

**Helga's**  
**Old**  
**German**  
**Script**  
**Compendium**

By

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a memory is for a life time, but a good reference is forever.

## Introduction

This compendium is a collection of material that Helga collected on the old German Scripts. Prior to World War II, Germans wrote in a script that was very different from the script used in other European nations. This script is now called the "old script". Helga grew up in Germany but did not learn this 'old script' from her schooling. By the time she was attending school, both the written and type letters that German was using already resembled letters used by the rest of Europe.

When Helga moved to Austin, Texas with her family, she became interested in the 'old script'. Mostly, because she started to research both her family genealogy and her husband's family. That meant going through old historical records and reading old letters. Many historical records were hand written, especially if the records came from the church or local governments. Both the hand writing and the print was in the 'old script'.

In the 1990's Hans and Helga became involved with the German Texan Heritage Society. Once people realized that Helga was good at translating German into English, they would ask her to translate the old family letters and diaries. Austin is in the middle of the area of Texas that was settled in the 1800's by Germans. These Germans were very literate, and wrote in the 'old script'. So, Helga mastered the 'old script' so that she could provide the translations. Like any hand writing, the 'old script' would vary, depending on the person doing the writing. Helga often stated that the hardest part of translating these old letters was figuring out the 'old script'.

This compendium is only a small collection of the material and books that Helga used to read the 'old script'. Helga was able to help many Texans to read the letters from their ancestors, and to read old German genealogy records.

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### History of the 'old Script'

Helga collected this article, which gives a brief history of the printed script. On the bottom left is an example of the 'old script' that showed up often in printed documents.



#### Kleine Geschichte der Schrift

Jeder Schriftschreiber sollte die Geschichte unserer Schriften in groben Zügen kennen, um zu sehen, daß die einzelnen Schriften nicht willkürlich erfunden worden sind, sondern daß sich eine jede organisch aus der vorhergehenden entwickelt hat.

Die Ausgangsschrift unserer heutigen Druck- und Schreibschriften bildet die Großbuchstabenschrift der Römer, die Kapitalis Quadrata. Eine Abart derselben ist die Rustika. Im weiteren Verlauf nimmt die Schrift rundere Formen an: die Unziale entsteht. Durch schnelleres Schreiben ändert sich das Bild der Buchstaben, auch wird das Zweiliniensystem nach oben und unten überschritten. So gelangen wir über die Halbunziale zur karolingischen Minuskel. Minuskel heißt Kleinbuchstabe. Es hat sich also aus der römischen Großbuchstabenschrift eine Kleinbuchstabenschrift gebildet. Von hier aus geht die Entwicklung in zwei verschiedenen Richtungen weiter.

Einmal werden durch den gotischen Stil die Rundungen der karolingischen Minuskel gebrochen: es kommt zur Bildung der gotischen Schrift, der Textur. Aus dieser erwächst durch die Renaissance in Deutschland die Fraktur und aus ihr wiederum in Verbindung mit den gotischen Handschriften die deutsche Schreibschrift.

Zum anderen bringen in Italien die Humanisten die karolingische Minuskel zu neuer Blüte und verwenden dazu als Großbuchstaben die römische Kapitalis. Diese neue Schrift bezeichnen wir als Antiqua. Daneben entsteht aus ihr als flüssigere Schreibschrift die Kursiv, die wiederum den Ausgangspunkt unserer heutigen lateinischen Schreibschrift bildet.

Die hier genannten Schriften fanden hauptsächlich als Buchschriften Verwendung. Daneben gab es zu jeder Zeit für den täglichen Bedarf flotte Handschriftformen, die natürlich die Entwicklung der Buchschriften weitgehend beeinflusst haben.

**Little History of Writing**

Every script-writer should know the rough outlines of the history of our scripts, to see that the individual script was not haphazardly invented but that each has developed organically from the preceding one.

The starting point for our modern printed and cursive scripts is the uppercase script of the Romans, the Kapitalis Quadrata, a variety of the same is the Rustika.

In the further course, the writing takes on more rounded forms: the Unziale is created.

Writing faster changes the appearance of the letters, and the two-line system also rises up and extending below.

This is how we get to the Karolingian Minuscule via the Halbunziale.

Minuscule means lower case letter.

So a lower-case script was formed from the Roman upper-case script.

From here the development goes on in two different directions.

On the one hand, the curves of the Karolingian minuscule are broken by the Gothic style: it comes to the formation of the Gothic script, the Textur.

From this, through the Renaissance in Germany, Fraktur grew and from it, in turn, in connection with Gothic handwriting, German cursive.

On the other hand, in Italy, the Humanists brought the Carolingian minuscule to new heights and used the Roman Kapitalis as a capital letter.

We call this new typeface Antiqua.

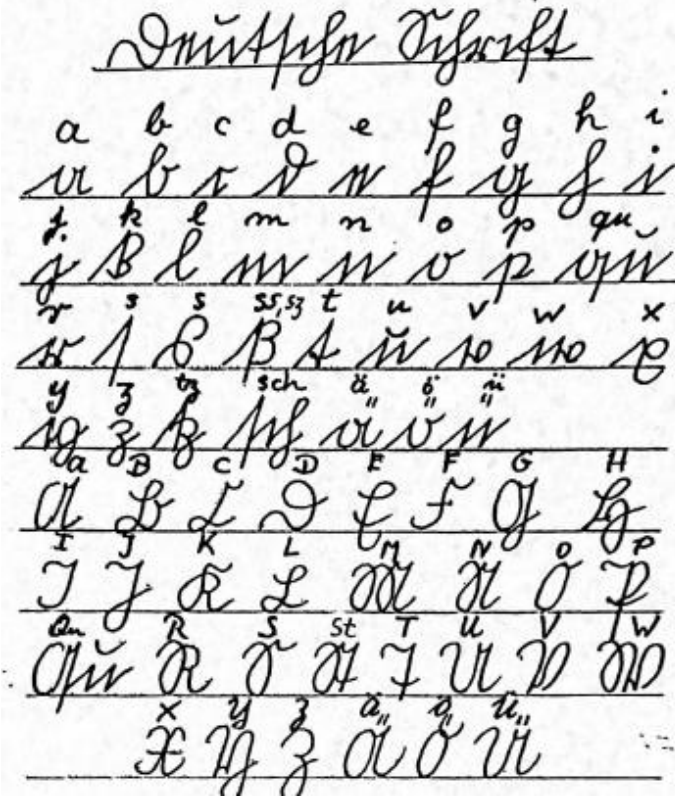
It also gave rise to italic as a more fluent cursive, which in turn forms the starting point of our modern-day Latin cursive.

The fonts mentioned here were mainly used as book fonts.

In addition, there were brisk forms of handwriting for daily use at all times, which of course largely influenced the development of book typefaces.

**Examples of 'old Script' Letters**

Helga collected various guides to 'old script' to help her with deciphering print and hand written documents. The following are just an example of the material she collected. Sometime the 'old script' is also called 'Sütterlin' or 'Gothic' or 'Schreibschrift'.



