of Prague*.¹ By now cinemas were places where one sat "spellbound by the rapidly shifting scenes that transport[ed] him in imagination to tropical climes," a place where one may "ravish his soul with fine orchestral effects from deep toned instruments whose wonderful voices pour forth upon the air."

The public's desire to see more films with particular actors led to the growth of the film star phenomenon, with *Henny Porten* one of the earliest German stars to emerge. Public desire to see popular film stories being continued encouraged the production of serials (Chaplin comes to mind), alongside the genre of mystery. This in turn helped launch the careers of directors like Fritz Lang.

Another star in the making was Marlene Dietrich. Born in Berlin in late 1901, the photograph above shows her in 1907, aged five, the year of Little Nannŷ's birth. Come the early twenties, both she and Nannŷ were stars in the making. As subsequent pages will show, their upbringings and careers would parallel one another, on more than one occasion.

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cinema_of_Germany#Before_1918_-_Cinema_pioneers

² *Das war das 20. Jahrhundert in LEIPZIG*. Martina Gŷldemann, 1999

³ <http://www.leipzig-lexikon.de/reg/we.htm>

⁴ *The Movies*. Richard Griffith and Arthur Mayer. 1970. Pg.17-18

⁵ *A History of the Movies*, Benjamin B Hampton. 1931

NB: The photo appears in Alexander Walker's 'Dietrich' of 1984



⁵⁰ *Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920*. Sean Dobson, pg. 15

A second of Paul and Nannj Tjrallas' weekend pursuits might have been the Leipzig *Rennbahn* – or racetrack. Popular among local riding clubs during the summer season, by the turn of the century it had also become a fashionable outdoor meeting point on weekends for city dwellers.⁵¹

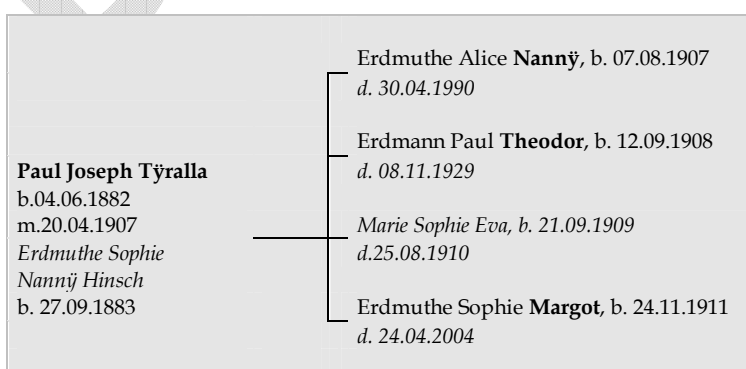
At the end of 1906 it was transformed with a new grandstand – the twin-towered *Haupttribuhne*. This offered a unique panorama of the racecourse, which helped make the place popular on non-race days too (since the stand now housed a large restaurant).⁵² I guess Nannj Tjralla relished race days at the *Scheibenholtz*, and before long she had decided what Theo would be doing once he completed school!



In March 1911, around about the same time that the *Scheibenholtz* set up a shopwindow in downtown Leipzig (taking bets among other things), Nannj found herself expecting number four. Little Nannj and Theo's youngest sister arrived at home in *Gottschallstraße* on November 24th, 1911. Named *Erdmuthe Sophie Margot*, they were obviously taking no chances in ensuring she survived infant death spirit (which must have worked because she lived until she was almost 90)!

Margot is a pet form of the English and French *Marguerite*, meaning 'Pearl'.⁵³ *Margot* as a name was unusual, even back then. Its usage modestly peaked in 1938, when barely 0.1 percent bore the name and it ranked 587th! Since then it has declined in popularity, to the point that today it is rarely used. The name *Sophie* obviously meant she too was her mother's namesake (like *Eva*).

By the end of 1911, Frau Tjralla and Frau Hinsch had three healthy youngsters each: between them four boys and two girls. Frits Lothar had just passed five, Little Nannj was now over four, Theo and Martin were both three years old, Heinz was fast approaching two, and of course there was *Margot*. The complete Tjralla family tree is shown below.



⁵¹ Christel Foerster, *Leben in Leipzig*, 1997

⁵² www.galoppimmscheibenholtz.de/ and http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galopprennbahn_Scheibenholtz

⁵³ babynamespedia.com

Six children constituted a sizeable flock for the Hinsch grandparents to ‘dote’ on. But as is often the case with *Wandervögels* (especially within our family) one set of grandparents’ fortune can be another’s loss when their offspring move to another country. Being reared a good distance from the original homestead, thus one set of grandparents typically miss out.

For instance, growing up in the UK, I rarely met my own grandmother because she lived in the Netherlands. The same was the case for my mother and her sisters, who grew up in Holland, while their grandmother was many kilometres away in Germany.

In situations like these, language can become a barrier too, for instance, when the migratory parent doesn’t use their native tongue with their children. This may result in the youngsters not being able to communicate fluently with the ‘foreign’ grandparents (unless either the latter happens to be conversant in the host country’s language or the grandparents’ language is taught in the host country’s schools).

