

Aspects of Erlangen

Not long ago I wrote about Erlangen street names that made reference to the many immigrants that have settled here over the years, or to Erlangen's famous association with Siemens. This time, for fun, I thought I could take a few, perhaps lesser-known street names which are nonetheless very familiar to some of you. As the song goes in *My Fair Lady*, "I have often walked on the street where you live...". These are some of the streets where some of our members have often walked:

Rudelsweiherstrasse:

The fishponds known as the Rudelsweiher get their name from a certain Johann Rudel, who acquired them in 1821. In 1907 there were seventeen such carp ponds. Today only 2 remain and belong in fact to Bubenreuth. The Rudelsweiherstr., the northernmost Erlangen road and the border between Erlangen and Bubenreuth, wasn't tarmacked until 1961 when Bubenreuth and Erlangen finally agreed on who was responsible for the maintenance of the road. The houses on the north side belong to Bubenreuth, those on the south to Erlangen!

Platenstrasse:

This street is named after the 19th century poet and dramatist Karl August Georg Maximilian Graf von Platen-Hallermünde. How wise to shorten his name! He is, of course, also remembered as the 1824 occupant of the Platenhäuschen, the small house on the north-west side of the Burgberg.

Zenkerstrasse:

Friedrich Albert von Zenker (13 March 1825 – 13 June 1898) was a German pathologist and physician, celebrated for his discovery of trichinosis. In 1862 he became professor of pathological anatomy and pharmacology at Erlangen, just prior to this, however, was his discovery in 1860 of a nasty parasitic disease known as trichinosis. The consumption of raw or undercooked meat is the common cause. Be warned.

Löhestrasse:

The street is named after the 19th century Lutheran theologian Wilhelm Löhe, who studied in Erlangen from 1826 to 1830. His name is familiar in Nuremberg, where the Wilhelm Löhe schools are named after him, a type of cooperative comprehensive school with three branches, a Gymnasium, a Realschule and a Mittelschule.

Löhe is seen as the founder of the Diakonie Neuendettelsau (1854) whose original aim was to train nurses and social workers for German parishes. Many of them, however, emigrated to the USA to work in social welfare within the Lutheran church there.

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