

>>> Bernd Rohrmann WHERE I LIVED MY LIFE <<<

~~~ Brief report -- Texts and pictures -- 28-06-16 ~~~



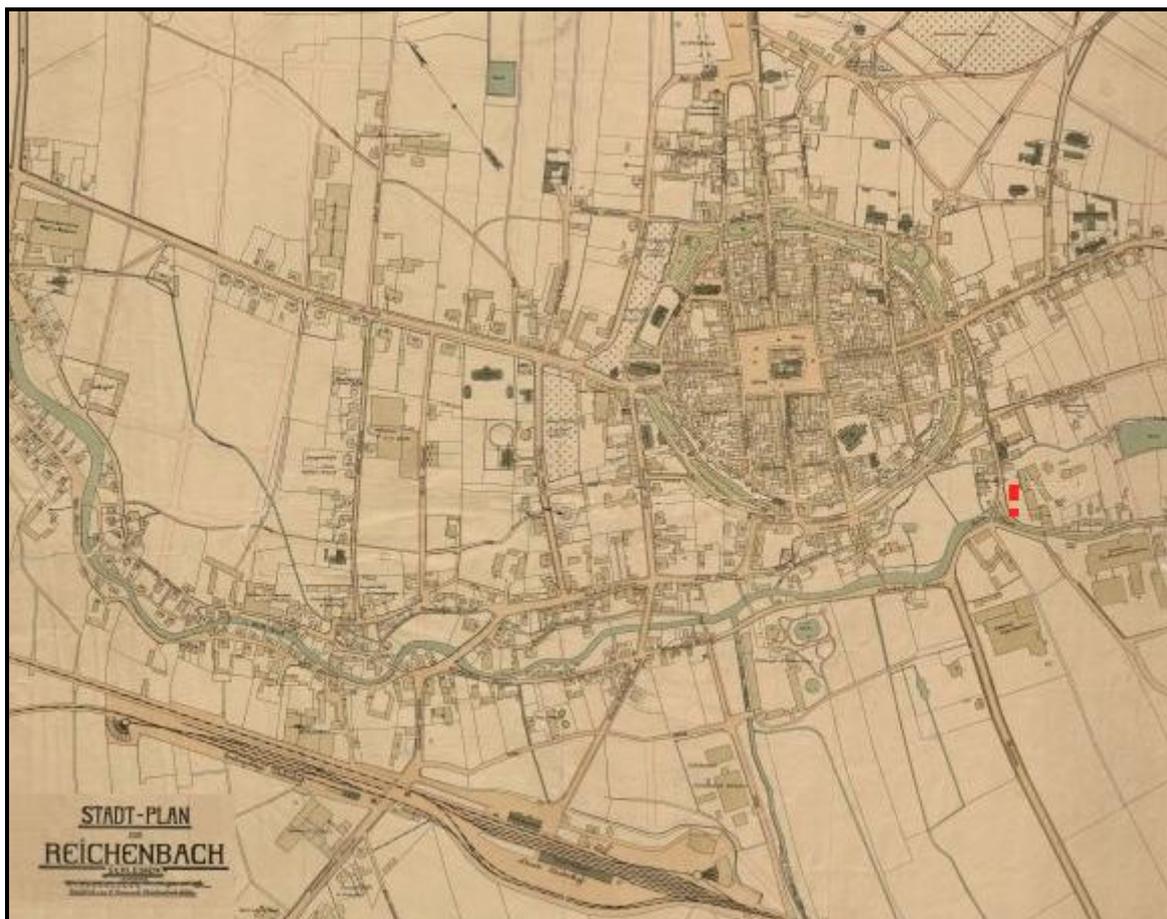
OVERVIEW LIST

|       |            | <i>Residence</i>    | <i>Prime school</i> | <i>Gymnasium</i> | <i>University</i> | <i>Job</i>    |
|-------|------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| ----- | -----      | -----               | -----               | -----            | -----             | -----         |
| #1    | 1940-1945  | Reichenbach/Germany | -/- (not yet)       |                  |                   |               |
| #2    | 1945-1948  | Steinsmuehle        | Klein Lengden       |                  |                   |               |
| #3a   | 1948-1950  | Witzenhausen        | Witzenhausen        |                  |                   |               |
| #3b   | 1951-1954  | Witzenhausen        |                     | Allendorf        |                   |               |
| #4    | 1954-1957  | Banteln             |                     | Alfeld           |                   |               |
| #5    | 1957-1960  | Bad Oeynhausen      |                     | Minden           |                   |               |
| #6    | 1960-1961  | Marburg             |                     |                  | Marburg           |               |
| #7a   | 1961-1965  | Hamburg             |                     |                  | Hamburg           | % Hamburg     |
| #7b   | 1966-1979  | Hamburg             |                     |                  | Mannheim          | Mannheim      |
| #8a   | 1980-1983  | Mannheim            |                     |                  | Mannheim          | Mannheim      |