Assimilation and integration is often the driving force behind a *Wandervögel* sacrificing their native tongue, particularly once offspring arrive. This despite the obvious benefits fluency in more than one language can bring. Paul Tjyralla though may be forgiven for not sharing his native tongue with his children, since Slavs from the east – even non-Saxon Germans – were generally unpopular among Leipzig locals.⁵⁴ Plus their Silesian family was typically too far away to reach on his customary paid holiday days I guess.

The upshot is that not only will Little Nannj, Theo and Margot have missed out on learning *Wasserpolsch* (Upper Silesian), but their father’s move to Leipzig meant they probably never met their Silesian grandmother. Although she lived (just) 500km away, *Babcia Tjyralla* didn’t pass away until 1933, long after her grand-children had departed Saxony. Perhaps their grandmother understood –she was, after all, born to *Wandervögel* too (see Chapter IV).



Pathways to Silesian farmland,
Radstein, 1995

Physical distance may not have been the only problem the kids faced. There was the social distance referred to earlier too, which meant the bourgeois middle class viewed workers like Paul’s family “not merely with indifference but with wariness that at times became enmity.”⁵⁵ Despite the cliché, ‘blood is thicker than water,’ I expect family holidays to rural Silesia weren’t among Nannj Tjyralla’s ideals. That in turn probably meant Paul never took his kids home. At any rate, neither his nor his wife’s *Einwohnermeldekarte* discloses any such excursion was ever made.

⁵⁴ *Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920*. Sean Dobson, pg. 12

⁵⁵ *Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920*. Sean Dobson, pg. 64

Nevertheless, Paul surely shared tales and news about family back home with his *Silesian* prince and princesses.⁵⁶ They must have learned about their uncles Johannes and Anton, besides their aunts; Franciska and Paulina. Perhaps Theo heard more than his fair share about aunts' Marianna and Josepha, since their birthdays fell days after his.

So many aunts and uncles meant a multitude of cousins too. Uncle Johannes had started his family only a few years before Paul, and had at least three children by the time Margot was born (three more followed until 1916), while Uncle Anton had called it a day with his three even before Paul had left Radstein. Aunt Paulina had three girls by 1910; Luiza, Julianna and Emilia, while Aunt Marianna was the Tȳralla (later *Janik*) who emerged the clear winner. Between 1895 and 1915, she bore a staggering ten kids, none of whom appeared to suffer Germany's (even higher) rural infant mortality rates. Among her lot were six boys and four girls, including Johannes (after his uncle), Balbino, Germanus, Joseph, Paul (!) and Augustinus, besides Anna, Marianna (after both mother and grandmother), Luzia and Klara. Large families were obviously a tradition among the Tȳrallas.

It was maybe 20 years elder Johannes who missed (or envied) Paul the most – he appears to have taken inspiration from his brother's family's names. His sixth child was called *Paul* Peter, the seventh; *Victoria Eva* and the eighth; *Hedwig* Marianna.

It's possible that some of Paul's nephews and nieces passed through Leipzig, following as it were in their uncle's footsteps. Indeed a number are known to have left Silesia for western Germany and Switzerland in the 1930s and 40s. Of all the names ever collected, just one corresponds, and that was a 'Paul Tȳralla' too. He lived in Leipzig in the mid-1930s, although investigation has since shown he was no relative of Little Nannȳ's father (see pg. 169 at the end of Chapter VII to learn who he really was)!

Physical distance today is of course easily overcome by cars, trains and planes, not to mention mod cons like the Internet, telephone, email and Skype. These are forms of transportation and communication that make it much easier to stay in touch than was the case a hundred years ago. Not long after Little Nannȳ was born, Leipzig's own railway stations (each managed by competing concerns⁵⁷) were razed and rebuilt in the form of one grand central station. The left (Prussian) half of the new *Hauptbahnhof* opened in May 1912 to great interest, the ticket counters for which can be seen in the picture right.



Leipzig's new *Hauptbahnhof*, May 1912 (Walter)

⁵⁶ As late as February 1917 Nannȳ referred in writing to her mother-in-law as being alive and well in Radstein.

⁵⁷ The state of Prussia, the state of Saxony, the city of Leipzig and the Reich Post Office, according to: www.leipzig-sachsen.de/leipzig-stadtchronik/leipzig-geschichte-1900-heute.html



Around the same time that the *Hauptbahnhof* opened, the 'Margareten-fest' was hosted on May 18th. It was an occasion which aimed to encourage goodwill among Leipzig's citizens. Special stamps were produced and the franked issue left reveals how airborne methods were already being used to deliver mail – just a year after Leipzig's *Lindenthal* airfield had opened. Perhaps one reason for its investiture was the significant growth in communications which had taken place between 1890 and 1913. This witnessed a 290 percent increase in the number of letters sent, a 188 percent rise in the number of telegrams transmitted and a 275 percent leap in the number of long distance telephone calls made per year! ⁵⁸

The Hinsch kids were generally rather more fortunate than the Tŷrallas when it came to grandparents. They needn't write letters or only meet them on special occasions, because both sets lived nearby. More curiously, however, in 1912, the Hinsch grandparents' moved into *Salzgäßchen* 5 with them – Marie (at 54) in July, followed by Friedrich (now 60) in October.

Why did they return ('abandoning' the villa in Machern in the process)? Was it too costly to heat during the winter months? Were they themselves in need of care, or was *Schneidermeister Hinsch* still in demand? What is certain is that their son and daughter-in-law were due another (!) child in the autumn and with the eldest grandchild starting school that year, I guess Fritz and his wife were glad for all the help they could get!

