

Helga

Koblenz
Germany

Austin's
Sister
City

25 September 1990

by Helga von Schweinitz

Introduction

This compendium starts with Helga von Schweinitz trip to Germany in 1990. One of the main purposes of the trip was to establish a "Sister City" relationship between Koblenz Germany and Austin Texas. This relationship was the accumulation of years of work between delegations from Austin and Koblenz.

The delegation left Austin Texas on 21 September 1990 to fly to Frankfurt Germany. They did business and tourists things in Frankfurt until 25 September 1990. Then the delegation traveled to Koblenz for more business and tourist events. On 28 September 1990, the delegation traveled back to Austin Texas.

Helga stayed in Germany and went to visit family in her home town of Herford. Then she returned to Koblenz to celebrate the Re-unification of Germany festival. There after she began her journey back to Texas.

Full details of this trip are in "Helga's Koblenz Album September 1990" which includes the delegation's trip to Frankfurt, Koblenz, and Helga's trip to Herford.

The section about the trip in Koblenz is a repeat of the entries in the Album. It begins with the itinerary for the Major of Austin, Lee Cooke. Then combines Helga's diary notes and with the photo and their captions. Helga's diary has been edited to only include items that pertain to the delegation. The whole diary is included in her Album.

After the delegations return to Austin, Helga submitted an article to the American Statesman and it was actually published twice, one in December 1990 and again in March 1991.

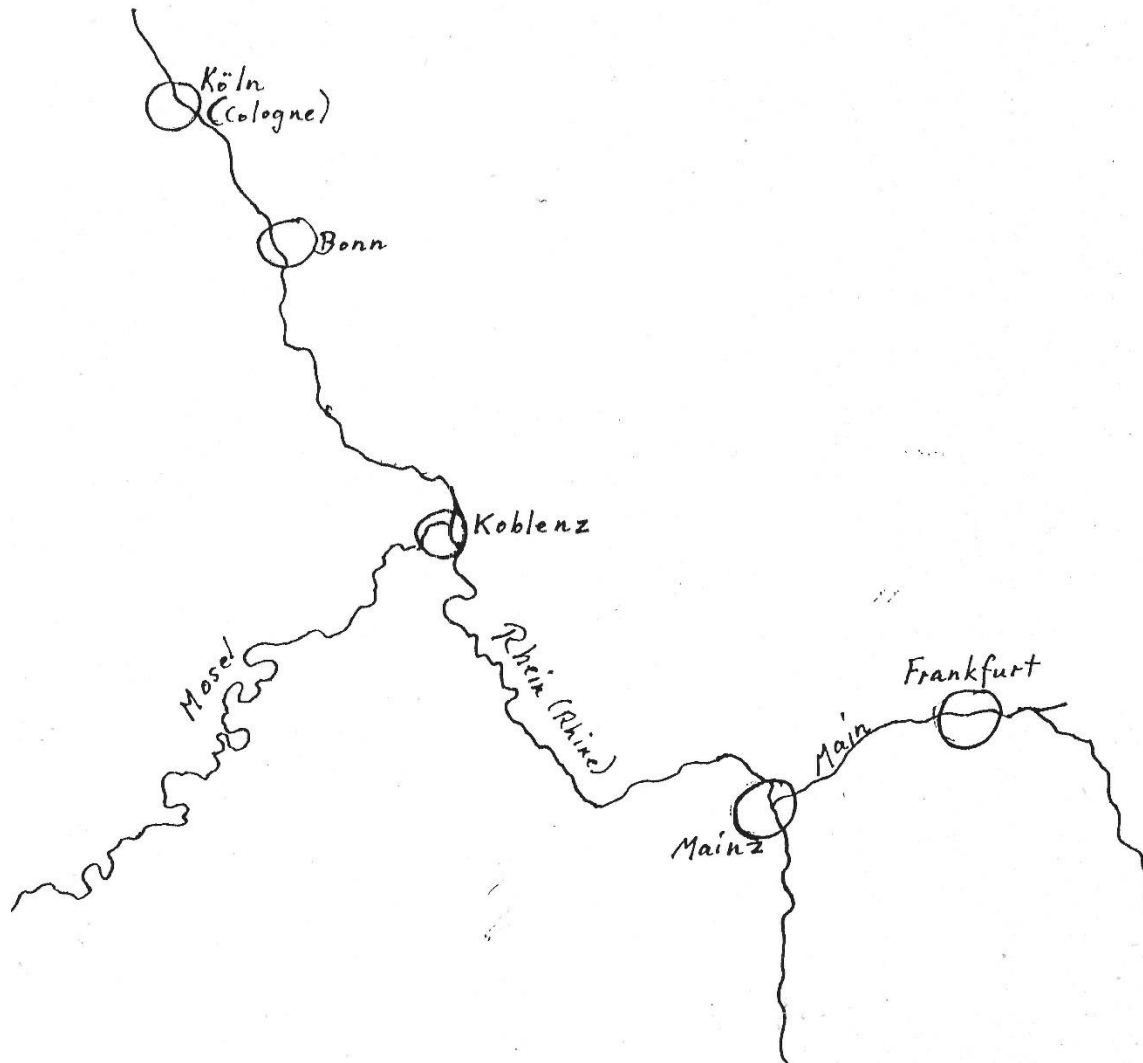
After this September 1990 trip, Helga and husband, Hans received numerous visitors from Koblenz. Many of the visitors stayed in Helga and Hans' guest rooms. Photos and write up of these visitors are included.

Helga Koblenz Sister City Compendium

Contents

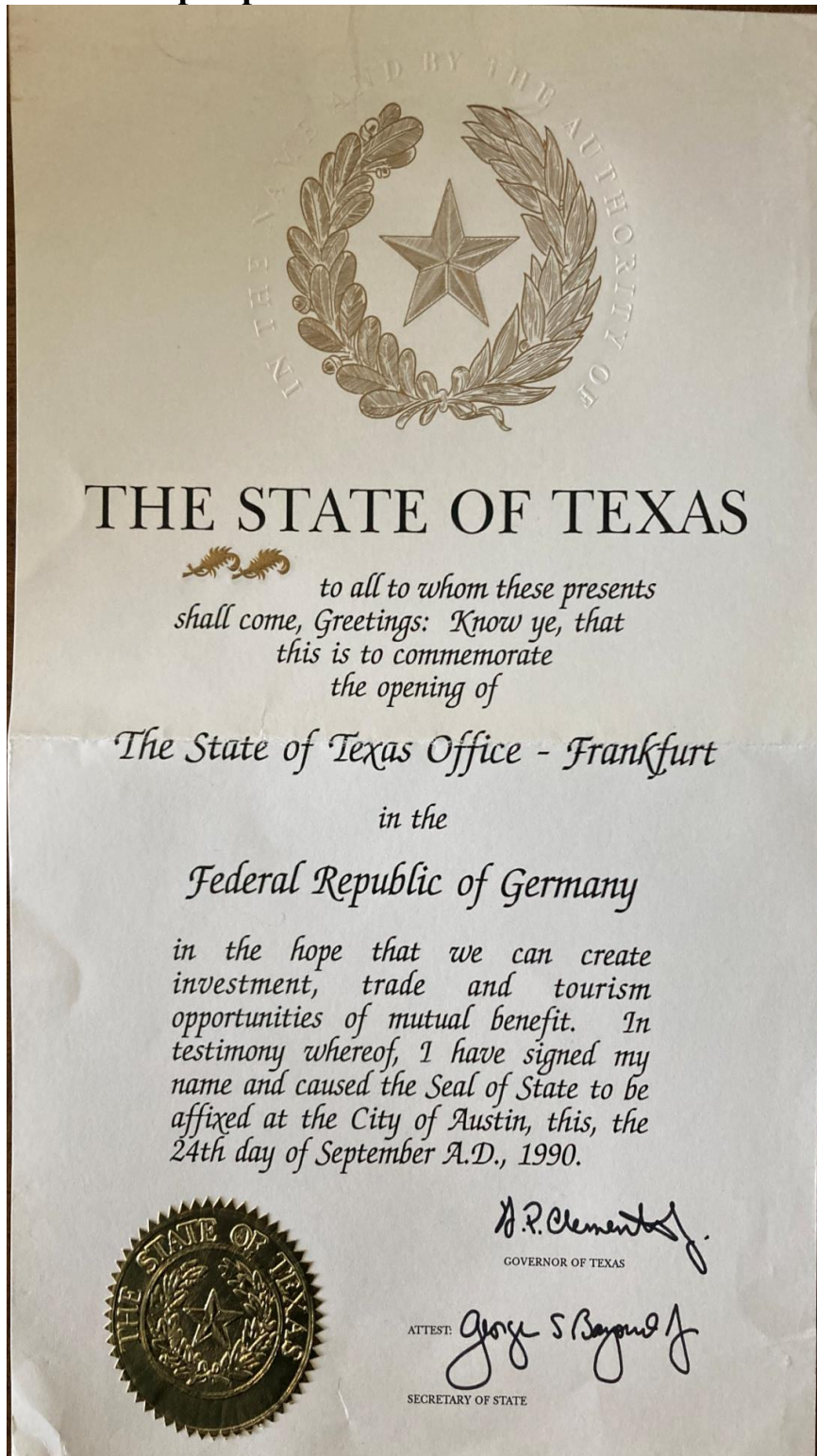
Introduction	2
Map of Koblenz and Frankfurt.....	4
Koblenz trip September 1990.....	5
Koblenz Opening Ceremonies 25 September 1990	10
Back in Koblenz for Fest der Einheit, 2 Oct 1990	45
Notes: from Monday 25 September 1990.....	52
Postcard from Koblenz and Frankfurt	52
After 25 September 1990, in Austin TX.....	56
Sister Cities Meetings	59
Transcript of Dec 1990 and March 1991 article	61
Photos of Koblenz Delegation trips to Austin	66
The End	68

Map of Koblenz and Frankfurt



Helga drew this map to simplify the relationship between the cities. In 1990, the capital of unified Germany was still Bonn. It returned to Berlin in 1999.

Koblenz trip September 1990



The ceremony was actually on 25th of September 1990.

Helga Koblenz Sister City Compendium

KOBLENZ: HOTEL DIEHL
Phone: 49-261-72010
FAX: 49-261-72011
Am Pfaffendorfer Tor 10
Koblenz D-5400
West Germany

DEPART TO KOBLENZ (AROUND 10 SOMETIME - REMAYA HAS SCHEDULE)

11:06 Arrive in Koblenz - Main station
11:30 Official welcome by Mayor Willi Hörter in the "Schloßkellerchen"

1:00 Bus transfer to Hotel

Castle of "Stolkenfels"

2:30 Sightseeing at castle
4:15 Back to Hotel
5:40 Bus transport to site
6:00 Dinner in honor of guests
12:00 midnight transfer back to hotel

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

9:00 Bus transfer to the "HWK-Technologiezentrum"

9:30 Visit to the "Techno-Zentrum"

11:00 Visit to the "Hoogoven's Company"

12:00 A ride through "Industriegebiet (industrial part of City of Koblenz) Rheinhafen"

12:45 Transfer to common lunch in the "Fährhaus am Sträusse", given by the city of Koblenz

3:00 Transfer back to hotel

5:30 Depart Hotel to a "Moseifahrt" (trip on the Moselle) to "Coches", dinner at the "Burg Reichsburg" (Castle Reichsburg), given by the City of Koblenz

11:00 Transfer back to Hotel

Stadtverwaltung Koblenz

Pressen- und Fremdenverkehramt
Friedrich-Jugendstrasse
Koblenz
129 22 28 Frau Stein-Doppe

USA
Phone: 001 512 499 - 2337
Darm and Ziemann Press Schönbach

Dear Mr. Cooke,
we are glad to send you the final visiting program.
Tuesday, September 25
Arrival: 11:06 hours Koblenz, main station, short welcome with music, bus-transfer to the "Schloßkellerchen"

11:30 hours Welcome by the city of Koblenz in "Schloßkellerchen" given by our Lord Mayor Willi Hörter, (snack)

13:00 hr Bus transfer to the Hotel Diehl, Ehrenbreitstein, Pfaffendorfer Tor.

14:30 hr Bus transfer to the castle of "Goldscheide" and guided sightseeing of the castle

16:15 hours Transfer back to the Hotel Diehl

17:40 hours Bus transfer to the Wies-village

18:00 hours Dinner to the honor of our guests, given by Lord Mayor Willi Hörter. The dinner is a good chance meeting the press and to contact our representatives of economy, industry, culture, universities and politicians.
Our Lord Mayor intends to give a gift to you and to your wife.
at about 23.30 hours Transfer back to the Hotel

Itinerary for Mayor Cooke for entire trip Koblenz and Frankfurt

MAYOR LEE COOKE
GERMAN/AUSTIN ASSOCIATION, INC.
OFFICIAL DELEGATION

HOTEL: Inter-Continental Hotel
Vilhelm-Leuschner-Str. 43
Phone: 49-69-226050
FAX: 49-69-222467
FRANKFURT, GERMANY

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

3:00 Leave on Delta 998 to DFV
4:50 Leave DFV on Delta 26 to Frankfurt

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

9:30 A.M. Arrive Frankfurt
OPEN ALL DAY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Inter-continental Hotel - Berlin Room

10:00 "How to Do business with the EEC" Prof. Jean Fried
12:00 Delegation briefing & luncheon

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

9:15 Bus departs for office opening

State of Texas Office - Eckenheimer Landstrasse 98-102
10:00 Official Department of Commerce Opening/Press Conference

11:30 Bus departs to hotel

Inter-continental Hotel - Nymphenburg I & II
4:30 Consulate Briefing

Inter-continental Hotel - Theatersaal I
6:00 Reception

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

9:45 Depart Hotel to "Wissenschaftlichen Hochschule" (high school of science) for the leading of an enterprise of Vallendar (VHU)
Welcome by Prof. Dr. W. Pfahler, presentation of the VHU, presentation of the double-degree-program
11:30 Depart from VHU

12:00 Visit to the "Deinhard" Company, testing of wine and champagne connected with a snack at noon, given by the "Deinhard" Company

2:30 Walk to the town hall of the City of Koblenz

3:00-3:45 Participate in Council Meeting with Council of City of Koblenz

4:00 Transfer back to Hotel

5:30 Bus transfer to the fortress Ehrenbreitstein

6:00 Welcome to the honor of the guests, given by the president of the parliament of Rheinland-Palatinate, Dr. Heinz-Feder Volkert

6:45 Bus transfer to "Theatre of the City"

7:30 Theater for performance of "Die Heilige Johanna" (Saint Johanna Play)
During the break of the play, the Lord Mayor Hr. Willi Hörter wants to say good-bye to his guests with a short reception

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

EARLY MORNING A CHAUFFEUR WILL COME TO HOTEL TO DRIVE MAYOR AND BARBARA TO FRANKFURT AIRPORT

MAYOR NEEDS TO CATCH FLIGHT BACK TO USA FROM FRANKFURT LEAVING AT 9:50 A.M.

