








# kohl zine



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# June'19 Issue VIII

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# **A Farmers life**

## Chapter IV: Business management

Bernd woke up with quite a headache. Not that he was unaccustomed to that. He got up and had to orientate himself a little because the unfamiliar perspective was getting on his nerves. He was on the sofa at Henk's house. The poker table was still set up in the middle of the room, smelling strongly of fried bacon, which Bernd noted with a growl of his stomach.

He heard someone talking in the kitchen, and first grabbed a half-empty bottle of beer from the floor to flush the disgusting taste out of his mouth. Soon after, Ann came into the room. She also looked very sleepy. Her hair was tousled and she was wearing cute pyjamas with Miltanks on them. "Good morning. Pa made some food for you if you want breakfast". She kept herself short, yawned and turned back to the kitchen, swinging her sweet bottom in Bernd's direction. He fixed his eyes on that little butt while imagining if she would wear something under her pajamas. Because this one disappeared to a good extent in her Butt crack. Then he quickly shook this thought out of his head and wondered if other men could think of such things all the time. After all these years, he found these thoughts almost annoying. Almost.

In the kitchen the smell of good food intensified and Bernd saw a well laid table in front of him. Bread rolls, coffee, scrambled eggs and bacon, cold cuts and many other things lovingly spread out on the table. Bernd greeted Henk and sat down. He hadn't eaten well in a long time. Actually, not since he moved out of his home. As he continued to scoop his way in, he heard Ann complaining about the state of affairs that Henk would otherwise never seem to put so much work into breakfast if there were no guests. "You usually eat half a bun and then say goodbye to your Chado". Whether it was that name, or all that fried ham, something was stinging Bernd's heart. He thanked them for the good food and said goodbye. It was time to finally go back to the farm.

He only slowly got used to the brightness outside, and the sun was still burning in his eyes even through the cloudy sky. But somebody stood in front of Bernd's door. As he approached, he saw a gentleman just about to leave again as his gaze found Bernd. It was a Negro. Bernd was unsure what he probably wanted from him, but it didn't seem to be money, because the black man wore a good suit. Bernd greeted him

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when he arrived and the man introduced himself as Mr. Vuhkmahn. Tyrone Vuhkmahn. Allegedly he had worked with Bernd's grandpa in the past years. After his death he became unemployed, but recently heard about the inheritance of the farm to a relative and now wanted to inquire whether the operation of the Pokemon breeding should be continued. When Bernd replied that he had plans in this direction, but was still quite uncertain about the implementation, Tyrone was visibly pleased. He asked Bernd directly for a partnership because Tyrone would know his way around and used to do the administrative work, the paperwork and mainly attracting new customers for breeding. Bernd, like his grandpa back then, would only have to manage the farm and supervise the breeding itself. For Bernd this seemed to be a good deal, because he didn't really know anything about anything. And the 20% that Tyrone set as his own salary, Bernd also seemed fair. After all, at the moment he wasn't really off anything and wouldn't have to pay anything to his "partner" according to such a system. So it didn't take long and Bernd agreed.

The breeding industry would soon start up again, Tyrone promised. He would go out and get to work right away to find new customers and do some other work. Bernd himself should only take care to keep the farm going and to buy some things like pet food. Bernd was still a bit surprised and tired, but felt a certain zeal in himself which he had not had for a long time. If he's ever been there before. The two separated for the time being and Tyrone promised to return soon with the first customer as some of the old customers would surely still be interested in using such services again. With Dette, be the best horse in the stable, still there. And Bernd promised that it would still work well, even though Tyrone seemed a bit insecure as Bernd said.

Two days later Bernd had finished everything. He had largely cleaned everything up, familiarized himself with the equip-

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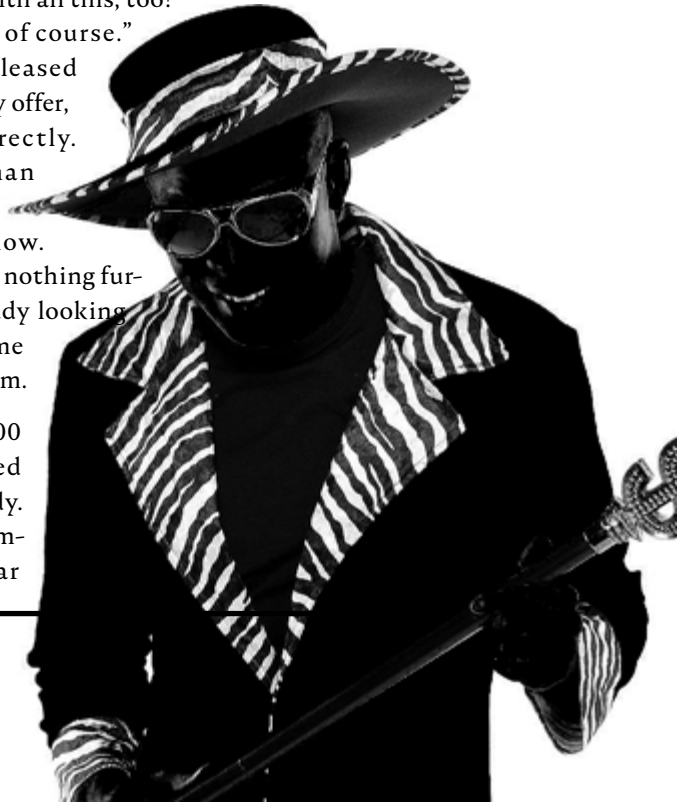
ment on the farm and also provided enough food for possible Pokemon. Not a day too late as it seemed, because Tyrone soon contacted him and wanted to drop by the same day with a customer. Slowly Bernd got nervous. On the other hand, how hard could it be? He imagined that basically he would only have to put two Pokemons together in one box and wait a bit. It would develop somehow.

A little later, Henk's father Walt stopped by and told Bernd the story about Tyrone and his farm. Walt was very happy to hear that Bernd would finally "open" soon. As Bernd heard, Walt had probably helped out his grandpa from time to time. "Yes, I remember the Negro well. Talking a little weird, but he's always done a good job. Hard to believe your grandpa would have had so many customers if the black man hadn't found them all somewhere. And since he knows his way around bookkeeping for whatever reason, it was always quite relaxed with the breeding. What do you say I give you a hand with all this, too? Only if you want, of course."

Bernd was very pleased with Walt's friendly offer, and he agreed directly. Even if the old man seemed a little too happy somehow. But Bernd thought nothing further and was already looking forward to the time that lay ahead of him.

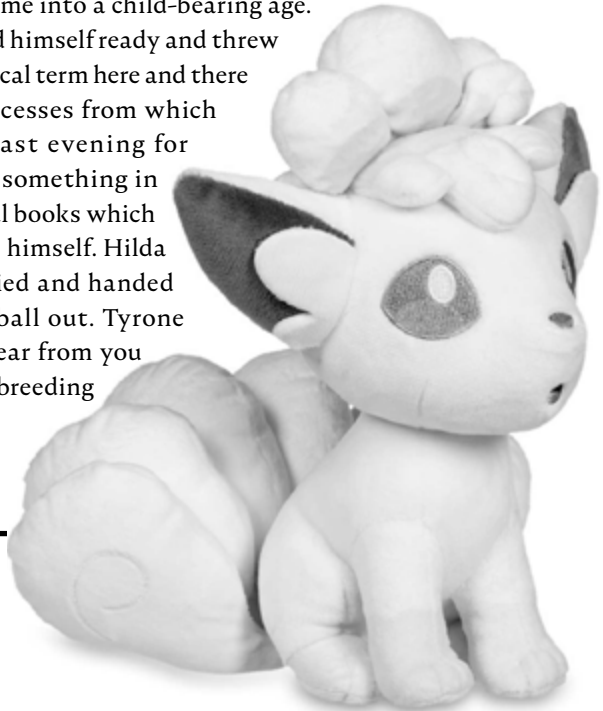
It was just before 4:00 and Tyrone arrived with his pink caddy. Bernd didn't remember seeing this car

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the morning of the day, because he would certainly have noticed it. If not by the bright color, then certainly by the seat covers from Liepard seat covers in purple and yellow. Tyrone's suit was also a bit more eccentric than the one he wore in the morning. Tyrone got out of the car with a rather fat-looking lady. She was wearing a white costume, which Bernd thought was quite expensive. She looked like she came from a slightly higher class of people. But she introduced herself very friendly when Bernd went to both of them. Hilda Bigbottom, was her name and she had allegedly been a customer here before. She seemed very pleased with the younger staff and more than once took a look at Bernd, which he found somewhat objectionable. All the more because this lady was quite fat in his eyes and Bernd therefore did not really feel an attraction to come closer to this woman. So most of the time he just smiled and nodded. She explained to Bernd that she had brought her Ninetales to a breeding session, a few years ago, and that the Vulpix which was created from it had already won several prizes. Now she probably also wanted to give this to the breeding, since it had come into a child-bearing age. Bernd declared himself ready and threw in some technical term here and there about the processes from which he has read last evening for the first time something in some technical books which he has bought himself. Hilda seemed satisfied and handed Bernd a Pokeball out. Tyrone said they'd hear from you as soon as the breeding worked.

