

ASPECTS OF FRANCONIA

November 2018 – Erlangen’s Much Loved Himbeerpalast

Many of our members have very close ties to a “global technology powerhouse that has stood for engineering excellence, innovation, quality, reliability and internationality for more than 165 years”. I am, of course, referring to Siemens AG, whose famous Himbeerpalast (“Raspberry Palace”) once housed the administrative departments of the Siemens-Schuckertwerke, whose registered offices were transferred from Berlin to Erlangen on April 1, 1949. This was the beginning of a wonderful period of cooperation between a major company and one of Bavaria’s less war-damaged university towns.

The Himbeerpalast was ready for occupancy in time for the company’s fiftieth anniversary celebrations in April 1953 and was opened in the presence of Ludwig Erhard, the German Minister of Economics. In 1991, it was listed as a protected building by the Bavarian State Office for the Preservation of Historic Monuments – as the first postwar building in Erlangen.



As many of you will have seen as you drive along the Paul-Gossen-Str, Siemens AG is constructing a modern “Siemens Campus Erlangen” in the southern part of the city. By 2030, the company’s new research centre will be one of Siemens’ most advanced locations worldwide.

But what of the Himbeerpalast? Having been purchased from Siemens by the Bavarian State, the building will be refurbished in the coming years so that the Faculty of Philosophy and the Department of Theology can move in as of 2024. This will be a timely move as their present locations in the Bismarck-Kochstrasse complex have been of growing concern to those at the university responsible for building safety and efficiency.

Incidentally, what did FAU-Präsident Prof. Dr. Joachim Hornegger have to say about these developments? “Jetzt habe ich nicht nur ein Schloss, sondern auch einen Palast” – ask a German-speaking fellow Franconian to help you with the translation!

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