3:55 Arrive in Austin

Itinerary based on original, but modified by Chamber of Commerce in Koblenz

- 3 -

12.00 hours Visit to the "Deinhard" Company, tasting of wine and champagne connected with a snack at noon, given by the "Deinhard" Company

at about 14.30 hours Walk to the town hall of the city of Koblenz

15.00 - 15.45 hours Participation in the meeting of the council of the city

16.00 hours Transfer back to the Hotel "Diehl"

17.30 hours Bus transfer to the fortress Ehrenbreitstein

18.00 hours Welcome to the honor of the guests, given by the President of the parliament of Rheinland-Palatinate, Dr. Heinz-Peter Volpert

18.45 hours Bus transfer to the "theatre of the city"

19.30 hours Visit to the theatre. On the program: "Die heilige Johanna" (Saint Johanna, Play)

During the break of the play, the Lord Mayor Mr. Willi Horter wants to say good-bye to his guests with a short reception.

Afterwards: Transfer back to the hotel

Friday, September 28

Early morning: One of our chauffeurs comes to Diehl's Hotel to drive you and your wife to Frankfurt airport.

We are looking forward to your visit,
yours truly

Dorothea Stein-Hoppe M. A.
Dorothea Stein-Hoppe
Manager of the Press- and Tourist Office.

- 2 -

Wednesday, September 26

Gentlemen's program:

9.00 hours Bus transfer to the "HWW-Technologiasentrum"

9.30 hours Visit to the "Techno-Zentrum"

11.00 hours Visit to the "Hoogoven's Company"

12.00 hours A ride through "Industrieanlagen (Industrial part of the city of Koblenz) Rheinfelden"

12.45 hours Transfer to common lunch in the "Fährhaus am Saaseau", given by the city of Koblenz

Ladies' program:

9.00 hours Transfer to the "Deutsches Eck", guidance to the "Altstadt" (old part of the city of Koblenz), end: 10.45 hours

Meeting at the starting-point of the "Deutsches Eck" for a ride to the "Festung Ehrenbreitstein" (Fortress of Ehrenbreitstein) connected with sight-seeing

Common lunch in the "Fährhaus am Saaseau", given by the city of Koblenz

at about 13 hours Transfer back to the "Mühl's Hotel"

17.30 hours Departure from the hotel to a "Noseelfahrt" (Trip on the Nosele) to "Cochen", dinner at the "Burg Reichsburg" (Castle Reichsburg), given by the city of Koblenz

at about 23.00 hours Transfer back to the hotel

Thursday, September 27

9.45 hours Departure from the hotel to the "Wissenschaftliche Hochschule" (High-School of Science) for the sending of an enterprise of Vallendar (VHU), * welcome by Prof. Dr. W. Fährler, presentation of the VHU, presentation of the double-degree-program

11.30 hours Departure from the VHU

Three pages of business cards



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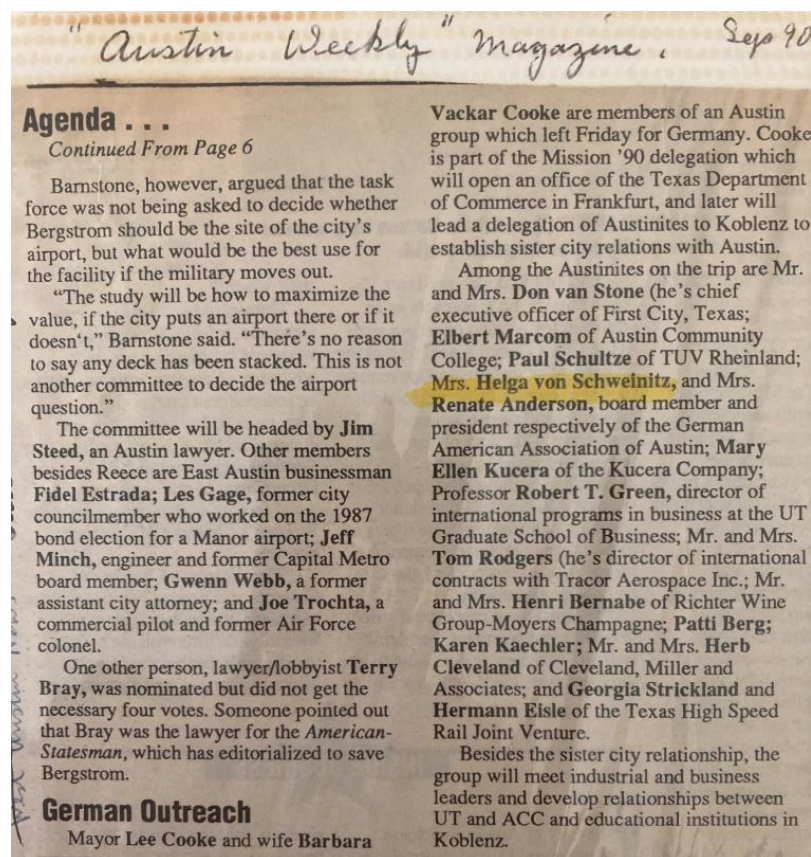


Friday 21 September 1990

Left on Delta 3pm. On the flight were Mayor Lee Cooke & Barbara, Don & Renata van Stones, Mary Allen Kocura, Elbert Marcom. Mr & Mrs Cooke flew business class, paid for by Austin-American Society. He was in jeans which is remarkable only because Renata van Stone had advised against it.

Saturday 22 September 1990

Arrived in Frankfurt at 9:30am next morning, welcomed by Delta representative, some trouble with late luggage. Mary Ellen and I in Renate Anderson's car to Hotel Intercontinental.



From "Austin Weekly" Magazine, September 1990



From Austin American Statesman, 27 September 1990



Texas hosts a reception in the Intercontinental Hotel for German business people and dignitaries. 25 September 1990

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Having a "German" meal in Sachsenhausen, in
"Gemaltes Haus" Gemischte Platte.
Combination/Sample plate.
Texas Chamber of Commerce in Germany. 25 Sept
1990

Koblenz Opening Ceremonies 25 September 1990

Monday 25 September 1990

A bus picked us up to the new Chamber of Commerce Texas has in Europe. The official ribbon cutting was done by Miss Texas (Susanne). A lot of dignitaries were there, TV cameras, etc. Unfortunately it took

place in the hallway, and it was very crowded. Champagne afterwards, meeting people, exchange of business cards, small talk, trying to learn faces and names (hopeless). Major Cooke was often mistaken for Don Van Stone and vice versa. Talked to Miss Texas, so poised, pretty, obviously intelligent. She is studying music therapy.



In the hall way

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Opening instruments



Major of Frankfurt, Miss Texas (Susan), Jack Raines.



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Getting ready



Miss Texas at Opening

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Ribbon cutting



Bruno Remy, TX Dept of Commerce. Jack Reines TX Gubernatorial Candidate etc.



Mayor Lee Cooke from Austin

Bus back to hotel. Lunch with Elbert & Mary Ellen in the Galleria in BofG Building, Italian, snobbish but good food. Then Bert and I walked to the Zeil and strolled around in Kaufhof. He is in Germany for the first time. At Roßmarkt people were all dressed, in other parts one is afraid to get close. A brisk wind sped up our pace.

4:30pm meeting sponsored by Department of Commerce with two speakers on doing business in Germany, good, but very general. (In hotel).

6:30pm Big reception with lots of German dignitaries and businessmen. A magnificent spread of meats, veggies, dips, all flown in from Texas, and fantastic German pastry. Some speeches, meeting people, exchange of cards, Miss Texas sang. Food was really great,

Talked for a while with Bürgermeister Moog of Frankfurt.

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A collage



Map of Koblenz where Deutsches Eck is, the two rivers meet

Tuesday 26 September 1990

Taxi to Bahnhof. Driver was upset about short ride. Group traveled 1st class (nothing special) to Koblenz where we were greeted by a band and 2 men and 1 women in military uniform of 1840. (woman in Biedermeier), some people from the city and German American Society, (Mr Fay)



Departure from Frankfurt Hauptbahnhof 25 Sept 1990



Departure



Arrival in Koblenz. The couple on left are dressed in 1840 outfits.

Bus to official reception hall to meet Bürgermeister Hörter. Saar wine was served with open sandwiches, both excellent. Both Majors gave a talk. An American Colonel (Army) translated. We sat around tables and chatted. The most official persons around a center table, Van Stones, Renate Anderson, the Cookes, Fey, Hörter. Bus to Hotel Diehls. Mary Ellen Kocun and I room together again. View on the Rhine.

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Walking tour



Koblenz



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This was a great walking tour of Koblenz , 25 Sept 1990

Bus to Schloß Stolzenfels, walk uphill from street. A guided tour in English. The Schloß was rebuilt for the king of Prussia around 1843 when Koblenz became part of Prussia after having been French for a while, not for personal or permanent residence but more to show a presence.



Spitting Schängele

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Koblenz



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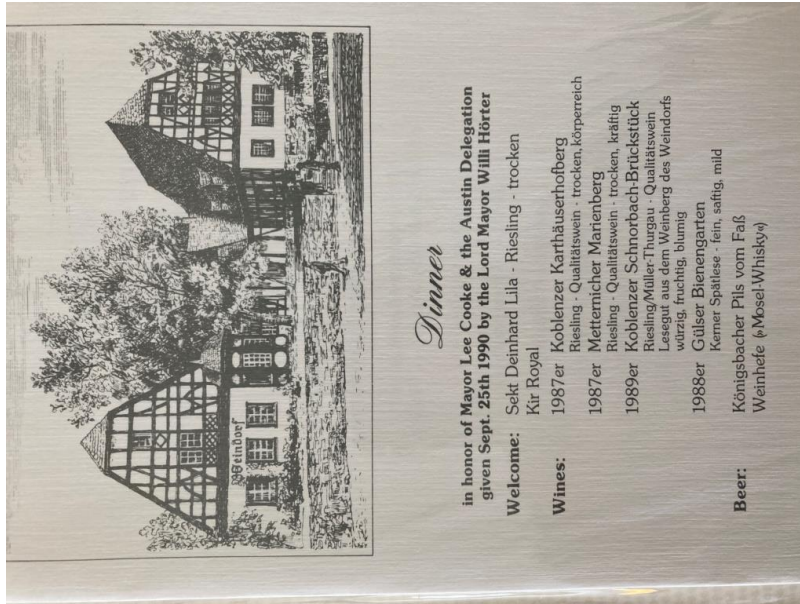
Freundeskreis Koblenzer Stadtsoldaten vor seinem Stammlokal, dem Weindorf.

Evening: official reception with dinner at city owned restaurant. Oberbürgermeister Hörter bought his wife. He speaks fairly good English. There were a lot of Koblenz dignitaries from the administration, Industrie Handelskammer, business, education, press. Invitation had come from the office of the Oberbürgermeister and his selection was criticized by those Germans I overheard. They were always criticizing this or that when they talked among themselves, bitching about party politics as well. But we met interesting people, for example I had a long talk with the head of the Grüne

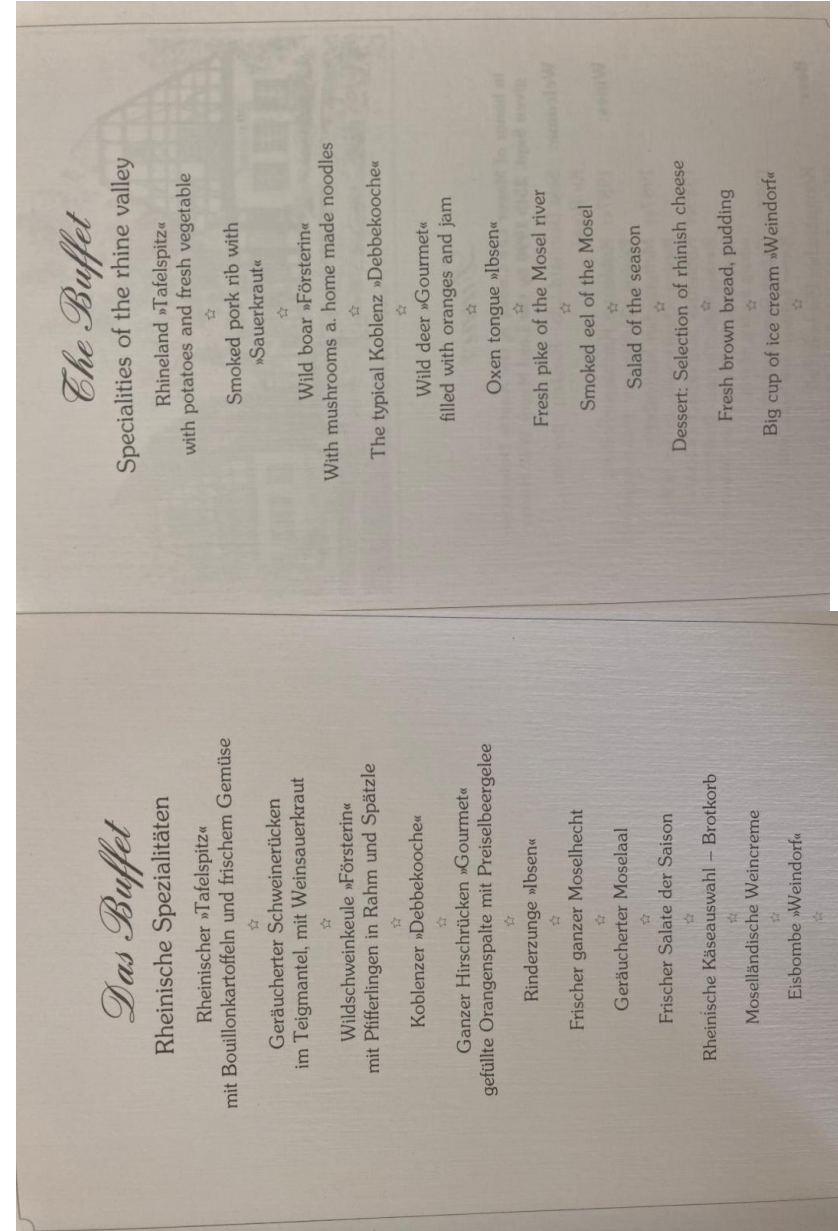
faction in the city council (Ingrid). It was late when we finally were bused home. Food (buffet style, Eisbombe mit Raketen, etc) had been more than great.