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There stood Bernd now. Freshly baked breeder. Tyrone had left together with the woman and Bernd had already “unpacked” the Vulpix and brought it to one of the smaller stables in the barn. It seemed a bit confused, but soon found itself in there with it. Bernd had talked with Dette for some time about the things that would come now, but he was never really sure if she could understand what he was saying at all. At least she always looked happy. He took her to the stable and put her to Vulpix. The two sniffed each other for a while, but then got along. Just what now? Bernd wasn’t sure how that would work. Did Pokemon even have “normal” sex? Sure, he could fuck Dette like he wanted, but basically she’s a lot more flexible and adaptable than other Pokemon. “Adaptable”.

Bernd got a flash of thought. Of course I am! Dette had to transform first. Vulpix was probably a little more picky than Bernd. And now Bernd knew why these magazines with pictures of all kinds of Pokemon were everywhere. It didn’t take long and Bernd finally found a picture of a Vulpix.

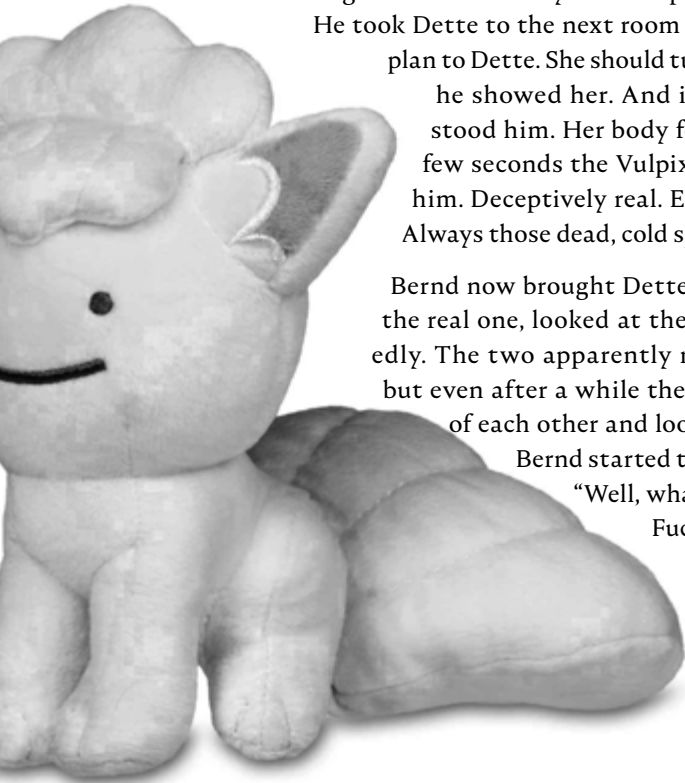
He took Dette to the next room and explained his plan to Dette. She should turn into the Vulpix he showed her. And in fact, she understood him. Her body formed and after a few seconds the Vulpix stood in front of him. Deceptively real. Except for the eyes. Always those dead, cold spots.

Bernd now brought Dette back, and Vulpix, the real one, looked at the newcomer crookedly. The two apparently needed some time, but even after a while they just sat in front of each other and looked at each other.

Bernd started to get a little bored.

“Well, what is it now, Dette?

Fuck her now!”



Only minutes later Bernd watched the wild hunt. Dette ran after the other Vulpix, always in circles. Apparently she had understood the command and wanted to do so now, to the displeasure of the other Pokemon. Dette seemed to have the greater stamina, because as the other Vulpix slowed down, she threw herself on it and shoved its penis into it. While Dette jumped and fucked the other Pokemon, Bernd thought for a moment too long about what Dette's newly won penis actually said about Bernd's sexuality.

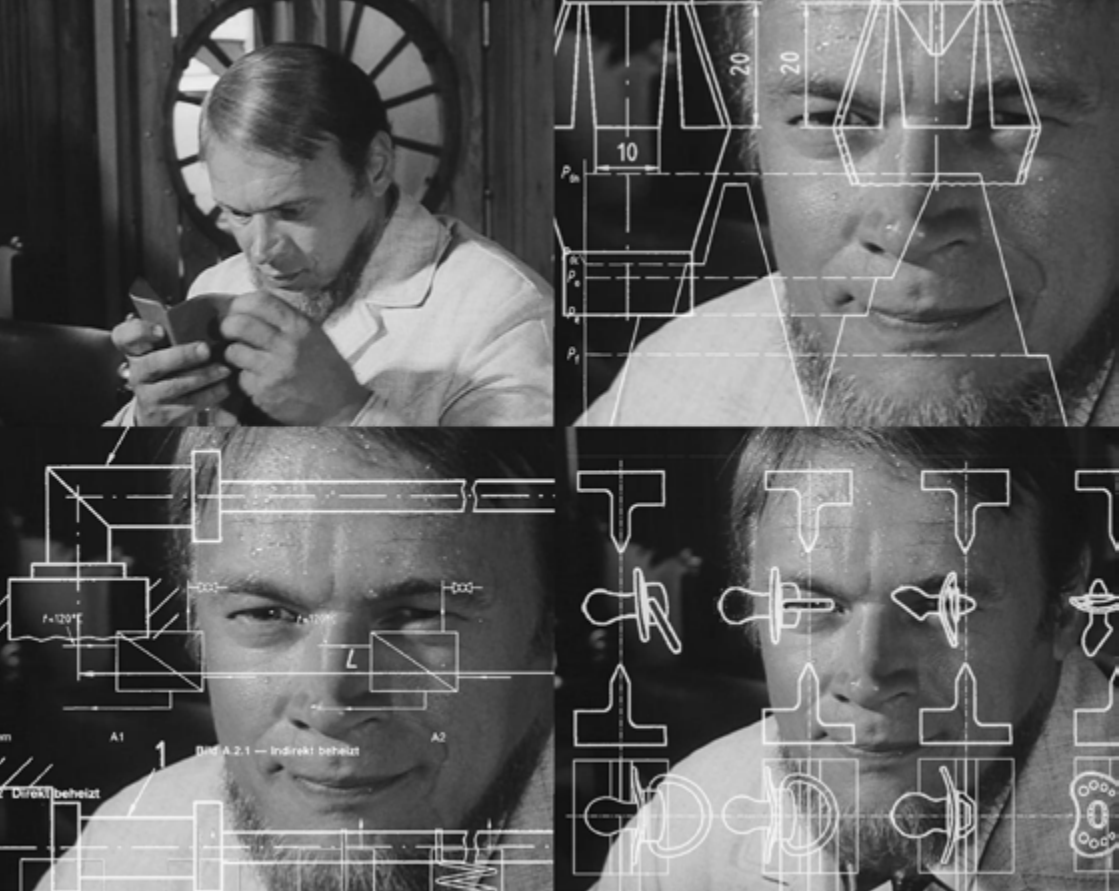
Luckily, a knock ripped him from his dark thoughts. That had to be Walt. Bernd had almost forgotten that he also wanted to come here. He had called him directly after Tyrone had informed him.

He was right, and Walt was right outside the door. He was pretty punctual and had a gym bag with him. After they had finished greeting each other, Walt came in and marveled at the process in the box. He had probably not expected that the breeding was already in full swing, and Bernd enlightened him about the last minutes. Walt went to an old wooden table in the corner and started unpacking his bag. Obviously, there was a pretty high quality camera equipment inside. At the sight of the old man unpacking this professional equipment, Bernd was suddenly no longer as sure about the exact "help" Walt had offered him the day before yesterday.

But slowly he got  
a pretty good  
idea of it.

to be continued





# A short history of DIN

How a group of German Assburgers  
accidentally took over the world

by Germanball

What does DIN stand for? It's „Deutsches Institut für Normung”, which translates to „German Institute for Standardization”. DIN is a non-government, non-profit organization run by volunteers and full-time employees with the stated purpose to produce documents called „Normen”, or „Standards” for all purposes. But what even is a standard?

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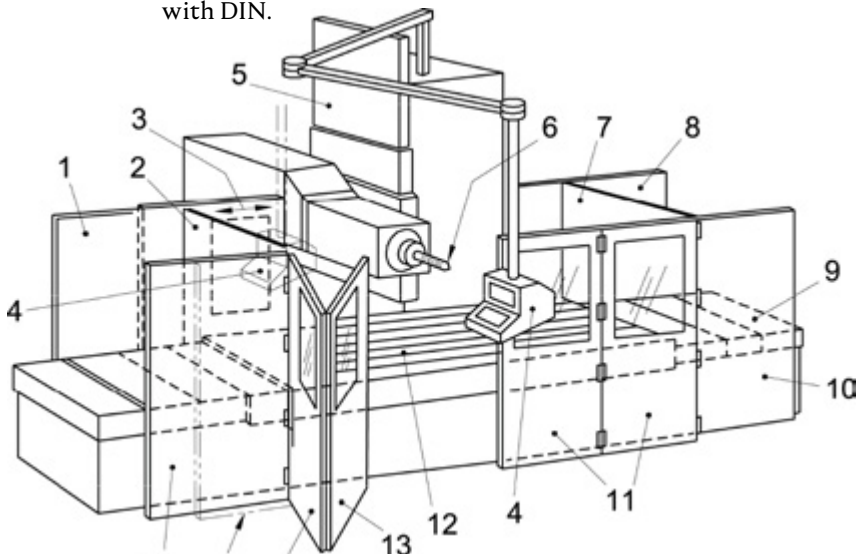
I am sorry that I will have to direct you towards the end of this short essay, but I would like to get the history of DIN out of the way first before focusing on what these standards are and why they are important. The current organization is a continuation of an older organization, but why not begin telling DIN's history where it began instead of rolling it up from the rear.

