

WELCOME TO SAXONY

SUPPLEMENT

SUMMER 2012



Freistaat
SACHSEN

A SHINING EXAMPLE



The Zwinger in Dresden, one of the most enchanting baroque edifices in Europe

Champion of Technology and Culture

An Invitation by Prime Minister Stanislaw Tillich

Saxony – that’s a small German state with the great habit of changing the future.

Saxony changed the face of the future when in 1989 the Saxon people shook off their Soviet-backed Communist oppressors. This peaceful revolution is a true highlight in the more than thousand years of Saxon history.

From Saxony come revolutionary inventions like the European porcelain 300 years ago and the flattest solar panels of the world today.

And Saxon scientists are going to shape the future way of life in areas like mobility, communication, healthcare, and production.

In a nutshell, Saxony is a hidden champion among German high tech regions. About one in ten cars built in Germany comes from Saxony, two times Saxony’s share in the German population.

Indeed, Saxony is among the top twenty European innovative regions. The biggest microchip factory of the European continent is a Saxon one. The Saxon semiconductor industry makes Saxony the centre of European micro and nanoelectronics, with a turnover of 5.7 billion € and nearly 52,000 employees.

Global players like Infineon, Globalfoundries and ZMDI have set up business here. Academic and industry researchers develop next-generation products and processes, like organic and printed electronics, fast mobile Internet technology, or smart power grids. The Saxon tradition of shaping the future is certainly going to hold throughout the 21st century.

The results of our innovative spirit are exported to destinations all over the world, with more than a third of industry output being shipped abroad, and a quarter of GDP being generated by exports.

Moreover, Saxony is situated at the heart of Europe, close to the dynamically growing markets of Eastern Europe. Leipzig airport therefore has been chosen by

century onwards became the parent of the textile, engineering and automotive industries.

On the other hand, the proceeds of the silver mining made the Saxon princes incredibly rich. They spent some of this wealth on representative buildings and the arts, founding world-famous cultural institutions like the Green Vault museum, the Old Masters Gallery featuring Raphael’s icon-

To this day, our vibrant cultural landscape proves a highly inspirational setting for artists and art-lovers alike. Among the latter are some of the world’s top scientists like those of the Max Planck Institute of Genetics and Cell Biology at Dresden.

It is one of fifty non-university research institutes that closely work with the four universities and five polytechnics in Saxony. This state-funded research has strong ties with our industry, being the nucleus of a closely-knit public-private innovation system.

It generates the innovations that keep the world on the move: batteries, control systems and lightweight construction for e-cars, highly energy-efficient chips for mobile devices, or superconducting trams.

A special emphasis is on green production technology and renewable energies that greatly reduce fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. After all, we want to conserve our natural heritage: the beautiful landscape of the Elbe river valley, the bizarre sandstone mountains of the Saxon Switzerland, or the seascapes of the Leipzig and Lausitz regions. They and our cultural highlights draw more than six million visitors per year to Saxony.

Moreover, Saxon wines and cuisine make Saxony a pleasant place to live. And when, sadly, one becomes ill in Saxony, excellent healthcare institutions like the university hospitals in Dresden and Leipzig restore you to good health.

So when, one day, you will have come to Saxony to stay there or at least leave impressed, Saxony will have shaped your future. ■



PM Tillich proudly presents Meissen porcelain

freight carrier DHL as its European hub. Around the airport, a fast-growing logistics industry has sprung up, employing about 80,000 people, including software companies whose products make warehousing and shipment tracking more efficient.

This innovative spirit goes way back in Saxon history. When silver was found in the 12th century, the ensuing Silver Rush became the start of a high-technology mining and smelting industry – which, in turn, from the late 18th

ic Sistine Madonna, and the Saxon State Orchestra, still admired for its special sound.

This has attracted many an artistic genius to Saxony, like the famous composer Johann Sebastian Bach, who has decisively shaped the repertoire and sound of the Thomanerchor boys’ choir, which celebrates its 800th anniversary this year. However, next to the immigrant top artists were also many home-grown ones like the composer and conductor Richard Wagner.

A RICH HERITAGE

Old Splendor in New Glory

Saxony is home to a wealth of magnificent palaces, castles and gardens

For more than eight hundred years the Saxons lived under one dynasty. Art-loving margraves, dukes, prince electors and kings from the House of Wettin invited first-class architects and artists to stay permanently at their court, especially during the Baroque era when the Saxon Sun King Augustus the Strong and his son Friedrich August II ruled the land so sparkingly. They transformed their country into what it is today: the most popular destination in Germany for culture-loving tourists. When the former medieval robber barons were replaced by diplomacy, the law of succession and marriage politics, many of these former fortified castles changed into prestigious palaces.

Dresden as a royal seat developed into Germany’s most beautiful city, lavishly furnished with splendid architecture and unique art treasures. > PAGE II

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< PAGE I ... A wealth of top-class cultural monuments also developed in many other places in Saxony. In the 19th century »new regents« appeared: mining barons and industrial tycoons erected mansions that took second place to the splendor of the feudal residences only in age.

One of the Most Famous Buildings in the World

It is difficult to explain what kind of building the Dresden Zwinger is. The plans of Elector Augustus II, »the Strong«, who was also King of Poland, changed too often. Influenced by his Grand Tour of France and Italy, he wanted to remodel his residence in Dresden as a modern Baroque city. He found an amiable partner in the architect Matthäus Daniel Pöppelmann. To the dismay of his army officers, Augustus had most of Dresden's fortifications razed to the ground and created a ceremonial square next to the Dresden Castle, in the »Zwinger«, the area where the outer and inner defensive walls had stood. It began in 1709 as an orangery, was later intended as the forecourt of a new palace, and is now home to some of the world-famous museums of the Dresden State Art Collections (Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden). And it became a superb synthesis of Baroque arts.

The lavish sculptural design was in the hands of sculptor Balthasar Permoser, who also created the pulpit of Dresden Cathedral, the former Church of the Royal Court, in which the heart of Augustus the Strong is buried. The Zwinger was heavily damaged during World War II but rebuilt immediately afterwards at the behest of the art-



Moritzburg Palace: once a hunting lodge, now serves as film set and wedding chapel

loving Soviet city commandant. Today guests from all over the world visit the Zwinger to be infatuated by the perfect harmony between architecture and sculpture. Visitors who cross the Zwinger too fast miss the most beautiful feature of Baroque zest for life, the playful Nymphenbad fountain.

The Pleasure Palace

Augustus the Strong is credited with fathering more than 300 illegitimate children, but though he had many mistresses, only eight of the children were recognized as his descendants. On learning of his many affairs, his wife Christiane Eberhardine fled from Dresden. Probably the only woman he really loved was Anna Constantia,

Countess of Cosel, who bore him three of his children. The Countess of Cosel, a wise and educated, but also power-hungry woman, fell into disgrace and was later exiled to Stolpen Castle, where she spent another 49 years of her long life.

