Film:
"Hin nach Texas"
Or
"Off to Texas"
about
Petri
And
Lungkwitz

1996 & 1998 Research
2002 Filming
2003 Released
&
2007 Award

by Helga von Schweinitz

# Released 2023 by Helga von Schweinitz

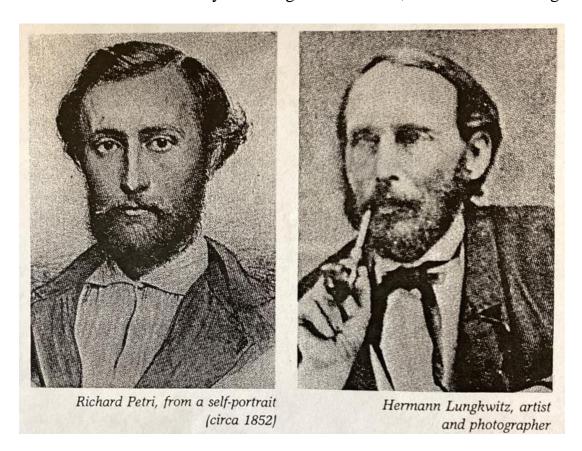
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## Introduction

This is a compendium of the making of the Film "Hin nach Texas" or "Off to Texas". Helga and Hans contributed to the research and making of the film. The film was completed in 2003. In 2007 the film won a Remi award at the 40<sup>th</sup> WorldFest at the Houston International Film Festival.

The film is about Richard Petri and Hermann Lungkwitz, who were two artists who left Dresden Germany and emigrated to Texas, near Fredericksburg.



## A Brief History:

The early influx of well-educated professional Germans into the Texas life-stream made a marked impact also in such artistic fields as painting, lithography, sculpture, theater and music. Two competent painters who cam with the immigrants were Hermann Lungkwitz and Richard Petri. They were brothers-in-law who settled near Fredericksburg in 1851. Working there and in New Braunfels, they left sensitive painting of Texas scenes and of the Indians they encountered on the frontier.





1996 August: Helga and Hans met Karl Knietzsch, who would later become the director and producer of the film.

1998 Fall: Karl Knietzsch with Heidrun and David Suenderhauf returned to Austin, and with Helga and Hans, they researched Petri and Lungkwitz.

2002 April: Heidrun, David and assistant John Smith came to Austin to produce the film.









In the summer of 2002, Helga wrote the following article for the GTHS Journal Vol XXIV #2.

# Petri and Lungkwitz Star in Documentary GTHS Helps with Cultural Project

Report by Helga von Schweinitz

When Richard Petri (1824 - 1857) and his brother-in-law Hermann Lungkwitz (1813 - 1891) moved from Saxony to Texas in 1851, they must have been dreaming of future fame and success in their established profession as artists. After al1, they had been trained at the acclaimed Royal Academy of Arts in Dresden and had won awards and recognition back home. It had been the political situation in Germany and their involvement in the fight for democracy that made them decide to dare a new beginning in America. They brought along four female members of the family, including Lungkwitz's mother, who was almost seventy years old.

Folks on the western frontier did not have a lot of money to spend on oil paintings and pencil sketches in those days. So the two artists bought a farm near Fredericksburg to make a living, Petri drowned in 1857 near the farm, Lungkwitz later moved to San Antonio, became a portrait photographer, gave magic lantern shows and, in his final years, worked in the Texas Land Office in Austin. Although they never became rich and famous, over the years their work became ever more appreciated by Texans interested in art and history, Lungkwitz for his role as early Texan landscape painter, Petri mainly for his drawing of Indians and his documentation of life on the farm in his days.

Fast forward to 1996 when my husband, Hans and I had a house guest from Dresden, Karl Knietzsch a friend of a friend. He is a journalist, always in search of new topics. Suffering through the hot days of August with margaritas and sitting for hours in the swimming pool, I found time to tell him about the German-Texans, including those artists from Dresden, and I supplied him with books and other reference material. In the months to come Knietzsch not only published several articles on various German-Texans and the two artists, he also wrote a prize-winning film script for a documentary or two. That was picked up by Heidrun Suenderhauf, a successful producer and director of several documentaries on musicians and artists.