| #8b   | 1984-1992  | Mannheim            |                     |                  |                   | (varia)       |
| ----- | -----      | -----               | -----               | -----            | -----             | -----         |
| #9a   | 1993-2009  | Melbourne/Australia |                     |                  |                   | Melbourne     |
| #9b   | 2010-today | Melbourne           |                     |                  |                   | -/- (retired) |

**Reichenbach~Dzierżoniów** was part of Slesia/Schlesien until 1945, now belongs to Poland  
*Phases of my life: Residence Reichenbach*



In late 1939 or early 1940, my father Bernhard Rohrmann and my mother, Liv Lindflaten~Rohrmann, moved from Breslau to Reichenbach in Schlesien. They stayed there until 1945 (the end of World War II)



Central place & Townhall - Current view



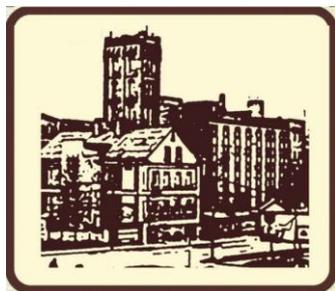
Old Citywalls - some on a slight hill (where I in 1944 learned skiing)



Mill/Młyn (where B.R.senior was employed 1940-45)



My visit there, 30.12.2015



Accomodation B.&L.R.



Liv & Bernd ~ 1943

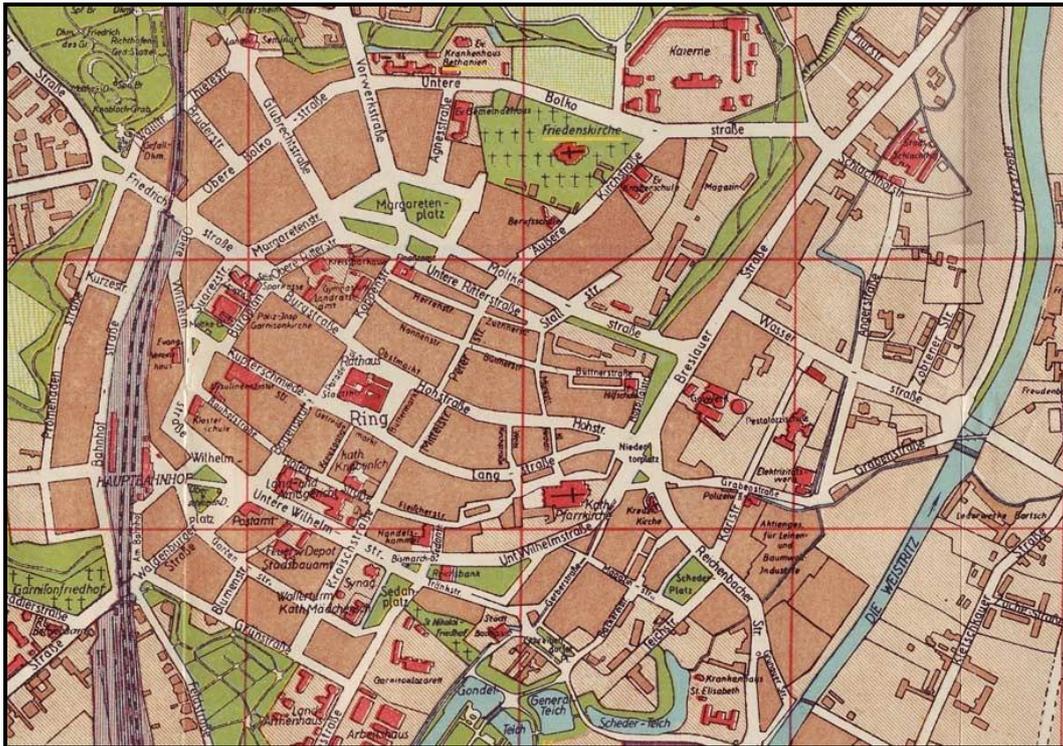
# Schweidnitz~Świdnica

was part of Slesia/Schlesien until 1945, now belongs to Poland

Phases of my life: Schweidnitz



While my family lived until 1945 in Reichenbach, I was actually born, 24.9.1940, and baptized, 1.9.1940, in the city of Schweidnitz. The hospital and the church, "Friedenskirche", are marked in the map below.



30-12-16

01.09.40

The famous Friedenskirche, built around 1650, is now a World Heritage monument. On Dec 30 in 2015 I visited it, and admired the stunning architecture.

