

**Schloss Neuhardenberg**

A Gem of the March  
in the Focus of History

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## **Serene austerity –**

### **Prussian palaces in Brandenburg**

In Brandenburg, as in other areas of the new Länder of former East Germany, there are many places to discover that warm the heart. An atmosphere of fragile romanticism emanates from the palaces, parks and manor houses, firing the imagination and inspiring to undertake activities. It is easy to dream of the ›better times‹ that such places must have experienced, for otherwise they would never have been built. Yet it is often difficult to develop viable concepts for the future of such places, since it appears that the palatial estates of the Prussian princes do not exactly head the list of public priorities.

### **Global thinking, local action**

In the case of Schloss Neuhardenberg, the German Savings Banks and Giro Association had other ideas about this situation. On the one hand, it is in keeping with the self-perception of a major financial association active throughout the entire country and deeply rooted in the regions to preserve historic architectural treasures in the living environment of the people and make them once again available for the more enjoyable sides of daily life in the Brandenburg March. Even more important is the search for a place to carry out the – not least of all identity-affirming – task of demonstrating both nationally and internationally that the association is ready to take on or, in fact, devote itself to the challenge of the questions facing our times in science, art and culture, in reflection and presentation, in facilitation and realisation, an approach from which the region can and should benefit in no small way.

And finally, through its commitment, the German Savings Banks and Giro Association assumes entrepreneurial responsibility in a region of Germany in which it hasn't yet become a general tradition again and in which the necessary economic stability has to be gradually re-established. The decision to invest here and play an active role is also to be understood as an encouragement to become involved in an area in which there is still a lot to be done.

## **A Gem of the March**

The choice of Schloss Neuhardenberg was of course anything but arbitrary. The place is a gem of the Brandenburg March. The estate is located east of Berlin in what was once the centre of the Prussian kingdom and is now the middle of Europe. Moreover, through the name of its patron, Prince Karl August von Hardenberg, it is connected with the Prussian reforms initiated by him and Imperial Baron Karl vom und zum Stein, which ushered in the renewal of Prussia and evened the way to self-administration of the municipalities and modernisation of civil society. This provided, moreover, the essential prerequisites for the founding of the first savings banks, which were thus from the very beginning able to carry out their responsibilities on a firm basis in the citizenry. A principle to which the savings banks have remained faithful throughout their two-hundred-year history.

Oak-lined roads lead from the capital to the town with its roughly 3000 inhabitants. In the village there is a classicistic palace which, like the neighbouring church, was given its final form by none other than Karl Friedrich Schinkel, as well as a palace park, which was designed by Peter Joseph Lenné and Prince Hermann von Pückler-Muskau. Three names which stand for the highest achievement in the European architectural and gardening design of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## **In the focus of history**

In the seclusion of this rather unspectacular location in the old kingdom of Prussia, the weal and woe of this so very German state reveals itself as if magnified through a burning glass. Its history accompanies the rise and fall of the Hohenzollern dynasty and bears traces from the time of the so-called Third Reich as well as the forty years of East German ›real-socialism‹. Neuhardenberg is a singular example of the ability to initiate reform and the willingness to offer resistance in a nation not always known for these qualities.

## **Four centuries – a journey**

### **The rescue of the King provides a family seat**

Originally in the possession of Dorothea von Brandenburg, wife of the Great Elector, the town of Quilitz became the male fief of one of her sons, and when two generations later there were no male heirs, it fell back to the crown.

The emergence of the town from insignificance is related to the events of war. After the disastrous defeat of Prussia at the battle of Kunersdorf in the year 1759, King Friedrich II saw that all was lost and that he would soon be captured by the joint armies of Austria and Russia, specifically the Cossacks. But at this moment, Joachim Bernhard von Prittwitz und Gaffron, cavalry captain of the Zieten hussar regiment, came galloping up on his white horse and saved the monarch from his perilous plight. The unbroken gratitude of the Hohenzollern king showed itself again in the year 1763 when he rewarded Prittwitz with the office of Quilitz – the very Quilitz that was to be renamed Neu-Hardenberg some half a century later. The lasting gratitude was mutual. In 1792 a monument designed by Johann Meil and executed by Giuseppe Martini was erected in Quilitz Park as the first Friedrich memorial on German soil: Mars and Minerva, purportedly bearing a resemblance to Prittwitz and his wife, mourn at the urn of the Prussian king.

