



Mitteilungen

A publication of the
Sacramento Turn Verein
German-American Cultural Center - Library

Volume XIX, No. 3

July, August, September 2020

A Story of Epidemic Proportions...

Time: 1712

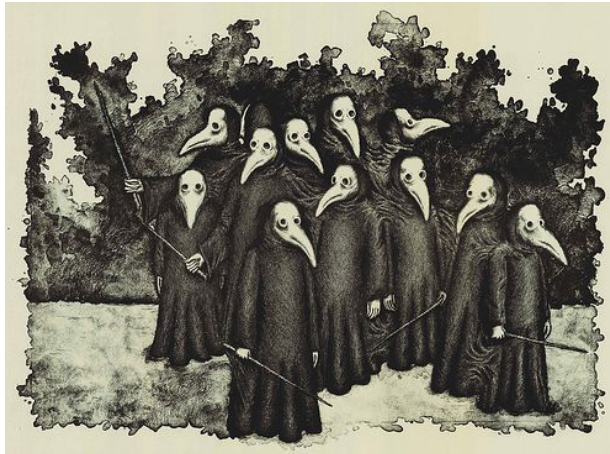
Place: **Hamburg**, a most important trading city of the former Hanseatic League (ca.1150-1650), and still a crucial port in the Holy Roman Empire for trade between the North Sea and Baltic Sea.

Plot: Early in the eighteenth century, a few Hamburg citizens walking around the Leisten area (St. Pauli/Reeperbahn today) near St. Michael's Church discover lifeless bodies lying on the street. Drawing nearer, in horror they recognize the blackish-bluish color of the bodies' skin, and realize that the Plague, the Black Death, has returned to ravage the city once again. They know the symptoms: boils appear under the armpits and in other areas (actually swollen lymph nodes, as is determined much later); the boils burst, oozing pus and blood; chills, fever, sneezing, aching, diarrhea, blackened skin and other symptoms ensue. Victims have no chance of survival and within a few days, the infected die. The Black Plague, die Pest, der schwarze Tod, a highly contagious bacterial infection brought from Asia on land and sea trade routes, raged in mid fourteenth century Europe, claiming 100 to 125 million people, or one third of the population in

most areas. It was the most devastating pandemic in the recorded history of mankind.

Plan of Action

People panicked, seeking an explanation. Where did it come from? What was the cause? How could they fight it? In our modern world, we know that



Masken (Hamburg)

there is a source, usually viral or bacterial, and we can develop a treatment to stop the contagion. However, hundreds of years ago medicine had not reached a true scientific level—most people thought such diseases were divine retribution for sins committed on earth. Doctors still practiced blood-letting as a remedy and no one was allowed to dissect bodies to investigate.

Hamburg of the 17th-18th century was a filthy, dirty, stinky place—people threw all of their refuse onto the street; animals defecated there as well, and no one removed the trash. Some doctors were convinced that the foul smell caused the plague to spread, so they created a mask with a beak so that a cloth dipped in ether oils could be inserted into the mask to stave off the miasma. Those dealing with stricken people in fourteenth century Europe had

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The Sacramento Turn Verein's German-American Cultural Center is dedicated to preserving the same proud German heritage that was instrumental in the founding of the Sacramento Turn Verein in 1854.

The Sacramento Turn Verein, a member of the German-American Heritage Foundation in Washington, DC, meets in the old "Turner Hall," at 3349 J Street in Sacramento where its German-American library is housed. Visitors are welcome.

Der Hochzeitsbitter

The announcement was in my inbox, a cheery e-card asking me to please save the date. It was the precursor of a beautiful wedding invitation which arrived several month later. To receive a written invitation is lovely, but to be invited via Hochzeitsbitter is much more special. The Hochzeitsbitter is a rural custom that lasted well into the 1960s. Hochzeit is the German word for wedding, and the Bitter is the person that 'bids' you to attend. A Hochzeitsbitter (or Hochzeitslader in Bavaria) usually is a happy, funny fellow chosen by the bride and groom to visit all the invitees, to bring them the happy news that a wedding will take place on a particular day. The good man would dress in his tails and a gaily decorated top hat to look very festive while he made his rounds. He also sported a cane as he set off to visit all the folks



on the list given to him by the bridal couple. Arriving at the House of a family to be invited he would knock on the door, tap his cane on the floorboards and recite the invitation in form of a funny poem. This poem set the tone for the festivities to come, and the delighted guest would agree to the invitation by placing a ribbon on the cane. More and more ribbons became attached as he visited, serving as a tally to bring to the bridal couple. As a reward for bringing the invitation, the invited would provide a (alcoholic) libation for this fine man who had walked a long way, or still had a long way ahead of him. Whatever it was, he was not allowed to decline

it. So if he visited 10 folks one after the other he was fairly soused by the time he got to the last one. Wherever he went he recited his poem.

