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The Genealogical Significance of Old Photos and Postcards
L'importance généalogique des photos vielles et des cartes postales.

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Summary
Many descendants of emigrants inherited photos, letters, and documents which they are unable to associate with any particular relative. In fact, photos provide us with important information concerning family histories. By deciphering the writing on the back of a photo and the name and location of the photo studio or by determining family resemblances, it is very often possible to identify relatives. Addresses and greetings on postcards also can determine relatives, or can provide details about their life, like education, military service, business travel or love relations. Postmarks provide the place names which are absolutely necessary for any research.

Résumé
Beaucoup de descendants d'émigrants ont hérité des photos, des lettres et des documents qu'ils ne sont pas capable d'associer à une personne particulière. En réalité, ces photos nous donnent des informations importantes concernant l'histoire des familles. En déchiffrant l'écriture sur le dos des photos et le nom et l'endroit du studio du photographe ou bien en étudiant les ressemblances familiales il est très souvent possible d'identifier un parent. Les adresses et les voeux sur les cartes postales permettent également d'identifier des parents ou peuvent fournir des détails sur leur vie, comme l'éducation, le service militaire, les voyages d'affaires ou les relations amoureuses. Les cachets postaux nous donnent les noms des villes, ce qui est absolument indispensable pour toute recherche.

The Genealogical Significance of Old Photos and Postcards

This lecture is about old photos and postcards. We will see what a surprising wealth of information postcards can give about our ancestors and their life. And we will see how people in photos can be identified. To explain all that we need examples. We take them from a privately owned collection. Photos and postcards are from Germany from 1910 to 1930.

It was one of the success stories of JewishGen. In 1982 and again in November 1997 Edie Abrams posted the question on the GerSIG website: „Does anybody know anything about my grandmother Else Ottemberg née Isaak? All I know is that my father Robert Horst Ottemberg was born in Bayreuth, Germany."

At that time I had been conducting research on the history of the Jews in Bayreuth for about seven years. I sent Edie Abrams the data I had compiled until then. From files in the City Archive of Bayreuth I knew of various business registrations in the 1920s—not only of Else Ottemberg and her husband Maurice, but also of two brothers of Else, Richard and Walter, who must have been twins, and their mother Frieda Isaak. The *Grundbuch* or register of real estate at the Regional Court documented two properties, which the five owned together. An extraordinary and expensive advertisement in the city directory of 1920 supplied information about the Upper Franconian Machinery Centre Richard Isaak situated in the city center, offering agricultural machines and engines for gas, petrol, benzol and electricity en gros and en detail. And there was the gravestone of Frieda Isaak on the Jewish cemetery of Bayreuth. Some of the letters and digits were fallen down.

> Frieda Isaak née Fleischmann
> 26 Jan 1872 Oberlangenstadt – 10 Mar 1936 Bayreuth
> Jewish Cemetery Bayreuth (Nov. 1998)

After ordering birth and marriage certificates at the office for vital records, i.e. the Standesamt Oberlangenstadt (nowadays Küps, county of Kronach), supplemental infortmation could be added to the family tree. An article about Jews of Mehren, the birth place of Else, Richard and Walter, provided further data. Frieda Fleischmann had married the cattle trader Isaak Isaak in 1896. After 1875—the year when the offices for vital records in the German Reich were established—three siblings of Frieda were born: Pauline in 1877, Leo in 1880 and Nathan in 1883.

When Edie Abrams came to Bayreuth for the first time in 2003, she brought with her that bunch of photos and postcards that we are now going to take as examples: the Ottemberg Collection.

Before we begin with the postcards, let me show you which area of the globe I will take you to. [Map of Germany "between" Paris and Praha in several versions showing Bavaria, Franconia et cetera]

Part **A. Postcards**

Let us see what features German postcards from 1910 to 1930 had. Although many buyers spend quite some time on choosing the postcard—usually they want to send a nice one—the front side or **recto** has only very view features or criteria :

– The image can be in polychrome or in so-called black-and-white, which is in fact greyscale.
– The place name of the image can be given.
– Buildings shown in the recto can narrow down the dating, "When were they built?"
– Until the 1920s it was very common to send photos of oneself or the family photographed in a studio as postcards. The photo paper was thicker than usual and had fields for the address and the stamp printed on it.

