

Unidentified, 4: “Margot” from Chemnitz

Hello everyone! Today I have quite a treat for you. This found photo album is a treasure trove of family memories. So many special moments have been gathered on these pages and carefully grouped. What a pity that there is no tangible information on who exactly this lovely family was.



I will call her Margot. Wasn't she a sweetheart! She was born sometime in the late 1910s and from what I could gather she lived in the eastern Germany, probably in Chemnitz. Here she is with her parents.



I get a feeling that her parents were lovely decent folks.



Please meet Margot's older sister. Perhaps this was her confirmation celebration? If so, she could be about 16-17 years old. I think I see a small Bible on the gift table. Or maybe it was an important birthday. It must have been quite the special day. Just look at Margot's daddy all dressed up in his tuxedo for the occasion. Mum is not so made up; she probably spent the day in the kitchen catering for the guests.



Let's take a moment to admire this vintage art deco interior of a German home in the late 1920s – early 1930s. The dish sets, the chandelier, the vases, the cupboard... so stylish!



And these are presumably Margot's grandparents. I do get a feel of wax figures in this photo!



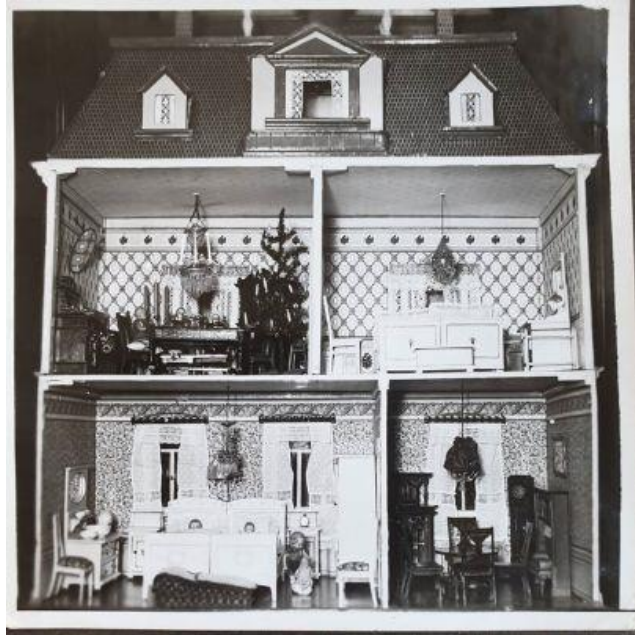
I tried to read what they've hung on the wall. There is what I understand a Bible verse. And a wall calendar from a company based in Chemnitz. The date says the 20th.

And then an attentive Instagram follower suggested that the certificate-looking picture on the wall might have been a document from the Golden Book of Chemnitz. The Golden Book of a city would include names of persons of special status or honour. Now could it be that this older gentleman used to be the mayor of Chemnitz, Gustav Heinrich von Beck? He passed away in 1933 at the age of 77. See a comparison below. What do you think?



Margot loved to play with her doll house. I wonder if it survived history and gathers dust in someone's attic? You can see a doll family having dinner in the dining room. The details are just incredible – a

candle stick stand, bar cabinet, a chandelier, dishes, even a sweeping brush and dustpan hanging on the wall. The little stool says "Greetings from the Ore Mountains" (Erzgebirge)



Margot's family loved to play cards games. At first I was puzzled what these numbers are but I think it's a score sheet scribbled on the back of a photograph. I love how Margot is always included among the adults.





Our mystery family owned a country cottage with a big garden of apple and cherry trees, and flowers everywhere, even a swing for Margot. The photos from the garden are among my favourites in this found photo album. See Margot having a ball on the swing, or discovering plants. Margot's mother is casually reading a newspaper and an aunt is mending something or doing crafts. All so perfectly posed yet in movement.



Her older sister is smiling through the cherry blossoms. The family often received friends in the garden.



The family loved to travel. In the summers, they took organised tours into the mountains. Can you spot Margot and her parents in these group photos?





They also visited the dam of Talsperre Neunzehnhain II in Saxony, Germany.



In the winter time, the whole family went skiing in the Ore Mountains (Erzgebirge) in Germany and today's Czech Republic.





Klinovec (Keilberg) in the late 1920s winter time. Klínovec (German Keilberg) is the highest peak of the Ore Mountains (Erzgebirge) located in today's Czech Republic at 1244 metres (4081 ft). It's a popular ski resort today



In the photo on the left Margot is posing in front of a building that no longer exists. Turm der Bundestreue or later an advertising platform for the German Steam Car Association (DKW-Turm) was located next to the popular hotel "Neues Haus" (still exists), but a lightning destroyed it in the late 1940s.

