

# Historical Data about Tile Manufacturers in the Northern Part of East Prussia in the Nineteenth to the Mid-Twentieth Century

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——— This paper presents historical data about tile manufacturers in the northern part of East Prussia, collected from address books from the nineteenth- to the mid-twentieth-century from Königsberg, Tilsit, Insterburg, Gumbinnen, and the surrounding areas, mid-twentieth-century ceramics industry directories, and advertisements in German periodicals. The paper gives an account of activity periods of tile factories and workshops, their manufacturing sites, and the names of the owners. The data is expected to facilitate identification of tile products and their back-marking in future research efforts.

*Keywords:* East Prussia, tiles, tile factories, tile workshops, ceramics industry.

Analysis of tile manufacturing and supply in the Klaipėda area in the nineteenth and mid-twentieth century revealed some names of manufacturers from Königsberg who invited potters' apprentices from Klaipėda (Memel) to come and work in their factories. Moreover, the researchers came across information about the supply of East Prussian products to the citizens of Klaipėda.<sup>1</sup> Further efforts to find more information about tile manufacturing from the nineteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries revealed that tile manufacturers from the northern part of East Prussia,<sup>2</sup> despite their rich history, so far have escaped the scrutinizing eye of researchers. The Prussian tile industry of the period was, to a certain extent, analyzed by the Polish researchers, yet they mostly focused on the factories that operated in the north of what is today Poland, that is, the former western part of East Prussia.<sup>3</sup>

It turned out that tile manufacturing history of the northern East Prussia as well as the surviving tiles with the back-marks of the makers get little attention from researchers or collectors. After World War II, East Prussia was divided between the USSR and Poland. The division caused a radical change in the geopolitical situation in the north of East Prussia, which became a part of the USSR. Almost no local population was left; it was replaced by newcomers from the Soviet Union. The situation was not conducive to people taking interest in the history and material heritage of the area and remained the same such for a long time, resulting in the majority

1 More information: Dalia Klajumienė, „Koklių pasiūla ir gamintojai Klaipėdos krašte XIX a. antrojoje pusėje – XX a. pirmojoje pusėje“ [The Stove Tile Supply Patterns and Manufacturers in Klaipėda Region in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century], in *Archeologia Urbana I* (Klaipėda: Klaipėdos universitetas, 2022), 27–61.

2 At the end of World War II, at the Tehran conference in 1943, Josif Stalin, the leader of the USSR, proposed that East Prussia be partitioned into a northern part, with the cities of Klaipėda and Königsberg to be placed under Soviet administration, and a southern part, with the city of Danzig to be put under Polish rule. The proposal was approved *de facto* by the Potsdam conference in 1945, followed by the border agreement signed between Poland and the USSR on August 16. More information at: Vasilijus Safronovas, „Rytų Prūsija (šiaurinė) po Antrojo pasaulinio karo“ [East Prussia (northern part) after the World War II], in *Mažosios Lietuvos enciklopedija* [Encyclopaedia of Lithuania Minor], [interactive; seen on 24-05-2021]: <https://www.mle.lt/straipsniai/rytu-prusija-siaurine-po-antrojo-pasaulinio-karo>.

3 Jagoda Semków and Weronika Wojnowska, „Piec kaflowe z XIX i XX w. z terenu dawnych Prus i Pomorza“, in *Średniowieczne i Nowożytne kaflowe. Regionalizmy – Podobieństwa – Różnice*, ed. Maria Dąbrowska, Halina Karwowska (Białystok: Muzeum Podlaskie w Białymstoku, 2007), 199–203; Barbara Pospieszna, *Ceramika Kadyńska w zbiorach Edwarda Parzycha* (Elbląg, 2012); Barbara Pospieszna, *Kaflowe i piec kaflowe w zbiorach muzeum zamkowego w Malborku* (Malbork, 2013); Beata Bielec-Maciejewska, *Kaflowe i piec kaflowe w Toruniu (XIV–XX wiek)* (Wydawnictwo Adam Marszałek, 2015).

of the material heritage being destroyed forever. As part of the region under analysis belonged to what was known then as Lithuania Minor, the search for information also included articles in the *Encyclopaedia of Lithuania Minor*.<sup>4</sup> They were extremely helpful in understanding the history and political context of the region but didn't contain any information about tile factories or workshops. The researchers are hoping that the publication of this account of the nineteenth- and mid-twentieth-century tile manufacturing industry with dates of operation and names of owners will trigger a greater interest in the tile-making history and heritage of East Prussia. Perhaps this paper will enable attribution of tiles that survive to this day but are scattered throughout different collections as well as identification of tiles with factory marks on the back found within what is currently the Kaliningrad region and beyond. As it is commonly known, mass-produced industrial tiles were distributed far beyond the factory's operating region.

Having decided to make a more thorough analysis of the tile manufacturing history in the northern East Prussia of the nineteenth and mid-twentieth century, the researchers resorted to address books of the major towns of Königsberg, Tilsit, Insterburg, and Gumbinnen as their main source of information. The most detailed account of the historical evolution and the change in ownership is that of Königsberg tile factories, as the majority of address books published from 1820 to 1942 have survived,<sup>5</sup> and they list the names and addresses of citizens as well as their occupations. Moreover, address books always contain business advertisements that often refer to the type of products offered, though there are very few tile manufacturers among them. Perhaps tile stoves and fireplaces were an integral part of every household, and there was no need for much advertising of tiles. In most cases, advertisements were published after the death of the owners of well-known factories, when their business was taken over by someone else. Then advertisements would reassure customers that the enterprise continued to operate under the management of a successor (*Nachfolger*), who may not necessarily have been a relative. Even the name of the

<sup>4</sup> *Mažosios Lietuvos enciklopedija [Encyclopaedia of Lithuania Minor]*, [interactive]: <http://www.mle.lt>.

<sup>5</sup> The author reviewed majority of the address books, but the COVID-19 pandemic prevented access to the libraries of Germany. Thus, some sources remained outside the reach of the research. The address books of 1889–1898, 1900, 1902–1905, 1907–1911, 1913–1934, 1936, 1938–1940 are not accessible digitally and have not been analyzed.

successor wasn't always mentioned, as the main message to be conveyed was that the factory continued to operate and customers could rest assured that the manufacturing of reputable products was in good hands. It must be added that advertisements of stove manufacturers and merchants that were distributed in separate sheets or placed in other publications can be found on the website of East Prussia Picture Library.<sup>6</sup>

Reviewing the address books chronologically, we may trace back the career of tile potters from their apprenticeship to becoming masters or even factory owners. Moreover, in the current context of uncertainty, if the archives of any tile factory from northern East Prussia have survived, the address books enable a precise definition of the operation period of different manufacturing facilities.

Besides the address books, another important source was the ceramics business directories of Germany published in 1902 and 1906<sup>7</sup> as well as periodicals published in the last quarter of the nineteenth and mid-twentieth century in Königsberg and Tilsit.<sup>8</sup> All of the above sources contain very specific and brief information, yet their analysis enabled a comprehensive historical picture of tile industry in the region to be made.

Before moving on to the analysis of individuals and their role in tile manufacturing, it must be noted that names from the address books were filtered by a reference to being a potter's<sup>9</sup> trainee (*Töpferlehrling*), an apprentice (*Töpfergesell*, *Töpfergeselle*), a potter (*Töpfer*), a master potter (*Töpfermeister*), a stove master (*Ofenmeister*), or a tile stove mason (*Ofensetzer*).<sup>10</sup> Over the period of nearly a hundred and fifty years, there were

<sup>6</sup> Bildarchiv Ostpreußen: <https://www.bildarchiv-ostpreussen.de/suche/index.html.de?qp=searchtext%3D4%3AOfenmode%3D1%3Af#!start=1>.

The author expresses sincere gratitude to Dr. Skirmantė Smilingytė-Žeimienė for the link to the website.

<sup>7</sup> *Adressbuch der keramischen Industrie [...] in Deutschland und Oesterreich-Ungarn mit allen Fabrikmarken* (Coburg: Verlag von Müller & Schmidt, 1902); *Adreßbuch der keramischen Industrie [...] in Deutschland und Oesterreich-Ungarn mit allen Fabrikmarken* (Coburg: Verlag von Müller & Schmidt, 1906).

<sup>8</sup> The following newspapers were reviewed: *Königsberger Hartungsche Zeitung*, *Königsberger Allgemeine Zeitung*, *Ostpreußische Zeitung*, *Kreisblatt Tilsit*, *Tilsit Allgemeine Zeitung*, *Tilžės keleivis*.

<sup>9</sup> It was the pottery craftsmen who, besides household ceramics, had been making tiles since the medieval ages. Even after introduction of industrial manufacturing, masters of the craft continued to be called *potters*.

<sup>10</sup> Stove masters (*Ofenmeister*) and stove masons (*Ofensetzer*) started appearing in the lists only at the end of the 19th century.

almost 900 of such craftsmen in Königsberg alone. Yet, in the absence of any further information, the reference to the job title was not sufficient for the purposes of identifying the type of products manufactured, that is, household, architectural décor, or tiles, or perhaps all of the above. Therefore, this paper introduces only those individuals whose tile manufacturing business could be confirmed by at least a small hint to this type activity in the sources analyzed. It must also be noted that throughout the reference period, besides industrial factories, craftsmen were also making tiles. They usually worked in small workshops and sometimes, as members or even managers of the workshops, they were also owners (*Ofenfabrikant*) of big factories. The entries in the address books do not always enable a distinction to be made between these two types of manufacturers; only a few directories clearly distinguish between pottery craftsmen and factory owners, who would often be mentioned as having been trained in pottery. In extremely rare cases, factory owners are listed as merchants (*Kaufmann*). Despite all these challenges of identification, the paper attempts to make a clear distinction between workshops and factories.

The aim of the research was to identify the names of tile manufacturers and to establish the operation periods of smaller or larger manufacturing facilities, thus facilitating attribution of any surviving back-marked tiles to the specific factory and time period. Manufacturers had a tradition of marking tiles with their names or initials and indications of origin (town, region, precise address, etc.). In the German tradition it was also customary to indicate business succession events on the tiles. Thus, the paper focuses on the identification of tile factory or workshop owners, their operation period, and change of ownership. A great deal of attention was given to the addresses of manufacturing facilities, as the change of an address is a clear sign of changes in the production or ownership of business. Moreover, knowing the location of a former factory, even if the building itself no longer exists, may help archaeologists to understand the origin of some of their findings.

Whenever possible, descriptions of factories include information about the products they were making, as only a small share of factories specialized in production of tiles only. Some factories would indicate that they

were taking orders for all types of ceramic architecture elements, including tiles, flower pots, ceramic pipes, floor and wall tiles, and bathroom items (toilets, baths, and sinks) for residential houses.

### Tile Makers in Königsberg

The presentation of northern East Prussia tile manufacturers starts with Königsberg, which was the main city of the region as well as the largest center of the tile industry in the northern part of the region. The presentation of the Königsberg manufacturing sites and their owners consists of two parts: 1) workshops of craftsmen, and 2) factories. In each part the business entities are listed in chronological order according to their date of establishment [fig. 1].<sup>11</sup>

**Craftsmen's workshops.** Since medieval times, potters, in addition to household ceramics, made tiles and building stoves. As industrial manufacturing increased pace in the nineteenth century, craftsmen struggled to continue producing tiles manually and keep their businesses afloat in competition with larger and, most importantly, technologically more advanced factories. Yet, as the research revealed, craftsmen's products remained more or less in demand throughout the analyzed period. Thus, they could continue their work and make a living out of it.

Analysis of the brief entries in Königsberg address books from the 1850s to the 1870s allows a group of masters to be identified who were usually referred to as potters only – that is, craftsmen, not manufacturers. They were listed as potters from one decade to another, but on several occasions, for example, in 1866 and 1870, some master potters were marked with the letter O in the specialty field, indicating that they were also tile manufacturers (*Die mit O bezeichneten find auch Ofenfabrikanten*).<sup>12</sup> Besides the traditional information given about citizens listed in alphabetical order, the address books of the two years indicated above provided more specific information about their occupations. Reviewing the address books in chronological order enabled a conclusion to be made potters who were mentioned several times as tile manufacturers were in fact engaged in this business for much longer periods of time outside factory settings, as they

<sup>11</sup> The summary was compiled on the basis of entries in the address books of Königsberg and city plans of the 19th – mid-20th centuries. The author expresses sincere gratitude to Dr. Vasilijus Safronovas for sharing the Königsberg city plans.

<sup>12</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1866): 337; (1870): 338.

were never listed as factory owners (*Ofenfabrikant*). Presumably, they ran tile workshops, which often were considered to be a business of one family. Below are the data about several such workshops.

**Potter Matzkowsky's workshop (from around 1850 to the 1870s).** The potter under the name of Matzkowsky (Matzkowski, Maczkowsky, Matschkowski, Matzkofski)<sup>13</sup> is listed in Königsberg address books from the mid-nineteenth century, although presumably he could have lived and worked there earlier, too. Only three major manufacturers of ceramics and tiles were listed in address books from 1820 to 1841, but the Matzkowsky name was not among them. Perhaps the potters of the family were just small-scale craftsmen. Since 1850, however, two potters appeared in the books under two different addresses: **C. Matzkowsky** at Hinter-Tragheim 46, and **Gottl. Matzkowsky** at Steindam Alte Gasse 7a. The latter continued to be listed at this address until 1866, when he was described as tile maker; presumably, he had a tile workshop at this address.<sup>14</sup> After 1866 until his death in 1873, the address of the master constantly changed (Steindammer Wallgasse 14 in 1867; Tragheimer Kirchenstraße 1a in 1868, 1869; 3 Fließstraße 4a in 1870; Tragheimer Wallgasse 1a in 1871, 1872 and 1873).<sup>15</sup> Despite the frequent changes, however, the 1870 address book again listed his name with reference to the production of tiles.<sup>16</sup>

It seems that the aforementioned C. Matzkowsky was the most senior potter of the family, as his name only appeared in the books from 1850 to 1856.<sup>17</sup> He was not listed as a tile manufacturer in the books, but the address indicated next to his name allows such a presumption to be made (2 Fließstraße 10 in 1852). After the death of C. Matzkowsky, the address was taken up by another master potter, Ferdinand Klein (see ↓), and in 1858 the same location was mentioned as the address of F. E. Neuber's tile factory (see ↓). Analysis revealed that factories were often opened in the locations of the former workshops.