The **verso**, however, is certainly more interesting.

In our example the sender had written the text in Hamburg on „31 Jul 1912", but the date stamp says he posted it in Duisburg, in the city district Ruhrort. Behind the date „31.7.12" we see a „8-9 N". N stands here for *Nachmittag*, afternoon. It means the card was post-marked between 8 and 9 p.m.

The writer or sender turned the card around to add his home address.

L. Isaac
D. Ruhrort
Elisenstr. 23

Thanks to the postmark we know what the abbreviated D. stands for. Otherwise we would not have a clue.

The postage stamp can be important for undated postcards. We shall return to this feature. For now we note: the stamp was issued by the German Empire, the value is 5 Pfennig or 0,05 Mark, and it shows a figure called Germania.

The recipient is addressed "Fräulein, mademoiselle or Miss" (not Mrs). Therefore she is unmarried and the surname is her maiden name.

The spelling of the surname is Isaa<u>c</u>, whereas Else herself spelled her name Isaa<u>k</u> (according to many documents).

The address „Hotel Eisenheimer in Würzburg" could mean she stayed there as a guest or she worked there.

The writer ended with „empfange die Grüße Deines Vetters", "receive the greetings of your cousin" and he signed with Leo.

Excursion to Kinship Terminology

The English word *cousin* could stand for eight different types of kinship relation, not to mention the cousins of 2nd, 3rd on so on grade with and without the criteria 'removed'.

mother-brother-son	MBS	mother-brother-daughter	MBD
mother-sister-son	MZS	mother-sister-daughter	MZD
father-brother-son	FBS	father-brother-daughter	FBD
father-sister-son	FZS	father-sister-daughter	FZD

The German word *Vetter*—in modern German only the French word *Cousin* is used anymore––can mean only four types of cousin: male ones on the mother's side or on the father's side.

Socio-anthropology, in French «éthnologie», knows at least four systems of abbreviations in kinship terminology or abréviations de terminologie de parenté:

	example	appr.
US-American	mother-sister-son	MZS
British	mother-sister-son	MoSiSo
German	Mutter-Schwester-Sohn	MuSwSo
French	fils de la soeur de la mère	FSM

The advantage of the US-American system is clearly the shortness. Because, however, son and sister start with the same letter, sister is appreviated by Z like zulu.

The French system is as short as the US-American. However it is even more complicated. Here *frère*, *fils*, *fille* and *femme* (brother, son, daughter and wife) start with the same letter. Thus the abbreviations are:

F = frère   I = fils   L = fille   W = femme

Because of the possessive «*d e*», the letters are reversed compared to German and English.

We are returning to Leo Isaac's postcard. Because writer and recipient have the same surname it is evident that they are 1st cousins. The kinship relation is:

Leo Isaac is Else's FBS (father-brother-son) or in French: un fils du frère du père = IFP

The next example of a postcard shows Böttcher's hotel, owned by the brothers Herrfurth, telephone no. 12. But neither on recto nor on verso is the place name mentioned. The date stamp is incomplete because the postage stamp was removed. The place name starts with Pö (p and umlaut o). But at the left edge on verso we find the words:

"Photogr. und Verlag: M. Stumpfe, Neustadt (Orla)."
In English:
"Photographer and publisher: M. Stumpfe in Neustadt upon Orla."
In French:
«Photographeur et éditeur: M. Stumpfe en Neustadt sur Orla.»

This feature together with the beginning of the place of dispatch makes it possible to find the full name of the latter. Until recently we would have used an atlas of Germany. We would have searched the Neustadt upon Orla area for a fitting place name. Nowadays we just insert "Neustadt Orla Pö" in the search field of a search engine and we will get the result very quick and easily. As soon we have typed the ö, we learn the postcard was sent from Pösneck.

The last feature of postcards is the most important one: the **written text**. It can contain a whole world of information and data.

Several features together give the **context** by which we can determine the year of this postcard from Pösneck. From the date stamp we know that the card was mailed on a 4th of July, but the year disappeared with the postage stamp. Leo, the brother of recipient Frieda Isaak, writes to her:

"Concerning business I cannot tell you the result until I have sold the remaining 40 meters [probably square meters] of estates. Your brother Leo."

