

## THE SAMMLUNG LACHMUND



Fritz Lachmund (\* 1911 - † 1997) was a German author, local historian and collector of historical images and documents relating to Hamburg.

Born in Hamburg, from the age of ten Fritz Lachmund created a collection of historical photographs and postcards with motifs from Hamburg. He attended the Volsschule (1917- 26), followed by the Industrial Arts School (1926-29). Winning a scholarship, he attended the Kunstgewerbeschule am Lerchenfeld then a regional art school for four semesters (1930-32). (The Hochschule für bildende Künste Hamburg is the University of Fine Arts in Hamburg. It dates to 1767, when it was called the Hamburger Gewerbeschule; later it became known as Landeskunstschule Hamburg).

As part of a sustained campaign of strategic bombing during World War II, an attack during the last week of July 1943, code named Operation Gomorrah, created one of the largest firestorms raised by the Royal Air Force and United States Army Air Forces in World War II, killing estimated around 35,000 civilians and wounding 125,000 in Hamburg, destroying most of the city. At this time, Lachmund's entire collection consisting of about 8,000 photographs, a few thousand postcards, watercolours and drawings was destroyed.

Released from British captivity late in 1945, Lachmund returned to Hamburg and set about afresh assembling a similar collection. Aside from his photographic activities, Lachmund frequently lectured on the history of Hamburg and its surrounding area, organizes exhibitions, and, as a freelance photographer, his personal work centred again on his native country, with particular attention to Hamburg, places, people and activities, thereby creating a foundation for a popular interest in these matters.

Lachmund was a member of the Historical Society of Hamburg (Verein für Hamburgische Geschichte), a friend of the Altonaer Museum, and, since 1960, a member of the Society for Hamburg Collectors (Vereinigung der Hamburgensien-Sammler).

Between 1962-1979, Lachmund published books on a variety of subjects including imperial Germany, Alt-Altona, the history of Hamburg and the history of photography. By the end of his life, he had archived about 40,000 postcards and 20,000 photographs, including rare calotypes by photographer Charles Fuchs. Added to this were about 150,000 motifs from newspapers, magazines and books.

Lachmund's collection was sold after his death. The items below originate from that collection.