But this young man's job was not just to invite. He was expected to be the entertainer during the wedding festivities. Be the man in charge of the event. Coordinate the games that would take place during the at the wedding, like stealing the bride, fetching the rooster from the bride's farm, organize funny speeches. In short, he was in charge of making sure everyone had a great time. And at the very end of the festivities, he had to ensure that the guest would go home, he was the "Rausschmeisser", (raus = out, and schmeissen = to toss).

In recent years this custom has become quite popular again. So if you see a smiling man walking about, wearing tails, a gaily decorated top hat, and carrying a large cane covered in ribbons the next time you are in Germany, you know you have encountered a Hochzeitsbitter.

Mitteilungen

Quarterly newsletter of the Sacramento Turn Verein's
German-American Cultural Center - Library
3349 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95816

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A Language in Flux

Bodo Mrozek, a German journalist, has compiled a fascinating resource, *Das große Lexikon der bedrohten Wörter* (*The Big Lexicon of Threatened Words*).

We always refer to Latin as a “dead” language, because it is no longer used, and thus cannot change. All spoken languages are constantly changing, a normal path for all living things. From 1995-2005 German added 8,000 new words.

The usage of many words has disappeared due to modernization of daily life, and the usage of others has been replaced by another word. When German words fall out of usage, they are removed from the newest edition of the Duden (official dictionary). (That is not the case with words in English dictionaries.)

This book is quite entertaining and revealing—a few examples are below. The word on the left is the former usage and the modern usage is on the right.

- Amme (Tagesmutter) = Babysitter
- Bummel (Einkaufsbummel) = shoppen
- Kolonialwaren = Fair Trade Produkte
- Kassenschlager = Blockbuster
- Verkaufsschlager = Bestseller
- Gabelfrühstück = Brunch
- Lichtspielhaus = Kino
- Knutschkugel (expression that is disappearing) = small cars produced after WWII—i.e. BMW Isetta, VW Bug)
- Landstreicher = Obdachloser, Berber
- Kittchen = Resozialisierungsanstalt
- Flugblatt = Flügi = Flyer
- Fräulein = Young Miss
- Frohlocken = Fun
- Garderobe = Outfit
- Konferenz = Meeting, Brainstorming
- Metze = Callgirl
- Klempner = Installateur
- Paradiesapfel = Tomate
- Rentner = Senior
- Zoni = reference to everything East German after the fall of the Wall; used less and less

In Memoriam

Franz Bröcker passed away on December 31, 2019. He was 78 years old.

He arrived in San Francisco on a Friday the 13th, in July 1963. It was not a black Friday for him, but the start of a new life. An avid soccer player, he had left his native Osnabrück to train with the junior team of the Swiss national team, the FC Zürich. But the dream of America was stronger and brought Franz to the U.S. A.

In 1960, the Sacramento Turn Verein had added a soccer section and this is where Franz found his new soccer family, even becoming the coach for several years later on.

But the Turn Verein was more to him than a place to play soccer, the STV is where he found his German community. Besides playing soccer, Franz loved to sing and he sang with the Harmonie for many years, but also gave his time and talent to help establish the Library section. In addition to his membership in the Soccer Club, the Harmonie, and the German-American Cultural Center-Library, Franz became a member of the Sacramento Turn Verein in 1994 and increased his volunteerism, helping with any project big or small. Franz soon was elected to serve as Master of Equipment of the STV governing board, a position he held for many years. Franz was a quintessential STV member, helpful, cheerful, and involved, a genuine ‘nice guy’. We miss him.



Weisheiten

**Wo man singt,
da lass dich ruhig nieder;
böse Menschen haben keine Lieder.**

It's safe to be where people are singing;
mean people don't sing songs.