**Bernd Rohrmann** *Phases of my life* **Steinsmuehle in Klein Lengden 1945-1948**

In 1945, at the end of World War II, my mother flew with me and my sister (then 5 and 1 years old), as many other people, from Reichenbach in Slesia (Schlesien, Eastern Germany) to Steinsmuehle near Goettingen in Western Germany. This property consisted of a mill and a small farm.

=> *historic photo*



=> *historic photo*



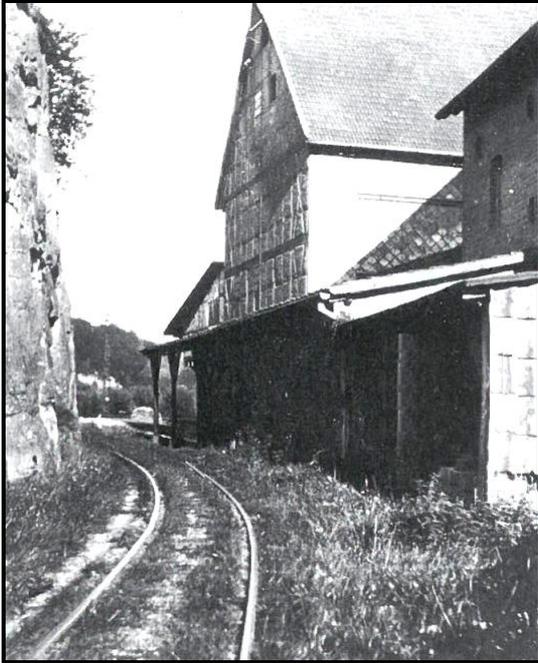
=> *current buildings - B.R.2016*



Steinsmuehle was for a long time owned by the Rohrmann family. Since about 2005 it is not anymore. The mill, as well as the connecting "Gartetal" railway (see *next page*), have been completely abandoned some decades ago.

## The railway connection

In 1897, after long preparation a narrow-gauge railway was installed, the "Gartetal-Bahn", which connected Goettingen via Klein Lengden with Rittmarshausen and later Duderstadt, mostly along the river Garte. This railway had a stop right at *Steinsmuehle*, for passengers and for freight. Yet in 1957 it ended, and was then completely dismantled.



How it looks today (B.R., June 2016)

## My first school

In 1946 my thirteen years of school - primary school and high school - began, in Klein Lengden. I had to walk there from Steinsmuehle, over some fields.

But which was my first school - this one?



No - it was a very small and very provisional school in a house which is now a private residence. And the room shown below was in 1946 the classroom, for about 10 pupils.



There I did class 1 and class 2., before changing into the primary school in Witzenhausen.

In 1948, either in Klein Lengden or in the next town, in Witzenhausen, one of the pretty rare family pictures was taken.



Obviously I don't look happy, nor my sister, yet I don't know why - may be the photographer scared us?

## Bernd Rohrmann *Phases of my life* Witzenhausen 1948-1956

In late 1947 or 1948, my family moved from Steinsmuehle in Klein Lengden to the town of Witzenhausen in Hessen where my father got a position at a mill.

When visiting Witzenhausen in August 2009, I did find the house in which we lived at that time.



The mill has long closed down. The nearby railway station which I used all the time is shut down as well.



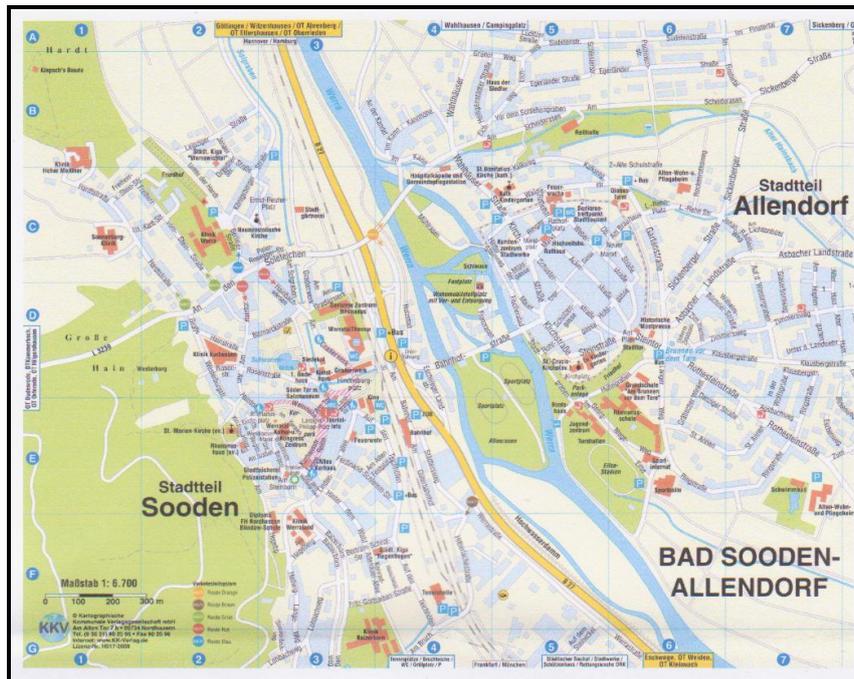
At the petrol station and car repair workshop beside the residence I had my first mini job, being just 10!