Elector Augustus the Strong had given Pillnitz Palace to the Countess of Cosel, but after his mistress had fallen into disgrace, the palace became his property again. Located on the Elbe River and in those days outside Dresden's city walls, it seemed a perfect setting for court festivities. The Saxon ruler commissioned Pöppelmann to build both the Riverside Palace (Wasserpalais) and the Upper Palace (Bergpalais). The New Palace (Neue Palais) completed the ensemble in the 19th century, which is considered a textbook example of the Chinoiserie style, fusing the architectures of the Baroque and the Orient. This is why the park also features a Chinese teahouse, which can now be hired for tea ceremonies. The gardens are famous for their trees from around the world and the oldest camellia in Europe, which even has its own house to protect it in the cold months. Augustus liked to travel to his »pleasure palace« in a boat that looked like a gondola, a replica of which can be admired in the park. Today's preferred transportation on the Elbe River is offered by the much bigger ships of the Saxon Steamship Company (Sächsische Dampfschiffahrt).

Perfect Splendor

More modern, bigger and better – those were the aims. Out of Elector Moritz's small hunting lodge emerged the magnificent hunting and summer palace of Moritzburg. Pöppelmann's creation is situated on an artificial island and the perfect proportions of the splendid construction are reflected in the water of the lake. Moritzburg Castle is famous for its gilded and painted leather wall coverings, which are surpassed only by the Feather Room (Fed-erzimmer). Originally purchased

by Augustus the Strong for the Japanese Palace in Dresden, the magnificent bedroom consists of a million colorful feathers that have been intricately woven into images. A glade in the forest gives you a view to the little Pheasant Lodge, a masterpiece of the Rococo.

The Cradle of Saxony

In the beginning a small castle stood on the imposing castle hill that still dominates the town with its distinctive red-tiled roofs. It was from here that the German colonization of present-day Saxony began, which was then known as the Margraviate of Meissen. For many centuries the Margraves and later Electors ruled Saxony from Meissen, until Dresden was able to establish itself as the new capital. With Albrechtsburg Castle, they built the first »Schloss« in Germany: the word denotes a residence and not a military fortress, and prestige was more important than a willingness to fight. Since in the course of its history Meissen has never been destroyed, it still offers visitors unadulterated romanticism.

Europe's First Porcelain

15th-century Albrechtsburg Castle, the first purely residential castle or »Schloss« to be built in Germany, was used as a manufactory for the manufacture of porcelain for more than 150 years. This was due to the builders, the brothers Ernest, Elector of Saxony, and Albert III, Duke of Saxony. While the castle was still being built, they divided Saxony into two and moved their residences into other cities. After European hard-paste porcelain had been invented in Dresden in 1708, Elector Augustus the Strong was looking for a secure production facility, and the empty castle in Meissen proved just right. Once the porcelain manufactory had moved out in the mid-19th century, the Albrechtsburg was converted back into a castle and decorated with sumptuous murals. The permanent exhibition commemorates

the eventful history of the building and enables visitors to travel back to the time when porcelain with the crossed blue swords was made in a castle, in a truly regal way.

Europe's Leading Motorcycle Museum

Those who prefer two wheels are in safe hands at Augustusburg Castle. The mighty Renaissance hunting lodge offers not only a magnificent view over the Ore Mountains, but also a large collection of motorcycles. No wonder, for the world's largest motorcycle factory used to be located in nearby Zschopau. In the museum you will find the first production motorcycle from 1894, a Hildebrand & Wolfmüller, the longest production motorcycle ever built, as well as many unusual designs and prototypes. In another part of the castle fans of four-wheeled vehicles are in for a treat, although the old-fashioned way: the carriage museum shows well-known types of carriage from the 19th and 20th centuries, a time when the automobile was not yet affordable for everyone.

Germany's Most Famous Prisoner-of-War Camp

The kinsmen of Winston Churchill and King George VI were not greatly impressed by the beautiful Renaissance architecture of Colditz castle, one of the many castles in the Mulde Valley. Like other military personnel, especially British, Dutch, French and Polish, they wanted only one thing while they were there during World War II: to escape from the officers' prisoner-of-war camp Oflag IV-C. The approximately 300 documented attempts to break out, some of incredible creativity and a few successful, are now legends in military history. Even a glider was built, but not used because the war was over before it was completed. The book and movie »The Colditz Story« made this short chapter in the history of the castle world-famous, which was also a royal residence, a hunting lodge, and a widow's residence. Today the »Escape Museum« commemorates the daring attempts of the men in uniform and attracts thousands of visitors annually. ■

by »Schlösserland Sachsen«
Saxon Places, Castles and Gardens

www.schloesserland-sachsen.de

Welcome to Saxony

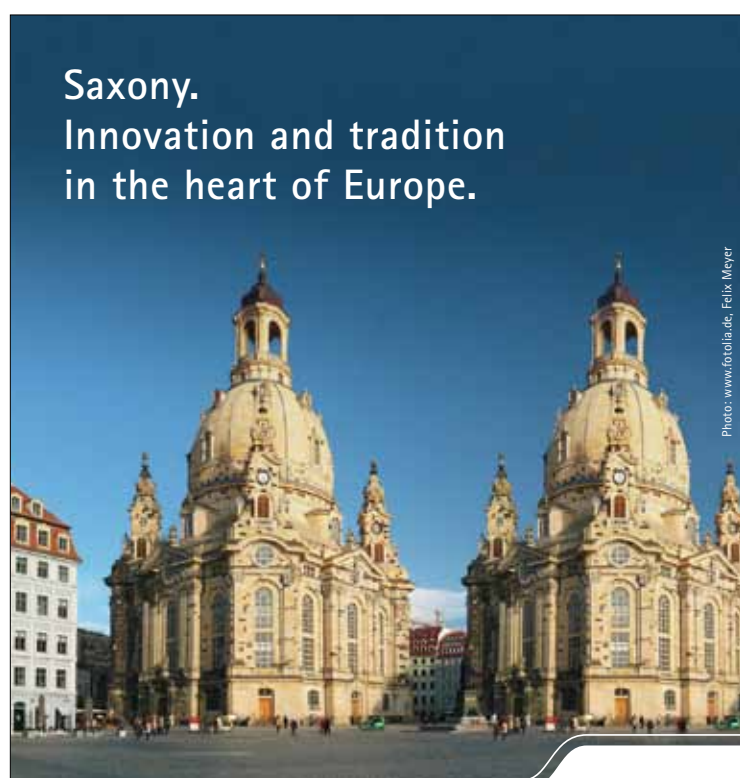
PUBLISHER
Dr. Rafael Seligmann
EDITOR
Dr. Elisabeth Neu

ART DIRECTOR
Dirk Bleicker

PRINTED BY
Druckzentrum Neu-Isenburg

CONTACT
S Voice from Germany GmbH
Postfach 311310
D-10643 Berlin

www.sachsen.de



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Whoever builds, wants to stay: Architecture in Saxony

The magical combination of Elbe sandstone and the river which formed it

By Michael S. Cullen

Let's proceed by taking to heart a famous dictum by Goethe: 'One only sees what one knows'. In order to 'understand' what we're looking at, like understanding the punchline of a joke, we need some knowledge.

