

FRAU EMY FIERZ

CORRESPONDENCE SERIES is an investigation into the background of recipients of British pre-stamped postal stationery. The "collection" was purchased in South Africa in 1999 as a job lot, the which took me six months to sort and mount, creating a collection spanning 140 years. I have no idea of the provenance.

The Reference work is British Postal Stationery, A K Huggins.1970. The first date with catalogue number refers to the year when the pre-stamped envelope was first issued; the second, the year when the envelope was actually used.

Philatelic Description of the item of Postal Stationery:

1895 (EP29b) Frau Emy Fierz, *Villa Freudenberg*, Fluntern, Switzerland (actually used NO 4 95)

Comment:

Frau Emy Fierz was **Emillie Fierz** (née Zollinger, daughter of Johann Heinrich Zollinger and Alina Margaretha Billeter), born on 5 January 1856 at Oetwil An Der Limmat near Dietikon, Zurich and dying in 1903. She was married to Karl Theodor Fierz (b.c. 1852) in 1876.



Part of the Art nouveau movement, she was known for her design of bookplates, her subject matter often being lilies and swans, then frequent decorative elements in Jugendstil ¹.

¹ The name 'Art nouveau' is French for 'new art', it is also known as Jugendstil, German for 'youth style', named after the magazine Jugend, which promoted it.



Villa Freudenberg

Villa Freudenberg was built between 1822-1825 by architect Hans Caspar Escher (1779-1859) on behalf of Heinrich Bodmer zur Arch (1786-1873) ²; between 1887-1889 it was restored and expanded by architect Gustav Gull; and between 1931-1933 renovated by the architect Johann Albert Freytag. It was demolished in 1957.

Whether she was related by marriage to Johann Heinrich Fierz (1813-1877) who lived in Zurich Fluntern is unknown. He was a successful textile industrialist, represented the Swiss Upper House of Parliament at the opening of the Suez Canal and, from 1872, was president of the association which built sub-economic housing at what was to become known as *Die Fierzquartier*.

Zurich's Fluntern Cemetery houses some eminent graves, including Canetti, Elias (1905-1994) German novelist, essayist, sociologist, playwright and 1981 Nobel Laureate for Literature; Courvoisier, Giehse, Therese (1898-1975) actress; Glauser, Friedrich (1896-1938) Austrian author; Joyce, James (1882-1941) Irish novelist and poet and his wife Nora; Spyri, Johanna Louise née Heusser (1827-1901) Swiss authoress.

References:

1. Junod, Benoît. Ex-Libris or The Mark of Possession of Books. <http://karaart.com/prints/ex-libris/index.html>
2. Family Search: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. www.familysearch.org
3. Fluntern Cemetery. <http://www.findagrave.com/index.html>
4. der Schweizerischen Seidengazefabrikanten. www.silkscreenhistory.com

² Heinrich Bodmer zur Arch (1786-1873) was one of the early Swiss Seidengazefabrikanten, that is traders in silk, spinning and weaving equipment and products related thereto.