Der Hochzeitsbitter, continued from page 2

Ich bin zu Euch hierher geschritten,
Hätt' ich 'n Pferd, wär' ich geritten,
Zu Samstag freundlich Euch gebeten,
Ins Haus der Brauteltern zu treten.
Ich lad' Euch zu der Hochzeitsfeier
In der geräum'gen Weizenscheuer,
Wo's Kuchen gibt wie'n Rad vom Wagen,
Der liegt acht Tage Euch im Magen!
Vom Kaffee schneid't die Scher' ein Stück,
So stark ist er und auch so dick!!
Die Brauteltern sie bieten Essen:
Ihr dürft natürlich nicht vergessen
Die Löffel, Gabeln und die Messer.
Nun sagt, wer kommt! Noch besser,
Er heft' am Stock sein Bändchen an,
Mit welchem Gast man rechnen kann.

I walked over here to you
If I had a horse, I would have ridden
Kindly asked you on Saturday,
To step into the parents' house.
I invite you to the wedding party
In the spacious wheat barn,
Where there's cake like a wheel from the wagon
It's in your stomach for eight days!
The coffee so strong and so thick !!
You will need shears to cut it
The parents offer food:
Of course you shouldn't forget to
Bring your spoons, forks and knives.
Now say you will come, or even better,
Stick your ribbon on the stick
So we can count you as a guest.

Side-by-Side Story

Der Bär

In einem dichten Walde lebte ein großer Bär. Oskar und Emil, zwei reisende Jägerburschen hörten davon und sagten: „Den Bären wollen wir bald haben.“ Sie gingen nun alle Tage in den Wald um auf den Bären zu warten.

Abends kamen sie ins Wirtshaus und ranken den besten Wein, obwohl sie kein Geld hatten. „Der Bär,“ sagten sie zum Wirt, „wird für den Wein mit seinem Pelz bezahlen.“

Eines Tages, als sie wieder durch den Wald wanderten, kam endlich der Bär. Er brummte laut und ging gerade auf sie zu.

Oskar schoss vor Schrecken fehl und kletterte schnell auf einen Baum. Emil, dessen Gewehr gar nicht losgehen wollte, legte sich auf den Boden und stellte sich tot. Der Bär beroh ihn an Mund, Nase und Ohren und tappte weiter, denn Bären rühren nichts Totes an.

Oskar kletterte vom Baum herab und sagte zum Scherz zu Emil: „Du, was hat dir denn der Bär ins Ohr gesagt?“ Emil antwortete: „Er hat gesagt, wir sollen des Bären Pelz nicht verkaufen, bevor wir den Bären haben.“

The Bear

A big bear lived in a dense forest. Oskar and Emil, two traveling huntsmen, heard about it and said: “We will soon get that bear.” And so they went to the forest every day to wait for the bear.

In the evening they came to the tavern and drank the best wine, even though they had no money. “The bear,” they said to the host, “will pay for the wine with its fur.”

One day, when they were walking through the forest again, the bear finally came. He grunted loudly and walked straight towards them.

Oskar missed his shot in terror and quickly climbed a tree. Emil, whose rifle did not go off at all, lay down on the ground and pretended to be dead. The bear sniffed him on the mouth, nose and ears and padded on, because bears do not touch anything dead.

Oskar climbed down from the tree and jokingly said to Emil: “You, what did the bear whisper in your ear?” Emil replied: “He said we shouldn't sell the bear's fur until we have the bear.”

Famous German Authors

Ingeborg Bachmann (1926-1973)

German authors include writers from Austria, Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Austrian born and bred, Ingeborg Bachmann was described once by German author Heinrich Böll in the magazine Spiegel as a “brilliant intellectual woman, whose writing neither lacks sensuality nor neglects the abstract.” Over the span of her writing career, she wrote more than 6000 pages in various genres, including poetry, prose, plays for radio, librettos, essays, and letters.

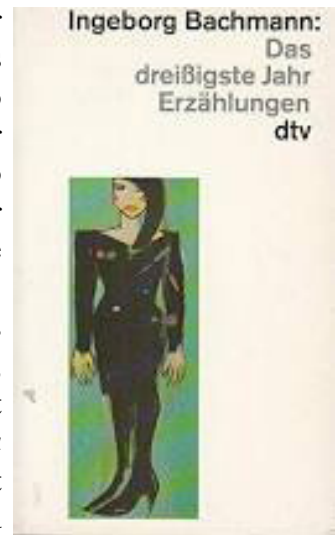


After completing the Gymnasium, she studied philosophy, psychology, German, and law at the universities of Innsbruck, Graz and Vienna. She socialized with several famous writers, essayists, and literature critics including Hans Weigel, Paul Celan, Ilse Aichinger and members of the infamous Gruppe 47. Her literary ability garnered her many awards, even a 1963 nomination for a Nobel prize in literature.