Saxony only became a kingdom in 1806 (by the 'grace' of Napoleon), but by then, its capital Dresden had already acquired the nickname of "Florence on the Elbe". By that time, however, the city had surpassed the zenith of its power (1650-1735 – August the Strong reigned from 1694 to 1733). His reign saw most of Dresden's most important buildings begun or completed. Much of what we know of Dresden was immortalized in the paintings of Canaletto, who, between 1747 and 1767, painted famous views of the city, some of which can be admired in the Old Masters Gallery.

The view best known – and justly so – is that from the Elbe's northern bank, the Neustadt, looking at the Augustus Bridge to the Brühlische Terrasse. This wonderful promenade was once part of the city's fortifications. The terrace is flanked on the right by the Roman Baroque style Catholic Hofkirche, designed by the Italian architect Chiaveri and completed in 1751. It is still a Catholic cathedral, and a must for all visitors to Dresden.

Perhaps the most famous church in Dresden, however, is the Frauenkirche, the Church of Our Lady, with its perfectly proportioned dome, built by George Bähr between 1726 and 1743. This most typical of baroque masterpieces was actually spared during the bombing of Dresden in 1945; two days later, however, the tons of water used to put out the flames of nearby buildings and the church's roof combined with the nitrous films stored in the crypt, causing an explosion which completely levelled the building. Its rubble remained in a huge, cautionary pile until the velvet revolution of 1990. It took a mammoth subscription in Germany – under the aegis of the Dresdner Bank –, to obtain the millions needed for its reconstruction. With the help of special software, developed and donated by IBM, the pieces were matched. The work on the re-construction took place between 1996 and 2005, when its re-dedication took place. Another MUST for travellers to Saxony.

We dare not leave Dresden without visiting the Zwinger, another palace, built in pure baroque by Dresden's most famous architect, Daniel Pöppelmann between 1710 and 1728, interrupted by the death of August the Strong and

completed only 100 years later by the addition of the museum, now the Semper Galleries, home of the world famous Sistine Madonna, by Raphael.

Semper's masterpiece

Nor do we leave without a look inside and out at the Semper Opera House. The original building, completed in 1839, was gutted by fire in 1869, and rebuilt by Gottfried Semper's son Manfred between 1870 and 1876. Father Semper wrote his son over 6000 letters to explain all the details. This first remote-built house was destroyed in Februar 1945 and, using the letters, rebuilt

between 1975 and 1985. It is one of Dresden's glories, and the performances are almost always sold out.

In 1834 Dresden had 683 Jews, and only a few years later, Gottfried Semper was commissioned to build a synagogue. It was destroyed on *Reichspogromnacht* in 1938, when the city had about 5,000 Jews; by 1942 there were only 985 left because of Nazi prosecution. A Star of David, rescued from the rubble, was inserted in a post-war synagogue. The new synagogue is very modern but very sensuous. Built by the architects Wandel, Hofer, Lorch & Hirsch it was dedicated in 2001. Dresden now counts about 750 Jews.



"Florence on the Elbe": Canaletto's view of Dresden, 1748

Other sights in Dresden not to be missed: Kreuzkirche, Blaues Wunder (bridge), the villa colony of Weisser Hirsch, and the Pillnitz Castle upriver. And by all means take a boat ride to the Czech border. This dramatic area is known, due to its rugged hills, as the Saxon Switzerland.

Up until World War II, Leipzig was Germany's second largest city. Its most important architectural sight is the main railway station, built by Lossow & Kühne and

completed in 1915. It was then the largest railway station in Europe, and it is still grand by any standard. After reunification, the front part of the station was converted into a four-story shopping mall, almost a complete department store, and, because most of its shops are open on Sundays, it has become a favorite place for people, not only Leipzigers, to shop.

No visitor should miss the St. Thomas church, where Johann Sebastian Bach was 'cantor', or chief musician, from 1723 until his death in 1750. His remains are now buried in the church.

Another 'must' is the St. Nicholas church, most famous now for being the foundation stone of the East German oppositional movement which led to the downfall of the Communist regime and heralded Germany's reunification.

Industrial architecture

Barely known, but well worth the time and trouble, is Leipzig's 'Druckgewerbeviertel', the printing industry quarter, where just about all of Germany's book and periodical publishers had their industrial buildings between 1850 and 1919. Some were lost in 1945, the rest are now undergoing a great revival as homes for start-up companies and artists' studios. Leipzig has many other great industrial buildings: art lovers will easily find their way to the 'Baumwollspinnerei', the former cotton mills, located in the southwest part of Leipzig, Plagwitz. Artists work and show their works in 14 buildings.

Out of the way, but well worth the trouble: Görlitz, a fully intact baroque city on the Lausitzer Neisse river. It features an art-nouveau synagogue, in the Otto-Müller-Straße, designed by Lossow & Kühne and dedicated in 1911, partially destroyed by the Nazis in November 1938, rebuilt around 2007 and now ready to hold services for the few Jews who have decided to return.

To build is to make a statement. Saxony is full of statements. Perhaps the most important is summed up by Solomon Korn, Vice President of the Central Council of Jews in Germany and by profession architect: 'Wer baut, will bleiben'. 'Whoever builds, wants to stay'. We can only assume that there are Jews in Saxony who are intent on staying there. ■

Michael S. Cullen is a building historian and journalist living in Berlin.



GRAND OPERA – CREATED BY AN ARCHITECT.



The Semper Opera is truly one of the world's most beautiful opera houses – but just one of the many fine buildings in Saxony. And with around 1,000 palaces, castles and gardens, it's not easy to be the fairest of them

all. Competitors for the title include the spectacular "Blue Wonder" bridge over the River Elbe. But why not take a look and decide for yourself? For information click www.visitsaxony.com and www.saxonytourism.com.

SAXONY. STATE OF THE ARTS.

Innovative by Tradition

Technology made in Saxony



Healing technology: Threedimensional back treatment device CTT Centaur

By Helen Bluemel

What connects the world's first daily newspaper, the world's largest red brick bridge, the bra, the teabag and toothpaste? They all are innovations and technical advances made in Saxony. Indeed, throughout its history, the region located at the heart of Germany has proven itself to be inventive and innovative. Europe's first porcelain was concocted in Saxony, albeit whilst trying to produce gold with alchemy, and then began its international success at the trade fair in Leipzig, incidentally the world's oldest trade fair. Equipped with a plethora of trade and crafts, Saxony entered the German industrial revolution to quickly become the then most advanced and industrialised area of Germany. Europe's largest industrial quarter was located in Leipzig, which was also the birthplace of German Social Democracy. The first German steam train was built 1839 in Dresden to service the first German long distance railway between Leipzig and Dresden.