Fraktur	Gotisch	Schwabacher	Schreibschrift
A a	A a	A a	A a
B b	B b	B b	B b
C c	C c	C c	C c
D d	D d	D d	D d
E e	E e	E e	E e
F f	F f	F f	F f
G g	G g	G g	G g
H h	H h	H h	H h
I i	I i	I i	I i
K k	K k	K k	K k
L l	L l	L l	L l
M m	M m	M m	M m
N n	N n	N n	N n
O o	O o	O o	O o

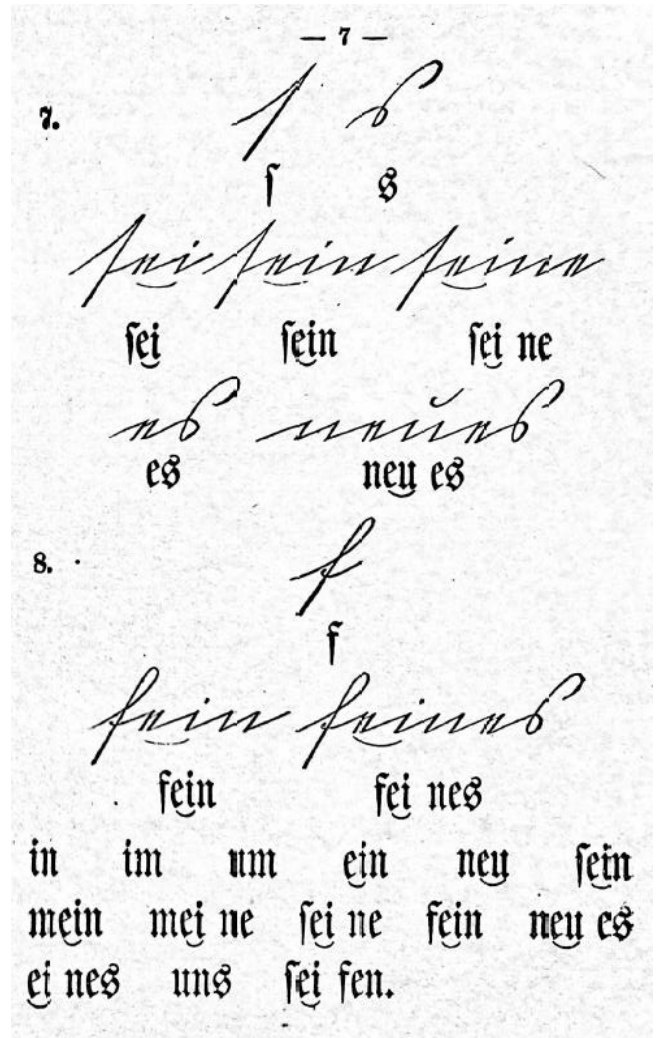
**ALPHABET CHART**

1. Modern	2. Fraktur	3. Sütterlin	4. Kurrent	5. Old Handwriting Styles
A	a	A	a	A A a a
B	b	B	b	B B b b
C	c	C	c	C C c c
D	d	D	d	D D d d
E	e	E	e	E E e e
F	f	F	f	F F f f
G	g	G	g	G G g g
H	h	H	h	H H h h
I	i	I	i	I I i i
J	j	J	j	J J j j
K	k	K	k	K K k k
L	l	L	l	L L l l
M	m	M	m	M M m m
N	n	N	n	N N n n

The most interesting (and frustrating) letters are e, i, m, n, and u.

**Examples of "old Script" Words**

When certain letters are hand written together in the 'old script', then the fun begins with trying to translate.



The above provides plenty of examples of what happens to words that use the e, i, m, n, and u. The words look like just a bunch of up and down diagonals.

Helga's collection is quite extensive in examples of the 'old script'

Not only did Helga have to decipher the 'old script', the German language also changed. Below is an example of how the name of the months change.

MONTHS OF THE YEAR

SCRIPT	GERMAN	OLD FORM	ENGLISH
<i>Jänner</i>	Januar	Jänner, Hartung, Eismonat	January
<i>Februor</i>	Februar	Feber, Hornung, Regenmonat	February
<i>März</i>	März	Lenzing, Lenzmond, Windmonat	March
<i>April</i>	April	Ostermonat, Ostermond, Wandelmonat	April
<i>Mai</i>	Mai	Weidemonat, Wonnemond, Blütenmonat	May
<i>Juni</i>	Juni	Brachet, Brachmonat, Wiesemonat	June
<i>Juli</i>	Juli	Heuert, Heumonat	July
<i>August</i>	August	Ernting, Erntemonat, Hitzmonat	August
<i>September</i>	September	Fruchmonat, Scheiding, 7ber, 7bris	September
<i>October</i>	October	Weinmonat, Gilbhard, 8ber, 8bris	October
<i>November</i>	November	Reifmonat, Nebelmonat, 9ber, 9bris	November
<i>Dezember</i>	Dezember	Julmonat, Christmonat 10ber, 10bris	December

Some documents also used symbols instead of words. This chart is one example using the days of the week.

DAYS OF THE WEEK

SCRIPT	GERMAN	ENGLISH	SYMBOLS
<i>Sontag</i>	Sontag	Sunday	☉ or ☽
<i>Montag</i>	Montag	Monday	( or ) or ⊙
<i>Dienstag</i>	Dienstag	Tuesday	♂
<i>Mittwoch</i>	Mittwoch	Wednesday	♀
<i>Donnerstag</i>	Donnerstag	Thursday	♄
<i>Freitag</i>	Freitag	Friday	♀
<i>Samstag</i> or <i>Sonabend</i> or <i>Satertag</i>	Samstag or Sonnabend or Satertag	Saturday	♁ or ♁



And many words were just abbreviated. The following is chart of common abbreviations that a genealogist might find.