My high-school was not in Witzenhausen, I had to travel by train from Witzenhausen to Bad Sooden Allendorf.

## Bernd Rohrmann *Phases of my life* Bad Sooden Allendorf 1950-1956

From 1950 (?) until 1953 (?) I went to the high school in Allendorf, the only Gymnasium available in the area, going first by train and later by bicycle.



Marketplace, (Ex-)Gymnasium, Townhall (as seen in Nov. 2009)

The former Gymnasium in Allendorf has been renovated and now houses a local museum.

**Bernd Rohrmann** *Phases of my life* **Village Banteln** 1956-1957

At the end of 1955, my family moved from Witzenhausen/Hessen to Banteln, a small village in Niedersachsen. The reason was that my father was employed in the mill, positioned at the river Leine. This mill, a watermill, is long closed down. Below are some photos made 2010.



**Bernd Rohrmann** *Phases of my life* **Alfeld Gymnasium** 1956-1957

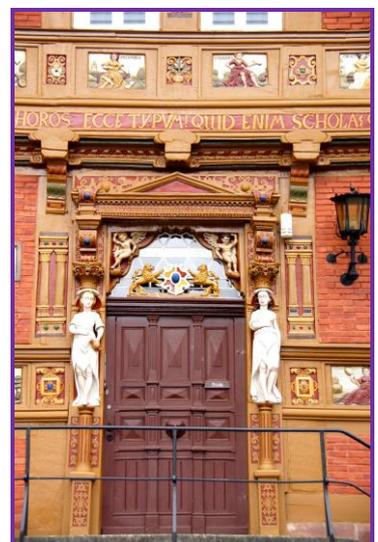
After moving from Witzenhausen/Hessen to Banteln, I had to go to the highschool in Alfeld, until mid-1957.

The building below accomodated the gymnasium from 1953 to 1968.



**Addendum:**

In Alfeld is a famous historic school building, "Alte Lateinschule" (old latin school), which was erected in 1610 and contains many pieces of excellent wood carving on its facades.



## Bernd Rohrmann *Phases of my life* Bad Oeynhausen/Melbergen 1957-1961

In mid-1957, my family moved from Banteln an der Leine to Bad Oeynhausen (both towns in the state Niedersachsen), where my father got a position at a large mill. Actually this was *Melbergen*, a small village beside Bad Oeynhausen. The address was Ringstrasse 70.

My high-school was not there though, I had to travel daily from Bad Oeynhausen to Minden, until 1960. Below is a historic photo of the residence, and one photo of my two sisters and myself, around 1958.



When visiting Bad Oeynhausen and Melbergen in August 2009, I could neither find this house, nor the large mill or its office building.

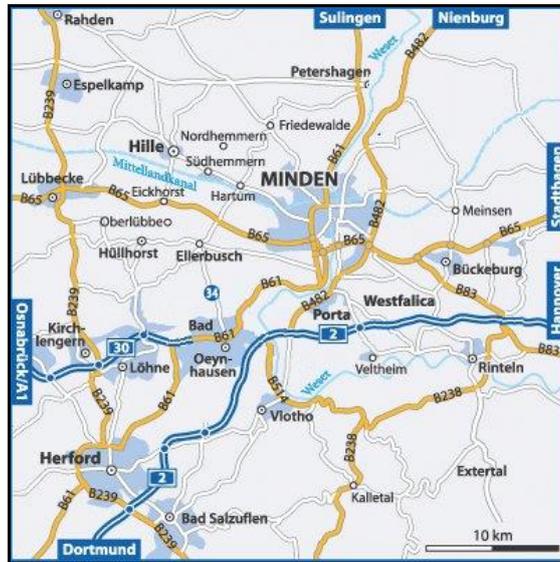
An inquiry in the pertinent town archive, in Loehne, then clarified that all this did not exist anymore, it had been completely teared down about 10 years earlier.

The following map shows how I memorize the locations.



## Bernd Rohrmann *Phases of my life* Gymnasium in Minden 1957-1961

While living in Bad Oeynhausen, I travelled daily by train to Minden. Minden is situated at the river Weser and the West-East channel Mittellandkanal.