<sup>13</sup> The paper includes all versions of names and surnames that were found in the sources analysed.

<sup>14</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1850): 45; (1851): 45; (1852): 47, 133; (1853): 48; (1854): 77; (1856): 59; (1857): 63; (1858): 162; (1859): 160; (1860): 77; (1861): 169; (1862): 264; (1863): 180; (1864): 169; (1865): 165; (1866): 119, 337.

<sup>15</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1867): 119; (1868): 176; (1869): 133; (1870): 108, 338; (1871): 105; (1872): 102; (1873): 107.

<sup>16</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1870): 338.

<sup>17</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1850): 45; (1851): 45; (1852): 47, 133; (1853): 48; (1854): 77; (1856): 59.

1.  
The tile makers' addresses in  
Königsberg

Karaliaučiaus koklių gamintojų  
adresai

No.	Address <sup>1</sup>	Owners	Period of operation	Tile workshop or factory
<b>CENTRE OF TOWN</b>				
1.	Magistergasse 53	C. O Worm	1869–1875	Workshop
2.	Steindammer rechte Straße 158	Carl L. Billig	1837–1852	Factory
3.	Steindammer rechte Straße 152	Aug. Bornholz	1866, 1867	Workshop
4.	<b>Steindammer Lavendelgasse 5</b> <b>(Steindammer Lavendelgasse 4.5)</b>	Th. E. Kugel	1850–1855	Workshop or Factory?
		?	? <sup>2</sup>	?
		Richard Linck	1876 – early 20th century	Factory
5.	Steindammer Hintergasse 6	A. Braun	1857–1862	Factory
6.	Steindamm 162 (shop and warehouse) Steindammer rechte Straße 30 – (showroom and office)	Th. A. Grosch	1882 – after 1888	Factory
7.	<b>Alte Reifenbahn 3a</b>	Rudolf Boy	1864–1866	Factory
8.	Altstädtische Lang Gasse 88	Longrien ( <i>no initials</i> )	1884–1888	Factory
9.	Vordere Rossgartsstraße 64	Th. V. Schneider	1858–1874	Workshop
10.	Vordere Rossgarten 62	Aug. Bornholz	1868–1870	Workshop
11.	Vorder-Hufen 10a	H. Kültzau	1881–1883	Factory?
12.	Vorder-Hufen 14	H. Kültzau	1884 – early 20th century	Factory
13.	Prinzenstraße 21	Th. Berger	1887 – after 1888	Factory?
14.	Löbenichtsche Langgasse 4	Karl Motschull	30s of 20th century	Stove trade, shop and wheel pottery facility
<b>NORTH OF TOWN</b>				
15.	<b>Hinter Tragheim 19</b>	Jacob Wessely	1840	Factory
		J. Kültzau	1850–1856	
		H. Kültzau	1851–1880	
16.	Hinter Tragheim 46	C. Matzkowsky	1850–1851	Workshop
17.	Hinter Rossgarten 45	Th. V. Schneider	1850–1857	Workshop
18.	Hinter Rossgarten 20	Hans Wittenberg	Early 20th century	Factory
19.	<b>Tragheimer Kirchenstraße 75</b>	F. Worm	Around 1850–1863	Workshop
		C. O Worm	1866–1868	
		Leopold Worm	1869–1870	
20.	Tragheimer Pulvergasse 6	Jacob Wessely	1824–1825	Workshop or Factory?
21.	Tragheimer Kirchenstraße 1a	Gottl. Matzkowsky	1868, 1869	Workshop?
22.	Tragheimer Kirchenstraße 2	Ferdinand Klein	1866–1869	Workshop
23.	Tragheimer Wallgasse 1a	Gottl. Matzkowsky	1871–1873	Workshop
24.	3 Fließstraße 4a	Gottl. Matzkowsky	1870	Workshop
25.	<b>2 Fließstraße 10</b>	C. Matzkowsky	1852–1856	Workshop
		Ferdinand Klein	1857–1858	
		F. E. Neuber	1858–1873	
		L. A. Longrien	1872–1873	Factory
		Longrien widows (2)	1874–1875	
		H. Longrien	1876–1882	

1 Addresses that were used by more than one tile maker are printed in bold.

2 We couldn't determine who ran the factory at Steindammer Lavendelgasse 5 from 1856 to 1876.

SOUTH OF TOWN				
26.	Hinter. Vorstraße 9/10	A. Friedrich (A. Friedrich & Voss)	1864	Factory?
27.	Unterhaberberg 44	E. Th. Kugel	1865–1866	Factory
		E. Th. Kugel ir Rudolf Boy (factory name Kugel & Boy)	1867	
		Rudolf Boy	1868–1882	
		Franz Sohr	1883 – end of 19 th century	
		Wilhelm Bonn	End of 19 th – early 40s of 20th century	
28.	Viehmarkt 12	Th. A. Grosch	1879–1881	Factory
29.	Vorstadt Freistraße 1	Gottl. Fielitz	1880, 1881	Factory
30.	Kaiserstraße 50	Franz Sohr	Around 1899 – after 1902	Factory?
31.	Unterhaberberg 26	Gustav Kuhr	Early 20th century	Branch of Emilienthal Factory of Liebemühl (now Mitomlyn, Poland)
32.	Weidendamm 26	Ernst Krewing	1906–1942	Stove business, shop and wheel pottery facility
EAST OF TOWN				
33.	Sackheimer rechte Straße 91	A. Longrien	Around 1850–1866	Factory
		Longrien & Boy	1866	
		Luis Longrien	1867–1871	
34.	Sackheimer 1ste Wallgasse 18	C. H. Grossmann	1856–1867	Workshop
35.	Sackheimer Mittelgasse 7	C. H. Grossmann	1868–1872	Workshop
36.	Sackheimer Hintergasse 23	Luis Longrien	1872	Factory?
37.	Königstraße 12	Th. Berger	1875–1886	Factory
WEST OF TOWN				
38.	Besselstraße 2	E. Th. Kugel	1855–1866	Factory
		Th. Berger	1866–1874	
		Richard Linck	1875–1876	
39.	Steindammer Alte Gasse 7a	Gottl. Matzkowsky	1850–1866	Workshop
40.	Steindammer Wallgasse 14	Gottl. Matzkowsky	1867	Workshop?
41.	Wagnerstraße 22	J. Badowski	1899 – after 1918	Workshop or Factory?
		Walter Badowski	1935–1937	Workshop or Factory? Shop
SUBURBS				
42.	Tragheimer Ausbau 183–184	F. E. Neuber	1877–1886	Factory
		C. Neuber	1879–1885	Factory C. Neuber & Co
Unidentified districts				
43.	Leineweberstraße 26	Jacob Wessely	1835–1840	Factory
44.	Altst[hofer] Träntgasse 10 (1935) Lastadie 26/27 (1937) Bohlwerksgasse 12/15 (1941–1942)	Ernst Lange	1935–1942	Factory Ernst Lange & Heyer

**Potter Th. V. Schneider's workshop (around 1850–1874).** Pottery master Th. V. Schneider was mentioned in the Königsberg address books of 1866 and 1870 as a maker of tiles. From 1850 to 1857 he resided at the address Hinter Rossgarten 45<sup>18</sup> and from 1858 to 1874 at Vordere Rossgartstraße 64.<sup>19</sup> The latter location and period seem to have the most obvious link to the tile-making business, but we presume that Schneider specialized in this field even before that.

There were more potters under the name of Schneider in Königsberg in the last quarter of the nineteenth and early twentieth century, but they resided at other addresses and were mentioned randomly,<sup>20</sup> so their contribution to the development of tile industry in the city is hard to measure.

**Potter Worm's workshop (from around the mid-nineteenth century until 1875).** We indicate a rather short period of operation of the Worm family tile-making business in Königsberg because they were mentioned at two addresses only from the mid-nineteenth century until 1875. A sedentary way of life usually points to the possession of personal property, while craftsmen both resided and worked on their properties. From 1850 until 1868, the Worm potters were listed at Tragheim Kirchenstraße 75. Such a long period of residence usually indicates that the potters owned a workshop where they were making tiles as indicated in sources from 1866 and 1870. **F. W. Worm**<sup>21</sup> resided at this address from 1850 until 1864 and **C. O. Worm**<sup>22</sup> from 1866 until 1868. The latter was listed as a tile manufacturer in the address books. In 1869, he moved to Magistergasse 53,<sup>23</sup> and at this address he was identified as a tile manufacturer again in 1870.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>18</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1850): 64; (1851): 64; (1852): 66, 133; (1853): 67; (1854): 109; (1856): 83; (1857): 93.

<sup>19</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1858): 192; (1859): 190; (1860): 109; (1861): 206; (1862): 303; (1863): 218; (1864): 207; (1865): 201; (1866): 170, 337; (1867): 172; (1868): 221; (1869): 182; (1870): 156, 338; (1871): 151; (1872): 148; (1873): 154; (1874): 266.

<sup>20</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1875): 159; (1876): 178; (1877): 311; (1878): 192; (1879): 192; (1879): 191; (1880): 330; (1881): 204; (1882): 179; (1883): 207; (1884): 221; (1885): 231; (1886): 231; (1887): 237; (1899): 491; (1901): 543; Address book of Königsberg (1888), [interactive; seen on 03-04-2020]: <http://adressbuecher.genealogy.net/addressbooks/place/KONSSEKO04GR>.

<sup>21</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1850): 80; (1851): 81; (1852): 83, 133; (1853): 84; (1854): 136; (1856): 104; (1857): 117; (1858): 216; (1859): 216; (1860): 136; (1861): 235; (1862): 393; (1863): 248; (1864): 239.

<sup>22</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1866): 210, 337; (1867): 213; (1868): 258.

<sup>23</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1869): 222.

<sup>24</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1870): 195, 338.

The books also mention that he had younger family members, maybe children, to take over his business. From 1870 till 1873, the name of **O. Worm sen.[ior]**<sup>25</sup> was mentioned three times in the address books. He and other family members, for example, Leop. Worm, from 1869 until 1875 were entered at two addresses, the old address at Tragheimer Kirchenstraße 75 and the new at Magistergasse 53.<sup>26</sup> These two addresses should be used as reference points in future efforts to find more data about the Worm family tile manufacturing sites in Königsberg.

Potters under the name of Worm continued to be listed in the address books of Königsberg until the early twentieth century;<sup>27</sup> but there are no clear indications that they were involved in any tile manufacturing business.

**Potter Aug[ust] Bornholz's workshop (around 1854–1878).** Master potter Aug[ust] Bornholz<sup>28</sup> is listed in the address books of Königsberg from 1854 until 1878. During this period, his residential address changed regularly,<sup>29</sup> which suggests that the master potter had no permanent workshop. For instance, in 1866 and 1870 as a tile manufacturer he was listed at two different addresses: from 1865 to 1867 at Steindammer rechte Straße 152 and from 1868 to 1870 at Vordere Rossgarten 62. It is hard to tell whether the manufacturing site was regularly changing, or if he was a partner of another craftsman or was building stoves rather than making tiles, which would render his permanent place of residence unimportant. It should be pointed out that until the 1880s, potters specializing in stove masonry (*Ofensetzer*) were not entered as a separate category in the address books. Apparently, it was irrelevant, as master potters did everything from the start to the end themselves or at least supervised the entire process from making tiles to building stoves.

<sup>25</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1870): 195; (1871): 189; (1872): 185.

<sup>26</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1869): 222; (1870): 195, 338; (1871): 189; (1872): 185; (1873): 192; (1874): 306; (1875): 197.

<sup>27</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1878): 239; (1882): 44; (1885): 285; (1886): 287; (1887): 293; (1889): 610; (1901): V. 82; Address book of Königsberg (1888), [interactive; seen on 01-04-2020]: <http://adressbuecher.genealogy.net/addressbooks/place/KONSSEK004GR>.

<sup>28</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1854): 13; (1856): 10, (1857): 11; (1858): 104; (1859): 101; (1860): 13; (1861): 103; (1862): 179; (1863): 112; (1864): 94; (1865): 93; (1866): 20, 337; (1867): 20; (1868): 91; (1870): 19, 338; (1871): 18; (1872): 17; (1873): 19; (1874): 124; (1875): 18; (1876): 22; (1878): 22.

<sup>29</sup> In 1854–1856 Aug. Bornholz resided at the address Hint.-Roßgarten 34, 1860–1862 – Hospitalgasse 5, 1863, 1864 – Haberb. Neue Gasse 17, 1865–1867 – Steind. r. Str. 152, 1868, 1870 – Vorder Roßgarten 62, 1871 – Sackh. r. Str. 81, 1872 – Sackheim 3 Wallgasse 9, 1873 – Drummstraße 40, 1874 – Reibnitzerg. 1, 1875, 1876 – Alte Gasse 17, 1878 – Brodbänkenstraße 8.

**Potter C. H. Großmann's workshop (around 1856–1872).**

C. H. Großmann is mentioned for the first time in 1854 as a potter's apprentice (*Töpfergesell*).<sup>30</sup> From 1856 till 1872, he is referred to as a master potter (*Töpfermeister*).<sup>31</sup> It looks like after his designation as a master potter he started making tiles, as the address books of later years (1866 and 1870) explicitly referred to him as specializing in this field. It remains unclear, though, whether the master had a large manufacturing facility or just a small workshop, or whether he was contracted by other large manufacturers. His address changed only once: from Sackheimer 1ste Wallgasse 18 in 1856–1867 to Sackheimer Mittelgasse 7 in 1868–1872.

**Potter Ferdinand Klein's workshop (the 1860s).** Master potter Ferdinand Klein appeared in Königsberg address books from 1856 to 1874<sup>32</sup> and his address regularly changed throughout the entire period.<sup>33</sup> Like previously introduced workshop owners, in 1866 he was referred to as a tile maker. He resided at the address Tragheimer Kirchenstraße 2 at the time, where he only stayed from 1866 to 1869. Such period is indeed too short for rolling out a tile manufacturing business, yet the analysis of manufacturing site addresses revealed that in 1857 and 1858 F. Klein resided at 2te Fließgasse 10, which was owned by the aforementioned master potter C. Matzkowsky (see ↑) until 1856. Moreover, F. E. Neuber's tile factory started to operate on the same site in 1858 (see ↓). Presumably, since the nineteenth century, the facilities at this address were used by tile workshops, first owned by C. Matzkowsky and later by F. Klein, and eventually they became the base for Neuber to set up a major manufacturing enterprise.