Having experienced WWII as a teenager, she became strongly anti-fascist and an early feminist, which was acknowledged later after her untimely death.

Sadly, after a twenty-year relationship with Swiss author Max Frisch, who rejected her for a younger woman, she turned to alcohol and pills for solace, and died in Rome at age forty-seven.

The GACC-Library has a few of her writings, including novels or short stories: *Simultan*, *Malina* (reviewed as “the best of Virginia Woolf and Samuel Becket in The New York Times”), *Das dreißigste Jahr/ The Thirtieth Year* (in English & German); *War Diary*; and poetry: *Die gestundete Zeit*.



An unusual book in the STV German-American Cultural Center - Library recently piqued interest: *The California GOLD RUSH DIARY of a German Sailor* by Adolphus Windeler, with illustrations by his companion, Carl Friderich Christendorff, written from 1849-1853, but not edited and published until 1969 through the efforts of W. Turrentine Jackson. The original diary is deposited at Yale University in the Western Americana Collection of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library. Windeler spent four seasons in the gold fields of California, applying his seamen techniques to gold mining. The book is in English, with an informative preface and acknowledgments to the Staff of The California Section of the California State Library under the leadership of Allan R. Ottley.

The California GOLD RUSH DIARY of a German Sailor is available for check out to members of the GACC-L.

The Sections of the Sacramento Turn Verein

- A Historical Perspective -

When were they formed? Why were they formed? What role do they play?

The Sacramento Turn Verein was founded in 1854 as one of fifteen in the United States at that time, with the mission of educating the young to become physically, mentally, and morally sound adults. The main vehicles for accomplishing this was through gymnastics training, language education and singing. Over the century, the STV started to sprout "Sections."

The Mitteilungen is dedicating several issues to featuring the various Sections of the STV.

The Turner Harmonie

Germans love to sing! So it comes as no surprise that in November 1854 a singing section was added to the Turnverein, a mere 5 months after the founding of the same in June of that year. This is astonishing! In 1854! In the middle of the Gold Rush! Sports—sure, Gymnastics—well, maybe, but a choir? Who would do such a thing? Young, male, German immigrants of course. The 1850 census of California, the first one for this barely one-year-old state, shows that the city of Sacramento had 6,739 inhabitants. The majority were single men, and the average age was about 28. The poor census taker felt compelled to write a note at the end of his tabulation, stating: "I discharged my duties to the best of my abilities, as near as could be done owing to the unsettled and floating state of the population." Nevertheless, from this floating and unsettled group 29 German men started the Sacramento Turn Verein, not only for gymnastics exercise, but also to gather for cheerful singing of German choral music. Sacramento was not the only city in the region with a Turnverein. San Francisco, Oakland, Marysville, Stockton, and several other cities had Turnvereine, and each one also had a men's choir, since, in addition to physical training, the furthering of the intellect, which includes musical education, is the purpose of a Turnverein.

So choral teachers were hired, and singing competitions held. The first great music festival took place in San Francisco in 1857 under the auspices of the San Francisco Turnverein, and the Sacramento Turnverein participated with 12 singers. Judging by



the concert program, it was a grand affair.

Over the years the membership of the STV and of the Harmonie section grew, even though club dues were \$2 a month, a large amount in those days. The STV became the place to be for the fine society of Sacramento. Many social events were held, from Christmas balls, to May festivals, to masquerade balls. Apparently the Turnverein had the "best spring dance floor west of the Rocky Mountains." The 50th anniversary program of 1905 gives us a detailed history of the club, and it shows that the Harmonie was always part of the entertainment.

In 1908, the Turner singers joined the newly founded Pazifischer Sängerbund (United Pacific Singing Societies) and participated in many singing competitions.