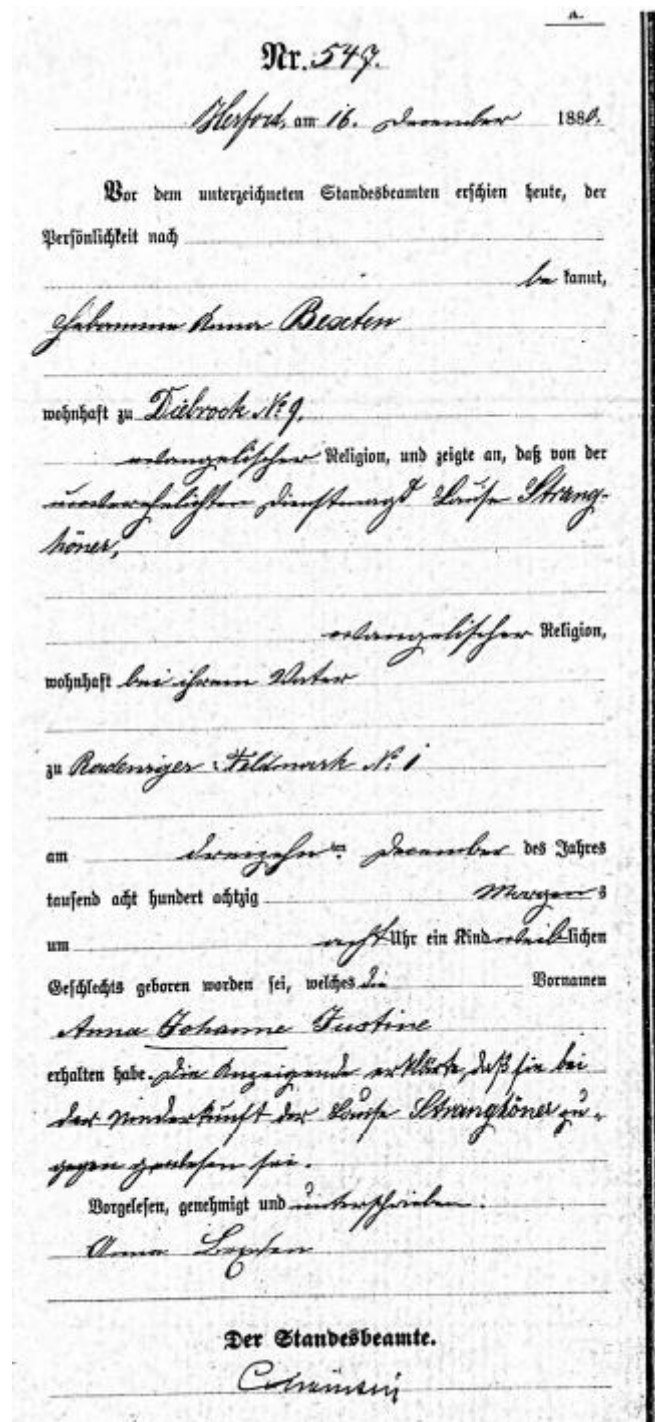
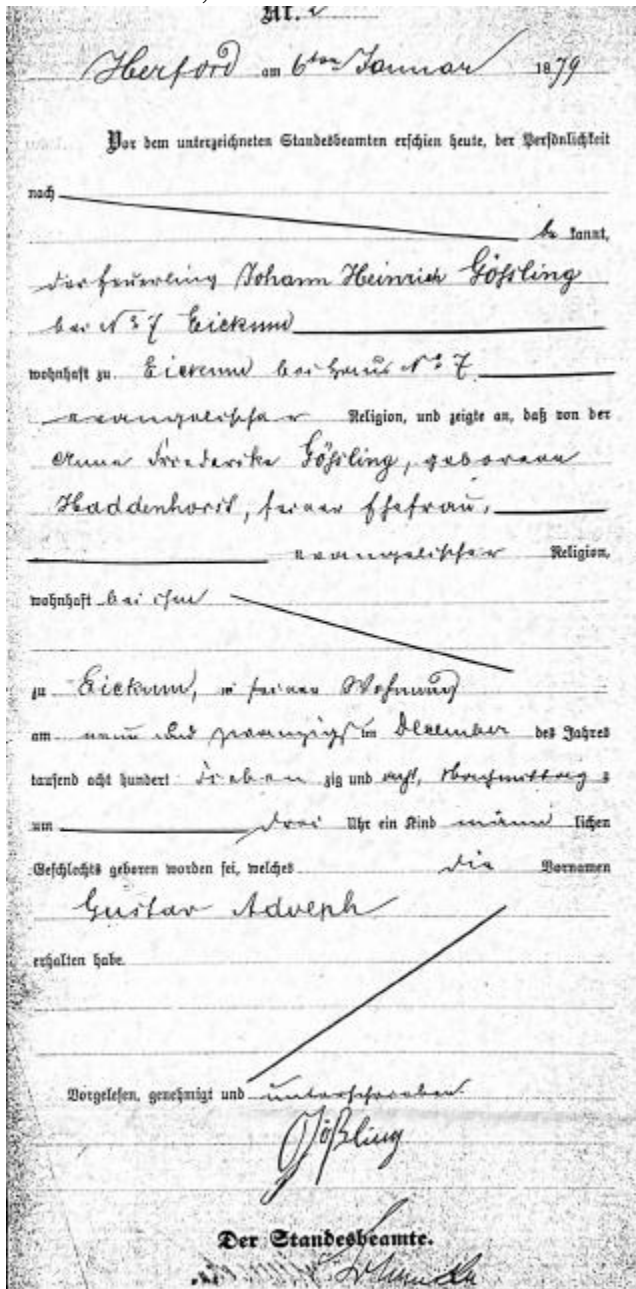
COMMON ABBREVIATIONS

Ca.	= circa (about)	verh.	= verheiratet (married)
nat.	= natus, nata (born)	geb.	= geboren (born)
ren.	= renatus, renata (baptized)		maiden name
spur.	= spurius, spuria (illegitimate)	get.	= getauft (baptized,
eod.	= eodem (the same)		christened)
ux.	= uxor (wife)	gest.	= gestorben (died)
vid.	= viduus, vidua (widower, widow)	verl.	= verlobt (engaged)
N.N.	= nomen nescio (name not known)	getr.	= getraut (married)
S.d.	= Sohn des, Sohn der (son of)	u.	= und (and)
S.v.	= Sohn von (son of)	v.	= von (from)
T.d.	= Tochter des, Tochter der	E.R.	= errore reservata
	(daughter of)		= vorbehaltlich Irrtum
u.d.	= und des, und der (and of)		(error reserved)
eHEL.	= ehelich (legitimate)	E. et O. R.	= errpre et omissione
mannl.	= männlich (masculine)		reservata
weibl.	= weiblich (feminine)	st.n	= stilo novo
			(new style of dating a
1782 <sup>16</sup>	1 Mai = year was right but the		document)
	day and month was "told to them"	samt.	= together with
Pfr.	= Pfarrer (minister)	evang.	= evangelisch
weil.	= weiland (deceased)	yusd.	= ejusdem (in the same month
b.v.	= beide von (both from		or year
Jgfr.	= Jungfrau (maiden, virgin)	led.	= ledig (single)
a.d.h.	= aus dem hause (out of the house)	aq.	= Anno (year
d.d.	= de dato (on this date)	Magd.	= servant girl, maid
		wwe	= witwe (widow)
		wwer	= witer (widower)

Helga's library of research material on how the German language changed over time and how the language was documented, is quite extensive.

Examples of documents using 'old script'

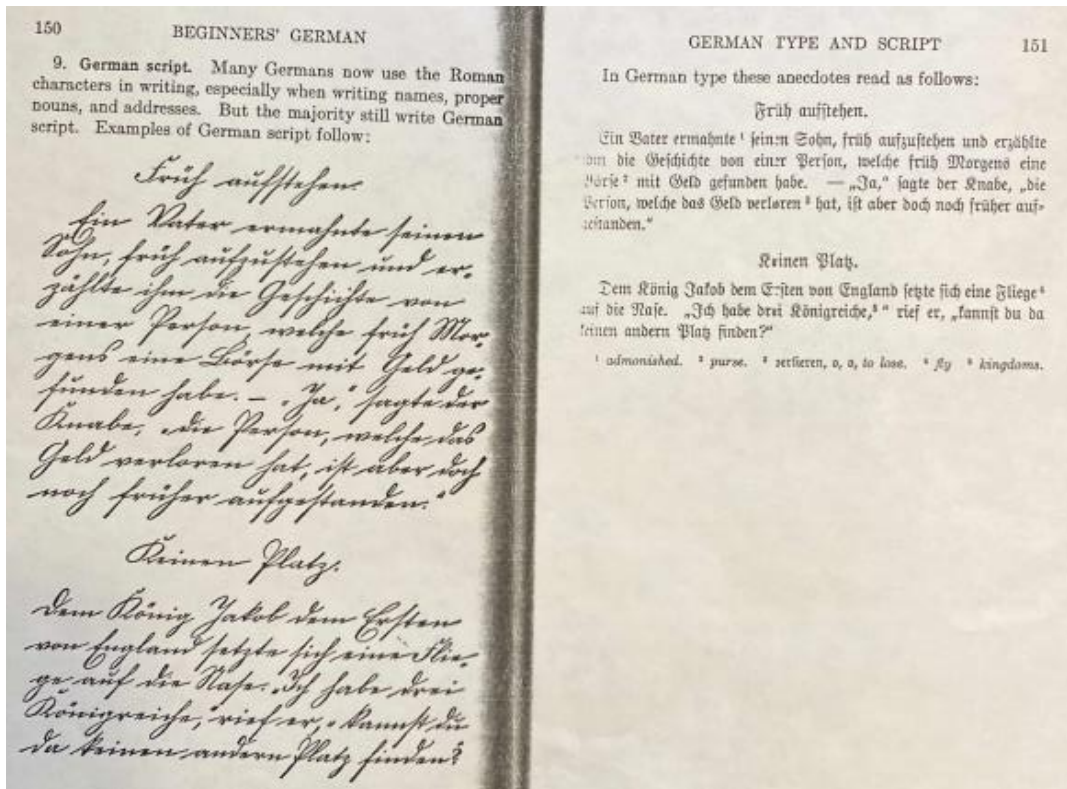
The following two documents are from Herford, Helga's home town in Germany. She found them while doing genealogy research on her own family. She was researching her Grandmother, 'Johane' and found documents from 1879 and 1880



Helga also collected documents from old Austin, Houston, and New York.