It must also be mentioned that master F. Klein probably was related to the potters Ferdinand and August Klein. They could have been F. Klein's sons, as for some time they were listed as residing at the same address as the tile-making master Ferdinand Klein Senior. August Klein

<sup>30</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1854): 39.

<sup>31</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1856): 30; (1857): 33; (1858): 127; (1859): 123; (1860): 39; (1861): 131; (1862): 392; (1863): 141; (1864): 124; (1865): 122; (1866): 60, 337; (1867): 60; (1868): 125; (1869): 77; (1870): 56, 338; (1871): 54; (1872): 52.

<sup>32</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1856): 45; (1857): 50; (1858): 146; (1859): 144; (1860): 59; (1862): 240; (1863): 163; (1864): 148; (1865): 144; (1866): 90, 337; (1867): 91; (1868): 151; (1869): 106; (1870): 83, 338; (1871): 80; (1872): 78; (1873): 82; (1874): 190.

<sup>33</sup> Ferdinand Klein's addresses in Königsberg, 3ste Fließstraße (1856): 44, (1857), 2te Fließgasse (1858): 10, (1859), (1860), Hadergasse 1 (1862), (1863), (1864), Gr. Hadergasse 1.2 (1865), (1866), (1867), (1868), Tragh (1869). Kirchenstraße 2 (1870), (1871), (1873), Tragh (1874). Kirchenstraße 1B.

was listed at different addresses until 1912<sup>34</sup> with a note that he was not a member of the pottery guild of Königsberg. Unfortunately, we don't have any information about whether the potters of the guild were also making tiles or only household ceramics.

The survey of Königsbergs' craftsmen engaged in the tile-making business is completed with information about masters who, according to sources, were typically involved in the trade of tiles and other ceramic objects besides their manufacturing endeavors.

**Potters Badowski's workshop and shop (from end of the nineteenth century to 1930s).** There are indications that the Badowski potters traded in tile stoves and produced some of them themselves. However, it is still unclear whether they had only a small workshop or a high-capacity factory. Whatever the case, from 1899 until World War II their stove business was listed at the address Wagnerstraße 22. J. Badowski became the first of the family to be listed in the address books. The dynamic nature of his business is evidenced by the telephone line being set up at the end of the nineteenth century.<sup>35</sup> Apparently, the business was interrupted by World War I, but in 1918 the newspaper *Königsberger allgemeine Zeitung* published an announcement that after the return of the son from military service the business is resumed, and that the company specialized in portable tile stoves and large cookers designed for hotels, restaurants, and private households [fig. 2].<sup>36</sup>

Due to the absence of data about tile manufacturers in Königsberg in the 1920s, it remains unclear when J. Badowski closed his business. In the 1930s and early 1940s the same address (Wagnerstraße 22) was used for business by merchant and master potter Walter Badowski.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>34</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1875): 83; (1876): 94; (1877): 224; (1878): 101; (1879): 101; (1880): 237; (1881): 106; (1882): 96; (1883): 108; (1884): 117; (1885): 122; (1886): 121; (1887): 126; (1899): 259; (1901): 283; (1906): 224; (1912): 100; Data from the 1888 address book of Königsberg, [interactive; seen on 02-04-2020]; <http://adressbuecher.genealogy.net/addressbooks/place/KONSSEK004GR>.

<sup>35</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1899): 18; (1901): 20; (1906): 16.

<sup>36</sup> Advertisement of J. Badowski's stove business, *Königsberger allgemeine Zeitung*, no. 603 (1918).

<sup>37</sup> Address book of Königsberg (1935), [interactive; seen on 02-04-2020]; <http://adressbuecher.genealogy.net/addressbooks/place/KONSSEK004GR>; *Einwohnerbuch von Königsberg und den vororte für 1935* (Königsberg: Königsberger Verlagsanstalt, 1935): 16; *Einwohnerbuch von Königsberg und den vororte für 1937* (Königsberg: Königsberger Verlagsanstalt, 1937): 16; *Einwohnerbuch. Königsber (Pr.) 1941* (Königsberger Verlagsanstalt GmbH, 1941): I 9, IV 90; *Amtliches Fernsprechbuch für den Reichspostdirektionsbezirk Königsber (Pr.) 1942* (Königsberg, 1942), 456.

**Janzon's workshop and shop (from around 1885 until the 1930s [?]).** As a potter, Heinrich Janzon is listed in Königsberg address books since 1885,<sup>38</sup> but only in 1899 was he identified as a master potter and member of the pottery guild.<sup>39</sup> Book entries of the early twentieth century indicate that he owned a wheel pottery facility and stove-making business as well as traded in white *Altdeutsch*, that is, historicism-style and majolica stoves.<sup>40</sup> Such information usually means that the master belonged to the group of small-scale manufacturers and was engaged in a variety of activities, including manufacturing, trading, and building heating devices. The address books from the end of the 1930s indicate a stove and cooker trade business run by the master's widow Else Janzon and one Siegfried Janzon (perhaps the master's son) at the address Kurfürstendamm 15; yet there is no mention of tile-making activity any longer.<sup>41</sup>

**Krewing's workshop and shop (mid-twentieth century).** Like Heinrich Janzon, Ernst Krewing is recorded as running a stove business and wheel pottery facility (*Ofengeschäft und Töpferei*) at the address Weidendamm 26 from the beginning until the 1940.<sup>42</sup> The book from 1937 listed the stove builder and mason (*Ofensetzer*)<sup>43</sup> Albert Krewing at the same address, which confirms that stove production, sales, and building was the Krewing family business.

**Karl Motschull's workshop and shop.** The books from the 1930s listed potter Karl Motschull at the address Löbenichtsche Langgasse 4<sup>44</sup>; he had a stove business, a shop, and a wheel pottery facility (*Ofengeschäft und Töpferei*). Since there are no further details or examples of products

<sup>38</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1885): 108; (1886): 107; (1887): 111; Address book of Königsberg (1888), [interactive; seen on 04-02-2020]: <http://adressbuecher.genealogy.net/addressbooks/place/KONSSEK004GR>.

<sup>39</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1899): 228.

<sup>40</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1901): 249; (1906): 196; (1912): 99, 224.

<sup>41</sup> *Einwohnerbuch von Königsberg und den vororte für 1937* (Königsberg: Königsberger Verlagsahstalt, 1937), 229.

<sup>42</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1906): 249; (1912): 99, 287. Address book of Königsberg (1935), [interactive; seen on 02-04-2020]: <http://adressbuecher.genealogy.net/addressbooks/place/KONSSEK004GR>; *Einwohnerbuch von Königsberg und den vororte für 1937* (Königsberg: Königsberger Verlagsahstalt, 1937), 296; *Amtliches Fernsprechbuch für den Reichspostdirektions bezirk Königsber (Pr.) 1942* (Königsberg, 1942), 456.

<sup>43</sup> *Einwohnerbuch von Königsberg und den vororte für 1937* (Königsberg: Königsberger Verlagsahstalt, 1937), 296.

<sup>44</sup> *Einwohnerbuch von Königsberg und den vororte für 1937* (Königsberg: Königsberger Verlagsahstalt, 1937), 374.



2. J. Badowski's advertisement in *Königsberger allgemeine Zeitung*, 1918
- J. Badowski reklaminiš skelbimas laikraštyje *Königsberger allgemeine Zeitung*, 1918

with the manufacturer's marks, we cannot be sure whether K. Motschull's enterprise was involved in the manufacturing of tiles or focused on trade and building stoves.

The survey of tile potters in Königsberg makes it evident that at this phase of the research we have only a primary list of master potters' names and a chronological catalogue of their operation period. Yet it represents a valuable resource for further research as it demonstrates that the craft of pottery in the cities managed to survive next to industrial manufacturing, which flourished in the nineteenth and mid-twentieth century.

### Tile Factories in Königsberg

Nevertheless, it was large enterprises rather than small-scale craftsmanship that left a significant footprint in the tile-making history of the region in the nineteenth and mid-twentieth centuries. Some large factories with a long period of operation were run by several owners in succession. It is most likely to find back-marked tiles that were made in factories rather than at craft workshops. Just like craftsmen, factories are introduced here in chronological order by the year of establishment. According to the sources, tile factories are recorded in Königsberg from the 1810s. For the sake of clarity, they are introduced by a sequence number and the period of operation.

## I. Period of operation from 1819 until the early twentieth century; owners J. Wessely and Kültzau

The owner of the first tile factory established in Königsberg in the 1810s was master potter **Jacob Wessely**. It must be noted that the exact year of establishment (1819) was found in the 1902 ceramics business directory of Germany,<sup>45</sup> not in the address books of Königsberg. Apparently, this date refers to the earliest period, when J. Wessely only started to produce tiles in small quantities without, perhaps, having a permanent manufacturing site. Records show that until the 1830s, Wessely was residing at Tragheimer Pulvergasse 6.<sup>46</sup> He probably had a small workshop here because he was listed as a master potter (*Töpfermeister*), not a tile factory owner (*Ofenfabrikant*). He became one only in the middle of the 1830s, when he moved to Leineweberstraße 26.<sup>47</sup> Wessely resided there until 1840, and then moved to Hinter Tragheim 19.<sup>48</sup> At this address he built, or maybe bought, a factory, where tiles were manufactured without interruption until at least the early twentieth century. The 1840 address book of Königsberg contains a notice with information that there were up to 24 workers employed as trainees or apprentices at Mr. Jakob Wessely's stove factory at Hinter-Tragheim 19, and the production of the factory was so fine that clients no longer needed to buy *berliner* tiles from other factories.<sup>49</sup> This is an important statement because it proves that the factory produced stoves of white glazed tiles known as *berliners*, which were made popular in Europe by masters from Felten and Berlin.

It is worth noting that Wessely also owned a stove-making branch at Lindenstraße 34. The evidence of this fact is found in the advertisements in the 1864–1868 address books. The books name Otto Klutke, Wessely's business successor, who is listed as an accountant and secretary, not potter. The ads read: "Otto Klutke, a former branch of Wessely's stove factory on Lindenstraße No. 34, has a permanent availability of glazed tiles for stoves of any kind. Prices correspond to the reality"<sup>50</sup> [fig. 3].

<sup>45</sup> *Adressbuch der keramischen Industrie [...] in Deutschland und Oesterreich-Ungarn mit allen Fabrikmarken* (Coburg: Verlag von Müller & Schmidt, 1902), 290.

<sup>46</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1824–1825): 157.

<sup>47</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1835): 155; (1836): 151; (1837): 150; (1838): 146; (1839): 150; (1840): 146, 320.

<sup>48</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1841): 162.

<sup>49</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1840): 320.

The author expresses gratitude to Virginija Masiulionytė for translation of texts from German.

<sup>50</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1864): 149; (1866): 92, 322, advertisement [no page numbers]; (1867): 92; (1868): 153.

We couldn't find any address books or other documents about Königsberg potters from 1842 till 1850. Therefore, we couldn't establish when exactly and why J. Wessely terminated his manufacturing business, but from the middle till the end of the nineteenth century, the aforementioned address at Hinter Tragheim 19 was registered under the name of the potters Kültzau (Külzau). The 1850 address book lists master potter (*Töpfermeister*) **J. Kültzau**,<sup>51</sup> and he appears with **H. Kültzau** a year later. Both of them, apparently father and son, worked together until 1856.<sup>52</sup> From 1857 H. Kültzau took the business over, but he was still listed as a master potter (*Töpfermeister*)<sup>53</sup> until 1859 and became the owner of the tile factory (*Ofen-fabrikant*) only in 1860. The same status and the same address remained unchanged for the following two decades, that is, until 1880.<sup>54</sup> Sometimes, for example, in 1876, the books would specify that the range of products of a tile factory also included ceramic decor elements, most probably for decoration of tile stoves and buildings.

From 1881 H. Kültzau is listed as the owner of tile and ceramics factories (*Ofenfabrikant u. Thonwaarenfabrik*) in the address books. The same year saw a change in the company's address from Hinter Tragheim 19 to Vorder-Hufen 10a<sup>55</sup> and from 1884 till the beginning of the next century to Vorder-Hufen 14.<sup>56</sup> It is not clear, though, what caused these changes. Maybe Kültzau transferred the old factory to someone else so that he could focus his efforts on another, perhaps newer and more modern branch. Whatever the reasons, since 1884 the Kültzau family as the owners of the factory were listed at the address Vorder-Hufen 14. The change in the manufacturing site and perhaps the type of activity lead to a change in owners: from 1886 H. Kültzau worked as chief master potter (*Töpfer-Obermeister*), while **M. Kültzau** became the manager of the factory. Next to his name there is

51 *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1850): 39.

52 *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1851): 39; (1852): 40; (1853): 41; (1854): 66; (1856): 51.

53 *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1857): 56; (1858): 152; (1859): 150.

54 *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1860): 66; (1861): 160; (1862): 249; (1863): 170; (1864): 156; (1865): 152; (1866): 101, 337; (1867): 102; (1868): 161; (1869): 117; (1870): 93, 323, 338; (1871): 90; (1872): 88; (1873): 92; (1874): 201; (1875): 94; (1876): 106; (1877): 236; (1878): 114; (1879): 116; (1880): 250.

55 *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1881): 121; (1882): 108; (1883): 123.

56 *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1884): 132; (1885): 139; (1886): 138; (1887): 142; (1888), [interactive; seen on 02-03-2020]: <http://adressbuecher.genealogy.net/addressbooks/place/KONSSEK004GR>.



3.

Advertisement in the address book of Königsberg,  
 1866

Reklamė žinutė Karaliaučiaus adresų knygoje,  
 1866

also a note indicating that he is the owner (*Ofenfabrikant*)<sup>57</sup> of the tile factory located at Vorder-Hufen 14. Moreover, at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth century, M. Kültzau is described as a potter who wasn't a member of the pottery guild; in addition, he was a hotel owner.<sup>58</sup> Thus, tile manufacturing wasn't M. Kültzau's only source of income. The new address at Vorder-Hufen 14 is also listed in the 1902 ceramics business directory of Germany as the manufacturing site of the Kültzau's business successors. The directory features the back-mark used by the factory, H. Kültzau's monogram *HK*. It points to the fact that H. Kültzau's name was a symbol of the flourishing manufacturing site and a guarantee of quality products. On the other hand, the fact that there were 25 employees at the factory also signifies that the years of flourishing were already over.<sup>59</sup> The early twentieth century saw hundreds of workers staffing the highest-capacity factories. The relatively small number of employees may also explain why the company is not mentioned in the similar directory of 1906; perhaps the factory was already closed or worked at a low capacity.