### **Delayed ascent**

The construction work on the palace may have begun fairly early, shortly after the not very well-off Prittwitz improved his financial circumstances by marrying Baroness Marie Eleonore von Seherr-Tross. According to other estimates, the palace dates from 1786, the year in which Friedrich the Great died. In this case, it is questionable whether the incident recorded by Theodor Fontane could actually have happened, according to which the king, during a visit, found that construction of the manor house had progressed to such a degree that work had begun on a second storey. The king's moody remark on this development: »You are building a palace! You are aiming high

indeed!« Thereupon Prittwitz is supposed to have decided to do without the bel étage. For whatever reason, the building originally had only one floor.

### **Everything would have been different**

And still: without the rescue of the king everything would have been different, and not only for Prittwitz. The white horse to which the Zieten hussar owed his coup of saving the king is supposed to have been buried in the park behind the palace. Looking back in the light of history, one could imagine that the stallion is at odds with himself to this very day as to whether it would not have been better to throw the valiant captain off his back.

### **A right young hotspur**

A major fire in 1801 had provided the necessity and not unwelcome opportunity for a thorough renovation of the entire estate. This was the occasion for bringing the young architect Karl Friedrich Schinkel to Quilitz. The son of the king's saviour was well-aware that he had a very promising adviser at his side in the person of the barely twenty-year-old designer from Berlin. Numerous plans were made and the Bärwinkel estate building was erected. The reconstruction of the estate was completed with the inauguration of the church in the year 1809. It had received a new face under Schinkel's aegis – Fontane wrote that the whole thing looked like they had placed an oval napkin-ring around an oblong tea caddy. The park, too, was obliged to adapt to the prevailing taste of the time: it was marked by the influence of English landscape architecture and adorned with small architectural constructions, sculptures and a Rococo garden. The Prittwitz era ended abruptly: Friedrich Wilhelm Bernard von Prittwitz, feeling resigned in view of the political and economic circumstances under Napoleon's occupation, exchanged Quilitz in 1810 for the provost district of Casimir in Silesia. Quilitz was sold back to the crown.

## **Quilitz becomes Neu-Hardenberg**

In 1814 royal gratitude plays a role once again in the history of the town when Friedrich Wilhelm III awards Quilitz to his deserving subject and so-called mediatised prince, Karl August von Hardenberg, and renames it Neu-Hardenberg in his honour. The recipient notes laconically in his diary on November 7, 1814: »Reçu la dotation de Neu-Hardenberg«. In this way the highest-ranking Prussian government official moved into the town. Karl Friedrich Schinkel was called back again and asked to install a confectionery in the palace. This was later followed by the reconstruction of the church, a further redesign of the park with the participation of Peter Joseph Lenné and Prince Hermann von Pückler-Muskau, who was married to Hardenberg's daughter Lucie, and finally, the reconstruction of the palace with the addition of the severely missed second storey.

## **Worldly wise and noble of heart**

Hardenberg determined Prussian politics for several decades, heading it as chancellor of state since 1810, instituting reforms of the state and society together with Imperial Baron Karl vom und zum Stein, and thus finally enabling the kingdom to emerge with renewed strength from the existential crisis of the Napoleonic wars. Under his leadership the administration was streamlined and transformed from an obscurely led secret government into a smoothly functioning apparatus, a sober tool to administer the Prussian commonweal. He conquered territories on the field of diplomacy, for instance at the Vienna Congress, that monstrous convocation of horse-trading at which the leaders of the European peoples divided up the Old World after the defeat of Emperor Napoleon. Prince Hardenberg was a cultivated, worldly wise man of farsighted astuteness and noble of heart, as it was expressed at the time. He esteemed »Urbanity, Grace and a Sense of Honour« as leitmotif of an appropriate educational policy, was open to the joys of life, and was anything but an adventurer. Baron Stein remained sceptical toward his confederate. Although he thought highly of him and saw in him »the good-naturedness and friendliness of sanguine, pleasure-loving,