Among the 82 postcards of the Ottemberg collection, 15 were sent to Nibelungenstrasse in Bayreuth between January 1917 and September 1919.

From the birth certificates purchased at the office for vital records Standesamt Oberlangenstadt we know that this Leo Fleischmann was born in April 1880. During World War I he was 34 to 38 years old and therefore in the war. The written text reveals that the

writer Leo is no longer a soldier, but rather a businessman or somebody who sells land. Therefore the card couldn't have been sent on 4th July 1917 or 1918. The 4th July 1919 is the only possibility.

Comparison of Handwritings and Spelling

If you have several card writers with the same first name, but without surnames, compare the handwriting. In our example there is a Leo who wrote the capital L with a loop at the bottom and ended the o with a long horizontal line. With Leo 2 the loop is small, mostly vanished. He underlines his name. Leo 3 adds a shiplike arc underneath his name. This line intersects the o, so this *Leo* can be misread as *Lexy*. Characteristic is the capital E in Else. The one of Leo 1 and Leo 2 are clearly distinguishable as is the spelling. Leo 1 wrote first *Isaak*, later Isaac, whereas Leo 2 wrote Elsa Isak or Elsa Isak II. All three Leos are identifiable. Leo 1 is Else's FBS Leo Isaac (see above), Leo 2 left his surname in one of the cards: Leo Löwenthal. And Leo 3 is Else's MB Leo Fleischmann.

The Handling of Postcards

I recommend two steps for dealing with your postcards.

1. Arrange your postcards **in chronological order**.

2. Produce a **database**, a table in your word processing program or spreadsheet program. The database fields or column headings are all the features you find on both sides of a postcard.

Let us list all the features we have found.

col	field name / feature	example
01	morphology of recto	city hall Hamburg, polychrome, upright
02	date 1 or written date	31 Jul 1912
03	place of writing	Hamburg
04	date 2, of date stamp	31 Jul 1912 08-09 PM
05	mailing place (acc. to date stamp)	Duisburg-Ruhrort
06	sender	Leo Isaac
07	sender's address	Duisburg-Ruhrort, Elisenstr. 23
08	sender's gender	male
09	postage stamp	5 Pfennig Germania Deutsches Reich
10	recipient is adressed as...	Fräulein
11	family status	unmarried
12	recipient's gender	female
13	recipient's first name	Else
14	recipient's surname	Isaac [Isaak]
15	recipient's adress	Hotel Eisenheimer, Würzburg/Bayern, Glockengasse

col	field name / feature	example
16	Transcript	Von Deiner Mutter hatte Deine Adresse erhalten, wußte sonst gar nicht wo du nun stecktest. Bin augenblicklich hier in Hamburg war in Nordschleswig zum Einkauf. Wie geht es Dir denn? Du wirst wohl tüchtig gewachsen sein. Hättest mir aber doch mal eine Karte schreiben können, daß du von zuhause fort bist. Für heute empfange die herzl. Grüße Deines Vetters Leo
17	translation	From your mother received your address, wouldn't have known at all where you are now. Am at the moment in Hamburg, was in Nordschleswig [North Sleswick, Dansk: Nordslesvig] for purchasing. You have surely grown a lot. Could have written a postcard to me, saying that you have left home. For today receive the cordial greetings of your cousin Leo.
18	relation (recipient to writer)	FBS
19	remarks	spells surname Isaac; "You have surely grown a lot" sounds as if he is addressing a child, he is 19 d 8 mo 14 y older than Else; source: Juedische Gefallene WWI: b. 03 Dec 1883 in Mehren, d. 25 Oct 1914;

Dating of Postcards by Postage Stamps

Postage stamps can help to narrow down the area of posting and the time of mailing. While analyzing the Ottemberg Collection it is striking that there are only two types of stamps: issued by the German Empire and issued by Bavaria. Indeed, Bavaria was the only member state of the 2nd German Reich, established in Versailles in January 1871, that had reserved the right to have its own mail. The postage revenue went to Munich, not to Berlin.