The year is 1917, the great war is raging and until now no clear winner is in sight. The German industry is on its absolute highest possible output. Private companies and government or monarch owned institutions like the Deutsche Waffen- und Munitionsfabriken AG are producing massive amounts of weapons, ordnance, munitions and everything else to continue the war. Money, material, and products are changing hands faster than anyone can keep track of, and new contracts are made almost every day. With all of these contracts and different products that must all work interchangeably at the front line the Normenausschuss der Deutschen Industrie (NADI) is founded on the 22nd December and tasked with creating standards for the entire German industry to follow. It didn't take these men long to create their first industrial standard in March of 1918, which is known as Deutsche Industrienorm 1, or DIN 1.

DIN 1 was about the most boring piece of metalworking you can imagine: Kegelstifte, conical pins meant to connect parts of machines in an easily reconfigurable way. Contrary to popular belief this piece of metal was never used in the MG 08/15, especially not as the firing pin. Never the less, the importance of this moment for industrial manufacturing on a large scale can not be understated.

As the war came to an end later that year NADI remained and continued operation as a private organization, which changed its name to the above-mentioned DIN in 1920. In

1922 they create the DIN 467 standard, which is in use all around the world to this day and remains largely unchanged. Throughout the post-war period, DIN continued to work together with engineers, workers, the government and special interest groups to produce a stunning number of standards that set in stone already existing trends and clear paths for new technologies. This trend continued during the 1930s and 40s, although the main center of DIN is destroyed in 1943 and was forced to relocate. As the second world war concluded with a German defeat, DIN was at first not allowed to continue operation. Only in 1946 did allied command give its permission for DIN to continue its work inside the new (west) German borders. Only now do other countries begin to realize how important non-company set standards are, and how much they aided the German war effort. the ISO (International Standards Organisation) is founded and begins compiling standards across all nations. DIN joins it in 1951 as the only German standardization organization. East Germany at the time didn't have it's own and was using West German standards. This only changed in the 1950s. From here on out DIN gains more and more international recognition and coordinated its standards with standards from other nations. In 1985 the (west)German state begins to recognize some of the DIN standards as de jure law, and in 1989 even the Soviet GOST creates a cooperation treaty with DIN.



The Reunification of Germany leads the east German standardization organization to dissolve and DIN taking over its job. DIN today continues operating at an even higher level, being recognized as an international authority on standards. DIN-standardized screws are produced from Brazil to China, DIN-standardised electrical plugs are used to connect Japanese keyboards to US PCs. Today literally everything you touch is in some way standardized. Even things you ingest are. Some examples include:

- DIN 16526: Printing inks for graphic technology – Labeling of properties of sheetfed offset inks
- DIN EN 15095: Power-operated mobile racking and shelving, carousels and storage lifts – Safety requirements
- DIN 53830-3: Testing of textiles; determination of linear density of single and plied yarns; simple yarns and plied yarns, textured yarns, short length method
- DIN 8237: Gold alloy coverings on watch cases; requirements, testing and marking

And Bernd's personal favorite:

- DIN 13456: Medical instruments – Gall duct dilators, type: Bakes

That concludes the short history part of this essay. But why did DIN become so big, and why is it so important? To answer that question we will first look at what an industrial standard is. In DIN EN 45020 (Standardization and related activities - General vocabulary) a standard is described as „a document, established by consensus and approved by a recognized body that provides, for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for activities or their

results, aimed at the achievement of the optimum degree of order in a given context.”

That sentence alone should provide you with enough information to come to the conclusion that DIN standards are the biggest innovation in manufacturing since the screw. Let's go through that sentence together and see exactly why:

## A standard has to be based on a consensus.

That means that all parties must agree. If even one involved party disagrees on the wording of one sentence in more than a hundred pages of text, that document can not become a standard. Everyone involved has to agree.

So who is involved in the creation of a standard? Everyone with an interest. Yes, even Bernd could be involved in creating an internationally recognized standard. It requires no experience. Just contact DIN at

[www.din.de/de/mitwirken/normungsantrag/normungsantrag](http://www.din.de/de/mitwirken/normungsantrag/normungsantrag) in German and describe what you would like to see standardized and why. After that DIN will invite representatives of production, experts on the topic, representatives of consumer groups and standardization specialists to sit down and create a pre-standard. This pre-standard, which is exclusively printed on yellow paper, will be evaluated and improved by all parties individually. DIN will then send more standardization experts to read all suggestions and come up with a new and improved pre-standard, which will again be submitted for evaluation. Only once everyone involved is happy with the standard at hand does DIN publish the pre-standard, which is now formally called a standard-draft and printed on blue paper. Anyone may not start using that draft for whatever purpose they want to and also submit any problems they encounter with it. DIN will look through these problems and present them to the council of experts previ-



ously mentioned. They will attempt to sort out these issues and eventually publish a revised draft. And again this cycle continues until all either no more problems are reported and the draft becomes a proper standard, printed on white paper, or the problems keep on increasing and the draft is discarded and a new pre-standard has to be created from scratch.

Great. That answers how standards are made. But it doesn't explain why consensus is important. Think about it this way: If two companies produce two different sets of screws, one left-handed and one right-handed, and both were fighting for the market, they would both be made to sit down and haggle at the negotiation table about the new DIN standard. Only if both companies are satisfied with the resulting standard either because they found a solution that makes the direction of windings not important, or because one company paid the other a large compensation for switching their production from right handed to left handed, then everyone is satisfied. And only once everyone is satisfied will everyone use the standard. In the past, there have been many attempts to create standards without consensus. Especially weights and measures were often standardized by law using example weights and sticks often found in market places. Many of these examples still exist around Europe and can be found on public display to this day. However, how should a man measure his apples in weight if the smallest amount of weight measurement was a 50-kilo sack of wheat? He was ignored during the standardization process and can not use the standard at all. He can either demand that the government come up with a new standard to measure apples or come up with his own way. This creates a mess of different and competing standards, which is in nobody's interest and makes trade more difficult. Another important aspect is the consensus between science and marketing. If a standard was only created by the highest personnel of a company,

which often times have no experience in how their product is actually produced and about the components that go into it, then you may be running into trouble later on, as engineers are suddenly tasked with using standards that have no foundation in their reality. Imagine a standardization for bicycle tire valves, which kept aesthetics and hiding the valve as much as possible into consideration, but completely ignored the structural safety of the design and made the valves blow out as soon as any Fatbernd tried to ride the bike.

I hope these examples are enough to convince you of the importance of consensus in the creation of standards.

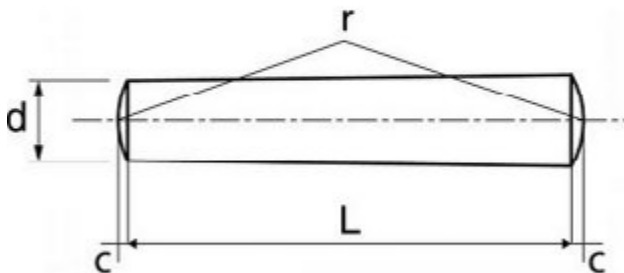
### **A standard has to be recognized.**

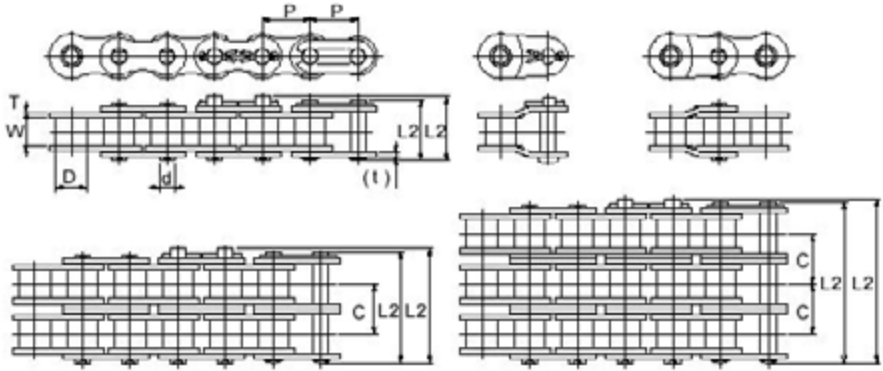
This may seem obvious, but if only three out of ten manufacturers are following a standard, then it is not very effective. A standard can only truly standardize anything if everyone starts using that standard. Imagine living in one of the towns or villages mentioned previously. And now imagine you wanted to sell our apples to a man who would produce apple juice from them. He, however, refuses to use the government standard for measuring apples by the kilo, he wants to count them, measure ten, and then pay you for the average weight applied to all apples. If the government or the other traders do not step in and protest this disregard for the standard it will cause confusion and problems. Especially with payment, since you may have harvested 500 kilos of apples, but the apples he weighted specifically were very small, and you have already carried over 500 kilos of apples to his shop for him to count. You could either elect to presort your apples by size and only give him the biggest apples and sell the small ones to a pig farmer or suck up the loss of profit. This is not only unfair but will destabilize the apple industry. The more people recognize a standard the better. If there is an entity enforcing the use of that standard, as most govern-

ments do in the case in almost all areas of aerospace, nuclear and medical engineering, that means that every party on the market for those products can rely on the standard being used everywhere and will know exactly what quality of good to expect before even ordering.

