

# LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

---

***September 2019***

Dear Franconians,

As President I feel responsible if things don't always run according to plan. The "buck stops here" concept goes back to President Trumann, who famously had a sign on his desk saying precisely that:



Delving deeper, I find that the term probably derives from the game of poker, in which a marker or counter (such as a knife with a buckhorn handle during the American Frontier era) was used to indicate the person whose turn it was to deal. If the player did not wish to deal, he could "pass" the **responsibility** by "passing the buck," as the counter came to be called, to the next player.

To the point, a couple of misunderstandings occurred in the recent past about our programme. Fortunately, all was sorted amicably. In one upcoming case, however, I do accept responsibility, yet here there seems to be no easy solution. A few months ago, I scheduled a visit to the Erhard Museum in Fürth for the 30<sup>th</sup> November, totally overlooking the fact that on that very day the International Ladies' Group is holding its Christmas bazaar at the Hugenottenplatz in Erlangen – with considerable participation from some of our members. As “dancing at two weddings” is rather difficult, I shall have to accept that some people might be disappointed that they can't attend both events. Mea culpa.

Another issue has been raised, and not for the first time, relating to the number of Franconian events taking place. There are two schools of thought, one that feels that one Stammtisch, a dinner club meeting, a meeting of the handicrafts group, a walk, and an occasional outing **per month** is ample. The opposite view is that, in reality, rather few of us participate in walks, handicraft making, or even dinner club gatherings (though here the number does fluctuate), and that therefore other “offers” and “activities” might increase the attractiveness of our society and would be welcome. Please let me or other committee members know what you think.

Looking back over the last few weeks, as I am wont to do, I have to say that the trip to Neuburg an der Donau went extremely well.



The sun shone upon us, there was good food to be had in our chosen restaurant, the city guide was amusing and wonderfully well informed, there was a crafts market in progress to enhance the charm of the town, and the castle with its Flemish paintings was a delight – and for most people an unknown quantity. There are many similarly unknown towns and historic locations in this part of the world, and I am sure that next year we will again have something to please you all.

I was away for our September Stammtisch “Under the Oak Tree”, but a good few of you came along, and also enjoyed the “British humour” element organised by Sieghard. The October Stammtisch was on Iceland, and I hope everyone enjoyed the pictures of waterfalls enhanced by rainbows, geysers and glaciers, and the fascinating world of lava. Lavas, particularly basaltic ones, come in two primary types: “pahoehoe” and “aa”, both names being of Hawaiian origin. What mysterious names! And don't forget, in the New Year we will have a Stammtisch on Hawaii presented by our members Karin and Friedrich Berger-Graef. How's that for planning and coordination!

The handicrafts group deserves particular mention, particularly as Christmas is around the corner and the selling of beautifully crafted objects and garden produce (jams and the like) has truly become a major source of income

for our society. We can be proud of all our wonderfully skilled ladies who work all year round at their hobby. Remember, the money is destined for our "charity pot" and will be spent carefully. In the next newsletter we can give you an overview of our many donations.

Our October Dinner Club found us eating Asian fair in the Vietnamese and Sushi MyHao restaurant in Erlangen. It was a well-attended affair and the organisers were satisfied. Römmling (Bohemian and Franconian) is the location of our next gathering. Don't forget to let Valerie know if you want to join us. Incidentally, there won't be a Dinner Club in December because of the Potluck Supper, always a highlight event in our calendar, one not to be missed!!

A detailed description of the trips to Fürth (Ludwig-Erhard-Zentrum) and Cadolzburg will be sent out as circulars by our secretary. Please let me know by email if you wish to attend.

Two very special birthday ladies need to be mentioned, I feel. Our dear Becky turned 80 on October 12<sup>th</sup>, and beamed happiness and contentment all weekend long. At least I assume so! And Ingeborg turned 98! What an achievement! Many happy returns to them both.



Well, that is pretty much it for now. Of course, by the time I write the next "Letter", Christmas will be over, so I had better wish you all, now and in the name of the Committee, a most wonderful Christmas and beginning to the New Year. For many people this is the season of goodwill and peace. May we all share in its blessings.

**Frank Gillard**