Germany and Leipzig had of course spent much on developing its schools during the last century, as was explained in Chapter III (see text box 3.2). But access to education was far from balanced, which meant two school systems essentially co-existed: one for the children of the elites (and to a lesser extent the lower white collar workers), and one for the "91.3 percent of all students who remained." Generally it was the elites who enjoyed access to higher education.⁵⁹



Given the backgrounds of both grandparents' Bächtz and Hinsch (*alter Mittelstand*) and guessing Fritz Hinsch finished his own schooling at fourteen, after four years of elementary school I expect his son was expected to attend the local *Realschule*. This intended to serve "middle-class children preparing for careers in business or the lower grades of the civil service" and meant graduates began their working lives at the age of 16-17. ⁶⁰ However, while that might have been the plan, the four year conflict which was but two years away now, redefined all intents.

The picture left shows us what Frits probably wore on his first day at school, aged six (the trumpet served to store sweets and on the top, the child's comfort toy)!

School start for a first grader, 1905 (Foerster)

⁵⁸ Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920. Dobson, pg. 17

⁵⁹ Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920. Dobson, pg. 41

⁶⁰ Ibid., followed by Benninghaus, Haupt and Requate, O&O, Pg.288

6.5 The Leipziger Lerche and Other Culinary Specialities

Although the only tale ever passed on about the Hinsch kids' time in Salzgäßchen was how Martin and his brothers loved to slide down the building's balustrades as they raced the flights of stairs to the groundfloor, when cared for by *Oma Hinsch* I expect her grandchildren were also treated to a host of local culinary specialities. I dare say the Tjyralla kids may have savoured these once or twice too. Leipzig had several to offer, the most famous of which is perhaps the *Leipziger Lerche*. I expect the kids also got to hear the corresponding tale as well, which goes something like this.



In the 18th and 19th centuries, this typical pie (pictured) was made from songbirds (or lark's meat). This is because it was considered a wholesome delicacy, almost like light game. The little birds were usually caught in the tributaries of the river Elster. They were baked together with eggs and tasty spices. The town archives reveal, according to the website of Leipzig's *Café Corso*,¹ that in October 1720 over 400 thousand such birds were caught along Salzgäßchen (the street in which the Hinsch's lived) by so-called 'Lark women.' Their aim was to satisfy the bourgeois appetite for *Leipziger Lerche*.

But the large consumption of larks grew controversial and in 1876, the King of Saxony banished the delicacy from the region's diet. Thereafter an ingenious baker reinvented it as a shortcrust pastry filled with marzipan or crushed almonds, nuts and strawberry jam.

Among the handful of other tasty dishes the Hinsch's and Tjyrallas may have experienced, there was the *Leipziger Allerlei* – a (very!) mixed vegetable side-dish which included crayfish, crab butter and dumplings. While a lesser-known sweet treat was the *Leipziger Rübchen*, which was made from dried plums stuffed with marzipan and fried in hot oil.²

¹ <http://www.corsoela.de/english/lerche.php>

² http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leipzig#Kulinarische_Spezialit.C3.A4ten

Just as Frits began school, Hedwig delivered *Edith Erika Maria* on September 21st 1912, three years to the day after Nannj Tjyralla had given birth to Eva. The date was surely jinxed, because three months later (on December 9th), she lost her daughter (I wonder if Nannj dared mention she ought to have called her *Erdmuthe*?!)

With Marie back in Leipzig, it's possible she spent more time with her own daughter too, because less than a year after Margot was born, on October 24th, Nannj alone moved to *Rudolfstraße 7* according to her *Einwohnermeldekarte*. The street lay some 500 metres from *Salzgäßchen* and in the shadow of Leipzig's Catholic Church, as the 1903 picture postcard right shows.



It appears she spent the time at a *Private Klinik*.⁶¹ Curiosity begs the question, why? Although Margot was known to be mischievous, it's not thought that stress was something Nannj Tjyralla was prone to (unless one counts the angina she suffered from later in life)! Common thinking is that she was booked in for a hysterectomy. Having given Paul Tjyralla four children, the Protestant in her probably felt enough was enough – I daresay much to her Catholic husband's disappointment, who will have experienced the side-effects, i.e. surgical menopause, as much as she.

⁶¹ According to Lehmstedt in 'Leipzig um 1900' (Lehmstedt Verlag, 2009), around the church lay other Catholic facilities including a hospital called the 'Caritas' (which in Wiktionary is defined as 'the attitude of kindness and understanding towards others').

In early November, Nannÿ was released and returned to Gohlis, not to the family home but a new address and an apartment (with telephone!) on the first floor of *Roon Straße 1*. Granted, her new flat was just around the corner from *Gottschallstraße* (see '3' on the map at the beginning of this chapter), yet it's not until several months later that her husband (and presumably children), eventually catch up with her.

