

III: 'SOPHIE'S WORLD': 1879-1899

Friedrich Paul Hinsch was born in Querfurt on Monday 10th March, 1879. He was christened on Sunday March 30th. The following day he and his just-married parents left for Leipzig¹. Their first home was *Peter Straße 23*, which lies inside Leipzig's 'old' town centre (see No.1 on the map right). It appears to have been situated among a brace of local tailors, since both numbers 25 and 28 (pictured below right) played host to their workshops or *Schneiderstubes*. We might assume therefore that Friedrich was employed by one of these enterprises. Their residence was nearby the *Kaffeehaus Drei Könige* and *Brühl* too, which brought the family in close proximity of distant family member, August Lieberoth.

Over the next five years the family lived at two more locations, until a more permanent home is noted from 1883. These included *Schletter Str. 14* (see No.2 on the map), and *Hohe Str. 31* (No.3). All lie south of Leipzig's medieval centre, more agreeable I imagine than the more industrial northern and western sides where railway stations, gas works, the handicraft district and the *Kammgarnspinnerei* or cotton spinning mill jostled for space and filled the air with noise and smoke.

Those frequent changes of address were most likely due to Friedrich's still spending a number of years on the waltz or *compagnonnage*. From the three addresses indicated, we might assume he and his family spent roughly nine months at each, while the time in between he spent on the road alone, while his wife and son returned to Querfurt. The railways will have been of central importance to their movements.



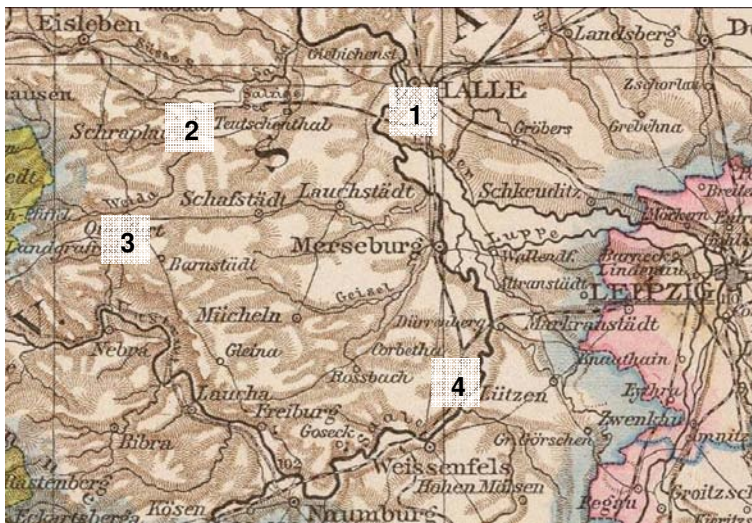
Above: Leipzig in 1876 Source: Wikipedia.org/Leipzig
Below: *Peter Str. No.28*, revealing the word 'Schneider' in the building's marquee opposite the Hinsch home)



¹ "Einwohner Der Stadt 1876 Bis 1889" courtesy of Annett Muller of the Leipzig StadtArchiv, May 2000, Friedrich returned to Leipzig on Saturday 25th January 1879, whenceforth he became a formal resident(*Einwohner*), while Marie hung back in Querfurt long enough to await the arrival of their son.



Friedrich's travels will now have taken him farther from his origins in Sülfeld, to popular tailoring centres in the east, such as Breslau or Posen. Köln lay to the west and beyond Prussia, the Kingdom of Bavaria to the south had München and Bayreuth to lure him. To travel there, he will have transited the neighbouring *Bayerischer Bahnhof* (see '4' on the map on the previous page and also left). Built in 1842, today it is Germany's oldest preserved railway station.



For to-ing and fro-ing back and forth to Querfurt, the family will have passed through another of Leipzig's stations, the *Thüringer Bahnhof* (see '5' on the earlier map). Riding via one of the many daily trains to Halle (see '1' on the map left) they will have changed there for Röblingen, close to Schraplau (see '2'), before completing the last 15 km to Querfurt ('3') by stagecoach. An alternative route existed via Corbetha ('4') and Merseburg on the 1841 '*Thüringer Bahn*,' although that will have required a longer (35 km) stagecoach journey on to Querfurt.



Above Top: The *Bayerische Bahnhof* around 1900.
Above Middle: Extract showing the Province of Saxony in 1881.
Source: DavidRumsey.com
Above: 1857 *Thüringer Bahnhof*, shown here in 1900
Source: Wikipedia/Thüringer Bahnhof

The sojourners' pre-occupations did not allow a great deal of time for procreation over the next few years, which may have been a conscious choice, also because youngsters' chances of survival in 1880 were almost as poor as in 1839². In fact Friedrich Paul (or more simply *Fritz*) had a one in four chance of *not* surviving and was expected to live just 35 years (in rural areas like Querfurt he 'got' five more years, while being born legitimately also worked into his favour).

² Guinnane, pg. 43. However, on pg. 53 he also notes statistics reveal German couples were making conscious efforts to have smaller families. They were aided by new methods of contraception, e.g. the rubber condom was introduced in 1870. Alongside economic and social changes, a fall by as much as half in the crude birth rates in Germany was witnessed in the 50 years between 1875 and 1925. In practice that meant that the average German woman marrying in her early 20s before 1880 would have eight children, while by the latter part of the decade she averaged five.

But cities were also becoming healthier places to live. By 1871, seventeen Prussian cities had introduced communal water supplies and by 1877, Leipzig had its first wastewater works³. Across Germany, street cleaning services and the more efficient removal of sewage to fields and farms was being introduced (although the notion of underground water-borne disposal remained unnecessary and impossible in view of the costs and technical difficulties – see Breuilly, pg.208).

These developments helped the infant mortality rate decline between 1888 and 1912 by 43 percent, while there is also evidence that rising incomes played a role in eliminating the mortality crises. In 1879 a new law required assurances for food safety, and Leipzig's newly-built slaughterhouse guaranteed fresh meat to its residents. With youngsters' survival prospects steadily improving, in 1883 Fritz was joined by a sister: my grandmother's mother, Erdmuthe Sophie Nannj. She was born four and a half years his junior on Thursday 27th September – in Leipzig.

The name *Erdmuthe* is an old Germanic name that does not even make the thousand most popular today. But at the time it was believed to be a form of protection against infant death spirit. The name derives from Norse mythology and literally means courage and loyalty to the earth. While she may well have been called 'Muthe' or 'Muthli' as a child by her peers and parents, she was more typically known by the the name *Nannj*.⁴ Even less common (more typically it is spelt *Nanni* or *Nanna*) it means 'the grace and love of God.'⁵ Her last name, *Sophie*, was already popular within her father's family and thus she became the namesake of both her aunt and great grandmother in Sülfeld (see Chapter I).

In fact 1883 turned out to be a busy year for Hinsch family. It began with the sale of Friedrich's father's *Kate* and land in Sülfeld. On April 14th it passed into the hands of a merchant named *Schacht*. Interestingly, the purchase price of 1750 *Reichsmarks* included two 400 mark and one 600 mark contributions from a borstel alms society (*Armenverband*). These amounts appear to have been intended as banking deposits, because the contract indicates Claus Hinsch (now aged 63) was to live from the interest. At four percent, I imagine this constituted a pension of sorts: necessary as there was still no state pension system in Germany and statutory social support was not a matter of course.⁶

³ By 1900, every German city of more than 25,000 inhabitants had a central water system. Guinnane, pp. 45-46

⁴ However, her marriage certificate reveals 'Erdmuti' which suggests this may have been more typical than we think. Was it nostalgia that obliged her grandchildren to call her 'Mutti' later? NB: posts at: www.baby-vornamen.de/ suggest most children born with this name initially despised it but grew more affectionate towards it later on.

⁵ According to familyresearch.org, two dots were occasionally used over the *y* (with no change in pronunciation). This could have originated from the fact that Latin had neither a *j* or *y*, with a double *i* at a word's end written 'ij'.

⁶ Christine Krüger, German History, Vol. 29, No.3, pg. 420

Interestingly, one of Claus' daughters, Catharina, was also made a beneficiary of the sale – mainly because, as it transpires, she was mentally retarded (his other daughter, Maria, presumably either married or died young). If further interpretation of the deed proves correct, father and daughter remained free to use the property until Claus' death, at which point the society's contribution was to be returned (less a regular portion of interest which remained earmarked for Catharina's keep).⁷

These developments leave one wondering, did Friedrich 'abandon' his family when he left for *MittelDeutschland*? Or did he journey to Leipzig in search of a sufficient wage to send home and assist those who cared for his family? Had he originally planned to return to Sülfeld or maybe Hamburg before he was 'distracted' by Marie?