Minden has several high schools. My one was the "Ratsgymnasium", which was founded in 1530 and focussed on classical education.



At this Gymnasium, I learned the languages Latin, English, Classik-Greek and French. In 1958 I became the speaker of my class, and in 1959 I was elected as student speaker for the school.

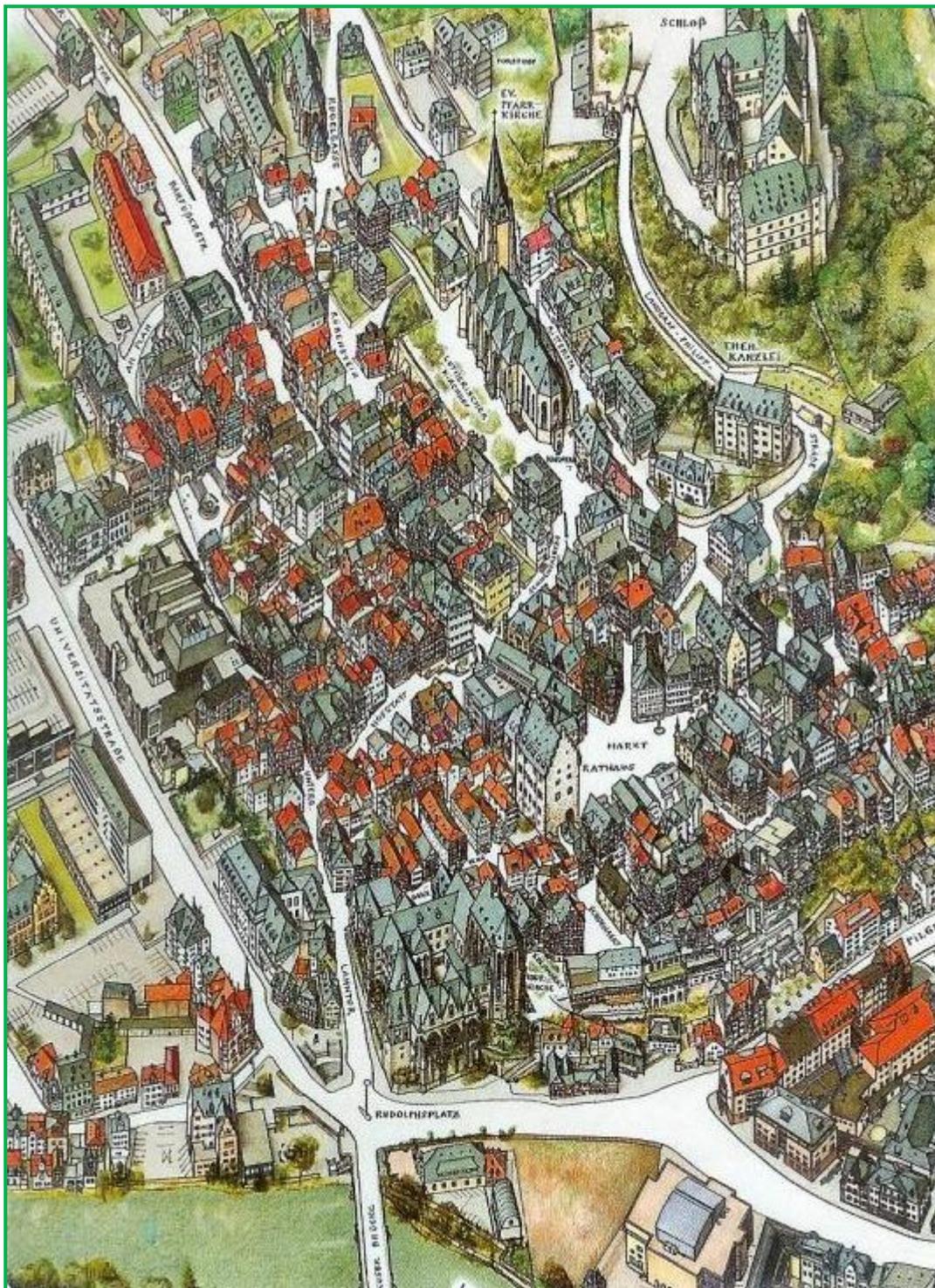
In 1960, I completed my high school education there and got the 'Abitur'; this is necessary to apply for university access.

**Bernd Rohrmann** *Phases of my life* **Marburg University 1960-1961**

In 1960 I started to study, and decided for Psychology at the university of Marburg. I had a student accomodation there yet still was a resident of Bad Oeynhausen, because of the family habitat.