### A standard is for common and repeated use.

We will again use the apple metaphor. Imagine that you do not have 500 kilos, but 5000 instead. Whatever the back-story, you have 5000 kilos of apples and intend to sell them. Nobody has ever had this many apples, and thus nobody ever had the problem of weighting and selling 5000 kilos of apples. Why should the government or anybody else bother creating a new standard just for your non-repeating issue? Never again will a single man have to sell 5000 kilos of apples in one go. Figure it out yourself, you created this mess, and instead of wasting everybody's time, you will have to sort it out alone. Another way to look at it would be this: If you were the only man who owned enough land to even harvest more than 1 tonne of apples in one season, then why should anybody care what system you came up with to weight them? It is up to you, and your freedom to pick any method you like. If you like the system you invented you are free to publish it in case it might be used to serve your community. If you don't want others to know your secret ways of weighting apples, then you can also keep it to yourself and keep making your profit. The problem and the solution are both yours, and yours alone. Your problem is uncommon. Only once your problem becomes common (important to everybody) and repeated (occurs often) does it necessary to standardize it in the first place.





## A standard must provide rules, guidelines or characteristics for activities or their results.

This seems obvious at first. If a standard doesn't provide rules, or guidelines, or defines characteristics, then what else is it meant to do? And what exactly is the point of this part? Standards are not meant to do anything else, but provide rules, guidelines or characteristics. And nothing else. Standards are not meant to be used as a threat, as a tool to pressure or influence someone, or as a way to block anyone from participating in the market they apply to. This line is meant to separate standards from laws and commandments. Laws can be created for any purpose or reason. Standards can not. Their purpose is directly stated in their definition.

At the same time, many nations have accepted some standards as laws, especially safety standards, medical standards, food standards, or even spelling and language standards. Aerospace engineers worldwide are required by law to only use aerospace certified standards, which are marked as such. This has a bunch of interesting consequences. Common screws on the market, screws you can find in your hardware store and probably in the mouse you used to open the Kohlzine are all screws type M. There are many different shapes, lengths, styles, and kinds of M screws, but all of them

use the same standard. In Aerospace engineering you use MJ screws. These have a rounded top and bottom of the grooves in the winding part of the screw. This makes them slightly more durable, but also more expensive. Normal engineers may still use MJ screws for other applications, but aerospace engineers have to use MJ screws, because planes can, under no circumstances, fall apart in the air because a screw got worn out too quickly. Aerospace engineers also cannot use some methods to secure screws, which they actually have to do for every single screw on the aircraft. I could write a whole Zine article just about the different ways screws are secured on aircraft vs the way they are secured in any other application and why aerospace engineers hate screws so much, but that's not the topic of this article. All that matters is: Standards may become laws, but standards cannot be designed to be anything but standards.

Cool, but how does this make a standard important and valuable? Standards can only be standards if they were not designed to be laws and do not touch upon areas they were not designed to touch. This means that nobody can abuse a standard for whatever purpose. Governments do not have influence over what is written in the standard, they may decide what laws they want to create based on the standards, and which standards they want to elevate to the status of law, but they can not change the contents of the standard itself. Standards can thus not be used in international or intranational conflicts of interest. If any party has a problem with the standard they may submit a complaint and it will be re-evaluated, which would have been done at least every 5 years in any way. The fact that standards can not be used as a weapon means that everyone can trust and use them freely without being afraid of later consequences.

## Standards must be aimed at the achievement of the optimum degree of order in a given context.

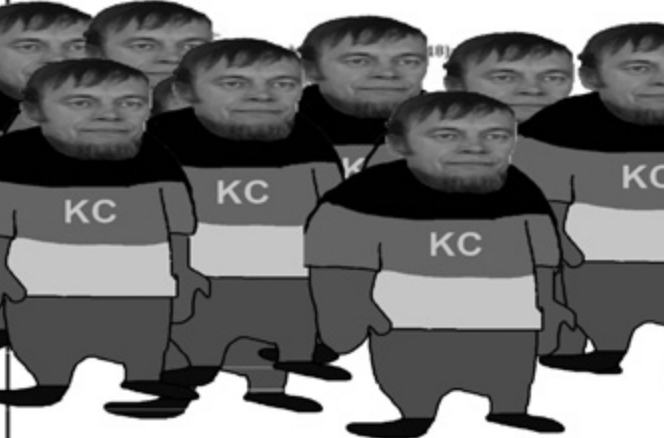

That sounds German. To be precise, that does sound Prussian.

But what does it mean, and how did it contribute to making DIN rule the world? The secret does not lie within „optimum of order”, but rather in „aimed at” and „in a given context”. Standards only try to achieve an optimum of order. They are not eternal. They are not chiseled into stone. If later changes in technology demand that the standard is changed because it is outdated, because a certain manufacturing method has fallen out of style, because an entire artform has died out, or because humanity has been knocked down a couple steps on the evolutionary ladder by the use of friendly atoms and Mr. Missile, standards are only attempting to bring optimums. They are not end all be all measures to bring peace and prosperity. They are conceptualized, written, corrected, tested and finalized by the best men available, and they are full of mistakes and errors. They are constantly changed and keeping up with the latest version of a standard is so difficult that there are standards that focus on standardizing how standards are updated and standards that focus on how to check if new standard conflicts with any older standards. In fact, DIN owns its own publishing house meant to sell standards and keep customers updated on the latest standards that are relevant to them. They are called Beuth, and their services are not cheap. Remember that DIN is non-profit and receives 70% of its financing from Beuth and selling their standards. The remaining 30% comes from public and private donations.

DIN standards only try to be the best. They acknowledge that they are not and probably never will be perfect, but they try and try and try again and aim to make their standards as optimal as they have to be for the given context.

This allowed them to react to criticism and to the change of times, which kept DIN relevant for more than 100 years and hundreds of thousands of standards later, in every country of the world, in every aspect of your life.

Do not Fear. DIN is with you.

	<b>DIN EN ISO 8654</b>	<b>DIN</b>
ICS 39.060		Supersedes DIN EN 20654:1993-03
<b>Jewellery - Colours of gold alloys - Definition, range of colours and designation (ISO 8654:2018); English version EN ISO 8654:2018, English translation of DIN EN ISO 8654:2018-06</b>		
		
Document comprises 16 pages		
Translation by DIN-Sprachendienst. <i>In case of doubt, the German language original shall be considered authoritative.</i>		
<small>© No part of this translation may be reproduced without prior permission of DIN Deutscher Institut für Normung e. V., Berlin, Beuth Verlag GmbH, 10772 Berlin, Germany. See the endpapers of the document for more information.</small>		
<small>English price group 11 www.din.de</small>		

# Chronology of Brandenburg

## Part Two\*

by Germanball

Small recap: Brandenburg was gifted to Friedrich I. in 1415. In the following century four different margraves of the Hohenzollern family led the margraviate and increased the internal peace and external security. Additional lands were acquired with multi-generational efforts, mostly by political means, sometimes with force. The Hohenzollern margraves could increase their authority over the local aristocracy and cities, e.g. with the introduction of indirect taxes which the Hohenzollern successfully defended against massive protests from the cities.

1499 - 1535 Joachim I. Nestor



After the death of his father, the then only fifteen-year-old Joachim and his ten-year-old brother Albrecht took over the government, initially under the guardianship of his uncle, Margrave Friedrich V. von Ansbach-Kulmbach.

During his reign Joachim showed himself to be determined and sometimes even ruthless. This ruthlessness was particularly evident in

\* Part One can be found in the previous issue (#7)



his strict legislation and the executive branch associated with it. His policy towards the estates was successful, whose position of power was diminished by the fact that Joachim obtained permanent permission for the „Bierziese” and the „Hufenschossen”, additional indirect taxes. Concessions to the knighthood were compulsory service and surrender of the freedom of movement of the village subjects, as well as a standard wage for servants and maidservants.

Since the start of this reign he also fought resolutely and without tolerance against the robber barons, which at the same time strengthened the power of the Hohenzollern against the native noble families; in 1506 he hanged seventy robber barons, including forty nobles. This finally concluded the decade long problem of robber barons who were plaguing Brandenburgs administration.

Similar to the rule of his predecessor there was another process of desecration of the host in Berlin in 1510. 39 Jews were burned, while 60 more Jews had to leave the country. Joachim extended the order so that all Jews had to leave the Mark. From 1511 to 1535 there were no Jews left in the Mark and the expulsion allowed the estates to get rid of their creditors. In addition, many Jewish gravestones now found their way into the foundations of the Spandau Citadel, which was under construction at that time.