25 Sept 1990 During a banquet at the Weindorf. Don van Stone and Lee Cooke teach Willie Hörter the sign (Hook'em horns)



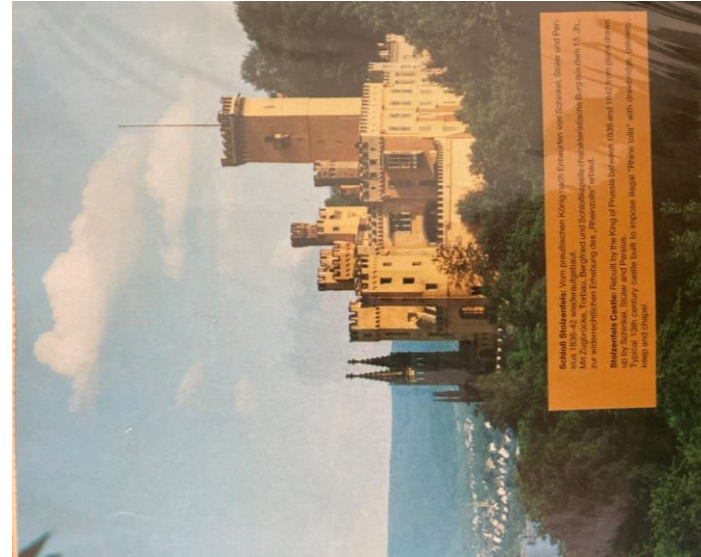
Menu on 25th Sept 1990 In German and English



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On one of many bus trips.



Visit by bus to Schloß Stolzenfels.



Helga and Tom Rogers



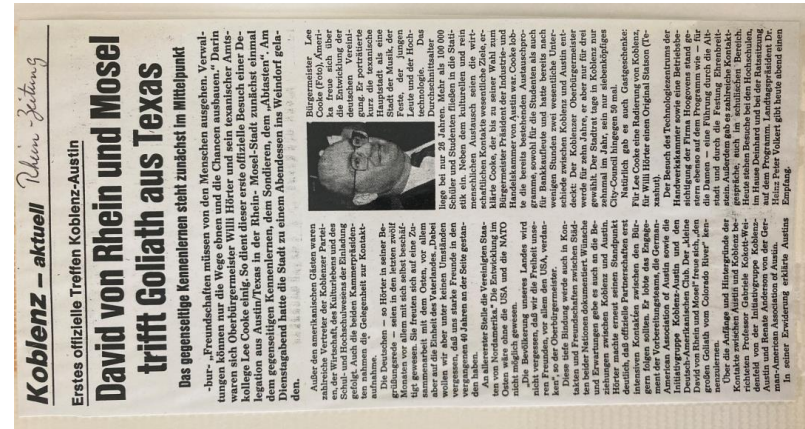
Schloß Stolzenfels



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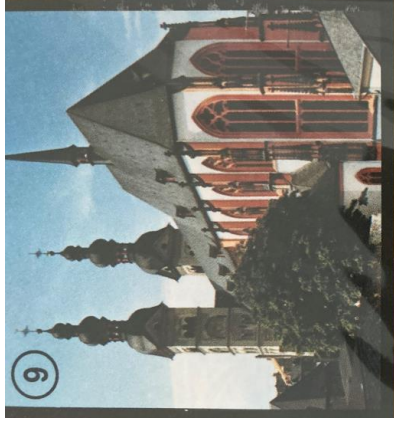
Paul Schultze



Many of the pretty sights (sites) in Koblenz



St. Kastor's Church and Fountain: in this Romanesque building (consecrated in 836), once the favourite church of the Carolingian emperors, the Verdun compact on the division of the first German Empire was prepared in 843. The Fountain reminds us of Napoleon's rise and fall; its inscription is one of history's curiosities.



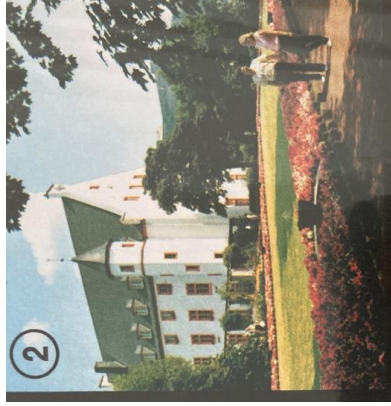
Liebfrauenkirche: Romanische Emporenbasilika, um 1180 begonnen, Mitte des 13. Jh. vollendet. Das gotische Chor wurde 1404 – 1430 errichtet, die barocken Zwiebeltürme (nach dem letzten Krieg erneuert) stammen von 1693. Das Gotteshaus ist über einer Römerhalle und früheren Kirchen aus fränkischer und karolingischer Zeit gebaut.

Church of Our Lady: Romanesque galleried basilica, begun c. 1180, completed in mid-13th cent. The Gothic chancel dates from 1404–30, the Baroque domed towers (renewed after the war) from 1693. The church was built on the site of a Roman hall and Frankish/Carolingian churches.



Florinskirche: Dreischiffige romanische Pfeilerbasilika (12. Jh.) mit gotischem Chor (1350) auf römischem Stadtturm. Ursprünglich flache Holzdecke, 1708 erneuert, ehemalige gedrungene Turmhauben um 1900 durch die Spitztürme ersetzt. Neben der Kirche das älteste Wohnhaus von Koblenz.

St. Florin's Church: triple-naved Romanesque pillared basilica (12th cent.) with Gothic chancel (1350) on Roman tower. Originally flat timber ceiling renewed in 1708 and squat towers replaced in 1900 by pointed ones. Nearby is the city's oldest dwelling-house.



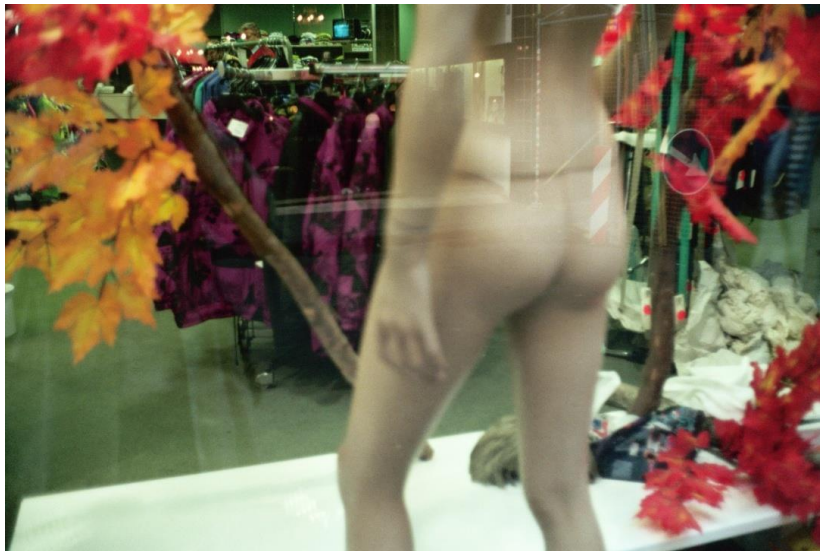
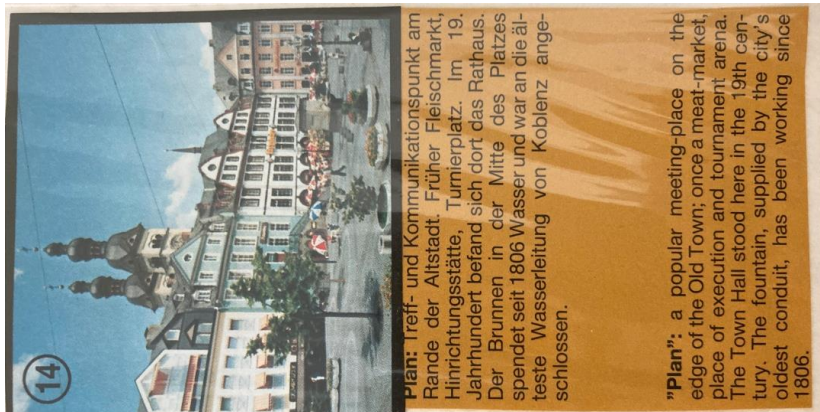
Deutscherhof mit Blumenhof: Von den weiträumigen Bauten des Deutschen Ritterordens ist nur noch das ehemalige Verwaltungsgebäude erhalten. Es ist eingebettet in liebevoll gepflegte Gartenanlagen, zu deren Kulisse die altherwürdige Kastorikirche gehört. Auf der anderen Rheinseite die imponierenden Festungsbauwerke des Ehrenbreitstein.

Of the Deutscherhof and Blumenhof erected by the Teutonic Order of Knights only the former administrative building survives, surrounded by carefully-tended gardens and with the venerable Church of St. Castor as a background. Across the river is the impressive fortress of Ehrenbreitstein



Vier Türme und Löhrstraße: Eingang zur Einkaufszone und zur Altstadt. Die vier Häuser mit den schmuckvollen Erkertürmen wurden zwischen 1689 und 1691 gebaut. Hier war die Hauptwache der Stadt. Im letzten Krieg zum Teil zerstört und wieder aufgebaut.

Four Towers and the Löhrstrasse: Entrance to the Old Town and shopping precinct. The four houses with their ornamental oriels were built between 1689 and 1691. The city's main guard-house stood here. Partially destroyed in the war, it has been rebuilt.



Window dressing

Wednesday 27 September 1990

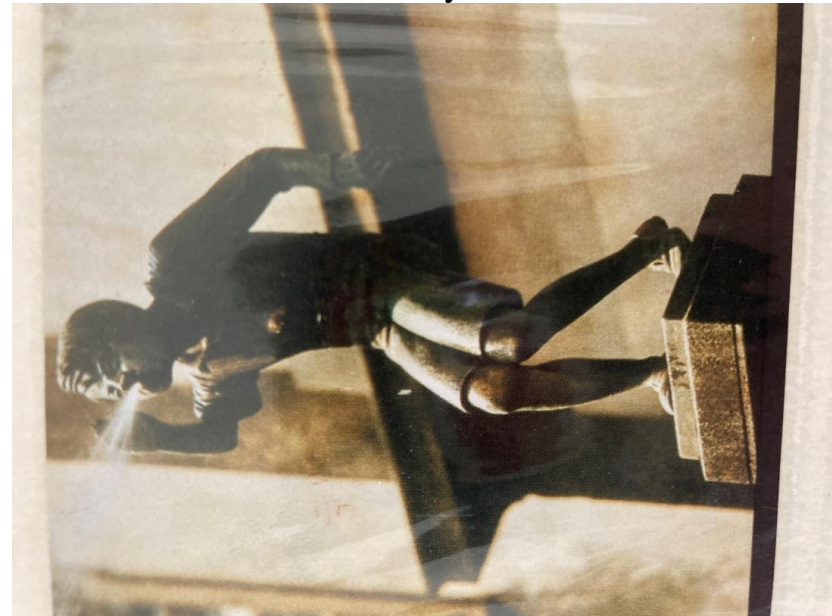
The hotel seems to be built right over the railroad tracks.

9am, gentlemen to Industriegebiet, ladies by bus to Detches Eck, Altstadt, Festung Ehrenbreitstein. Guides Fau Mai and Herr Schmidt. Sehr beeindruckend alles. Am Deutschen Eck we were told that on the 2nd/3rd the flag on the monument will be taken down with a great ceremony after having been hoisted there by Heuß to hang there until Germany is reunited. It might be nice to go back to Koblenz for the night.

Lunch at another wonderful place.

They served soup, salad, fish delicacies, then 2 main entrees, then Eisbombe with coffee, and wine of course.

We were so stuffed! but every bite was delicious.



Schengel



Street music





Doing and selling needlepoint



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Bus back to hotel. Major Lee Cooke, Barbara Vackar Cooke.



Nice note from Veronika and Souja in 15 Dec 1990 to Helga

Koblenz, 15. 12. 90

Liebe Helga,
 Dir und Deiner Familie wünsche ich ein
 gesegnetes Weihnachtsfest und ein glück-
 liches, zufriedenes und vor allem gesundes
 Neues Jahr. Zur Erinnerung an unseren
 lustigen Abend in Cochem habe ich die
 handsignierten Drucke erstellt und
 an alle, deren Adresse ich hatte, geschickt.
 Ich denke gerne an die Zeit zurück und
 hoffe, daß wir noch viele schöne gemein-
 same Stunden verbringen können.
 Meine Arbeit mit dem Personalbogen
 wird Dich hoffentlich in zwischen erreicht
 haben. Im Januar werde ich die 1. Seite
 über Renate überfaren und dann den
 gesamten Bogen schicken. Dann kommt
 Ihr schon einmal eine "Vorlese" treffen.
 Hoffentlich klappt alles.
 Viele liebe Grüße und alles Gute
 Veronika und Souja (die
 seit heute wieder zu Hause ist!)