Technological progress was always at the heart of these developments. "Mir Sachs'n, mir sin helle" – translated: We Saxon people are quite bright – explains

how this was possible. Saxony has Germany's second oldest university: Leipzig University founded in 1409, and the world's oldest Institute of Technology, the Bergakademie in Freiberg, founded in 1765.

International player in future industries

Today there are seven universities and institutes of technology, twelve universities of applied sciences and a wealth of research institutes which engender Saxony's progress and success in several technology fields. The Free State of Saxony sports the strongest economy of all five new Länder – the regions of the former Communist GDR. Strong electronic and metal-working industries add to the position Saxony has been able to achieve as an important international player in the future industries of semiconductor manufacturing, microelectronics, nanotechnology, biotech and medtech. This manifests itself in several clusters and networks specialising in these areas. The endearingly called "Silicon Saxony" is Europe's largest network of companies and research facilities dedicated to semiconductor and microelectronic research, development and distribution. Situated between the cities of

Dresden and Chemnitz, the input of academic research at universities, R&D in large companies such as AMD and Infineon as well as research in renowned research facilities like the Fraunhofer Institut merges into an extremely fruitful output. The evolution of semiconductor technology was brought forward in this network. Two world premieres exemplify this: In 1999, the copper technology necessary for ever smaller processors was introduced first in Dresden. In 2008, the world's first E-Paper-Display-Fab started production in the city. World leaders such as the wafer company Freiburger Compound Materials and the OLED (organic light emitting diode) manufacturer Novaled have their home in Silicon Saxony and help the growth of the region. Fifty percent of Europe's chip production today is "Made in Saxony". It is also here that unique combinations of tradition and future technology spring forward. The Fraunhofer Center for Organic Materials and Electronic Devices Dresden (OMEDD) has teamed up with the traditional porcelain manufacturer Manufaktur Meissen to produce a completely new generation of lighting. It is a truly Saxon enterprise to bring together the inventor of European porcelain (Meissen) with a world leader in OLED technol-

ogy research to create highly energy efficient designs to transform living spaces.

The biotechnological cluster "Biosaxony" is another important centre of competence in the region. So far Germany's fifth largest biotech region, a myriad of life science companies and research facilities are to be found here, from stem cell diagnostics, medical training devices to Germany's first "Noah's Ark" for plants. Unlike the international "Noah's Ark" in Norway's Spitsbergen where plant seeds are stored underground in the natural cold of the location, the Biosaxony project in Leipzig is a plant 'freezer' where the knowledge of conventional cryobanks is applied to the storage and preservation of plant diversity. Biosaxony like Silicon Saxony profits from the proximity of universities, research institutes and companies which are mutually beneficial. University projects mature into products in joint ventures with companies, research institutes find practical applications for their innovations.

Tradition and innovation

This has a long tradition in Saxony. In Leipzig sports research has been to the fore for decades. Exemplified through the Institute of Applied Training Sciences Leipzig, which emerged from the Research Institute for Body Culture and Sports, and is nowadays an international centre of competence for training sciences this has also translated into the life sciences. The world leaders in cardiopulmonary exercise testing systems, Cortex, were founded in Leipzig. The technology first used for high-performance sports now finds its application in the field of sport and fitness but also in medicine. Similarly, the knowledge that bodily exercise needs to be dosed specifically to achieve the best results has been applied to the medical field. Computer-supported test and training devices, which use training as medicine are developed by the Biofeedback Motor Control Company, Leipzig and used throughout the world in prevention and rehabilitation.

The international success of technology made in Saxony is also found in its manufacturing and metal-working industries, the two leading sectors of Saxon industry. Volkswagen, BMW and Porsche all have large plants in Saxony. Porsche produces its Cayenne and Panamera vehicles solely in Leipzig. Volkswagen has taken up the automotive tradition and chose Zwickau, the birthplace of German automotive legends such as Horch and Audi as one of its production locations. The car brand has also set a new benchmark with its glass manufactory, the Transparent Manufactory, in Dresden. Saxony has a long history of technological advances and by the looks of it will continue in this tradition. ■

Helen Bluemel, Ph.D., is a political scientist. She works as a manager and science journalist in Leipzig

SAXONY'S ECONOMY From Strength to Strength

The Free State of Saxony has long been well-known for having a strong industrial base; after re-unification it quickly re-established itself as a dynamic site for production and commerce. Many sectors – the textile industry, automotive and mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, the wood-processing and glass-production industries – are now again at the forefront of innovation.

Saxony has one of the most successful economies in Germany, and, aside from Berlin, has the highest job density in eastern Germany. Its economy has grown by 14% since 2000; this is the highest growth rate of all German Laender. Its public investment rate of 21.5% is also at the top of the list.

Saxony's policy of attracting industrial expansion is impressive. Since 1990, 6,000 companies have either



An icon: Dresden's Blaues Wunder bridge

established themselves here or have purchased terrain for their use and/or expansion. And they have invested 27 billion € in buildings and equipment. With its policies aimed at growth, Saxony has succeeded in attracting both globally and nationally operating companies, which have invested heavily here. It was to be expected that Saxony would ex-

CURRENT STATS

1,96 Million
Employment

95 Billion EURO
Gross Regional Income

35,8 %
Export Rate

cel in the field of IT and semi-conductors. In this sector it can now boast about 2100 companies and research institutions with nearly 52,000 employees: some companies are well-known internationally, and they form the backbone of Saxon industry: Globalfoundries in Dresden, Infineon Technologies Dresden Ltd., Siltronic Corp. and Applied Materials Ltd. Other large sectors: food processing, metal processing and the design and construction of heavy machinery. ■



Where dreams come true: State of the art technology and architecture at VW in Dresden

Volkswagen's "Gläserne Manufaktur" in Dresden: Transparency at its Best

The luxury limousine Phaeton is assembled in a unique automobile factory

By Elisabeth Neu

Volkswagen is Europe's largest car manufacturer, selling more than 8 million cars per year.

VW-cars were technically perfect, drivers loved them, their reliability had long become legendary. Yet Volkswagen, the brand, lacked luster, luxury, extravagancy, a place at the high end of the automobile market. It needed a ray of light. CEO Ferdinand Piech realized that VW had to be kissed by an offspring of the sun god: Volkswagen needed the Phaeton.

It was clear that this Phaeton, one of the most luxurious and technically advanced cars in the world, could not be built just anywhere. It required one of the most beautiful places in Europe as its production site. The Phaeton and Dresden were the perfect match.