Above: *Schrötergasse*, the narrow street to the right in 1881, before it was widened in 1882-3 with *Hôtel de Prusse* at far right

Source: Stadtgeschichtliches Museum Leipzig

Below: Journeyman's certificate, 1800

Source: Leipziger Zünfte. Duclaud, 1990



In the same year as this sale was completed, Friedrich and family moved to a brand new home in *Kurprinzstraße* 3.⁸ The street used to be named *Schrötergasse* (see '6' in the map at the beginning of this chapter) but shortly before the family arrived, the alley was significantly widened to allow passage by trams⁹ and the construction of new "wall-to-wall" houses in bourgeois manner – a common redevelopment in Leipzig as the city grew and its old passageways (which occasionally resembled ditches, according to Czok) were replaced. The painting left shows *Schrötergasse* before reconstruction took place, leading into the large open space called *Roßplatz*. *Hôtel de Prusse* itself was therefore also reconstructed between 1882 and 1883.¹⁰

If 1883 was eventful, then 1884 was every bit as successful, with Friedrich graduating a tailor and claiming the certificate shown left. Having completed the statutory nine years as a journeyman and meeting Leipzig's tailors' strict ethical and moral criteria,¹¹ he was now listed a *Schneider* in the *Leipzig Adreßbuch*.^{12 13}

⁷ The sales contract was amended 20th April, 1892 as a mortgage deed, which suggests Claus Hinsch may have died (aged 72). This also indicates the local alms society functioned as a credit institution, which in effect meant Schacht funded Claus Hinsch's retirement by way of the interest on his *Armenverband* 'loan', before inheriting his property upon his death. Claus meanwhile netted 350RM from the sale with the remaining sum securing his pension.

⁸ Where according to his daughter's birth certificate Nannj was born

⁹ It was Sept. 7th, 1883 according to: de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geschichte_des_Straßenbahnnetzes_Leipzig, when trams ran a route from *Roßplatz* – *Kurprinzstraße* (*Grünwaldstraße*) – *Windmühlenstraße* – *Bayrischer Bahnhof*

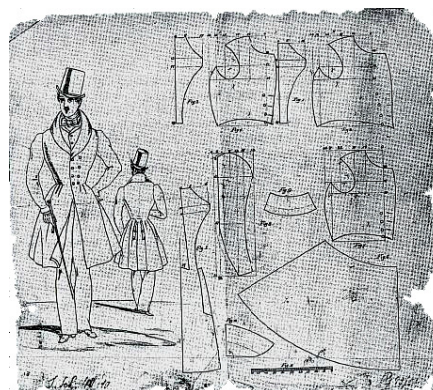
¹⁰ Leipzig um 1900. Die Innenstadt in kolorierten Ansichtskarten. Heinz Peter Brogiato. Lehmann Verlag, 2009.

¹¹ Pg. 130. *Leipziger Zünfte* by Jutta and Rainer Duclaud, Berlin: Verl. d. Nation, 1990.

¹² The year of his graduation may also be linked in some way to the foundation year, 1884, of the Association of German Tailors (*Bund deutscher Schneiderinnungen*) in Berlin, which represented a network of some 861 *Innungen* across Germany – see also Textbox 2.4: *The Innung – a new kind of Guild* on pg.32.

¹³ According to his residential record, in November 1884, Friedrich also became a *Sachsen* military reservist. That may be connected to his residence of Saxony being deemed permanent.

However, a third stage still had to be fulfilled in Friedrich's long journey toward qualifying a tailor. To achieve this and obtain the master's certificate: "a tailor needed to demonstrate he could make various garments, including a priest's robe, a monk's cowl, clothes for nobles, citizens and farmers besides bridal gowns. In nineteenth century Leipzig, he especially needed to present a masterpiece to the guild."¹⁴ This panel would then pass judgment on his work and if deemed worthy, he would be acknowledged a master. From this point on Friedrich would enjoy the right to charge a significant fee for each day's work,¹⁵ and to join the Association of German Tailors (*Bund deutscher Schneiderinnungen*).



A tailor's masterpiece
in 19th century Leipzig (Duclaud)

Official documents don't tell us where Friedrich worked, but Czok gives us a clue in *Leipzig-Fotografien 1867 bis 1929*,¹⁶ when he tells us that workshops, businesses and stores were often based in the groundfloors of family houses, adding that many were to be found outside the town centre. Although the Hinsch's home was on the fourth floor of *Kurprinzstraße, 3* (where it was cheaper than the first floor for instance), the house indeed lay at the perimeter of 'old' Leipzig, as the map at the start of this chapter shows. One may suppose he therefore worked nearby.

This 'displacement' of workshops to the outskirts was rather down to those specialised clothes, textiles and leather stores taking over Leipzig's central thoroughfares which also pushed up the price of residential property, says Czok. Living there was obviously less affordable, although he goes on to say that nearly all Leipzig's residents enjoyed modest living quarters.

One advantage of working from a permanent location was Friedrich's working day was shorter, from six until six, with an hour's break for lunch. In the winter, the day was a further hour shorter owing to the lack of light. A sixty hour week was thus the norm, with Saturday also a working day (Foerster, 1997).



Kurprinz Hof (1) and
Kurprinz Straße, 3 (3).
Cca. 1883/1884

Source: Stadtgeschichtliches Museum
Leipzig

¹⁴ Pg. 130, 132. *Leipziger Zünfte* by Jutta and Rainer Duclaud, Berlin: Verl. d. Nation, 1990.

¹⁵ Personal conversation with Martina Wermes, *Referentin* at the *Sächsisches Staatsarchiv*.
Leipzig, 27th May, 2011

¹⁶ *Fachbuchverlag Leipzig*, 1991.



Once a court with lush meadows *Der Kurprinz Hof* in 1880, looking roughly north
Source: Stadtgeschichtliches Museum Leipzig

3.	476P.	3249.
Def.	Kramer, P. W.	
pt.	Knüpfer, Bernhard.	
	Colonialw., Cigarren-	
	u. Lotteriegeschäft.	
	Großhoff, M. G. Bäckerei	
	waarenverkauf.	
	Gröber's L. Bierdepôt.	
	Müller, G. R. P. Sattler.	
	Riedemann, F. W., Fri-	
	seur.	
	Chrlsch, P. Sortiments-	
	u. Antiquariatschbblg.	
1.	Pfost, P., Rfm. Gene-	
	ralagent.	
	Wachtel, F., Opern-	
	sänger b. Stadttheater.	
2.	Schring, J. P., ameri-	
	kan. Bahnkünstler.	
	Fulda, F., Privatmann.	
	Sirhmpell, G. A. D. med.	
	u. Professor.	
3.	Günter, G. S. D., Rfm.	
	Wunderlich, W., Privata.	
	Lewin, N., Rfm. Wam-	
	facturwaarengesch.	
4.	Hinsch, F., Schneider.	
	Knüpfer, G. D. Kaufm.	
	(Wohnung.)	