Her company, Suenderhauf Produktion, obtained a grant from a German television station to go to Texas to do research for an educational video on the artists from Dresden. In the fall of 1998, Karl Knietzsch with Heidrun and David Suenderhauf

spent three weeks in Centra1 Texas locating the art works and documents, sorting out what would be interesting, meeting with dozens of people and fine-tuning the script. Since the grant was small, Hans and I home-hosted them,1et them use our cars and helped with research The board of directors of the German-Texan Heritage Society was quite enthusiastic about the project and let me mention GTHS as co-sponsor of the project as long as – of course – no expenses were involved. Some GTHS members helped out in various ways.

However, just before the crew was scheduled to do the final filming the TV company had a change of budget priorities and cancelled the rest of the grant. It took until the spring of 2002 to find another small grant from the government of Saxony. Again the team - this time consisting of Heidrun, David and assistant John Smith – spent three weeks as our guests, and I found myself very involved with every aspect of the adventure.

These were tightly scheduled days with filming not only the many objects of interest but also interviewing their owners, mostly descendants of Lungkwitz. It was very uplifting to discover that by now many paintings and sketches are in the best of Texas museums, archives and galleries, some having been purchased at prices hovering around \$100,000. By mentioning the support in spirit from GTHS, I gained access (though not always fee free) to the institutional locations where we had to film like in Austin the Governor's Mansion, the Capitol, the Land Office, the Center for American History, the Austin History Center, the Texas Memorial Museum, the State Archives; in San Antonio the Witte Museum, the San Antonio Public Library, The Alamo (the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library), the institute of Texan Cultures, Jack Judson's Magic Lantern Museum, Guenther's Pioneer Flour Mill, Harry Halff's Gallery, the Beethoven Maennerchor; in Houston the Bayou Bend Collection in the Museum of Fine Arts; in Dallas the Valley House Gallery; in Fredericksburg the Gillespie County Historical Society and the Pioneer Museum; in New Braunfels the Sophienburg Museum and Archives. Ln most places we were allowed to film interviews with their very knowledgeable experts

The support and welcome we received of the many private owners of paintings and memorabilia were overwhelming and often left the German film crew speechless. We had barbeque dinners, elegant tea settings, invitations to family reunions and heard-many a story that can't even be told in public.

Had there been more time, meaning more money to pay the camera crew and for leasing of the equipment and the nights in cheap motels when away from Austin,

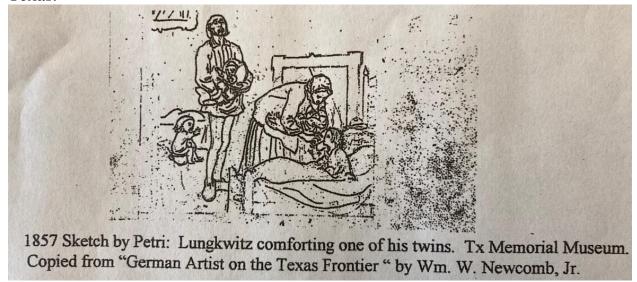
much more could have been included. Since the giving of the grant and the arrival of the film crew were just days apart, we had little time for long term planning. So little time, so much to shoot.

It will be a great one-hour educational film not only on these two Texan painters who immigrated from Germany, but also on their struggles and way life over here and - this is special - on their background in Germany including scenes filmed in Dresden, Halle and Bremerhaven. Their story resembles those of many German immigrants to Texas.

The original version of the documentary will be in German with all the interviews of Texans translated into German. It is scheduled to be released in the spring of 2003. Then comes the English edition which is naturally of greater interest to viewers on this side of the Atlantic. Some money has been budgeted for this however, to do a good job, to have it dubbed professionally, additional funds have to be found somewhere ~ most likely not in Germany. Descendants of Lungkwitz have contributed some money already, but more is needed. If you know of a source, even if it is your own bank account, let me know T

(512-441-2089) or contact the GTHS office. GTI-IS will get a free German and English copy to use for educational programs.

The working title of the documentary is "Hin nachTexas" (Off to Texas). It is a great vehicle to tell the story of German -Texan immigrants and their influence on Texas.