## II. Period of operation around 1837–1852; owner C. L. Billig

Like J. Wessely, Carl L. Billig was a master who took up industrial tile making in Königsberg in the mid-nineteenth century. His position as factory owner (*Ofenfabrikant*) and information about his business are listed in the address books from 1837 till 1852. The address remained the same

<sup>57</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1886): 138; (1887): 142.

<sup>58</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1899): 296; (1901): 325.

<sup>59</sup> *Adressbuch der keramischen Industrie [...] in Deutschland und Oesterreich-Ungarn mit allen Fabrikmarken* (Coburg: Verlag von Müller & Schmidt, 1902), 290.

throughout all these years. Thus we may conclude that the factory operated at Steindammer rechte Straße 158.<sup>60</sup> From 1854 until 1874, the address books list only the name of the master Billig's widow, but since her place of residence continued to change,<sup>61</sup> the address of the manufacturing site disappeared from the books. Hence, the conclusion that tile manufacturing at the aforementioned address was discontinued.

### III. Period of operation around 1850–1888; owned by the Longrien family

The tile factory owned by the potters of the **Longrien** (Longrin, Longrün) family operated for about four decades in the second half of the nineteenth century. Perhaps it wasn't a big company, as it never had a permanent address, and every time the owner changed, so did the address.

According to the entries in the address books, the first tile maker of the family was master potter (*Töpfermeister*) **A. Longrien** at Sackheimer rechte Straße 91. He continued his work for about 16 years, from approximately 1850 until 1866.<sup>62</sup> During 1886, the last year of his life, he ran the factory with the then young but active master Rudolf Boy (see ↓), and the name of the company was **Longrien & Boy**.<sup>63</sup> After A. Longrien's death in 1867, however, the business was taken over by a close relative – perhaps a brother or son – **Luis Longrien**, listed that year at two addresses: Sackheimer rechte Straße 91 and Alte Reifenbahn 3a.<sup>64</sup> From 1868 until 1871, he is mentioned at Alte Reifenbahn 3a only. A. Longrien's widow resided at this address, which suggests that tile manufacturing was moved to that address, too.<sup>65</sup> From 1872, the books contain records of two manufacturers: Luis Longrien, whose address changed again and who resided at Sackheimer Hintergasse 23; and **L. A. Longrien**, or **Longrien Jr.**, at 2 Fließstraße 10. The widow was also registered at the latter address.<sup>66</sup> The Longrien family,

<sup>60</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1837): 139; (1838): 138; (1839): 137; (1840): 134; (1841): 150; (1850): 6; (1851): 6; (1852): 133.

<sup>61</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1854): 10; (1856): 7; (1861): 100; (1864): 90; (1866): 15; (1871): 13; (1872): 12; (1873): 13; (1874): 118.

<sup>62</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1850): 43; (1851): 43; (1852): 44; (1853): 43; (1854): 74; (1856): 56; (1857): 62; (1858): 159; (1859): 157; (1860): 73; (1862): 259, 392; (1863): 179; (1864): 165; (1865): 160; (1866): 113, 322, 337.

<sup>63</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1866): 322, 337.

<sup>64</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1867): 114.

<sup>65</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1868): 171; (1869): 128; (1870): 103, 323, 338; (1871): 100.

<sup>66</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1872): 97.

including master potter **H. Longrien**, who was listed there in 1876–1882, conducted their business at this address until 1883.<sup>67</sup> It must be noted that, according to the books, the tile factory at the address 2 Fließstraße 10 operated since 1858 and the owner was F. E. Neuber (see ↓). We can conclude, therefore, that L. A. Longrien took over F. E. Neuber's business.

One more change in the Longrien family business is recorded in the 1880s. During the period from 1884 to 1888 the Longriens, as factory owners, are listed at the address Altstädtische Lang Gasse 88.<sup>68</sup> Yet it is still unclear whether it was a place of residence or a manufacturing site. In 1899 the Longriens are not found in the address books of Königsberg. Therefore, we can presume that their tile-making business was closed at the end of the 1880s.

#### IV. Period of operation around 1850–1941; owners Th. E. Kugel, R. Boy, F. Sohr, W. Bonn

Th. E. Kugel as a master potter (*Töpfermeister*) is listed for the first time in the address books of Königsberg in 1850. It seems that at that time he already had a tile workshop located at Steindammer Lavendelgasse 5, where he resided until 1854. From 1856 until 1863, his business was listed at Besselstraße 2, and he was already referred to as the tile factory owner (*Ofenfabrikant*).<sup>70</sup> In 1861 and 1863, Rudolf Boy<sup>71</sup> (see ↓) worked in his factory as an apprentice. Apparently, Boy had exceptional talent and an ambition to start manufacturing tiles and have a business of his own. After becoming master, Boy spent some years working for A. Longrien and Luis Longrien in the manufacturing sites at the addresses Sackheim rechte Straße 91 and Alte Reifenbahn 3a<sup>72</sup> (see ↑). After the death of A. Longrien, Boy renewed his cooperation with Th. E. Kugel, who opened a factory in

<sup>67</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1873): 102; (1874): 212; (1875): 105; (1876): 118; (1877): 249; (1878): 127; (1879): 127; (1880): 264; (1881): 135; (1882): 120; (1883): 137.

<sup>68</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1884): 147; (1885): 154; (1886): 154; (1887): 159;

Address book of Königsberg (1888), [interactive; seen on 01-04-2020]:

<http://adressbuecher.genealogy.net/addressbooks/place/KONSSEKO04GR>.

<sup>69</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1850): 39; (1851): 39; (1852): 40, 133; (1853): 41; (1854): 60.

<sup>70</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1856): 51; (1857): 56; (1858): 152; (1859): 150; (1860): 66; (1861): 160; (1862): 243; (1863): 171.

<sup>71</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1861): 104; (1863): 112.

<sup>72</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1864): 94; (1865): 94; (1866): 21, 322, 337.



## 4.

Rudolf Boy's advertisement in *Memeler Dampfboot*, 1874

Rudolfo Boy reklamėninė žinutė laikraštijje *Memeler Dampfboot*, 1874

1865 in the south of the city at the address Unterhaberberg 44.<sup>73</sup> The address book from 1867 indicates that the factory name was **Kugel & Boy**.<sup>74</sup> That year Kugel was listed as “the imperial [Kaiser’s?] manufacturer of stoves” (*Hof-Ofenfabrikant*),<sup>75</sup> but a year later his name was no longer mentioned. The business was taken over by **Rudolf Boy**, who managed the factory until his death in 1882.<sup>76</sup> Under Boy’s leadership, over the course of 15 years, the factory became known all over the world. The entrepreneurial skills of R. Boy are evidenced by the fact that he invited potter apprentices “skilled in making tiles and decorations” from other towns of East Prussia to come and work in his factory, promising them long-term employment and a good pay. We managed to find such invitation in one 1874 edition of *Memeler Dampfboot*, a daily publication from Memel (now Klaipėda).<sup>77</sup> [fig. 4].

In 1883, only the names of R. Boy’s widow and his business successor **Franz Sohr** are mentioned in the address book from Königsberg. Both Sohr, who ran the factory until the end of the nineteenth century<sup>78</sup> and the new successor **Wilhelm Bonn**,<sup>79</sup> who took over the business no later than 1899 and managed until World War II, were listed as successors to Rudolf Boy’s business.

<sup>73</sup> *Adressbuch der keramischen Industrie [...] in Deutschland und Oesterreich-Ungarn mit allen Fabrikmarken* (Coburg: Verlag von Müller & Schmidt, 1902), 249.

<sup>74</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1867): 21, 102.

<sup>75</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1867): 102.

<sup>76</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1868): 88; (1869): 39; (1870): 20, 323; (1871): 18; (1872): 18; (1873): 19; (1874): 124; (1875): 19; (1876): 22; (1877): 149; (1878): 23; (1879): 24; (1880): 158; (1881): 25; (1882): 22.

<sup>77</sup> “Rudolf Boy’s advertisement”, *Memeler Dampfboot*, no. 146 (1874).

<sup>78</sup> Earlier publications about Rudolf Boy: Klajumienė, „Koklių pasiūla ir gamintojai Klaipėdos krašte XIX a. antrojoje pusėje – XX a. pirmojoje pusėje“, 45–46.

<sup>79</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1883): 222, 464; (1884): 237; (1885): 246; (1886): 247; (1887): 253; Address book of Königsberg (1888), [interactive; seen on 03-04-2020]: <http://adressbuecher.genealogy.net/addressbooks/place/KONSSEKO04GR>.

<sup>79</sup> F. W. Bonn is listed in address books of Königsberg from 1880 first as a potter, and five years later as a master potter. As the owner of the factory, he is entered in the books from 1899. See: *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1880): 156; (1881): 23; (1882): 20; (1883): 23; (1884): 26; (1885): 27; (1886): 26; (1887): 28; (1889): 60, 65; (1901): 66; (1906): 52; (1912): 59, 73, 99; (1937): 56, VI 88, 120; Address books of Königsberg (1888, 1935), [interactive; seen on 03-04-2020]: <http://adressbuecher.genealogy.net/addressbooks/place/KONSSEKO04GR>.



5.  
Advertisement in the address book of  
Königsberg, 1884

Reklamė žinutė Karaliaučiaus adresu  
knygoje, 1884



6.  
Advertisement in the address book of  
Königsberg, 1887

Reklamė žinutė Karaliaučiaus adresu  
knygoje, 1887

After the factory was taken over by F. Sohr, the 1884 address book published a notice that failed to disclose the name of the new owner and ran as follows: “The tile factory of Rudolph Boy’s successor, Unter-Haberberg No. 44 Königsberg (Prussia). Large stock of high-quality white and colored stoves, stove-fireplaces, and majolica stoves at reasonable prices. Every order is meticulously fulfilled by experienced workers”<sup>80</sup> [fig. 5]. After three more years, in 1887, the products of the factory were still advertised by indicating that they were produced at the factory of Rudolph Boy’s successor, without even mentioning the name of the new owner. At that time, the factory manufactured the “highest-quality white and colored melting furnaces, fireplaces, stoves in Altdeutsch style, and majolica stoves”<sup>81</sup> [fig. 6]. The owner can only be identified from the alphabetic list of Königsberg’s citizens, where the tile factory owner F. Sohr is mentioned at the address Unterhaberberg 44.<sup>82</sup> Association of the factory with R. Boy is a clear sign that it was he who built the excellent reputation of the factory’s production. It must be added that after transferring R. Boy’s factory (Unterhaberberg 44) to Wilhelm Bonn at the end of the nineteenth century, F. Sohr continued manufacturing tiles up until the early twentieth century,

<sup>80</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1884), advertisement [pages not numbered].

<sup>81</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1887), advertisement [pages not numbered].

<sup>82</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1887): 253.



7. Data about Wilhelm Bonn's tile factory in Königsberg, *Adressbuch der keramischen Industrie [...] in Deutschland und Oesterreich-Ungarn mit allen Fabrikmarken*, Coburg: Verlag von Müller & Schmidt, 1902, 249

Duomenys apie Wilhelmo Bonno koklių fabriką Karaliaučiuje, 1902

only at a different address (Kaiserstraße 50).<sup>83</sup> This factory is also listed in the 1902 ceramics business directory of Germany with a note that the factory produced glazed and majolica tile stoves.<sup>84</sup> Four years later, however, the manufacturing site is no longer listed in the 1906 directory.

Let's go back to the factory at Unterhaberberg 44, which was run by W. Bonn from the end of the nineteenth century. The 1902 and 1906 ceramics business directories of Germany note that the factory received awards from industrial exhibitions in Königsberg in 1869<sup>85</sup> and 1895,<sup>86</sup> that it operated steam machines, and that it had had 125 workers who made melting furnaces; white, colored, majolica and *Altdeutsch* style stoves; fireplaces; finishing panels and baths; and fireclay panels and building ornaments<sup>87</sup> [fig. 7]. Similar information about the factory is presented in the advertisement at the beginning of the twentieth century, which indicates that the factory also manufactured glazes, not only tiles.<sup>88</sup>

The identification of Wilhelm Bonn as the factory owner shows his important role in the history of the establishment, which he modernized by introducing steam engines. The modernization and expansion of the business is further proven by the fact that besides the manufacturing facility at Unterhaberberg 44, another branch was opened at Georgstraße 32/33. The

<sup>83</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1899): 527; (1901): 581.

<sup>84</sup> *Adressbuch der keramischen Industrie enthaltend die Firmen der Fabriken für Porzellan, Steingut, Fayance, Majolika, Siderolith [...] in Deutschland und Oesterreich-Ungarn mit allen Fabrikmarken* (Coburg: Verlag von Müller & Schmidt, 1902), 337.

<sup>85</sup> The owner was Rudolf Boy that year.

<sup>86</sup> It is likely that the factory that year was run by Wilhelm Bonn already.

<sup>87</sup> *Adressbuch der keramischen Industrie enthaltend die Firmen der Fabriken für Porzellan, Steingut, Fayance, Majolika, Siderolith [...] in Deutschland und Oesterreich-Ungarn mit allen Fabrikmarken* (Coburg: Verlag von Müller & Schmidt, 1902), 249; *Adressbuch der keramischen Industrie enthaltend die Firmen der Fabriken für Porzellan, Steingut, Fayance, Majolika, Siderolith [...] in Deutschland und Oesterreich-Ungarn mit allen Fabrikmarken* (Coburg: Verlag von Müller & Schmidt, 1906), 373.

<sup>88</sup> Advertisement of Wilhelm Bonn's factory of tiles and glazes, [interactive; seen on 20-05-2021]: <https://www.bildarchiv-ostpreussen.de/suche/index.html.de?qp=searchtext%3D4%3AOfenmode-%3D1%3Af#!start=64>.



