Signature Ring von Schweinitz Family Compendium



By

Helga von Schweinitz

Released 2022 by Helga von Schweinitz

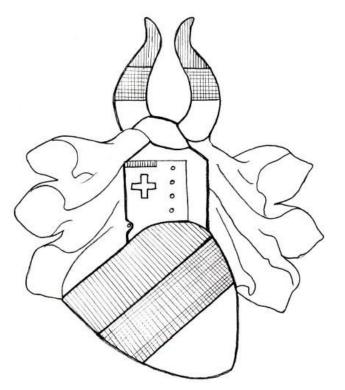
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Introduction

This little booklet is just a collections of information about the Signature Rings of Alt Raudten branch of the von Schweinitz family.

The Signature Ring changed over time. The current rings made for the Alt Raudten Hans Ludwig von Schweinitz branch of the family have the following engraving. The engraving is made on stone made from Lagenonyx (blue lapis lazuli). The ring itself is made from 750/000 gold (18 Karat gold).





History of Signet Rings

Signature Rings are sometimes called either Signet Rings or Seal Rings. They are all the same.

The following website has good information on the History and Use of the Signet Ring. The following are excerpts were taken on 21 January 2022, edited to emphasize in information relevant to the von Schweinitz Ring.

https://www.gentlemansgazette.com/signet-ring-primer/
July 24, 2019/35 Comments/in Accessories, Our Best Articles, Savoir Vivre, Wardrobe,
Clothing and Accessories /by Sven Raphael Schneider

For thousands of years, men of influence have been donning a wearable form of identification and communication known as the signet ring.

Have you ever wondered why some men wear engraved rings on their ring or pinky finger? It is a signet ring. Signet rings have been a practical part of men's fashion for thousands of years. For wealthy and important men, a signet ring was a powerful tool akin to a signature. A signet ring is set apart from other rings based on an engraved or raised symbol, series of words or letters, or image on the top half of the ring that was representative of its wearer in some way. It could have been a name, initials, job title, rank, organization or family crest. Though no longer necessary to seal correspondence, it was once an essential part of society and culture and played a significant role in history.

Historically, signet rings played a significant role in business and politics. Used as a seal, a gentleman would use his ring featuring his unique family crest, emblem or monogram to stamp important documents. By dipping the ring into hot wax or soft clay, the ring left a distinct seal that was considered, at the time, to be more official than that of a signature.

Signet rings have been used since as far back as 3500 BC when the people of Mesopotamia began using them as a method of authenticity. Initially, a seal as opposed to a ring, it was a cylindrical device that was rolled across wet clay leaving a distinct impression in the clay. Used to seal a variety of envelopes, jars, and packages, they also functioned in the same way as corporate seals do today, and of course, this is where the corporate seal comes from.

By medieval times, most members of the nobility wore a signet ring and used it to sign and seal their letters of nobility or other important papers. The signet ring was now widely considered the only authentic way to sign without concern of forgery or tampering.

By the fourteenth century and under the stronghold or King Edward II, it was said that all official documents must bear the seal of the king's signet ring.

Despite some people having signet rings that were handed down, most of them are quite modern. For many centuries, the ring would be destroyed when the owner passed, and because they were worn by noblemen, they weren't copied and were considered very valuable, hence their name "signet" which is translated to mean "a small seal employed for formal or official purpose".

Despite legal documents being around, the art of handwriting was not and that's one reason why the signet ring was so vital and important to members of society who would be

Signature Ring von Schweinitz 220123 compendium responsible for signing such documents. Since the ring was so powerful, it was sometimes destroyed when the man died and often a ceremony or ritual was performed.

Today the signet ring doesn't hold much meaning in society anymore. It's more of a fashion statement or family heirloom handed down from one generation to the next. The Royal family in England and other aristocratic families in Europe represent a few types of people you might expect to see wearing an authentic, inherited signet ring.

There are no hard and fast rules, so you can wear a ring on any finger you choose! That being said, there are many traditions about which fingers rings should go on. In Britain, traditionally, the signet ring is worn on the pinky finger of the left hand. During Victorian times, men would wear their pinky ring and their wedding band stacked together on the left pinky finger. Winston Churchill wore his signet on his right ring finger.