The foundation of the Brandenburg University Frankfurt (Oder) in 1506 was another significant act by Joachim. It was the first university in Brandenburg and already in the first year of its foundation more than 900 students from the German countries, Poland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark had enrolled. For comparison: the city of Frankfurt (Oder) had 5,000 inhabitants at that time. Joachim’s nickname Nestor can probably be traced back to this. With regard to the role of the mythological Nestor, the honorary title Nestor

is still used today to refer to the oldest person present at a scientific meeting or to the „old master” of a science, the founder of a certain process, etc., in commemorative publications and honours.

The shared reign of the brothers lasted until 1513, when Albrecht became Archbishop of Magdeburg. When Albrecht later attained the Archbishop's dignity in Mainz, the House of Hohenzollern had two votes in the Electoral College, which provided them with extra political leaverage. Additionally the Elector of Mainz was also Arch Chancellor of the Empire, which was a particularly prominent position.

This coup had interesting consequences: In order to secure Albrecht's election as Archbishop, enormous bribes were necessary, which ensured that the House of Hohenzollern accumulated large debts with the German Fugger family. In order to be able to pay off these debts the Hohenzollerns activated political connections in the Vatican, which ensured that Albrecht was allowed to sell letters of indulgence to believers in his diocese. But the Hohenzollern were not the only ones who had accumulated debts. In the race for the archbishop's position, the Electorate of Saxony had also incurred heavy debts, but was now unable to show any results and had hardly any means of getting rid of its debts. As a reaction the electorate forbade the sale of letters of indulgence and allowed Martin Luther to preach against the letters of indulgence within the electorate.

Joachim, on the other hand, developed into a fierce advocate of the Catholic Church. The traditional ecclesiastical and princely authority was inviolable to him, and he also forbade Luther's translation of the bible as well as any other translations. In his will, written in 1534, Joachim urged his heirs to preserve the Catholic faith for all time in Brandenburg.

His religious zeal went so far that his own wife, who was more sympathetic to the protestant preachers, had to flee from him in a cloak-and-dagger operation and found refuge in Saxony.

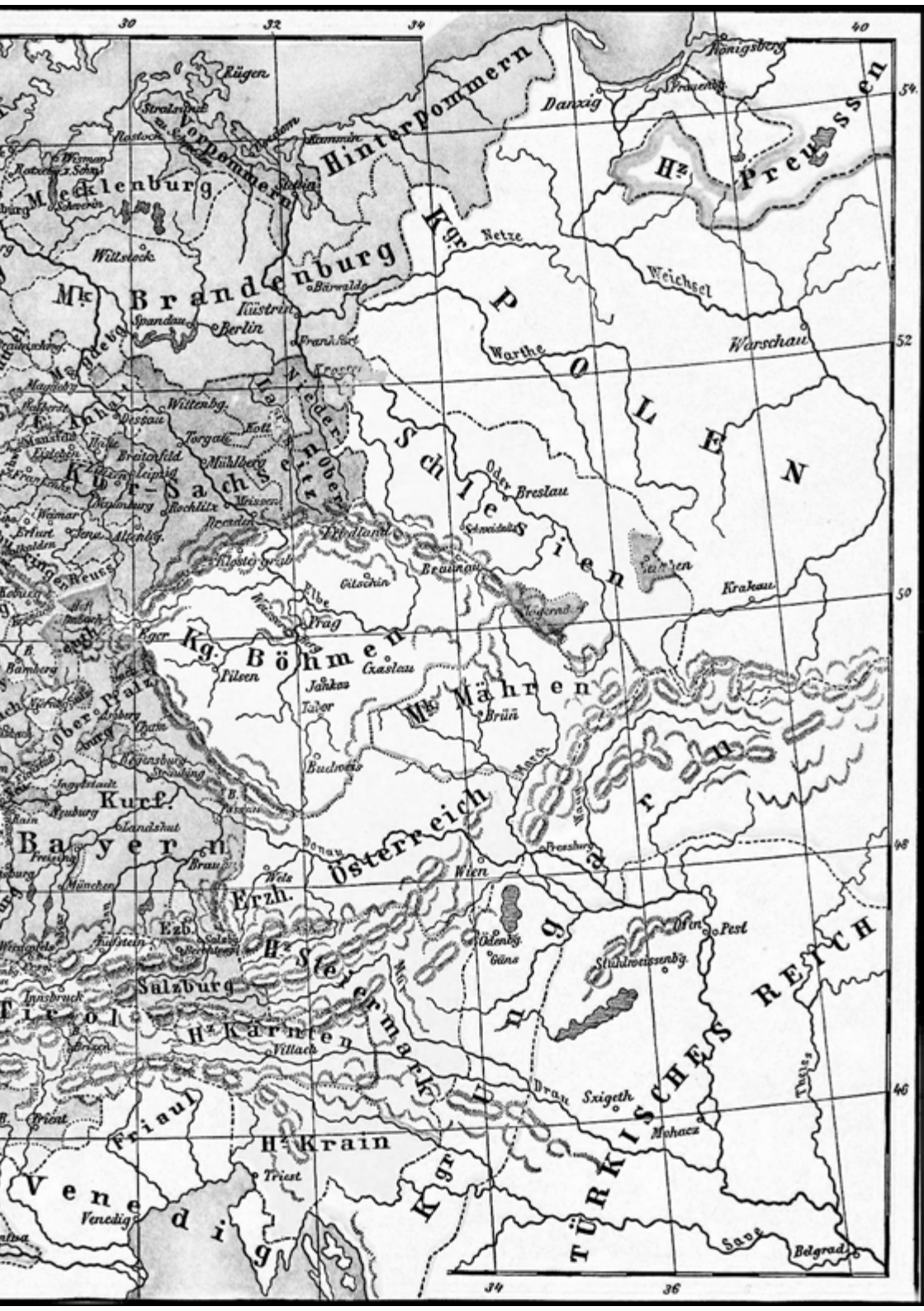
Joachim was always concerned about peace and friendship with his neighbours. In 1514 a treaty with Poland secured friendship and eternal peace. Joachim then fearfully avoided being drawn into a conflict with Poland by his cousin, who was Grand Master of the Teutonic Order.

The heirless death of the young count Wichmann von Lindow in 1524 brought a territorial gain by the attainment of the county Ruppin.

In 1502 he married Elisabeth of Denmark, daughter of the Danish king Johann I. At the same time the daughter of Johann Cicero, Anna, was married to Friedrich I. of Denmark, who was to become king of Denmark in 1523. The elector hoped (but in vain) to acquire a claim to parts of the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein and thus gain access to the Baltic Sea. In 1530 he married his daughter Margarete to the Duke of Pomerania, George I, in the hope that Brandenburg would one day inherit this duchy, which also bordered the Baltic Sea.

Joachim died in Stendal on 11 July 1535, but before his death he wrote a will, which broke with the house law of his grandfather, Albrecht Achilles: It stipulated that parts of the Neumark were to fall to his second son Johann, which gave Brandenburg its first separation among the Hohenzollern. The usual lands of Brandenburg and their government were bequeathed to his first son, Joachim II.





1535 - 1571 Joachim II. Hector

Already in the first year of his reign, Joachim II set the first political course for territorial ambitions. In 1535 he marries Hedwig of Poland, daughter of the Polish king Sigismund I, who was feudal lord of the duchy of Prussia. At that time the Duchy of Prussia was ruled by Duke Albrecht of Brandenburg-Ansbach, a Hohenzollern and cousin of Joachim.

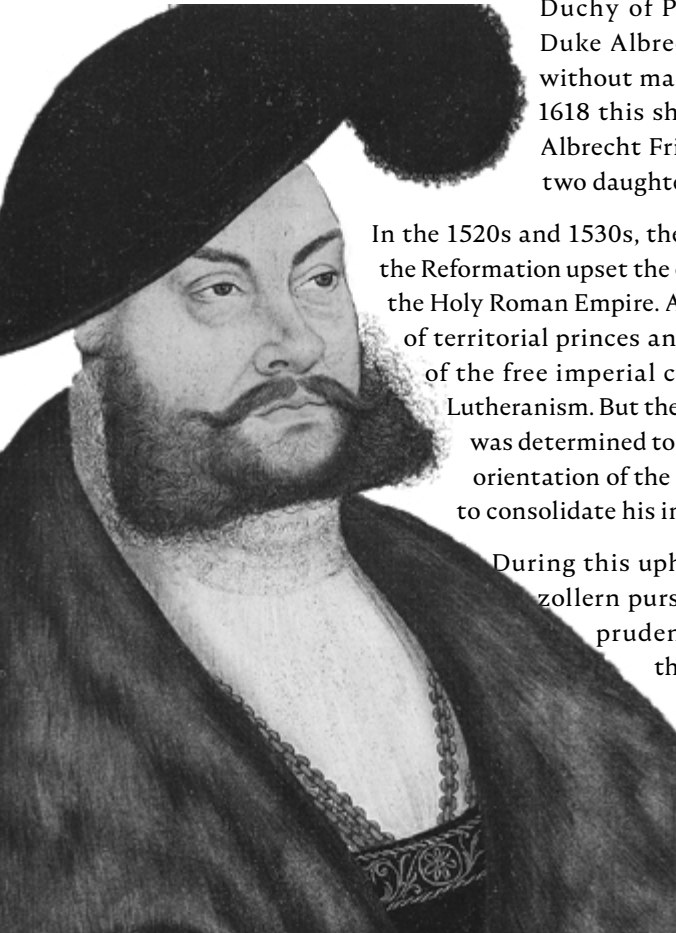
In 1564 the brother of his wife Hedwig obtained the Polish Crown, whereupon Joachim was able to enforce the appointment of his two sons as co-heirs of the dukedom. Four years later, after the death of Duke Albrecht, this status was confirmed at the Polish Parliament in Lublin. This gave Brandenburg the chance to take over the inheritance in the

Duchy of Prussia if the new Duke Albrecht Friedrich died without male descendants. (In 1618 this should even happen, Albrecht Friedrich left behind two daughters, but no sons.)