To begin with, however, the bride Dresden was playing hard to get. A factory in the middle of this dignified and elegant city, known to be dedicated to the arts rather than to cylinders and exhaust pipes, was met by doubts. But right from the first steps of planning of the innovative, revolutionary plant, Volkswagen made sure that the people of Dresden had their say in what was being created in their midst – and managed to convince them that here was a respectful neighborhood in the making to the benefit of all.

And there it was: A spaceship made of glass, designed by architect Gunter Henn, as far from a conventional car factory as you can get – a few minutes walk from the city center, next to a busy intersection, lodged right at the edge of the Botanical Gardens – urban life had a new perfect partner.

Now, for more than ten years, Volkswagen's luxury sedan, the

Phaeton, is being built here. Manufactured. Handmade in Germany. Handmade in Saxony, one should add. For the Phaeton is manufactured in the much-cherished tradition of handicrafts in Saxony which has created brands like Meissen porcelain or the legendary Glashütte watches. And in the much-cherished Saxonian tradition of enjoying life and its small – and greater – luxuries ...

When you enter Volkswagen's Gläserne Manufaktur, immediately put behind all you ever knew or thought you knew about a car assembly plant. Here, every detail oozes luxury – of a subtle, understated kind. This is one of the many things that is so special about the Phaeton. Precious materials are worked into the automobile and they dominate not only the building's public space – but also the space where it is all happening: where the Phaeton is manufactured. No deafening noise here, no workers with heavy loads rush-

ing about, no crowded assembly lines, no bright strips of neon light dangling from the ceiling, no oil spots on the rough floor ... VW has attended to every detail: the electric suspension rail moves slowly and quietly, the parquet floors are impeccable, subtle lightning radiates from big lamps – which look suspiciously like designer pieces... And, most surprising of all: the silence. There is something almost reverential about it. Dressed in a white jumpsuit, wearing white gloves, one person concentrates on one car. There is nothing abstract or alienating about this kind of work, of this production process – it is craftsmanship combined with state-of-the-art technology. Walking by, you can sense the pride everybody takes in sharing in the creation of something beautiful and technically perfect at the same time. 800 people are employed here. 56 cars leave the assembly line every day. They are much sought after.

The Gläserne Manufaktur has steadily wound its way into the heart of Dresden, just as the big blue Cargo tram with the prominent VW-logo winds its way through the city – a part of the everyday scenery in Dresden. And the Dresdners appreciate this environmentally friendly way of transporting the prefabricated automobile parts from the outskirts of Dresden to the factory – one tram can hold as much as three truckloads.

But it was a near catastrophe that also helped to finally tie the knot between Dresden and the Gläserne Manufaktur. During the Dresden flood in 2002 the Semper Opera House was also heavily affected – singers and musicians were without a stage. Spontaneously, Volkswagen invited the people of Dresden and visitors alike to attend performances at the Gläserne Manufaktur – what a coincidence that the first opera staged here was "Carmen"... Summer concerts with world famous musicians, where the audience sits on the factory's lawns enjoying a picnic whilst listening to the music, have long since then become a fixture in Dresden's busy cultural schedule. And more than 100,000 visitors come each year to marvel at the unique factory.

Yes, there is something magic about the building. Especially at night. The Gläserne Manufaktur is surrounded by water. The entrances are reached via bridges. It feels a bit like having to cross a drawbridge before you enter the fairy tale castle to attain the object of your dreams – in this case, not a prince or princess but a princely, a stately, automobile. Handmade in Germany. In Saxony. ■

Elisabeth Neu is an author and editor living in Berlin

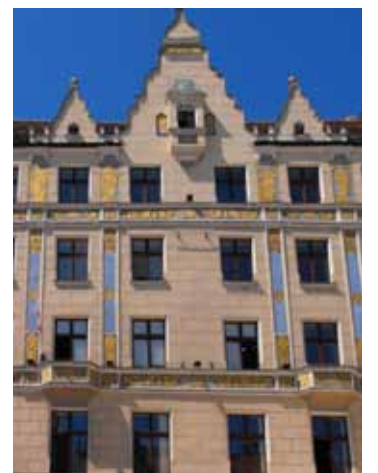
REACHING OUT

Saxony and its neighbors

The Free State of Saxony and its neighboring parts in Poland and the Czech Republic have long had a tradition of being good neighbors, and, since 1990, when Germany was reunified and it became possible for more 1:1 contacts, these relationships have become even stronger. As Saxony's Minister-President Stanislaw Tillich said on May 16th, at the opening of the new Saxon liaison office in Breslau/Wrocław: "This has to do with regions touching each other. I am purposely not speaking of 'border regions', because the border between Germany, between the Free State of Saxony and Poland has long ceased being a border which divides."

This liaison office is the third of Saxony's 'posts' outside its tight borders, the others being in Berlin and in Brussels. It is with the Republic of Poland, however, that Saxony has had the most intensive history, as can be seen in the vibrant contacts between Saxony and the neighboring districts of Lower Silesia, Opole and the Lubusz Woiwodship.

The Saxon Economic Development Agency has had an office in Breslau since 1996. With the addition of the liaison office there is now a focal point for cooperation projects in several areas. The goal of the agency is to develop projects for cooperation, develop contacts in all areas, start projects in various sectors and to infuse the interchange with life.



Saxony's 'post' in Wrocław

The liaison office will also serve as a showcase for the Free State of Saxony, for its ideas, products and culture, as well as for those who support it. There are already countless events in the pipeline, for the coming weeks and months. The events strengthen the existing diverse relationships between Saxony, Lower Silesia, Opole and the Lubusz Woiwodship in science, education, culture and business.

Saxony and its neighboring regions lie at the heart of Europe; they have good chances of becoming one of the most economically strong and attractive regions of the continent. This will require close cooperation between the neighbors and openness toward the world outside Germany.

The Saxon liaison office in Breslau is a step in this direction. ■

Car Production in Saxony

Cars have been manufactured in Saxony for over 100 years now. VW, BMW and Porsche operate six vehicle or motor plants, making Saxony a top car producing location. In addition, Saxony can boast 750 parts suppliers and other service facilities, giving employment to about 70,000 persons, including researchers. Automobile production represents more than 20% of Saxony's industrial output and 35% of its exports.

BMW has been making cars here since 2005. Of the 5,200 who work in Leipzig today, half of them are BMW employees.

Currently, five models are in production, and a competence center for electro-mobiles is being built. The investment is 400 million €, which means that 800 new jobs are being created. In 2013 BMW will produce its Megacity vehicle BMWi3 and the sports car BMWi8.

