

AUSTRIAN-CANADIANS FROM COAST TO COAST/ LES AUSTRO-CANADIENS D'UN OCÉAN À L'AUTRE

Message from the President

Dear members of the Austrian-Canadian Council,

I hope your summer has gone well! Unfortunately it has been rather cold and rainy in most parts of Canada. High gasoline prices and the impact of the airline merger have played a large role in planning our summer travels, and the high cost of flying has resulted in many cancellations by potential participants in our ACC gatherings. We therefore have had to cancel this year's Austrian Music Workshop for Youth, and we were also forced to change the venue for our meeting in the

southern Ontario region this September. The Annual General Meeting of the Austrian-Canadian Council is now planned for September 3, 2000 in Ottawa.

Another change: Our third and last CBC radio documentary on Robert Stolz by Jill Laforty has been rescheduled for September 6 at 8 p.m.

If you are planning to move, please do not forget to send us your change of address.

I hope to see many of you at our AGM on September 3 in Ottawa!

Roland K. Pirker
President, ACC

Walter Ott: Master Engraver and Director of the Canadian Mint

It can be maintained with pride that Austrian immigrants have contributed to many aspects of Canada's culture, society and economy. One such contributor is Walter Ott, the now-retired Master Engraver and Director of Art at the Canadian Mint.

Walter Ott was born in Kapfenberg, Styria, in 1920. After attending elementary and high school, he began his apprenticeship as an engraver at the Böhler-Werke which lasted four and a half years. After winning a scholarship, he enrolled in the Academy of Applied Arts in Graz. There he studied modeling and composition with Professor Georg Sieder and Professor Rudolf Adamez. During his five years at the Academy he passed the Master's Examination as an engraver. In 1946 he was elected as a member of the Master Examination Board for the Province of Styria and in 1949 he became its chairman.

After completing his education, he started his own business as a metal sculptor and engraver, eventually deciding to seek greener pastures in Canada where he arrived in November 1952. Soon word spread in the business community, and the artistic skills and innovative ideas of this competent craftsman and artist were quickly in demand. For example, he was able to establish himself as the only engraver for hunting rifles in Canada, and the monthly publication *The laughing world* discovered that he was also a talented caricaturist. For several

years, Walter Ott worked for various companies in Montreal, Waterloo and Toronto.



"Austrian Immigration to Canada." International Symposium at Carleton University, Ottawa, May 19-21, 1995. Lecture on May 19. Left to right: Walter Ott, Josefina Ott and Prof. Walter Ott, Jr.
Photo: Rollframe, Roland K. Pirker.

In 1964 his life took an important turn when he joined the Royal Canadian Mint as an engraver. A year later, he advanced to the position of Assistant Chief Engraver, and in 1976 became the Master Engraver and Director of Art, and was confirmed in that position in 1978.

During his career at the Mint he was responsible for the design and creation of literally hundreds of coins, medals, commemorative medallions and tokens. It is fair to say that Walter Ott's talent has significantly contributed to the reputation of the Royal Canadian Mint as a leading global producer of circulation, collection and bullion investment coinage which is valued for its unsurpassed quality, skilled craftsmanship and attention to detail.

Walter Ott has modeled many celebrities, including the Prince and Princess of Wales from a photograph supplied by Buckingham Palace, and the Pope and Governor General Ed Schreyer. He remembers that Schreyer was very pleased with the design of the coin, but he did not hear from the Pope. Ott's favorite creation is the annually issued "Gold Maple Leaf" which he designed from a