Was there a specific reason, other than convalescence? Just imagine, if this were a filmscript and we added Paul and Nannÿ's sojourn to Oetszch and her Libran 'changeable...impatient of routine' character, we might just have the necessary ingredients for a comedy sketch, *a la Chaplin*.⁶² Picture the innocent damsel, forever escaping the oddly mannered tramp, and we'd have a hit on our hands right there. While there is no anecdotal evidence suggesting there ever was any friction between the pair, were they indeed spending time apart? Or are we reading too much between the lines?⁶³

Statistically there was nothing unusual about the Tÿrallas' marriage – with respect to age. According to Guinnaine, a couple of years' difference between male and female was the norm, with national data showing an average age at first marriage of 27 for men and 25 for women – when Paul and Nannÿ married, he was just short of his 25th birthday, she was 23 and a half.⁶⁴

But class-wise there was a gulf between them. In assessing marriage patterns, Dobson shows that from 1896 to 1914, two thirds of *alter Mittelstand* brides wedded either elite bridegrooms or 'upper white-collar workers.' In other words, characters more like Fritz. Of the remainder, just one sixth paired up with lower white-collar workers (like Paul), while none at all married skilled or unskilled workers.⁶⁵ Factoring in Paul's having been a rural in-migrant, also that Leipzigers weren't terribly fond of Slavs⁶⁶), plus Paul was fundamentally a Catholic (in a town full of Lutherans), one might quickly conclude his and Nannÿ's association was pretty unique.

On the other hand, if we look more closely at customary marital relationships, we can better appreciate how different it was for a man and a woman compared to today.⁶⁷ For Paul, marriage will only have been part of his life according to Lisa Pine, supplemented by his profession and social contacts outside the home (come 1913 there were as many as 23 exclusive white collar clubs). Having been raised to believe it was the wife who took the main responsibility for all the domestic chores and child rearing (his mother being the ultimate role-model) he probably was used to a good deal of free time.⁶⁸

⁶² <http://www.astrology-online.com/libra.htm>

⁶³ According to Dobson (pg. 115, 303), Leipzig's residents were expected to go to the police to register in the *Polizeimeldebücher* whenever they changed address. Among the known 'exceptions' were Leipzig's poorest inhabitants: in-migrants who could not be sure they would remain, young journeymen, permanently unskilled workers and tramps. Even during the 1913-1914 recession, when unemployment rose above six percent, none of these categories really include Paul. In other words, his residential record probably reflected the reality. Had he gone in search of work beyond the city, his *Einwohnermeldekarte* ought to have indicated 'zum reisen.'

⁶⁴ Statistics are for the early twentieth century. O&O, pg. 39-40

⁶⁵ Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920. Dobson, pg. 63

⁶⁶ It should be noted that Dobson refers specifically to males in the working environment! pg. 124-5.

⁶⁷ O&O, pg. 358

⁶⁸ Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920. Dobson, pg. 56-8, 106, 111

Germany's 1900 Civil Code will have reinforced those beliefs, since it left married women severely restricted and meant Paul (as her husband) could annul any contract she made, even prohibit her from earning her own living. In principle, he also took responsibility for all marital affairs including Nannj's dowry, property and inheritance.

While these aren't grounds to take a time-out from family, Nannj might have played Paul at his own game.⁶⁹ She hired in a childminder to manage the kids, while her father's close proximity and 'guardianship' probably ensured she kept the upper hand in most domestic decisionmaking (was there a link for instance between her sojourn in *Rudolfstraße* and her father's return from Machern to Leipzig)?

Also, let's not forget the social circles she'd been accustomed to moving within. While her brother rubbed shoulders with Leipzig's elite, opportunities for her to do this occasioned themselves thanks to his exclusive club membership. Nannj relished charity balls and the gala dinners of the city's elite clubs, not least because she could flirt with the CEO 'in-crowd.' A representative of which, statistically she should have married. Astrology is no exact science, however, it has been said a Libran's 'love of pleasure... may lead them into extravagance.'⁷⁰ Was Nannj penchant for 'a good life' a case in point?

Such behaviour was not necessarily unorthodox either, explains Lisa Pine:⁷¹

*"The families of the nobility had a different lifestyle altogether. In aristocratic families, children were isolated from their parents, reared and educated by servants, governesses and private tutors... Relations between marital partners were often rather distant. Many aristocratic couples lived quite separate lives – with separate bedrooms, frequent absences from home on the part of the husband and leisure trips, for example to spas, on the part of the wife, so that spouses were held together only by joint social duties. Women, free from the burden of work and of raising their children, were able to indulge in leisure pursuits and other activities including, if they wished, extra-marital affairs, without appearing to lose their honour, as this was a tacitly accepted part of their way of life."*⁷²



Little
Nannj
(appx. 5),
with
Theo
(appx. 4),
cca. 1912

Those circumstances considered, where did the pair's absences leave Little Nannj, Theo and Margot? Not yet old enough for school, as the photograph above reveals, they spent their daytimes reared by a childrens' nurse or governess. Her name was believed to have been *Rosalie Hildegard Nagler*.⁷³

⁶⁹ In March 1911, Leipzig celebrated the first [International Women's Day](http://www.international-womens-day.com/).