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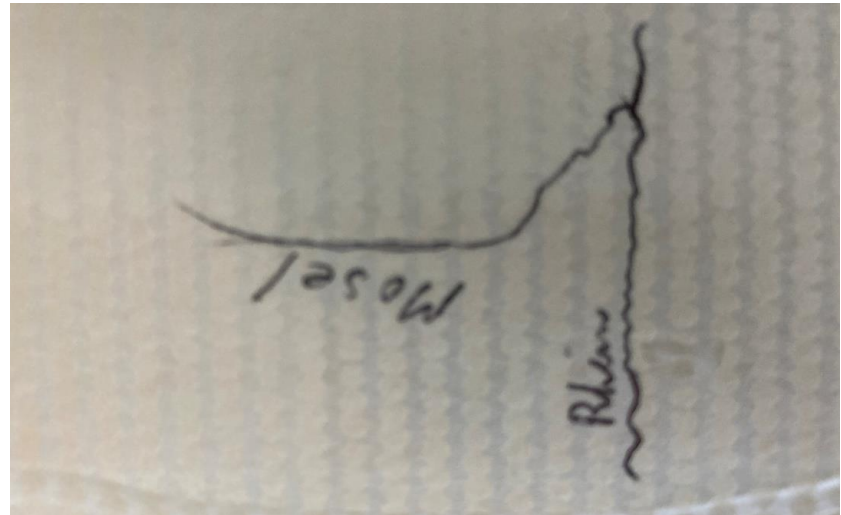
Museum



Koblenz on the river



Forever restoring with great care



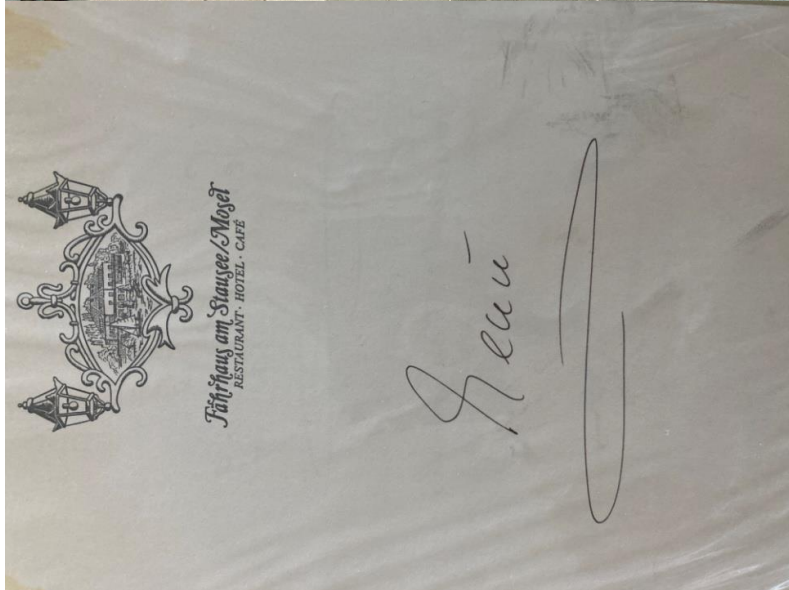
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View from Ehrenbreitstein - it was hazy every time I was up there.

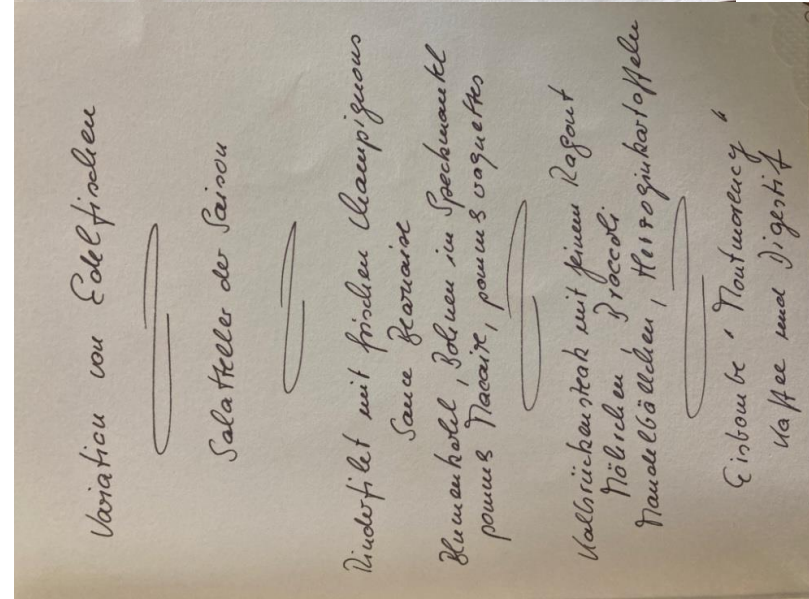
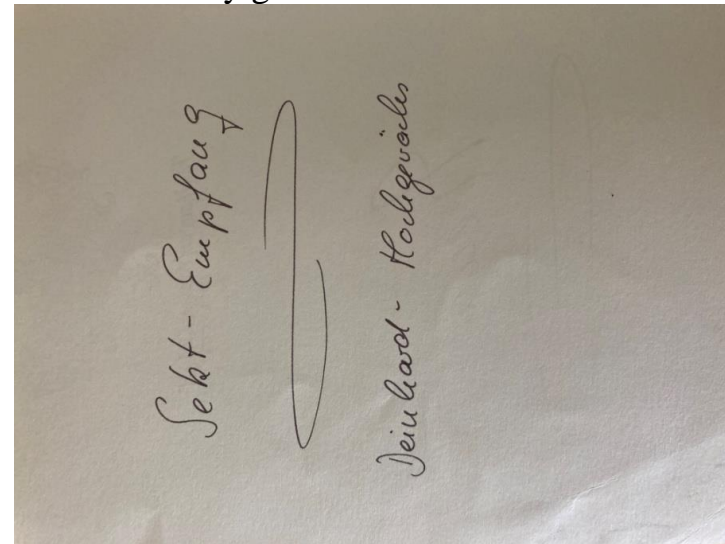


Koblenz

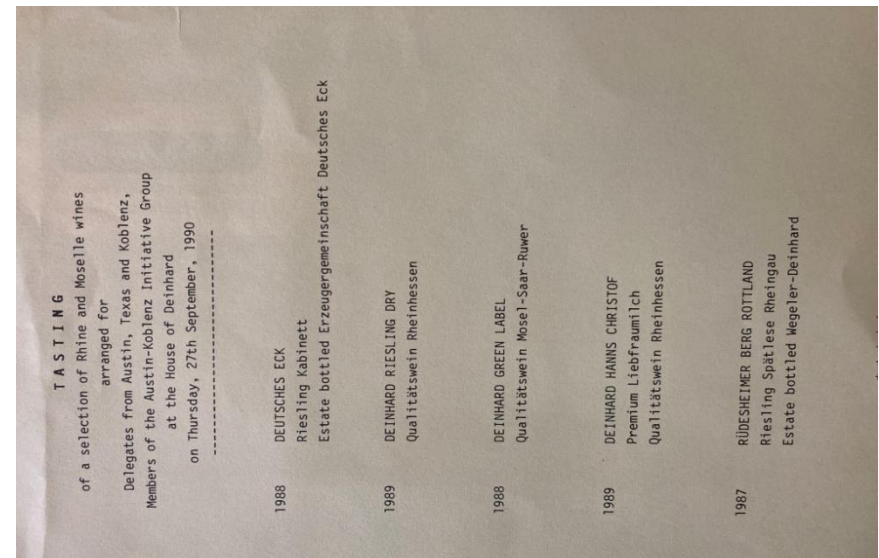


A delicious meal, elegantly served, but probably the richest one I ever had to eat because the two main

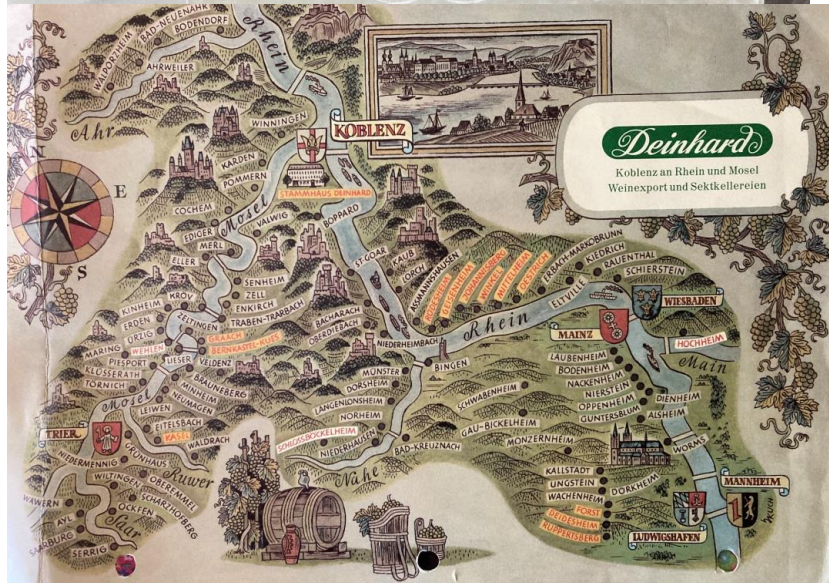
courses were not there to choose from - they were both served to every guest.



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With wine list printed on back



Map of Koblenz



Miss Texas (Susan)



Renate Anderson, Mary Ellen Kucera, Bob Green

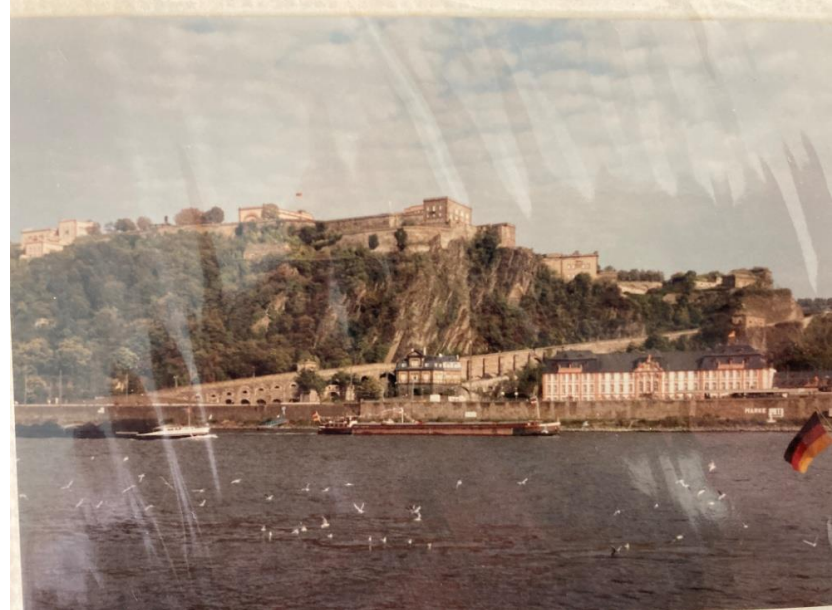


Champagne and wine



Rhein-Zeitung covered every day.

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Festung Ehrenbreitstein near Koblenz

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Ehrenbreitstein - beautiful brick work



A flag to welcome us, the "Amis" at Ehrenbreitstein



Rhein-Zeitung, another coverage

Meeting with students and teachers to discuss future exchanges in the Görres Gymnasium

Then quickly by bus to Görres School where teachers and students were assembled to discuss student exchange. Mrs Cooke (he was not there) offered to take a student for 3 weeks

Hotel - then quickly into bus for ride to Cochem, the castle where we had a good, funny tour through the castle and then a medieval dinner with Don, the Major and Renate dressed as knight and Lady, all very funny. They served a rustic dinner without forks, knives or spoons (turkey legs from Texas as main course). Lots of beer & wine. Great time. On the way down the hill Renate A and Renate van Stone, Pat Berg and I hooked arms and marched signing German Wanderlieder, loud and much too happy. We were inspired by the musicians that had entertained in the castle. We sang in German to make sure the "Amis" would not be blamed by the disturbed towns people. (it was almost midnight).