Porsche has been producing in Leipzig for 20 years now, with 700 employees, all for the Cayenne and Panamera models. A plant expansion has been under way since 2011; it will be for the Porsche Macan. 500 million € are being invested, and jobs for 1,000 are being created. ■



Praising God for 800 years: Leipzig's world-famous Thomaner choir

Leipzig – City of Music

The great tradition of music offers many good reasons to celebrate

By Peter Korfmacher

Leipzig is rejoicing. The 'City of Music' has good reason to be proud. Perhaps the most famous boy choir in the world, the Thomaner, of the Church of St. Thomas, is celebrating its 800th anniversary. That's a long time. When the choir was founded in 1212 to sing the praises of God, the Hohenstaufen rulers were struggling with popes, the Knights of the Cross and the Saracens bashing each others' skulls in the Crusades, and in Spain the second phase of the Reconquista was being concluded.

Since then, music has become polyvocal, the Roman Empire and the Holy Roman Empire have disappeared, the Thirty Years' War and countless other wars have been fought on the Old Continent, printing was invented and a Reformation in matters of religion and knowledge have left no stone unturned; political systems have risen and fallen; life has changed so completely, that we haven't the slightest idea of what it was like when little boys in Leipzig started to sing for and in an institution.

Capital of the romantic world

Despite all the changes, this music led to a tradition unbroken to this day: after the Reformation, citizens of the emerging and increasingly prosperous commercial city of Leipzig assumed sponsorship of the St. Thomas School and Boys' Choir. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), his predecessors and his successors, were

municipal employees; this is still the case today.

To the university, which was founded in 1409, was added the secular musical tradition of the Gewandhaus orchestra, which is now in its 232nd year of continued existence. But it took the arrival of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy to catapult the orchestra to world prominence. Finally, when Mendelssohn founded the first conservatory on German soil in Leipzig, which soon became the heart of German music publishing, when it moved ahead of the orchestras of the royal residences (i.e. Dresden, Potsdam, Munich), the city became the capital of the romantic world – on a plane with Paris and Vienna.

In the ensuing centuries the world's musical celebrities were drawn to the city on the Pleisse, Parthe and Luppe, the tiny rivers on which Leipzig is located. Leipzig, therefore, has always a good reason to celebrate perpetually: annually in June at the Bach festival, annually in the fall at the Mendelssohn festival, and in between at the festivals of a cappella music with the Amarcord ensemble, as well as of jazz. Add to that the one-time festivals, such as the Mahler centennial 2011 (100 years since Gustave Mahler's death): Mahler was in Leipzig head of the Opera House, where he matured in his symphonic compositions: 2010 Leipzig celebrated Robert Schumann's 200th birthday. (June 8, 1810); the city, nay,

the world revolved around the romantic cosmos this composer created.

2013 is just around the corner, and Leipzig will celebrate the 200th birthday of its son Richard

Wagner, who received important musical impulses here. As did the multitude of composers who lived in Leipzig, who played, studied, conducted, taught, presented their works for the first time, published or gave their compositions to the Gewandhaus Orchestra to play: Leipzig has heard

conduct such giants as Arthur Nikisch, Bruno Walter, Wilhelm Furtwängler; it has heard and hosted Edward Grieg, Johannes Brahms, Christian Sinding, Arthur Sullivan (of Gilbert & Sullivan fame), Max Reger, Carl Reinecke, Joseph Joachim, Albert Lortzing and Kurt Weill. The list is almost endless.

World's oldest orchestra

Above all, Leipzig has its magnificent Gewandhaus Orchestra – the last three chief conductors, Kurt Masur, Herbert Bloomstedt and, since 2005 Ricardo Chailly have cemented its international standing. The orchestra is also present on the road and in the somewhat ailing market for recorded music.

The result is a density of musical activity hardly to be expected in a city of half a million. At least twice a week one can listen to the St. Thomas choir or hear the Gewandhaus Orchestra in full con-

certs. The Gewandhaus Orchestra has 180 full time positions, which makes it not only the world's oldest but the largest professional orchestra.

The Gewandhaus was also home to the excellent orchestra of MDR, that is Middle German Radio, whose chief conductor will be Kristjan Järvi after it played under Fabio Luisi and Jun Märkl.

Each of Leipzig's three great musicians (Bach, Mendelssohn, Schumann) has a dedicated house (for research); add to this the wonderful museum of musical instruments attached to the university. Here, as well as in the arena and the huge stadium are concerts all year round, and the greats in the world of pop and classics play there very often.

Tradition and innovation

There is, as always, an unfortunate downside to these plus points: music – making it, listening to it – costs money. And the city's coffers have not always been able to satisfy the demand. The economic development of Leipzig, since the Velvet Revolution of 1989, which started here with the 'Monday Demonstrations', has not kept pace with the claim for a major status in the world of culture. Some 120 million euros per year flow into the coffers of the city's cultural institutions, in the opera, the Gewandhaus and the theaters. This is about 10% of the city's income, and that is higher than any other place in Germany.

It has become, however, well known that the mayor and the city council consider this money well invested. Leipzig was once a 'City of Books', it would love to be also a city of fashion. Goethe once praised Leipzig as "little Paris", but it is a hollow claim. Nor is it a 'City of Sport' and whether or not it will remain a city of fairs is unknown.

Leipzig is however and very definitely a city of culture. Not only because the city's culture is so rich, but because most citizens identify with their culture and history, which are very much alive; they have a tradition in creating an ever-evolving modernity – this is easily visible in the acclaim given to the new Leipzig school of painting. It is impressive proof.

Can we hope? The combination of all these potentials in the service of 'selling' Leipzig is making progress – it is attracting tourists who wish to have a fine choice of cultural establishments. A must is the new Art Museum, with great works by Beckmann, Klinger and Ebersbach.

And, of course, they can refresh themselves in the many restaurants, cafés, hotels and shops. And they can tell their friends and acquaintances that Leipzig is just as exciting and pleasant to visit as Berlin, Munich, Cologne or Hamburg, but at much more moderate prices. These are all good reasons to be in Leipzig when it celebrates itself and its culture. ■

Peter Korfmacher is head of the culture and features section of the daily "Leipziger Volkszeitung"

SAXONY'S JEWISH LIFE

From Decline to Revival

By Hartmut Bomhoff

Over the centuries, Jewish citizens have played a prominent part in the development of Leipzig, Dresden, and Chemnitz. The old Jewish cemetery in Dresden is the oldest one in Saxony, with graves dating back to 1750. By 1925 the Jewish population in Leipzig had reached some 13,000, making it the sixth biggest Jewish community in Germany, while the Dresden community, founded in 1839, counted about 6,000 members. A few years later, Jewish life in Saxony was shattered by the Nazis, and thousands of Jewish citizens perished in the death camps. In many places, there are only a few monuments left to remind us of the rich Jewish past, for example the grand synagogue of Görlitz.

Despite apparent state support and regular religious and cultural programs, the Jewish postwar community also suffered considerable oppression during the GDR era and was doomed to vanish. The Leipzig Synagogue Choir, founded in 1962, has tried to keep the German Jewish legacy alive. The choir consists of 28 non-Jewish singers whose repertoire concentrates on synagogue music from the 18th and 19th centuries.