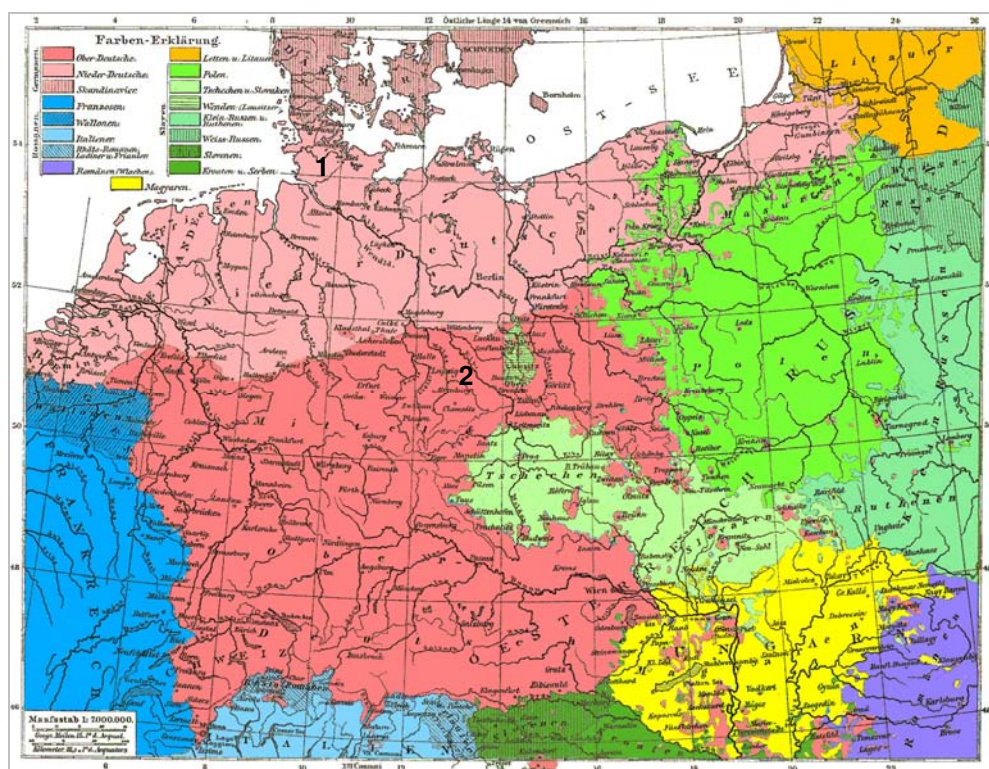
What did the Hinsch's home environs look like? Although the area was oft photographed, most of those available tend to show it before the developments of 1882-3 and the *Kurprinzstraße* 'era.' In the picture shown left for instance, taken in 1880, one sees those buildings facing *Kurprinz Hof*. This marks the area denoted '1' on the town planners' map on the previous page. The large building in the background was *Der Kurprinz*, which remained in use until 1945. However, the smaller two storey buildings to the left and right were probably demolished (guessing by the more recent overlays on the previous page's map). The Hinsch's home lay 100m or so south of *Kurprinz Hof*, and is marked '3' on the same map. Considering its more vivid coloration, it would appear to have been among the street's newer buildings. The locale remained home until Fritz and Nanny practically started their own families. From 1896 the family even lived in *Der Kurprinz* itself!

Who were their neighbours? The *Adreßbuch* entry left reveals Friedrich's shared the fourth floor with a *Kaufmann* (salesman) called *Bernhard Knüpfer* whom it seems had a cigar and lottery ticket business on the groundfloor (pt.) alongside *Gröber's* beer depot and a saddler called *Müller*. On the first floor lived an opera singer with the *Stadttheater* and on the second was a dentist!

The *Adreßbuch* reveals next door at No.2 and over the road at No.11 there were more cigar businesses (a thriving industry at the time)¹⁷ while on the first floor at No.2 was an obstetrician. A little further down at No.5 was the baker, *Bernhard Petzold*, while the local butcher, *Friedrich Petzold*, was in neighbouring *Bauhofstr.*

In all likelihood one or more of the persons listed above played a role in the Hinsch children's livelihoods in the coming decades, as we shall see.

¹⁷ See Sean Dobson, *Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920*. Pg. 90



1880 map showing historically German speaking lands, in line with the nationalist spirit of the time (NB: even Belgium and the Netherlands are seen to be speakers of Low German).

Source:
de.
wikipedia.
org/
wiki/
Deutsche_
Sprache

One challenge Friedrich will have faced as he settled in Leipzig was its native tongue: the “*Leipziger Sprache*.” His own German dialect was ‘Holsatian,’ a form of Low Saxon or Low German (*Niederdeutsche* or *Plattdeutsche*). As can be seen from the light pink area on the map above (where Friedrich’s home town is marked ‘1’), Low German was spoken by the northern Germans and according to Wikipedia,¹⁸ was the *lingua franca* of the Hanseatic League.¹⁹ However, those from the Rhine in the western part of Germany through Saxony to Silesia in the east and into the Austro-Hungarian Empire to the south, spoke *Hochdeutsche* or ‘Standard German:’ the language of the elite circles in German society (see the dark pink area on the map, where Leipzig is marked ‘2’).

Although Friedrich probably learnt *Hochdeutsche* in school²⁰ – Leipzigers themselves spoke *Osterländisch*. This is a Thuringian-Upper Saxon dialect, whose speech is characterized by the ‘softening’ of the consonants ‘p,’ ‘t’ and ‘k.’ This means speakers of other dialects tend to hear these letters as ‘b,’ ‘d’ and ‘g’ respectively.

Take the pronunciation of *Leipzig* itself, for instance. To most readers, the name is spoken as a two syllabled word: ‘Leip-zig,’ where the ‘p’ is rounded and hardened. In the example in the text box overleaf, however, Leipzig becomes a single syllabled word where the ‘p’ is softened, thus: ‘*Laipzsch*.’ And to appreciate how outsiders initially transcribed the city’s name, one needs look no further than an old map (see for instance that from 1828 on pg. 15). There the city’s name was spelt ‘*Leipsick*’ (an 1831 map even adds the *Hochdeutsche* spelling of ‘Leipzig’ in brackets).

¹⁸ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Low_German

¹⁹ For more on the Hanseatic League, see also Chapter I, pp. 9-10

²⁰ It had begun to be taught during the 18th century “until Low German was nothing but a language spoken by the uneducated at home.” For further info, see: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_language#Low_German

There are other peculiarities too, associated with the combinations: *ei* (see again the text box below), *au* and *i* (ee), while Leipzigers also tend use many words derived from Slav (see for instance the green pocketed area in the sea of dark pink in the map above, representing Sorbian, a slav language also known as Wendish or Lusatian).²¹ Overall, however, there is little regularity in their application, which can become a laughing matter for the locals, as the text box below reveals.

3.1: Leipziger Allerlei¹

The following brief dialogue illustrates the fun Leipzigers had with those less familiar with their dialect. It was discovered in a Nov. 10th, 1929 issue of Germany's entertainment industry's weekly trade journal, *Das Programm*.

The dialogue represents the first exchange between the author, simply denoted as 'W.F.' and Elly Zelia, a speaker of *Osterländisch*. W.F. notes: "The first time I met Elly Zelia, I realised from her dialect she was raised along the *Pleisse* river (a tributary of the *Weißer Elster* which the *Pleisse* meets in Leipzig). Half jokingly, I said:

"Miss, you are surely from Berlin."

"Aech yes," said Elly, "I'm from Laipzsch."

"Please say that again; Leip-zisch."

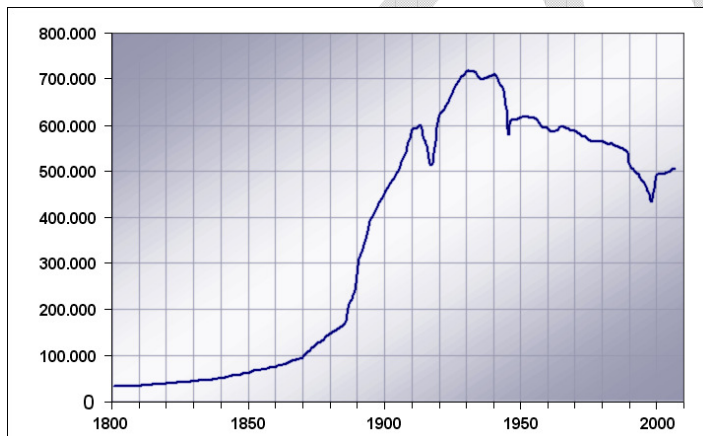
"But I do! Laipzsch." replies Elly.

And her mouth curled into a cheeky smile.

Leipziger Allerlei.
Ich traf zum ersten Male mit Elly Zelia zusammen. Aus ihrem Dialekt schöpfte ich, daß ihre Wiege an der Pleiße gestanden. Scherzhalber meinte ich deshalb:
„Fräulein, Sie sind bestimmt aus Berlin.“
„Aech ja“, sagte Elly, „ich bin aus Laipzsch.“
„Sagen Sie doch mal Leip-zisch.“
„Nu ich sach doch Laipzsch.“
Und Ellys Mund verzog sich zu einem verwunderten Lächeln.
W. F.