⁷⁰ <http://www.astrology-online.com/libra.htm>

⁷¹ O&O, pg. 358

⁷² The terms 'nobility' and 'aristocracy' are used here interchangeably, while I've more generally defined the Hinsch's 'bourgeois.' But considering Nannj Tjrala's father a sort-of *Junker*, a country squire, and marry that to Wikipedia's definition where *Junkers* are deemed noble, or more specifically, the untitled lower nobility (see *wiki/Junker* and *.../Nobility*), then it is a label we may still apply to the Hinsch's. Furthermore, since "... wealthy members of the landed gentry (and perhaps even the children of 'self-made' VIPs) may be considered aristocrats," both terms, i.e. nobility and aristocracy would appear interchangeable.

⁷³ *Polizeipräsidium Leipzig Bestand 20031* indicates she lived in Leipzig Reudnitz CharlottenStr. 5 in 1915.

The neglect my grandmother and her siblings experienced seems to have been ordinarily part and parcel of their parents' approach to childrearing. Although Paul and Nannj were a pair, their marriage may simply have grown into one of convenience, as Pine suggests. He may have hoped to 'domesticate' his wife with an above average yield of youngsters, but just because she had been lassoed early on, didn't mean she was about to play by his rules. Photographs in earlier chapters attest she was born with an air of the nobility about her, which surely meant Nannj was destined to move "within a small social circle at the apex of a hierarchical social pyramid."⁷⁴ Was Paul then restricted to playing catch-up and resigned to his lot?

If Goethe had contrived these scenes, we'd see Faust indulging himself in 'the pleasures and knowledge of the world, during the course of which he seduces a beautiful and innocent girl, whose life is ultimately destroyed.'⁷⁵ Or was Paul emerging the 'victim'?

Behind these imperfect scenes, it was the Tjyralla kids who came off worst. They saw little of their family, which explains why Little Nannj happily met her mother on the rare occasions it happened. No wonder she could share so little about her father. Even her parents rarely shared her and her siblings' mealtimes according to anecdotes passed on. In one distinct memory, the family's cook plays the leading role,⁷⁶ when a poultry bird whose head was lopped off by a kitchen hand leapt from the table and ran like the proverbial headless chicken.⁷⁷ Yet as Germany approached war, home life would soon only worsen.



Little Nannj and Theo, cca. 1913

Despite lacking sufficient personal contact with their parents, photographs show the young Tjyrallas were materially privileged and spent time in each others company. That which is left shows *Kleine Nannj* aged six or so, with Theo, about five. They sit on a wheeled lifesized St. Bernard dog, surely a choice toy for any kid in those days. The location seems to be a dressing room or bathroom, I guess in *Roon straÙe*. A fireplace looks to be on the right beside a door, while on the left is a changing table and behind the kids an infant bath tub, replete with plumbed-in taps. The wallpaper behind is decorated with clowns which suggests the room may have doubled up as a *Kinderstube* or playroom.

⁷⁴ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nobility>

⁷⁵ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faust>

⁷⁶ In 1911, 26.5 percent of Leipzig's wagedworkers were women, because a husband's wage always required supplementing. The vast majority of wives who did not labour for a wage either performed home work for piece rates (e.g. sewing) or odd jobs for money (laundering, childminding, cooking). Dobson, pg.350

⁷⁷ For an insight into how long a chicken can live headless, check out 'Mike the Headless Chicken' and the story about his amazing will to live – for eighteen months! – at miketheheadlesschicken.org

The flag hanging on the wall in the background is an interesting feature. It would seem to be that of the Kingdom of Saxony's, which is white on the top and green on its bottom. Within the upper band is Germany's Iron Cross, which was originally borne by the Teutonic Knights (a Catholic crusading military order) of the fourteenth century. It was then (and still is today) the symbol of Germany's armed forces.⁷⁸ The flag itself otherwise does not appear to be of regular military origin.⁷⁹

Perhaps it was waved then by Little Nanny during one of the Saxon King's two 1913 visits – occasions which celebrated German might and stirred nationalist fervour, events for which the authorities feared for “outrages committed by workers, such as whistling, booing or catcalls.” There was still no love lost between the latter and the state, not least because they were no nearer to enjoying the right to vote following the 1912 *Reichstag* elections, despite the social democrats' success in them.⁸⁰

The king's first visit was in June, to open Leipzig's Mockau airfield, airship hangars, airport hotel (the world's largest and first respectively at that time) and restaurant northeast of Gohlis.⁸¹ Other special guests included the LZ17 Sachsen airship including Graf Zeppelin, himself, the ship's manufacturer. A leading figure in creating the age of air transportation, he was welcomed by a large international crowd.⁸² According to www.leipzig-sachsen.de, the airship was commercially popular until the German Army appropriated it on July 31st, 1914. In fact, Zeppelin's airships went on to transport 37,250 people on over 1600 flights sans incident between 1909 and 1914, with hundreds of those flights made from Mockau.

A little earlier in February 1913, another milestone occurred when the *Leipziger Kraftomnibus* entered commercial service. The double-decker petrol-driven bus ran on five lines, the first of which was the *Hauptbahnhof* to *Völkerschlachtdenkmal* route (pictured). The opening of the *Battle of Nations Monument* was the reason for the Saxon king's second visit on October 18th, when together with the German Emperor, representatives of Austria and other German-speaking lands, they inaugurated the memorial during an ultra-nationalist ceremony. This time ignored by workers, controversy still ensued since France wasn't invited to attend.