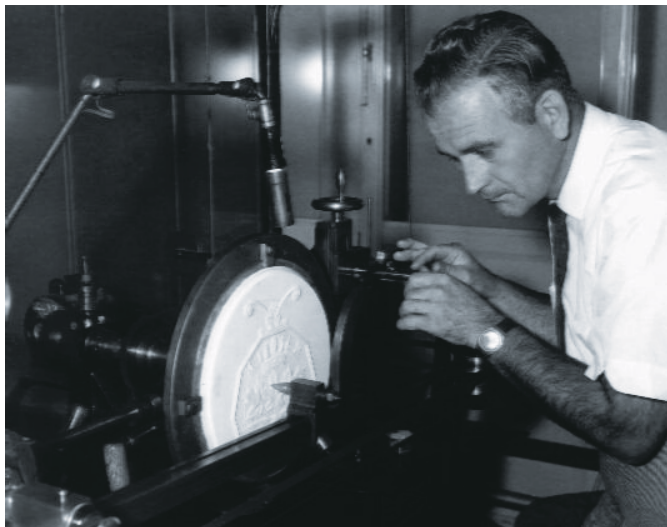


Photo: Archives of the Royal Canadian Mint

real one that he had found in the Gatineau. For this design, he received the award "Most Artistic - Best Gold Coin" from *World Coin News*. In addition to his artistic work at the Mint, he instituted a five-year training program for engravers which proved its success by the fact that one of his students is now the Mint's Master Engraver.

One of Walter Ott's duties was to represent the Royal Canadian Mint at the annual international meeting for minting technology. From such prestigious gatherings he was able to bring back the latest technical advances and to acquaint others with his Canadian experience. While in Europe, he had the opportunity to promote his cherished "Gold Maple Leaf" in Austria, Germany and Switzerland.

Now retired for fifteen years, he has two sons and six grand children and lives in Ottawa with his wife Josefine.

Dr. Kurt A. Fuerst

Dear member of the Austrian community in Canada:

You may have heard of the ambitious project which I am undertaking on behalf of the Austrian-Canadian Council, namely a *Biographical Dictionary of Austrians in Canada*, which will provide details about the personal and professional lives of the thousands of Austrians in Canada and their contributions to Canadian society.

This book is *not* limited to those Austrian-Canadians who have made a "splash" in Canada. Every Austrian-Canadian has made a contribution in his or her own way, and each and every one should be acknowledged—be it in the trades, in business, in the arts, or in academe. In particular, women who might feel that they "haven't really done anything worth writing down" are encouraged to send in an entry for themselves and their family members. Of course, there are many women of Austrian origin who have had their own career, but then there are countless others who have established businesses with their husbands, have helped in clubs and in public and social events, have raised their children with Austrian values, and have in innumerable ways have left their mark as Canadians of Austrian origin. We hope that this dictionary will include literally thousands of Austrian-Canadians.

Please feel included! This announcement has already appeared several times, but I have received only about 300 responses so far. Don't worry about "style": making sure that the style is evened out across all entries is the editor's (my!) job. If you like, just send me "Schlagwörter."

There is *no cost* involved for you when you send in your entry. This is a project *by Austrians in Canada for Austrians in Canada!*

How can you get your biographical information to me? Please send me a note, an e-mail message, a fax, or give me a phone call. I will then send you a questionnaire (let me know how many questionnaires you will need for you and your family) by return mail. And please tell your Austrian friends about this project as well! There are some 25,000 Canadians of Austrian origin!

I hope to hear from you soon!

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Heinrich Sandler: Austrian painter visits and exhibits in Vancouver

Heinrich Sandler was born on June 20, 1934 in Friesach, Carinthia and attended high school (*Gymnasium*) in Klagenfurt. In 1951 he and his family emigrated to Brazil. He graduated in 1953 from the *Escola Americana de Rio de Janeiro* (a North American-type high school). Subsequently, he returned to his native Austria to complete his education at the *Hochschule für Welthandel* in Vienna (University for Economic Sciences) and in 1961 graduated with the degree of *Diplomkaufmann*. From 1961 to 1976 he examined the accounts of large public companies in which the Austrian government was a ma-



Left to right: Beatris Schreiber, Dr. Michael Pötscher, Austrian Consul and Trade Commissioner (Vancouver) and Dkm. Heinrich Sandler. Photo: Karl Maru.

ior shareholder. From 1976 to 1996 he was the head of the internal auditing department of an insurance company. In 1996 he retired from his full-time job and was then able to pursue wholeheartedly his passion for art—a passion that he had developed some 25 years ago. From this point on, Heinrich Sandler has seldom been far away from brush and canvas, allowing him to paint whenever he finds a spare moment and the right environment.