Bert, Patti, Don van Stone (going a Major Lee Cooke since German's were confusing the two, and Lee was too exhausted to attend)



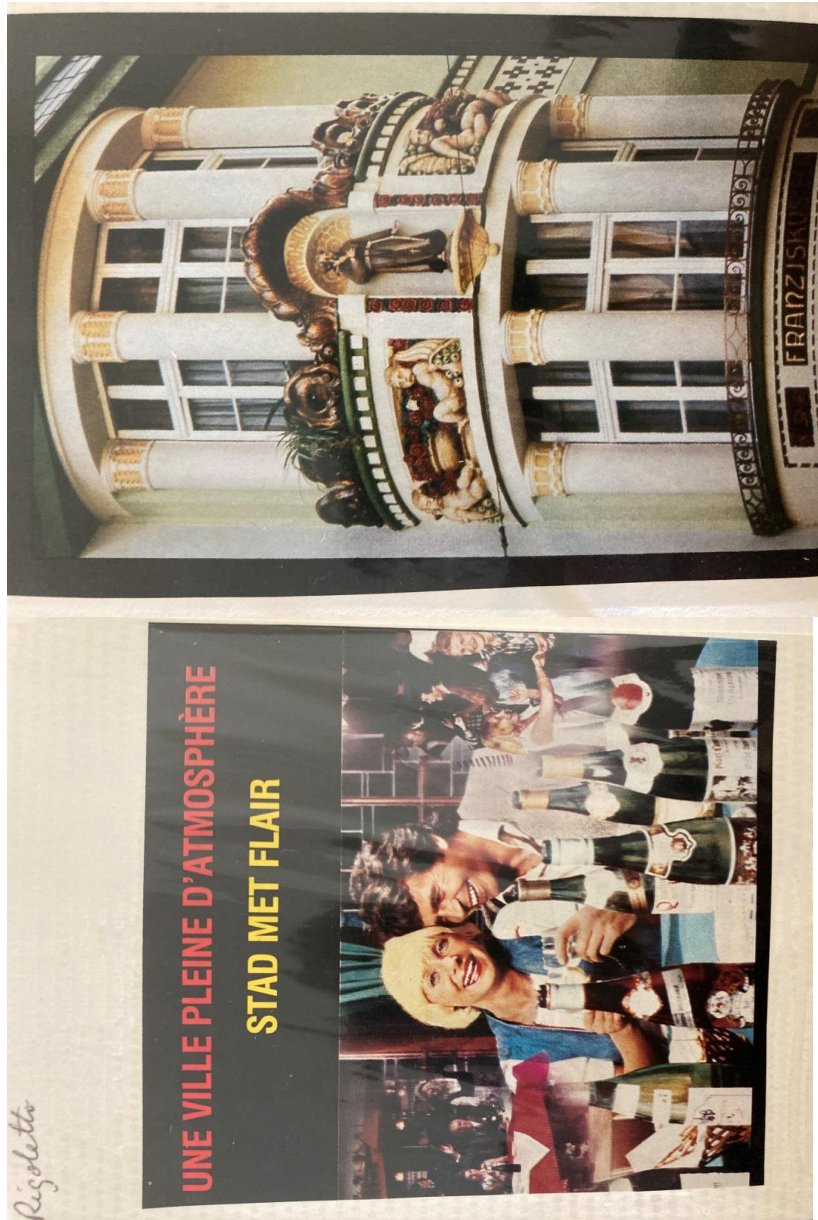
with Gabi Steibuch and Veronika Leggewie



Ritterliches Mahl auf der Reichsburg Cochen. Don van Stone, King Cook with Queen renata.



Rigoletto



Thursday 28 September 1990

Bus to Deinhart, Sekt und wine mit Führung und Proben. Man trank aus jedem der 7 Gläser nur 1 Schluck and goß den Rest in einen Apfallnapf. (You only drank 1 sip from each of the 7 glasses and poured the rest into an apple bowl.)

Nachmittags zum Stadtrat. Ich übersetzte offiziell für einen Beamten, der uns vorher über das Vewaltungssystem unterrichtete.

Beim Stadtrat (die treffen sich mur ~10 mail im Jahr, haben aber 50 Abreordnete), ging es geränschvoll zu. Nach unserer Begnißung wurde es für die meisten von uns longweilig, zumal wir alle totmüde waren (mir war es nich langweilig).

Schnell zum HOtel, aufs Klo, dann im Bus zur Festung, wo wir vom Präsidenten des Rhein Pf. Landtages empglangen wurden. Man traf wieder (nun schon) bekannte Leute; es gab Gulaschsuppen und Schmittchen, Wein, Sekt, Reden. Veronika Lebbesie lad sich ein, bei ihr zu wohnen, wenn ich nächste Woche wieder nach Koblenz komme. Ich erhielt auch hintenrum eine Eintrittskarte zur Ehrentribühne für die Feierlichkeiten am 2,3 Oktober.

Dann zum Brauereikeller für ein letztes gemütliches Beisammersein. Oberbürgermeister kam auch.

Eigentlich was ein Theater besuch geplant (Die heilige Johanna) aber das wäre ja schrecklich langweilig gewesen für Leute, die kein Deutsch verstehen. Der

Helga Koblenz Sister City Compendium

Plan wurde kurzfristig abgeändert. We talked about (Elbert's idea) to have an exchange of teachers for we exchanged kids.

Mayor Cooke told me that he would put me in charge of the project to plant 1,000,000 trees in Aust by 1992 (or 1993?). This followed a remark I had made the day before that the Austinites love of trees might be second to that of the German's love for trees. I hope he was joking, but nevertheless I had immediate volunteers.

A visit to the family of Ernie Günther in Koblenz



Helga Koblenz Sister City Compendium

Friday 29 September 1990

Everybody departs or will depart after a day of rest. Cookies were taken to Frankfurt airport at 6:30am, still exhausted.

At breakfast Don van Stone commented that our group was so congenial, that we could actually go on an Amazon cruise together. This is really amazing since most of us had never or hardly met before.

I left Koblenz for Herford Germany by train at 10:08am, but like so many trains now a days, it was date. (DM 72).

Going to stay in Herford until Monday.

Back in Koblenz for Fest der Einheit, 2 Oct 1990

Monday 1 October 1990

Train back to Koblenz. Veronika Leggewie picked me up. I am staying at her place.

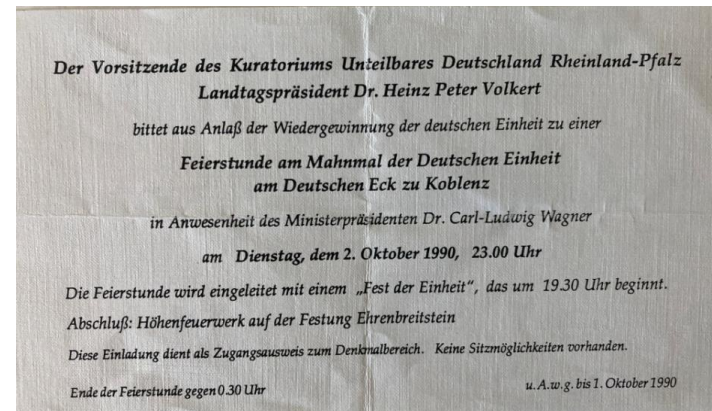
Opening day stamp sheet commemorating 2 October 1990, "Fest der Einheit" Festival of Unity



Tuesday 2 October 1990

Evening was reserved for the big event.: The celebration and festivities concerning reunification. Renate Anderson, Veronika, her Mother and I strolled the few hundred yards to the Deutsche Eck at around 8:30pm. Crowds made it difficult for us to reach the Denkmal area where we had tickets from the Landtags president Volkert in a roped off area. There were all kinds of dignitaries there, O. B., Vokart, Minister president, etc. Renate and I made sure we were seen and recognized by many. TV cameras and lights. Loud rock music was played live until almost a quarter to 12, the young crowd clapped and moved in rhythm, but many would have preferred and expected a different

type of music. Then several dignitaries said a few sentences into loud speakers, but no speaker was directed towards the invited guests, so we couldn't hear them. Then the five flags of the new states (formerly DDR) were hissed with applause. The "Einigkeit und Recht und Freiheit" verse of the national anthem was played by an army band and solemnly sung by everybody - and that was it, except for a meager firework from the Festung Ehrenbreitstein. What happened to the schwarz-rot-gold flag that - we had been told by many - would be ceremoniously lowered because from Bundespräsident Heuß had put it there once "until Germany is reunited". The flag was not lowered. Was it the mechanism that didn't work? We never found out, wondered about it for a minute, and one talked about plans for Sunday afternoon, the weather, and the price of rice in China, sto to say. No big enthusiasm. Only drunks sang fractions of the Deutschland Deutschland, etc. There was no closing hours for Bars that night, all of them were filled into the streets until early morning. A few men and kids had been around with a flag.



Celebrating German Re-unification by special invitation of Landtagspräsident Dr Vokert in the dignitary area of the Deutsches Eck.



Helga, Mrs & Oberbürgermeister Hörten, ?, Renate Anderson, Mrs Vokert

Helga Koblenz Sister City Compendium



Renate Anderson, ?, ?, Veronika



"Ein Deutsches Kind"



Celebrations just after midnight 3/4 October 1990





This flag was supposed to come down at midnight, but it didn't. But the flags of the 5 new states were pulled down again.

Wednesday 3 October 1990

Feiertag, everything closed.

Alfred Bur picked me up at 10am. His mother is one of Ernie Guenther's sisters. I had called them a few days earlier to deliver greetings from Ernie, who is too sick by now to write or phone. Two sisters of Ernie were there, several other relatives. Kaffee, Kuchen, Erzählen, Tränen der Alten Damen. I took a few pictures.

Helga Koblenz Sister City Compendium

Distance is a terrible concept when one gets too old to travel.

October 4, 1990 a holiday, we walked back to the Deutsches Eck. Veronika with Statdtrat and wife



Deutsches Eck



Bild Zeitung, 4 Oct 1990





Kurfürstliches Schloß



Ich weiß nicht was soll es bedeuten.. Helga took this photo, but cannot remember why or what it is.

Thursday 4 October 1990

Spent several hours in Hauptlandesarchiv with the files on emigration. Ordered some "micros" (70 Pfg pro Stück) to be mailed to me. Possible articles to be written, Sehr behilfliche Leute.

Around 1pm Veronika took me to the train for Mainz,



Leaving Koblenz by Train. Some local ladies enjoy a glass of Champagne before boarding the Inter City for a shopping trip.

Notes: from Monday 25 September 1990

Don Bussingen on developing business relationships with Germany.

Political Environment:

Germany will continue economic growth, will be big market.

Very few trade barriers

US Exports to Germany up this year by 86%

European Community ties, free movement through all Europe (300 million people)

Distribution channels available, but good agents hard to find.

Trade fairs are very important for world market.

Foreign Commercial Services.

Have to be contacted with district offices of US commerce departments.

Agent distributor service (\$125) available.

Credit report service available.

List of Trade Opportunities and Mini Market services available.

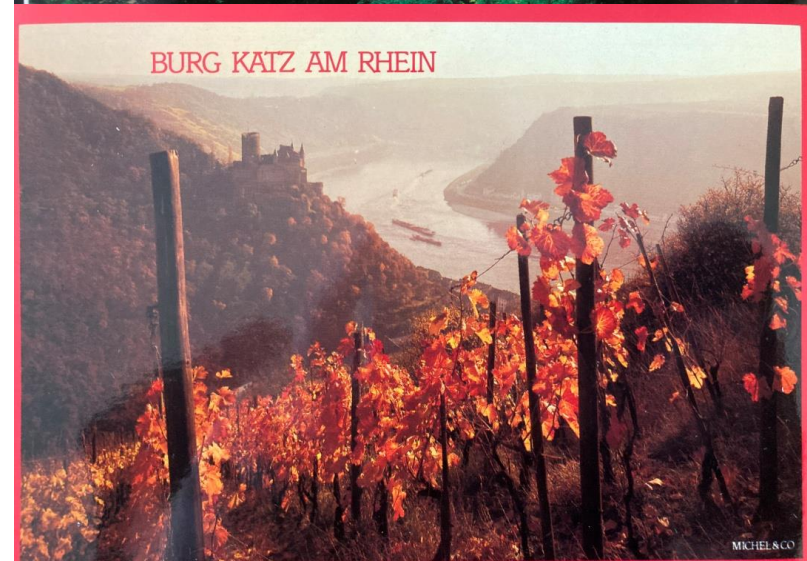
US Products in demand in Germany: Hi-Tech, Hardware, Software, Telecommunication

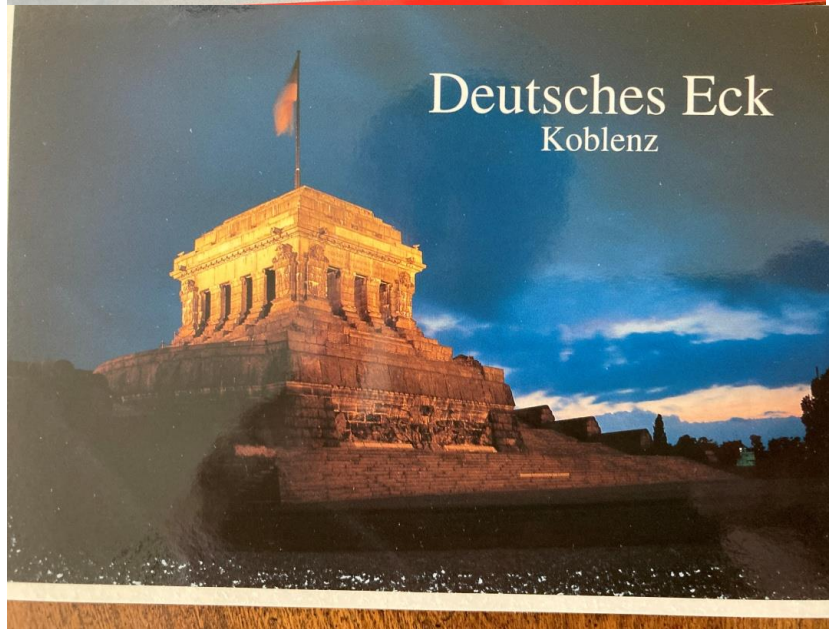
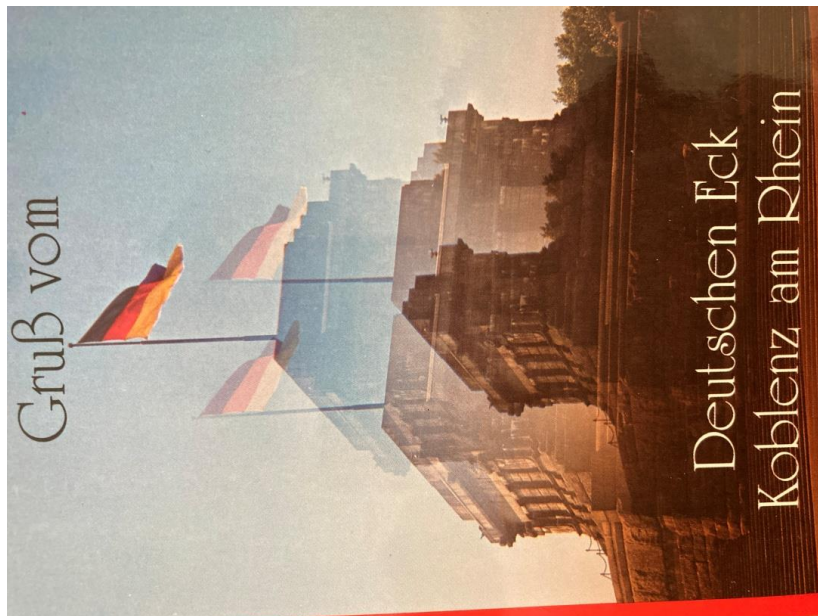
Have data sheets in cm not inches.