## In 2003 the film was complete and Released.

HERMANN LUNGKWITZ wurde 1813 in Halle a. d. Saale geboren RICHARD PETRI in Dresden im Jahre 1824. Sie lemten sich in der 1840er Jahren kennen, als beide an der Königlich Sächsischer Akademie der Künste zu Dresden studierten. Dort erwarben sie beide Anerkennung und Preise für ihre Arbeiten. Zusammen mit Richan Wagner und anderen Deutschen, die später berühmt wurden, nahmer sie an politischen Unruhen teil, die in der Revolution von 1848 ihre Höhepunkt erreichten. Kurz danach entschieden sich die beiden Maler nach Nordamerika auszuwandern.

Lungkwitz hatte inzwischen Petris Schwester Elise geheiratet. Mit noch anderen Familienangehörigen siedelten sie sich 1850 im Texas Hill Country bei Fredericksburg an. Während sie sich den Lebensunterhalt in der Landwirtschaft erarbeiteten, malten und zeichneten sie weiterhin. Lungkwitz wurde bekannt für seine romantischen Landschaften, Petri für seine Darstellung des Lebens auf der Farm und der Indianer in seiner Umgebung.

Petri starb 1857, er war erst 33 Jahre alt. Lungkwitz war jedoch eine lange Karriere beschert. Unter anderem lehrte er Kunst und Malen, er gab Laterna Magica Vorstellungen, hatte ein Portrait Fotostudio und arbeitete als der erste Fotograf in der Texas General Land Office. Seine Malerei gab er nie auf. Zu Beginn des Bürgerkrieges zog er mit seiner Familie nach San Antonio, später nach Austin, wo er 1892 im Alter von 79 Jahren starb.

DIE GESCHICHTE VON PETRI UND LUNGKWITZ erzählt von zwe gebildeten jungen Deutschen, die in den 'wilden Westen' von Texas einwanderten und dort die Entwicklung von Kultur und Kunst bedeuten beeinflussten. Die Werke von Lungkwitz und Petri werden heute hoch geschätzt und sind in den besten Museen und Gallerien, in öffentlicher Gebäuden und in distingulerten Privatsammlungen zu finden.

Titelbilder mit freundlicher Genehmigung von Rocky Schenck.
LINKS: Selbstportrait, Richard Petri

Sünderhauf Film Production c/o GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY POB 684171, Austin, TX 78768-4171 TOLL-FREE: (866) 482-GTHS (4847) E-mail: GermanTexans@aol.com

© 2003 Sünderhauf Film Production

arbe Dauer: 45 Minuten

HIN HACH TE

VHS

HIN NACH TEXAS

Die Geschichte von Richard Petri द Hermann Lungkwitz





OFF TO TEXAS

The Story of Richard Petri & Hermann Lungkwitz





HERMAN LUNGKWITZ was born in Halle, Germany, in 1813. RICHARD PETRI was born in Dresden in 1824. They met as students at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Dresden in the 1840s. Both received several awards for their paintings. Along with Richard Wagner and other Germans who later became famous, they partcipated in political unrest, which culminated in revolution in 1848. It was then that they decided to immigrate to North America.

Lungkwitz had married Petri's sister, Elise. Together with several other family members, they settled in the Texas Hill Country in 1850. Although they made a living farming the land, they continued to sketch and paint. Lungkwitz became known for his romantic landscapes. Petri for his artistic rendering of life on the farm and the Indians he encountered.

Petri died in 1857, only 33 years old. Lungkwitz, however, enjoyed a long career that included teaching art, giving magic lantern shows, doing portrait photography, and working as the first photographer for the Texas General Land Office; and he always painted. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he moved to San Antonio with his wife and children; and later to Austin, where he died in 1892 at the age of 79.

The Story of Petri and Lungkwitz describes two educated young Germans who immigrated to the Texas frontier and ultimately left their distinguished marks on the world of art and culture. Today, the works of Petri and Lungkwitz are highly valued, not only by the numerous descendents of the artists, but also by galleries, museums and private collectors.

Cover photos of original drawings courtesy Rocky Schenk.