8. Advertisement of Wilhelm Bonn's tile factories in the address book of Königsberg, 1912

Wilhelmo Bonno koklių fabriku reklamė žinutė Karaliaučiaus adresų knygoje, 1912

evidence of that has been found in an advertisement from 1912<sup>89</sup> [fig. 8]. W. Bonn is listed as the owner of the factory until World War II.<sup>90</sup> The tile business that operated at the address Unterhaberberg 44 for nearly 100 years can be considered one of the most powerful and largest companies in Königsberg. Samples of its products should be found in the city, the entire region of the former East Prussia, and beyond.<sup>91</sup>

Besides the factory that was made famous by Rudolf Boy, a number of other smaller or larger factories operated during the period between the second half of the nineteenth and first half of the twentieth century and deserve to be mentioned in this paper.

#### V. Period of operation 1857–1862; owner A. Braun

A. Braun first appears in the address book of Königsberg in 1857 as the owner of a tile factory and a bath (*Ofenfabrikant und Besitzer einer Badeanstalt*).<sup>92</sup> He operated at the address Steindammer Hintergasse 6 until 1862.<sup>93</sup> We have no information yet about why was he no longer listed as

<sup>89</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1901): 66; (1906): 52; (1912): 59.

<sup>90</sup> The address book of 1941 lists Luis Bonn, W. Bonn's widow, at the address Unterhaberberg 44. The factory is no longer listed in the 1942 address book of Königsberg.

<sup>91</sup> Currently, the author of this paper can only presume that tiles made by the Bonn factory may have been used to build a stove that survived to this day in the house of Lovis Corinth, the famous expressionist artist who lived in Königsberg. The letters K and B stamped on the back of the tiles may refer to the Bonn's factory in Königsberg. Yet, this is only a primary presumption that still has to be verified when more products of the factory are found.

The author expresses gratitude to restorer Marija Sizikova for reference to these tiles.

<sup>92</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1857): 12.

Researchers of the 19th century tile manufacturers of Klaipėda and Königsberg region often come across cases, where tile factory owners also had business in other fields of activity.

<sup>93</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1857): 12; (1858): 105; (1859): 102; (1860): 14; (1862): 180.

a citizen of Königsberg after five years of operation. His name appeared again in publications from 1868 to 1872 but only as a “former owner of the tile factory” (*ehemal. Ofenfabrikant*) and at a different address (Große Hadergasse 8a).<sup>94</sup>

## VI. Mentioned from 1858 till the 1880s; owners the Neuber family

F. Neuber (or **F. E. Neuber**<sup>95</sup>) opened a factory in 1858 on the location of a tile workshop that had operated since the middle of the nineteenth century at 2te Fließstraße 10.<sup>96</sup> From 1850 to 1856, the workshop belonged to the Matzkowsky masters and from 1857 to Ferdinand Klein (see †). Records about Neuber appear in the city address books from 1858, and from the first mention, he was already listed as a tile factory owner (*Ofenfabrikant*). This shows that Neuber learned his pottery skills somewhere else and came to Königsberg for the purpose of developing the tile business. Neuber is listed at the same address 2te Fließstraße 10 until 1873.<sup>97</sup> It appears though, that at the beginning of the 1870s he was listed as a master potter, no longer a factory owner. Perhaps his manufacturing business started to deteriorate as the 1872 book already recorded L. A. Longrien (see †) as the owner of the factory at 2te Fließstraße 10. It points to the fact that F. E. Neuber transferred his business to L. A. Longrien.

Nevertheless, the brief entries in the Königsberg address books reveal that F. E. Neuber returned to the tile-making business five years later. In 1877 he opened a new factory in the Königsberg suburbs at the address Tragheimer Ausbau 183–184.<sup>98</sup> The factory operated in this location for at least a decade, but F. E. Neuber is listed at this address until 1886;

<sup>94</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1868): 92; (1869): 39; (1870): 21; (1871): 19; (1872): 19.

<sup>95</sup> In the address books of Königsberg, the same person often was entered by only family name and the first letter of the name. If a person had two first names, the books wouldn't necessarily enter the initials of both. Sometimes it made it difficult to identify whether the books refer to the same person or two different people. Confusion may be avoided by reading the books in chronological order and paying attention to other data, such as the address of the company or residence. In the case of F. E. Neuber, it was the unchanged address that helped to realise that despite the changing initials, the references were made to one and the same person.

<sup>96</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1858): 169.

<sup>97</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1859): 167; (1860): 84; (1861): 180; (1862): 273; (1863): 191; (1864): 178; (1865): 173; (1866): 130, 337; (1867): 131; (1868): 186; (1869): 144; (1870): 119, 338; (1871): 115; (1872): 112; (1873): 118.

<sup>98</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1877): 267.



9.  
C. Neuber's advertisement in the address book of Königsberg, 1879  
C. Neuberio reklaminis skelbimas Karaliaučiaus adresų knygoje, 1879

the 1887 book lists his widow only.<sup>99</sup> It seems that from 1879 the company was run by **Carl Neuber** (perhaps the son of F. E. Neuber). The name of the new owner was announced in an advertisement announcing that a new tile factory under the name of **C. Neuber & Co** was opened at the address Tragheimer Ausbau 183–184, and its owner “humbly recommends himself to all those involved in the building business, guarantees good prices and long-lasting quality, and asks to pay particular attention to well-constructed cookers”<sup>100</sup> [fig. 9]. Presumably, the factory was flourishing at that time, as in 1884 C. Neuber, still referred to as the factory owner, published one more advertisement in the address book announcing the opening of a permanent warehouse at Domstraße 14 with a permanent display of *Altdeutsch* stoves as well as other stoves and fireplaces of different styles. It also said that all the stove and fireplace installation works would be carried out without delay, and the products were of long-lasting quality and available at reasonable prices<sup>101</sup> [fig. 10]. A showroom and shop in the center of the city next to the cathedral demonstrated the capacity and prestige of the company.

The growth of the business however, didn't last long, as in 1885 C. Neuber as the factory owner appeared in the book for the last time.<sup>102</sup>

<sup>99</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1878): 147; (1879): 147; (1880): 283; (1881): 155; (1882): 138; (1883): 157; (1884): 169; (1885): 177; (1886): 177; (1887): 182.

<sup>100</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1879), advertisement [pages not numbered].

<sup>101</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1884), advertisement [pages not numbered].

<sup>102</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1885): 177.



10.

C. Neuber's advertisement in the address book of Königsberg, 1884

C. Neuberio reklamisin skelbimas Karaliaučiaus adresu knygoje, 1884

Then until 1906 he was listed as a master potter (*Töpfermeister*), and his address changed several times.<sup>103</sup> There is not enough data to determine the fate of the enterprise after 1885. There is no mention of the factory in the 1902 and 1906 ceramics business directories of Germany; C. Neuber was probably no longer in the tile business at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth century.

#### VII. Mentioned in 1864; factory (?) name *A. Friedrich & Voss*

The 1864 Königsberg address book lists master potter A. Friedrich and his tile company *A. Friedrich & Voss*<sup>104</sup> located in the southern part of the city at Hinter Vorstraße 9.10. Unfortunately, there is no further data about the master of his company. Therefore, it is not clear whether it was a workshop or a small factory.

#### VIII. Period of operation around 1866–1888; owner Th. Berger

As a merchant and tile factory owner, Th. Berger is first mentioned in the 1866 Königsberg address book. Apparently, he took over Th. E. Kugel's factory at Besselstraße 2 (see fig. 1). The records at this address continue until 1874,<sup>105</sup> and then from 1875 till 1886 Th. Berger resided at Königstraße 12.<sup>106</sup> The 1887 and 1888 address books list Th. Berger

<sup>103</sup> Address book of Königsberg (1888), [interactive; seen on 01-04-2020]: <http://adressbuecher.genealogy.net/addressbooks/place/KONSSEKO04GR>; *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1899): 374; (1901): 411; (1906): 327.

<sup>104</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1864): 114, 115.

<sup>105</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1866): 12, 13, 337; (1867): 12; (1868): 84; (1869): 30; (1870): 12, 323; (1871): 11; (1872): 11; (1873): 11; (1874): 116.

<sup>106</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1875): 11; (1876): 13; (1877): 139; (1878): 13; (1879): 14; (1880): 148; (1881): 15; (1882): 13; (1883): 15; (1884): 16; (1885): 17; (1886): 16.

at the address Prinzenstraße 21.<sup>107</sup> There is no mention of him in 1899. Due to the absence of information to account for 1888–1899, it is impossible to determine the exact date when the manufacturer closed his tile business. It is interesting to note that Th. Berger was a merchant, not a potter or craftsman. Thus, he may be considered a member of the newly emerging class of bourgeoisie.

#### IX. Period of operation from 1875 till the end of the nineteenth to the early twentieth century; owner Richard Linck

Richard Linck first appeared in the Königsberg address book in 1875 and was listed as the tile factory owner (*Ofenfabrikant*) operating his business at Besselstraße 2.<sup>108</sup> Since he was not mentioned in the earlier editions, he probably arrived from another part of East Prussia and already had tile-making skills, as he was immediately recorded as a tile manufacturer and even a factory owner. Linck took over the factory on Besselstraße from Th. Berger (see ↑), who ran it for eight years. It is important to note that one year later, in 1876, the address Besselstraße 2 was listed as a residential address only, while the factory was located at Steindammer Lavendelgasse 4.5.<sup>109</sup> From 1877 to 1888, the address of Linck's factory is recorded in two versions, that is, either Steindammer Lavendelgasse 4b or Steindammer Lavendelgasse 4.5,<sup>110</sup> yet both versions refer to the same location. Interestingly, there were quite a few potter apprentices, potters, and master potters mentioned at this address in the 1870s and 1880s. Most likely, they were Linck's factory workers.

The Königsberg address books from 1881 till 1887 mention Linck with a note that his factory was formerly owned by E. Kugel.<sup>111</sup> Indeed, until 1855 E. Th. Kugel resided at Steindammer Lavendelgasse 5 and from 1856 till 1866 operated business at Besselstraße 2. He ran the factory with

<sup>107</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1887): 18; Address book of Königsberg (1888), [interactive; seen on 31-12-2020]: <http://adressbuecher.genealogy.net/addressbooks/place/KONSSEKO04GR>.

<sup>108</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1875): 104.

<sup>109</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1876): 117.

<sup>110</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1877): 247; (1878): 126; (1879): 126; (1880): 262; (1881): 133; (1882): 119; (1883): 135; (1884): 145; (1885): 152; (1886): 152; (1887): 157; Address book of Königsberg (1888), [interactive; seen on 02-04-2020]: <http://adressbuecher.genealogy.net/addressbooks/place/KONSSEKO04GR>.

<sup>111</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1881): 133; (1882): 119; (1883): 135; (1884): 145; (1885): 152; (1886): 152; (1887): 157.

Rudolf Boy at the address Unterhaberberg 44 (see ↑). Thus, apparently Richard Linck took over the production sites that used to belong to E. Kugel, first on Besselstraße and a year later on Steindammer Lavendelgasse. He had probably reconstructed the site and added new buildings, as the new address of the location became Steindammer Lavendelgasse 4.5.

Linck's factory is also mentioned in the 1902 German ceramics business directory where it is briefly described as producing white glazed historic *Altdeutsche*-style stoves.<sup>112</sup> There is no mention of Linck's factory in the similar edition of 1906. Also, no potter of Königsberg was mentioned at Steindammer Lavendelgasse 4.5 from the end of the nineteenth century, which suggests that the manufacturing site was no longer used. Even the entry in the 1902 directory could have been a result of data collected at the end of the nineteenth century.

#### X. Period of operation from 1879 till the 1880s; owner Th. A. Grosch

As a potter's apprentice, A. Grosch appears in Königsberg address books from 1869 until 1872.<sup>113</sup> We believe that the same person under the name of Th. A. Grosch is mentioned in the books as a factory owner from 1879 with a note that his address was Viehmarkt 12. He ran a business at this address until 1881.<sup>114</sup> It seems that his business flourished from 1882 until 1888, as he resided in the Steindamm district, where he had a shop and warehouse at Steindamm 162 and a showroom of stoves and office at Steindamm 30.<sup>115</sup> Perhaps he continued his activity after 1888, too, but it is hard to tell when the factory was closed. The next set of data about the manufacturing on this site dates back to 1899 but doesn't include any factory owners under the name of Grosch.

Another affirmation of the factory's activity in the 1880s is an advertisement published in the address book of 1886 [fig. 11]. Besides the

<sup>112</sup> *Adressbuch der keramischen Industrie [...] in Deutschland und Oesterreich-Ungarn mit allen Fabrikmarken* (1902): 295.

<sup>113</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1869): 76; (1870): 55; (1871): 53; (1872): 51.

<sup>114</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1879): 66; (1880): 200; (1881): 68.

<sup>115</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1882): 62; (1883): 71; (1884): 76; (1885): 80; (1886): 79, a set of advertisements – 8; (1887): 81; Address book of Königsberg (1888), [interactive; seen on 02-04-2020]: <http://adressbuecher.genealogy.net/addressbooks/place/KONSSEKO04GR>.



11.  
Th. A. Grosch's advertisement in the address book of Königsberg, 1886  
Th. A. Groscho reklaminiš skelbimas Karaliaučiaus adresu knygoje, 1886

address of the showroom, office, and shop of the factory, the advertisement indicates that the company manufactured stoves, cookers, and glazes of different colors as well as ceramic figures and vases for decoration of interiors and gardens.<sup>116</sup> That means that the factory did not concentrate on heating devices alone but also catered for the art of landscaping of public and private parks and gardens as well as composition of plants in residential environments, a popular trend of the nineteenth century.

#### XI. Mentioned in 1880 and 1881; owner Gott. Fielitz

Tile factory owner Gott. Fielitz is very briefly mentioned in the address books of 1880 and 1881. He operated business in the southern part of the city at Vorstadt Freistraße 1. It seems that in 1880 he was a shareholder of the company *Fielitz&Bromb.*,<sup>117</sup> and a year later he was simply listed as a tile factory owner (*Ofenfabrikant*).<sup>118</sup> It is likely that more information about this manufacturer and his production may be found in the future.

<sup>116</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1886), a set of advertisements – 8.

<sup>117</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1880): 182.

<sup>118</sup> *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1881): 49.