Above: The LZ17 Sachsen first flew in March 1913. During its commercial service it travelled 39,919 km and carried 9,837 passengers on 419 flights. That's 741 hours total running time!

www.leipzig-sachsen.de

Below: Leipzig's Battle of Nations Monument and the Leipzig Omnibus which came into service in Feb. 1913 (2nd photo: Gildemann)



⁷⁸ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iron_Cross

⁷⁹ According to personal correspondence with M.A. Bröckermann, Lieutenant Colonel and Branch Head at the Militärgeschichtliches Forschungsamt in Potsdam on Feb. 22, 2011

⁸⁰ *Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920*. Sean Dobson, pg. 82, 95

⁸¹ http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flughafen_Leipzig-Mockau

⁸² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ferdinand_von_Zeppelin



The monument had been advocated by Leipzig's *Patriotic Union*, a group which recruited from *bürgerlich* and noble circles. Thirteen years in the making and upon the design of Dr. Clemens Thieme (that name again!), it was his fellows at the Freemason's Lodge who helped pay for it along with members of the *Kolonialgesellschaft*.⁸³ It might be fanciful to suggest Uncle or Opa Hinsch donated to its construction or that Little Nannö herself was there, waving a Saxon flag just months now before the country went to war, however, worthy of note is that 'Fritz's' *Gewandhaus* hosted an imperial banquet at the monument's inauguration.



The memorial commemorated the hundredth anniversary of the October 1813 'Battle of Leipzig' which ended Napoleon's dictatorship over Europe. It remains very much the symbol of Leipzig today, even if it signalled defeat for the Saxons too who fought alongside the French. From its 90 meter high observation platform, on a clear day one can see across the city and its surroundings.

In autumn 1913 the Tjëralla kids were photographed in the company of family. In the photo above left we see Theo and Margot in *WenigMachern*. Beneath we see them together with a smiling Little Nannö and Aunt Hedy (who is also joined by a canine pet friend). In the third, a studio shot, we see mother 'accessorized' by a not very happy *Kleine Nannö*. The occasion may well have been her mother's 30th birthday (although there were three birthdays celebrated during late summer). Conspicuously absent is their father. Was he off watching VfB Leipzig win the German championship for the third and final time?



In these portraits, Theo looks every bit the stoic Prussian while Little Nannö is *Püppchen* or doll-like. If we recall the young Dietrich shown in the portrait on pg. 120, there is an obvious similarity. Yet at the same time, *Prinzessin Tjëralla* looks unhappy. Dietrich, who was by now twelve years old, experienced her own upbringing in Prussia's capital, Berlin, and is retold in Alexander Walker's biography from 1984. He notes how its emphasis was on "suppressing her feelings in the polite bourgeois tradition rather than exposing them" where the accent was on concealment, discipline and duty. Obedience was the overriding rule, where "pleasures had to be earned before they could be enjoyed."⁸⁴ Nannö's anecdotes concur, while the saying 'The camera never lies' looks never more to have been true!

⁸³ *Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920*. Sean Dobson, pg. 83, 315, 345

⁸⁴ *Dietrich*. Alexander Walker. 1984

Around September 1913 it was Little Nannÿ's turn to start school. She had already had a taste of education in the form of piano lessons, perhaps thanks to Uncle Fritz who arranged her one of the best looking teachers by all accounts. Gohlis saw many schools spring up in the years before Little Nannÿ was born, so there were plenty to choose from.⁸⁵ The 29. *Bezirksschule*⁸⁶ on *Pariser Straße* seems the most likely of starting places. Opened in 1900, it lay a short 300m distance from home in *Roonstraße*. It is pictured right and shown as '4' on the map on pg. 103. However, considering *Kleine Nannÿ's* bourgeois background, we ought not to exclude the possibility she joined the 11. *Bürgerschule* on *Elsbethstraße* (just over a kilometre away – see '5' on the same map). Or that she may have attended a private girls' school led by one 'Fraulein Büttner,' which was located just off *Elsbethstraße* in *Georgstraße*.



The 29. *Bezirksschule*, thought to be Little Nannÿ's first school. (Googlemaps)

Class sizes vary according to the type of school attended. Dobson reports that the average number of students in Leipzig's *Volksschule* was as high as 38.1, while in the *Realschule* it was 17.9, and in girls' vocational schools 25.1 (in boys' vocational schools it was 33.5). As to what Little Nannÿ will have learned, a look over a medium-level Gohlis school curricula from almost a hundred years earlier tells us there were two hours each of biblical history plus conversation practice, six hours reading, and two and a half hours each for writing and mathematics. That in total made for around 16 hours schooling per week. Students relied on a globe, maps of Europe, Germany and Saxony plus Palestine, besides a geography textbook. According to Ebert a fee was levied in Saxony on those who learnt a foreign language and in Gohlis's own two *Bürgerschule*, that meant a bill of between 9 and 24 marks per year (although the fee was later dropped in 1919).⁸⁷



A Saxon school class around 1910 (Wikipedia). Note too the size of the class.