1910 was a very eventful year for the Harmonie, as they were to compete with many other singing clubs in the region at the First Pacific Sängerbund Festival in

San Francisco. The stakes were high. Two wonderful prizes were at hand: the \$10,000.00 cup donated by the German Emperor Wilhelm II, and the \$2,500.00 cup given by the Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph. The Sacramento Harmonie won the Franz Joseph Cup* and the homecoming was quite an event for the city, as it was one of the best prizes ever brought back to Sacramento by any organization. At the next concert (on October 30) a formal picture was taken of the Harmonie and sent to his Majesty, the Emperor Franz Joseph, who replied graciously. (The letter is in the STV archive.) The Harmonie continued on, becoming a men's choir of high standing. Schiller Festivals, Shakespeare Celebration, and many other cultural events took place in Sacramento under the auspices of the STV Harmonie. Fundraisers for the Crippled Children Society of Sacramento, the Red Cross, and many other social institutions in Sacramento were held by the singers.

In 1929 the Harmonie engaged Anton Dorndorf, a young, ambitious singing instructor. During his tenure a great change took place for the Harmonie on December 10, 1934. The ladies' chorus joined the men's chorus, and the Harmonie became a mixed choir. Twenty-five ladies joined the men, which established a well-balanced mixed chorus with wonderful material. Anton Dorndorf directed the choir for 41 years. Under his direction the Harmonie promoted singing festivals, concerts, and musical plays in Sacramento and other places on the west

coast. Many sold-out concerts were performed at the Crocker Art Museum: Wagner-Weber Concert, Mozart Concert, Haydn Concert, Schubert Concert, and a Brahms Concert. The singers also crossed the ocean three different times to be part of singing events in Germany. Sadly, Anton suddenly died during a rehearsal on February 8, 1970. The singers

were devastated but found a new director in Fedor Sinzig, who directed the choir until 1997. After that, Dr. William Sullivan, Harmonie President for over 30 years, hired Roberta Sullivan to be the director. Several others followed, and the choir is currently under the direction of Judith Steinle.

The Harmonie still sings, mostly in German, produces an annual concert at the STV, and participates in the annual Sängerkommers (singing festival with combined choirs). The

Harmonie even had a "Kinderchor" for several years under the direction of Linda Stuebing and Fedor Sinzig, and until the year 2000 the annual Harmonie Concert was accompanied by a string orchestra sponsored by the musician's union.

The Harmonie has longevity and loyalty in its membership. Not only do members sing together, but they also enjoy the camaraderie and memories of past times. A social hour usually follows the weekly Monday rehearsal. The members always welcome new singers, and strong, young voices. Knowledge of German is not a requirement, but new members eventually do learn!

Sacramento Turner Harmonie, 1965



Remember when...?



Do you remember when and where this was? Do you recognize any of these folks?

Reach out to us via email at gacclibrarystv@gmail.com.

Did you remember?



This photo from our previous issues features the following smiling faces (left to right): Susannah Martin, Franz Bröcker, Gisela Parker, Al Guzauskas, Ingeborg Carpenter, Bill Rietdorf, Krista Bowen, Gerd Rustmann, Shirley Riemer, Lisl Swineheart, Tom Martin, Ilse Laudi, Bob Holt, Günther Laudi, Maxine Anderson, Hank Stoffel, Irmgard Schlenker, and Albert Schlenker.

Epidemic Proportions, continued from page 1

begun to implement preventive measures, such as wearing masks, quarantining and isolating the sick, and barring entrance to walled cities to prevent others from bringing the illness.

Nevertheless, it wasn't until the end of the nineteenth century that a Swiss bacteriologist, Alexandre Yersin, identified the bacteria *Yersinia pestis*, that was carried by fleas on rats (or other hosts) and passed to humans. The Hamburg citizens who discovered the bodies alerted the authorities, who made an instant decision to nail shut this part of the city, thus isolating the sick and containing the disease. The city provided free food and drink to the quarantined people and placed sentries in front of the barricade to prevent people from leaving. However, at the time, the Great Northern War between Sweden and Denmark was in full swing. Several thousand Danish soldiers controlled the neighboring harbor town of Altona and limited the flow of goods to Hamburg. Citizens

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Sacramento Turn Verein German Language School (GLS)



A Section of the Sacramento Turn Verein
3349 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95816
www.stv-germanlanguageschool.org
director@stv-germanlanguageschool.org



All teachers at the STV German Language School are native German speakers, teaching German in the very midst of our “Little Germany” - the Sacramento Turn Verein.

Visit our website at www.stv-germanlanguageschool.org.

STV German Language School - Early Fall 2020 Classes

**All Early Fall classes
for adults and for older children
will be held online.**

Please visit
www.stv-germanlanguageschool.org
for updated information!