In the 1520s and 1530s, the forces released by the Reformation upset the complex systems of the Holy Roman Empire. An influential group of territorial princes and about two fifths of the free imperial cities converted to Lutheranism. But the Habsburg Emperor was determined to secure the Catholic orientation of the Roman Empire and to consolidate his imperial supremacy.

During this upheaval, the Hohenzollern pursued a neutral and prudent policy. Because they did not want to upset the emper-

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or, they only hesitantly turned to the Lutheran faith. Joachim I. Nestor wanted his sons to remain Catholic, but in 1527 his wife took matters into her own hands and converted to Lutheranism. Then she fled to Saxony.

Although Joachim II Hector was still Catholic, he followed the example of his mother and converted to Lutheranism. Nevertheless, despite all sympathy for the aims of the religious reform movement, Joachim II hesitated to officially prescribe the new faith to his subjects. He was still attached to the old liturgy and the pompous Catholic rituals. In 1539 Joachim introduced a new church order in the Mark Brandenburg, after consultations with Philipp Melanchthon. This took over the Reformation practice of priest marriage and chalice for lay people at the Lord's Supper and the doctrine of justification according to Luther's theology. Otherwise he tried to maintain the Catholic traditions in order to be able to remain a discussion partner for both sides during negotiations in the Reich. In addition, he wanted to avoid anything that could endanger Brandenburg's position in the structure of the Catholic Empire, which still had a catholic majority. In the Schmalkaldic War of 1546 the Elector even sent a small contingent of mounted troops to support the Catholic Emperor against the Protestants. It was not until 1563, in the comparatively quiet years after the Peace of Augsburg, that Joachim publicly testified his faith in the new religion.

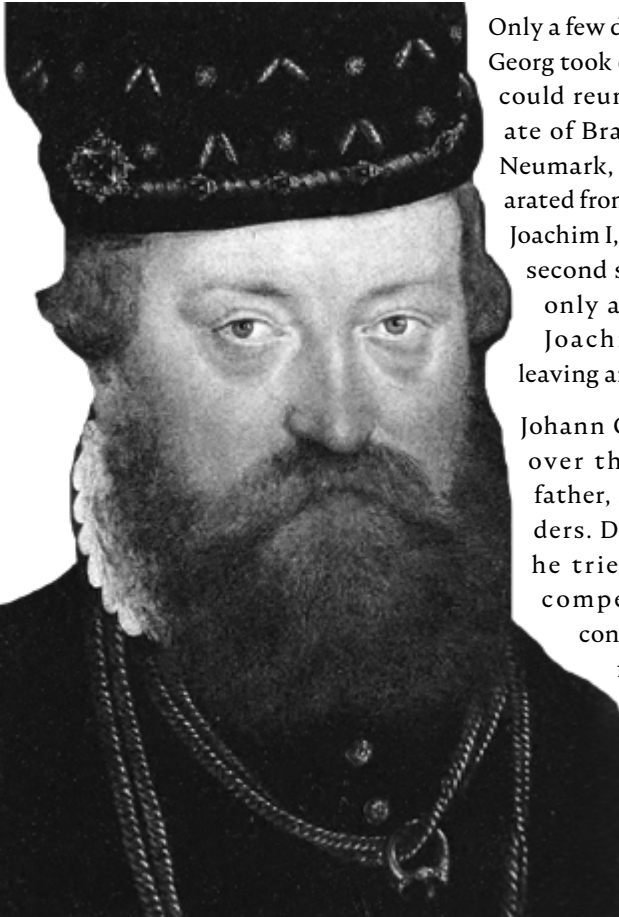
Unfortunately, financial policy was not a strength of Joachim. With costly building projects, such as the construction of the hunting lodge „Zum grünen Waide”, he reached a debt mountain of 700,000 Reichstalers by 1544. It was not without reason that Friedrich began the rehabilitation and settlement of new Jewish communities, as they now had to pay an extremely high special tax, the so-called „Judenregal”. In 1556, he appointed Lippold Ben Chluchim, who had immigrated 13 years earlier from Prague, as his chamberlain

and court jew, as mint master as well as head of all the Jews of Mark Brandenburg.

In 1569, Joachim paid Sigismund for a deed of enfeoffment which made Joachim and his issue heirs to Ducal Prussia in case of the extinction of the Prussian Hohenzollern line.

Joachim II died surprisingly - in the absence of his personal physician Paul Luther - on 3 January 1571 in Köpenick, where he stayed in the castle with a hunting party. His lavish court keeping - paired with his lively building activity - ensured that the electoral household was almost permanently heavily indebted during his reign. His son and successor Johann Georg took over debts amounting to 2.5 million guilders.

1571 - 1598 Johann Georg „Oeconomicus”



Only a few days after Johann Georg took over the reign he could reunite the electorate of Brandenburg with Neumark, which were separated from his grandfather Joachim I, since Joachim I's second son Johann died only a few days after Joachim II. without leaving an heir.

Johann Georg now took over the debts of his father, 2.5 million guilders. During his reign, he tried above all to compensate for the consequences of his father's expen-

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sive court. His concern about the over-indebtedness of the Kurmark and his efficient administration and repayment of debts earned him the nickname Oeconomicus. A careful examination of the debt securities brought the debt down to only 1 million guilds, after which he began to demand payments from the knighthood, the nobility and the cities to alleviate the debt. From the knighthood he got willingly accommodated, which he rewarded with additional customs rights and market and court freedoms. The cities as well as the nobility, on the other hand, had to be lured first with additional rights until they also agreed to do so.

The Brandenburg lands under Elector Johann Georg experienced a clearly Lutheran influence: Chairs at the University of Frankfurt (Oder) were occupied by Orthodox Lutherans; the church constitution of 1540 was fundamentally revised so that it corresponded in every respect to Lutheran principles; between 1573 and 1581 as well as 1594 it was ensured in numerous visits that the change to Lutheranism was also implemented at the local level.

In imperial politics, however, Johann Georg continued to loyally support the Habsburg emperor.

In 1594 the marriage of his grandson to the eldest daughter of Duke Albrecht Friedrich of Prussia was arranged, which further targeted the inheritance rights of Prussia. In addition, this marriage also opened up the possibility of inheriting the Cleve-Jülich lands, which were in the immediate vicinity of the Netherlands and had an equally divided catholic and protestant population. The Netherlands were willing to support the Hohenzollern in their inheritance claims as they hoped for an ally and neighbour against the adjacent Spanish Crown. There was even an offer to sign a contract, according to which the grandson Johann Sigismund would become guardian and administrator of the land ahead of

time. In the end, however, Calvinist elements, which were deeply despised by Johann Georg and his ministers, within the Cleve-Jülich lands ensured that this treaty was not finally signed.

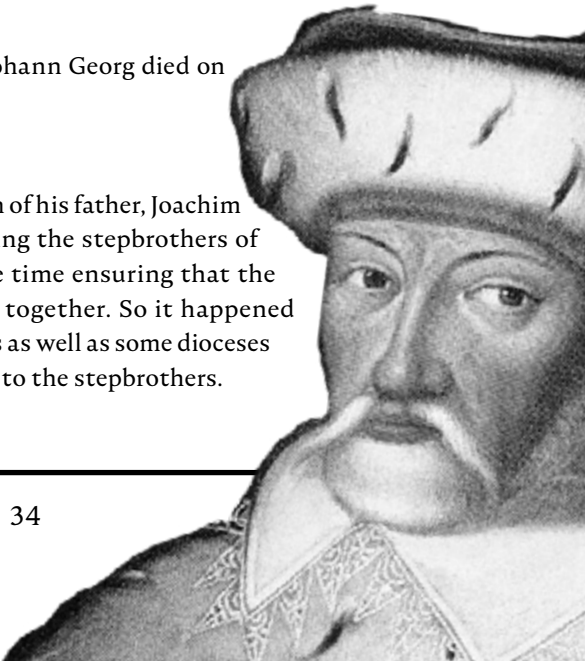
Towards the end of his reign, Johann Georg and his heir to the throne, Joachim Friedrich, were at odds. Johann Georg had always tried to secure and stabilize Brandenburg with peace and stability and was satisfied with the uneventfulness of his reign. Joachim Friedrich, on the other hand, saw things differently. He had gained the conviction through his life experiences that peace had to be broken. Thus the son spoke to his father: „Otherwise we have been a terror, now we are a mockery and a spectacle”.