¹ The *Leipziger Allerlei* is otherwise a (very!) mixed vegetable side-dish

It is not hard to see why Friedrich will have been labeled a foreigner or '*Auslander*,' a term typically used in Leipzig to denote Slavs from the east or merely 'non-Saxon' Germans (used in this sense to mean those from outside Saxony).²²



Growth in the population of Leipzig
Source: Wikipedia/Leipzig

But he was not alone. During the second half of the nineteenth century a flood of migrants, many of them unskilled, came seeking work in Leipzig's manufacturing and coal mining sector. Their influx is the main reason for the dramatic growth of the city's population, which can be seen in the graphic to the left. During the period from 1816 to 1870, Leipzig had been one of Germany's smaller cities, behind Breslau, Dresden, Munich, Cologne and others. But between 1870 and 1914 (the advent of the second industrial revolution), its population leapt, from 107,000 to over half a million. This catapulted it behind Hamburg and Berlin, as Germany's biggest. Friedrich's passage to Leipzig was therefore part of a much larger trend taking place at the time.

²¹ Indeed the very name 'Leipzig' is derived from a Sorb word, 'Lipzk,' meaning "A place near the linden trees."

²² Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920. Dobson, 2001. pg.12

Migration was in fact “a central feature of German history” according to Guinane, and if we look at the growth of Prussian cities between 1875 and 1905, nearly half was down to the in-migration of young people. Accordingly this was reflected in the age structure of its urban residents: in 1875, some 30 percent of its cities’ populations were constituted by 16-30 year olds, while the same age group made up only 23.6 percent in rural areas.²³ Not surprisingly, rural populations in Germany stagnated.

Another reason for the growth in Leipzig’s population was children being born to in-migrants. The hardbacked photograph right (taken near the family home in *Zeitzer Straße*), shows Nannj maybe aged three and her brother, six or seven. The occasion is not noted, but around this time Fritz should have been in primary school (the costume for instance is not dissimilar from that of the school starter portrayed on pg. 132 within Chapter VII). Nannj’s outfit raises an eyebrow too, although I just wonder what it represented? It appears to have been some sort of folk costume although it was neither Saxon, Sorb nor Holsatian dress. Were the costumes made by their father en route to his master’s certificate perhaps?



Nannj and Fritz Hinsch, cca. 1887

What was the domestic environment like, and what were the responsibilities of her mother in regard to this? Much was already said about the latter in Chapters I and II. First it’s worth pointing out the severity of the restrictions upon married women. Already austere, they became even more severe in 1900 under a new German Civil Code after which Friedrich controlled his wife’s dowry, property and inheritance. As a parent, he also took the major decisions in life about the children’s education and future yet for he, marriage was only part of his life, supplemented by his profession and social contacts outside the home. To paraphrase Magnus Hirschfeld, Marie entered ‘a fairly unequal marital relationship in which she had few rights and was basically subservient to him in all matters.’²⁴

Anecdotes and evidence confirm my grandmother’s grandfather was part of that patriarchal “slightly repressive, heavy middle class atmosphere in which a certain sentimentality went along with an essentially apolitical, ascetic work ethos.” That might have distanced him from his family but his wife was no less similar and in turn counted on her children to be “hard working, well-behaved and reproachable only through blame.” In later years Nannj told: “My brother and I were brought up very well by our parents.” A neighbour though observed; “they are strict and do not tolerate carelessness.” Hardship after all could be transformed into virtue.

From 1890, elementary and secondary schools across Prussia initiated new militarist and nationalist content, increasing the weekly hours of German instruction, requiring more emphasis on war history, regularly using poems such as Leipzig-local Schiller’s that lauded soldiers’ heroism and organized celebrations of the *Hohenzollern* monarchs and the defeat of France on Sedan Day. Saxony may have

²³ O&O, Pg. 46, 52

²⁴ Magnus Hirschfeld Archive for Sexology: History of Marriage in Western Civilization, online at: http://www2.hu-berlin.de/sexology/ATLAS_EN/html/history_of_marriage_in_western.html

bucked this trend somewhat, but school music across the Empire grew more belligerent and nationalistic too with songs like; “When the earth turns red with the blood of the soldiers” being sang by pupils.²⁵ As a result, youngsters “born after 1870/1871 tended especially to idealise war.”²⁶

For Marie, her domestic sphere was her only one. Her relationship with her husband and the rearing of her children made up her entire world. Her role as a wife within the professional middle class, according to Lisa Pine in her contribution to *Germany: A New Social and Economic History since 1800*, was to demonstrate the success of her husband’s trade, which meant keeping up the appearance of wealth and luxury, decorating the home lavishly and hosting parties.²⁷

However, Leipzig’s *alter Mittelstand* (literally old middle class or middle estates, that bourgeois layer of society Friedrich was becoming a part of) was not “at all confident in the future prospects of its children.” It feared for their ‘proletarianisation’ while “the lack of family income constituted the most important reason that so few children ... attended the *Gymnasias*.”²⁸ (For a brief description of the different school types of the time, please see the text box opposite).

A *Realschule* or *Gewerbeschule* (a trade school) was more typical for middle-class children who completed this at the age of 14 and then prepared for careers in business. Benninghaus, Haupt and Requate add that in 1900 the vast majority of German children left school at the age of 13 or 14 to work full-time, learning the necessary skills on the job or within a formal apprenticeship, and this gives us a clue as to how Fritz’s education proceeded.²⁹

Nannj will have been expected to follow the same path as her mother and was in all likelihood often reminded that the female sex ‘was destined for motherhood.’ Taking this into account I assume she attended a local *Hauptschule*. However, the siblings’ schools is no easy task - it’s not until a 1933 city map that one really gains a sense of the plethora of educational institutions available to the city’s burgeoning population.

The Hinsch children were in a sense fortunate. Not only was there growth in educational opportunities, but there was also a proliferation of museums, theatres and art galleries, as well as the blossoming of science and ‘progress’ during their formative years. “A period of curiosity, wealth, and rising bourgeois confidence” writes Marline Otte in *Jewish Identities in German Popular Entertainment, 1890-1933*.³⁰

Much of this was fuelled by Bismarck’s *Kulturkampf* or ‘struggle for culture’ besides Leipzig’s sheer wealth. Ceremonial openings of railway stations, town and concert halls and libraries became moments for bourgeois elites to boost the image of their town and convey a sense of optimism, wrote Carr in his *History of Germany, 1815-1990*.³¹

²⁵ Andrew Donson. *Youth in the Fatherless Land*. Harvard University Press, 2010. Pg.46

²⁶ Christine Krüge. *German History*. Vol. 29, No. 3, pg. 421

²⁷ Lisa Pine in *Germany: A New Social and Economic History since 1800*, Eds. Ogilvie and Overy. 2003. pg. 359.

²⁸ Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920. Sean Dobson, 2001. pg.40

²⁹ *Germany: A New Social and Economic History since 1800*, Eds. Ogilvie and Overy. 2003. pg. 288.

³⁰ M. Otte. *Jewish Identities in German Popular Entertainment, 1890-1933*. Cambridge University Press, 2006. Pg. 281

³¹ Carr’s *History of Germany, 1815-1990*, published 1991

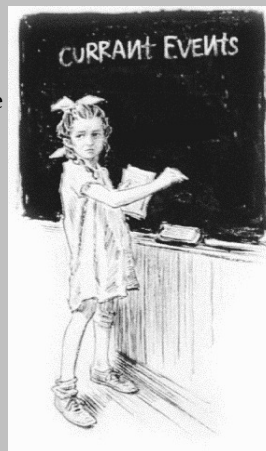
3.2 Education in Germany and Leipzig at the end of the Nineteenth Century

The nineteenth and twentieth centuries witnessed the rapid development and expansion of the German educational system, driven in part by the inadequacy of the period's elementary schools but also by the rapid population and economic growth which demanded corresponding developments in public urban services. Therefore a growing number of hospitals, schools and places for leisure activity came to be located throughout the different residential areas, which themselves became increasingly differentiated by social class (*Breuilly*, Pg. 212/3).

Following the economic crises of the 1870s, Germany's emerging industrial bourgeoisie favoured a type of school that would simultaneously provide a general education with modern languages and sciences, and which also could lead to admission to a technical college (called the *Oberrealschule*). This type of school began to be set up from 1882 onwards in Prussia, and substantially improved students' theoretical knowledge. (*Weber*, pg. 329)

Leipzig was one of the richest cities in Germany between 1880 and 1914, evidenced not only through the numerous cultural, school and church buildings but also by the State and district court, the police, prison and army barracks. Many *Gymnasias*, *Real*, civil, district and trade schools were built to accommodate the steadily increasing number of pupils, while the *Thomasschule*, *Nikolaischule* and the *Königin Carola Schule* (the most prestigious gymnasias in the town) continued to cater for the children of the wealthy elites (*Czok*, 1991).

