

Robert Schumann

A Youth Pilgrimage to Munich 1828

Introduction

The young Schumann's original sheets titled "Jünglings-Wallfarthen [Youth Pilgrimages]", which he wrote down as a student in Heidelberg in 1830, are held at the Robert Schumann House in Zwickau. The nine journeys made between 1826 and 1830 took him to the following places:

1. Journey to Gotha, Eisenach, Weimar, Jena, 1826
2. Journey to Prague, 1827
3. Journey to Munich through Bavaria, 1828
4. Journey on the Rhine up to Heidelberg, 1829
5. Journey through Switzerland up to Venice, 1829
6. Journey through Baden to Strasbourg, 1830
7. Journey through Hesse to Frankfurt, 1830
8. Schwetzingen, Speyer, Worms and Rhenish Bavaria (Palatinate),
1830
9. Journey on the Rhine to Wesel and through Westphalia to Leipzig,
1830

The subsequent seven pages of prose text were titled "Erstes Gemählde. Reise nach Prag [First Picture. Journey to Prague]" but broke off in the middle of a sentence describing Colditz Castle. Unfortunately, Schumann never again got around to writing out his diary, kept in the form of keywords, as a continuous travel report. The slightly abridged version of Pilgrimage No. 3 below only covers the period between his departure from Zwickau and his stay in Munich.

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Zwickau–Bayreuth

Diary of Robert Schumann

[Thursday, 24th April: Zwickau (departure early 01:00) – Plauen – Hof – reunion with Rosen¹ – arrival Bayreuth evening 19:30 (Goldene Sonne Inn mediocre)

Travel time: Zwickau–Hof 12 hours, Hof–Bayreuth 15 hours

Friday, 25th April: Jean Paul's tomb² – deep pain – Rollwenzel Inn³ – Jean Paul's study⁴ and chair – Hermitage⁵ – fond memory of Jean Paul – stroll to Fantasie Palace⁶ – monuments]

1 Gisbert Rosen, youth friend of Schumann, who started to study law together with him at the University of Leipzig. Lived from 1808 to 1876.

*Gisbert
Rosen*

2 Jean Paul's tomb: This was originally located on the road to Fantaisie Castle and was adorned by a sandstone obelisk. It was replaced by a boulder from the Fichtel Mountains only in 1863, on the 100th anniversary of this birth. The tomb slab also shows the name of Jean Paul's son, who had died early.

Tomb of Jean Paul

3 Rollwenzel Inn: In 1804, Jean Paul moved to Bayreuth and regularly visited the inn of Friedrich and Anna Dorothea Rollwenzel. The "Rollwenzel lady" set up a special study for him.

Rollwenzel Inn

4 Study: In 1826, the landlady described the little study at the Rollwenzel Inn as follows: "[This is where he sat and wrote almost every day for twenty years; it was at this table that he worked, worked a lot, oh my God, he worked himself to death ...]"

Little study at the Rollwenzel Inn

Bayreuth

5 Hermitage: In 1715, Margrave Friedrich built the Hermitage Palace and Park above the river Red Main, which he presented to his wife, Margravine Wilhelmine, in 1735. The latter extended and converted the Old Palace into what is now a well-known gem of Bayreuth.

Hermitage

6 Fantaisie Palace (Schumann used the German form “Fantasie” in his diary): This Palace with gardens, located five kilometres from Bayreuth, was built by Duchess Elisabeth Friederike Sophie, who lived from 1732 to 1780. She was the daughter of Margravine Wilhelmine of Bayreuth and was married at a young age, but returned to Bayreuth a few years later. She always spent her summers at this retreat together with guests and her Court. Today, the building houses a Museum for Garden Art.

Fantaisie Palace with gardens and vineyard ca. 1820

Bayreuth–Nuremberg

Diary of Robert Schumann

[Saturday, 26th April: viewing Nuremberg – bad road – churl at Laufer Gate¹ – Blaue Kugel (bad inn)

Sunday, 27th April: the Beautiful Fountain² – the Castle³ with panorama – St Lawrence Church⁴ – St Sebaldus Church⁵ – St James Church⁶ – German Manor – stroll – Roessel Coffee House – by cab to the Dutzendteich district⁷ – Theatre – Intrigue and Love

Travel time: Bayreuth to Nuremberg 19 hours]

1 Laufer Gate: The most important gate within the town walls for the road from Bayreuth. The photograph on the left shows the demolition of the town walls to the north in the 1870s.