In the spring of 1999, Heinrich and his wife Helga visited British Columbia. After having explored the Butchart Gardens on Vancouver Island, Capilano River Park and Lynn Valley Canyon he quickly realized that he had landed in paradise, as Helga explained later. The impressions he took away from these visits became the focus of his work while staying in Vancouver. His dream was to eventually have an exhibition of his work in Vancouver.

With the help of Trudy Duller, a friendly contact was quickly established with Beatrice and Stephan Schreiber, proprietors of the highly regarded Bel Art Gallery in North Vancouver. On June 3, 2000 Heinrich Sandler's dream

became reality. The exhibition was opened by the Austrian Consul, Dr. Michael Poetscher. In his opening remarks, Dr. Poetscher noted that Mr. Sandler was the first Austrian artist to exhibit visual art in Vancouver, which received resounding applause from the many guests attending the opening. In a short time, Sandler's work has generated great interest among Vancouver art lovers. Although the exhibition closed in North Vancouver on June 28, his art work will be displayed in several other Canadian cities over the next few months.



"Vancouver Harbourfront". Watercolor painting by Dkm. Heinrich Sandler. Photo: Stefan Schreiber.

Chiefly residing in Vienna and Friesach, Heinrich Sandler is being kept busy by his artistic interests. He regularly gives art classes and is often commissioned to produce paintings for organizations and individuals. He is also the president of "Freunde der Friesacher Burg-hofspiele". His supportive and charming wife Helga not only accompanies him on his travels; she also acts as his business manager.

Trudy Duller

Présentation du livre: *Le Canada en Miles Images*

Eugen et Gretl Kedl, Autrichiens d'origine et demeurant à Québec, ont présenté le 4 juillet dernier au Musée des Civilisations à Hull leur plus récent volume, *Le Canada en Miles Images*.

Eugen et Gretl ont voyagé à plusieurs reprises durant 3 ans à travers le Canada et ont sans aucun doute réussi à produire le volume le plus illustré (1150 photographes) sur ce magnifique pays.



Speaker: Dr. Wendelin Ettmayer. Front row: Eugen Kedl, Gretl Kedl and Gerhild Ettmayer. Photo: Rollframe, Roland K. Pirker.

Parmi tous les gens présents le couple a été honoré par la présence de son Excellence Dr. Wendelin Ettmayer et de son épouse Mme Gerhild Ettmayer, du député d'Ottawa M. Mac Harb, le Président du Conseil Autrichien Canadien, M. Roland K. Pirker, ainsi que plusieurs membres de la communauté autrichienne d'Ottawa.

ACC supports Photo Exhibit and Book Launch

On July 4th 2000, Eugen and Gretl Kedl, "Altösterreicher" from the Burgenland now living in Quebec City, presented their most recent book, *Canada in a thousand pictures*. The Photo Exhibit may be viewed from April to October 2000 at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Hull, P.Q.

Eugen and Gretl Kedl travelled for three years across Canada and produced what is probably the most lavishly illustrated book (1,150 photos) ever made about Canada.



Left to right: Roland K. Pirker, President of the ACC, Gretl Kedl (co-author), Dr. Wendelin Ettmayer and Eugen Kedl (photographer & author). Photo: Les Photographes Kedl Ltée, Hermann Griesseier.

The Kedls were honoured by the presence of His Excellency, the Austrian Ambassador Dr. Wendelin Ettmayer and Mrs. Gerhild Ettmayer, Mr. Mac Harb (MP, Ottawa Centre), Mr. Roland K. Pirker (President, ACC). Many members of the Austrian Society of Ottawa were among the guests.