nimble-minded men, a quick-witted understanding, industriousness and a becoming appearance«. He believed, however, that Hardenberg's »character was lacking in both a religious and moral foundation and in intensive strength and steadfastness, and that his understanding wanted depth, his knowledge thoroughness.«

### **The heart of the Chancellor of State**

The altar of the Neuhardenberg Church preserves an object of rather knotty imagery. In a niche lined with red velvet, under a glass-cover, is a piece of organic material of leathery colouring. It is a downright rare specimen, a politico-religious oddity, – a Prussian relic. Here in safe-keeping for posterity is no less than the heart of the Prussian chancellor of state Prince Karl August von Hardenberg.

### **The seat of virtue**

The honourable chancellor died in Genoa in 1822. After a prescribed period his body was transferred to Berlin and buried behind the Neu-Hardenberg Church. To this very day it has not been possible to reconstruct when and at whose behest the princely heart, which »beat with loving fidelity / for his king and his fatherland«, as the commemorative plaque informs us, was removed. At first a crystal bowl was used as dry preparation, so that every citizen could honour the chancellor as a man whose heart had markedly contributed to the formation of his character. It is dreadful to imagine that in 1945 the Soviet soldiers are said to have played football with it on the square in front of the church.

### **An organ for the son and heir**

A direct connection leads through improvident chapters of Prussian history from the first to the last Hardenberg who was to inhabit the estate. Count Carl-Hans von Hardenberg, retired captain of the Wehrmacht of the German empire, who had received his military training in the noble infantry regiment 9,

became lord of Neu-Hardenberg in 1921. In 1924, when, after four daughters, a son and heir was finally born, the count donated a Sauer organ for the village church. The life of the family Hardenberg-Neu-Hardenberg was still very much in accord with the style of aristocratic lords of the manor in the Prussian protestant tradition of the March.

### **When Prussia was no more: the bitter consequence**

Until the times changed. Count Carl-Hans von Hardenberg saw fit in the summer of 1944 to turn his pistol against himself. In the weeks and months before that, he had often hosted the leading minds of the military resistance to the National-Socialist regime at his palace, including Count Claus Schenk von Stauffenberg, Henning von Tresckow and Ludwig Beck. They and their host saw themselves very much in the tradition of Prussian virtues, many of which were of military nature. That Count Hardenberg became a career officer was only natural; that he fought for the Hohenzollern emperor in the First World War was an unquestioned matter of honour. But that was the limit. He had nothing in common with the National-Socialists. When Hitler was named chancellor of the Reich, Hardenberg resigned from all official posts so as not to be corrupted by association with the new rulers. Count Carl-Hans von Hardenberg was no revolutionary, no subversive, no traitor, no assassin. Yet he, too, like other officers of the old Prussian nobility, did not shrink from the bitter consequence, when Germany lay paralysed with fear, under consideration of the priorities, that it was imperative to put aside the Prussian virtues of submissiveness to authority and loyalty to the state.

### **The hapless attempt**

The attempt on Hitler's life failed, and Hardenberg was not made chief of police in Berlin and Brandenburg, as had been planned for the government after Hitler's removal. Instead, he was dismissed from the army and dispossessed of all his properties, and he was enough of a realist to imagine what was in store for him. Twice he tried to commit suicide in order to avoid

arrest out of concern that he would reveal the names of his co-conspirators, but he was finally taken into custody by the Gestapo on July 24 in the Garden Room of Schloss Neuhausen. Count Carl-Hans von Hardenberg survived the detention in Sachsenhausen concentration camp, thanks to the care of fellow prisoner Paul Hofmann, a Communist who kept his charge just healthy enough to avoid permanent physical damage, but yet weak enough to allow him to drop into unconsciousness during the relentless interrogations.