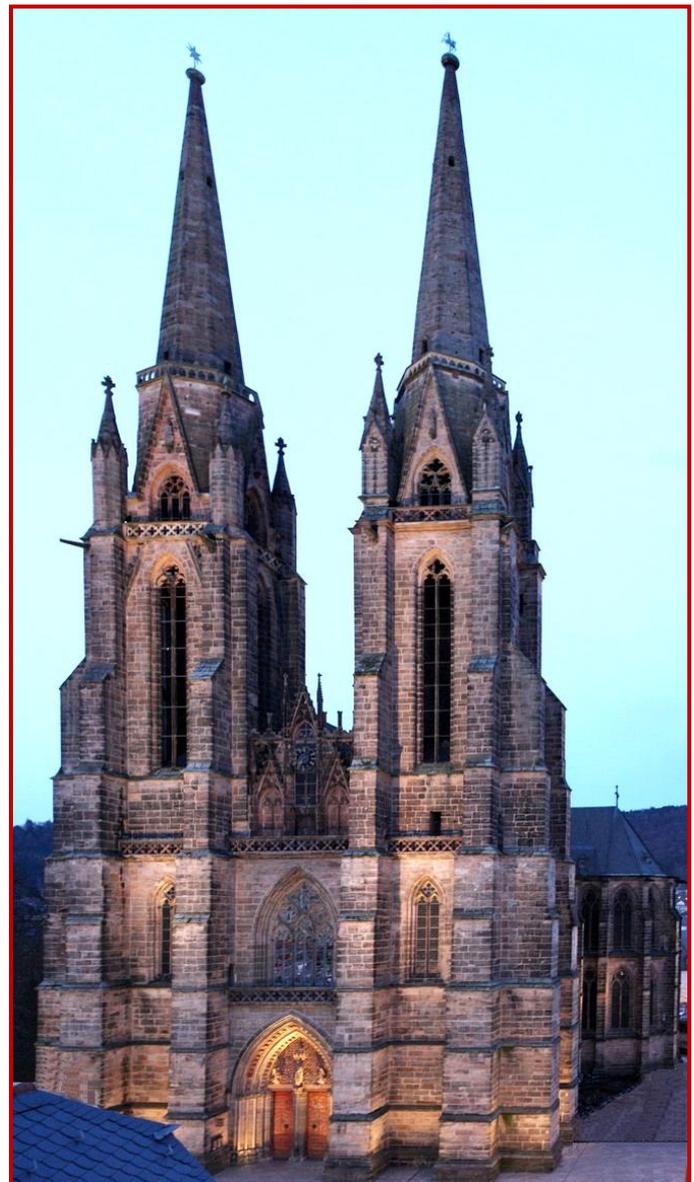
The Philipps University is one of the oldest in Germany, and always persued high education standards.



Historic university buildings are all maintained - - including the original location of the Psychology Dept.



The most-known building is a church though, the Elisabethkirche,



**Bernd Rohmann** *Phases of my life* **Hamburg** 1961-1979

In 1961 I changed Hamburg University, and lived in Hamburg and der Elbe for almost 20 years. It is the second-largest city of Germany, and its largest harbor. Hamburg was founded in 808.



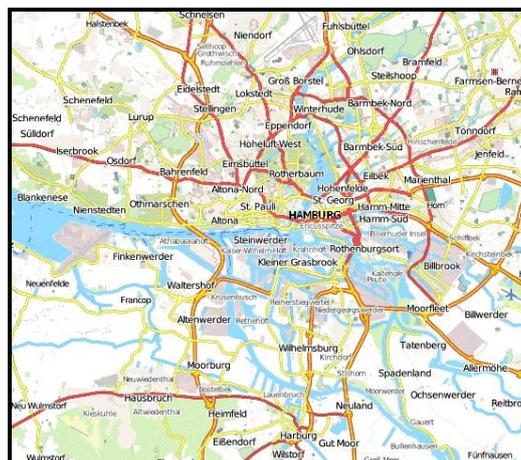


Above: the townhall.

Regarding sailships Hamburg has a long and strong tradition. The famous "P" ships, the fastest of their time, were all located in Hamburg (below: the Padua), and the official sailship of the German Navy, Gorch Fock 2, was built in Hamburg.



My own residence was in the suburb Farmsen-Berne, in Hamburgs North-East (see marker on the map).



**Bernd Rohmann *Phases of my life* Hamburg University 1961-1965**

At the University of Hamburg I studied Psychology, and finished there in 1965 with a Masters degree.



In this old building, the original Psychology Dept was located until about 1970, in the 3rd and 4th floor; later it moved into a modern building, beside the Auditorium Maximum shown above.

From 1966 onwards, after my Masters exam, I was employed by the University of Mannheim.