Above we had learned that the figure of the 5 Pfennig stamp of the German Empire was the Germania. This name is important for finding information on the internet. At first the stamps from 1871 on bore the mark „Reichspost" (Empire Mail), later the mark „Deutsches Reich". During and after World War I the Germania was overprinted with various writings. These marks allow us to narrow down the time of their use to a few years. During the German occupation of Belgium, the Germania was overprinted „Belgien" in German, but underneath the value was given in French, in centimes. Vice versa: when the Saarland was occupied after the war by French troops the Germania was overprinted «Sarre», the French name for Saarland. The words *Deutsches Reich* however were blackened out.

In 1919 one of the early semi-postal stamps, also known as a charity stamp [timbre de bienfaisance ou timbre à surtaxe] was issued by the German state. Two Germania stamps were

overprinted „5 Pf für Kriegsbeschädigte". The buyers donated five Pfennig for disabled veterans [pour des invalides de guerre].

Other German empire Germania issues were overprinted for use in the plebiscite areas according to the Treaty of Versailles. In our example the overprints are neat double ring ovals with «Commission d'Administration et de Plébiscite» (Commission of Administration and Plebiscite) at the top and «Olszstyn - Allenstein» at the bottom. Inside the inner oval is «Traité de Versailles Art. 94 et 95». Olsztyn is Polish for German Allenstein, for the Allenstein district in East Prussia was a plebiscite planned by the Versailles Treaty. The plebiscite was to decide whether the district would join Poland or Germany and was held on 11 Jul 1920 (dates are inconsistent). So this allows us to date an undated postcard more or less exactly.

One of the most common **Bavarian stamps** shows Prince Regent Luitpold. He reigned from 1886 until his death in 1912. The stamps were issued for his 90th birthday on 12 Mar 1911 and were in use until early 1914.

Luitpold's successor was King Ludwig III (7 Jan 1845 – 18 Oct 1921), who reigned from 1913 to 1918.

The first example of an overprint here is a Ludwig III stamp overprinted „Volksstaat Bayern" or "People's State of Bavaria". The Bavarian Socialist Republic lasted only a short period: from 06 Apr to May 1919.

The overprinting of the Germania „Freistaat Bayern" or "Free State of Bavaria" was in use between May and September of 1919.

In April 1920, Bavaria became a member state of the Weimar Republic, and the current Bavarian stamps were overprinted „Deutsches Reich", for use throughout Germany.

The brown stamp on top is another example for plebiscite area stamps after World War I. The words on this 2 Mark stamp say: «COMMISSION DE GOUVERNEMENT», Commission of the Government of Upper Silesia. To the left is the German OBER-SCHLESIEN, opposite is the Polish name GORNY-SLASK and the French HAUTE SILÉSIE at the bottom. The Upper Silesia plebiscite mandated by the Versailles Treaty was carried out in March 1921.

The hyperinflation in the Weimar Republic between June 1921 and January 1924 was so dramatic that it should be possible to determine the date by a few days. The examples show a 100,000 Mark stamp postmarked on 15 Sep 1923 to the left. Still in 1923: the price for stamps was several millions. And finally „20 Milliarden" means in the English short scale 20 billion Marks or 20 to the ninth.

Part **B. Photos**

Very few photos carry the name of the photographed person like this one. Not only the name of the little girl is noted at the bottom right on recto: in addition, a note on verso says: "I am Seddy Böhm from Oberlangenstadt". The next example is ideal. This young man even dated his photo on verso. Maurice Ottemberg wrote: "Dedicated by M. Ottemberg. Erfurt, 24 Jul 1920".

Most of the time no names are noted in photos. However, until the 1920s or even 1930s photos were glued to cards, on which the studio name was printed. The man on the next example was photographed by H. Engelbrecht in Bayreuth. We will see that the place name can be the key to identifying the photographed persons.

The next photo was taken in Kronach. It shows Frieda and Isaak Isaak. This is very likely their wedding picture. After the ceremony in the synagogue in Oberlangenstadt in October 1896 the wedding party might have gone to the closest larger town where a photo studio existed—in this case to Kronach. On one of the following days the couple travelled all the long way through Germany to live at Isaaks place, in Mehren in the Westerwald. This is a distance of 310 km or 194 miles, the walking time alone would be 2 days and 17 hours. Since the German rail network was completed by 1894 they presumably spent the money on a rail journey. Today this trip would take 11 hours by modern trains or about 4 hours by car. It was quite a distance at the end of the 19th century.