Since 1990, the Jewish community of Saxony has witnessed a rapid growth thanks to immigration from Jewish families from the former Soviet Union. The Jewish community in Dresden takes pride in their splendid New Synagogue which opened in 2001. "The most exciting event which has taken place here since 2001 was the ordination service of the first rabbis trained in postwar Germany in 2006", recalls Heinz-Joachim Aris, chairman of the Federation of Jewish Commu-



Dresden's new synagogue, built in 2001

nities in Saxony, who survived the Shoa as a child in Dresden.

The Jewish Community of Leipzig consists of about 1,300 members. Services take place at the old Brody Synagogue in Keilstraße which survived the November pogrom of 1938 and was refurbished in 1993. The Ariowitsch-Haus houses a Center for Jewish Culture. Educational programs run by the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation serve especially the Russian speaking immigrants in Saxony, and Chabad is also strongly represented. ■

Hartmut Bomhoff is a staff member at the Abraham Geiger College at the University of Potsdam

Saxony is a Cosmopolitan State

An Interview with State Minister Beermann about Formulas for Prosperity

How does the Free State of Saxony promote its economy?

The order books of Saxony's enterprises are well filled and the outlook is positive. The chances on the labor market were never as good as they are today. Every year, more people flock to Saxony than turn their back on it. Thanks to well-aimed support 52,000 jobs have been created since 2009. Besides IT-specialists and researchers, vocational training will be in great demand. Saxony and Bavaria will advance electro-mobility for Germany. We will cooperate with our top-partners in the automobile and energy sectors and with our researchers to help electro-mobility succeed. The alliance between Bavaria and Saxony is at the pinnacle of progress and of automobile construction. An extra budget of 210 million euros has already been approved.

... Its Science and Education ...

Credit: dpa For years now Saxony has been Germany's No. 1 state in education. Our students belong to



Johannes Beermann: "We will continue to invest in human resources".

the best in Germany. 77% of elementary school children receive schooling all day. Saxony is devoted to a holistic educational concept. It is not the social origin of the children and their parents which is decisive, but the quality of our teachers and instructors. Saxony's twelfth grade high school diploma and our two-tiered school system are finding

imitators throughout Germany. Our professionals are establishing a system of dual professional training in the Gulf Emirate of Abu Dhabi. Saxony's policy for science is aimed at strengthening our enterprises. Colleges and universities are the supporting pillars of our strategy of innovation. We support this with massive investments. In 2012 we will

have invested 1.1 billion € in our institutions of higher learning. And we will continue to invest in human resources. More than 111,000 students are learning under good conditions and without paying tuition. Young researchers/scholars find good jobs here. More than half of those graduating remain therefore here. In eastern Germany, Saxony has the highest density of research institutions.

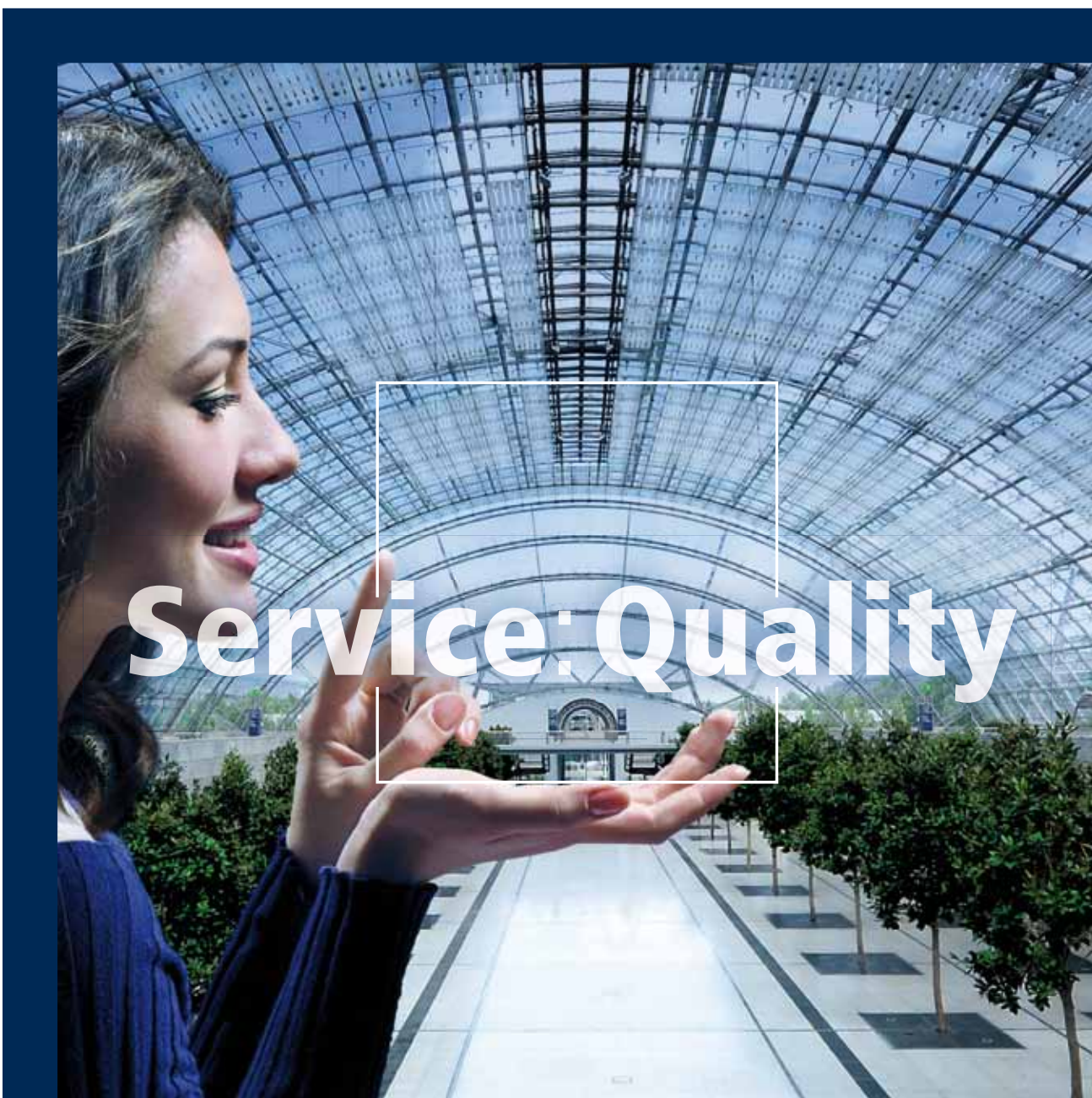
... Its democratic culture...