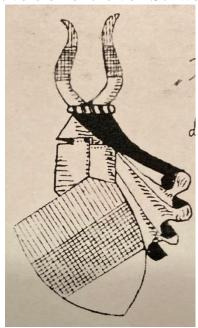
Most rings come in 10, 14, or 18 karat gold. Either a white gold or rose gold or yellow gold. You can also go with sterling silver which is a lot less expensive but also with things like palladium which are more expensive.

Most rings come with a flat stone on top that can be engraved. If you don't like a center stone, you can also go with simple metal. Traditional shapes include round, oval, or long oval, or rectangular, squares with rounded edges, or even like cut edges that gives you an octagonal look, there really is no limit under the sun as long as the stone is flat and not domed.

In terms of color and stones, the most popular are black onyx, blue lapis lazuli, a bloodstone, which is dark green with red inclusions, you can also find a carnelian which is dark red, and we use those stones also for our cufflinks which you can find in our shop here which go quite well if you want to coordinate.

History of Hans von Schweinitz Signature Ring

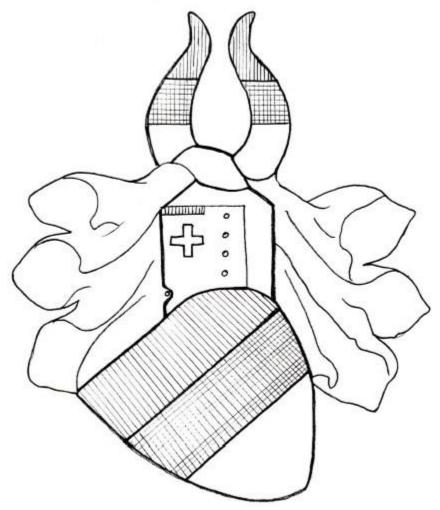
This first version of the von Schweinitz Coat of Arms was from about 1200.



Over time the Coat of Arms became more elaborate. When Hans and Helga were looking for a version to use on the ring, they found an etching on the back of the lid on a pocket watch that Hans inherited from his father Hans Wilhelm von Schweinitz.



Signature Ring von Schweinitz 220123 compendium Based on finding this pocket watch, Hans developed the following design to represent his family branch.



The different elements in design are explained in detail in another booklet about the Coat of Arms for the von Schweinitz family.

This design was used for rings made for Hans, his son Christopher, his daughter Bettina, and Grandson Matthew. It is also on a stamp used in Letter Boxing and Geo Caching. His Grandson Michael received Hans' ring in 2016 after Hans died in August 2015.

Helga's Letter describing the Ring's Design

After a lot of research and discussion with other family members, Hans and Helga choose which version of the Coat of Arms to use as Crest on the Signature Rings. Helga wrote a letter in 1988 to their Daughter explaining the history of the ring design and what each part represents.

It is based on a crest on the inside lid of a golden pocket watch found by Hans and Helga. We used that for Papa's ring as well, and I've seen it engraved on tombstones (in photos). Mischi left off the coat (mantle) but I've never seen it without the coat except on Mischi's ring.

Everything has a meaning. The main thing is the tilted shield with the three colors red, black, and silver. Its etching red in |||, black is ###, and silver is left blank. These colors are repeated in the buffalo horns.

The horns are also necessary. Then the helmet between the shield and the horns: the shape of the helmet should not be changed much because it indicates that age of the family's nobility. The Schweinitz family belongs to the really old families, the "Uradel" dating back to the 13th century. In Scottish and Dutch Heraldry, things are different, only the color indicators like ||| for red are the same.

It is not important to have exactly the same number of lines on the color field that I put on. Actually all those fold of the cloth (the mantle) are also in color, maybe red on the outside and black and/or silver on the inside, but that's too difficult and would be too confusing to the eye.

The shields were in different color combinations so that an opponent would know whom he was fighting against, because the knights were all in shining armor. Often a brother would change his shield a little to avoid being confused with his older brother. Maybe there was a deal made to kill one but not the other. The codes of arms were also subject to fashions during the centuries, and sometimes things like crosses and crowns were added for particular honors received. That's why several branches of the same family can have similar but different crests.



