

## Colonial evidences and Persons of interest that left their footmark in Karlsruhe

### Kaiser Wilhelm Statue

Kaiserplatz

### Wißmannstraße, 76185 Karlsruhe-Daxlanden

Herrman Wißmann (Hermann Wilhelm Leopold Ludwig Wissmann), (4 September 1853 – 15 June 1905)

-Colonialist, and african explorer and military administrator of German East Africa. 1895/96 Gouverneur from the German East Africa colony.

- 1882 first one crossing Africa from west to east.

-Known for his brutality against natives and arabs.

-From 1883 to 1885, Wissmann explored the Kasai region in what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo on behalf of the Belgian King Leopold II. On this expedition he developed his motto: "If I can't find a way, I'll pave one for myself."

-In 1888, Wissmann was promoted to captain and appointed 1st official Reich Comissioner for the [German East Africa](#) region.

- January 26, 1889, the new Reich Commissioner explained his action program to parliamentarians in front of the Reichstag: „*The difficulties can never be eliminated with kindness and compliance, negotiations are therefore out of the question for him, only with force can “the insurgents be given a thorough lesson and our reputation, which has been seriously damaged in East Africa, restored.”*“<sup>8</sup>

-Later tasked with suppression of the [Abushiri Revolt](#) led by [Abushiri ibn Salim al-Harthi](#).

-Commander of the first German colonial troops

-Wissmann's forces used extremely brutal methods to suppress resistance.

-Wissmann has the dubious fame of being the first to use the “scorched earth/verbrannte Erde” tactic in a German-led colonial war.

-Wissmann's conduct of the war, which even colonial officers described as “extremely cruel”, was not only approved in Germany. Bismark was displeased with his way of administration and Willhelm II disliked him. (latter one for his behavior rather than his massacre)

### Quellen:

[Wissmann:http://www.kopfwelten.org/kp/personen/wissmann/#8](http://www.kopfwelten.org/kp/personen/wissmann/#8)

<sup>8</sup> Rochus Schmidt: Deutschlands Kolonien. Ihre Gestaltung, Entwicklung und Hilfsquellen, Bd. 1, Berlin 1894, S. 69.

### **Lüderitzstraße, 76185 Karlsruhe-Daxlanden**

Franz Lüderitz (16. Juli 1834 - 30. Oktober 1886)

- German Merchant, Pre-Founder of the later German South West African colony. Qwned an area first an area wich he called „Lüderitzland“ it reached 150 km. inland from any point on the coast of now namibia. Later owned an area from South Africa to Angola. (580 thousand sq km).

Sources:

<https://www.deutsche-biographie.de/gnd11857504X.html#ndbcontent>

<https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/L%C3%BCderitzland>

### **Theodor-Rehbock-Straße 76131 Oststadt**

Theodor Rehbock (12 April 1864, [Amsterdam](#) – 17 August 1950, Baden-Baden)

- Hydraulic Engineer. Worked in a „advisory position“ and „advised“ to expropriated Southwest african territories from tribes to implement Hydraulic systems for german settlers.

-Chairman in Karlsruhe for the 1903 general meeting of the German Colonial Society

-As a hydraulic engineer, Rehbock was of worldwide importance. The number of countries with projects in which he participated is over 50.

-Professor and principale of KIT

“[t]he most important basic condition for the development of German Southwest Africa [...] is of course the settlement of the country with Europeans, since the increase in the white population is the prerequisite for any economic upswing. For political reasons, it becomes desirable (...) to bring in exclusively German settlers, so that a population that is as uniform as possible is created, which offers the mother country the greatest economic and political advantages”

Quellen:<https://stadtlexikon.karlsruhe.de/index.php/De:Lexikon:bio-0162>

<https://www.ph-karlsruhe.de/projekte/karlsruhe-postkolonial> (Rehbock 1898:212f.)

**Friedrich Ratzle** (August 30, 1844 – August 9, 1904) was a German [geographer](#) and [ethnographer](#),

general administration member of german colonial association in karlsruhe

Ratzel's idea of Raum (space) would grow out of his organic state conception. His early concept of habitat was not political or economic but spiritual and racial nationalist' expansion. The space-motive is a historically-driving force, pushing peoples with great culture to naturally expand. Space, for Ratzel, was a vague concept, theoretically unbounded. Space was defined as where German peoples live, and other weaker states could serve to support German peoples economically, and German culture could fertilize other cultures. However, it should be noted that Ratzel's concept of space was not overtly aggressive, but he theorized simply as the natural expansion of strong states into areas controlled by weaker states.

The book for which Ratzel is recognized all over the world is „Anthropogeography“. It was completed between 1872 and 1899. The main focus of this monumental work is on the effects of different physical features and locations on the style and life of the people.

„cultural innovations are rarely invented worlwide and then spread to other cultures, thats why we have to implement them first“.

sources: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich\\_Ratzel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_Ratzel)

**Karl Grimm**, from 1891 von Grimm, (also Carl von Grimm, Carl Grimm; born February 2, 1830 in Karlsruhe; † April 6, 1898, *ibid.*), ennobled in 1891, was a German lawyer, Minister of Justice of Baden and member of the German Reichstag.

Karl von Grimm was one of the most influential in the spread of colonial ideas

- Board of the Society for German Colonization in Karlsruhe

- financial support for the promotion and dissemination of colonial efforts.

He was one of the founders of the Society for German Colonization in Berlin

- Part of „Peter's expedition“ in Zanzibar in 1884 and during which the German East African colony was founded and the locals were dispossessed.

- Member of the German East African Society.

Had a significant influence on colonial events. He later became a member of the Colonial Council and was responsible for the activities of the imperial authorities in the colonies.

- Chairman of the later German colonial society until the end of his life.

Sources: [Badische Biographien 5.1891/1910 \(1901\) V. Teil](#) Grimm, Karl von

## **Hans-Thoma-Straße Karlsruhe Innercity-West**

Hans Thoma (born October 2, 1839 in Oberlehen, Bernau in the Black Forest, today Waldshut district; † November 7, 1924 in Karlsruhe) was a German painter and graphic artist.

- Enthusiastic supporters of colonies and active colonial propagandist.

- He was significantly involved in the two artist festivals “Three Days in the Tomorrowland” in 1901 and the “World Exhibition” in Karlsruhe, which also parodied colonial places.

Sources: <https://www.ph-karlsruhe.de/projekte/karlsruhe-postkolonial>

## **Adenauerring**

Konrad Adenauer (5 January 1876 – 19 April 1967) the first [chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany](#) from 1949 to 1963.

- Cologne mayor also deputy president of the “German Colonial Society”

As mayor, he supported the “German Colonial Exhibition” in Cologne, which took place from June 1st to September 2nd, 1934 – long after Germany had “lost” its colonies. The colonial exhibition was intended to help “implant colonial ideas in hearts and minds so that the German people recognize the enormous importance of overseas possessions for Germany.”

“The German Reich must absolutely strive to acquire colonies. There is too little space in the empire itself for the large population. It is precisely the somewhat daring, strongly forward-looking elements that cannot operate in the country itself but find a field for their activity in the colonies that are constantly lost to us. We must have more space for our people and therefore colonies.”

Sources: <https://desintegration.ihaus.org/konrad-adenauer-denkmal/>  
<https://www.ph-karlsruhe.de/projekte/karlsruhe-postkolonial>