### **Speer's cravings**

For a short time the palace belonged to the Reich, which was inevitably grinding to a premature end of its thousand-year term. Albert Speer, the Minister of Armaments and War Production and »chief building inspector for the Reich's capital Berlin«, for whom it became literally too hot to remain there, considered moving his office to Neu-Hardenberg. A grotesque notion: this idyll in the Brandenburg March as the fount of creation for the Germania Hall and the whole monstrous architectural madness of the Hitler-Speerian phantasmagoria for a centre of power of their gigantic Eurasian empire. Both of these ideas came to nought, and could not have succeeded. »The Russians are coming« – and that was the beginning of a whole new chapter.

### **The bloody end of the dream – the Battle of Seelow Hills**

The Russians, in the form of the Red Army, were already stationed in the immediate vicinity. This had once been the point of departure into the vastness of the Prussian east, the beginning of the dream of ›Lebensraum‹. The Battle of Seelow Hills near Neu-Hardenberg stands – in many ways – for the end of this dream. This great, terrible, decisive battle for Berlin was supposed to mobilise once again the long since depraved »Prussian art of war« in order to keep the »Russian bear« away from the capital. The particular tragedy of this cruel exercise was its futility. The strength with which the German armies clung to the sand of the March was fed by a fear that had already become

reality. The Reich was already destroyed, the die had been cast – in the Crimea – without consideration of Dönitz's fantasies of a post-war order planned with German participation. The downfall could no longer be checked. The battle to avert it was a battle for an illusion.

### **Not even their ashes**

When history might have shown justice for once, the redistribution of the world after the war in 1945 prevented the Hardenbergs from returning to honour. The appropriation of Count Carl-Hans von Hardenberg's property was underscored in fact by the Socialist land reform. Liberated from the concentration camp, Hardenberg left the Soviet occupied zone of Germany with his family straight away in 1945 in the direction of the former seat of the family in Nörten-Hardenberg near Göttingen. From that time on he devoted himself to administering the Hohenzollern fortune, while his wife took charge of the foundation »20<sup>th</sup> of July Welfare Organisation« as its managing director.

For the new masters, the Hardenbergs were »Prussian junkers« who in the crudeness of revolutionary world views represented the manifest embodiment of the reprobate Old Order. Finer differentiations »in consideration of person« were sacrificed to the stereotyped judgement of the functionaries building the new nation. The »men of the 20<sup>th</sup> of July« counted for little; for the powers that be, resistance to the Nazi regime meant exclusively Communist resistance to the Nazi regime. In response to a request by the family that Count Carl-Hans von Hardenberg be allowed to be buried in the family tomb, Mayor Karl Linse declared resolutely and no less tersely that »neither they nor their ashes« would ever be welcome.

## **Karl in the woods**

In the year 1949, before the official foundation of the GDR, a harsh beam of light fell on the community. The town, of all places, was earmarked for a new change of name. The Prussian reformer was once and for all passé, and from this moment on Neu-Hardenberg was called Marxwalde – a macabre distinction; after all, such ideological appropriation has seldom had a salubrious effect on the object so honoured. Karl Marx had arrived in the Brandenburg woods, as it were – a grotesquerie out the history of ideology, which almost had tangible consequences, since the classicistic manor had already been pinpointed in the wake of the real-socialist aversion to palaces and churches. If it had not been for the vehement protest of the village teacher Ernst Tietze, Schloss Neuharbenberg would had met with the same fate as the Berlin Stadtschloss, which like Neuharbenberg had suffered only minor damage in the war, or the Potsdam garrison church: demolition. And so the palace was saved; its history was put in mothballs.