**Translating 'old script'**

Helga liked to find things that were amusing. The following was found in a 'Beginner's German' book giving an example of the 'old script' handwritten and the 'old script' in print. Neither is readable.



**Translations of 'old script' by Helga**

The following are a few examples of what Helga translated.

*Herbstlied*  
 Bunt sind schon die Wälder,  
 Gelb die Stoppelfelder,  
 Und der Herbst beginnt.  
 Und die Blätter fallen,  
 Und die Nebel wallen,  
 Kühler weht der Wind.

*Herbstlied*  
 Bunt sind schon die Wälder,  
 Gelb die Stoppelfelder,  
 Und der Herbst beginnt.  
 Und die Blätter fallen,  
 Und die Nebel wallen,  
 Kühler weht der Wind.

This is a document from 1868 from the Royal Prussian Government (Königlich Preußische Regierung). Following it is Helga's unfinished translation into today's script.



Neustadt, den 28. Februar 1868.

Die unterzeichnete Königl. Regierung be-  
zweckt, durch den Königl. Land-  
Jägermeister aus Jargowen, Herrn  
auf sein Verlangen und Befehl, seine  
auf Nord-amerikan. und seine  
geborenen Jäger und folglichen  
mit der rüchlichen Spezial-Inspektion

- 1, Carl . . . . . 4 Jahre alt
- 2, Friedrich . . . . . 2 . . .
- 3, Christian . . . . . 1 . . .

seiner Regierung, Herrn  
Vogel

- 4, Carl . . . . . 21 Jahre alt
- 5, Friedrich . . . . . 17 . . .

Die Unterzeichnete hat dem Königl. Land-  
Jägermeister bewilligt, dass er sich

die Unterzeichnete hat dem Königl. Land-  
Jägermeister bewilligt, dass er sich



Königlich Preussische Regierung.

Land-  
Jägermeister

Regierung

Original

2000/2.68.



Die ~~unterzeichnete~~ Königliche Regierung be-  
scheinigt hierdurch, daß der ~~verheirateten~~ Fischer  
Reichow, Charlotte Wilhelmine Caroline ge-  
borene Pahlow, aus Tempelburg, Kreis Amt  
Nennsteden, auf ihr Ansuchen und ~~besetz~~ ihrer  
Auswanderung nach Amerika nebst folgenden  
minderjährigen, unter väterlicher Gewalt stehende  
Kindern:

1. Friedrich Wilhelm Reichow, geboren am 14.  
März 1848,
2. Emilie Anna Luise Reichow, geboren am  
18. Januar 1871

die Entlassung aus dem preussischen Untertha-  
nen Verbands ~~besetzt~~ werde

die Entlassungs Verkunde ~~erzählt~~, jedoch  
nur für die darin ausdrücklich genannten Perso-  
nen, mit dem Zeitpunkte der Ausscheidung  
den Verlust der Eigenschaft des Preussischen Unte-  
rthanen.

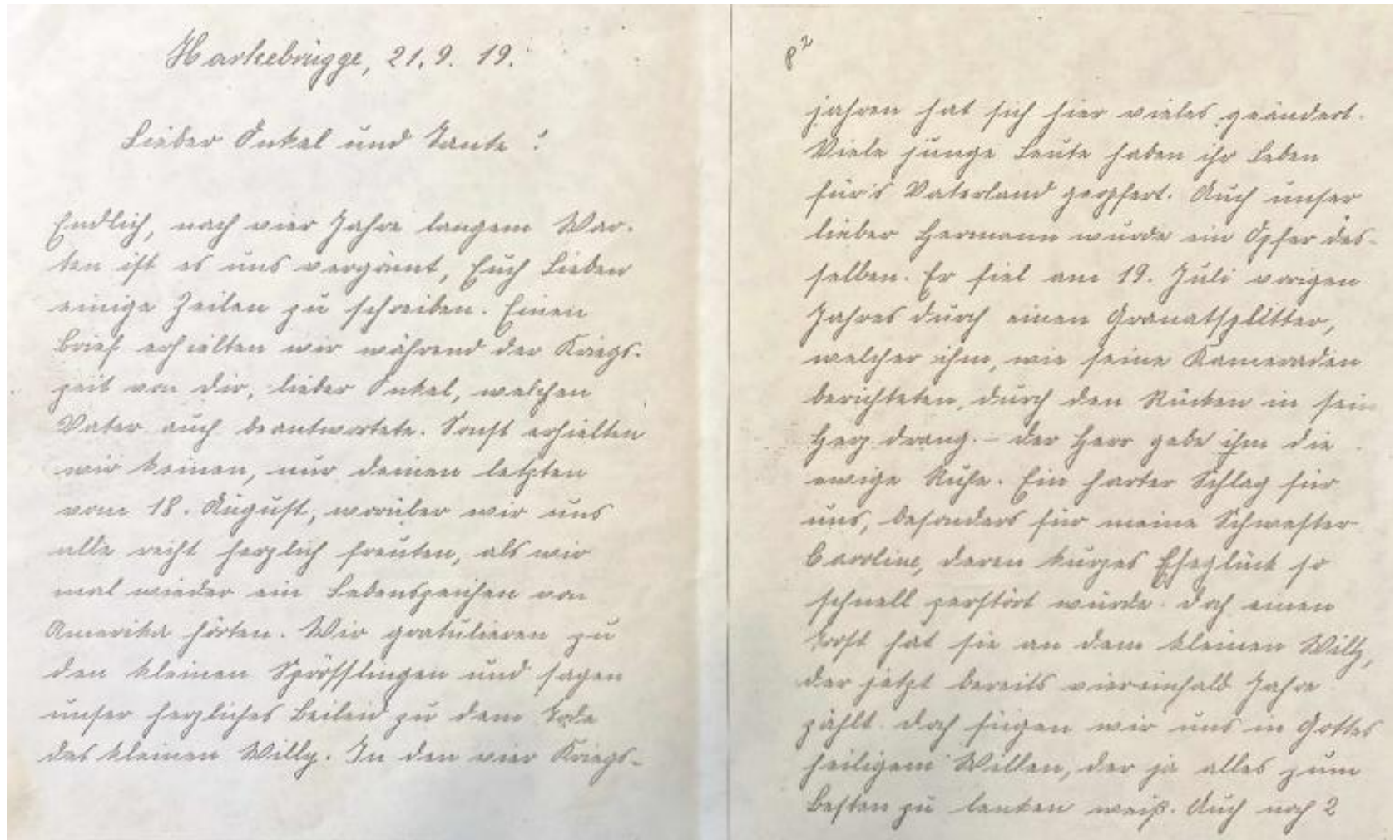
Coslin, den 8. October 1856.