Impressions from the Alt Raudten Signature Rings

Each ring leaves a unique impression. When the ring is completed, the Jeweler makes an impression to register the ring. The following impressions were provided by the Jeweler. The impression is always a mirror image of the ring.

The rings for can have square or oval borders. Hans' and Christopher's rings all have square border around the crest. The ring for Bettina has an oval boarder. Matthew's ring had a xxx border.





Hans ring's Impression and ring. Grandson Michael now has this ring.

Add photo of Chris' ring





Bettina von Schweinitz

add photo of Matthew's ring

Signature Ring von Schweinitz 220123 compendium



Michael von Schweinitz (Michi, Hans Ludwig's brother in Germany)

Making Impressions

To official seal or sign a document, a wax impression made by the ring can be used. First the red wax stick is lit, it works like a candle. Then a drop of wax is dropped onto the document. While still hot, the ring is pressed into the soft hot wax. The ring is slowly lifted off, and an impression is left behind.



Using Coat of Arms for Letter Boxing or Geo Caching.

In the 1990's and 2000's there was a popular outdoor activity called Letter Boxing. It involved downloading instructions from a website that if followed would lead to a plastic box hidden somewhere. In the box was a stamp that you could use to mark your notebook. The family collected quite a few stamps. By the 2010's the use of GPS became popular, so Letter Boxing changed to Geo Caching which involved finding your own way to a given coordinate and finding the plastic box. Now, instead of a stamp, people would leave a small item behind and take a small item from the box.

For Letter Boxing, Hans designed a stamp with a simplified version of the crest to use for letterboxing. He had a stamp made for everyone with their own initials.





22 February 2009

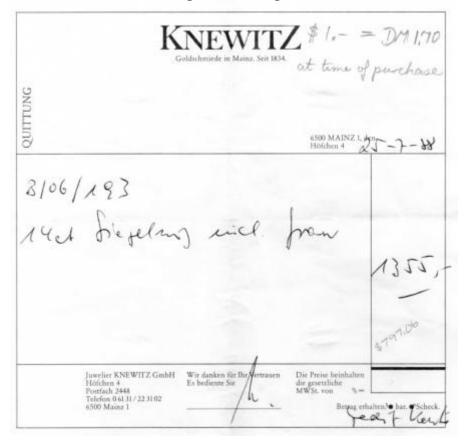
The stamp is from Round Rock Texas, the Chisholm Trail

Receipts for Rings

In 1988, Hans and Helga had a ring made for their daughter, Bettina. As is tradition in making a Signature ring, the gold is provided separate from the making of the ring. The jeweler, Knewitz in Mainz West Germany makes the insert, engraves the insert, and makes the ring (from the gold provided). In 1988 the bill from the jeweler was DM 1,355 which with the exchange being \$1 = DM 1.70 then the cost was \$797.20. In 1988, Bettina lived in Maryland and Hans and Helga lived in Texas. So the ring had to be mailed. Helga sent a letter to Bettina, letting her know that the ring was in the mail.

but deal Heller AFB was hit li 9-18-88 before we venture off to mixed 3 want to take care of a fers things . One of them is your listhday present. as you might green we have that ming for you with the family seal (or crest). It arrived just a few days orgo. I am marling it on monday in a little package and I'll insure it for around \$ 900, -.) gren it il get to your Port Office Box don't mind you may upon it before your bortholay, but there is nothing in it that can sport. I am sending the receipt for the ming (Siegelring) with this letter so you have documentation in case you want to list the many as schooluled property in your homeowner ? immance.





By 2008 when they were having a ring made for grandson Matthew they were using another jeweler in Herford Germany.



On 13 June 2008, Juwelier Zartmann, estimated that the ring would cost between Euro 1700 and 1800 for 1 Herren ring of 18 Karat Gold with insert made from Lagenonyx (blue lapis lazuli), with size 22 with engraved shield done by a engraver Master.