But children of workers and the *alte Mittelständler* were still typically denied the opportunity not only to get on the university track (through the *Gymnasias* or *Oberrealschule*) but also adequate resources for their own schools (*Dobson*, 2001). In 1900, just six percent of all 13 year old boys actually attended the *Gymnasias* (*Benninghaus*, *Haupt*, *Requate*, Pg. 288) in Germany. In Leipzig, Dobson puts this figure even lower, at 3.3 percent (including the *Oberrealschule*).



Summarised from Ogilvie & Overy, Dobson, 2001, and Czok, 1991

With prosperity, patronage for the arts, especially music, boomed in Leipzig, notes Dobson.³² Music played an important role in the youngsters' education too; Nannj learnt to play the harmonica while her brother learnt the piano.

The new *Gewandhaus* or concert hall lay within easy walking distance of the Hinsch home and Fritz was known to ply his talents later on within Leipzig's famous *Gewandhausorchester*. It had two large halls which accommodated some 2000 patrons in total. The larger of the two bore the inscription '*Res severa verum gaudium*' or 'True pleasure is a serious business.' The motto had belonged to it since 1781, when its former premises had also served as an assembly hall of cloth traders (i.e. 'garment house', hence *Gewandhaus*). In 1884 it moved to the premises shown right (see also '1' in the map on pg.53). Today, Leipzig's reputation as the city of music is largely attributed to the Gewandhaus Orchestra and its standing as the world's oldest civic concert orchestra.^{33 34}



³² Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920. Dobson, 2001. pg.330

³³ <http://www.gewandhaus.de/gwh.site.postext.history-gewandhausorchester.artikel.244.html>

³⁴ An insight into the Gewandhaus milieu of the 1890s can be found within HH Richardson's book: 'Maurice Guest'



Nannj Hinsch, cca. 1887

Outside school and musical tutoring, the pair also developed their own interests. Fritz collected stamps, while Nannj adored horses (like every Prussian at the time). They probably also savoured the zoo, since from 1878 Leipzig boasted one of the first in the world. This novel animal park became one of Germany's most varied, hosting orangutans (the first such occasion these animals could be seen in the country) as well as predators.³⁵ Travelling circuses visited the city several times a year too (one or other of which was probably assisted by *Lieberoth Expeditions*). This will have made for special Sunday afternoon treats.³⁶

Alongside Leipzig's diverse cultural offer, the pair will have often been 'at home' (perhaps both metaphorically as well as physically) in rural Querfurt. A year after Nannj was born a branch railway line connected Querfurt with Röblingen. This not only made it easier for her and her brother to visit *Oma* and *Opa* and their cousins there – Oskar Lieberoth (see Chapter I) might have been the eldest, but there were surely more, recalling Marie had five elder brothers – but it will also have meant their mother could keep a closer eye on her aging parents.

The length of their stays is speculative but I suspect they visited often, and for longer periods too. The *Adressbücher* (despite having no official status according to Olaf Hillert of Leipzig's *StadtArchiv*), suggest the Hinsch's were 'away' from Leipzig between 1886 and 1890.³⁷ According to Martina Wermes of the *Sächsisches Staatsarchiv*, Friedrich probably still travelled a lot as part of his trade (however, I am also not sure he wasn't engaged in evading Saxon taxes either)!

In January 1887, Gottlieb Lieberoth (Marie's father) passed away (aged 84). His carpentry business and premises were likely taken over by Marie's eldest brother, Christian, who six months later sent his son, Oskar, now 20 and a joiner like his forefathers, to Leipzig to further his education and vocation. Oskar's residential record shows he lived in a second floor flat in the same street the Hinsch's 'had' lived: *Kurprinz Straße, 8* (where a *Schneider* and *Tischler* incidentally resided on the floor above).³⁸ It also reveals Oskar often travelled back and forth to Querfurt during subsequent years. In all likelihood he 'time-shared' the apartment with the Hinsch's, since the 1891 city *Adressbuch* reveals number 8 became the family's home henceforth. Oskar meanwhile remained nearby over the coming years, which means the siblings' cousin stayed in close contact as they grew into adolescence.³⁹

³⁵ http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zoo_Leipzig

³⁶ According to Marline Otte writing on pg. 62 of *Jewish Identities in German Popular Entertainment, 1890-1933* published by CUP in 2006, "Attending the circus on a Sunday afternoon show was not taboo for respectable women." Paula Busch, one of the most powerful circus magnates of the time wrote in the first decades of the 20th century, "a woman goes to the circus to see her children happy."

³⁷ According to Sean Dobson in *Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920*, only the (taxpaying) heads of households were listed, while sub-tenants were typically omitted. See pg. 34, 42, 47 and 335. Conversely, Marie and Friedrich's residential records reveal they remained in Leipzig throughout this period (or don't indicate any travels).

³⁸ On the ground floor were a restaurateur, tobacconist and dentist.

³⁹ Marie's nephew then moved to neighbouring *Bruder Straße* and from January 1892 lived in *Sophien str.*, less than a kilometer down the road, towards the *Bayerische Bahnhof*

The same year Marie's father died, the first portraits of her and her family appear. Shown right and on the previous page, the costumes and sombre looks not only suggest a collective in mourning but again attest the city remained their home. According to the photos' reverse sides, Leipzig's *Eulenstein* studio lay a few minutes from its *Dresdner Bahnhof* and opposite the 1882 *Krystall Palast* – a convention centre and entertainment venue for variety shows.⁴⁰



Friedrich and Marie Hinsch
in typical *Wilhelmine* pose,
cca. 1887

Before we continue with the Hinsch's domestic lives and Friedrich's career building, let's catch up with some of the broader social and political affairs at the national and international level. Almost twenty years had passed since a united, imperial German state emerged from a hodgepodge of more than thirty disparate states. So what results could it show? Was Germany already a 'nation'?

According to historians writing in '*Germany since 1800*,' the country's *Mittelstand* guaranteed a "harmonious society in the face of the increasing anonymity of life and the polarization of social forces."⁴¹ Other historians, however, aren't so generous, noting that despite the erection of equestrian statues of national heroes, and the construction of grandiose buildings...the heroism of this culture was counterposed by tensions and strains that lay behind the pompous facades of bourgeois life.

Critical reactions came from a variety of perspectives, including writers and social thinkers. Several explored the shift from an organic traditional community to a more alienating, individualistic society and chronicled the personal strains and family crises behind these social conventions. It's hardly surprising then that while Leipzig and its industry developed, social problems grew, including unemployment, inadequate housing, alcoholism and social deprivation. Saxony lost 388 lives to suicide in 1883 alone, which put it among the highest levels in Europe (Czok).

It was the social strata below the bourgeoisie that suffered most, including oppressive poverty, particularly as a consequence of underemployment. Here the working classes found their natural allies among socialist and communist associations, groups who in turn were brandished "*enemies of the Reich*" by Bismarck. Together with the Catholic Centre party and the Social Democrat Party they were perceived to threaten the very foundations of the Empire. The chancellor's intent was therefore to repress them while 'preserving the traditional Prussian social order' which was dominated by *Junkers*, the owners of large landed estates.⁴²

⁴⁰ Hosting circuses (including Paula Busch's) according to: de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Krystallpalast_Variété, besides 3500 guests.

⁴¹ Benninghaus, Haupt and Requate in *Germany since 1800*. O&O (Eds), pg. 300

⁴² Questions on German History, pg. 178

The polarization of social forces and the tensions and strains spilled over into state affairs. Two separate assassination attempts were made in spring 1878 on the Emperor, *Kaiser Wilhelm I*. They were blamed solely on the social democrats. Publications of socialist agitators were outlawed and their authors arrested by the police and expelled from Germany. Workers' groups were forcibly disbanded.



By 1890 the government recognized its policy towards the Empire's enemies was not working and decided against extending their anti-socialist law. Instead Bismarck tried to "tame the working class" by expanding the provision of state welfare. He introduced three all-encompassing social insurance systems: for sickness, industrial accidents and old-age pensions (see poster left). His aim was to engender among the 'unpropertied people' the certainty of a secure pension. He believed that people who have this prospect are far more satisfied and easier to handle than those who do not.