## **Model Socialist village**

During this time, the town's development is marked by such terms as military hospital, refugees from the East, youth club, or lodgings for construction workers. The castle was used as a school from 1946 to 1976. But any town that bore the name of Karl Marx could not remain an ordinary place forever. A model Socialist village was designed on a major scale from afar at central headquarters. The DEFA film studio also took notice of the place. The mixture of Socialist apartment buildings and Schinkel's Prussian manor architecture was apparently provided an emblematic cinematic backdrop for such films as »Eine alte Liebe« by Gustav von Wangenheim or »Heimliche Ehen« by Frank Beyer, with newcomer Armin Mueller-Stahl in his film debut as the young lover. Alongside the agricultural cooperative LPG »Neues Leben«, such production companies as the state furniture manufacturer VEB Polstermöbel were established here.

## **The People's Army moves in**

The intention to build a model village soon had to make way for more ambitious objectives. Starting in 1957 the nearby airport, originally set up by the Wehrmacht, was expanded, and in 1959 the first squad of the government and liaison flying squadron of the GDR was stationed in Marxwalde. The first living quarters of the National People's Army were built to house the officers and their families. One of them was Siegmund Jähn, colonel general and the »first German in space«.

## **Socialist monoculture**

In the course of time, the National People's Army virtually took over Marxwalde. Further officers' quarters were built, a clubhouse of the People's Army was opened for the general public, and the »Festival of the Socialist Soldier Family« was celebrated annually. Gradually, in typical manner for small towns in the vicinity of large army installations, a Socialist monoculture grew up.

There was little left of the idyll of the March: where the power of the state and the People's Army are on parade, there is no room for refuges. But »Urbanity, Grace and a Sense of Honour« did not exactly belong to the fundamental pillars of the real-socialist moral canon. Marxwalde, including its very name, is a perfect example of radical appropriation, total reform and renunciation of all pre-socialist heritage, and in that sense it would somehow not have been doing justice to the old Prussian chancellor of state if the town had still been named after him.

## **Countermovements**

In reference to its rescue, the palace went down as the »Prussian turn of events« in the official historiography of the GDR. It was restored from 1976 to 1988, which could only be carried out »within the framework of economic feasibility«, but in view of the chronic shortages in the budget for GDR construction planning, it was no small achievement to have saved the house. A museum was set up, comprising eleven rooms of the building, which were largely fit out with historical furniture. In 1978 the cultural academy of the district of Frankfurt (Oder) chose the palace as its seat, an institution that certainly did not stand in direct opposition to the National People's Army, but which no doubt set differing priorities here and there. In the end, in 1988, Marxwalde once more played host to the last Festival of the Workers of the GDR, which was put on under the becoming title of the »11<sup>th</sup> Cultural Festival of the Working Population of Socialist Agriculture« (and not, say, of »National Defence«). In view of these circumstances, it is almost unbelievable that all this time a Protestant parish was stubbornly able to exist, whose protective walls may have given succour and strength to many a tormented soul in the honourable service of their country.

## **Contentious withdrawal; departure, restitution**

As the GDR was collapsing, there was a brief struggle between the church and the army about the dominant position at the »Round Table«, but the whole discussion soon became irrelevant. In the beginning a lot was »liquidated«, »closed down«, »wound up«, namely almost all of the Socialist manufacturing and agricultural undertakings. The liaison flying squadron stationed in Marxwalde was taken over by the German army until March 1993 and then dissolved. The centralised cultural organisation also came to a sudden end, and Karl in the Woods was no longer well tolerated. As of January 1, 1991, the town once again became known as Neuhardenberg. This time without the dash. The new era was above all one thing: difficult. Nearby were the barracks, which had been kept open; the future of the palace and the town was uncertain. Promising beginnings were noted.

A hotel with a café was built, and a documentation on the insurrection of the 20<sup>th</sup> of July was displayed in the east wing of the palace. But the turn of events in Germany did not automatically mean an upswing. Many promising attempts failed. Gradually almost every public initiative came to a halt. The proceedings surrounding the expropriation clearly warranted the restitution of the properties to their rightful owner. In 1996 the estate including the palace and the park were returned to the Hardenberg family, who sold it to the German Savings Banks and Giro Association in 1997. This was followed by a four-year construction phase.