Town square of Bayreuth ca. 1880 with the colonnades behind the Fountain (see text on next page)

Nuremberg ca. 1820 (Domenico Quaglio)

Nuremberg

2 The Beautiful Fountain: This view of 1880 shows the town square with the Beautiful Fountain, as Schumann will have seen it. A description from 1818, however, shows that the damage to it must have been enormous: “[The heads, usually jutting out of the water, are cut off and much of the statues is cut off, too]”. This is why a complete copy of the famous construction in neo-Gothic style was started as early as 1822. The colonnades were torn down only in 1895.

The Beautiful Fountain

At the beginning of the 19th century, the Beautiful Fountain, built between 1385 and 1396 and of a height of 19 metres, had been in such a dilapidated state that a comprehensive restoration had to be launched, which was completed a few years before Schumann’s visit. The watercolour, made in 1818, shows an ideal view which Schumann certainly did not see. There, the set of figures comprises the personification of the Seven Liberal Arts, the four Evangelists and Church Fathers, the seven Prophets, the Nine Good Heroes, and the seven Electors. A recreation of the gilding was abandoned.

Only the copy from 1903 shows the 40 figures in colourful paints and with partial gilding again. At the time, all still existing original sculptures were transferred to the Germanic National Museum.

The personification of Astronomy, one of the Seven Arts which also included Grammar, Rhetoric, Dialectic, Arithmetic, Geometry, and Music. Ptolemy with an astrolabe in his hand.

Nuremberg

3 The Castle: This comprises, to the left, the Imperial Castle with the so-called Sinwell Tower, in the middle the Burgrave's Castle, and subsequently the Imperial Stables (now a youth hostel) and the Luginsland Tower.

View of the Castle ca. 1830

4 St Lawrence Church: Similar to a French Cathedral from the Gothic period. We do not know whether Schumann also viewed the Sacrament House by Adam Kraft or the Angelic Salutation by Veit Stoss.

*St Lawrence
Church*

5 St Sebaldus Church: In the 13th century, a late Romanesque basilica was dedicated to the town's patron saint Sebaldus, which was extended by a Gothic hall chancel in the 14th century. It also houses the famous tomb of St Sebaldus, designed by Adam Kraft and Veit Stoss.

St Sebaldus Church

6 St James Church: Originally in the possession of the Commandry of the Teutonic Knights, this church was handed to the Council of Nuremberg after the Reformation. It houses a winged altar from the 14th century.

St James Church

7 Dutzendteich district: A popular local recreation area to the east of the town with a magnificent tree population and a larger lake. On the edge of the park, the Nazis built a huge congress hall with a ground for their parades (now a documentation centre with a permanent exhibition on the history of the Nazi Party).

Dutzendteich district with former congress hall of the Nazi Party

Nuremberg–Donauwörth–Augsburg

Diary of Robert Schumann

[Monday, 28th April: Ellingen – elegant Palace of Prince Wrede¹ – good midday meal – Weissenburg Fortress² – Monheim – night's lodging (Hirsch Inn, good)

Tuesday, 29th April: heavenly morning – beautiful church in Donauwörth³ – Catholic – the majestic Danube – mountain castles – the Lechfeld plain and the river Lech – lunch – Mr Kurrer⁴ – Clara Kurrer – friendly reception]

1 The Prince von Wrede: Born in Heidelberg in 1767, Carl Philipp Joseph Wrede had an impressive military career with as well as against Napoleon, which was rewarded in 1814 by the Bavarian King Max I with the title of Prince and the rule over Ellingen with its nineteen villages and sixteen hamlets.

Immediately after the takeover by von Wrede, he had the Residence refurnished and equipped with rare silk wallpapers by French craftsmen. Parts of the huge complex were acquired by the State of Bavaria only in 1939. The Princely House, however, kept the right of abode in the east wing of the Palace.