Strate 0a 70	due
Angenommen J3.06.08 72 Abgegeben	Ternis
1 HR 1846	6 urie
10/204 mit	Laghonyx
20 204 mit	+ Steingravier
Weite 72 mil Wesppen wie	+ Steingravier
Weite 72 mi	+ Steingravier
Weite 72 mi	+ Steingravier
Weite 72 mi	+ Steingravier

On 1 August 2008, Helga received three emails from the jeweler. They had completed the ring and are shipping it to their Texas address via UPS. The package will take up to 5 days and to get through Customs the ring is labeled as jewelry repaired. The UPS cost of \$49.78 was added to the final bill from the jeweler as Euro 105.



Juwelier Zartmann GmbH + Postfach 4125 + 32025 Herford

Frau Helga von Schweinitz 19117 Ganton Court

USA Pflugerville, Texas 78660

Juwelier Zartmann GmbH Groß- und Einzelhandel Bäckerstraße 11 32052 Herford

Telefon: 05221 / 144 475
Telefax: 05221 / 144 337
Email: info@juwelier-zartmann.de
www.juwelier-zartmann.de

Herford, den 01. August 2008

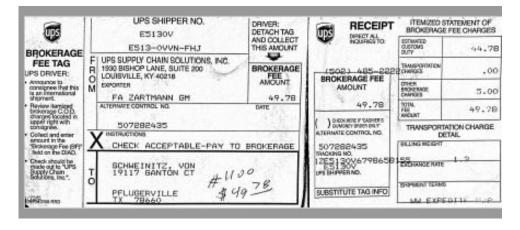
Sehr geehrte Frau von Schweinitz,

Wie bei Ihrem letzten Besuch in Herford besprochen haben wir für Sie einen Herren-Mantelring 750/000 Gelbgold mit Lagenonyx und Wappengravur gearbeitet und senden ihn mit separater Post per UPS am 01. August zu. Der Transport wird ca 5 Tage dauern. Bis dahin wünschen wir Ihnen noch eine spannende Wartezeit und wünschen guten Empfang.

Eventuell werden Sie zum Zoll müssen, denken Sie bitte daran, daß der Ring als Reparatur deklariert wird. Die Rechnung, die der Lieferung beiliegt, ist selbstverständlich ungültig.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen aus der Bäckerstrasse in Herford

Jörg Zartmann



The cost of the insert with the engraving was Euro 522.95 In Germany the comma is used instead of the decimal point, and they use the dot to indicate the thousands, which is the exact opposite of the use of point and comma in US/English numbers. Also Mwst is "Mehrwertsteuer" which is a value added tax (or called sales tax in United States).



Javeller Zertmann OmbH + Poetfach 4125 + 32025 Herford

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www.juwelier-zartmann.de

Herford, den 01. August 2008

Euro 430.45

Euro 83.50

Sehr geehrte Frau von Schweinitz,

Bei Ihrem letzten Besuch in Herford haben Sie uns einen Herren-Mantelring 750/000 Gelbgold mit defekten Lagenonyx mit Wappengravur überlassen, um einen neuen Lagenonyx mit Wappengravur zu ersetzen. Wir haben die Reparaturen für Sie ausgeführt und hoffen, daß Sie zu Ihrer Zufriedenheit ausgefallen sind. Gem sind wir auch in Zukunft für Sie tätig und wünschen guten Empfang.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen aus der Bäckerstrasse Jörg Zartmann

RECHNUNG-NR 1011/08

Rep-Nr 34 658
1 Herren-Mantelring 750/000 Gelbgold ohne Stein
Fassung repariert, Ring aufgearbeitet, Lagenonyx
eingeschliffen und gefaßt, Wappengravur zum Siegeln
Euro 334,45
UPS Porto Herford - Pflugerville
Euro 105,00

+ 19 % Mwst

netto Kasse Euro 522,95

The final bill included the cost of the engraver and the UPS shipping cost.

The estimate was for Euro 1700 to 1800, but the final bill came out to Euro 2178.94. When you subtract the UPS Shipping cost and Mwst, their estimate was accurate. The exchange rate as of August 2008 was 1 Euro = \$1.50, so now the ring costs \$3,268.41. In 1988 the ring cost was \$798. The note on the bottom of bill states that if they pay the bill within 10 days the amount due is only Euro 2100 otherwise the total of Euro 2178.94 is due in 30 days.