LEFT: Self-portrait, Richard Petri

RIGHT: Drawing of Herman Lungkwitz, Richard Petri

Sünderhauf Film Production c/o GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY P.O. Box 684171, Austin, TX 78768-4171 TOLL-FREE TEL: (866) 482-GTHS (4847)

Email: info@GermanTexans.org

www.GermanTexans.org

©2003 Sünderhauf Film Production Color DVD Duration: 45 minutes

The following received free copies of the film

Vogel	LAST NAME FIRST Karotkin Jane Doering Charly, Fisher, Director ( Mrs. M Kearl Biruta Elder Ralph Anderson John Mears Peter Huffstuttler Rebec Udderbeck Tom Halif Jack Meyer ATTN: von Rosenberg Marjor Burton Burton Camfield Paul Schenck Richar
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Valley House Gallery	ORGANIZATION Friends of the Governor's Mansion State Preservation Board Texas Memorial Museum Austin History Center Center for American History Texas State Archives Harry Ransom Center Witte Museum Daughters of the Republic of Texa The University of Texas Institute o Harry Halff Fine Arts Gallery (Jack Hudson) Magic Lanterns Ce Beethoven Maennerchor Inc Central Library of San Antonio - T Museum of Fine Arts - Bayou Ben Sophienburg Museum & Archives The Guenther House Pioneer Memorial Library LBJ National Historic Park
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In the fall of 2003, Helga wrote the following article for the GTHS Schulhaus Reporter Vol 10 #5, Sept/Oct 2003 and for the GTHS Journal Vol XXV #2 Summer 2003, to announce the newly released film

# Documentary: German-Texan Artists Lungkwitz and Petri "Hin Nach Texas"

An excellent 45-minute documentary film on Hermann Lungkwitz and Richard Petri was produced by Suenderhauf Produktion of Germany in 2002. It demonstrates in a truly refined way the great contributions made to the cultural development of Texas by well educated German immigrants.

The project was financed with a small grant from German government sources. The documentary is now available in German and received excellent reviews after it was recently premiered at a film festival in Dresden. However, the original production grant from German sources was not large enough to have the documentary also produced in English. For approximately \$5000 - it can be professionally converted to English in Berlin.

The German-Texan Heritage Society has been listed as co-sponsor of the film, although no GTHS money has been spent for it, only members' volunteer hours. If GTHS would get enough donations earmarked to pay for the English edition, certain rights to use it for fundraising and selling copies would be granted by Suenderhauf Produktion. Individuals could also purchase a copy of the video for a price not yet determined.

Here is a short summary of the documentary, which was filmed in Texas as well as on locations in Germany:

The story covers the lives of Hermann Lungkwitz (1813 - 1891) who was born in Halle, Germany, and died in Austin, Texas, and of Richard Petri (1824 - 1857) who was born in Dresden, Germany, and died near Fredericksburg, Texas.

Both painters were educated er the highly acclaimed Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Dresden on which the film elaborates ln details.

In the late 1840s they got involved with political unrest and decided to immigrate to Texas. They first farmed near Fredericksburg to make a living. However, they pursued their artistic ambitions at the same time. Lungkwitz painted mainly central Texas landscapes; Petri's specialty was drawing and painting Indians and life on

the farm. Although they were not financially very successful with their works of art during their lifetime, their pictures, sketches, and memorabilia are now highly appreciated in major museums, in the Governor's Mansion, the Capitol, in galleries and homes of collectors. They are a unique testimony of their times.

The background of well educated Germans and their contributions and influence on the Texas frontier and the cultural development of the state is a major storyline in the film.

After Petri's death in 1854, Lungkwitz and his family moved to San Antonio, where he worked with Iwonski as a photographer. Later Lungkwitz traveled giving Magic Lantern shows. After the Civil War he moved to Austin and worked for the Land Office as its first photographer. To the very end of his life he painted Central Texas landscapes, including the missions in San Antonio and in Austin scenes along Shoal Creek. He was also active singing in German choirs and producing scenes for performances and festivals.

This documentary film is a great celebration of the lives of immigrants. It also contributes in a distinguished way to carry out the mission of GTHS: Promoting awareness and preservation of the German cultural heritage of Texas.

Helga and GTHS spent the next few years distributing the Film to various outlets such as KLRU a local TV station in Austin Texas.

Helga von Schweinitz 2319 VILLAGE CIRCLE AUSTIN, TX 78745 FAX (512) 441-3121 E-MAIL helgavs@aol.com Home Phone (512) 441-2089

KLRU Program Director Maria Rodriguez

5 January 2005

Subject: Documentary Video on Lungkwitz and Petri

Dear Ms. Rodriguez.