Prince von Wrede

Entrance façade of the Palace

2 Weissenburg Fortress: Built in 1588 on the site of a former monastery in an almost impregnable location and known by the name of Wülzburg. Easy to recognise as a hill fortress from the road to Weissenburg.

Weissenburg Fortress (Wülzburg)

Donauwörth

3 The silhouette of Donauwörth at the Reichsstrasse [Imperial Road] to Munich, with its two church steeples, indicates a Catholic place. In the centre of the town, at Reichsstrasse, there is a Minster of Our Lady from the 15th century, featuring a stout steeple.

On a rocky promontory above the town, the former Benedictine Abbey and the Pilgrimage Church of the Holy Cross are widely visible. After the closure of the Abbey in 1803, the whole complex disintegrated but was saved thanks to the initiative of the elementary school teacher Ludwig Auer, and made to flourish in the form of the “Cassianeum”, known today by the name of Pädagogische Stiftung Cassianeum [Educational Foundation Cassianeum].

*Pilgrimage Church of the Holy Cross and the
“Cassianeum”*

*Reichsstrasse [Imperial
Road]*

Minster

4 The chemist Wilhelm Heinrich von Kurrer, a friend of Schumann’s father, was the director of the calico printing factory Schöppler & Hartmann in Augsburg between 1815 and 1830. The plant was one of the largest throughout Germany. Kurrer’s daughter Clara was engaged to the actor Carl Krahe, who facilitated Schumann’s access to Heinrich Heine in Munich with a letter of recommendation. The whole factory site was demolished in 1999 and turned into “City-Galerie Augsburg” [sic!], a shopping centre.

*Calico printing factory Schöppler &
Hartmann*

Augsburg

Diary of Robert Schumann

[Wednesday, 30th April: stroll to the island – high drain¹ – Siebentucher [Seven Tablecloths]² – magnificent forest – Weißes Lamm Inn, good and expensive

Thursday, 1st May: Arsenal³ – St Ulrich Church⁴ – coffee house – stroll to the Lug ins Land Fortress⁵, Down There⁶, strolling through the town

Travel time: Nuremberg to Augsburg 36 hours

Friday, 2nd May: factory – Titus [?] acceptable

Saturday, 3rd May: the Reichenbach water machine⁷ – the river with beautiful view – the Cathedral⁸ – Chapel – Cotta steam printing house⁹ – coffee – the Protestant graveyard¹⁰ – the Broken Tomb and the Angel of Reunion – witty conversation – fantasia at the pianoforte – letter of recommendation for Heine in Munich

Sunday, 4th May: the Golden Hall¹¹ – beautiful gallery – sentinel parade – trip to the Kobell estate [?]- Oberhausen district – virtual farewell in the evening – shaking hands – dreams

Monday, 5th May: departure for Munich]

1 High drain: The high drain is a weir which diverts the water from the river Lech and, together with the Stadtbach canal in the old town, feeds the canals of the Lechviertel district. A dam has been documented since 1346. This repeatedly led to confrontation with the Bavarian Dukes. Furthermore, wars and floods caused devastating damage over the centuries. The installation visited by Schumann was newly built on a massive scale only in 1911.

The high drain at the river Lech before Augsburg

2 Siebentucher [Seven Tablecloths]: Today, this local recreation area for the general public is known by the name of Siebentischwald [Seven Table Forest]. A beer garden, destroyed in the Second World War, originally had seven tables, hence its name. On the edge of the forest, there is a Botanical Garden and Augsburg Zoo.

Siebentucher or Siebentischwald

Augsburg

3 Arsenal: Built by the town master mason Elias Holl at the beginning of the 17th century. It could accommodate about 3,000 soldiers. Above the entrance, it features a famous bronze group with the Archangel Michael in the fight against Satan, cast in 1605.

Façade of the Arsenal

4 St Ulrich Church: A probably unique combination of an Evangelical Lutheran church and a Roman Catholic basilica in the whole of Europe. The Maximilianstrasse [Maximilian Street], Augsburg's boulevard, leads directly to this Protestant Church, built into the former porch of the Sts Ulrich and Afra Church. The onion dome of the Catholic Basilica, with a height of 93m, is visible from afar. The two churches are at right angles to each other, but are not connected.