Some years later the Isaak family were photographed in Mehren: from left to right: Richard, Frieda, Else, Isaak and Walter. In September 1911 Isaak Isaak II died and Frieda and the children aged 14 and 12 moved back to Upper Franconia.

Other photos attracted my attention. It seemed they showed sisters of Frieda. The resemblance seemed striking to me. One photo showed a couple in a studio in Aschaffenburg, another a couple in a studio in Lichtenfels. In a third photo two ladies stared into the camera, one standing, one sitting. Both had umbrellas, holding them like walking sticks. The one standing wore a massive hat and a long fur over her shoulders. The woman sitting wore a hat with a feather. An imprint on verso says the photo was taken in Bad Kissingen.

This map shows the places where the photos were taken.

While analyzing the photos, I realized that the fur from Bad Kissingen looked definitively alike the one in the Lichtenfels photo.I gathered the faces onto one image. The round shape of the faces of all ladies was evident. An old lady (No. 9) turned out to be old-aged Frieda. The lady sitting in Bad Kissingen (No. 2b) could have been her as well.

If the other two or three ladies were sisters of Frieda Isaak née Fleischmann—who were they? Let us look again at the family tree in the version after my contact with Edie Abrams and after further research. Since then we learned of the existence of one of Frieda sisters: Pauline born in 1877. But there was no hint as to the location of the studios. Between Frieda and Pauline another sister could have been born in 1874 or 1875. Of course Frieda could have had an elder sister.

There was another photo taken in Aschaffenburg: a young man in uniform, his left arm in a bandage.

I searched for published books on Jewish history for the above-mentioned places. For Aschaffenburg I found the "Biographical Handbook of the Jews in the City and the Old County of Aschaffenburg" by Peter Körner[1] published in 1993. On the basis of Inhabitant Registry records Körner not only lists the Jews of Aschaffenburg, but also of three other places in the old county. Among those is Hösbach, about 5 km or 3 miles outside Aschaffenburg. Here in the chapter Hösbach I could indeed find a woman whose maiden name was Fleischmann and who was born in Oberlangenstadt. She was the wife of Ferdinand L ö w e n t h a l. The entry says:

> **Berta née Fleischmann**
> Israelite, born 23 Jul 1870 Oberlangenstadt/Upper Franconia, married
> registered [as inhabitant of Hösbach]: since birth [that of course is false], *address in Hösbach*
> unregistered: 04 Sep 1938, moving to Amsterdam (Netherlands)

The same emigration dates are given for her husband Ferdinand. Their children are also listed as follows:

– Leo Löwenthal, born in Hösbach on 08 Jun 1893. He moved to Saarbrücken/Saarland, later to Luxembourg.

– Selma, born 16 Apr 1901 in Hösbach, married name Cahn, also moved to Saarbrücken and later to Luxembourg

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1 Körner, Peter. Biographisches Handbuch der Juden in Stadt und Altkreis Aschaffenburg. (Veröffentlichungen des Geschichts- und Kunstvereins Aschaffenburg e.V. 39). Aschaffenburg 1993.

– Sigmund, born in 1906, who moved to Aschaffenburg in 1938, from there to Saarbrücken and later to Luxembourg too. He is married to Sitti or Side née Meier. They had a daughter Marion, born in 1937.

Above Ferdinand Löwenthal is a single person listed:

– Josef Löwenthal, tradesman, Jewish, born in 1904, emigrated on 31 Dec 1936 to the Netherlands.

Later we will see that this Josef is a son of Ferdinand and Berta as well. We will come back to the emigration.

In this way the couple in the photo taken in Aschaffenburg was identified as Berta and Ferdinand Löwenthal.

His name was already known to us by the marriage certificate of Frieda Fleischmann and Isaak Isaak. He was the first of the two witnesses. The certificate says:

As witness had appeared: the livestock trader Ferdinand Löwenthal, personally known, thirty years old, resident in Hössbach.