With this letter I am sending you a VHS video film about the German-Texan artists Hermann Lungkwitz and Richard Petri. I am sure it would be of interest to the many KLRU viewers who love art, art history and history, including the cultural heritage of Central Texas.

Suenderhauf Produktion is a German company that has created highly recognized cultural films in Germany. This one, Off to Texas, was also produced in German originally and then professionally translated and re-recorded in English.

Although the German-Texan Heritage Society sponsored the project (without any financial contributions) and is selling copies of the videos and DVDs, I am right now the person to contact with matters concerning the film. I am on the GTHS advisory board and an active volunteer with intense involvement in the production of the film. I'll be available to help with copyright matters and all contacts with Suenderhauf Produktions and the GTHS.

As you will see in the film, both painters are highly treasured in major galleries, museums, public places and by private collectors, but I see the main value of the film in its educational contents. It is available on DVD as well. I have the original film here to make excellent copies.

Sincerely,

In 2006, the film was entered into 2007 WorldFest at Houston International Film Festival. The film won the Gold Remi Award for Film & Video Production Wards: 2007 Ethic/Cultural.



On 31 July 2006 Helga contacted the WorldFest for information about how to submit a video.

Subi: Entry of film in the 2007 competition Date: 7/31/2006 8:58:37 PM Central Standard Time

From: **HELGAVS** 

To: mail@worldfest.org

Dear Team Worldfest. Please send me information on how I can submit a 45 minute video (or DVD) in the 2007 Film Festival. I was very much involved in the making of the documentary.

Helga von Schweinitz 2319 Village Circle Austin TX 78745 phone 512-441-2089 fax 512-441-3121 email helgavs@aol.com

Sincerely, Helga v. S.

#### Helga immediately received a response

Subj: re: Entry of film in the 2007 competition Date: 8/1/2006 11:46:44 AM Central Standard Time From:

mail@worldfest.org To: HELGAVS@aol.com

Howdy from Houston ...

Our thanks for your kind inquiry... the 40th Annual WorldFest-Houston opens its competition for films, videos and screenplays on August 15 2006. The Entry Deadline is December 15, 2006. There is an Early Bird entry fee discount until November 15 2006. Any production or screenplay is eligible if it has not been entered in WorldFest before. There are 10 major categories for competition and 200+ sub-categories, so you do not have to compete with big-budget productions.

Aug, 1, 2006

The complete entry information package for the 2007 WorldFest is now on-line at http://www.worldfest.org - click on FAQ, Categories and Entry Forms... fill one out, send it in with your entry.

We welcome your interest, and invite you to see streaming examples of our winners at http://www.247Show.com click on WorldFest 2006 Shorts or Features. Best regards,

Hunter

**TEAM WORLDFEST** 

**Hunter Todd** Chairman & Founding Director The 40th Annual WorldFest-Houston April 20-29, 2007 "Before there was Sundance, SXSW, Tribeca or Toronto, there was WorldFest!" http://www.worldfest.org Now Streaming Remi Award Winners 24/7 http://www.247show.com/video-clips.cfm/cid/24 9898 Bissonnet, Suite 650 Houston, Texas 77036 USA (713) 965-9955 ph (713) 965-9960 fax

Hans and Helga went onto the website and on 26 August 2006, they mailed both videos, the English (Off to Texas) and German (Hin Nach Texas). The \$110 entrance fee for the German version was waived

THE ENTRY FOR	RM: 40th WORLD	FEST HOUSTO	N • APRIL 20-29, 2007
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*there is an additional \$30 fee per extra categor	ry for the same entry* / wa.	s told on the ph	one to pay only for the 203 entry
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E-mail (VERY IMPORTANT!): held	avsdaol.com	1700 (370) 777 7	
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9898 Bissonnet, Suite 650	(See FAQ on our website for more info)		
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INDEPENDENT FILMS & VIDEOS:	FILM / VIDEO / TELEVISION	N & CABLE PRODUCTION	SPECIAL ITEMS:
(Categories 000, 300, 500, 600)	(Categories 100 & 200)		\$15 2007 40th Annual Poster shipped in a tube
\$90 60 mins & over, including feature films	\$150 60 mins & over, (also	Features Made for TV)	\$15 Baseball Cap, Tan, Low Profile with logo
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\$60 Under 29:59 mins to 15:00 mins	\$80 15 mins & over, to 29:		\$25 WorldFest Canvas Tote Bag
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The first 25 entries receive a first rode poster set valued at \$350.