St Ulrich Church in front of the Basilica of Sts Ulrich ad Afra

Augsburg

5 Lug ins Land (or Luginsland, etc.): The most important fortress in the north-east of the town, originally with an eight-storey observation tower. The former citadel is now a popular leisure area with a beer garden.

6 Down There: By St Stephen's Chapel at Stephansplatz square, there is a small town gate through which Martin Luther saved himself when he had to fear for his life after his disputation with the Papal Envoy Cajetan at the Diet of Augsburg in 1518. Going "down there", he reached the moat that was located further down.

"[In this place, MARTIN LUTHER is said to have secretly left the town through a gate in the night before 21st October 1518]."

The "town gate" today

The "Lug ins Land" bastion

Augsburg

7 The Reichenbach water machine: The Augsburg wooden water lifting machines were already known in the Middle Ages by the name of “Machina Augusta” throughout Europe. In 1821, the cast-iron water column machine developed by Georg Friedrich von Reichenbach was deployed to supply the town with water. Schumann thus went to see a cutting-edge innovation which had to be upgraded only in 1865.

The tower of the water column machine

8 The Cathedral: Located within the mediaeval town walls. This structure is younger than the Basilica with the veneration of St Afra.

Augsburg Cathedral

Augsburg

9 Cotta steam printing house: In 1824, the publisher Johann Friedrich Cotta set up the first rapid press, operated by a steam engine. Twenty years on, the latest five machines produced already 65,000 newspaper sheets, printed on both sides. The house on Karmelitengasse alley, despite war damage, is still standing today.

This was the location of the Cotta steam printing house

10 Graveyard: The Protestant graveyard near the Red Gate, outside the town fortification, holds the tombs of famous Augsburgers, such as the master mason Elias Holl.

Tomb of the master mason Elias Holl

11 The Golden Hall: The town master mason Elias Hall executed the representative construction of the new Town Hall in 1615-20. He needed another five years for the Golden Hall on the second floor, with a height of 14m. In its oval centre piece, the large ceiling painting shows the triumphal procession of Sapientia (Wisdom), framed by two round pictures. To the left with Architectura (Architecture), together with the architect Elias Hall, to the right with Minerva Bellona (Readiness for Defence). On one side, eight small oval pictures symbolise the quest for knowledge, diligence and fertility, industriousness, and piety; on the other side, this is for the art of healing, probity, justice, and prosperity. In the Second World War, this space miracle was totally destroyed and could only be completed by specialists in 1996, after many years of costly work.

The Golden Hall at the Town Hall, by Elias Holl

Augsburg–Munich

Diary of Robert Schumann

[Monday, 5th May: pain – kiss – departure for Munich – lunch in Schwabhausen – arrival in Munich after 05:00 – revelry – promenade to the Dult¹ – physiognomy of the Proud [?], the Residence, Palais Leuchtenberg² – Odeon Hall³ – enthusiasm – architecture – lighting – Ronconi's concert – the King – the Court – the applause of the King – delightful – end of the concert*

Travel time: Augsburg–Munich 17 hours

Total: Zwickau–Munich 99 hours for 99 ½ miles

** Italian tenor (1772–1839), since 1819 at the Court Opera in Munich]*

1 The Dult: This fair with a folk festival character takes place at Mariahilfplatz square in Munich three times a year: first the Maidult [May fair], then the Jakobidult [St James fair] in July, and the Kirchweihdult [Kermesse fair] in October.

2 Palais Leuchtenberg: This biggest palace in Munich was built by the architect Leo von Klenze as the first building at Ludwigstrasse street only a few years before Schumann's visit. Along with around 250 rooms, there was a ballroom, a theatre hall, a billiard room, and a picture gallery. The landlord was Eugène de Beauharnais, Duke of Leuchtenberg, the stepson of Napoleon. It was totally destroyed in the Second World War and replaced by a new construction for the Tax Office. Only the façade was rebuilt.

Palais Leuchtenberg ...

3 Odeon Hall: The Odeon was also built by von Klenze, intended as a concert hall and ballroom, with the mirror-inverted façade of Palais Leuchtenberg. After the wartime destruction, the restoration of the concert hall was abandoned. Instead, the Ministry of the Interior took over the new building.