Königlich Preussische Regierung  
Entlassungs Urkunde

L. 1600/9. 6

Biertz

The following is a letter writing by Maria in Germany to her Uncle and Aunt in United States. The letter is dated 21 September 1919, right after the Great War (later called WWI). Not only did Helga have to read the 'old script', she also translated the letter into English.



p<sup>3</sup>

Linder von Hannover bleiben in Fort  
 vief. Das auf Clemens Reichweite sein  
 Leben dem Vaterlande opfern, weiß ich  
 nicht auf sich setzen zu können. Alles das  
 geht der Krieg gesehrt. Mit dem  
 Lebensmitteln stand es sonst während  
 der Kriegzeit nicht auf gut, beson-  
 ders in dem Winter nicht schlecht. Hier  
 auf dem Lande natürlich nicht, wir  
 haben in der Kriegszeit keinen Krieg  
 verspürt. Was sonst hier, Getreide  
 und Lebensmittel überhaupt ist alles  
 enorm teuer. Pferde kosten 6-10000 Mk  
 ein Pferd nur 2-4000 Mk gezahlt  
 und ein Haufschwein 100-150 Mk.  
 Hier hatten wir dieses Jahr einen guten  
 Frost, welche Zeit ja eine große Erleichterung  
 ist. Sonst verhalten wir uns auf

alle der besten Gesundheit. Vater, Mutter  
 das sind die besten sind alle auf nach  
 auf. Ich bin jetzt wieder 14 Tage zu  
 Hause, was natürlich ein Jahr im Pen-  
 sionate Marianne b. Kecher, was ich  
 selbst der Gesundheit leute. Habe  
 dort ein schönes Jahr erlebt. Dabei  
 lagen wir einen Winterzeit von im  
 Hannover bei. Indem ich fünf lieben  
 Töchtern und heute nicht fünf große an-  
 manen lieben Eltern, Caroline, Agnes,  
 Wilhelmine und Wally verbleibe ich der  
 Patrie

Maria.

Hasselbrügge, 21 Sept. 19

Dear Uncle and Aunt!

Finally, after four years of long waiting, it is now granted to us to write a few lines to you loved ones.

During the time of the war we received one letter from you, dear Uncle, which father answered. We did not receive any others, only your last one from August 18, which made us all happy when we again received a sign of life from America. We congratulate you to your little offsprings and express our heartfelt condolences to the death of little Willy.

During the four years of war many things changed here. Many young people sacrificed their life for the fatherland. Our dear Hermann also became a victim of it. He fell on July 19 of last year from a grenade fragment which went - according to his comrades - through his back into his heart. - May the Lord give him eternal peace. A hard blow

for us, especially for my sister Caroline whose short and happy marriage was destroyed so quickly. But she has some consolation in little Dilly who is now already four and a half years old. But we submit to God's holy will who knows to turn everything to the best. Also, two of Hermann's brothers stayed in France. That Clemens Rickwärtz also sacrificed his life for the fatherland you might already know. All that the war demanded.



pg 2

21 Sept. 19

The food situation during the war years and even now was rather bad, especially in the towns. Here in the country naturally not, in that regard we did not feel the war. As far as animals, grain and food is concerned, everything is very expensive. Horses cost 6-10 000 M. For cows one pays 2-4000 M., and for sheep 100-150 M.

We had a good harvest here this year which is of great importance now. We are all enjoying the best of <sup>of</sup> health. Father, mother and sisters are all doing well. I am at home now for two weeks, because I was for one year in the boarding school Marienheim near Vechta, where I learned the household. I had a nice year there. I am enclosing a death notice of our Hermann. Sending greetings to you, dear uncle and aunt, from my dear parents, Caroline, Agnes, Wilhelmine and Willy, I remain your Godchild.

Maria.

Complete photo of Research Material

Drütschyn Tyschrift

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i
u	b	t	v	w	f	u	f	i
f	k	l	m	n	o	p	qu	
f	B	l	m	n	v	p	u	w
r	s	s	ss, sz	t	u	v	w	x
h	l	B	A	u	u	u	p	
y	z	tz	sch	ä	ö	ü		
u	z	B	u	u	u			
a	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	
u	B	L	D	E	F	G	H	
I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	
J	J	R	L	u	u	o	p	
Qu	R	S	st	T	u	v	w	
u	R	u	u	u	u	u	u	
x	y	z	ä	ö	ü			
u	u	z	u	u	u			

Fraktur	Gotisch	Schwabacher	Schreibschrift
A a	A a	A a	A a
B b	B b	B b	B b
C c	C c	C c	C c
D d	D d	D d	D d
E e	E e	E e	E e
F f	F f	F f	F f
G g	G g	G g	G g
H h	H h	H h	H h
I i	I i	I i	I i
K k	K k	K k	K k
L l	L l	L l	L l
M m	M m	M m	M m
N n	N n	N n	N n
O o	O o	O o	O o
P p	P p	P p	P p
Q q	Q q	Q q	Q q
R r	R r	R r	R r
S s	S s	S s	S s
T t	T t	T t	T t
U u	U u	U u	U u
V v	V v	V v	V v
W w	W w	W w	W w
X x	X x	X x	X x
Y y	Y y	Y y	Y y
Z z	Z z	Z z	Z z

ALPHABET CHART

1. Modern		2. Fraktur		3. Sütterlin		4. Kurrent		5. Old Handwriting Styles	
A	a	Ɑ	ɑ	Ɑ	ɑ	Ɑ	ɑ	Ɑ A a	ɑ a
B	b	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ B B	Ḅ Ḅ
C	c	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ C C	Ḅ Ḅ
D	d	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ D	Ḅ Ḅ
E	e	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ E E	Ḅ Ḅ
F	f	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ F F	Ḅ Ḅ Ḅ Ḅ
G	g	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ G G	Ḅ Ḅ
H	h	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ H H	Ḅ Ḅ
I	i	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ I I	Ḅ Ḅ
J	j	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ J J	Ḅ Ḅ
K	k	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ K K	Ḅ Ḅ
L	l	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ L L	Ḅ Ḅ
M	m	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ M M	Ḅ Ḅ
N	n	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ N N	Ḅ Ḅ
O	o	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ O	Ḅ Ḅ
P	p	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ P P	Ḅ Ḅ
Q	q	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ Q Q	Ḅ Ḅ
R	r	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ R R	Ḅ Ḅ
S	s	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ S S	Ḅ Ḅ
T	t	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ T T	Ḅ Ḅ
U	u	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ U U	Ḅ Ḅ
V	v	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ V V	Ḅ Ḅ
W	w	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ W W	Ḅ Ḅ
X	x	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ X X	Ḅ Ḅ
Y	y	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ Y Y	Ḅ Ḅ
Z	z	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ Z Z	Ḅ Ḅ
Ä	ä	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ Ä Ä	Ḅ Ḅ
Ö	ö	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ Ö Ö	Ḅ Ḅ
Ü	ü	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ	Ḅ	Ɱ Ü Ü	Ḅ Ḅ

5.

- 6 -

*ei*

*win*

*ein*

*win*

*mein*

*win*

*eu*

6.

*win*

*neu*

*neue*

*win*

*neun*

*neune*

in

*im*

*um*

*ein*

*neu*

*ei*

*mein*

*meine*

7.

- 7 -

*f*

*f*

*fwin*

*fei*

*fein*

*feine*

*es*

*es*

*neues*

8.