Early bird discount: deduct \$5 per entry. Early bird deadline is November 15, 2006. All entries must be postmarked by December 15, 2006, the Main Entry Deadline. Late Entries are accepted to January 15, 2007 with a late fee of \$15 per entry.

	(Please type or block print all information. Legibility is very impo	
	ne entry form per entry please. Make photocopies	if neededl
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Contact Name: Helga von Schwer	nitz	LANGE BUILDING
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Please check and include the appropriate materi	als below. If orginated o	n film, what stock?
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All entry forms, photos, entry fees and entries s	email: entry@worldfest.org	
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\$45 All Student entry (with ID) fees include	\$70 14:49 mins & under	\$100 Silver Screen Pass - All Films
two additional categories at no charge!	_\$15 Late Fee per entry for all entries after	
\$15 Late Fee per entry for all entries after	December 15, 2006 to Jan. 15, 2007	\$395 Gold Pass - All Films, All Seminars \$500 Platinum Pass: All Films, Seminars, Gala
December 15, 2006 to Jan. 15, 2007.	\$38 Each additional category fee	
\$30 Each additional category fee		\$600 Full Page Advert in Program Book
	ALLON VALLETO MILEOS	\$400 Half Page Advert in Program Book (special
TV COMMERCIALS / SCREENPLAYS / NEW I	*	rate for entrants ONLY)
(Categories 400, 700, 800, 900)	/IS	_TOTAL ENTRY FEES/SPECIAL ITEMS
\$75 TV Commercials. Public Service Announce	cements (PSAS)	A STATE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE

#### Along with the submission Helga provided this synopsis of the video

Helga von Schweinitz 2319 VILLAGE CIRCLE AUSTIN, TX 78745 FAX (512) 441-3121 E-MAIL helgavs@aol.com Home Phone (512) 441-2089

#### Synopsis of "Off to Texas"

Hermann Lungkwitz and Richard Petri were award winning students at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Dresden, Germany, in the 1840s, when they, together with Richard Wagner, participated in political unrest culminating in the 1848 revolution. Soon thereafter, they thought it safer to immigrate to North America

In 1850, they settled near Fredericksburg in the Texas Hill Country. Lungkwitz married Petri's sister Elise and started a family. While they were surviving by farming, they continued to sketch and paint. Petri is now known for his artistic documentation of life on the farm and of the Indians living in the area. Lungkwitz specialized in romantic landscapes.

Petri drowned in the Pedernales River in 1853; his grave is on the farm. Lungkwitz, however, enjoyed a long career including giving traveling Magic Lantern shows, having a portrait studio in San Antonio and working as the first photographer at the Texas General Land Office in Austin, where he died in 1892. He always painted.

The works of these immigrants now hang in the Governor's Mansion, the Texas Capitol, in major galleries and museums and private collections.

The documentary takes the viewer to many of the places where Lungkwitz and Petri lived in Germany and in Texas. Their paintings and sketch books were located and photographed, interviews with descendents, curators and collectors give background information.

While this documentary tells the story of two artists, it illustrates at the same time life on the frontier and the beginning of European based culture in the State of Texas.

And the following background story behind how the video came about.

Helga von Schweinitz 2319 VILLAGE CIRCLE AUSTIN, TX 78745 FAX (512) 441-3121 E-MAIL helgavs@aol.com Home Phone (512) 441-2089

# Concerning the submission of the documentary "Off to Texas" and "Hin nach Texas":

The idea of a documentary on Lungkwitz and Petri was born in my swimming pool in Austin during a conversation with German writer Karl Knietzsch. He wrote a script and contacted Heidrun Suenderhauf, a well known German creator of documentaries, about filming. She reworked the script a little, found some financing and got a crew of three together and came to Texas for the shooting. All this took several years with a lot of my help in every phase. The major hold-up was the financing of the project.