The website contains information for registration, cost, teachers, books required, scholarships, and e-mail addresses for the GLS Director and the GLS officers.

Ein herzliches Dankeschön an die GLS Community!

We are quite proud of our GLS teachers and students, who bravely adapted to the use of Zoom for instruction during the spring and early summer of 2020! The students' reactions varied, as some very much liked not having to travel and possibly getting exposed to Covid-19; their concentration on the content of the lesson was better, and they worked more effectively. However, they missed the direct social interaction during and before or after class.

What's Going On at the Turn Verein?

The STV misses all of you! We're hoping that the building can once again begin inviting everyone to the many activities, but we currently do not have an anticipated date for when that will happen. Below is a list of proposed activities, but please check the STV website (www.sacramentoturnverein.com) or contact someone from your section for updated information about section meetings and events.

As a last resort you may call the STV office at (916) 442-7360 for information, but please do not expect an immediate answer if you leave a message.

The meetings listed below are regularly scheduled monthly meetings or practices.

There are no meetings scheduled at the Turner Hall in July as the building remains closed due to the COVID-19 crisis. Please check the website at the end of July for an update regarding the building.

Sacramento Turn Verein (Main Club)

Membership Meeting:

September-May: 1st and 3rd Wednesday, 8:00 PM;

June-August: 1st Wednesday only, 8:00 PM

STV Executive Board & Trustee Meeting:

4th Wednesday: 7:00 PM

President: Freddie Diringer, railtyme@gmail.com

Secretary: Karla Diringer, kdiringer@gmail.com

STV Actives

Membership Meeting: 4th Thursday, 8:00 PM

Executive Board Meeting: as needed

President: Ed Broneske, stvactivetreasurer@gmail.com

STV Alpentänzer Schuhplattler

Membership Meeting: dates vary; check the website

Dance Practice: seasonally on Thursdays, 7:00 PM

Band Practice: seasonally; dates vary

President: Markus Geissler, president@alpentanzer.com

Website: www.alpentanzer.com

STV German-American Cultural Center - Library

Membership Meeting: 2nd Wednesday, 7:30 PM

Executive Board: as needed

Special Event: 3rd Friday, 7:30 PM

Open Hours: Tuesdays 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Saturdays
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

President: Olaavi Solander, solander3129@gmail.com

STV German Language School

Membership Meeting: First Thursday, 7:30 PM

Executive Board Meeting: Third Thursday, 7:30 PM

Stammtisch: Second Thursday, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

President: Emily Via, emilyvia@hotmail.com

Director: Jeanette Treiber, gl.s.stv.jeanette@gmail.com

Website: www.stv-germanlanguageschool.org

STV Handball-Racquetball

Court Games: Monday - Friday: 4:00 PM

Membership Meeting: 2nd Thursday, 6:00 PM

President: Dan Hagan, dan_hagan@sbcglobal.com

Website: sites.google.com/site/turnvereinhandball

STV Harmonie

Rehearsal: Mondays, 7:30 PM

Board Meeting: 1st Monday, 6:30 PM

President: Lorna Martens, stharmonie@gmail.com

Website: www.stv-germanlanguageschool.org

STV Soccer Club

Membership Meeting: 2nd Wednesday, 6:00 PM

President: David Telfer, presidentstvsoccer@gmail.com

Website: www.stvsoccerclub.com



Epidemic Proportions, continued from page 8

were starving. The sick didn't try to leave the infected area, but hungry citizens found ways to access the barricaded area—climbing over the walls, bribing the sentries—to get the food intended for the sick, thus carrying the disease back to the healthy populace. One in every seven citizens died. Needless to say, Hamburg eventually cleaned up their city by implementing sanitary procedures to make their city sparkle, as it does today!