And thus began a new chapter.

### **From periphery to intersection**

Today Neuhardenberg lies on the periphery of Germany but in the centre of the European Union. Things in Europe are no longer as inflexible as they appeared to be for almost half a century. Unthinkable even ten years ago: Poland is now a member of the EU. Europe is growing eastward, and in the same degree the notion of ›easterness‹ is undergoing a revision. No longer a border area Neuhardenberg now occupies in a pivotal position along the intersection of economies and cultures which should find their way to one another over the next decades. This process should not be carried out as the victory march of the established Western economies over economic systems now setting out in new directions. It is important to forge partnerships, to meet each other halfway and sometimes to wait for each other to catch up. This requires patience, interest, circumspection, and not least of all a location. Hardly any other town is as suitable and downright predestined to serve this purpose as Neuhardenberg: predestined through its location and its history, suitable through its nature, which allows visitors concentration and leisure without being arbitrary.

## **On the cutting edge**

Fundamental to all considerations about what is to be undertaken here is the condition that, firstly, the character of the refuge be preserved as a place of concentration and repose, an appropriate framework for discussions and conferences.

Secondly, the artistic programme has the ambition to attract guests from Germany and around the world by means of productions with important international partners which originate in no small part here at the premises and address artistic, political and scientific questions and challenges of the present times. Focal points of the programme planning are concerts, theatre productions, workshops and exhibitions as well as internationally orientated lectures, seminars, conferences and symposiums in the fields of politics, society, culture and science.

## **The active participants**

After the »hardware« prerequisites were created around the palace and park, the German Savings Banks and Giro Association appointed Bernd Kauffmann as chief representative of the Stiftung Schloss Neuhardenberg GmbH in 2001. He is former president of the Stiftung Weimarer Klassik and, as delegate general and artistic director, was responsible for the programme »Weimar 1999 – Cultural City of Europe«, and previous to that, among other things, was general secretary of the Stiftung Niedersachsen. The Stiftung Schloss Neuhardenberg GmbH is supported by an international curatorium. The curators, outstanding personalities from the areas of politics, business, science, culture and religion, accompany and advise on the activities of the foundation, under the chairmanship of Dr. Dietrich H. Hoppenstedt, president of the German Savings Banks and Giro Association and chairman of the board of the Stiftung Schloss Neuhardenberg GmbH.

## **The programme: select, concentrated, composed**

The decisive factor in the new look at Neuhardenberg is that the entire programme is marked by the premise of composed intensity. It takes the special nature of the place into account, which is not Berlin or Warsaw. Schloss Neuhardenberg is a place that is waiting to be discovered.

The foundation has above all two aims. On the one hand, it is to provide the executive boards, governing councils, committees and commissions of the companies of the savings banks finance group for their conferences, seminars and meetings, and for reflection and debating together.

The second aim of the foundation is to realise artistic productions in theatre, music and the graphic arts, in readings, lectures and debates in a national and international context on the extensive premises of the palace ensemble, including the park and the airport, which is in the immediate vicinity and offers a completely different, almost contrary, suggestive scenography.

Further recommended reading (in German):

### **Schloss Neuhardenberg**

*With contributions by Eckart Goebel, Hans-Joachim Kuke,  
Ulrich Erben and Heinz Liesbrock.*

*The volume collects essays on the history of Schloss Neuhardenberg, on Prince Karl August von Hardenberg, on Count Carl-Hans von Hardenberg and his family in the struggle against Hitler, on the eventful history of the town ›Neu-Hardenberg – Marxwalde – Neuhardenberg‹ in the post-war period, on the architectural history of the palace and church as well as the restoration of the ensemble and the landscaped park, supplemented by a poetic visual journey through the surroundings, with photos by Toma Babovic and poems by Bertolt Brecht.*