A year after the original German production was completed, we had raised enough money to have the documentary professionally dubbed into English. Both versions can now be purchased through the German-Texan Heritage Society. However, the copyright is with Suenderhauf Film Produktion.

I am submitting the video with the consent of Heidrun Suenderhauf. Her English is not good enough to do it herself.

You can contact me with any questions you might have after Sept. 17, 2006. (I'll be out of town)

Helga von Schweinitz

On 23 September 2006, Helga received the following email acknowledging that receipt of the videos.

Subj: Date: Official Receipt of your Entry/Entries 9/13/2006 3:44:20 PM Central Standard Time

From: To:

mail@worldfest.org helgavs@aol.com

09/13/06 3:32p

Helga von Schweinitz

2319 Village Circle Austin, TX 78745

Holal and Howdy from Houston... and we hope you had a Wonderful Summer !!!

Dear Helga ...

We are delighted to acknowledge and confirm the official receipt of your entry: "OFF TO TEXAS (HIN NACH TEXAS)"

Your telephone is listed as: (512)441-2089
Your Fax number is listed as: 1-512-441-3121
Your email address is listed as: helgavs@aol.com
The Official Entry Code assigned to your entry is: "S105"

We welcome you into the 40th Annual WorldFest competition. (Yes, this is a fairfy long and wordy missive, but please read it all, as it contains lots of very important information!) The purpose of this email is simply to confirm the actual receipt of your entry/entries, it does not mean you have been selected for an award in the festival as of yet. The Official Jury sessions have now begun, and we will notify nominees as decisions and selections are made by the jury and selection committees. Notification will be by phone, email and fax. < We will post top Remi Award Nominees on our website as the jury reports come in, so you can check and see who is winning on a daily basis, starting JANUARY 10. Not all nominees will be posted early, but all Remi Nominees do win an award. Unlike other competitions, when you are nominated in WorldFest, you are in the Remi Winners Circle! Postings of Remi Nominees will begin in mid-January. >

For the 2007 WorldFest-Houston, we will be streaming the top five nominees in each category, a total of more than 150 digital video streams! This is being accomplished in cooperation with our Partner/Sponsor - www.247Show.com - We are currently streaming selected Short Remi winners from 2005 & 2006 on this site

On 3 May 2007, Helga received an email with congratulations on winning a Remi Award. Then she received this official letter:



Dear WorldFest Winner: Hi Hela Congratulations!

On behalf of the Staff and Board of Directors and the Grand Awards Jury of the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual WorldFest- Houston International Film Festival, we personally thank you for being part of this year's Festival Awards Competition and offer our personal "Congratulations!" on your Remi Award win for your outstanding creative effort! This was an exceptional year culminating with a perfect weather day on Galveston Bay for the HYC Signature Regatta & BBQ and final wrap with Robert Davi on hand to present his debut film *THE DUKES* on Closing Night!

We are delighted to say that your Remi Award assumes a very special significance this year, as more than 4,500 category entries were competing from 33 countries. Our sincere personal congratulations are extended to you for the outstanding creative excellence of your fine award-winning entry in the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual WorldFest-Houston. WorldFest remains "Fiercely Independent" as the only truly Indie Film Festival in North America and one of the world's oldest and largest film & video competitions. Since WorldFest gave first honors to Spielberg, Lucas, Lynch, Ang Lee, The Coen Bros., Ridley Scott and many, many more... we expect to find your name in that select group very soon!

The Remi Award is named after Frederick Remington, the great artist that captured the spirit of Texas and The West. Should you desire additional duplicate awards, we offer many different possibilities. Simply go to our website at <a href="https://www.worldfest.org">www.worldfest.org</a> and click on Award Duplicates. You can see the awards and print out the order form, fill it out and fax or email it to us. Enclosed is a Duplicate Award Order Form for your convenience. We have an excellent new awards supplier with a prompt 7-10 day turn-around on the Remi Statuettes, Crystal Visions, Stars and Medallions!

We might also suggest that you consider a banner link on our website. The cost for one year is just \$199, and provides an immediate click-thru to your website with complete information on you, your company and your award-winning entry. Simply contact our webmaster at <a href="mail@worldfest.org">mail@worldfest.org</a>, or you can visit our webby at <a href="www.worldfest.org">www.worldfest.org</a> to see how those listing links look and contact us directly from the site. We think it is a very excellent offer.

