



11-2005

Book Review: Dr. Ernst W. Alther, Ahnentafel van Burgern st.gallischen Ursprungs mit Ausliiufern nach Genf, Nancy, Nurnberg, Ulm, Lucca und Florenz

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Recommended Citation

von Moos, Mario; Seelentag, Wolf; and Schelbert, Leo (2005) "Book Review: Dr. Ernst W. Alther, Ahnentafel van Burgern st.gallischen Ursprungs mit Ausliiufern nach Genf, Nancy, Nurnberg, Ulm, Lucca und Florenz," *Swiss American Historical Society Review*. Vol. 41 : No. 3 , Article 5.

Available at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/sahs_review/vol41/iss3/5

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exposition, EXPO.02 in 2002, attempted to do this, like in 1939 and 1964. Other attempts to map identities have involved a more economy-based regionalism that might replace—and to some extent has already replaced—the small-checked confederate dualism of large and tiny cantons.

Steinberg's book concludes with a chapter on why Switzerland matters. Here the analytic strains of the various chapters come together and culminate in a discussion of the country's relationship to the European Union. This discussion, as many others in this study, make the book valuable indeed for the present-day outside observer. Europe's unification has become unification-plus-expansion, including drastic leaps forward as well as setbacks for the whole edifice. Switzerland has found a tenuous *modus operandi* via "bilateralism," but that may only go so far, as issues like the EU-wide admission of refugees and free labor mobility have to be confronted at this very moment and require positive popular referenda votes. But it also happens that Steinberg's argument that the Swiss political model may have lessons to teach to the EU as it grows is very pertinent now that the latter's new Constitution has been rejected by the French and others. "It will be necessary very soon to learn to govern Europe as if it were Switzerland," argues Steinberg. Also, "Why Switzerland? Because it shows us by reflection who we are (p. 259)."

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Book Review

Dr. Ernst W. Alther, *Ahmentafel von Bürgern st.gallischen Ursprungs mit Ausläufern nach Genf, Nancy, Nürnberg, Ulm, Lucca und Florenz*. St. Gallen: Amt für Kultur des Kantons St. Gallen, 2003.

To compile a pedigree chart of a few generations, and have it printed, might be considered a private and personal pleasure. However, if such a pedigree is set out to cover all ancestors as far back as the sources allow, the author has achieved something important not only for his family, but for his home town, the canton or even a larger part of the country. Swiss genealogists, especially Konrad Schulthess, have started projects like this during the 1920's; in 1939 Eduard Rübel and Wilhelm H. Ruoff have set new standards with their *Rübel-Blass* genealogy, covering mainly Zurich and Bern families. Franz Niederberger and Johann Paul Zwicky have transferred this tradition to Central Switzerland, and Manfred Strohmeyer has presented the *Merian-Ahnen*, a basic source for Basel.

Now a similar project has been announced for northeastern Switzerland and Graubünden (Grisons). The author is Dr. Ernst W. Alther, St. Gallen, an

untiring researcher. His *Ahnentafel von Bürgern st.gallischen Ursprungs mit Ausläufern nach Genf, Nancy, Nürnberg, Ulm, Lucca und Florenz* continues this rich tradition. In this way the author has reached two goals: the work opens up the fascinating aspects of a complex ancestry for a new region; on the other side the results of recent genealogical research have been incorporated. By doing so, the Rübel-Blass genealogy has been expanded along several lines, and improved along others—something which had been considered desirable by many, but was never actually attempted. This genealogical work on northeastern Switzerland uses the same structure as Rübel-Blass, and consists of two major parts: the 259 tables, and 195 pages of explanatory text, including references and name index. This emphasizes the structure of clearly arranged tables instead of long lists (like e.g. the *Kranz-Niederberger* genealogy): the graphical presentation makes sure that the genealogist reader will enjoy studying this great source.

The subtitle *Mit Ausläufern nach Genf, Nancy, Nürnberg, Ulm, Lucca und Florenz* (i.e. including branches originating from Geneva, Nancy, Nuremberg, Ulm, Lucca and Florence) indicates the work's great variety, and a glance at the table of contents makes the magnitude of the effort obvious:

- **Werdenberg ancestry** leads during the 14th century back to Walser families, via Azmoos to Alp Palfries, and around 1347 via Bürs into the Valsertal in Vorarlberg.
- **Glarus ancestry** lead by the Tschudi lines to the Barons Sax of Hohensax and Barons of Werdenberg, further to Gaudenz Bailiff of Matsch (died 1504), Landammann of Tirol and Count of Kirchberg; his maternal ancestry has been traced far into the Middle Ages.
- **Zurich ancestry** contains not only countryside families, but also families of the towns of Zurich and Winterthur, as well as the ancestors of the poet Gottfried Keller.
- **Appenzell ancestry** covers mainly families of the protestant Appenzell-Ausserrhoden (Outer Rhodes).
- **Ancestors from Graubünden (Grisons)** and surrounding regions will be of special interest to genealogists dealing with the Grisons and the Ticino cantons.
- **Ancestors from Southern Germany** lead along merchants' routes, these including several lines which have not been thoroughly researched so far, or even not at all, and show the connections to the medieval cities and high nobility of Europe.
- **Ancestors from France and Italy** start from St. Gall and cover areas of former Bern domains, Vaud, Geneva, also Alsace, Lorraine as well as Savoy, the Béarn and Tuscany, especially Lucca and Florence.

The experienced genealogist will be pleased to find many previously unpublished filiations. The text volume is devoted to the entire ancestry, and describes many facets in a wide context. This has resulted in a genealogical study of outstanding quality. On the other hand, the work also includes many hints and facts of interest to the beginner, especially by giving background information showing up complex interrelations:

- Available sources
- Glossary
- Maternal lines
- Ancestors' implex

For the reader interested in heraldry, the chapter „St. Gallische Glasmalerei des 16. und 17. Jahrhunderts“ (Glass painting in St. Gallen during the 16th and 17th centuries) offers an insight into glass painting in northeastern Switzerland with unprecedented detail. Unlike all previous publications of this type, the book is not limited to ancestors of a single individual, but covers all the author's descendants, i.e. also the ancestry of his son and his grandchildren. To conclude, Alther's work should not be missing in any genealogical library!

Mario von Moos, St. Gallen

Translated from the German by Wolf Seelentag; slightly adapted to American usage by Leo Schelbert

Book Review

Malcolm Lawrence, *Something Will Come Along: Witty Memoirs of a Foreign Service Officer*. Raleigh, North Carolina: Ivy House, 2003. 203 pp. ISBN: 1-57197-377-X.

Upon opening this little volume and reading its first lines, the reader is instantly overwhelmed by a sensation of delicious delight. No dull dry account of a bureaucratic life behind a dusty desk is this, but rather the fascinating memoirs of a man, Mr. Malcolm Lawrence of Chevy Chase, Maryland, who in his lifetime career in American diplomacy and government has made a major impact upon and has exercised a positive influence upon European and American as well as Swiss and American relations.

The book begins in true Dickensian fashion, recording the date and circumstances of the author's birth—August 5th, 1925 in Washington, D.C.—“the descendant of Spanish and English ancestors” yet who considers