Have sales persons speak local language

Department of Commerce in Austin has consultation to financing help available.

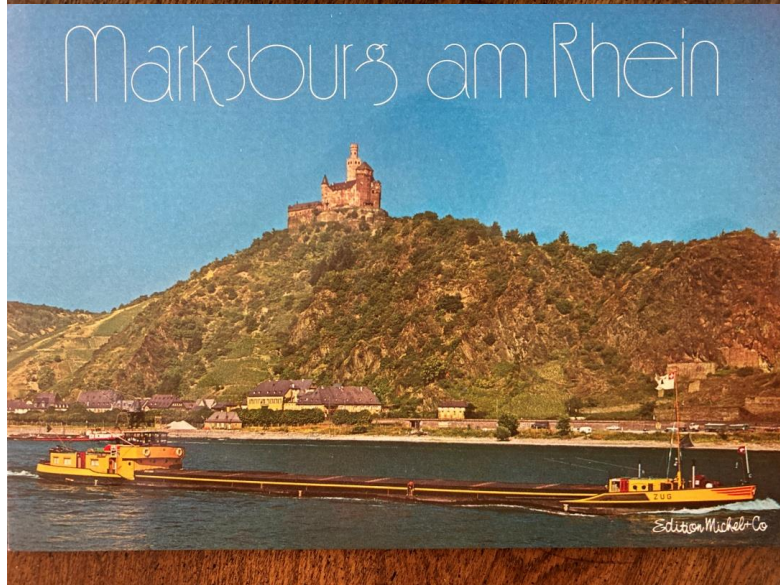
Postcard from Koblenz and Frankfurt





Helga Koblenz Sister City Compendium





Helga Koblenz Sister City Compendium

After 25 September 1990, in Austin TX

When Helga returned to Austin in early October, she wrote an article and submitted it to the Austin American Statesman. The transcript of that article is included at the end of this compendium.

This article was printed twice by the Austin American Statesman, once in the Austin Weekly 29-15 December 1990 and again on 23 March 1991

DECEMBER 19-25, 1990 AUSTIN WEEKLY PAGE 13

TRAVEL

Koblenz, Germany: Austin's New Sister City

BY HELGA H. VON SCHWEINITZ

Plans develop as hoped for by hard-working groups of people in both towns. Austin will soon have a sister city in Germany: Koblenz.

As few people in Koblenz know a lot about Austin, few Austinites know Koblenz, but that could change soon. A sister city relationship will mean exchanges involving the business, cultural and educational sectors of both towns.

An exchange of teachers has been initiated for next spring, to be followed by an exchange of students. Several groups from the world of music and theater have announced their plans to come to Austin, and the Board of Trade in Koblenz has expressed an interest in hosting about 30 vocational students from Austin in German families for a few weeks.

Austin already has active sister city relationships with Oita (Japan), Taichung (Taiwan), Adelaide (Australia) and Saltillo (Mexico).

The lies with Koblenz officially began last September, when Mayor Lee Cooke and almost two dozen Austinites spent three days in Koblenz—at no expense to taxpayers.

They met with city and state dignitaries, representatives of industry and trade, cultural groups and educational institutions and other citizens looking forward to a partnership with the capital of Texas.

This trip was preceded by unofficial, exploratory activities, including exchanges of students and faculty from the UT Graduate School of Business and the Koblenz School of Corporate Management.

The recent visit to Koblenz proved one thing—Koblenz is fun to visit.

Koblenz lies less than a hundred miles northwest of Frankfurt/Main at the confluence of the lovely Mosel River and the mighty Rhine in the heart of Germany's wine region. It can be reached by Autobahn or on scenic country roads, but also quite easily by rail.

Its location suggests that you unpack your suitcases and make Koblenz your headquarters for as many day trips as your schedule allows.

You might take a boat ride on the most beautiful stretch of the Rhine with its castles, vineyards, the legendary rock of the Lorelei and pretty towns competing for your attention.

On "inter city" trains, you can be in Bonn, Cologne or Mainz in less than an hour. The towns of Trier, Weizlar and Limburg are among other popular destinations.

Leisurely drives through the wine villages or into the mountain areas are relaxing if you take the time for a tour through a castle or a Spaziergang (stroll) in the park and, of course, if you stop in a cafe in the afternoon for kaffee (for coffee and cake).

Many Texans with German ancestors find their origin in this region which includes the former duchy of Hessen-Nassau with the little town of Braunsfels.

You might not want to take any day trips once you have begun to explore Koblenz proper and its immediate vicinity.

Koblenz now has over 100,000 citizens, and the heart of town and the historical district contain many shopping facilities, parks and museums. The harmonic combination of the past and today's life gives you an immediate sense of being a pearl on the long string of people playing their role in history by just being there.

The strategic importance of Koblenz on two major rivers has brought wealth and destruction to the town. The Romans were there, of course; so were the Swedes, the Spanish, the French and the Americans (in World Wars I and II).

In 1944, Allied bombs destroyed 75 percent of the city, but you'll find that hard to believe since reconstruction was undertaken with great skill, love for the original designs and financial investment.

Those with an interest in the different periods of ecclesiastical and secular architecture find beautiful samples to study. The St. Kastor Kirche (St. Caspar's Church), a triple-naved Romanesque basilica, was consecrated in 826 A.D. and completed in its present form in the 12th century.

The Liebfrauenkirche (Church of Our Lady) elegantly combines Romanesque, Gothic and Baroque styles and is easily recognized by its domed Zwiebel (onion) towers.

Most of the charm of strolling through the Altstadt (old town) of Koblenz comes from the little surprises in the shape of modern and old statues, fountains, picture-perfect bay windows, house fronts covered with vines, an organ grinder and eye-catching displays in store windows (window-shopping is understandably a favorite pastime of locals and visitors).

One should not be on a diet while in Germany. Most of the pubs offer tasty meals and snacks with specialties of the region and the season. There are many of each in Koblenz. In the fall you have to have a glass (no more than two) of Federweisser (the young wine which is still cloudy) accompanied by a hefty piece of Zwiebelkuchen (onion cake).

To get the best view of Koblenz and the confluence of the Mosel and Rhine, you should pick a clear day and cross the Rhine by bridge or ferry and walk or chair-lift up to the Festung Ehrenbreitstein, the biggest and strongest fortress ever built by the Prussians. From this vantage point a fireworks display is launched every year on the second weekend in August as the highlight—so to speak—to the "Rhein in Flammen" festival (Rhine in Flames). This well rehearsed spectacle draws more than half a million tourists into the region when several miles of the Rhine with its romantic shores are illuminated.

Prices for hotel rooms are downright decent compared to what some international hotels in Europe extract from their guests. Top of the line, price-wise, (with \$1=DM1.50) include the Scandic Crown Hotel with up to \$140 per person/night, and the traditional German style Hotel Diehl just across the river, with up to \$90 per person; both have telex, fax and conference rooms.

However, there is many a comfortable bed to sleep in offered by a Gasthaus, pension or small hotel for as low as \$20 a night.

And then, for the young at heart, there is the youth hostel in the Ehrenbreitstein Fortress. All ages are welcomed there for even less money, and you can have a two- or four-bed private room. You can even partake in the afternoon meal of kaffee and kuchen up there which is not considered too bourgeois, nor for sedentary folks only.

No visit to Koblenz is complete without a Spaziergang through the parks along the "Deutsches Eck," a piece of land protruding into the Mosel and the Rhine where they come together. Having enjoyed centuries of historic distinction for a number of reasons, it now has a colossal pedestal standing there which looks like it should have some statue on top of it. Well, until 1945 it had Kaiser Wilhelm I up there, complete with Bart (beard) and horse. But then American general took offense of the old Kaiser and had him shot to smithereens. Only the imperial head survived the ordeal and is displayed in one of the fine museums.

The citizens of Koblenz are now divided over the question of whether to have a replica of the old statue made and placed on the Deutsches Eck or not. In the meantime the German flag is weathering time in its place on the pedestal just above the flags of the now 16 states of the new Germany.

For information and reservations write to: Presse- und Fremdenverkehrsamt der Stadt Koblenz

Postfach 2080
D-5400 Koblenz
Germany
Phone (from the U.S.): 011-49-2611-31304

Helga von Schweinitz is a teacher of German, writer and translator. She is a board member of the German-American Association of Austin, Inc., and president of the Capital Area Group of the German-Texan Heritage Society.



Dec 19-25 Article

Helga Koblenz Sister City Compendium

Prospective 'sister city' is rich in visitor appeal

By Helga von Schweinitz
Special to the American-Statesman

If plans develop as hoped for by hard-working groups of people in both towns, Austin will soon have a sister city in Germany: Koblenz.

Sister city relationships between American and foreign cities are regulated by federal and local authorities. In Austin, they have to be based on citizen initiative and not be funded by tax dollars.

PUBLIC FORUM

At no expense to Austin taxpayers, Mayor Lee Cooke and almost two dozen citizens of various walks of life spent three days in Koblenz in September. They met with city and state officials, representatives of industry and trade, with cultural groups and representatives of educational institutions, and with other citizens.

The lord mayor of Koblenz and other representatives of his city are expected to visit Austin this spring. High school students and teachers, a choir and a jazz band are among those already booking flights to Texas hoping to find host families to stay with. The Graduate School of Business at UT has for years been accepting students from the Koblenz area in its program. The Board of Trade in Koblenz has expressed an interest in hosting 30 vocational students from Austin in German families for a few weeks.

The German word for sister city translates into "partner city," which characterizes the expected relationship: both sides have to work to make the relationship viable, valuable and enjoyable.

Just as few people in Koblenz know a lot about Austin, few Austinites know Koblenz. But those who do, agree that Koblenz is fun to visit.

Koblenz lies less than 100 miles northwest of Frankfurt/Main at the confluence of the Mosel River and the Rhine in the heart of Germany's wine region. It can be reached by autobahn or on country roads, but also quite easily by rail. You catch a train right at the Frankfurt airport and whisk to Koblenz without a transfer.

Its location suggests that you make Koblenz your headquarters for as many day trips as your schedule allows. You might take a boat ride on the most beautiful stretch of the Rhine with its castles, vineyards, the legendary rock of the Lorelei and pretty towns competing for your attention.

On "Inter City" trains you can be in

Bonn, Cologne or Mainz in less than an hour. Many Texans with German ancestors find their origin in this region, which includes the former duchy of Hesse-Nassau with the little town of Braunsfels.

You might not want to take any day trips once you have begun to explore Koblenz proper and its immediate vicinity.

Although Koblenz has more than 100,000 citizens, the heart of town and the historical district are also home to most shopping facilities, parks, museums and many residents.

The strategic importance of Koblenz on two major rivers has brought wealth and destruction to the town. The Romans were there, of course, so were the Swedes, the Spanish, the French and the Americans (in WWI and WWII).

In 1944, Allied bombs destroyed 75 percent of the city, but you'll find that hard to believe since reconstruction was undertaken with great skill, love for the original designs and financial investment.

Since Koblenz is popular all through the year and hosts conventions, many sport competitions and trade fairs, a choosy visitor or groups should book accommodations well in advance.

Prices for hotel rooms are downright decent when compared to what some international hotels in Europe extract from their guests. Top of the line, price-wise, (with \$1 = DM1.50) include the Scandic Crown Hotel, up to \$140 per person/night; and the traditional German style Hotel Diehl just across the river, up to \$90 per person; both have telex, fax and conference rooms.

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Von Schweinitz is a teacher of German, translator and free-lance writer.

The City of Austin
and
German American Association of Austin
Present in Concert

The Choral Group Lohner Koblenz, Germany

March 24, 1991
Grace Covenant Church
Austin, Texas



THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE GERMAN COMPANIES
SIEMENS, AEG, AND ABB
ARE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

Concert given on 24 March 1991 by Choral Group

Article 23 March 1991

Helga Koblenz Sister City Compendium

Austin and its sister city singing in harmony

By Linda Latham Welch
American-Statesman Staff

A budding, sister-city relationship between Austin and a city in western Germany received an additional boost when Koblenz's men's choir backed up its Sixth Street debut with a booming effort at a northwest church Sunday.

The 70-member choir, called Chorgruppe Lohner, sang several hymns at two morning services at Grace Covenant Church on Research Boulevard. The men, aged 15 through 70, then donned tuxedos for a 14-hour evening performance for Austin and Koblenz dignitaries.

During a Saturday night dinner at the Pecan Street Cafe on Sixth Street, the Germans had warbled a few tunes for the key players in the Austin-Koblenz connection. At the same time, doors away, bands like the Galactic Cowboys rocked out as part of South by Southwest '91.

"It was really quite wonderful, the mix between the choir and the South by Southwest music," said Helga von Schweinitz, a board member of the German-American Association Inc. in Austin.

Austin's sister cities' events merged people from the cultural, academic, business and political worlds of both cities for a three-day family affair that began Saturday and ends today.

This link between Austin and Koblenz, which began as a tentative '80s relationship, may be evolving into a more permanent,

'90s type of commitment.

The bonding began in 1988 when a Koblenz man, Heinz Fey, whom von Schweinitz described as retired but "very energetic and enthusiastic," took upon himself the task of matching his city with a Texas town.

Fey — now called Texas Henry by his friends from Germany and the Lone Star state — became the official liaison between the Texans and the Germans.

Fey said he heard about Austin after a delegation visited the city to promote German wines, and came home with the word that it had no sister in Europe.

A story in the Koblenz newspaper caught the eye of Renata Anderson, the current president of the Austin German group, who was visiting her hometown.

She said Austin was matched with Koblenz because the cities have similar academic and high-technology interests.

Another reason is that the University of Corporate Management near Koblenz has been working with the University of Texas Graduate School of Business, exchanging students and professors.

Alwine Zimmerman, who arrived in Austin Saturday, was seeing the United States and Austin for the first time. She came with her husband, Raimund, who is a choir member.