*f*

*f*

*fwin*

*fein*

*feines*

in

*im*

*um*

*ein*

*neu*

*mein*

*meine*

*feine*

*fein*

*neues*

*ei*

*nes*

*uns*

*fein*

MONTHS OF THE YEAR

SCRIPT	GERMAN	OLD FORM	ENGLISH
<i>Jänimonat</i>	Januar	Jänner, Hartung, Eismonat	January
<i>Februimonat</i>	Februar	Feber, Hornung, Regenmonat	February
<i>März</i>	März	Lenzing, Lenzmond, Windmonat	March
<i>April</i>	April	Ostermonat, Ostermond, Wandelmonat	April
<i>Mai</i>	Mai	Weidemonat, Wonnemond, Blütenmonat	May
<i>Juni</i>	Juni	Brachet, Brachmonat, Wiesemonat	June
<i>Juli</i>	Juli	Heuert, Heumonat	July
<i>August</i>	August	Ernting, Erntemonat, Hitzmonat	August
<i>September</i>	September	Fruchmonat, Scheiding, 7ber, 7bris	September
<i>October</i>	October	Weinmonat, Gilbhard, 8ber, 8bris	October
<i>November</i>	November	Reifmonat, Nebelmonat, 9ber, 9bris	November
<i>Dezember</i>	Dezember	Julmonat, Christmonat 10ber, 10bris	December

DAYS OF THE WEEK

SCRIPT	GERMAN	ENGLISH	SYMBOLS
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DAYS OF THE WEEK

SCRIPT	GERMAN	ENGLISH	SYMBOLS
<i>Sonntags</i>	Sonntag	Sunday	☉ or ☽
<i>Montags</i>	Montag	Monday	( or ) or Ⓚ
<i>Dienstag</i>	Dienstag	Tuesday	♂
<i>Mittwoch</i>	Mittwoch	Wednesday	♀
<i>Donnerstag</i>	Donnerstag	Thursday	♃
<i>Freitag</i>	Freitag	Friday	♀
<i>Samstag</i>	Samstag or	Saturday	♃ or ♃
<i>Sonabend</i>	Sonnabend or		
<i>Saterdag</i>	Saterdag		



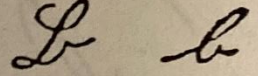
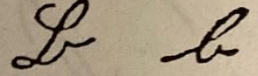
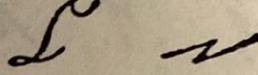
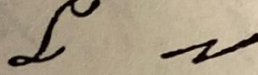
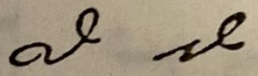
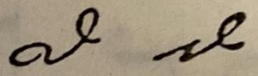
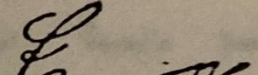
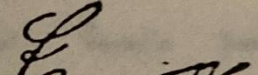
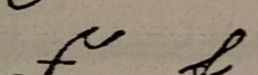
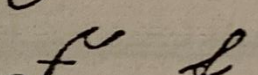
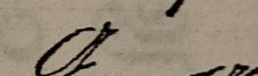
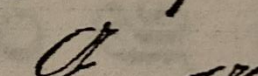
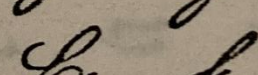
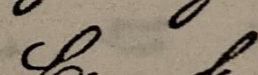
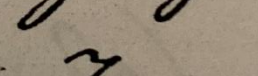
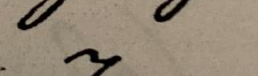


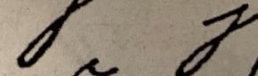
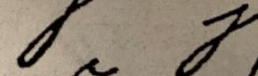
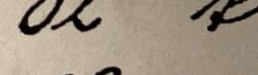
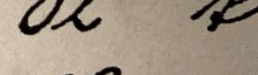
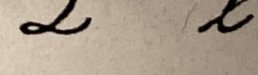
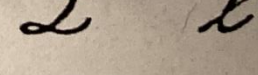
# Appendix A

## A Comparison of Alphabets

Latin		Printed Fraktur		Gothic (Sütterlin)		Latin		Printed Fraktur		Gothic (Sütterlin)	
a	A	a	Ⓐ	ⓐ	Ⓐ	q	Q	q	Ⓠ	Ⓠ	Ⓠ
b	B	b	Ⓑ	ⓑ	Ⓑ	r	R	r	Ⓡ	Ⓡ	Ⓡ
c	C	c	Ⓒ	ⓒ	Ⓒ	s	S	ſ	Ⓢ	ſ	ſ
d	D	d	Ⓓ	ⓓ	Ⓓ	—	—	ſ	—	Ⓟ	—
e	E	e	Ⓔ	ⓔ	ⓔ	ss/fs	—	ß	—	ß	—
f	F	f	Ⓕ	ⓕ	ⓕ	t	T	t	Ⓣ	Ⓣ	Ⓣ
g	G	g	Ⓖ	ⓖ	ⓖ	u	U	u	Ⓤ	Ⓤ	Ⓤ
h	H	h	Ⓖ	ⓗ	ⓗ	v	V	v	Ⓥ	Ⓥ	Ⓥ
i	I	i	Ⓘ	ⓔ	ⓔ	w	W	w	Ⓦ	Ⓦ	Ⓦ
j	J	j	Ⓙ	ⓕ	ⓕ	x	X	x	Ⓡ	Ⓡ	Ⓡ
k	K	k	Ⓚ	Ⓚ	Ⓚ	y	Y	y	Ⓨ	Ⓨ	Ⓨ
l	L	l	Ⓛ	Ⓛ	Ⓛ	z	Z	z	Ⓩ	Ⓩ	Ⓩ
m	M	m	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	æ	Æ	ä	Ⓐ	ⓐ	Ⓐ
n	N	n	Ⓝ	Ⓝ	Ⓝ	œ	Œ	ö	Ⓓ	ⓕ	ⓕ
o	O	o	Ⓞ	Ⓞ	Ⓞ	—	—	ü	Ⓤ	Ⓤ	Ⓤ
p	P	p	Ⓟ	Ⓟ	Ⓟ						

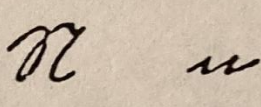
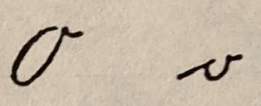
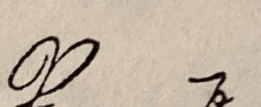
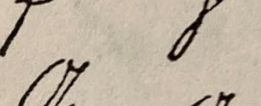
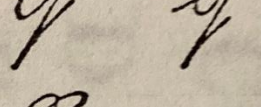
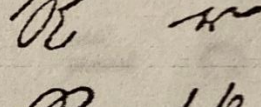
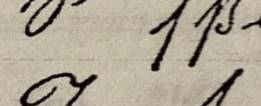
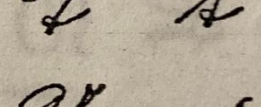
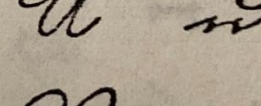
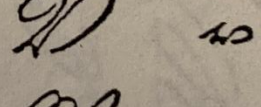
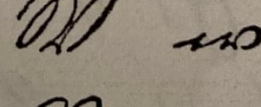
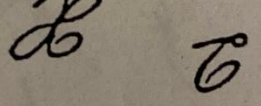
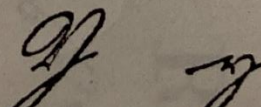


TEACH YOURSELF GERMAN

English	German Characters		Pronunciation <sup>1</sup>
	Printed	Written	
A a (ä)	A a (ā)	 	'a: ('ε)
B b	B b	 	be:
C c	C c	 	tse:
D d	D d	 	de:
E e	E e	 	'e:
F f	F f	 	'ef
G g	G g	 	ge:
H h	H h	 	ha:
I i	I i	 	'i:
J j	J j	 	jot
K k	K k	 	ka:
L l	L l	 	'el
M m	M m	 	'em

<sup>1</sup> For the Pronunciation, see § 2, Preliminary Note.