Because of this misspelling—it is Hösbach, not Höss- or Hößbach—the place had not yet been identified. Born on 15 Nov 1866 according to Körner's book, Ferdinand Löwenthal was indeed 30 years old at the time of the wedding in 1896.

What about the other photo taken in Aschaffenburg, showing a young man in uniform? Leo Löwenthal was known to us from the postcards. He wrote to Else in 1915 and 1917. Born in June 1893 he was 21 years old at the beginning of World War I, his brothers were only 10 and 8. Thus on the photo it must be him.

The first postcard he had sent was from Gent/Belgium on 23 Jun 1915. He addressed it to: "Else Isak c/o Pauline Sündermann in Bayreuth". He asked Else: "Please pass on my greetings to Aunt Paula". By that this aunt could be identified as Pauline Fleischmann, born in Oberlangenstadt on 29 Jul 1877, known from the birth certificate of the Standesamt (vital record office).

In fact Pauline Sündermann had been known to me from my research concerning the Jewish history of Bayreuth. She was married to Rafael Sündermann, cattle trader from Gerolzhofen. There their two children Selma and Siegfried were born. We will come to the Sündermanns later.

Because of the emigration information about Berta and Ferdinand Löwenthal, mentioned in the book by Peter Körner, I visited the website "Digital Monument to the Jewish Community in the Netherlands" at www.joodsmonument.nl. Here I found both of them together with their son [sic!] Josef Löwenthal. They lived at Bischboschstraat 42 huis in Amsterdam. I wrote to the institution which runs the website. To my surprise I received copies of the inhabitant registry cards from the City Archive of Amsterdam.

Good news: Berta Löwenthal was not deported or murdered. The entry "Overleden te Asd op 31 Dec 42" means that she died in Amsterdam on 31 Dec 1938. From Hösbach, they had moved to Amsterdam on 08 Sep 1938 first to Biesboschstraat 11 and 21 days later to no. 42.

The registry card of Leo Löwenthal reveals that he had married Gerda Kahn from Heusweiler/Germany: they had two sons.

> Kahn Gerda
> 11 May 06 in Heusweiler D1 [Deutschland]
> resid. addresses/Gemmente en adres:
> moving from: Godbringen Lux [Luxembourg]
> 19 Aug 36 ASD [Amsterdam] Biesboschstr 11 hs
> 29 Sep 38 Biesboschstr 42 1h
> 28 Aug 41 PB 10571
> 12 Jul 43 Duitschland
> children/kinderen:
> Löwenthal, Fred, b. 30 Jun 31 te Saarbrücken Dl
> Bertold 8 Oct 35 te Luxemburg Lux

The entry on top, however, "Overleden te Gleiwitz op 18 Jan. 45" means that Leo Löwenthal died in Gleiwitz, a sub camp of Auschwitz.

Photo of Two Children in a Studio in Bayreuth

Another photo taken in Bayreuth shows two children in a studio: a girl about 7 years old, standing, and a boy about 5 years old sitting on a children's table. Typical for the time before World War I, he wears a sailor suit. I assumed that the two could be Pauline Sündermann's children Selma (born 1906 in Gerolzhofen) and Siegfried (born 1907 in Gerolzhofen), but there was no evidence for that for a long time. The distance of age would match the photo. According to the age of Selma and Siegfried the photo was taken about 1914. Since the records of the Einwohnermeldeamt (inhabitants register office) of Bayreuth were distroyed during World War II it was not possible to determine, when the family moved to Bayreuth. However, there are two postcards in the Ottemberg collection with which the time of the

move to Bayreuth can be narrowed down. Frieda Isaak wrote a card from Schweinfurt to her daughter Else on 30 Jun 1913. She was on the way from Bad Kissingen to Gerolzhofen. This is a clear indication that the Sündermanns still lived there. The other postcard was sent by Rafael Sündermann to Else in November 1914, mentioning that he had been in Liège since the 26th August with the German reserve forces Landsturm Bataillon Bayreuth, 2nd Company. That means that during the mobilisation in July 1914, he must already have lived in Bayreuth.[2]