## XII. Mentioned at the beginning of the twentieth century; workshop/factory, owners the Wittenberg family

First as potters' apprentices and later as potters and master potters, members of the Wittenberg family appear in the Königsberg books from the mid-nineteenth century until the mid-twentieth century.<sup>119</sup> Yet only Hans Wittenberg was also listed as a tile factory owner at the beginning of the twentieth century. The book from 1906 indicates that he owned a wheel pottery facility and traded in tile stoves (*Töpferei und Ofengeschäft*) from the address Hinterroßgarten 21.<sup>120</sup> In 1912, he was recorded as a merchant and owner of the ceramics and tile factory at Hinterroßgarten 20.<sup>121</sup> This is all information that is available about this master potter. Unfortunately, exact data about the period of operation of the factory ran by H. Wittenberg is not available.

## XIII. Mentioned at the beginning of the twentieth century; a branch of Emilienthal's factory

Besides local entrepreneurs, manufacturers from other locations in East Prussia opened their branches in Königsberg. Among them was Gustav Kuhr, a master potter and factory owner from Emilienthal near Liebemühl (now Miłomłyn, Poland), who opened a branch at Unterhaberberg 26 in Königsberg. Records about him go back to the beginning of the twentieth century. According to advertisements, the company had stoves of different styles in its warehouse, including *Altdeutsch* and majolica. Moreover, the company indicated that it could fix stoves quickly and at a reasonable cost.<sup>122</sup> The brief advertisements are not very clear, but Gustav Kuhr is named as the tile factory owner; thus we can presume that tile manufacturing did take place at the Königsberg branch of the Emilienthal factory.

119 *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1854): 135; (1861): 233; (1863): 246; (1865): 230; (1866): 208; (1867): 211; (1868): 256; (1869): 220; (1870): 191; (1871): 187; (1872): 182; (1873): 189; (1874): 303; (1875): 194; (1876): 219; (1877): 354; (1878): 236; (1879): 235; (1880): 375; (1881): 250; (1882): 220; (1883): 256; (1884): 271; (1885): 282; (1886): 284; (1887): 290; (1899): 603; (1901): 664–665; (1906): 531; (1912): 73, 606; Address book of Königsberg (1888), [interactive; seen on 03-04-2020]; <http://adressbuecher.genealogy.net/addressbooks/place/KONSSEKO04GR>; *Einwohnerbuch von Königsberg und den vororte für 1937* (Königsberg: Königsberger Verlagsanstalt, 1937), 633.

120 *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1906): 531.

121 *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1912): 73, 606.

122 *Adreßbuch der Haupt- und Residenzstadt Königsberg* (1901): 327; (1906): 256.

#### XIV. Mentioned in the 1930s and 1940s; factory? / Shop *Fliege & Co*

Records about *Fliege & Co* are found in address books from 1935, 1937, 1941 and 1942.<sup>123</sup> The company is described as stove and cooker business and shop (*Ofen- und Herdgeschäft*) operating at Steindamm 88/90. In the publications from 1937 and 1941, there is a letter F next to the name of the company; it means that *Fliege & Co* also operated as a manufacturing company.

#### XV. Mentioned in the 1930s and 1940s; factory? / Shop *Ernst Lange & Heyer*

Records about this company are found in the Königsberg address books of 1935, 1937, 1941, and 1942. Without indicating the name of the company, the books refer to an office which was listed at different address every time, namely at Altst[hofer] Träntgasse 10, Lastadie 26/27, and Bohlwerksgasse 12/155 at the beginning of the 1940s.<sup>124</sup> The letter F next to the company name in the editions of 1941 and 1942 leads to the presumption that the company traded as well as manufactured tile stoves.

The analysis of the tile-making history in Königsberg in the nineteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries demonstrates that the number of tile manufacturers, including both craftsmen and industrial manufacturers, was appropriate to the status of Königsberg as the main city of East Prussia and is a testament to the presence of substantial clay resources in the region. The table with addresses of tile businesses in Königsberg presented at the beginning of this paper also demonstrates that manufacturing activity took place all over the city and was not concentrated in one districts only. The broad distribution was determined by the continuous development of the

<sup>123</sup> *Address book of Königsberg* (1935), [interactive; seen on 03-04-2020]: <http://adressbuecher.genealogy.net/addressbooks/place/KONSSEKO04GR>; *Einwohnerbuch von Königsberg und den vororte für 1937* (Königsberg: Königsberger Verlagsanstalt, 1937), 130; *Einwohnerbuch. Königsber (Pr.) 1941* (Königsberger Verlagsanstalt GmbH, 1941), 64; *Amtliches Fernsprechbuch für den Reichspostdirektions bezirk Königsber (Pr.) 1942* (Königsberg, 1942), 414.

<sup>124</sup> *Einwohnerbuch von Königsberg und den vororte für 1935* (Königsberg: Königsberger Verlagsanstalt, 1935), 305; *Einwohnerbuch von Königsberg und den vororte für 1937* (Königsberg: Königsberger Verlagsanstalt, 1937), 314; *Einwohnerbuch. Königsber (Pr.) 1941* (Königsberger Verlagsanstalt GmbH, 1941), 154; *Amtliches Fernsprechbuch für den Reichspostdirektions bezirk Königsber (Pr.) 1942* (Königsberg, 1942), 414.

city both in terms of its territory and population.<sup>125</sup> It can also be presumed that the broad distribution of companies enabled them to deal with competition better. The presence of competition is evident from the short period of operation of some businesses and by the numerous attempts to find a better location in different parts of the city for both the manufacturing and sales of products.

In comparison to Königsberg, considerably fewer documentary records exist about other towns of northern East Prussia, including Tilsit, Insterburg, and other smaller towns. Moreover, according to 1939 data, the population of these towns was also much smaller,<sup>126</sup> which, presumably, also determined a lower demand for tile and other products of ceramic architecture, hence a smaller number of manufacturing sites.<sup>127</sup> Analysis of similar sources, that is, address books and advertisements in the press, returned a much shorter list of tile makers. Nevertheless, it is important to start a discussion about them so that the material collected is not lost but may be used as a starting point for further research.

### Tile Manufacturers in Tilsit

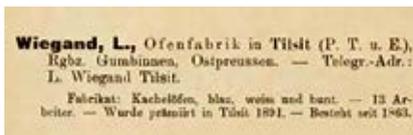
Although no match to Königsberg, the town of Tilsit was the second-largest tile-making center of the region. The sources of information about the tile industry in Tilsit are few and scanty. Nevertheless, we identified four tile factory owners who ran their businesses from the 1860s until World War II.

<sup>125</sup> The versatile urban development of the town is revealed by comparing the 19th to mid-20th century plans of the city. Moreover, the growth of the town is also evidenced by the populations listed in the address books.

Martynas Purvinas, „Karaliaučiaus miesto įsikūrimas ir plėtra“ [Establishment and Development of the City of Königsberg], in *Mažosios Lietuvos enciklopedija [Encyclopaedia of Lithuania Minor]*, [interactive, seen on 20-04-2021]: <https://www.mle.lt/straipsniai/karaliauciaus-raida-ir-architektura>.

<sup>126</sup> The Encyclopaedia of Lithuania Minor indicates that in 1939 the population of Königsberg was 361 thousand, while Tilsit and Insterburg counted around 50 thousand each: See: Vasilijus Safronovas, „Tilžė“ [Tilsit], in *Mažosios Lietuvos enciklopedija [Encyclopaedia of Lithuania Minor]*, [interactive, seen on 20-04-2021]: <https://www.mle.lt/straipsniai/tilze>; Vilius Pėteraitis ir Martynas Purvinas, „Isrutis“ [Insterburg], in *Mažosios Lietuvos enciklopedija [Encyclopaedia of Lithuania Minor]*, [interactive, seen on 20-04-2021]: <https://www.mle.lt/straipsniai/isrutis>.

<sup>127</sup> Researchers of ceramics history in general and the tile manufacturing history in particular have noticed, though, that the size of the location and population not always are critical factors for the opening of manufacturing businesses.



12.

Data about Luis Wiegandt's tile factory in Tilsit, *Adressbuch der keramischen Industrie [...] in Deutschland und Oesterreich-Ungarn mit allen Fabrikmarken*, Coburg: Verlag von Müller & Schmidt, 1902, 350

Duomenys apie Luiso Wiegandto kokių fabriką Tilžėje, 1902

The first pieces of information about tile factories in Tilsit date back to 1863.<sup>128</sup> That year saw the establishment of **Luis Wiegandt's** enterprise, which, according to the 1902 ceramics business directory of Germany, received an award from an exhibition in Tilsit in 1891 and where, at the beginning of the twentieth century, 13 employees were engaged in production of blue, white, and colored (i.e., covered in glaze of different colors – *author's note*) tiles<sup>129</sup> [fig. 12]. Clearly, the factory was not big at the beginning of the twentieth century, as the 1906 edition of the business directory no longer mentions the factory (the directory was meant to cover large companies only). Despite this, we can presume that the factory operated until the end of World War II, as we have found its name in the Tilsit books from 1890 till 1919 listed at Fabrikstraße 8.<sup>130</sup> It can be stated that L. Wiegandt's business faced competition at the end of the nineteenth century, when two more tile factories were opened in town.

One of the two was owned by master potter **Johan Klaudzus**, whose name is first mentioned at the end of the nineteenth century.<sup>131</sup> In the Tilsit address book of 1909, he, alongside L. Wiegand and two more individuals (Bloß and Leppert) was described as the owner of tile factory (*Ofenfabrikanten*).<sup>132</sup> Yet it seems that he took up tile manufacturing at least in 1901, as that year and the next year he is mentioned at the address

<sup>128</sup> Historian Vasilijus Safronovas writes that the ceramics factory in Tilsit was established back in 1841. See Safronovas, „Tilžė“, in *Mažosios Lietuvos enciklopedija*, [interactive, seen on 20-05-2021]: <https://www.mle.lt/straipsniai/tilze>.

Yet it is not clear whether the factory was producing household ceramics, or tiles; in the absence of more detailed information, the beginning of the tile industry will be counted for the time being from 1863.

<sup>129</sup> *Adressbuch der keramischen Industrie [...] in Deutschland und Oesterreich-Ungarn mit allen Fabrikmarken* (Coburg: Verlag von Müller & Schmidt, 1902), 350.

<sup>130</sup> *Adressbuch für die Stadt Tilsit* (1890): 153, 192; (1897): 271, 318; (1901): 216; (1902): 215, 276; (1905): 236, 307; (1909): 253, 334, 337; (1911): 255, 355; (1915): 241, 307; (1917): 262; (1919): 291, 376.

<sup>131</sup> *Adressbuch für die Stadt Tilsit Jahr 1897* (Tilsit: Druck von Otto v. Mauderode, 194), 318.

<sup>132</sup> *Adressbuch für die Stadt Tilsit. Tilsit-Preussen, Kalkkappen, Stolbeck und Splitter 1909* (Tilsit: Druck und Verlag von J. Renlaender&Sohn, 1909), 334.



13. Advertisement of J. Klaudzus's stove shop, *Tilžės keleivis. Kalendorius*, 1920

J. Klaudzuso krosnių prekyvietės reklaminis skelbimas, 1920

Jägerstraße 23.<sup>133</sup> Usually, a stove warehouse would be listed at this address, but it could have been Klaudzus's warehouse for storing tiles and stoves produced by his factory, or perhaps it was also the address of his manufacturing site. His name is no longer found in the 1919 Tilsit address book but appears in an advertisement printed in the 1920 edition of the calendar *Tilžės keleivis. Kalendorius* (The Traveler of Tilsit) [fig. 13]. In the ad, J. Klaudzus announces that he is selling white, brown, and colorful stoves from his very big warehouse and cheaply builds new and reconstructs old stoves.<sup>134</sup>

From 1919 master potter **Herm[ann] Klaudzus**, a successor to the J. Klaudzus business, is mentioned at the address Jägerstraße 23.<sup>135</sup> Like J. Klaudzus, he introduced himself to customers by publishing an advertisement in the 1922 edition of *Tilžės keleivis. Kalendorius*. He announced that the business operated at the same address, which suggests that he took over and continued tile manufacturing as well as tile trading activity<sup>136</sup> [fig. 14]. The name of H. Klaudzus is found at the same Tilsit

<sup>133</sup> *Adreßbuch für die Stadt Tilsit. Tilsit-Preussen, Kalkkappen, Stolbeck, Splitter und Geschäfts-Anzeiger auf das Jahr 1901* (Tilsit: Druck und Verlag von J. Renländer&Sohn, 1901), 148; *Adreßbuch für die Stadt Tilsit Jahr 1902* (Tilsit: Druck und Verlag J. Rehländer&Sohn, 1902), 149, 276; *Adreßbuch für die Stadt Tilsit Jahr 1905* (Tilsit: Druck und Verlag J. Rehländer&Sohn, 1905), 160, 307; *Adreßbuch für die Stadt Tilsit. Tilsit-Preussen, Kalkkappen, Stolbeck und Splitter 1909* (Tilsit: Druck und Verlag von J. Renlaender&Sohn, 1909), 175, 334, 337; *Adreßbuch für die Stadt Tilsit Jahr 1911* (Tilsit: Druck und Verlag J. Rehländer&Sohn, 1911), 176, 355; *Adreßbuch für die Stadt Tilsit Jahr 1915* (Tilsit: Druck und Verlag J. Rehländer&Sohn, 1915), 161, 307; *Adreßbuch für die Stadt Tilsit Jahr 1917* (Berlin: Vertretung der Preusz. Zentral-Boden-Kredit Altien-Gesellschaft, 1917), 174.

<sup>134</sup> "Advertisement of J. Klaudzus' stove shop", *Tilžės keleivis. Kalendorius* (1920): 124.

<sup>135</sup> *Adreßbuch die Stadt Tilsit Jahr 1919* (Berlin: Vertretung der Preusz. Zentral-Boden-Kredit Altien-Gesellschaft, 1919), 193, 376.

<sup>136</sup> "Advertisement of H. Klaudzus' stove shop", *Tilžės keleivis. Kalendorius* (1922): 198.



14.

Advertisement of H. Klaudzus's stove shop *Tilžės keleivis*. *Kalendorius*, 1922

H. Klaudzuso krosnių prekyvietės reklaminius skelbimas, 1922

address, Jägerstraße 23, in the 1942 edition of the Königsberg region address book.<sup>137</sup> Further analysis of the address books revealed certain changes that took place in the 1930s. For instance, Berta Alandt was listed as the owner of the company in 1933.<sup>138</sup> The records of the same year indicate that masters of the Damlaks family are operating at the same address; that is, master potter (*Töpfermeister*) Fritz Damlaks and stove maker (*Ofensetzer*) Reinhold Damlaks.<sup>139</sup> Presumably, the manufacturing process at that time was controlled by other people, not H. Klaudzus.