In addition, there were conflicts over the heritage of Brandenburg. Johann Georg had 23 children and in his opinion he had to make sure that all his children were well cared for after his death. For this purpose Johann Georg wanted to violate the house law, similar to his predecessor, and use parts of the Kurmark so that all his heirs got a good piece of land. His heir to the throne, Joachim Friedrich, declared that he would rather renounce the succession to the throne than allow the execution of this will.

Unconciled with his son, Johann Georg died on 8 January 1598.

1598 - 1608 Joachim Friedrich

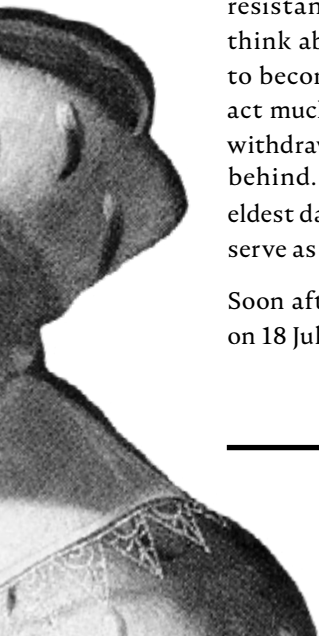
Immediately after the death of his father, Joachim Friedrich was busy satisfying the stepbrothers of his family and at the same time ensuring that the Mark Brandenburg stayed together. So it happened that the Frankish territories as well as some dioceses and posts were bequeathed to the stepbrothers.



Like many of his rulers, Joachim Friedrich further extended the power of the Elector. Thus, in protracted negotiations, he finally succeeded with clear severity that the estates contributed large sums of guilders to the debt repayment of the state treasury. An interesting aspect which ensured this was the „Privy Council” introduced by Joachim, an early predecessor of the Prussian civil servant. Regardless of status, profession, fatherland or denomination, they were to carry out their profession and their deliberations only with full devotion to the electoral trust. They swore their oath of office to the Elector alone and had no connection whatsoever with the estates, the financial administration or other areas of the Electorate.

Joachim made further efforts to secure the succession of Prussia even more firmly. Here the geopolitical situation proved to be useful. King Sigismund III of Poland was at war with Russia and Sweden, and wished that Prussia formed a fore-wall against the Swedes, which was to be ruled by a prince inclined towards him. Joachim spared no expense and pushed the political situation with generous donations to his advantage: It came so far that Sigismund decided to grant him guardianship over Prussia and to transfer this solemnly in 1605 in Königsberg. However, there was passive, albeit fierce resistance from the Prussian nobility, who did not even think about being ruled by a German prince and preferred to become part of Poland, since the Polish nobility could act much more freely. The resistance finally led Joachim to withdraw early from Prussia and leave only representatives behind. In the following years, only Albrecht Friedrich's eldest daughter, married to the Elector in Königsberg, would serve as a reminder of the Hohenzoller's claim to Prussia.

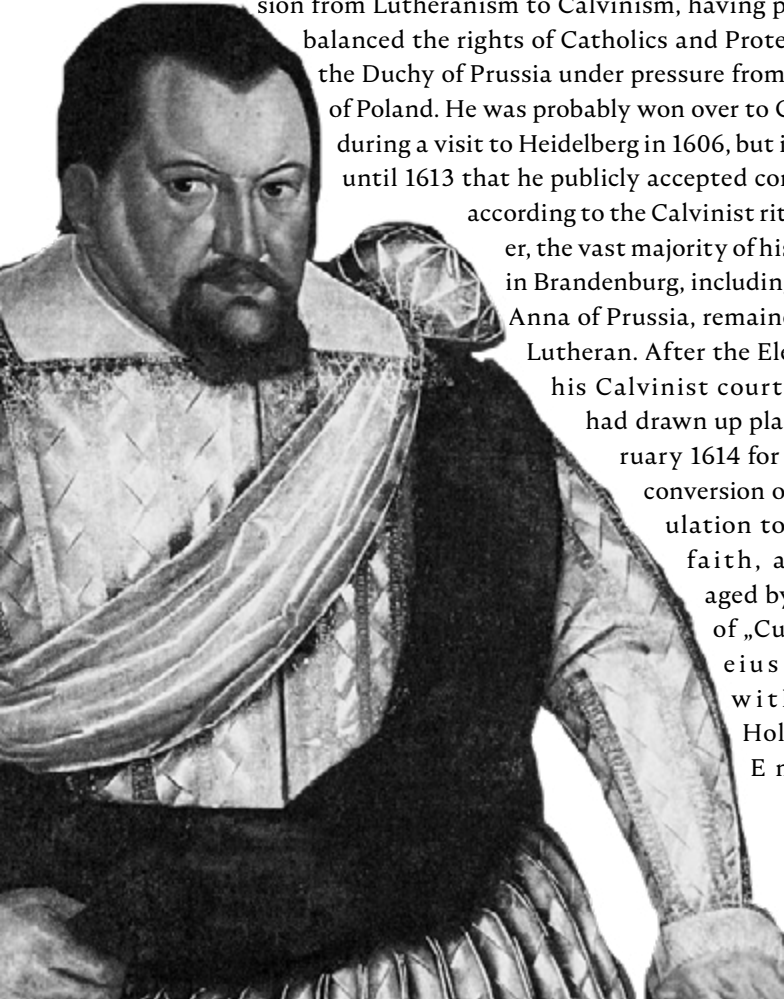
Soon afterwards, the prince died suddenly in his travel car on 18 July 1608.



1608 - 1618 Johann Sigismund

With the beginning of his reign in Brandenburg in 1608, the succession in the Lower Rhine in 1609 and the tough negotiations with Poland over the Duchy of Prussia, his personal weaknesses became increasingly visible: he was unwilling to make decisions, withdrew to the forests of Prussia for weeks and months to hunt and play cards, left the government to governors and was easily influenced by people in his vicinity. His initially happy marriage was shattered, and he avoided disputes with his energetic wife as much as possible.

John Sigismund's most significant action was his conversion from Lutheranism to Calvinism, having previously balanced the rights of Catholics and Protestants in the Duchy of Prussia under pressure from the King of Poland. He was probably won over to Calvinism during a visit to Heidelberg in 1606, but it was not until 1613 that he publicly accepted communion according to the Calvinist rite. However, the vast majority of his subjects in Brandenburg, including his wife Anna of Prussia, remained deeply Lutheran. After the Elector and his Calvinist court officials had drawn up plans in February 1614 for the mass conversion of the population to the new faith, as envisaged by the rule of „Cuius regio, eius religio” within the Holy Roman Empire,



there were serious protests, with his wife supporting the Lutherans. The resistance was so strong that John Sigismund yielded in 1615 and abandoned all attempts at violent conversion. Instead, he allowed his subjects to be either Lutheran or Calvinist, according to the commandment of their own conscience. Brandenburg-Prussia would from now on be a biconfessional country. Because of the extremely fierce resistance of the Brandenburg clergy (e.g. during the Berlin tumult in 1615), the population remained almost completely Lutheran.

Like his father Joachim Friedrich, Johann Sigismund also acquired the administration in the Duchy of Prussia, which belonged to the Kingdom of Poland. In 1612, King Sigismund III of Poland was only prepared to transfer the duchy to him as a Polish fiefdom after high monetary payments and considerable concessions for the Catholics in Königsberg. With Albrecht Friedrich's death, the now former duke of Prussia, the Franconian-Prussian Hohenzollern died out in 1618. The inheritance finally fell to the Brandenburg Hohenzollern and thus to Johann Sigismund.

In 1616 the Elector suffered a stroke from which he would not recover. In 1619, before his death, he handed over the affairs of government to his eldest son, the Elector Georg Wilhelm.

1608 - 1618 Soon going soon

In 1618 the Thirty Years' War began in Europe. During the Thirty Years' War, the German lands became the scene of a European catastrophe. Despite the Europe-wide scale of the conflicts, a large part of the conflicts took place on German soil. For Brandenburg and its inhabitants this time would become a question of life and death.

# pottery corner

## Red

I like Red because it's a violent color and I'm a violent man. I like to beat women, children and minorities. I wear red shirts every time I can, to the detriment of my odor. In fact, I prefer to smell disgusting, I assert my dominance over others by forcing my bodily smells on them.

I dominate the environment with every resource I have, wether it is my voice, my behaviour, my bodily smells, my walking style, my pose, or my clothes.

Whenever I walk through a crowd I make my best effort to "unintentionally" push others with my body, specially women, as they are physically smaller, and deserve to have dominance asserted over them, I walk in a way so that I occupy the most space possibke without appearing ridiculous. I make as much noise as possible with each step I take specially in silent places, to dominate the site.

I'm purposely "unintentionally" rude to women, not to game them but to humilliate and mentally and verbally dominate them. My talk is always just below screaming, specially when talking to women. Some ways I do this is like ignoring them if they say something unfunny or dumb, and making myself the center of the conversation.