**Bernd Rohrmann** *Phases of my life* **Mannheim** 1980-1992

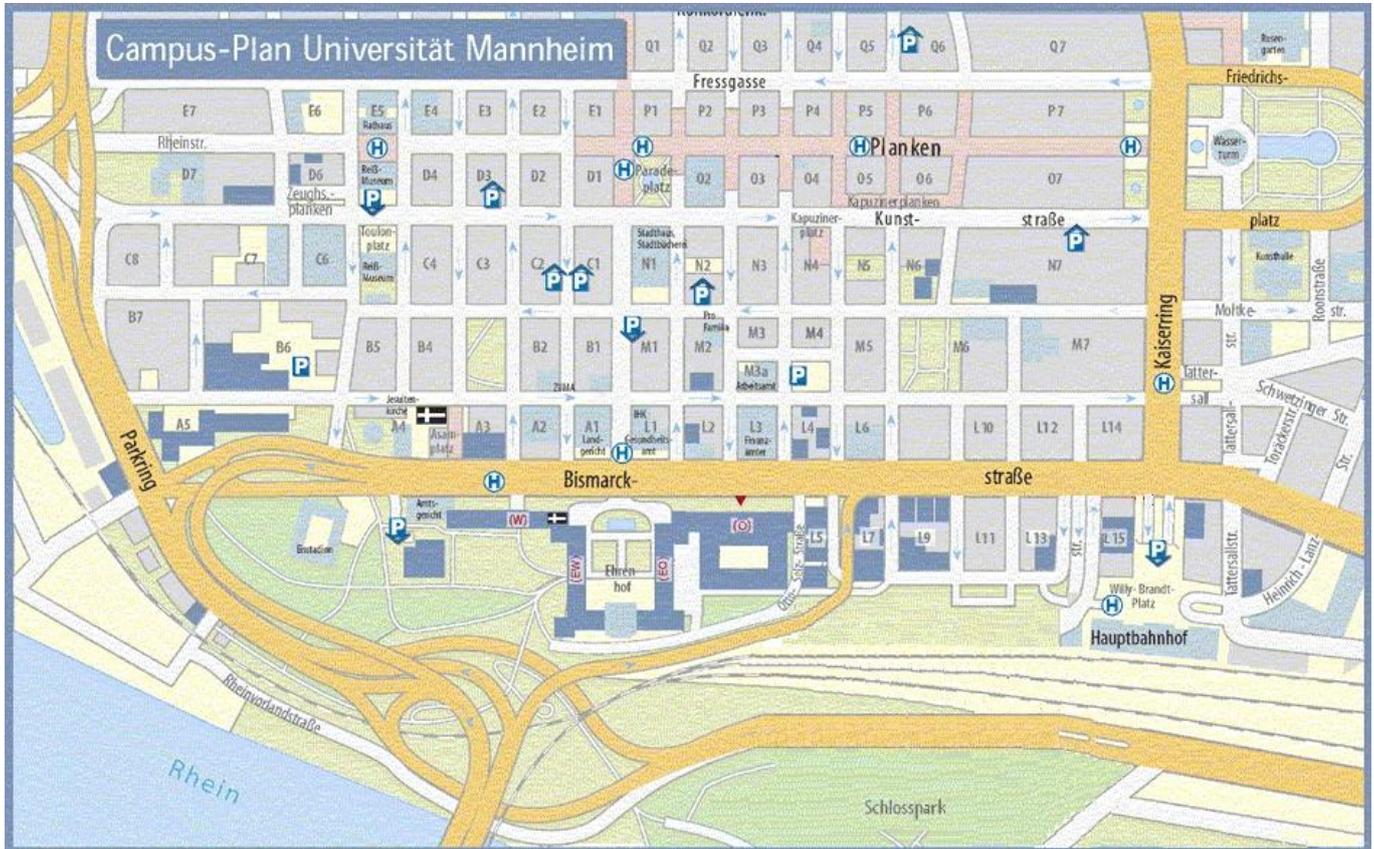
Since 1966 I was already employed by the University of Mannheim, as researcher, weekly driving between Hamburg and Mannheim, and in 1980 I moved fully to Mannheim.



Mannheim is located where the river Neckar flows into the river Rhein. The city plan is signified by blocks of buildings, named A, B, C and so on. My Residence, near block U6, is marked.



The city's main building is unique, in that the townhall and the main church share the tower. And the most popular building is the water tower.



When the university was established, the former main castle (Schloss) was utilized. At a later time many further buildings were erected to cope with the demand.



The Psychology Dept was located section EO of the castle; Social Science and Social Psychology (my main areas) were placed in area A5. While at Mannheim University with research projects, I completed my PhD, and later my Habilitation. In 1985 I became "Apl" Professor (a status, not a job).

