



**Wolter v.Tiesenhausen**

**Buchenhof 4**

**D-53340Meckenheim-Merl**

**wolter@tiesenhausen.de**

## **Family Letter 2016**

### **of the v.Tiesenhausen Family**

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Family Trip 2017

On the Path of the Tiesenhausen Family

We commemorate our deceased

## Family trip 2017 to Lithuania and Courland

The third family trip lies ahead. In 2009 we have been to Livonia, the northern part of what is today Latvia. In 2011 we visited Estonia and in 2017 we are going to travel to Lithuania and Courland, the southern part of Latvia. In this area there are many traces of our family which spelled itself Tyzenhauz in the Polish-Lithuanian language. We are planning to travel in the week starting July 30, to August 6, 2017. As the tarmac of the Vilnius Airport is being renewed in this time, the airlines are required to switch to the airports of Kaunas or Palanga north of Kleipeda close to the Latvian border. Therefore we have planned the following schedule:

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|-------------------|---|
| Sunday, July 30   | Flight from e.g. Frankfurt to Kaunas  |
| Monday, July 31   | Visit the historic town of Kaunas and the Museum Ciurlionis with numerous paintings of Netherland and Italian painters which used to be in the possession of our Family |
| Tuesday, Aug. 1   | Bus trip to Vilnius, city tour with special focus on places Relating to our family  |
| Wednesday, Aug. 2 | Trip to the red moated castle Traikai   |
| Thursday, Aug. 3  | Trip to Roskiskis, visiting the palace and the church which was built by our family. Continuing our journey to Mesothien/Mezotne  |
| Friday, Aug. 4    | Visit of Ruhental/Rundale palace. Continuing our journey to Libau/Liepaja   |
| Saturday, Aug. 5  | Opportunity to either visit a social center which is supported since many years by our family or to visit the extremely beautiful Baltic seashore.                      |
| Sunday, Aug. 6    | Returning via Siauliai, the mountain of the crosses, to Kaunas and flight back home.  |

The expected cost for seven nights lodging are 308 €, in a single room 477 €. An extra bed for children is between 20€ and 30€. A mid-size bus with 33 to 36 seats costs 396€ per day. With 30 participants this will be 80€ per person. Since we can only book the flights when we have the final number of participants, we are unable to quote an exact price. A non-stop flight with Lufthansa from Frankfurt to Kaunas runs currently around 400€. In addition there are costs for

lunch and dinner as well as entrance fees. This trip is again organized by the Ebden travel agency (Frankfurter Straße 54, D-35440 Linden, Tel: 0049 6403 74117). Please send your firm commitment until April 10, 2017 to Wolter v.Tiesenhausen, Buchenhof 4, D-53340 Meckenheim, Tel: +49 2225 13095, e-mail: wolter@tiesenhausen.de



The moated castle Traikiai, our goal for August 2, 2017

The Lithuanian-Polish branch of our family has a number of prominent figures. The most well-known is **Antoni Tyzenhauz**, who lived between 1733 and 1785. During the Polish-Lithuanian union under King August Stanislaus Poniatowski he was treasurer and held responsibility for the economic advancement of the country. In this capacity, he motivated numerous entrepreneurs from Germany, Switzerland, France and Italy to come to his country, to which at that time parts of what is today Belorussia belonged. These immigrants founded numerous manufactures. Furthermore, he advanced the general education and health management.



The Museum M.K.Ciurlionis in Kaunas with paintings of the former position of our family

Another famous member is **Konstantin Tyzenhauz** who was born in 1786 in Zoludek close to Grodnow/Hrodna in what is today Belorussia. He inherited a large fortune with places in Lithuania and Courland with 4.000 bondsmen peasants. After a military career as colonel and commander of the 19th Lithuanian Infantry Regiment with which he participated in the great army of Napoleon, he devoted himself to ornithology and published a number of books in this area. His vast ornithological collection was housed in the past in the Pastawy castle close to the Belorussian border. The front of this castle holds a magnificent family coat of arms. Today it is used as a hospital.



Rokiskis manor from the Tyzenhauz family

**Maria Anna Tyzenhauz** lived from 1827 to 1890. She inherited the possessions of the Tyzenhauz family in and around Rokiskis. She was married to Aleksander Narcyz Graf Przewdzieki (1814 – 1876). He was historian and interested in the history of the Tiesenhausen family. He collected numerous documents with relations to his wife's family. This collection can still be visited in the Polish Archive in Warsaw. Maria Anna's brother Reinhold had the neo-gothic church in Rokiskis built by the architect Paul Max Bestschy from Libau/Liepaja in Courland. In this church, there are life size statues of Reinhold and of the first Tiesenhausen in the Baltic area Engelbrecht.



Schloss Mesoth, former in the possession of prince Lieven

The Mesothen/Mezotne palace in Courland close to the Lithuanian-Latvian border was a gift by Czarina Katharina to Charlotte v.Lieven, who was the educator of Czar Alexander I. The palace was built by the Italian architect Giacomo Quarenghi and holds today and elegant hotel. Each room is decorated in a different style with matching furniture and pictures.



Ruhenthal/Rundale palace in Kurland

One of the most spectacular palaces in the Baltic area is Ruhenthal/Rundalen southern Courland or Semgallen. It was built by Francesco Rastrelli on the property which used to be owned by the von Grothhus family following an order of Duke Ernst Johann Biron of Courland. The fact that this treasure was so well

restored and maintain is due to the efforts of Dr. Imants Lancmanis who started to rebuild the palace as early as 1972, after it had been used as a school, a barn, and a gymnasium in the times after the war. Dr. Lancmanis was friendly enough to invite our family to visit Rundale palace during our trip to Lithuania.

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## On the path of the Tiesenhausen Family

In a cross border activity to promote tourism in their region, organizations in Latvia, Lithuania, and Belarus have developed an itinerary called „On the path of the Tiesenhausen Family“. In a brochure which was designed and printed with support of the European Union it reads in a somewhat sketchy German: „The Tiesenhausen family with the coat of arms ‚Stier‘ is of German background – in the 13th century. The first members of this family came from Lower Saxony to Livonia (today the territory of Latvia and Estonia). They played an important role in the development of the three countries thru which the itinerary runs with a total length of 890 kilometers.“



The Latvian-Lithuanian-Belarus Brochure for the Tiesenhausen-Itinerary

The itinerary starts in Dünaburg/Daugapils in Latvia. There a luxurious book can be visited which was donated in 1888 to pope Leo XII for his 50th priest anniversary on an initiative by Countess Maria Anna Tyzenhauz, married Countess Przewdzieki. Via Alt-Lassen/Veclasi and Rokiskis both former Tiesenhausen properties the journey continues to Vilnius. There the medical faculty and the

observatory were founded following an initiative by the reformer Antoni Tyzenhauz. He worked mainly in Grodnow/Hrodna in what is today Belarus. There he founded schools for architects, accountants and doctors, as well as a cadet corps. Following his ideas a theater, an orchestra and the first newspaper in Belarus were founded. In Pastawy the ornithologist Konstantin Tyzenhauz worked. His former manor houses today a hospital. Unfortunately citizens of the European Union and other western states need a visa to enter Belarus. Therefore a part of the itinerary cannot be followed on our family trip.

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## **We commemorate our deceased**

As we only learned recently, on May 9, 2015 Anna-Lisa Baronin v. Tiesenhausen, née Tuomainen died in Odensbacken in Sweden.

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## **News from the Family**

On April 21st 2016, Carlotta Lena v. Tiesenhausen was born as the daughter of Anja and Florian v. Tiesenhausen. The family congratulates the proud parents.