*160 pages, numerous illustrations,  
publ. by German Savings Banks and Giro Association and  
Stiftung Schloss Neuhardenberg, 2002; second, revised edition 2004*

### **Reinhild Gräfin von Hardenberg**

***Auf immer wieder neuen Wegen.***

***Erinnerungen an Neuhardenberg und den Widerstand  
gegen den Nationalsozialismus***

*Countess Reinhild von Hardenberg, daughter of the last medialised prince to live at Neuhardenberg, has written her memoirs. She presents an impressive and moving picture of the life of a young woman leading a carefree existence while growing up until, as her father's secretary and Werner von Haeften's fiancée, she becomes a witness to the preparations for the attempt on the life of Adolf Hitler on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July 1944. As »prisoner on remand Hardenberg, Cell 31, political« she is held in custody in the Moabit women's prison. After her release her life takes a course that is closely connected to the stations of German history in the last 50 years.*

*»Anyone who is not able to sleep one day in the palace and the next day on a straw mattress without losing their composure has no culture.« This maxim of her father, Count Carl-Hans von Hardenberg, helps 21-year-old Reinhild to endure the difficult time in prison and her grief at the loss of her home. »On ever new paths« as the book is called in German, she masters her life, about which she informs us not without humour in her book.*

*220 pages, numerous illustrations,  
publ. by Lukas Verlag,  
Berlin 2003  
ISBN 3-936872-02-3*

## **Ein Traum, was sonst? – Preußische Tugenden**

*With contributions by Friedmar Apel, Jens Bisky, Justus Fetscher, Patrick Föhl, Eckart Goebel, Erik von Grawert-May, Durs Grünbein, H.D. Kittsteiner, Andrzej Kopacki, Katja Lange-Müller, Lothar Müller, Bruno Preisendörfer, Lutz Rathenow, Johannes Saltzwedel, Einar Schleef, Cornelia Vismann and Heinrich Wefing.*

*The essays in this book, written on the occasion of the exhibition »A Dream, What Else? – Prussian Virtues« in Schloss Neuhausen by writers, historians and journalists, show how controversial the Prussian virtues were before 1945, to what degree they were no longer considered binding, and how much they could be in conflict with one another. Individual cases: Moses Mendelssohn who is supposed to buy porcelain monkeys, Karl August von Hardenberg who has his heart interred in an altar, Queen Luise who reads in a library, Walter Benjamin who reveals himself to be extravagantly thrifty, Varnhagen von Ense who almost always knows to be punctual, and Mr Bulinski, as well, who roams through the woods around Marxwalde with his Young Pioneers – these people and many others reveal the wealth of variety, the incomprehensibility of the pretension and reality of the Prussian virtues.*

*288 pages, publ. by Stiftung Schloss Neuhausen,  
Wallstein Verlag, Göttingen 2002  
ISBN 3-89244-524-9*

## **Carl-Hans Graf von Hardenberg Ein deutsches Schicksal im Widerstand**

*Carl-Hans Graf von Hardenberg was actively involved in the preparations for the attempt on the life of Hitler and was imprisoned in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp after it failed. In these memoirs, which he wrote down at the end of 1945, he describes the motives and moral conflicts of the officers who had planned the death of the tyrant. Reports and letters from family, friends and contemporary witnesses, including his wife Renate Gräfin von Hardenberg and his daughter Reinhild, who was also imprisoned, supplement this important document.*

*Günter Agde, Bernd Kauffmann and Gebhard von Hardenberg describe the turbulent history of the family seat and the town of Neuhausen.*

*310 pages, numerous illustrations,  
edited by Günter Agde  
Aufbau Taschenbuch Verlag, Berlin 2004  
ISBN 3-7466-8107-3*

*The publications are available at the Museum Shop of the  
Stiftung Schloss Neuhausen, Schinkelplatz, 15320 Neuhausen,  
or by eMail at [museumsshop@schlossneuhausen.de](mailto:museumsshop@schlossneuhausen.de)  
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