Using von Schweinitz as an interpreter, Zimmerman said her first impression of the city was flying in over the Highland Lakes. "It looked so nice and green, not

like Dallas, the choir's last stop. I like the scenery here and we all think the people are so unbelievably friendly," Zimmerman said.

Today's agenda includes an early-morning meeting at the Four Seasons Hotel, a visit to a high-tech lab, a lecture at the LBJ School of Public Affairs by Werner Weidenfeld, a professor of political science at a university near Koblenz, and a reception at the Headquarters Club.

"It's my fourth trip here. It's so lovely. My heart is always here and my body in Koblenz," Fey said. He likes the people of Austin "because they are always happy."

As the men tuned up Sunday night in the vestibule of the church, other volunteers put up large color pictures of Koblenz, a picturesque city less than 100 miles northwest of Frankfurt am Main, at the confluence of the Mosel and Rhine rivers in the heart of Germany's wine region.

von Schweinitz said. The city is about midway between Bonn and Wiesbaden.

A fair-haired man and his wife gazed with a bit of longing and much familiarity at the bright landmarks of their hometown, and in strong German accents told their children or friends, "See, this is where Grandma and Grandpa live, and I used to play along this street."

Monika Johnson, a Koblenz citizen turned Austinite in 1985, inquired about the German-American Association in town and said she was a little homesick and

was looking for some kinship.

"It's so strange to drive 10 minutes from my house and see pictures of my hometown, to hear people speaking German. It's like I'm in a wrong movie," said Johnson, who came to Texas with her Army husband.

The choir's stop in Austin, as part of an extended tour through the state, was timed to coincide with visits and lectures by Weidenfeld and his wife, Gabriele Kokott-Weidenfeld, a member of the House of Representatives of the state of Rhineland-Palatinate.

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Bernhard Grimsel
Zuhause
5400 Koblenz-Steinweg 33 (dits)
Spezialstudien und Veranlagung
Son. der Leach 116
Our surprise guest on the coach
who also did the recording of
the concert.

Article in Austin American Statesman in March 1991.

Tuesday, April 2, 1991

Austin American-Statesman

C3

Liebchen enjoys Germanic songfest

All we knew about the couple spending the weekend with us was that his name was Hans Schmitz, he sang in the German chorus that was coming to town. His wife was coming with him and they were near our age.

"Willkommen!" my husband and I called out as they arrived with the group. They thanked us in German and then there was an awkward pause. "I... uh... you... Sie sprechen Englisch, ja?" I said, hopefully. "Nein," said Herr Schmitz.

"Hm...mm," said I. "Well, sprechen Sie Spanisch?" Again the answer was no, and likewise with his frau, Leonilla. Suddenly the week-end loomed a month long as I contemplated keeping conversation alive among four adults with what little Deutsch I knew.

But, hey, not to worry. Liebchen, we got along just fine. To be sure, my little German-English dictionary is now dog-eared and frazzled from much use, but it, plus Hans' English, which is better than he admits, plus my bit of Spanish-flavored Deutsch, plus much hand waving and head shaking, got us through in fine style. We even proved to be a couple of very congenial couples.

But I wish you could have heard me trying to explain to Leonilla what I mean by "honey" when I don't mean the stuff bees make. We set-



Kay Powers

tled on Liebchen as the nearest translation.

Hans sings baritone in the Chorgruppe Lohner, a 70-voice men's chorus from Koblenz, a lovely city situated where the Rhine and Moselle rivers meet. You don't have to be a professional singer to get into this chorus — a 23-year-old truck-driver and a 70-year-old bank president are among its members — but you must be good enough to learn a difficult repertoire.

Named for the leader, Werner Lohner, the chorus has sung all over Europe. Yesterday, it wound up a 13-day concert tour of Texas which included Austin, because our city and theirs will probably become sister-cities soon. I'm so glad they stopped here they're not only great to listen to, but they are a barrel of fun. So they insisted we must come to Koblenz so we can continue our friendships, which sounds like a nifty idea to me. Wonder how soon I can get packed?

Audiences in Moscow loved 'em, and so did Pope John Paul II when they sang in St. Peter's, in the Vatican City. President and Mrs. Bush

heard them in Germany in 1989 and sent them a letter of appreciation.

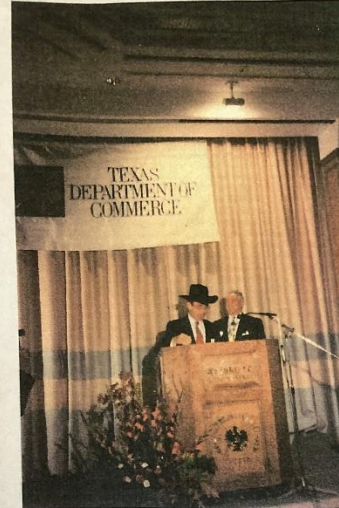
Austin loved 'em, too, from the stirring *Hunter's Chorus* to the endearing *Guten Abend, gute Nacht* — which we know as *Brahms' Lullaby* — to the spirited *Yellow Rose of Texas*, which is ever so delightful when done with a German accent. Sharing in the several standing ovations the group received was 15-year-old Michael Stalknecht, who absolutely wowed the audience with his handling of the piano accompaniment.

So keyed up were we by the music, we had an impromptu sing-along on the way home from the concert. Yes, we were the ones in the car on Mopac that was vibrating to *Glory, Glory, Halle-lujah! and Du, Du, Liegt mir im Herzen*, and we didn't even worry about whether we were singing in German or English, because the melody's the same in both languages.

Next morning, there were some pretty teary auf Wiedersehens as the choristers sang a farewell song and boarded buses for San Antonio. The weekend, it turned out, had been much too short. All of us wanted more time with our new friends and they felt the same way. So they insisted we must come to Koblenz so we can continue our friendships, which sounds like a nifty idea to me. Wonder how soon I can get packed?

Article 1 April 1991 in Austin American Statesman about 24 March 1991 Choral performance.

Copy Sent to Consul General Rainer Muenzel on 16 May 2009



German Outreach

Mayor Lee Cooke and wife Barbara

Vackar Cooke are members of an Austin group which left Friday for Germany. Cooke is part of the Mission '90 delegation which will open an office of the Texas Department of Commerce in Frankfurt, and later will lead a delegation of Austinites to Koblenz to establish sister city relations with Austin.

Among the Austinites on the trip are Mr. and Mrs. Don van Stone (he's chief executive officer of First City, Texas; Elbert Marcom of Austin Community College; Paul Schutze of TUV Rheinland; Mrs. Helga von Schweinitz, and Mrs. Renate Anderson, board member and president respectively of the German American Association of Austin; Mary Ellen Kucera of the Kucera Company; Professor Robert T. Green, director of international programs in business at the UT Graduate School of Business; Mr. and Mrs. Tom Rodgers (he's director of international contracts with Tracor Aerospace Inc.; Mr. and Mrs. Henri Bernabe of Richter Wine Group-Moyers Champagne; Patti Berg; Karen Kaechler; Mr. and Mrs. Herb Cleveland of Cleveland, Miller and Associates; and George Strickland and Hermann Eisele of the Texas High Speed Rail Joint Venture.

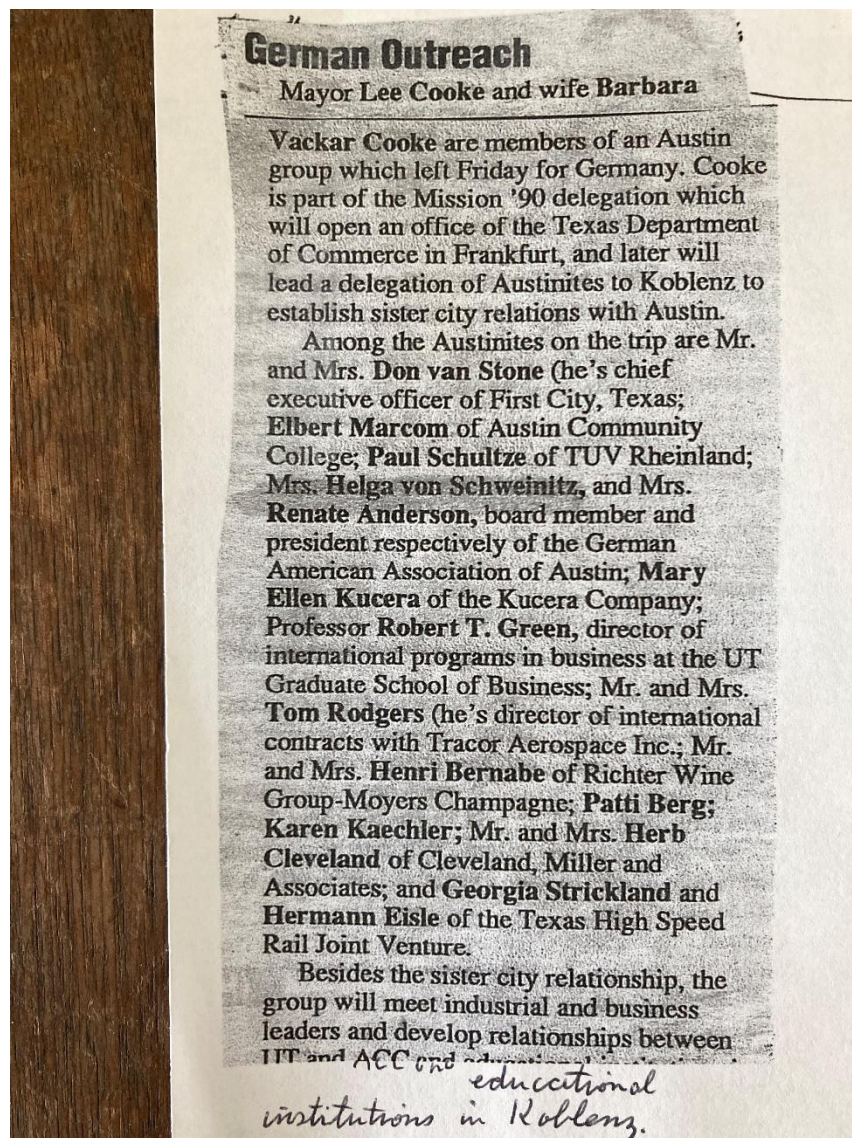
Besides the sister city relationship, the group will meet industrial and business leaders and develop relationships between ITT and ACC and educational institutions in Koblenz.



Opening of a "European Office"

24. Sept. 1990
im Intercontinental, Ffm

On 17 May 2009 Helga sent this collage to the Consul General Rainer Muenzel in Houston.



Sister Cities Meetings

The sister city relationship continues. The following are minutes from two of the meetings on 25 September 2017 (anniversary) and 2 October 2018.

Austin-Koblenz-Sister-City-Committee-Meeting-Minutes¶

September-25, 2017-----German-Free School¶

¶

Present:-Bob Glover, Canan-Kaba, Jim-Ray, Mary-Ellen-Kucera, Margie-Tiedt, Diane-Cooke, Christopher-Summers, Christopher-Markley, Ben-Ramirez, & Tristan-Foy¶

1. → Minutes from the last meeting were approved.¶

2. → Financial Report:-As of July-25, 20017, we have \$4,324.¶

3. → Election of Officers:¶

¶

Jim-Ray moved to approve the election of the nominated candidates, Ben-Ramirez seconded, motion was approved. The new officers are:¶

Honorary Chair:-Mayor Steve Adler¶

City Council Liaison:-Allison Alter (speaks German, travels to Germany, met the Koblenz delegation)¶

¶

Chair:-Ed Tovar¶

Vice-Chair:-Katherine-Ray¶

Secretary:-Diane-Cooke¶

Treasurer:-Mary-Ellen-Kucera-¶

ASCI Liaison:-Canan-Kaba¶

¶

Main teachers organizing student exchanges:¶

Anderson:-Julia-Lesher-¶

Murchison:-Lisa-Feldkamp¶

Summitt:-Heather-Brannies-& Heather-Doyle¶

¶

4. → Future meetings:¶

Most planning will be done by officers and other interested committee members, followed by a full committee meeting to present what was planned, bring current members together and bring in new members. Margie & Canan will talk to new chair, Ed Tovar, about scheduling meetings.¶

Stammtisch-Tristan and Canan will organize regular bi-weekly German-speaking-only

Stammtisch, Thursday German-Meet-up once a month. Great way to practice speaking German!¶

Casual get-togethers of anyone interested in Germany, international relations, & the Austin-Koblenz Sister-Cities Partnership will be after the bi-weekly Stammtisch.¶

¶

5. → German-Texas Heritage Events:¶

ASCI will be combining efforts with GTHS (German-Texan Heritage Society) to develop more connections between those interested in German culture.¶

Oktoberfest: October-14, 11am-7pm.¶

Christmas Market: December-2¶

Fasching (Karneval) February-17--possibly invite last year's King and Queen of Koblenz Karneval!¶

2017 September 25 page 2

Helga Koblenz Sister City Compendium

- More than 800 guests expected ¶
Christopher Markley will talk to Christian Schmitz from Koblenz regarding offering Koblenz-brewed beer at their events. ¶
6. → Austin Sister Cities Events: ¶
Passport to the World—the 2nd Annual World Tour ¶
→ November 4, 1:30-4:30 p.m. ¶
→ Kid's activities and live performances ¶
→ Koblenz will be represented by a classic music trio, part of Beerthoooven group (residents: ¶
→ At Scholz Garten)—Christopher Markley from GTHS arranged this!—Thanks, Christopher! ¶
→ Margie, Diane, & Ben will decorate the Koblenz table and provide kid's activities using ¶
→ guidelines provided by Canan. ¶
→ GTHS will donate German kid's games ¶
→ Margie will get the Koblenz banner from Summitt ¶
→ Anyone can volunteer. Sign up at: <http://signup.com/go/miQprqg> ¶
→ Canan will send template invitation letters to Margie & Diane who will contact schools ¶
- Ten Thousand Villages Shopping Night**, December 13, 5-8 p.m. (more information to come) ¶
7. → Elections in Koblenz:—None of the four candidates received the majority to become Oberbuergermeister (Lord Mayor).—Run-off between David Langner (SPD member but runs as individual) and Bert Floeck (CDU member but runs as individual) is scheduled for October 15. ¶
8. → The German Free School was founded in 1857 as the first German-speaking school in Austin. Today it is owned by the German-Texas Heritage Society and offers German classes for 100-200 students each semester, and sponsors Germany-oriented events throughout the year. ¶