Canada's Austrian Community bids farewell to the former President of Austria

Dr. Rudolf Kirchschräger passed away at the age of 85 in Vienna in March 2000. The Austrian-Canadian Council Executive signed the book of condolences at the Austrian Embassy on April 7, 2000. Left to right: Franz Plangger (ACBC Chairman), Roland K. Pirker (President, ACC), and the Deputy Head of Mission, Dr. Wolfgang Spadinger. Photo: Rollframe, Roland K. Pirker.

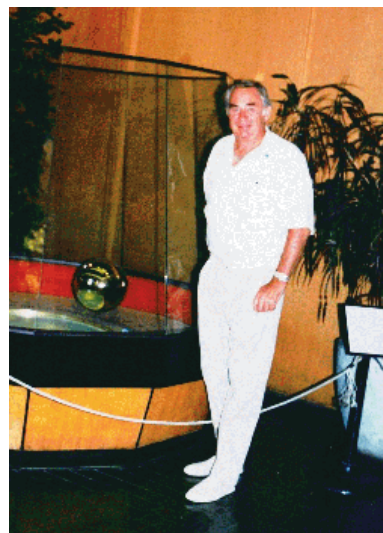


Karl-Franz Hafner: A life-long passion for physics

Karl-Franz Hafner was born in 1927 in Graz, Austria. After Volks- and Middle School in Graz, he spent nearly four years in a technical school in Berlin where he matriculated and also earned his journeyman's papers (*Facharbeiterbrief*) as an electromechanic. Returning a prisoner of war in October 1945, he combined full-time work at Siemens A. G. with part-time studies in engineering courses. Two years later, he became the technical manager of a company employing over 30 craftsmen. A broken personal relationship prompted him to go overseas "for a year or two".

On May 23, 1954, he arrived in Quebec City on the Cunard liner "Samaria" with two suitcases. After nearly a year in Toronto at Massey Harris, he applied for a nationally advertised position as a Research Technician at the Applied Physics Division of the National Research Council in Ottawa. Teaming up with a brilliant English scientist, he found the fulfillment of his professional life: to design and construct electromechanical gadgetry used in physics research.

Attending evening classes at Carleton College filled his time, and he soon forgot about returning to Austria, very much to the dismay of his family there. In the fall of 1956, he met a young, pretty girl who had immigrated with her family from Germany in 1953, and they got married in August 1957. In 1958, Karl-Franz followed his boss to Carleton University where they jointly developed an internationally acclaimed course for physics students called "Physics of Laboratory Techniques". A few years later came another challenge: to become involved in the design of a new building for the Physics Department (now called the Herzberg Laboratory for Physics) and to be the liaison during the construction from 1964 to 1966. The lobby and central tower of the building was designed to house a working Foucault Pendulum, like the one at the U.N. Building in New York, but the architects could not find a qualified consultant to design and build one. In early summer of 1970, he started to tinker with a design and by August, with the competent help of his technical staff, he had created Carleton University's own Pendulum (see insert). It has become somewhat of a landmark in Ottawa and is featured on many publications. The Science writer of the *Ottawa Journal* wrote on



Both photos on this page: Carleton University

October 23, 1970: "In addition to, or in spite of its aesthetics, that five-storey high pendulum is a living experiment in science".

Karl-Franz and his wife Traudie have two daughters who both work in computers. He goes back for a visit to Austria almost every year and is sad to have lost his Austrian citizenship when he became a Canadian citizen in 1961. He was a founding member of the Austrian Society of Ottawa in 1965.

As the world turns - Ottawa is not at the North Pole

If you need proof, the technical staff of the Physics Department at Carleton University offers its Foucault Pendulum as evidence. The 12-inch diameter bronze ball swings at the end of a 55-foot long cable suspended from the ceiling of the Physics Building foyer, moving through 10 degrees and 40 minutes of arc every hour, or 256 degrees in a day. Situated at the North Pole, the plane of the pendulum swing would go through a full circle in 24 hours.

The device is named after French scientist J. B. L. Foucault who produced the same motion in 1851 with a 62-pound cannon ball suspended by piano wire from the top of the Pantheon in Paris. He offered the motion as proof that the earth does indeed spin around on its own axis as well as rotate around the sun.