THE GERMAN ALPHABET

English	German Characters		Pronunciation
	Printed	Written	
N n	ℕ n		'en
O o (ö)	⓪ o (ö)		'oi: ('ø)
P p	Ⓟ p		pe:
Q q	Ⓠ q		ku:
R r	℞ r		'er
S s	Ⓢ   ſ   ʒ		'es
T t	Ⓣ t		te:
U u (ü)	Ⓤ u (ü)		'u: (y)
V v	Ⓥ v		fau
W, w	Ⓦ w		ve:
X x	Ⓧ x		'iks
Y y	Ⓨ y		'ypsilon
Z z	Ⓩ z		tset

Al	a	A	a
Bb	B	b	B
Cc	C	c	C
Dd	D	d	D
Ee	E	e	E
Ff	F	f	F
Gg	G	g	G

Mp	P	p	M
Qq	Q	q	Q
Rr	R	r	R
Ss	S	s	S
Tt	T	t	T
Uu	U	u	U
Vv	V	v	V

Hh	H	h	H
Ii	I	i	I
Jj	J	j	J
Kk	K	k	K
Ll	L	l	L
Mm	M	m	M
Nn	N	n	N
Oo	O	o	O

Ww	W	w	W
Xx	X	x	X
Yy	Y	y	Y
Zz	Z	z	Z
sch	sch	sch	sch
tz	tz	tz	tz

GERMAN ALPHABET

A	a	ah	a	U	u	önn	u
B	b	bā	b	O	o	öh	o
C	c	tsū	c	P	p	pā	p
D	d	dā	d	Q	q	koö	q
E	e	a	o	R	r	err in berry	r
F	f	eff	f	S	s	ess	s
G	g	gā	g	T	t	tā	t
H	h	hah	h	U	u	ü	u
I	i	ee	i	V	v	fow	v
J	j	yot	j	W	w	vā	w
K	k	kah	k	X	x	icks	x
L	l	äll	l	Y	y	ipsilon	y
M	m	ömm	m	Z	z	tset	z

### THE PRONUNCIATION OF GERMAN

When a German first learns to speak English, he has a German accent. This is because he is holding his organs of speech—lips, teeth, tongue, vocal cords, etc.—in the positions which he uses for German words.

If in speaking German you hold your organs of speech as you do for English, you will have an English accent. The best way to learn to speak German is to imitate your teacher's pronunciation, trying to make the correct sounds and to understand how you do so.

#### The German Alphabet

German has the same twenty-six letters as English, but these are usually printed in a different kind of type from our English letters. The letters and their German names are given below.

Ⓐ	a... ah	Ⓜ	i... yot	Ⓔ	i, j... ess
Ⓑ	b... bay	Ⓝ	f... kah	Ⓝ	t... tay
Ⓒ	c... tsay	Ⓓ	l... el	Ⓛ	ll... oo
Ⓓ	d... day	Ⓜ	m... em	Ⓝ	b... fow (as
Ⓔ	e... ay (as	Ⓝ	n... en	Ⓝ	in fow)
	in day)	Ⓝ	o... oh	Ⓜ	oo... vay
Ⓕ	f... eff	Ⓝ	p... pay	Ⓝ	i... ix
Ⓖ	g... gay	Ⓝ	q... koo	Ⓝ	h... ipsilon
Ⓕ	h... hah	Ⓝ	r... er (as	Ⓝ	ä... tset
Ⓖ	i... ee		in very)		

German handwriting is also different from ours; the script characters follow.

a e l v E f o f g j j & s x  
 u l e v r n f y f i j k l m  
 n o p q r r s t u u o m e r n j  
 w v z y r | (6) 4 ñ n o w e r j

A a *A a* A a

B b *B b* B b

C c *C c* C c

D d *D d* D d

E e *E e* E e

F f *F f* F f

G g *G g* G g

P p *P p* P p

Q q *Q q* Q q

R r *R r* R r

S s *S s* S s

T t *T t* T t

U u *U u* U u

V v *V v* V v

GENEALOGICAL TERMINOLOGY AND SYMBOLS

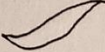
SCRIPT	GERMAN	ENGLISH	SYMBOLS
Ahnen	Ahnen	ancestor	
Ahnenstafel	Ahnenstafel	pedigree chart	
andere Ehe	andere Ehe	other marriage	
auswandern	auswandern	to emigrate	
Begräbnis	Begräbnis	burial or funeral	☐ or †
Begräbnisstätte	Begräbnisstätte	cemetery	
Beruf	Beruf	occupation	
Braut Kind	Braut Kind	child born before the marriage	
Ehe	Ehe	marriage	oo or oo or ⊗
Ehebrecher	Ehebrecher	adulterer	
ehelich	ehelich	legitimate	
Ehescheidung	Ehescheidung	divorce	o/o or o o or o/o
evangelisch	evangelisch	Protestant	
Familie	Familie	family	
Familienname	Familienname	family name	
freie Verbindung	freie Verbindung	illegitimate union (common law)	o-o or o-o
Friedhof	Friedhof	cemetery	
Geburt (geb.)	Geburt (geb.)	birth	* or * or *
Gemeinde (Gem.)	Gemeinde (Gem.)	community, parish	
geschieden	geschieden	known as divorced	o/o or o o or o o
gestorben (gest.)	gestorben (gest.)	died	† or +
getraut	getraut	wed	oo or oo or ∞
Halbbruder	Halbbruder	half-brother	
Halbschwester	Halbschwester	half-sister	
Hebamme	Hebamme	midwife	
Hebraer	Hebraer	Hebrew	
Heirat or Heirath (old form)	Heirat or Heirath (old form)	marriage, copulation	oo or oo or ⊗
Hochzeit, Hilleicht, Hileich,	Hochzeit, Hilleicht, Hileich,	wedding ceremony	

GENEALOGICAL TERMINOLOGY AND SYMBOLS (Continued)

SCRIPT	GERMAN	ENGLISH	SYMBOLS
<i>Hurenkind</i>	Hurenkind	illegitimate child of a woman who has had other illegitimate children by other partners	
<i>Katholiker</i>	Katholiker	Catholic	
<i>Katholisch</i>	katholisch	Catholic	
<i>Kinderlos</i>	kinderlos	childless	
<i>Kirchhof</i>	Kirchhof	burying ground	☩
<i>Konfirmiert</i>	Konfirmiert (confirmiert)	confirmed	
<i>ledig</i>	ledig	single	♂ or ♀
<i>Leichenverbrennung</i>	Leichenverbrennung	cremation	☩ or ☩
<i>Lutherisch</i>	lutherisch	Lutheran	
<i>Mädchenname</i>	Mädchenname	maiden name	
<i>Mennonitisch</i>	mennonitisch	Mennonite	
<i>noch lebende</i>	noch lebende	still living	
<i>protestantisch</i>	protestantisch	Protestant	
<i>reformiert</i>	reformiert	Reformed	
<i>Schein</i>	Schein	certificate	
<i>Selbstmord</i>	Selbstmord	suicide	
<i>sterben</i>	sterben	death	+ or + or †
<i>Taufe</i>	Taufe	baptism	m or u or A
<i>Tod (t)</i>	Tod (t)	death	+ or + or †
		died of wounds (battle)	+X
		died in battle	X X
<i>totgeboren</i>	totgeboren	stillborn	† or †*
<i>unbekannt</i>	unbekannt	unknown	or + *
<i>unehelich</i>	unehelich	illegitimate	(*) or (*) or O-O or -/
<i>verheiratet</i>	verheiratet (verheirathet old form)	married	∞ or ∞ X or X
<i>verlobt</i>	verlobt	engaged	o or o
<i>Vorfahr</i>	Vorfahr	ancestor	
<i>Vorname</i>	Vorname	first name	