2017 September 25 page 2

Austin-Koblenz Sister Cities Committee Meeting Minutes ¶

Summitt Elementary School—September 27, 2018 ¶

Present:—Ed Tovar, Margie Tiedt, Canan Kaba, Diane Cooke, Chris Summers, Mary Ellen Kucera, Heather Brannies, Heather Doyle, Kelly Friede, Ann Lillie. ¶

Minutes from August 2, 2018 meeting were approved. ¶

Treasurer's Report:—\$5,021.37 ¶

Business cards are ready to be ordered. If interested, send your name to Ed Tovar and he will order them and send you a bill. Ed offered to pay for the cards of committee members who are educators associated with the Koblenz exchange program. ¶

Ed attended a meeting of the COA International Department with Maret Petersson, Customer Relationship Manager of the German American Chamber of Commerce, on August 30, 2018. More meetings to come to find out how they we can work together. Margie was given a list of companies in Austin with ties to Germany. We will reach out to those companies to see how they would like to contribute to the partnership. Mary Ellen suggested that when we call companies, we have a clear description of our partnership and what we do. Ed will put together a letter with the history of our committee and a link of our website. He will send the letter to Margie to edit by October 5, 2018. ¶

Ed and Margie attended meetings at COTA on September 13 and September 17, 2018. Ed will set up a meeting with Tom Voss by the October 5, 2018 to discuss having a reception at Fairmont Hotel for Germans attending COTA activities. ¶

Ed revised the Koblenz skyline on our logo. Banners have been delivered to Summitt Elementary School and Anderson High School and have generated much interest. ¶

Summitt Elementary will host a movie night October 5 at the school. Heather Brannies has requested a letter about ASCI World Tour on November 3 to pass out to those who attend the movie night. Heather will let Ed and Margie know when she can meet with the two of them to discuss the exchange program. She will send dates of the exchange to Canan. Other Summitt exchange topics included:—inviting representatives of Austin businesses to one of the scheduled activities, COA will give \$1,000 if Summitt sponsors a Koblenz Day in Austin, and our hosting the Summitt picnic. Also discussed were housing possibilities for three students from the University of Koblenz Landau when student teaching for three months at Summitt. ¶

Anderson High School will let us know dates for their 2019 exchange. ¶

Oktoberfest is October 13, 2018 at the German Free School. Children's activities will begin at 11 a.m. Karneval will be March 2, 2018 ¶

ASCI World Tour is November 3, 2018 at ACC Eastview Campus. Everyone is invited. ¶

We discussed sending a delegation to Koblenz in June, 2019. ¶

Margie will send a membership application soon. Please fill it out and send it & your dues soon. ¶

Next meeting: tba ¶

2018 September 27

Helga Koblenz Sister City Compendium

Transcript of Dec 1990 and March 1991 article

Helga H. von Schweinitz
2319 Village Circle
Austin, Texas 78745
Phone (512) 441-2089

1991 Mar 29

Marggie Balough
Editor
Austin American-Statesman
116 East Riverside
Austin, Tx 78767

March 29, 1991

Dear Mrs Balough,

I was pleasantly surprised when I found part of my manuscript on Koblenz published on March 23, 91. Whoever did the editing to achieve the required length and purpose did a good job.

Linda Welch's article on the 25th of March was also well received by the many people involved in the choir's visit. The concert turned out to be a great success.

The mayor of Koblenz is scheduled to visit Austin with a large delegation in late April.

Sincerely yours
Helga von Schweinitz

Helga's letter to the Austin American Statesman.

1a

Austin - Koblenz

1991 Jan 8

By Helga von Schweinitz

If plans develop as hoped for by hard working groups of people in both towns, Austin will soon have a sister city in Germany: Koblenz.

Sister city relationships between American and foreign cities are regulated by federal and local authorities. In Austin they have to be based on citizen initiative and not be funded by tax dollars.

At no expense to Austin tax payers, Mayor Lee Cooke and almost two dozen citizens of various walks of life spent three days in Koblenz last September. They met with city and state dignitaries, representatives of industry and trade, with cultural groups and educational institutions, and with other citizens looking forward to a partnership with the capital of Texas.

The Lord Mayor of Koblenz and other representatives of his city are expected to visit Austin this spring. High school students and teachers, a choir and a jazz band are among those already booking flights to Texas hoping to find

Dianne Ollis
Travel Editor AA-St.
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322-9635

As submitted to
AA-Statesman on
8 Jan. 1991

First page of article

Helga Koblenz Sister City Compendium

Austin – Koblenz
By Helga von Schweinitz

If plans develop as hoped for by hard working groups of people in both towns, Austin will soon have a sister city in Germany: Koblenz.

Sister city relationships between American and foreign cities are regulated by federal and local authorities. In Austin they have to be based on citizen initiative and not be funded by tax dollars.

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The Lord Mayor of Koblenz and other representatives of his city are expected to visit Austin this spring. High school students and teachers, a choir and a jazz band are among those already booking flights to Texas hoping to find host families to stay with. The Graduate School of Business at UT has for years been enjoying students from the Koblenz area in its program. The Board of Trade in Koblenz has expressed an interest in hosting 30

vocational students from Austin in German families for a few weeks.

The German word for sister city translates into "partner city", which characterizes the expected relationship: both sides have to work to make the relationship viable, valuable and enjoyable.

Just as few people in Koblenz know a lot about Austin, few Austinites know Koblenz, but those who do, agree that Koblenz is Fun to Visit.

You'll find two endearing features in Koblenz just by looking at its city map and at a map of Germany: Koblenz is close to many other interesting places, and while you are in the town, you can walk to almost anything you want to see there.

Koblenz lies less than a hundred miles northwest of Frankfurt/Main at the confluence of the lovely Mosel river and the mighty Rhine in the heart of Germany's wine region. It can be reached by Autobahn or on scenic country roads, but also quite easily by rail. You catch a train right at the Frankfurt airport and whisk to the Hauptbahnhof in Koblenz without a transfer.

Its location suggests that you unpack your suitcases and make Koblenz your headquarter for as many day trips as your schedule allows. You might take a boat ride

on the most beautiful stretch of the Rhine with its castles, vineyards, the legendary rock of the Lorelei and pretty towns competing for your attention. A ride on the Mosel includes the thrill of going through several locks.

On "Inter City" trains you can be in Bonn, Cologne or Mainz in less than an hour. (A Saturday morning in Mainz should include at least an hour on the market held near the Dom (cathedral). The towns of Trier, Wetzlar and Limburg are among the popular destinations, but leisurely drives through the wine villages or into the mountain areas are rather relaxing if you take the time for a tour through a castle or a Spaziergang (stroll) in the park of a spa and, of course, if you stop in a Cafe in the afternoon zum Kaffee (for coffee and cake). Many Texans with German ancestors find their origin in this region which includes the former duchy of Hessen-Nassau with the little town of Braunsfels.

You might not want to take any day trips once you have begun to explore Koblenz proper and its immediate vicinity. Wear comfortable shoes for that, because any respectable old town has its share of cobble stones, and being well heeled means being well sneakered.

Although Koblenz has now over a hundred thousand citizens, the heart of town and the historical district are also home to most shopping facilities, parks, museums, and many residents. This harmonic combination of the

past and today's life gives you an immediate sense of being a pearl on the long string of people playing their role in history, by just being there.

The strategic importance of Koblenz on two major rivers has brought wealth and destruction to the town. The Romans were there, of course, so were the Swedes, the Spanish, the French and the Americans (in WW I and WW II).

In 1964 allied bombs destroyed 75% of the city, but you'll find that hard to believe since reconstruction was undertaken with great skill, love for the original designs and financial investment.

A guided walking tour (available in English) can be arranged. It would give you an introduction and take you into some nooks and crannies you might otherwise miss. A good tour book lets you take it all in at your own speed since you might want to enhance your appreciation of Gothic arches with intermittent sampling of local libations offered in cozy wine and beer taverns. Or you might want to sit and rest for a while in the open air section of a restaurant and do some people watching while you eat yet another Schnitzel.

Those with an interest in the different periods of ecclesiastical and secular architecture find beautiful samples to study. The St. Kastor Kirche (St. Castor's

Church), a triple naved Romanesque basilica, was consecrated in 836 A.D. and completed in its present form in the 12th century.

The Liebfrauenkirche (Church of Our Lady) elegantly combines Romanesque, Gothic and Baroque styles and is easily recognized by its domed Zwiebel (onion) towers. In the Church of St. Florin one is struck by the beauty of its windows, while the Jesuit Church features a fine sample of a rose window.

Among the worldly structures of old are the Alte Burg (old castle), the Kurfuerstliches Schloss (Palace of the Prince Elector) and the Deutscher Kaiser, a "residential tower" with late Gothic arches, said to be a popular meeting place of friends who enjoy a good glass of wine together.

Most of the charm of strolling through the Altstadt (old town) of Koblenz comes from the little surprises in the shape of modern and old statues, fountains, picture perfect bay windows, house fronts covered with vines, an organ grinder, and from the eye-catching displays in the store windows (window shopping is understandably a favorite pastime of locals and visitors). At the entrance to the pedestrian area at Loehrstrasse you find all four houses of the intersection showing off an oriel turret, each one different, which your camera will not be able to resist.

Many of the old, venerable buildings are now owned by the City of Koblenz. Some are used as offices, others continue their splendid past with receptions, banquets and similar occasions where ambiance is of some consequence.

Shopping is made tempting - even with today's low purchasing power of the Dollar - in the traffic free district with easy access to major department stores, a downtown mall (Loehr-Center) and the countless specialty shops ranging from sex boutiques to fashion to china.

One should not be on a diet while in Germany. Most of the pubs offer tasty meals and snacks with specialties of the region and the season. There are many of each in Koblenz. In the fall you have to have a glass (no more than two) of Federweissen (the young wine which is still cloudy) accompanied by a hefty piece of Zwiebelkuchen (onion cake).

To get the best view of Koblenz and the confluence of the Mosel and Rhine, you should pick a clear day and cross the Rhine by bridge or ferry and walk or chair-lift up to the Festung Ehrenbreitstein, the biggest and strongest fortress ever built by the Prussians. From this vantage point a firework display is launched every year on they second week-end in August as the highlight - so

to speak - to the "Rhein in Flammen" festival (Rhine in Flames). This well rehearsed spectacle draws more than half a million tourists into the region when several miles of the Rhine with its romantic shores are illuminated.

Since Koblenz is popular all through the year and hosts conventions, many sport competitions and trade fairs, a choosy visitor or groups should book accommodations well in advance. Prices for hotel rooms are downright decent when compared to what some international hotels in Europe extract from their guests. Top of the line, price-wise, (with \$1 = DML.50) include the Scandic Crown Hotel with up to \$140.- per person/night, and the traditional German style Hotel Diehl just across the river with up to \$90 per person; both have telex, fax and conference rooms.

However, there is many a comfortable bed to sleep in offered by a Gasthaus, Pension or small hotel for as low as \$20 a night.

Most prices quoted in brochures include taxes and service charge but usually not the use of a wash cloth (Pack your own).

And then, for the young at heart, there is the youth hostel in the Ehrenbreitstein Fortress. All ages are welcomed there for even less money, and you can have a two or four bed private room. You can even partake in

the afternoon meal of Kaffee und Kuchen up there which is not considered too bourgeois, nor for sedentary folks only.

No visit to Koblenz is complete without a Spaziergang through the parks along the "Deutsches Eck", a piece of land protruding into the Mosel and the Rhine where they come together. Having enjoyed centuries of historic distinction for a number of reasons, it has now a colossal pedestal standing there which looks like it should have some statue on top of it. Well, until 1945 it had Kaiser Wilhelm I up there, complete with Bart (beard) and horse. But then an American general took offense of the old Kaiser and had him shot to smithereens. Only the imperial head survived the ordeal and is displayed in one of the fine museums. The citizens of Koblenze are now divided over the question of whether to have a replica of the old statue made and placed on the Deutsches Eck or not. In the meantime, the German flag is weathering time in its place on the pedestal just above the flags of the now 16 states of the new Germany.

To Kaiser or not to Kaiser... if you get to Koblenz before the Kaiser does, you might want to ask the guy next to you in the wine tavern about his opinion on this monumental dispute. He might then tell you of many other things of interest to him or you in Koblenz that were not mentioned in this little article.

Helga Koblenz Sister City Compendium

For information and reservation write to:
Presse- und Fremdenverkehrsamt der Stadt Koblenz
Postfach 2080
D-5400 Koblenz
Germany

Phone (from the us): 011-69-2611-31306

When in Koblenz you find a tourist office across the street from the train station.

For information on the sister city relationship between Austin and Koblenz contact the German-American Association of Austin, Inc.,

Helga von Schweinitz is a teacher of Germany translator and free-lance writer.

Photos of Koblenz Delegation trips to Austin

Helga and Hans would visit their new friends in Koblenz when ever they traveled through Germany. When the Koblenz delegation was in Austin, Helga and Hans were right there making sure that all was going well and of course proving translating of language and culture.



1992 delegation invited to Hans and Helga's back yard



1992 delegation trip to a Dude Ranch

Helga Koblenz Sister City Compendium



1992 delegation at TX Governor's Mansion



1992 delegation at TX Governor's Mansion



1992 delegation at TX Governor's Mansion



1992 delegation at TX Governor's Mansion

Helga Koblenz Sister City Compendium



1994 Delegation on monument, Texas in stone



1994 delegation in meeting



1994 delegation had to stop for photos of a Texas size cactus.

The End