The owner of the third tile factory in Tilsit was the **Blösz** (Bloß, Bloesz, Bloeß) family. Like the Klaudzus family, masters are listed at the address Deutsche Straße 23 from the end of the nineteenth century. It seems that the business was started by **Gustav Bloß**, who, according to the records, used that address from 1897 till 1917.<sup>140</sup> In the 1909 address book,

<sup>137</sup> *Amtliches Fernsprehbuch für den Reichspostdirektions bezirk Königsber (Pr.) 1942* (Königsberg, 1942), 414.

<sup>138</sup> *Einwohnerbuch der Stadt Tilsit 1933* (Tilsit: Druck und Verlag von J. Reyländer&Sohn, 1933), 716.

<sup>139</sup> *Ibid*, 346.

<sup>140</sup> *Adreßbuch für die Stadt Tilsit Jahr 1897* (Tilsit: Druck von Otto v. Mauderode, 1897), 145, 318; *Adreßbuch für die Stadt Tilsit. Tilsit-Preussen, Kalkappen, Stolbeck, Splitter und Geschäfts-Anzeiger auf das Jahr 1901* (Tilsit: Druck und Verlag von J. Reyländer & Sohn, 1901), 106; *Adreßbuch für die Stadt Tilsit Jahr 1902* (Tilsit: Druck und Verlag J. Reyländer & Sohn, 1902), 107, 276; *Adreßbuch für die Stadt Tilsit Jahr 1905* (Tilsit: Druck und Verlag J. Reyländer & Sohn, 1905), 114, 307; *Adreßbuch für die Stadt Tilsit. Tilsit-Preussen, Kalkappen, Stolbeck und Splitter 1909* (Tilsit: Druck und Verlag von J. Reyländer&Sohn, 1909), 175, 334; *Adreßbuch für die Stadt Tilsit Jahr 1911* (Tilsit: Druck und Verlag J. Reyländer & Sohn, 1911), 127, 355; *Adreßbuch für die Stadt Tilsit Jahr 1915* (Tilsit: Druck und Verlag J. Reyländer & Sohn, 1915), 112, 307; *Adreßbuch für die Stadt Tilsit Jahr 1917* (Berlin: Vertretung der Preusz. Zentral-Boden-Kredit Altien-Gesellschaft, 1917), 121.

G. Bloß is listed as one of the tile factory owners in Tilsit,<sup>141</sup> and in 1915 the books refer to the tile and ceramics enterprise (*Ofen- und Tonwaren fabrik*) under the name of *Gustaw Blösz & Söhne*,<sup>142</sup> as two sons of the family, Gustaw Blösz Jr. and Paul Blösz, joined the business. Gustaw Blösz Jr. is also mentioned at the address Deutsche Straße 23 in 1933 and 1939. According to the records, he owned the stove-building company (*Ofensetzgeschäft*) *Bloesz & Co* at the address Gerichtstraße 7/8.<sup>143</sup> Interesting to note that in 1942 the company was called *Bloeiß, Gustav & Co* (address Deutsche Straße 23 and 29), but according to the records, the owner was Paul Bloeiß, not Gustav.<sup>144</sup>

The fourth potter recorded as a tile factory owner in the Tilsit address books in the mid-twentieth century is **Emil Leppert**, but there is very little data about his activity. In 1901 and 1902 he is listed as an apprentice of master potter Julius Kahlgrün.<sup>145</sup> Apparently, he was rather gifted and entrepreneurial, as in 1905 and 1909 he was already listed as a master potter and in 1909 as the owner of the tile factory operating at the address Mittelstraße 35.<sup>146</sup> E. Leppert may have continued his business at least for another decade or longer, as records about him are found in the books up to 1919.<sup>147</sup> The books from 1933 and 1939 contain entries about the successor and owner of the business **Maria Leppert**.<sup>148</sup>

<sup>141</sup> *Adreßbuch für die Stadt Tilsit. Tilsit-Preussen, Kalkkappen, Stolbeck und Splitter 1909* (Tilsit: Druck und Verlag von J. Reylaender&Sohn, 1909), 334.

<sup>142</sup> *Adreßbuch für die Stadt Tilsit Jahr 1915* (Tilsit: Druck und Verlag J. Reyländer & Sohn, 1915), 112.

<sup>143</sup> *Einwohnerbuch der Stadt Tilsit 1933* (Tilsit: Druck und Verlag von J. Reyländer&Sohn, 1933), 328; *Einwohnerbuch der Stadt Tilsit 1939* (Tilsit: Sturmverlag G. m. b. h., 1939), 28.

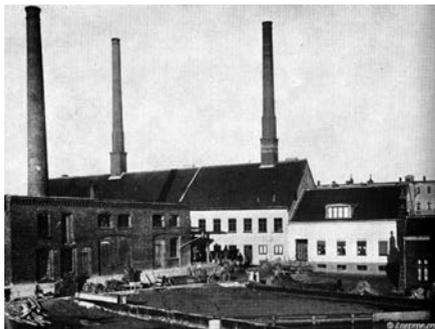
<sup>144</sup> *Amtliches Fernsprechbuch für den Reichspostdirektions bezirk Königsber (Pr.) 1942* (Königsberg, 1942), 414, 457.

<sup>145</sup> *Adreßbuch für die Stadt Tilsit. Tilsit-Preussen, Kalkkappen, Stolbeck, Splitter und Geschäfts-Anzeiger auf das Jahr 1901* (Tilsit: Druck und Verlag von J. Reyländer&Sohn, 1901), 159; *Adreßbuch für die Stadt Tilsit Jahr 1902* (Tilsit: Druck und Verlag J. Rehländer&Sohn, 1902), 160.

<sup>146</sup> *Adreßbuch für die Stadt Tilsit Jahr 1905* (Tilsit: Druck und Verlag J. Rehländer&Sohn, 1905), 174, 307; *Adreßbuch für die Stadt Tilsit. Tilsit-Preussen, Kalkkappen, Stolbeck und Splitter 1909* (Tilsit: Druck und Verlag von J. Reylaender&Sohn, 1909), 190, 334, 337.

<sup>147</sup> *Adreßbuch für die Stadt Tilsit Jahr 1911* (Tilsit: Druck und Verlag J. Rehländer&Sohn, 1901), 190, 355; *Adreßbuch für die Stadt Tilsit Jahr 1915* (Tilsit: Druck und Verlag J. Rehländer&Sohn, 1915), 174, 307; *Adreßbuch für die Stadt Tilsit Jahr 1917* (Berlin: Vertretung der Preusz. Zentral-Boden-Kredit Altien-Gesellschaft, 1917), 190; *Adreßbuch für die Stadt Tilsit Jahr 1919* (Berlin: Vertretung der Preusz. Zentral-Boden-Kredit Altien-Gesellschaft, 1919), 212, 376.

<sup>148</sup> *Einwohnerbuch der Stadt Tilsit 1933* (Tilsit: Druck und Verlag von J. Reyländer&Sohn, 1933), 466; *Einwohnerbuch der Stadt Tilsit 1939* (Tilsit: Sturmverlag G. m. b. h., 1939), 170.



15.

The building of Gallmeister's factory in Insterburg, 1920-30s: <https://www.angrapa.ru/fotografii/redkie-snimki-insterburga-i-okrestnostej/ofenfabrik-friedrich-gallmeister-in-der-tunnelstrasse-insterburg-1157.html#joomimg>

Gallmeisterio fabriko Įsrutyje pastatas, XX a. 3–4 deš.

It must also be added that besides Klaudzus, Bloß, and Leppert, other individuals are identified as owners of ceramics business in the 1933 Tilsit address books, including *Neumann Hermann & Sohn* (Oberst Hoffmann Straße 21<sup>149</sup>), **Emil Poeck** (Marienstraße 3), **Richard Poeck** (Hode Straße 80), and **Strasdas August** (Ragniter Straße 97). Due to the lack of more specific details, it is hard to tell whether they were manufacturers of tiles or household ceramics. These names must be noted for the purpose of any further research into the tile-making history in northern East Prussia.

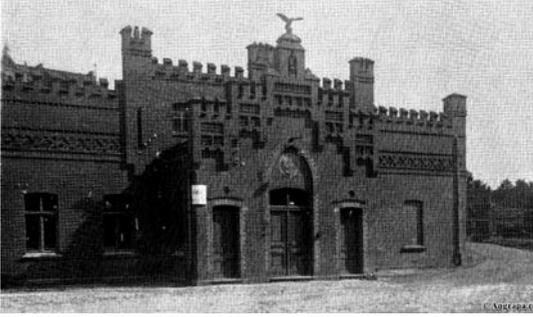
### Tile Manufacturing in Insterburg

According to the ceramics business directories of Insterburg and Germany, the tile-making business in the town of Insterburg started only at the end of the nineteenth century. Population wise, Insterburg was the same size as Tilsit before World War II, but the ceramics industry wasn't developed. Analysis of all the sources point to one factory run by the Gallmeister family as well as several tile merchants and tile stove makers who could have been producing tiles in small quantities.

Thus far, only internet sources returned results in relation to Friedrich Gallmeister's tile factory [fig. 15], which started to operate in the last third of the nineteenth century. This date is indicated on the photograph of the factory's office on Tunnelstraße 8.9<sup>150</sup> [fig. 16]. Though this statement is not supported by any documentary evidence, it is rather credible because records about the factory are found in the 1902 and 1906 ceramics business directories of Prussia and Germany. As a rule, the business directories

<sup>149</sup> The company Neumann Hermann & Sohn is also mentioned in 1942: *Amtliches Fernsprechbuch für den Reichspostdirektions bezirk Königsber (Pr.) 1942* (Königsberg, 1942), 457.

<sup>150</sup> <https://www.angrapa.ru/fotografii/redkie-snimki-insterburga-i-okrestnostej/ofenfabrik-friedrich-gallmeister-in-der-tunnelstrasse-insterburg-1169.html>.



16. Office of Gallmeister's factory in Insterburg: <https://www.angrapa.ru/fotografi/redkie-snimki-insterburga-i-okrestnostej/ofenfabrik-friedrich-gallmeister-in-der-tunnelstrasse-insterburg-1169.html>

Gallmeisterio fabriko Isrutyje kontora

listed companies that started their activity at least during the last quarter of the nineteenth century and qualified as major manufacturers. The directories briefly indicate that the Gallmeister factory manufactured white, brown, and green household stoves.<sup>151</sup>

Insterburg address books cover the period from 1914 to 1939. All confirm that the address of Gallmeister's factory, office, and shop was Tunnelstraße 8.9. The factory was also mentioned in the 1942 Königsberg region address book. According to the records, during the interwar period the factory owner was **Fritz Gallmeister**, yet other members of the family, including August, Paul, and Wolf Gallmeister, were also involved in the business as merchants or masters of ceramics (*Keramiker*).<sup>152</sup> The latter description is used in relation to Wolf Gallmeister in 1932 and 1934, although in 1939 he is already referred to as a merchant (*Kaufmann*) and is listed at a different address, that is, Wilhelmstraße 22.<sup>153</sup> The latest record of Fritz Gallmeister's business is found in the 1942 address book.<sup>154</sup> During the research it was learned that Svetlana Postnikova, the scientific secretary of the Kaliningrad Research Library, who is interested in the history of brick and tile factories in the region, had some stove and floor tiles with Insterburg factory's back-marks. Unfortunately, we were unable to obtain any samples of these significant items or the images of the back-marks from her.

<sup>151</sup> *Adreßbuch der keramischen Industrie [...] in Deutschland und Oesterreich-Ungarn mit allen Fabrikmarken* (1902), 267; *Adreßbuch der keramischen Industrie [...] in Deutschland und Oesterreich-Ungarn mit allen Fabrikmarken* (1906), 385.

<sup>152</sup> *Adreßbuch für Insterburg mit Abbauten* (1914): 130; (1919): 140; (1920): 159, 330; (1922): 169, 348, 360; *Einwohnerbuch für Insterburg mit Abbauten* (1928): 177, 398; (1932): 231, 457, 478; (1934): 250, 477, 495; (1939): 55.

<sup>153</sup> *Einwohnerbuch für Insterburg mit Abbauten* (1932): 231; (1934): 250; (1939): 55.

<sup>154</sup> *Amtliches Fernsprechbuch für den Reichspostdirektionsbezirk Königsberg (Pr) 1942* (Königsberg, 1942), 414.



17.

Julius Neumann's advertisement in the address book of Insterburg, 1922. *Adreßbuch für Insterburg mit Abbauten*, 1922, Insterburg: Druckerei und Verlagstalt G. m. b. H. (vorm. Quandel) 1922

Julijaus Neumanno reklaminiis skelbimas Įsruities adresų knygoje, 1922

Due to the absence of data about craftsmen and industrial manufacturers that operated in Insterburg in the nineteenth century, we cannot present information about the small-scale tile manufacturers of the period. All others, with the exception of the Gallmeisters, who are mentioned in the sources of the mid-twentieth century, were involved in the tile trade or stove building. Nevertheless, they are presented in this paper because the little information that we have about them doesn't warrant their elimination from the list of tile manufacturers. Struggling to compete with large businesses, small-scale manufacturers would take up different side businesses, for example, trading in their own or other manufacturers' products or building heating devices.

Among such small-scale manufacturers was the **Neumann** family, who included Julius Neumann, Julius Neumann Jr., and Richard Neumann. They are listed in the books from 1919 to 1942. Some of them are listed as master potters, others as stove builders.<sup>155</sup> It is yet hard to tell whether they used tiles of their own make or those produced by others to build stoves. The 1922 advertisement indicates that Julius Neumann built stoves and kitchen cookers [fig. 17]. From 1939 to 1942, the name of Julius Neumann Jr., along with the company name SUMMA, are listed next to the headline "tile stoves of prolonged burning."<sup>156</sup>

<sup>155</sup> *Adreßbuch für Insterburg mit Abbauten*, 1919 (Insterburg: Druckerei und Verlagstalt G. m. b. H. (vorm. Quandel)), (1918): 210; (1920): 241, 345; (1922): 254, 360, 367; *Einwohnerbuch für Insterburg mit Abbauten* (1928): 272, 273, 398, 408; (1932): 334, 478, 489; (1934): 353, 495, 506; (1939): 163; *Ortschafts- und Adreßverzeichnis des Landkreises Insterburg 1937* (Insterburg, 1937), II 150, III 25, 34; *Amtliches Fernsprechbuch für den Reichspostdirektions bezirk Königsber (Pr.) 1942* (Königsberg, 1942), 414.