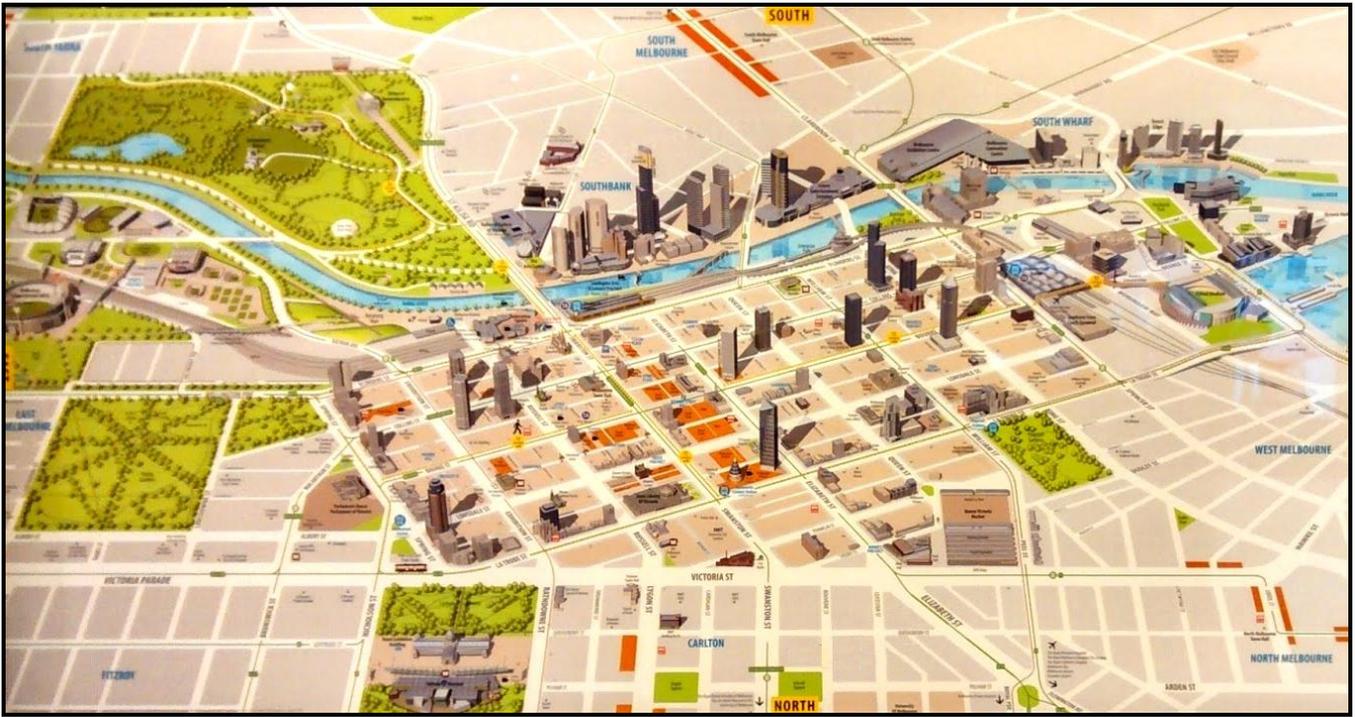
Temporarily I stayed in other cities when employed for interim professorships: Universities Goettingen, Muenster, Hamburg, Giessen. And 1988 I was 'guest-prof' at Waikato University in New Zealand.

**Bernd Rohrmann Phases of my life Melbourne/Australia 1993 to now**



In 1993 I made the biggest step in my life - I left Europe and moved to Australia. Since then I live in Melbourne, a city of about 4 Mio residents.





Given the many skyscrapers in Melbourne, my own little hous is almost minuscule - - - anyway, here it is!

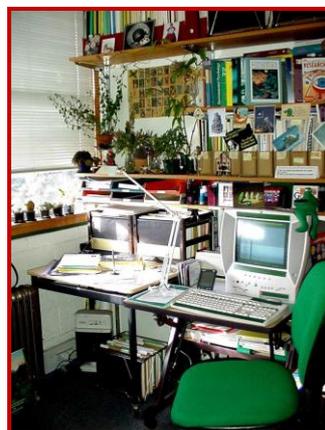


And how do I move around? With trains, busses, trams - and of course my two bicycles!

Bernd Rohmann *Phases of my life* Melbourne University 1993-2009



Melbourne University is not old (1853) yet the oldest of Melbourne's 8 universities, and clearly the "number 1" in Australia.



When I came I was at first placed in a sub-section of the Psych Dept and then in its main building. Here are two early pic's of my office. Most computers were in my "Environmental Research Lab".

Bernd Rohrmann *Phases of my life* Melbourne 2009 to now

In 2009 I finally retired.



Now I work peacefully in my "home office". I read and I write a lot. And my own library is my "university"!  
Cheerio!