Among the spectators of this ski jumping competition were also Margot and her parents. If the competition took place where the family spent their ski vacations, it could be Oberwiesenthal in eastern Germany, where competitive winter sport competitions are held today. It could also be some junior championships since the ramps are not that high. I can't date the photo exactly, but the photos in the photo album range between 1928-1931.





The next photo says "View from Fichtelberg"



The Fichtelberg is a mountain with two main peaks in the middle of the Ore Mountains (Erzgebirge) in Saxony, Germany, near the Czech border. At 1,214.6m (3,985 ft) above sea level, it's the 2nd highest mountain in Saxony. (Source: Wikipedia)

In the next photos, Margot's family and friends came together to celebrate something... but what? Look at all the flags in different colour combinations. I suppose those could be the flags of different regions of Germany. As this photo was taken in the late 1920s, what could they have celebrated?



Another heart-warming photo series in this photo album is about ladies feeding squirrels.





The only full name mentioned in this found photo album is: "The silver wedding anniversary of Curt Schuricht. May 19th, 1931, at 2:30 at night"

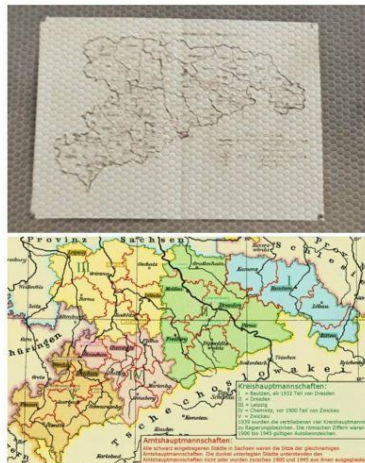


You can spot Margot and her sister lying on the ground in front of the happy couple. Their parents stand among the guests too. Another photo of Mr. Schuricht and his wife, perhaps from earlier that day.

There are also a couple of photos of Margot's father's colleague, perhaps his boss. Perhaps his round birthday or retirement celebration? You can see Margot's father standing on the very left in the second photo.

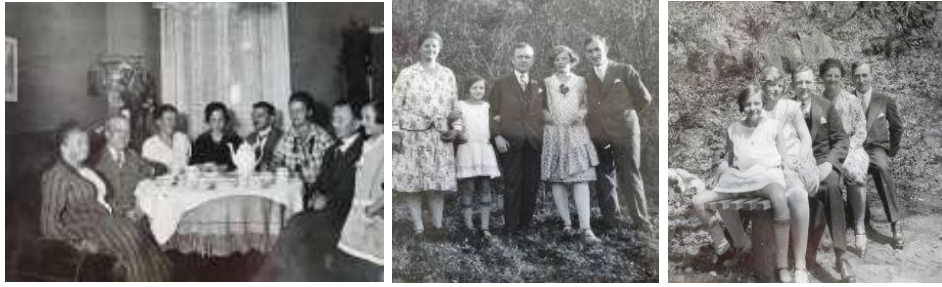


I identified the map hanging on his wall as that of Saxony (Sachsen) in Germany.



Whenever the parents met with friends, Margot was always with them too.





I have hardly seen a father show his daughter so much affection in a vintage photo. Strict fathers were in demand back in the day and maybe he was a strict father too, but I have a feeling this father knew that times were changing and his little girl will go and lead a much more liberal life than other women in his life had ever done. He believes in her, he appreciates her, he sees her, he hears her.



I sure will be missing this fun family and their creative family photos. Who were they? What became of them? They lived in Saxony (Sachsen) eastern Germany, probably in our around Chemnitz. They loved to ski, travel, go on trekking trips, garden, feed squirrels, spend time with friends, and play card games together.



Thank you for joining me on another journey through someone's childhood days. I'm sure Margot didn't mind telling her story through the pages of this found photo album. I feel like she had a happy childhood, she was included and appreciated and allowed to be a child and a girl. She played with dolls and her doll house, but she also had a seat at the adults' table whenever they played card games. She was a child of nature, she felt at home on the snowy hills, or in the voluptuously green garden of their country home. She was best friends with her dog. She respected her grandparents and aunts and uncles. She looked up to her older sister. She shared the love for animals with her mother. She had a special bond with her father.

Photos Without Families, originally shared on www.photoswithoutfamilies.blog



If anyone recognises this girl and her family, please let me know!

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