<sup>156</sup> *Einwohnerbuch für Insterburg mit Abbauten* (1939): 163; *Amtliches Fernsprechbuch für den Reichspostdirektions bezirk Königsber (Pr.) 1942* (Königsberg, 1942).



18.

Master potter's Otto Schneidereit advertisement in the address book of Insterburg, 1932, *Einwohnerbuch für Insterburg mit Abbauten 1932*, Insterburg, 1932

Puodžiaus meistro Otto Schneidereito reklaminis skelbimas Įsruties adresų knygoje, 1932

The books from 1919 to 1942 have entries about two more master potters, **Max** and **Paul Strunskus**, yet the field of their specialization is not clear.<sup>157</sup> Like the Neumanns, they had a company. It was called TRIUMPF and traded in long-burning tile stoves. It is not yet clear if they also made tiles as a side business.

**Otto Schneidereit** is yet another master potter who, according to the records, operated in Insterburg during the interwar period. He claimed that he could perform “all sorts of stove-related work,”<sup>158</sup> and his office was at Spritzenstraße 12. Besides the lists in alphabetical order, the books of the 1920s and 1930s also contain advertisements offering, in addition to “all sorts of stove-related work,” repair services and the availability of “white, colorful, and fireclay stoves, ready-to-use mobile tile stoves, and cookers in the warehouse” [fig. 18].

### Tile Makers from Other Locations

To complete the paper, tile makers from other smaller towns in northern East Prussia who operated in the mid-twentieth century must be mentioned. The first on the list is master potter **Singelmann** of **Seckenburg**, Gumbinnen County (now Zapovednoje, Kaliningrad Oblast). The 1914 edition of *Königsberger allgemeine Zeitung* runs an ad that master potter Singelmann was seeking to employ diligent stove masons<sup>159</sup> [fig. 19].

<sup>157</sup> *Adreßbuch für Insterburg mit Abbauten, 1919* (Insterburg: Druckerei und Verlagstalt G. m. b. H. (vorm. Quandel), (1918): 258; (1920): 296, 345; (1922): 312, 367; *Einwohnerbuch für Insterburg mit Abbauten* (1928): 338, 398, 408; (1932): 404, 478, 489; (1934): 423, 495, 506; (1939): 238; *Ortschafts- und Adreßverzeichnis des Landkreises Insterburg 1937* (Insterburg, 1937), 221; *Ämtliches Fernsprechbuch für den Reichspostdirektionsbezirk Königsber (Pr.) 1942* (Königsberg, 1942), 457.

<sup>158</sup> *Adreßbuch für Insterburg mit Abbauten, 1919* (Insterburg: Druckerei und Verlagstalt G. m. b. H. (vorm. Quandel)), (1918), 243; (1920): 279, 345; (1922): 294, 367; *Einwohnerbuch für Insterburg mit Abbauten* (1928): 318, 319; (1932): 383, 478, 489; (1934): 402, 495, 506; (1939): 216; *Ortschafts- und Adreßverzeichnis des Landkreises Insterburg 1937* (Insterburg, 1937), 200.

<sup>159</sup> *Königsberger allgemeine Zeitung*, no. 393 (1914).



19. Master potter's Singelmann of Seckenburg, Gumbinnen County, advertisement, 1914, *Königsberger allgemeine Zeitung*, 1914, Nr. 393

Puodžiaus meistro Singelmanno iš Zekenburgo Gumbinės apygardoje reklaminiis skelbimas, 1914



20. Advertisement of Adolf Rattay's tile factory of Stallupönen, 1909, *Königsberger allgemeine Zeitung*, 1909, Nr. 499, 501, 503

Adolfo Rattay koklių fabriko Stalupėnuose reklaminiis skelbimas, 1909

This suggests that the potter made tiles and needed help to build stoves from his products. Unfortunately, there is no further information about Singelmann. Perhaps his business was interrupted by World War I.

**Adolf Rattay** ran a tile factory in **Stallupönen** (Lit: Stalupėnai; now Nesterov, Kaliningrad Oblast) until World War I. There is a short advertisement printed and reprinted three times in *Königsberger allgemeine Zeitung* in 1909.<sup>160</sup> The ad says that “Adolf Rattay, a stove manufacturer from Stallupönen, is looking to employ 2 diligent young stove masons immediately and for a longer period of time” [fig. 20]. Again, we can only presume that Rattay's tile manufacturing business was interrupted by World War I, as the interwar records do not mention any tile manufacturers in Stallupönen, only three brick factories and one machinery factory.<sup>161</sup>

There are some more details available about two other interwar factories from two different locations. One operated in **Norkitten**, in the county of Insterburg (Lit.: Narkyčiai; 20 km from Insterburg; now Mezhdurechye, Kaliningrad Oblast). According to the records, the factory operated in this location in the 1920s and belonged to **Walter Schubert**. This factory owner is also listed in the records and an advertisement in the 1922 address book of Insterburg, which says that a branch of Narkyčiai tile factory was opened at Markgrafenplatz 5 I.<sup>162</sup> It seems, though, that the branch

<sup>160</sup> *Königsberger allgemeine Zeitung*, no. 499, 501, 503 (1909).

<sup>161</sup> Albertas Juška, „Stalupėnai“ [Stallupönen], in *Visuotinė lietuvių enciklopedija* [Universal Lithuanian Encyclopedia], [interactive; seen on 08-02-2020]; <https://www.vle.lt/straipsnis/stalupenai/>; Vasilijus Safronovas, „Stalupėnai“ [Stallupönen], in *Mažosios Lietuvos enciklopedija* [Encyclopaedia of Lithuania Minor], [interactive; seen on 20-05-2021]; <https://www.mle.lt/straipsniai/stalupenai>.

<sup>162</sup> *Adreßbuch für Insterburg mit Abbauten, 1922* (Insterburg: Druckerei und Verlagstalt G. m. b. H. (vorm. Quandel)) (1922): 257, 297, 360.



21. Ashtray with the advertising inscription of the Krause brothers' tile factory from the Norwilksichken village of the Szillen settlement, <https://arsvia.lt/164-pelenine/>  
Brolių Krause koklių fabriko Žilių gyvenvietės Norvilkiškių kaime peleninė su reklaminiu užrašu

in Insterburg was opened as a shop, not as a manufacturing site. There are a few more ads about Walter Schubert as the owner of the Narkyčiai tile factory that date back to 1924.<sup>163</sup>

Finally, the **Krause** brothers' tile factory in **Norwilksichken**, (Lit: Norvilkiškės) a village of the Szillen settlement (Lit.: Žiliai, now Stanovoje, Kaliningrad Oblast). The website of auctioneers ARS VIA featured a factory ashtray with the following inscription [fig. 21] GEBR. KRAUSE-OFENFABRIK· G.M.B.H·NORWILKISCHKENB. SZILLEN. The inscription also indicated that the factory operated from 1920 to 1936.<sup>164</sup> The East Prussia Picture Library has in its files an ad of the factory indicating the period of operation from 1922 to 1933.<sup>165</sup> After the analysis of other sources, the period of operation can be extended until the early 1940s, as in 1940 *Memeler Dampfboot*, a daily of Memel (now Klaipėda), ran an ad of the factory offering stove tiles<sup>166</sup> [fig. 22]. Moreover, the manufacturers were also mentioned in the 1942 edition of the address book of Königsberg and its region.<sup>167</sup>

<sup>163</sup> "Norkitten", [interactive; seen on 29-01-2021]: [http://genwiki.genealogy.net/Norkitten; Ortschafts- und Adreßverzeichnis des Landkreises Insterburg 1927](http://genwiki.genealogy.net/Norkitten;Ortschafts- und Adreßverzeichnis des Landkreises Insterburg 1927) (Isterburg, 1927), 43.

<sup>164</sup> [interactive; seen on 12-10-2019]: <https://arsvia.lt/164-pelenine/>.

<sup>165</sup> *Bildarchiv Ostpreußen*, [interactive; seen on 2021-06-04]: <https://www.bildarchiv-ostpreussen.de/suche/index.html.de?qp=searchtext%3D10%3AOfenfabrikmode%3D1%3Af#!start=13>.

<sup>166</sup> Advertisement of the Krause brothers' tile factory, *Memeler Dampfboot*, no. 120 (1940).

The information has been published earlier by the author of this paper. See: Klajumienė, „Koklių pasiūla ir gamintojai Klaipėdos krašte XIX a. antroje pusėje – XX a. pirmoje pusėje“, 27–61.

<sup>167</sup> *Amtliches Fernsprechbuch für den Reichspostdirektions bezirk Königsber (Pr) 1942*, (Königsberg, 1942), 414.



22.

Advertisement of Krause brothers' tile factory, 1940,  
*Memeler Dampfboot*, 1940. Nr. 120

Broliq Krause kokliq fabriko reklaminiš skelbimas,  
1940

### Conclusions

Analysis of specific sources, that is, address books and advertisements in periodicals, enabled identification of quite a few smaller or larger scale tile makers who operated in the northern part of East Prussia in the nineteenth and mid-twentieth centuries. As many as 25 of them were identified in the Königsberg area alone: 10 craftsmen's workshops and 15 factories, part of them mentioned in the directories for a few years only. Eight establishments were identified in Tilsit (four factories and four tile-related business operators), four in Insterburg (one factory and three trading or stove building establishments that may have been making tiles). One factory each was identified in Zekenburg, Gumbinnen County; Norkitten, Insterburg County; and Norwilischken village of the Szillen settlement.

Given the lack of information about the capacity and distribution area of individual factories, we can only state that products of at least some of them were known and appreciated all over East Prussia. Evidence of that is found in the 1902 and 1906 ceramics business directories of Germany, where some factories are listed. Among them there are the two largest and longest-running factories of Königsberg: the first one was established by Jacob Wessely in 1819, then taken over by the Kültzau family and other successors who ran the business until the beginning of the twentieth century. The other was established by Th. E. Kugel, but the business was rolled out and the quality of products consolidated by Rudolf Boy. Later, from the end of the nineteenth until the mid-twentieth century, the factory was run by Wilhelm Bonn. One factory from Tilsit (owner Luis Wiegand) and another

from Insterburg (owner Friedrich Gallmeister) were also listed in the business directory of German companies.

It is likely that the information about large and small tile makers will enable researchers in the future to identify the production heritage of these factories, including tiles, architectural decor element, functional equipment, etc. Up until now, this heritage is very little known to us.

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Santrauka

## Istoriniai duomenys apie koklių gamintojus šiaurinėje Rytų Prūsijoje XIX a. – XX a. pirmoje pusėje

Dalia Klajumienė

*Reikšminiai žodžiai:* Rytų Prūsija, kokliai, koklių fabrikai, koklių dirbtuvės, keramikos pramonė.

Straipsnyje, didžia dalimi remiantis XIX a. – XX a. pirmos pusės Karaliaučiaus, Tilžės, Įsruties, Gumbinės ir jų apylinkių adresų knygomis ir žinutėmis periodinėje spaudoje, analizuojama Rytų Prūsijos šiaurinės dalies XIX a. – XX a. pirmos pusės koklių gamintojų istorija. Ypač išsamų vaizdą pavyko susidaryti apie Karaliaučiaus koklių fabrikų istorinę raidą ir savininkų kaitą, kadangi išliko didžioji dalis 1820–1942 m. laikotarpiu išleistų adresų knygų, kuriose galima rasti ne tik gyventojų pavardes ir adresus, bet ir duomenis apie miestiečių profesinę veiklą. Be to, adresų knygos visada buvo papildomos įmonių reklaminiiais skelbimais, kuriuose labai dažnai užsimenama apie gamintos produkcijos pobūdį.

Pavyko išaiškinti nemažai didesnių ir mažesnių regiono XIX a. – XX a. pirmos pusės koklių gamintojų. Karaliaučiuje minimu laikotarpiu jų įvardyta 25, iš jų 10 amatininkų dirbtuvių ir 15 fabrikų, kurių dalis minėti vos po kelerius metus. Tilžėje tokių įmonių išaiškinta 8 (iš jų 4 fabrikai ir 4 kitokio pobūdžio giminingos įmonės), Įsrutyje – 4 (iš jų 1 fabrikas ir 3 prekybos bei krosnių statybos įmonės, galimai gaminusios ir koklius). Taip pat nustatyta po vieną fabriką, veikusį Zekenburge Gumbinės apygardoje, Narkyčiuose Įsručio apskrityje bei Žilių gyvenvietės Norvilkiškių kaime.

Kol iki galo nežinomi konkrečių fabrikų pajėgumai ir kiek plačiai buvo platinama jų produkcija, galime tik teigti, kad bent jau dalis jų tikrai buvo žinomi ir vertinami visoje Rytų Prūsijoje. Kai kurių fabrikų žinomumą patvirtina ir jų paminėjimas 1902 m., 1906 m. Vokietijos keramikos įmonių

adresų knygoje. Tarp tokių yra du didžiausi ir ilgiausiai veikę Karaliaučiuje: pirmasis – Jacobo Wesselio 1819 m. įkurtas ir iki XX a. pradžios jo verslo perėmėjų Kültzau ir kitų valdytas fabrikas ir antrasis – jo įkūrėjas Th. E. Kugelis, o veiklos išplėtotojas ir produkcijos kokybės įtvirtintojas Rudolfas Boy bei XIX a. pabaigos – XX a. pirmos pusės fabriko savininkas Vilhelmas Bonnas. Vokietijos fabrikų gretoje vietą rado ir po vieną Tilžės (savininkas Luisas Wiegandas) bei Įsručio (savininkas Friedrichas Gallmeisteris) fabriką.

Išaiškinta didesnių ir mažesnių gamintojų gausa, tikėtina, leis ateities tyrimuose identifikuoti ir gamintos produkcijos paveldą (koklius, koklines krosnis, architektūros puošmenas, funkcinę įrangą ir kt.), kuris iki šiol labai menkai žinomas.