MEISSNER & BUCH · LEIPZIG
† Julius F. Meissner

PZ no. 11 (March 9) 1918 reports of the death of the man who had been the driving force behind the success story of Meissner & Buch. Head of the company for more than 50 years.

Julius F. Meissner was born on July 5th 1837 at Leipzig. After he had left school, he attended special courses at a local commercial college. Then Julius went to Chemnitz and made a business apprenticeship at a large weaving mill/dyeing works from 1855-58. The next two years he lived and worked in Paris, moved to London and further on to Manchester and then again back to Paris where he stayed until 1863.

Julius F. Meissner then joined the Meissner & Buch business and after the death of his father in 1866 took over management with the other partner August Buch. Mr. Buch left the partnership the next year and J.F. Meissner was sole owner. Since 1899 and 1900 he was assisted by his sons Julius and Wilhelm Meissner.

Julius F. Meissner had brought home many interesting ideas and improvements for coloured lithographic printing from his stays abroad which helped a great deal to make the business even more successful. He had also a good sense for the changing art trends, supported the ‘right’ artists/trends, and the company benefitted once again.

J.F. Meissner organized the Leipzig chromolitho printing firms in 1892, was head of the organization (since 1900 for entire Saxony) for almost 20 years. In 1902 he was the initiator of “Verein Deutscher Steindruckereibesitzer” = all over Germany, and their president until 1907. Member of the Leipzig chamber of commerce etc etc.

Successful businessman, rich and influential.

The Meissner & Buch story is found in TPA #22. Back then I found no portrait of any Meissner’s. This image is of average printing quality only, on war quality paper, but better than nothing.

Stengel & Co. from Dresden were one of the major topics of TPA 22. I had problems to find a view of the factory - received no permission from copyright holders. Above is a view of the Stengel factory found on a prospectus on ppc printing for English speaking markets (of pre-1910 date). Kindly provided by Jim Ward, U.S.A. The illustration shows the impressive factory building in a sort of idealized style, typical for the time. Nevertheless I have some idea now how it looked like. The Stengel card, chromolitho, no card/series number/title with a historical view of a man holding a small harp (?) and castle up on a rock has a not often seen address side design. Message dated May 1911.

Papier-Zeitung, May 1910:

C.G. Röder, Leipzig is looking for a new qualified head supervisor for their ‘Lichtdruck’ (collotype) printing dept. 20 collotype AND 13 litho presses of biggest printing formats = Röder’s postcard printing factory. The present supervisor going to retire by end of 1910; no later than April 1, 1911. — TPA 20, Röder Special: George Webber found out that the ‘New Register’ card numbering begins about the same time. Pure coincidence? Research on C.G. Röder continues!