In doing so, he succeeded to implement the world's first welfare state. But his attempt to use its provision as a means of alienating the working class from social democracy failed. Only Germany's dynamic growth, which transformed it into Europe's (and nearly the world's) most powerful industrialized country kept the lid on the smouldering tensions in society and prevented them erupting into the open.⁴³

That dynamic growth had been a long time in coming, with the years 1873-1896 characterised as the 'Great Depression.' The economic cycle turned up again in the 1890s and rapid growth spawned a second wave of industrialisation and technical development.⁴⁴ Total productivity rose by about 90 percent during this period, with the rise highest in the textile (115 percent) and metal industries (270 percent).⁴⁵ The construction industry too regained its 1875 peak in 1892, as electric and motorized cranes enabled the construction of tall buildings in densely crowded areas.

⁴³ Questions on German History, pg. 182-5

⁴⁴ Tipton, O&O, pg. 123, 132

⁴⁵ Wellhöner and Wixforth, O&O, pg. 158-9

New buildings sprang up across Leipzig and on the Hinsch's 'doorstep' too. In the same year the new *Gewandhaus* opened (see '1' on the 1910 map right), the *Panorama* (see '2' and the picture below) appeared at *Rosßplatz* 5. Its groundfloor housed one of the largest restaurants in Leipzig.

In 1888, the foundation stone of the highest court in Germany, the *Reichsgericht* ('3' on the map) was laid. Designed in Italian Renaissance style, it opened in 1895 and featured two large courtyards, a central cupola and a large portico at the entrance.

And just after work got underway on that, construction started in 1889 on *Café Bauer* (see also '2' on the map). Lying just beyond the *Panorama* at *Rosßplatz* 6 (shown below right), it opened for business in 1890: a clubhouse highlighting the harmony of society. Until the outbreak of World War I it was one of the most popular, magnificent but also most expensive establishments of its kind in Leipzig. Its ground and first floor offered sumptuous dining rooms, a reading and a billiard room, while above it were apartments. It was also a meeting place for various interest groups, including a riding club who benefited from the 85m horse track that stretched behind it.⁴⁶

Between 1888 and 1890, an entire street full of houses was demolished parallel to *Kurprinzstraße* (including even some within the street) to make way for a new market hall (see '5' on the map above). Because Leipzigers had outgrown the traditional *Markt* in the city centre, this new hall was commissioned. Beginning Wednesday 27th May 1891, over 1000 distributors and producers of everything from meat, sausage, poultry, fish, fruits and vegetables to flowers, plants, dairy products, and baked goods, benefitted covered market stalls. It was almost always fully booked says Carlov, especially on traditional market days: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.⁴⁷



Above:
Map of Leipzig's southern ring, 1910

Centre:
Looking southeast from the *Promenade* towards the *Panorama*, appx. 1910, with the blue roof of the *Café Bauer* behind (LeipzigInfo.de)

Below:
Café Bauer in the centre at *Rosßplatz* 6. To its left is the *Prussian Hotel* rebuilt 1881-1883 (*Rosßplatz* 7 and *Kurprinzstr.* 2 until 1953). To its far right one can see the rear of the *Panorama*. The postcard is cca. 1900

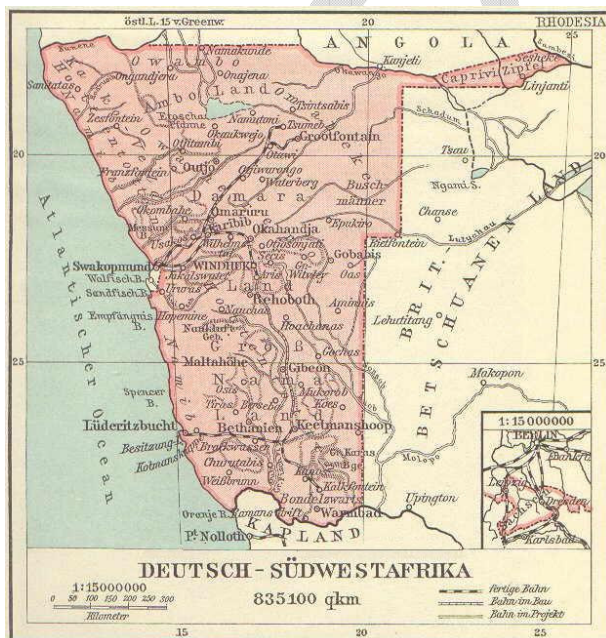
⁴⁶According to www.leipzig-lexikon.de

⁴⁷ Leipzig. Ein verlorenes Stadtbild. Carla Carlov, 1997

Towards the end of the nineteenth century, German workers' living standards began to improve and the most extreme forms of deprivation began to disappear. The threat of famine, which had recurred up to the mid 19th century, receded under the impact of agricultural improvements. Unemployment was about 3 percent on average between 1890 and 1913,⁴⁸ while real wages of workers in industry, trade and transportation almost *doubled* between the foundation of the German Empire in 1871 and World War I. At the same time, the working day became shorter, and the position of workers' families was further improved by self-help organizations.⁴⁹

The Empire's foundation marked the emergence in central Europe of not only an economic power but a military one too, which other major countries viewed as a threat. The enmity of France, resulting from the annexation of Alsace-Lorraine was a great burden, while others feared Germany would embark upon a policy of national conquest.⁵⁰ Bismarck established a complex set of alliances to send a clear signal it was 'satiated.' It shared a triple-alliance with Austria-Hungary and Italy, and a 'Reinsurance Treaty' with Russia. With this it incorporated the Empire into continental Europe's traditional balance of power that guaranteed its security.⁵¹ However, strains remained within the Empire's national minorities, which up until its demise in 1918 were never really integrated and created serious internal problems. A difficult childhood then for the young evolving nation.

Following the German Emperor's death in March 1888, he was succeeded by his 29 year old son Wilhelm II (Queen Victoria's first grandchild) in June. This inaugurated the period known as *Wilhelmine* Germany which lasted until 1918. Problematically though, Wilhelm wanted to be "his own Chancellor." In the foreign policy field, he strived for world power status and a "place in the sun" for Germany.



In 1890, he set out his manifesto: "our aim is to become a world power; our means a strong navy." A tack which set Germany on a collision course with Great Britain, destroying the equilibrium which had been nurtured among Europe's leading powers. It resulted in Germany's isolation. As the imperial powers rushed to divide up the world between them, Germany took in parts of Southwest Africa (today Namibia), Cameroon, Togo, a region of East Africa and a number of pacific islands. But grandiose speeches and the brutality of its "expeditionary corps" further damaged Germany's standing in the world.⁵²

German Southwest Africa (deutsche-schutzgebiete.de)

⁴⁸ Stachura, O&O, pg. 231

⁴⁹ Benninghaus, Haupt and Requate, O&O, pg. 308

⁵⁰ Questions on German History, pg. 168

⁵¹ Questions on German History, pg. 193

⁵² Questions on German History, pg. 194

Bismarck recognized that an ungovernable country with an adventurous foreign policy was a recipe for disaster. He saw Wilhelm's approach a threat to his policy of containing socialism and nationalism and his concept for maintaining peace in Europe. In 1890 he resigned and during his retirement he remarked; "20 years after I'm gone, it will all be over." Twenty years and one month after his death in October 1898, the German Empire came to an end in November 1918.

The shift to a policy of imperialism (or *Weltpolitik*), marked the final attempt to mask tensions at home... by successes abroad.⁵³ However, it only did more to strengthen the conservatives' grasp on power as claims for a world empire were rapturously received. Yet nothing more than a series of short-lived governments followed Bismarck's: Caprivi (1891-4), Hohenlohe (1894-1900) and Bülow (1900-1909). None were as strong as his, neither were they as strong as he.⁵⁴

Nevertheless, the century's last decade saw the dramatic growth of Leipzig's population. The influx of migrants and their offspring were already mentioned. Statistically, however, the most important was the incorporation of neighbouring towns and settlements (e.g. *Gohlis* and *Eutritzsch* to the north, *Plagwitz* and *Lindenau* to the west). Dobson notes that between 1875 and 1911, as much as 45 percent of the population's increase was due to the incorporation of suburbs.⁵⁵ However, because the vast majority of suburban growth was also due to in-migration, it actually contributed as much as two-thirds of Leipzig's growth.⁵⁶ With other German cities demonstrating similar growth patterns, by 1900 the Reich's citizens might have boasted they were among the most urban people in Western Europe.⁵⁷

Returning to Friedrich's 1891 entry in the city's *Adreßbuch*, he's now listed a '*Schneidermeister*.' That represented the culmination of 20 years arduous practice and appraisal and that suffix *-meister* was an important indicator of status, upon which his entire sense of self-worth depended on not being confused with workers but rather being seen part of the bourgeoisie.⁵⁸ As previously mentioned, it also meant he could charge a significant fee for each day's work.