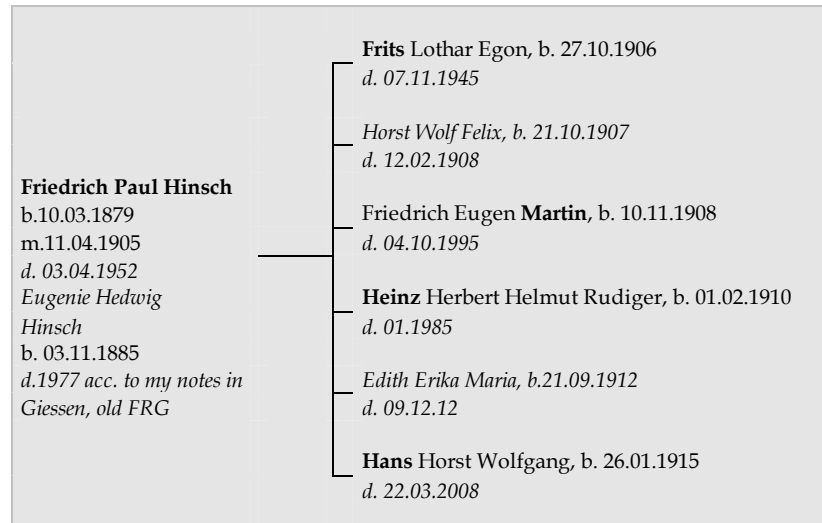
If Little Nannÿ did learn a language, it might have been French or English, as in Marlene Dietrich's case. But within a short while, French became quite unpopular. Perhaps aggravated by the nation's revival of its alliances with Russia in July 1912 (whom Germany feared for their own expansionist ambitions and military reconstruction), words like *Café* suddenly disappeared in favour of *Kaffeehaus*. Even more patriotic was the renaming of a new 1,000 seat-cinema in 1914 from "*Picadilly-Lichtspiele*" to "*Vaterland-Lichtspiele*." Fostering nationalism through every means possible was now never more important as the prospect of conflict loomed.

⁸⁵ Gohlis: *Aus der Geschichte einse Leipziger Vorortes*. Willy Ebert, 1926, pg. 113.

⁸⁶ An enquiry to the school to confirm this has not been answered. From 1926 it was the elementary 35. *Volksschule*, today it is the 35. *Mittelschule*. See also: www.35mittelschule-leipzig.de

⁸⁷ The responsibility for all decisions regarding a child's education and future will have always been the father's, according to Lisa Pine. O&O, pg. 358

Yet despite the worrying political climate, Hedy Hinsch was not quite finished birthing babies. Come April 1914 she was expecting once more and when her son arrived on January 26th, 1915, he was named *Hans Horst Wolfgang*! Her complete brood is shown below.



The planning for Hans' arrival couldn't have been much worse, however. The nation's erratic foreign policy had left the country increasingly isolated, to the extent that it was left with just a single loyal ally: Austria-Hungary.⁸⁸ Its only other, the Kingdom of Italy, remained this only *pro forma*.

In part this situation arose because Germany had allowed its own 'Reinsurance Treaty' with Russia to lapse. Its support then towards Austria-Hungary in occupying Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1908 worsened its own diplomatic relations, which at the same time allowed a potential alliance with Britain to evaporate. As a result, Russia, France and Britain developed a *Triple Entente* which only aggravated Germany's fear of 'encirclement' (see map at the end of this chapter).

The sudden outbreak of war in August then witnessed the end of Germany (and Europe's) 'golden age' and its sparkling optimism. On the one hand it found most inhabitants of the German Empire looking back upon decades of peace and material improvement.⁸⁹ On the other, it broke the pattern of urban and industrial growth, one which was never to be resumed in the same steady way thereafter.⁹⁰

Since the foundation of the *Kaiserreich* in 1871, Germany had become one of the world's leading industrial states. It had replaced Britain as Europe's premier industrial power. Its total productivity had risen by about 90 percent between 1873 and 1913,⁹¹ while the process of industrialization was linked to a striking

⁸⁸ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_Empire

⁸⁹ Richard Bessel. *Germany after the First World War*. 1995. Pg. 2

⁹⁰ In 1933 the National Socialists came to power, espousing an anti-city ideology which made the peasant and the small town artisan the ideal core of the nation rather than the city-dweller, manual or white-collar worker. Another war then brought the physical destruction of the many of Germany's cities. The shift away from heavy industry eventually led to urban decline. Breuilly in O&O, Pg. 218

⁹¹ Germany after the First World War, Richard Bessel, 1995.

demographic and social transformation.⁹² For instance, within a generation the entire German population had risen to 67 million, having grown by 36 percent from its 1890 levels. Its cities had mushroomed,⁹³ national income per capita had risen steadily, lifestyles were healthier and life expectancy had increased.

By 1914, the city was the place where, for good or ill, everything significant happened – establishment of avant garde art, elite or mass culture, political and economic decision-making. Signifying its attraction, the share of Germany's population living in cities of over 100,000 residents had risen, from 12 to 21 percent between 1890 and 1910.⁹⁴ For many, the urban space was a magnet, the dynamic centre of all that was positive in modern life.⁹⁵ The year 1914 represented the high point of German urbanisation purports Breuilly in *Germany: A New Social and Economic History since 1800*.⁹⁶

For the Hinsch's and the Tjyrallas, 1914 found them at their pinnacle too. Germany remained a key importer of Egyptian tobacco, which meant Fritz's business continued to prosper. Leipzig's fur industry (heavily dependent on Russian fur) thrived, ensuring Paul's family enjoyed an increasingly high standard of living as well. Between them they raised Friedrich and Marie Hinsch's seven grandchildren, seniors who themselves had all but retired far better off than Claus Hinsch had ever been.