Asseller Zartmann Grahlf + Poetfach 4125 + 32025 Herford

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Herford, den 01. August 2008

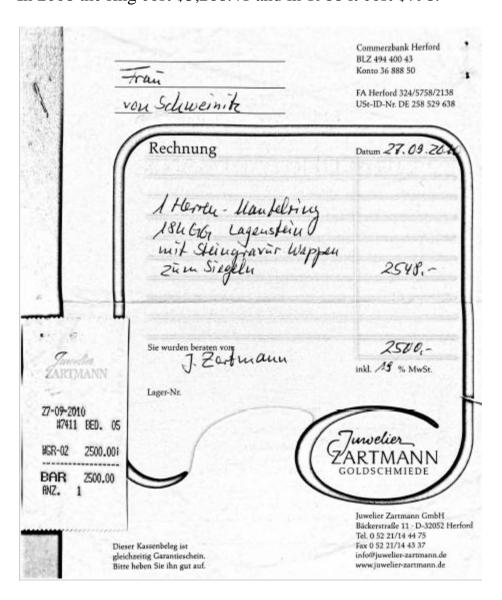
RECHNUNG

Re-Nr 1011/08	
Rep-Nr 34 658	

l Herrenring 750/000 Gelbgold mit l eckig abgerundeten Lagenonyx, ca 16x14 mm, verbödet, 1/7029	Euro	1391,59
1 Wappengravur in Lagenonyx zum Siegeln	Euro	334,45
	Euro	1726,04
+ UPS-Porto D - USA	Euro	105,00
	Euro	1831,04
+ 19% Mwst	Euro	347,90
_	Euro	2178,94

bitte bezahlen Sie bis 10 Tage nach Empfang Euro 2100,00 oder 30 Tg netto

In September 2010, Hans and Helga bought another ring, again from Juwelier Zartmann in Herford Germany. The ring was for their son, Christopher, as a replacement ring. This time bill came to Euro 2548 and since they paid in "Bar" or cash they only had to pay Euro 2500. On 27 September 2010 the exchange rate was a little better, 1 Euro = \$1.35 so they paid \$3,375. In 2008 the ring cost \$3,268.41 and in 1988 it cost \$798.

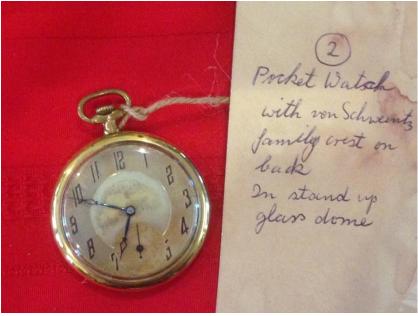


Support or additional information

Photos of Pocket Watch Hans inherited that contained the family Coat of Arms.







Letter from Helga to Bettina about ring

where the three colors red black and silver. He ething red is IIII, black is ### out silver is left blank. These colors are repeated in the buffels horns.	but I we never seen it without the coat except on musche's now, The Everything has a measuring. The massive the tilded shield	on the inside lid of a golden walk the sund that for Papa's ming as well, and	the payor, who may die. Whoever is the new ormer of the that is obligated to make all him porgrants on it.	lun poupments gets solved sithout further porblems. The good then, about a lien on seal estade is the fact that the property	Dear Time, Feb 29-88
homs.		We not the the	to the state of th	the the the	当事

a deal made to bell one but not the other. The codes of arms were also subject to fashione during the contessies, and to fashione things like crosses and crosses were added for pashiculus but different west, I hove all of this helped a lettle. I made a mean a breaker of the seese and westered it to various says beauty from to do. I closed one for you, made you want to measure it with or are as insert to measure it with or are a foreign of the forming tree to heave you care on the forming tree to heave you are on the forming the permanship is post. In a way forming it seat from prost. I want forming it seat protein that a reak putty that everything the forming it is forming the forming that a seat putty that everything the forming

Signature Ring von Schweinitz 220123 compendium The shields were in different color It is not important to have exactly difficult and would be too confusing maybe ned on the outside and black different, only the color or the imide, but that's necessary. should not red on the same package came this morning punt, was called are the credit line course nest in case any won't open it