So just what sort of salary was Friedrich making now? According to research published in 2001, tax returns reveal 61 percent of Leipzig's master artisans earned below 1250 marks for the whole of 1893, placing their income just above that of skilled workers.⁵⁹ It doesn't sound like he was rolling in money, but it also doesn't tell the whole story regarding the tailor's income. Because Friedrich dealt mainly in cash he was in a position to hide income from tax authorities while counting a good portion of personal consumption as a business expense.

⁵³ Questions on German History, pg. 170

⁵⁴ **Reference missing:** It's neither Overly and Ogilvie, nor Questions

⁵⁵ Of the remainder, 23 percent was on account of in-migration, while 33 percent was due to births (bolstered in the decade before the war by a dramatic drop in the mortality rate). Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920. Dobson, 2001. pg.19

⁵⁶ Migrants did not only head to the city. By the end of the 19th century, some five million people had also left the country, most but not all for the US. Guinane, O&O, Pg 47

⁵⁷ Guinane, O&O, pg. 52

⁵⁸ Sean Dobson, *Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920*. Pg.25.

⁵⁹ Sean Dobson, *Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920*. Pg. 28

I've already raised the question, where did Friedrich work, but when I came across the photo below I was left wondering, is that Friedrich Hinsch in the centre? The portrait shows a *Schneiderstube* in *Neumarkt* (see '6' on the map on pg. 53), a street within the city centre and just 500 metres from the Hinsch's home. It was also taken in 1890, a date which coincides well with Friedrich's 'graduation.'

In summer 2011, I visited the *Stadtgeschichtliches Museum Leipzig* to ask Christoph Kaufmann of its *Fotothek* whether he knew who stands in the picture? "No one really knows for sure, but others have asked the same question," he told me.⁶⁰ Yet if one compares that *Schneider* with the portrait of Friedrich opposite (or even a photo taken some 15 years later – see pg. 98), it's hard to argue they are not the same person. What's more, Friedrich was 38 years old in 1890 while the chap in Hermann Walter's portrait could well have been too.



Schneiderstube (tailor's workshop),
Neumarkt 20, 1890 (Karl Czok)

In the *Schneiderstube* shown left, daylight streams in through the windows. Light and air conditions tended to be poor in the heavier industries, however, lighter industries fared better. Traditionally the tailor required nothing more than scissors, thread, a needle, a thimble and an iron – tools that had sufficed for him to exercise his profession for centuries. However, the industrial revolution brought opportunity: from 1888, for instance, the fur sewing machine was equipped with a small electric motor, which boosted the growth of small and decentralized enterprises, in turn increasing the demand for skilled workers. According to Duclaud, younger masters tolerated the emerging competition better than their elders.

The *Schneider* pictured above is surrounded by youngsters – apprentices. The lad in the foreground not surprisingly works with fur. Apprentices and journeymen were useful cheap labour to master artisans. They were brought in through the Association of German Tailors. Traditionally funded by their fathers as a path to a family's economic survival, this form of training system not only introduced youngsters to the 'mysteries of the trade' but also enabled masters to retain their superiority: the more *bürgerlich* 'Sie' was used by the *Lehrlings* rather than the informal and proletarian *Du*, thus helping to perpetuate an authoritarian society. It fostered a milieu in which master artisans were the father figures and upheld clear psychological, not to mention economic advantages over ordinary skilled labourers.

Probably for these reasons, Friedrich's affluence grew (despite never taking out an ad in the *Adressbücher*). This is evident from the photograph of him and his family overleaf. An artisan's livelihood particularly depended on him cultivating a core clientele, notes Dobson, and the mind boggles at whom that might have included for Friedrich: *Gewandhaus* musicians, a popular resident circus troupe⁶¹ or maybe a crop

⁶⁰ The 1890 *Adressbuch* shows no tailor worked at *Neumarkt, 20*. The street as a whole, however, had 16 tailors!

⁶¹ According to Marline Otte's *Jewish Identities in German Popular Entertainment, 1890-1933* (see pg. 118), the circus experienced its 'golden age' between 1870 and the first world war. *Zirkus Renz* was the resident circus at the

of Leipzig's growing elite of company directors? But in order to retain a loyal customer base, Friedrich now had to stay put. Friends or relatives in important positions, like August Lieberoth will no doubt have been to his advantage.⁶²

It was a good time to be in Leipzig. Its boom time afforded many a privileged existence. A popular pastime among the affluent were visits to portrait studios, which quickly became a widespread middle class popular delight, writes Karin Schambach in her essay: *Photographie - ein Bürgerliches Medium*. The first photographers in Germany had appeared in Munich and in Berlin in 1841 and then spontaneously grew in all German towns. As early as 1843, they had appeared in towns with as few as 20,000 residents. By 1872, Leipzig boasted 31 *ateliers*, second only to Frankfurt am Main's 40.

This hardbacked photograph shows the Hinsch's in 1890 or 1891, around the time Friedrich qualified a master and 'returned' to *Kurprinzstraße*. Nannö is 7 or 8 while Fritz is 11 or 12. They look every bit a bourgeois family!



3.3 Leipzig's most famous photographer: Hermann Walter



Hermann Walter was a German photographer born in 1838 in *Ebeleben, Thuringia*. He is regarded as the most important late 19th century visual chronicler of Leipzig. In 1862 he moved to the city and by 1879 his atelier was based on *Fleischerplatz* (see top left of the map on pg. 39). Here in his front yard he constructed an atelier from a former potter's studio. As with all photographic "Salons" of the time, the building had a glass roof, one side of which was fully glazed.

Walter discovered the picture postcard as an emerging revenue source and subsequently produced his own. In addition to hundreds of cityscapes, he also produced film recordings. From the mid-1880s he focused solely on photographing the city of Leipzig on behalf of its council.

He died in 1909, bestowing upon today's Leipzigers an enormous archive that documents the city at its prime. Karl Czok published many of these in his 1991 book: *Leipzig. Fotografien 1867 bis 1929*. (NB: The above photograph of the Hinsch's was not made by Hermann Walter but by Bruno Reidel in nearby *Rosenthalgasse 9*!)

(Source: [de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermann_Walter_\(Fotograf\)](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermann_Walter_(Fotograf)))

Krystallpalast according to: wiki/Krystallpalast_Variété, while Leipzig had been visited as far back as the 17th century by one of the best-known Jewish circuses, Blumenfeld (see Pg. 47). As late as the 1920s, the city offered at least six venues, one of which lay 2km south of *Rosßplatz* in Connewitz, another of which lay 2km east near Reudnitz, according to entertainment weekly, *Das Programm* in 1923-1924. Others were the *Mess-Platz* (east of the city), *Eutritzsch* and *Schönefeld* to the north.

⁶² An Artists-Lexikon by Signor Saltarino notes that August Lieberoth was involved in circus transport which could have led to a variety of opportunities. See: *Artisten-Lexikon: biograph. Notizen über Kunstreiter, Dompteure, Gymnastiker, Clowns, Akrobaten ... aller Länder u. Zeiten*; Ed. Lintz. Düsseldorf, 1895.

Two or so years later, in April 1893 Friedrich and his family moved to a more prominent city-centre location: *Gewand Gässchen* 4 (shown as '1' on the map below). As the map reveals, the passageway led onto *Neumarkt* and was a minute or so's walk from *Neumarkt* 20 ('2'), where the *Schneiderstube* portrait a couple of pages previous was made.



Had Friedrich moved house to be closer to his studio? The assembly hall of cloth traders and foreign merchants was located nearby at the *Gewandhaus* (see '3' on the map left) and since many tailors cultivated links with related industries, including clothing and shoes, not to mention "*Gewand Gässchen* ha[ving] long been part of Leipzig's inner city's history of trading and culture,"⁶³ work probably brought Friedrich to the heart of the old town. The location may also have lent son Fritz (now 14 and over his schooling) opportunity to engage with worldly merchants and traders as he began his own apprenticeship.⁶⁴ His appears to have been focused on trade, and his master may well have been the gold, silver, coins and military effects' shopkeeper, *C. Gustav Thieme*, who occupied the groundfloor of neighbouring number 5 (it may be no coincidence that a decade or so later a chap by the same name bore witness to Fritz marriage).