Ottawa Schrammeln and Alpentrio trip to Boston

"On Friday, May 19, 2000, 5 a.m. we are leaving for Boston!" These were the words of Roland K. Pirker, President of the Austrian Society Ottawa. All the Ottawa "Schrammels" and their wives, the reduced "Alpentrio" (unfortunately minus Gretl Wyslouzil), and our guest, Mrs. Renate Pammer (wife of the Austrian Ambassador to Tunisia) had to rise very early that morning. At five o'clock sharp, two vans with ten people started the long trip to Boston, Massachusetts.



Left to right. Front: The 4 Schrammler (Hermann Griesseier, Edmund Wyslouzil, Hans Wyslouzil and Alois Platzer). Back row: Karin Laframboise, Juliana Belcsak (President, Austrian American Council), Roland K. Pirker (President, Austrian-Canadian Council), Dr. Diethild Harrington (President, Austrian American Association Boston), and Maria Wyslouzil. Photo: Rollframe, Roland K. Pirker.

Thanks to today's technology, walkie-talkies provided constant contact between the two vans. The weather was beautiful, and there were a lot of stops to admire the countryside. Unfortunately it rained during the last leg of the trip!

Dr. Joe Harrington met us at a pre-arranged location in the Boston suburb of Westborough and guided us to his lovely home. There Dr. Didi Harrington graciously received and hosted us with wine, snacks and a video called "The Big Dig" (a documentary explaining Boston's freeway system). At the Harringtons we were advised who the host families would be, and everyone was assigned a family for the duration of the visit. The host families all lived in different suburbs, and it took a while to get everyone to the right family. Boston, to a stranger, feels overwhelming! But we all got really spoiled by our "families" and the members of the Austrian American Association-Boston (AAA-B) - what a treat!

Saturday, under the guidance of Dr. Didi Harrington, President of the Austrian American Association of Boston,

we took a sightseeing tour of downtown Boston. What a beautiful historical city! That evening, by invitation of the AAA-B, we dined at the famous and fancy Boston Harbor Front seafood restaurant called "Jimmy's". Many dignitaries like John F. Kennedy (and now all of us!) have dined there. We had the chance to meet several more members of the Association, and we all truly had a good time!

Sunday morning was spent sightseeing in each family's particular area. The annual general meeting was held in the afternoon, with Mr. Georg Kilzer, Deputy Consul General at the Austrian Consulate General in New York; Dr. med. Heinz K. Grohs, Austrian Vice-Consul of Boston; and Mrs. Juliana Belcsak, President of the Austrian American Council in attendance. Unfortunately, the AAA-B's newly elected president, Mrs. Trudy Acker, was absent due to some unexpected business in Vienna. The election of officers was followed by our "Schrammelfest". Our hosts were not only very generous and friendly, they were also enthusiastic listeners to our group's music and singing. The "Schrammels" and the "Alpenduo" received lots of applause and were thanked wholeheartedly. As the saying goes, "We felt just as at home and comfortable there as back home in Ottawa!"

Unfortunately, Monday morning was the time to say good-bye to our "host families" (we now call them friends). I would like to say on behalf of all of us who made the trip that we will not forget the warmth and friendliness of our hosts and the members of Austrian American Association of Boston. A special thanks to Dr. Didi Harrington, Trudy Acker and Roland K. Pirker, who worked so hard to make this trip possible. We hope that our new friends from Boston will be our guests in the near future and that we can return their hospitality!

Hannelore Platzer

Reminder!

1. The Annual General Meeting of the ACC will take place on September 3, 2000 in Ottawa.
2. The third and last CBC documentary on Robert Stolz by Jill Laforty can be heard on September 6 at 8 p.m. on CBC, Radio Two.

AUSTRIAN-CANADIAN COUNCIL

Dear reader,

We are pleased to present you with *OeCulture*, a magazine devoted to the impact and relevance of Austrian culture in the broader Canadian context, which the Austrian-Canadian Council publishes in cooperation with the Austrian Embassy in Ottawa.