*...and the Odeon by Leo von
Klenze*

Munich

Diary of Robert Schumann

[Tuesday, 6th May: the magnificent Glyptothek sculpture gallery⁴ – Venus by Canova – Paris with the Apple – mosaic – the Destruction of Troy by Zimmermann – Royal Picture Gallery – lunch at a coffee house – billiard – stroll to the English Garden – Bavarian beer

Wednesday, 7th May: shopping – billiard at the English Coffee House – table d'hôte at the Goldener Kranz Inn (good and expensive) – wine – Krahe and Heine's spring home⁵ – cab to the English Garden – the Lake, the Chinese Tower⁶ – beefsteaks – punch

Thursday, 8th May: shopping – Heine⁷ – witty conversation – ironic little man – amiable dissimulation – walk with him to the Leuchtenberg Gallery⁸ – Napoleon's armchair – the Graces by Canova not noble enough⁹ – drive to the Hirschgarten park¹⁰ – return with six people – billiard – longing for Augsburg – billiard – farewell from Rosen – punch – melancholy – hanging around]

4 Glyptothek sculpture gallery: Schumann witnessed the last phase of the construction of a four-winged complex at Königsplatz square, designed by Leo von Klenze for the collection of antiques of Crown Prince Ludwig in 1816 (opening in 1830). The Venus was probably a copy from Canova's workshop, and Paris was subsequently integrated into the collection of the New Pinakothek art gallery.

*“Paris” with the Apple, and on the right the
“Venus”*

Munich

The Museum still holds today the large floor mosaic from Central Italy, dated 200/250 BC. The centre shows Aion (or Aeon), the God of Eternity, in the Heavenly Circuit, together with the zodiac signs. To the right, Tellus, the Goddess of the Earth, sits with her four children, representing the four seasons.

Floor mosaic

5 Heine's spring home: Heinrich Heine lived at Palais Rechberg (now Radspielerhaus) in the Hackenviertel District in 1827/28.

*Inscription at
Radspielerhaus*

6 The English Garden: Created between 1789 and 1808 as one of the earliest landscaped gardens in English style, when the marsh along the river Isar was drained. It is part of the most expensive green areas ever found in a large city. At its centre, there is Lake Kleinhesselohe; the symbol of the Park is the Chinese Tower with a height of 25m, which, however, is closed to the general public these days.

*Chinese Tower in the English
Garden*

7 Heine: Schumann's description of the visit: "[According to the outline of Heine, given by Mr Krahe, I imagined him to be a grumpy and misanthropic man, who would be too far above people and life to even be bothered by them. But the man I encountered was so different and so very different from what I had imagined him to be. When he met, he was friendly, like a human Greek Anacreon, he shook my hand in a friendly manner and then took me around Munich for a few hours; all this I

Munich

would not have expected from the man who wrote the Reisebilder [Travel Pictures]; only around his mouth, there was a bitter and ironic smile, a lofty smile directed at the trivialities of life, which expressed his scorn at petty people; but even that bitter satire which one notices all too often in his Travel Pictures, that deep and inner resentment towards life, which penetrates your very core, made the talks with him very attractive.]”

8 Leuchtenberg Gallery: At Palais Leuchtenberg, the owner, Eugène de Beauharnais, also built a picture gallery where regular art exhibitions took place. Schumann mentions Napoleon’s armchair of which there was a drawing in the exhibition catalogue.

9 The Three Graces by Canova are currently held at the Hermitage in St Petersburg. They were brought to Russia within the framework of the marriage of the son Maximilian to Grand Duchess Mariya Nikolayevna.

Munich ca. 1825 (Domenico Quaglio)*

Munich

10 Hirschgarten: Formerly a hunting ground of the nobility, this area near Nymphenburg Palace was soon released to the general public. Its beer garden with 8,000 seats is one of the largest and most famous of its kind worldwide.

** Domenico Quaglio was born in Munich in 1787 and died at the age of 50 at Hohenschwangau Castle. His paintings document the metropolis before its great transformation into a Royal Residence Town, initiated by Ludwig I.*

Royal Residence ca. 1825 (Domenico Quaglio)*

North side of the Royal Residence ca. 1820 (Domenico Quaglio)*