We will continue to stream our Remi Award Winners on our official site — and you are invited to send us a clip or short version for streaming. Please visit the site and see some of our Remi Winners for 2007!

The dates for the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual WorldFest are April 18-27, 2008, with an Early-Bird (discount) Closing Date of Nov 15, 2007, a Regular Closing Date of December 15, 2007 and a Final Late Closing Date (with a late fee) of January 15, 2008. These are all "Postmark/Ship-By" closing dates; the entries do no have to reach us by those dates. We do start accepting entries for 2008 on August 1<sup>st</sup> - If we have your email address on file, we will be sending you a special "Call For Entries" then. Should you like to be included in our "Comments" section on the entry kit and website, we would welcome a short note or email from you with your thoughts about WorldFest and your award.

WorldFest, our Manks, Congratulations and Warmest Regards,

THE HOUSTON INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL THE HOUSTON FILM SOCIETY

MAILING: P.O. BOX 56566 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77256

TEL: (713) 965-9955
FAX: (713) 965-9960
EMAIL: mail@worldlest.org
WEBSITE: www.worldlest.org
A NON-PROFIT. TAX-EXEMPT ORGANIZATION

J. Hunter Todd

Chairman & Founding Director

Kathleen Haney

Program & Artistic Director



There is no indication if anyone every went to Houston to receive the award. Helga and Hans were busy moving from Austin to Pflugerville right when the award ceremony was being conducted in Houston.

But Helga did write an entry into the GTHS Journal Vol XXIX #2 Summer 2007.

# Gold Remi Award Documentary co-sponsored by GTHS wins distinguished award Submitted by Helga von Schweinitz

The documentary film on the German-Texan Hermann Lungkwitz and Richard Petri with the English title "Off to Texas" won a Gold Remi Award in the 40th Annual Worldfest Houston International Film Festival in April 2007.

WorldFest is the third oldest film festival in North America with thousands of entries each year. Less than 15% of them are recognized with awards. George Lucas and Spielberg won their 'first awards in WorldFest. I took that as a challenge and entered "Off to Texas" in the 2007 competition along with the fees and paperwork required. I was not at all surprised when an e-mail notified me of the success.

The documentary was directed and produced in 2002/2003 by Heidrun Suenderhauf from Dresden with Karl Knietzsch writing the original script, international acclaimed photographer David Suenderhauf as camera man, and myself as assistant producer. The German-Texan Heritage Society served as cosponsor without financial involvement. A great deal of the success and the superb quality of the project are due to the generous and enthusiastic cooperation of many GTHS members, some of them descendants of Lungkwitz. The initial financing for the film was a small grant from a German governmental source which allowed for the German version "Hin nach Texas". The dubbing into English, professionally done in Berlin, was financed by private donations from a few GTHS members and by Lungkwitz descendants.

The story chronicles the lives of two German artists who were educated at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Dresden, Saxony, in the 1840s and participated in political demonstrations in Dresden and soon thereafter thought it wise to leave the country. They immigrated to Central Texas. While they were trying to make a living as farmers near Fredericksburg, they pursued their artistic ambitions. Petri's sketches and paintings of the Indians in the area and of life on a pioneer farm are now treasured as the most authentic documents of those days. Lungkwitz captured Central Texas in romantic landscapes, later traveled giving magic lantern shows and finally settled- in Austin as the first photographer in the Texas Land Office. Works of both artists are now hanging in the Capitol, the Governor's mansion, many major galleries and museums, and in private collections.

The 45-minute documentary was filmed in Central Texas and also in Germany, thus giving insight into the background of these immigrants and of their struggles and joys as settlers in the Wild West. Their story can be seen as an example of many other German immigrants who contributed considerably to the development of Texas into what it is now.

"Hinn ach Texas" has enjoyed viewings in German film festivals and even in a regular movie theater in Dresden.

The Documentary can be bought from the GTHS office in VHS format or as a DVD, either in German or in English. All profits go to GTHS. They make thoughtful gifts to people with an interest in arts, Texas history and pioneer life.

GTHS can be very proud of having lent its good name to the project as co-sponsor.