According to Sean Dobson, the real income growth of families like the Hinsch's who lived from profit, interest and rent, far outstripped that of workers and white collars in Leipzig. With regards to home rentals, the market obviously grew alongside the city's population, but in tandem the numbers of rentiers⁹⁷ actually declined.⁹⁸ Besides fewer competitors concurrently there was also a shortage of dwelling space, which in turn meant those living from rent could collect even higher sums.⁹⁹

⁹² Wellhöner and Wixforth, O&O. pg. 158-9.

⁹³ Many cities grew ten-fold in size between 1816 and 1914, according to Guinnane, O&O, pg.52. This implies an average growth rate of about 2.5 percent.

⁹⁴ Tipton, O&O, pg. 132. Note also that according to Guinnane, O&O, pg.52, by 1910, Germany had 48 cities of 100,000 or more inhabitants – while in 1834 it had just one.

⁹⁵ O&O, Pg.reference missing

⁹⁶ An example: whereas in 1896 Leipzig had one electric tram, by 1914 it had 28 of them ferrying 131.6 million passengers that year. *Das war das 20. Jahrhundert in LEIPZIG*. Martina Guldemann, 1999. Pg. 20. Those passengers in turn travelled 529 percent more kilometers than they had done in 1896, while the fares paid per day jumped 348 percent in the same period. Dobson, pg. 16.

⁹⁷ An individual who does not work for a living, but instead receives an income, usually interest, rent, dividends, or capital gains, from their assets and investments: <http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/rentier>

⁹⁸ Business owners too, such that by 1914 they made up just 24.3 percent of all taxpayers, compared with 42.8 percent in the 1880s. To their advantage, however, that group's share of the city's income as a whole diminished just 12 percentage points, to 52.

⁹⁹ *Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920*. Sean Dobson, 2001. pg. Pg.reference missing

The Hinsch's and Tjrrallas' comfortable lifestyles, however, were transformed by the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria by a Bosnian-Serb on June 28th, 1914: an event which set in motion a chain of events that relatively quickly led to the outbreak of the First World War. One month later, on July 28th, Austria-Hungary invaded Serbia and in rejection of Austria's plans for its annexation, Russia ordered its general mobilization against them on July 31st.

This suited Germany most ideally because it could now portray its own war effort as a defensive struggle against Russia. Despite 20,000 workers staging an antiwar protest on Leipzig's *Augustusplatz* on July 29th, as little as three days later 'many' reappeared participating in a spontaneous *prowar* demonstration, uniting all citizens (albeit temporarily) in an expression of patriotism together with the city's bourgeoisie.¹⁰⁰

On August 1st, Germany therefore rose to assist Austria resolve its 'Balkan problem,' and declared war on Russia. Events spiraled out of control. Although the German Empire's diplomats as well as the English sought to achieve a negotiated settlement, come August 4th, Germany found itself at war with a France that couldn't assure its own neutrality, and England because Belgium's had been compromised by Germany's invasion of it. Across *Deutschland*, workers suddenly (even miraculously) accepted the government's call to fight, with Leipzig's own marching off to battle, believing they were defending the fatherland against Tsarist knout¹⁰¹ in a war that would be "over by Christmas."

Russia's move had paid the German imperial regime high political dividends, especially in terms of proletarian attitudes, writes Dobson. Besides the normal patriotic reflex to be expected after a declaration of war, anti-Slav and especially anti-Russian sentiment rose, helping to explain the sudden end of proletarian opposition to its own government (*ibid.*).

According to the German Bundestag's 1998 publication, *Questions on German History*, "the First World War was caused just as much by Germany's arms race with France and its naval rivalry with England, as it was by Russia's aggressive Balkans policy and the German Empire's close ties with the uncertain fate of the multi-national Austrian state. It was also not least the blind trust in its own military superiority that prompted the headlong rush into war."¹⁰²

The consequence was a grand conflict that involved all of the world's great powers, assembled in two opposing alliances (shown in the diagram overleaf): the Allies (centred around the Triple Entente) and the Central Powers.¹⁰³ As a result, more than 70 million military personnel, including 60 million Europeans were mobilized, in what was to be the second deadliest conflict in Western history.¹⁰⁴

¹⁰⁰ *Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920*. Sean Dobson, 2001. pg. 84, 124

¹⁰¹ *Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920*. Sean Dobson, 2001. pg. 83, 123, 350

¹⁰² *Questions on German History. Paths to Parliamentary Democracy*. Pg. 197

¹⁰³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Causes_of_World_War_I

¹⁰⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I

What then ensued when the family breadwinners and farm labourers went off to the front? Who paid the rent, who fed the families, who raised the children while the mothers worked for their well-being? These questions are addressed within the next two chapters, a period where much was at stake for all bourgeois capitalist authority as the war dragged on (well beyond Christmas) and it struggled to retain control.

For Little Nannj Tjyralla, six days after the war broke out, the miracle kid filled with 'courage and loyalty to the earth,' reached her seventh birthday. I just wonder, did the *Tjyrallas'* commemorate that special Friday together, or were their celebrations subsumed by those which greeted the outbreak of war across the German nation?