The Austrian-Canadian Council was established in February 1995 as a national umbrella group for Austrian clubs and organizations across Canada. Its first objective has been to give the Austrians in Canada a national voice and to raise the profile of Austrian culture in Canada by informing Canadians about Austrian culture and learning, including an appreciation of Austrian studies, Austrian graphic and performing arts as well as Austrian literature.

The Austrian-Canadian Council also serves as a charitable foundation which acts on behalf of its patrons to promote such Austrian studies and Austrian culture in Canada by sponsoring various cultural, scholarly and other Austria-related activities.

We take pleasure in offering you this free copy of *OeCulture* and ask you to consider becoming a member of the Austrian-Canadian Council. All donors who contribute \$25.00 or more in any given year will receive a full year's subscription to *OeCulture*, three times a year and free of charge.

As to clubs and organizations, the ACC at its national meeting in September 1998 agreed to a voluntary annual membership donation of \$ 100.00 per group.

For further information on the Austrian-Canadian Council, you may write us at the address given below, send an e-mail to austcan@trytel.com or visit our web site at <http://www.trytel.com/~austcan/>.

With best wishes and a most cordial "Grüß Gott",

Roland K. Pirker
President, ACC
1391 Cavendish Road
Ottawa, ON K1H 6B8

PLEASE INFORM US IF YOU CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS !

Membership application

I enclose a cheque for \$_____ (ACC membership \$ 25.00; donation of \$_____) payable to the Austrian-Canadian Council, 1391 Cavendish Road, Ottawa, ON, K1H 6B8

Name: _____

Street: _____

City and Province: _____ Postal code: _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

AUSTRIANS CONTRIBUTE TO THE CANADIAN HERITAGE GARDEN AT RIDEAU HALL

The Canadian Heritage Garden at Rideau Hall was officially opened by H. E. The Right Honorable Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada, on June 9, 2000.



Right to left: Former Governor General Ramon Hnatyshyn and Mrs. Gerda Hnatyshyn. H. E., The Right Honorable Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada, and the Board of Directors of The Canadian Heritage Garden Foundation cut ribbon. Photo: Rollframe, Roland K. Pirker.

On the occasion of the 125th anniversary of Confederation (1992), the then Governor General, H. E. The Right Honorable Ramon John Hnatyshyn and Mrs. Gerda Hnatyshyn requested the assistance of the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects, in consultation with the National Capital Commission, to design a heritage rose garden on the grounds of Rideau Hall. A. D. Regehr, Landscape Architect (Toronto), won the subsequent national competition with a bold design that uses roses to symbolize Canadian ancestral groups and historical events.

The Garden has been brought to life by the collaborative efforts of The Canadian Heritage Garden Foundation (TCHGF), the National Capital Commission and Rideau Hall. This creation was funded entirely by donations from Canadians whose deep love of their country led to the building of this beautiful gift to the people of Canada.

The Austrian-Canadian Council was requested by Mrs. Gerda Hnatyshyn, the CEO of The Canadian Heritage Garden Foundation to participate in constructing

this symbolic "Milestone in the History of a People". Subsequently, a donation was made by the Austrian Society Ottawa on behalf of the Austrian-Canadian Council. A plaque and a rosebush will commemorate the contribution that Austrian immigrants have made to Canadian society. The Canadian Heritage Garden is the first garden in the world to use roses to symbolize ancestral groups and historical events. This rose garden will be seen by thousands of visitors each year as they tour the Rideau Hall grounds.



Opening ceremony at Rideau Hall of the Rose Garden, Ottawa, June 9, 2000 by the Canadian Heritage Garden Foundation. Invited guests at the opening of the new Rose Garden at Rideau Hall. Photo: Rollframe, Roland K. Pirker.



Burgie Pirker and Roland K. Pirker, President of the Austrian-Canadian Council and the Austrian Society Ottawa. Photo: Rollframe.