In 1894, Friedrich became a member of the *Schneiderinnung*,⁶⁵ that exclusive club of master craftsmen. This allowed him to label his work and even issue certificates of mastership, journeymanhood and apprenticeship (see also text box 2.4 within Chapter II). But during the family's residence of *Gewand Gässchen*, Marie's mother passed away in January 1895, aged 80. Had this anything to do with the fact that a year later, in April 1896, the Hinsch's returned to the vicinity of *Kurprinzstraße*?⁶⁶

⁶³ Das War Das 20. Jahrhundert in Leipzig. Wartberg Verlag. 1999. Martina Güldemann, pg. 7.

⁶⁴ From 1893 some floors of the *Gewandhaus* were reconstructed as booths for a planned 'samples' trade fair that ran until 1896. See: [http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gewandhaus_\(Leipzig\)](http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gewandhaus_(Leipzig))

⁶⁵ As indicated in the 1894 *Adreßbuch*

⁶⁶ Dobson notes that master artisans typically owned their own homes "in higher percentages than the population as a whole" (See pg. 336). Given the timing of these events (that perhaps included a windfall inheritance?), I momentarily wondered whether Friedrich was now the proud owner of his? Probably not, is the conclusion I draw as the 'fine print' of the 1896 *Adreßbuch* does not include a 'H' for *Hausbesitzer* beside his name.

Their home became the former hotel, *Der Kurprinz*, at *Rosßplatz 8*, with the Hinsch's living on its third floor. The building's exterior is pictured in the painting on page 42. I imagine their home (and his *Stube*) was up in the attic. Remarkably, online research has yielded a photo showing its view towards the 'square' in front (shown right) while a picture of the building's front portal is included in the Annex. The view to its rear; *Kurprinz Hof*, is to be found on page 44.



Rosßplatz looking north cca.1886, where the Hinsch's lived until 1906 (*Stadtgeschichtliches MuseumLeipzig*)

One can imagine the family will have appreciated the building and this 'greenbelt' location for its spaciousness, better air and relative tranquility. It looks for all intents and purposes, as if they were 'looking in' on old Leipzig. But why, I wondered, did they keep returning to this area?

Rosßplatz' name originated in the beginning of the nineteenth century when its concourse had functioned as a trading place for horses.⁶⁷ By the 1850s, woolen markets had replaced horse trading,⁶⁸ which naturally guaranteed Friedrich supplies of his most crucial raw material: thread. It also brought him in contact with many a potential customer too, probably even after the new market hall opened nearby in 1891.

There's another angle worth considering too. By 1900 *Rosßplatz* consisted almost entirely of hotels and guesthouses.⁶⁹ The *Hotel Wartburg* (just right of the Hinsch home at number 10) particularly served travelling artists,⁷⁰ and costume repairs will have always been needed by artists on the road. A firm relationship with both theatre directors and their acts' impresarios would therefore guarantee it was Friedrich who was 'on call' to ensure the next show went off as planned.⁷¹

⁶⁷ <http://www.leipzig-lexikon.de/STRASSEN/01004.HTM>

⁶⁸ <http://www.leipzig-lexikon.de/GARTPARK/schpark.htm>

⁶⁹ *Leipzig um 1900. Die Innenstadt in kolorien Ansichtskarten*. Heinz Peter Brogiato. Lehmsstedt Verlag, 2009.

⁷⁰ Signor Saltarino, Ed. Lintz. *Artisten-Lexikon: biograph. Notizen über Kunstreiter, Dompteure, Gymnastiker, Clowns, Akrobaten ... aller Länder u. Zeiten*; Düsseldorf, 1895.-

⁷¹ Despite many tailors being listed in Saltarino's 1895 Artist Lexikon, the Hinsch name is unfortunately absent!

As the century slowly drew to a close, Friedrich Hinsch appears to have put his family on a firm footing since arriving in Leipzig, no doubt supported by the Lieberoths. A little over twenty years after he set foot in the city a journeyman, it was his son's turn now to depart, aged 17 or thereabouts in 1897, to pursue his own apprenticeship.⁷²

He broadened the knowledge accumulated in shopstore management by studying the tobacco trade: of course a thriving industry in the city at that time. Leipzig in fact was renowned for it: in 1865 it had established the first ever centrally and nationally organized labour union: the German Cigar Workers' Union.⁷³ Besides this, he was undoubtedly assisted by various Hinsch neighbours, recalling those mentioned earlier that dealt with 'brown gold.'

If only to highlight a few other every day sights as the decade drew to a close, in 1896, the horse-drawn tram was replaced by the electric variety. The first line ran between Gohlis to Leipzig's north and Connewitz to its south and by the turn of the century, Leipzig had a well-established and widespread public transport network, serving a city which had grown three-fold compared with the 150,000 inhabitants when the Hinsch's arrived. Trams 2, 14 and 16 now rumbled past their home, connecting them with both the west and north sides of the town.



Further up from *Rosßplatz*, the demolition of the *Pleissenburg* castle (pictured left) commenced in 1897.⁷⁴ On September 19th, 1899, the foundation stone was laid for Leipzig's *Neues Rathaus* (new town hall), a necessity as the city's administration could no longer function within the old one on the *Markt* (pictured in textbox 2.2). An enormous building was designed for the bourgeoisie to "express its strength and power."

Pleissenburg Castle (1880). Source: Leipziginfo.de

Of course some people and places remained the same during Fritz's absence. The *Markt* survived a proposal to tear down the *Altes Rathaus* and be replaced with a department store, and so looks much the same – even today – as it did then. Nannj too, now almost 16, meanwhile completed her schooling and despite the demand for women in the textile and bookbinding industries, became a lady of leisure. She contented herself with trips to the hair salons and coffee houses, occasionally the racetrack and the *Gewandhaus*.

⁷² The absence of 'zum reisen' within his own residential records (which usually accompanied short-term travels) is best explained by the fact that journeymen notoriously did not bother to report their sojourns to the police (partly because they had their own *Wanderbuch* to record comings and goings, partly because in the absence of secure employment prospects, they could not be sure they would remain in any one place for very long). Dobson, *Authority and Upheaval in Leipzig, 1910-1920*. pg. 303

⁷³ A chap called *Friedrich Fritzsche* played a leading role. Given he represented Düsseldorf in the *Reichstag* between 1877-1881, and was a member of the *Schleswig-Holstein Freikorps* fighting against Danish rule in 1848, it's remotely possible he inspired both Friedrich and Fritz Hinsch's career paths.

⁷⁴ The castle itself was revered by Protestants as it had been visited by the Christian church reformer, Martin Luther in 1519 when he gave an evangelical sermon in its chapel on Pentecost Sunday.

Friedrich accompanied (and dressed) her when demand for his services allowed – he was ever on the look out for an eligible suitor. Mother Marie, now 41, ensured her family remained well-fed and occasionally hosted tea and dinner parties for family including nephew Oskar Lieberoth (who since 1896 had been living in Paunsdorf, ten kilometers east of Leipzig) and older acquaintances like August Lieberoth.⁷⁵ Together they took leisurely strolls in the *Ratholz* (woods) and the *Johanna park*.

Come the turn of the century, I wonder, however, whether our Prussian forefathers stopped to think where their ambition, affluence and consumption would lead under the auspices of Wilhelm II? Could they ever have imagined the trauma they as citizens would both endure and inflict on themselves, their children and neighbours over the coming century, out of greed and competition for resources? And how so much would eventually be sacrificed and lost? Maybe it was Bismarck alone who foresaw the first of these losses; the very *Kaissereich* he had help found, less than 20 years down the road.

⁷⁵ *Paunsdorf* was a rapidly expanding industrial suburb. See: de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paunsdorf. Unfortunately, Oskar's paper trail runs dry at this point. His residential records suggest the suburb is where he settled, however, no published resources (e.g. *Adreßbücher*) refer to him (NB: Paunsdorf was only incorporated into Leipzig in 1922 which may explain the information 'gap' but for all intents and purposes it otherwise appears Oskar may have returned to Querfurt).