In 2011 I received more photos from the Ottemberg collection. There was a group photo among them taken at the wedding of Siegfried Sündermann in Haigerloch in 1937. Another one showed Pauline and Rafael Sündermann together with Else Ottemberg's son Robert. Yet another one was a portrait of Selma Sündermann taken in Bayreuth. Now it was possible to compare photos of the adult siblings Siegfried and Selma with the one of the two unknown children from Bayreuth. A characteristic of Selma is an introverted look. One of Siegfried's is the shape of his eye lids. Another picture in this lecture shows a comparison of six photos, including four of Siegfried Sündermann between 1927 and the 1950s with the one from Bayreuth and one of a baby taken in Gerolzhofen. Can the characteristic shape of eye lids be recognized even on the baby?

It would be interesting to discuss the comparisons with an expert. For example, police forces concerned with missing children use special facial recognition programs in order to have an idea what the children would look like after some years after disappearing. Since 2011 the US-company Facebook uses a recognition program by which all the millions of photos uploaded at facebook.com are analyzed in order to identify people. It is not the time and the place to discuss the very important question "Should a commercial company be allowed to do so and what further questions are implied here?". The point is, if those programs exist, computer scientists must have known the criteria for comparing and artificially aging faces.

We still did not know who the couple on the photo taken in Lichtenfels was. We were convinced that the lady was a née Fleischmann from Oberlangenstadt and identical with the

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2   According to a survey concerning the participation of Jewish citizens in World War I Rafael Sünderman
     was not a volunteer, but drafted on 18 Aug 1914 (Korrespondenz des Rabbiners Dr. Salomon mit dem
     „Ausschuss für Kriegsstatistik" und Militärdienstkartei Bayreuther jüdischer Soldaten 1919-1937", Central
     Archives for the History of the Jewish People, Jerusalem, D/Ba28/193)

lady wearing a fur on the photo taken in Bad Kissingen. Here the wedding photo of Haigerloch 1973 helped as well. Sitting to the right of the groom are his parents, Pauline and Rafael Sündermann. A comparison of the photos from the late 1930s and the one from Lichtenfels proves that the latter shows Pauline and Rafael Sündermann when they were young. Presumably it was taken on the day of their wedding.

Photo postcards

I mentioned above that it was very common to send photos of oneself or of the family as postcards. Here is another example. Five young ladies and two men are on recto. The words on verso are:

> Best greeting Nathan
> Cordial greetings to all of you

[signed by:]
> [S. or] G. Liebermann
> H. Lang
> Ad. Ruff

The postcard was sent from Bamberg on a 14th of January. By extreme magnification a horizontal line in the date stamp becomes visible where the digits for the year are. Digit 2 is the only one having such a line. Since the stamp was issued on 12 Mar 1911 and was only in use until 1914, the year of mailing can only be 1912. – Who is that Nathan? We know from the birth certificate of a brother of Frieda: Nathan Fleischmann, born in 1883. He was 29 years old in 1912, which matches the photo. According to what we have learned about family resemblance, Nathan must be the man in the centre of the photo postcard.

It is striking how many soldiers are on photo postcards. In fact, business for studios was booming in 1914/15. Karl Strauß on the next photo writes on 20 Dec 1914 to his Aunt Babette from „Lager Grafenwöhr", or as the GIs pronounce it nowadays: from Graf. It is nowadays the third largest NATO military training area in Europe. Karl Strauß wrote that he had been planing to write to his aunt for a long time, but he wanted to wait until his photo was finished. "At present it is not a perspective that I will send somewhere else", he continued. "I will thank God if I can stay here." In fact, he survived World War I.

The last example shows a lady sitting on a chair surrounded by two adolescent men and a young lady. This photo postcard was sent from Nuremberg on 21 Nov 1916. The signature of the writer in verso could be Emma. Not all the words of the text are decipherable. But by the style, the content, the context, by publications in print and on the internet it was possible to identify all four as Emma Fleischmann and three of her five children, Siegfried, Eugen and

Ida. However, the idenitification would not have been possible without the research in State archives. You can read my article about this case of identification of people on photos, which you find on my website at www.gepete.de\emmaspostcard.pdf.

Je vous remercie beaucoup pour votre soutien! Thank you very much indeed for your attention!

<center>END / FIN</center>