Presently we are celebrating the 20th anniversary of our Constitution. In the past two years we celebrated the 20th anniversaries of the Free State of Saxony and of the Peaceful Revolution of 1989. It was, after all, the Saxons who finally brought about the fall of the GDR-dictatorship and the walls between the two former German states. Plauen, Dresden, Leipzig – cities where the first courageous people took to the streets to demonstrate. These last 21 years are in strong contrast to the decades that preceded them, to over 60 years of

dictatorship. Only then did the people of Saxony have the fortunate opportunity to freely create a new constitution. It was born of the spirit of the Peaceful Revolution. It is a constitution which not only protects the dimensions of freedom, but also opens them. Freedom does not only mean that everyone can move about in their own garden. Freedom also means that everyone, together, can create a public park or build a church for everyone on a public square. It is only in this understanding of freedom that science, the arts, culture and the economy can unfold to their fullest. This we instill in the curricula of our schools, and support, for example in daily political discourse our offers to educate children politically. Every year, the government of Saxony and private foundations present deserving citizens with well-financed awards. We wish to show that we appreciate their work in building and strengthening a democratic society and civic culture.

We wish to make clear: Saxony is no home for right-wing extremists. Our state government meets them head on with all means available. We are a cosmopolitan state. ■

Dr. Johannes Beermann is Chief of the State Chancellery of the Free State of Saxony



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Beauty is a strange thing. The Regensburg psychologist Martin Gründl has analyzed Raphael's Sistine Madonna from the point of view of research on what makes things attractive, and his results are not very flattering: "Her build is much too stocky for the taste of Western industrialized nations". While her baby face still corresponds to the current ideal of beauty, she doesn't seem to be a good model. Researching attractiveness is, of course, a fine pre-occupation, but Professor Gründl seems to not have a clue when it comes to looking at the painting from an historical and artistic point of view. No other image in the world has been so popular as long as Raphael's masterpiece, in which Mary, magically and sacredly illuminated, seems to be walking on clouds. As "The World's Most Beautiful Woman" Dresden is now exhibiting her, the 'global myth', on the occasion of her 500th birthday.

The 8'10" x 6'8" painting has received a new gilded frame and a new glass shield and been moved from her customary place on the first floor of the Old Masters Gallery to the Hall of Tapestries.

Room for the great Raphael

It is not easy to celebrate a painting that everyone believes he/she knows. The exhibition approaches the work and its impact in several steps. She is accompanied by several contemporary works from Rome: these include the 'Garvagh Madonna' from London's National Gallery, the fragment of an angel from the Vatican, a drawing from the Albertina in Vienna or Raphael's 'Donna Velata' from the Palazzo Pitti in Florence, which probably served the Sistine Madonna as a model. Other exhibition topics include the history of its acquisition and the origin of the myth.

And that took time. For almost 250 years, the painting adorned the high altar of the monastery church of San Sisto in Piacenza in northern Italy. It was probably Pope Julius II himself who commissioned it in the summer of 1512; the commission went to the then not yet 30 year old Raphael (1483-1520).

At first the world took little notice of this masterpiece. Cultural tourists did not go to Piacenza, and there were no engravings of the work. It took the Elector of Saxony, August III (1696-1763), to kiss her awake. He wanted the painting. In 1746 he had opened his art gallery, and, as was the custom, he was in competition with the leading royal houses to have the best works of art. According to Andreas Henning, curator of Italian Paintings in the Old Masters Gallery of the Zwinger, August's new museum lacked a representa-



"Sistine Madonna"
by Raphael,
painted 1512/13

'Mona Lisa', which only became so well-known after 1911, when it was stolen from the Louvre. Even Michelangelo's 'Creation of Adam' or the "Birth of Venus" by Botticelli only became pop stars in the second half of the 20th century.

A world brand

The Sistine Madonna did not get her name because it was in the Sistine Chapel, but from the fact that Raphael painted Pope Sixtus II. into the painting (on the left). Raphael created a figure 'in limbo', between the divine and human spheres, between heaven and earth.

Posterity is ready again, with, depending on your taste, one form of hell or another. The exhibition shows this with humor. On display are Christmas tree balls, soap tins, CD covers, boxes, snow globes, stamps or tags. Almost all use the motif of the two angels on clouds, at the bottom, which Raphael painted at the end with quick, thin brushstrokes. This is a picture in picture; since the 1800s, the angels have been reproduced without the Madonna, and there are millions who don't connect them with the Madonna at all.

The two are a world brand. 'We show the use of the motif in autograph books, from jewelry to today's use as a marketing tool,' says Henning. For him, the limits of bad taste are exceeded when the angels are printed on toilet paper or even toilet seats. On the other hand, he finds it 'wonderful' that Ernie and Bert have been shown in the angels' pose.

An exceptional artist

Can curator Henning, after all the academic study of the masterpiece and amidst the hustle and bustle of the exhibition still sink into the picture? Henning doesn't hesitate: 'Absolutely. This is a picture I can always look at as if it were new'. Actually Raphael had wanted to put the Madonna on a high stone throne and place all the saints around her, the so-called 'sacred conversation'. It had been tried and tested for 100 years. 'But Raphael created something new, he painted a vision. The curtain opens. The Madonna walks across the sky and carries the baby Jesus as the incarnation'. Raphael was obviously trying to overwhelm the viewers' senses. 'And he succeeds so well that the picture is still overpowering. Raphael was an exceptional artist.' ■

Jürgen Kleindienst writes for the culture and features section of the daily *Leipziger Volkszeitung*.

"The Sistine Madonna. Raphael's iconic painting turns 500"
Exhibition at Semper Building
at Zwinger, Dresden,
May 26 - August 26, 2012

The World's Most Beautiful Woman Turns 500

Dresden celebrates Raphael's Sistine Madonna with a major exhibition

By Jürgen Kleindienst

tive painting by Raphael. It took two years of tough negotiations, and five weeks to complete the shipment from Piacenza to Dresden. Finally, at the end of February 1754, the painting arrived in Dresden. "Make room for the great Raphael!" is what August III is supposed to have said when the work arrived; it is said that he had his throne shoved aside for it.

For the longest time, however, the star of the first gallery was Correggio's 'Holy Night'. As

Henning says: 'Back then, the Sistine Madonna was basically unknown'. It took the classical and romantic writers – Schlegel, Herder – to discover and then celebrate the work. Goethe wrote: 'Had Raphael painted only this work, it would have immortalized him'. There began the era of reproduction in graphics, drawing, and oil. Legends were born. Some speculated that the Madonna had appeared to Raphael in a dream, others suspected the daughter of

a baker in Trastevere (the 'seamy' side of Rome), in other words, Raphael's favorite mistress, as the poet William Heinse has opined. None of this is verifiable.

It was only in the 19th century, with new technical possibilities of mass reproduction, that the painting finally became an icon. It came to hang in almost every German home, and its popularity has continued unabated until our day, says Henning. In that sense, it is more enduring than Leonardo's