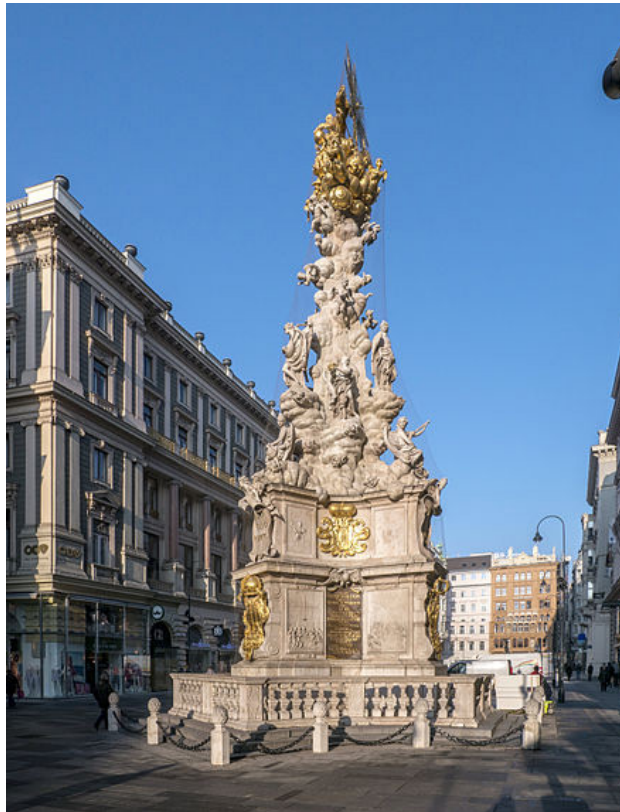
By the time of the 1712 plague in Hamburg, society had evolved from the fourteenth century feudal model. It was the eve of the Enlightenment, the influence of the Church and the nobility had declined as scientific advancements were made and people had become more knowledgeable and educated. Fast forward to 1918... and the Spanish flu, a virus that infected 500 million people and left 27-50 million dead in its path (including the grandfather of Donald J. Trump, on May 30, 1918, in New York.) Not until 1933 did scientists identify the cause as a virus, and years later they determined that it stemmed from an avian source which mutated upon infecting humans. Since that time, there have been another ten flu pandemics, but the number of deaths has declined substantially, thanks to advancements in medicine. Statistics on diseases throughout the centuries abound in written material, noting at least ten flu virus-related pandemics in the past 100 years, starting with the infamous Spanish flu in 1918-20 (Wikipedia).

There are many other illnesses that are epidemic or pandemic, including cholera, yellow fever, AIDS, dengue, Ebola, smallpox, Marburg fever, polio, and many others. History shows that such diseases are actually a normal occurrence that give mankind the

impetus to find a solution. Each disease leaves traces in a society's literature, art, language, and societal practices. Artists such as the German Albrecht Dürer and Dutch Hieronymus Bosch carved,

painted and drew renditions of life during the plague. Literature and film also abound with plague themes. Gradually the plague motif disappeared from art and became a metaphor for catastrophic events.

If you visit Vienna, the capital of Austria, and wander from St. Stephen's Cathedral onto a side street, the Graben, you will be confronted with a large sculpture of people in agony...it is the Pestsäule, or Plague Column, created in the 17th century to commemorate the horrors of the Black Plague, which raged at various times throughout Europe between the 14th and early 18th



Pestsäule in Vienna, Austria

centuries. It depicts a young woman with a cross who, helped by an angel, crushes the old "plague woman," symbolizing the victory of faith over the Plague. In the spring of 2020, visits to this heart-wrenching sculpture have revived and made it a place of pilgrimage. Concerned people leave candles, prayers and children's drawings at its base. In the present time during the corona crisis, this belief provides hope for many people.

The last few months have stamped indelible marks on lives throughout the globe and given rise to question if there will ever be a return to "normal" life. In the 21st century, we can rest assured that scientists eventually will develop a vaccine to combat COVID-19, or SARS-CoV-2, something that was unthinkable just one hundred years ago.

Sources

Hempel, Dirk; NDR.de: Pest, Cholera, Corona, 20.04.2020.
BR Wissen: Geschichte der Seuchen
<https://www.wikipedia.org>; Search for "List of Epidemics"

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Komm mit zum Turn Verein!

**Check back here for upcoming events at the Turner Hall
in the next edition of *Mitteilungen*!**

Keep up with Sacramento Turn Verein events at www.sacramentoturnverein.com.

Want to learn more about German traditions and ways of life? You can help keep such memories alive by joining and participating in the activities of the German-American Cultural Center - Library.

Membership is only \$15 per year. To join, send your check for \$15, payable to "GACC-L" to

GACC-Library, Sacramento Turn Verein, 3349 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95816.

We meet at 7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month in the Turn Verein Library.

Welcome! Join us!

GERMAN-AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER - LIBRARY

Library Hours: Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Telephone: 916-442-7360; Email: gacclibrarystv@gmail.com

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