GENEALOGICAL TERMINOLOGY AND SYMBOLS (Continued)

SCRIPT	GERMAN	ENGLISH	SYMBOLS
<i>Waise</i>	Waise	orphan	
<i>Wehmutter</i>	Wehmutter	midwife	
<i>Witwe</i>	Witwe	widow	
<i>Witwer</i>	Witwer	widower	
<i>Wohnort</i>	Wohnort	place of residence	
<i>Zeuge</i>	Zeuge	Witness	
<i>Zwilling</i>	Zwilling	twin	
		line extinct	++
		* confiscated property	
		* l before a date means they were living on this date	<i>l</i>
		* S before a date means they died on that date	<i>ye</i>
		* used by German Genealogists	

COMMON ABBREVIATIONS

Ca.	= circa (about)	verh.	= verheiratet (married)
nat.	= natus, nata (born)	geb.	= geboren (born)
ren.	= renatus, renata (baptized)		maiden name
spur.	= spurius, spuria (illegitimate)	get.	= getauft (baptized, christened)
eod.	= eodem (the same)	gest.	= gestorben (died)
ux.	= uxor (wife)	verl.	= verlobt (engaged)
vid.	= viduus, vidua (widower, widow)	getr.	= getraut (married)
N.N.	= nomen nescio (name not known)	u.	= und (and)
S.d.	= Sohn des, Sohn der (son of)	v.	= von (from)
S.v.	= Sohn von (son of)	E.R.	= errore reservata
T.d.	= Tochter des, Tochter der (daughter of)		= vorbehaltlich Irrtum (error reserved)
u.d.	= und des, und der (and of)	E. et O. R.	= errpre et omissione reservata
ehel.	= ehelich (legitimate)	st.n	= stilo novo (new style of dating document)
mannl.	= männlich (masculine)	samt.	= together with
weibl.	= weiblich (feminine)	evang.	= evangelisch
1782 <i>18</i>	1 Mai = year was right but the day and month was "told to them"	yusd.	= ejusdem (in the same month or year)
Pfr.	= Pfarrer (minister)	led.	= ledig (single)
weil.	= weiland (deceased)	ap.	= Anno (year)
b.v.	= beide von (both from)	Magd.	= servant girl, maid
Jgfr.	= Jungfrau (maiden, virgin)	wwe	= witwe (widow)
a.d.h.	= aus dem hause (out of the house)	wwer	= wittwer (widower)
d.d.	= de dato (on this date)		

THE CHURCH YEAR AND FEAST DAYS

The church year begins with the season of Advent. There are fixed dates and movable dates.

THE SEASON OF ADVENT - Four Weeks

The First Sunday in Advent (the Sunday nearest St. Andrew's Day  
 St. Andrew, Apostle November 30  
 St. Thomas, Apostle December 21  
 CHRISTMAS DAY, The Nativity of Our Lord December 25  
 St. Stephen, Martyr December 26  
 St. John, Apostle, Evangelist December 27  
 The Holy Innocents December 28

The Circumcision of Our Lord January 1

THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY - One to Six Sundays

The Epiphany of Our Lord January 6  
 Septuagesima Sunday (9 weeks before Easter)  
 Sexagesima Sunday (8 weeks before Easter)  
 Quinquagesima Sunday (7 weeks before Easter)  
 The Conversion of St. Paul January 25  
 The Presentation of Our Lord February 2  
 St. Matthias, Apostle February 24

THE SEASON OF LENT - Forty Days

Ash Wednesday, The First Day of Lent  
 The Sundays in Lent I Invocavit (6 wks.bfr.Easter)  
 II Reminiscere (5 wks.bfr.Easter)  
 III Oculi (4 wks.bfr.Easter)  
 IV Laetare (3 wks.bfr.Easter)  
 V Judica, Passion Sunday (2 wks.bfr.Easter)  
 VI Palmarum, Palm Sunday (1 wk.bfr.Easter)

The Days in Holy Week Monday  
 Tuesday  
 Wednesday  
 Maundy Thursday  
 Good Friday  
 Saturday, Easter Eve

THE EASTER (or Paschal) SEASON

Easter Day, The Resurrection of Our Lord  
 The Annunciation March 25  
 The Sundays after Easter I Quasi Modo Geniti (1 wk.aft. Easter)  
 II Misericordia  
 III Jubilate  
 IV Cantate  
 V Rogate

The Ascension of Our Lord Thursday  
 The Sunday after the Ascension (VI) Exaudi  
 St. Mark, Evangelist April 25  
 St. Philip and St. James, Apostles May 1

THE DAY OF PENTECOST, Witsunday (7 wks.aft.Easter)

THE TRINITY SEASON (Season after Pentecost 22-27 weeks)  
 Trinity Sunday  
 The Nativity of St. John the Baptist June 24  
 St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles June 29  
 The Visitation July 2  
 St. James the Elder, Apostle July 25  
 The Transfiguration of Our Lord August 6  
 Assumption of Mary (Catholic church only) August 15  
 St. Bartholomew, Apostle August 24  
 St. Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist September 21  
 St. Michael and All Angels September 29  
 St. Luke, Evangelist October 18  
 St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles October 28  
 Reformation Day (Lutheran and Protestant churches) October 31  
 All Saints' Day (All Souls' Day) November 1

Advents

Weihnachts

Fest der Beschneidung Christi  
Epiphania or Erscheinung Christi

Fest der Reinigung Mariä

Passions  
der Aschermittwoch

der Palmsonntag

Danksagung or Gründonnerstag  
Sterben Jesu Christi or Karfreitag

die Ostern or Osterzeit or  
Austerstehung Jesu Christi  
Fest der Berkündigung Mariä

Himmelfahrt Christi

das Pfinst Fest or Pfinsten  
Trinitatiszeit

Fest Johannis des Täufers

Fest der Heimsuchung Mariä

die Ungestaltung or die Verklärung

Michaelis-Fest

Reformations-Fest  
Fest Allerseelen or Allerheiligen

## Cardinal and Ordinal Numbers

In this list the cardinal numbers (one, two, three etc.) are given first, then the ordinal numbers (first, second, third etc.). The ordinal numbers below end in the letters *-en*, whereas different grammar environments may dictate additional letters such as *-e*, *-m*, *-r*, or *-s*. Common spelling variations are included:

eins	<i>einß</i>	eins	one
ersten	<i>erſten</i>	erſten	first
zwei, zwey	<i>zwei, zwey</i>	zwei, zwey	two
zweiten, zweyten	<i>zweiten, zweyten</i>	zweiten, zweyten	second
drei, drey	<i>drei, drey</i>	drei, drey	three
dritten	<i>dritten</i>	dritten	third
vier	<i>vier</i>	vier	four
vierten	<i>vierten</i>	vierten	fourth
fünf	<i>fünf</i>	fünf	five
fünften	<i>fünften</i>	fünften	fifth
sechs	<i>ſechs</i>	ſechs	six
sechsten	<i>ſechſten</i>	ſechſten	sixth
sieben	<i>ſieben</i>	sieben	seven
siebten, siebenten	<i>ſiebten, ſiebenten</i>	siebten, siebenten	seventh
acht	<i>aſt</i>	acht	eight
achten	<i>aſten</i>	achten	eighth
neun	<i>neun</i>	neun	nine
neunten	<i>neunten</i>	neunten	ninth
zehn	<i>zehn</i>	zehn	ten
zehnten	<i>zehnten</i>	zehnten	tenth
elf, eilf	<i>elf, eilf</i>	elf, eilf	eleven