I wear shorts and I wear my socks just-under-the-knee high. I wear the visually aggressive, brightly colored clothes. I cross the street wherever and whenever I want and force the traffic to stop for me, specially in corners without traffic lights. Whenever I stand, I do it in such a way to occupy the most space possible and in such a way as to obstruct the way as much as possible

## The Lone Gaul

I was taken to the heart of the city by a chore,  
and I became enveloped with the typical urban  
beauty, with it's perfumes of smog, it's face of  
skyscraper and it's makeup of filth.

As I waited for a green light, among the mass, a  
man stood from the others. A lone gaul among  
the crowd. As if taken from the past, his face  
drew my eyes, of stark difference to the ones it  
was between.

Dressed in poor man's clothes, he walked past  
me, though the image stayed, of a beaten down  
and defeated king.

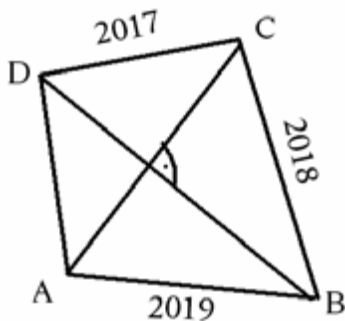




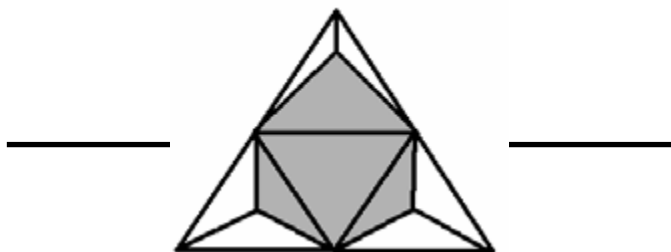


# Really makes you think

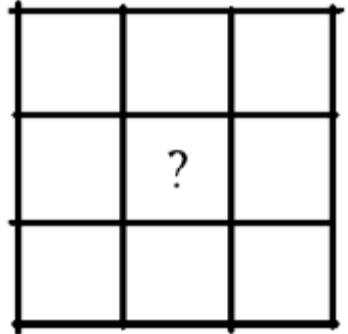
1. How many positive integers has this property - the number created by deletion of integer's last digit equals to one fourteenth of the initial number?
2. In a convex quadrilateral ABCD the diagonals are perpendicular. If  $|AB|=2019$ ,  $|BC|=2018$ ,  $|CD|=2017$ , then the length AD is...?



3. From a regular tetrahedron we cut off the corners by means of four planes, each of which passes through the centres of the edges adjacent to one vertex (see the figure). What part of the volume of the tetrahedron is the volume of the obtained solid?



4. Dogistralia chooses 10 different positive integers and then multiplies some of them by 2, others by 3, and all the others by 4. What is the smallest number of different results you can get this way?
5. The lengths of all sides of a rectangular triangle are natural numbers. What is the circumference of this triangle if one of the cathetis is equal 29?
6. The  $3 \times 3$  size diagram fields (see figure) contain 9 integers. The sum of the numbers entered is 500. It is known that the numbers in the adjacent fields, i.e. in the fields adjacent to the common side, differ by 1. What number was entered in the middle field?



7. On an island there are 2,017 inhabitants. Each of them is either a liar (who lies every time) or a truthful person (who always tells the truth). One day more than 1000 inhabitants of the island met at a round table banquet. Each of them said, „Of the two people sitting next to me, one is a liar and the other is a truthful person. At most how many truthful people live on the island?

8. The number of boys in the classroom is 40% higher than the number of girls. How many students are in this class if the probability that a randomly selected two-person delegation made up of boy(male) and girl(female) is equal to  $\frac{1}{2}$
9. There are 65 balls in the box, 8 of which are white and the others are black. In one move we can take out no more than 5 balls from the box. The balls once taken out of the box do not return to it. How few moves do you need to make to be sure that at least one white ball has been removed?
10. You can learn languages, history and philosophy at a certain humanities college. 35% of the language students at the school are taught English. 13% of the school's students are taught a language other than English. None of the students in this school learn more than one language. What percentage of students in this school study languages?



# Alphas, Omegas and others

by Poleball

Using our alphabet we often take for granted its qualities and its long history of evolution and adaptations. Path to today's form was long and bumpy, passing through a number of stages, shaped by political, economic and religious decisions. Much has been written about it, much has been written about particular the stages of its evolution. This text will not be about the glorious history of Latin world domination - it will be about various writing systems that it had replaced.

But before we begin the presentation to we should settle two issues.

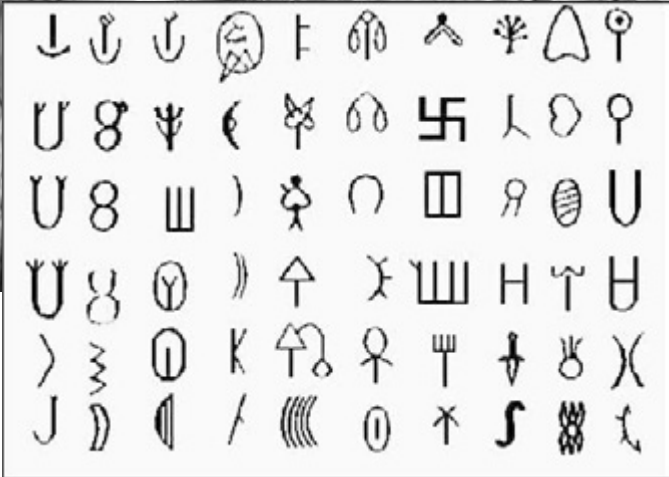
The first one is the problem of originality or primacy. Arguing about the merits of civilizations, users of imageboards, but also researchers often use primacy as the most important factor in evaluating the culture. Scholars and pseudo-scientists alike were trying to prove the direct influence of Sumerian characters on Egyptian symbols, people convinced about the superiority of Egyptians, on the other hand, insisted on the OC don't steal 100% independent origin of the hieroglyphic system. These two seemingly contradictory positions can be kinda be reconciled through the idea of cultural diffusion. How does it work? Awareness of the existence of a given concept can reach people before the physical expressions of the idea get there - this awareness and understanding of the importance then would awake a desire to create from scratch something similar. Thus, the Egyptian writing remains an invention inspired but also independent from the Mesopotamian system, and the syllabary of the Iroquois, although inspired by shapes of Latin letters isn't related to them at all when it comes to sounds the letters represent:

<b>D</b> <sub>i</sub>	<b>R</b> <sub>e</sub>	<b>T</b> <sub>i</sub>	<b>Δ</b> <sub>o</sub>	<b>Q</b> <sub>u</sub>	<b>i</b> <sub>v</sub>
<b>S</b> <sub>ga</sub> <b>Δ</b> <sub>ka</sub>	<b>P</b> <sub>go</sub>	<b>Y</b> <sub>gi</sub>	<b>A</b> <sub>go</sub>	<b>J</b> <sub>gu</sub>	<b>E</b> <sub>gv</sub>
<b>F</b> <sub>he</sub>	<b>P</b> <sub>he</sub>	<b>Δ</b> <sub>hi</sub>	<b>F</b> <sub>ho</sub>	<b>Γ</b> <sub>hu</sub>	<b>Δ</b> <sub>hv</sub>
<b>W</b> <sub>ia</sub>	<b>Δ</b> <sub>io</sub>	<b>F</b> <sub>ii</sub>	<b>G</b> <sub>io</sub>	<b>M</b> <sub>iv</sub>	<b>A</b> <sub>iv</sub>
<b>F</b> <sub>ma</sub>	<b>Q</b> <sub>me</sub>	<b>H</b> <sub>m</sub>	<b>Δ</b> <sub>mo</sub>	<b>Y</b> <sub>mu</sub>	
<b>Θ</b> <sub>na</sub> <b>t</b> <sub>hna</sub>	<b>A</b> <sub>no</sub>	<b>h</b> <sub>ni</sub>	<b>Z</b> <sub>no</sub>	<b>A</b> <sub>nu</sub>	<b>O</b> <sub>nv</sub>
<b>T</b> <sub>qua</sub>	<b>Ω</b> <sub>quo</sub>	<b>P</b> <sub>qui</sub>	<b>V</b> <sub>quo</sub>	<b>Ω</b> <sub>quu</sub>	<b>Ξ</b> <sub>quv</sub>
<b>U</b> <sub>sa</sub> <b>Ω</b> <sub>s</sub>	<b>A</b> <sub>so</sub>	<b>h</b> <sub>si</sub>	<b>F</b> <sub>so</sub>	<b>Δ</b> <sub>su</sub>	<b>R</b> <sub>sv</sub>
<b>L</b> <sub>da</sub> <b>W</b> <sub>ta</sub>	<b>S</b> <sub>do</sub> <b>T</b> <sub>to</sub>	<b>I</b> <sub>di</sub> <b>I</b> <sub>ti</sub>	<b>V</b> <sub>do</sub>	<b>S</b> <sub>du</sub>	<b>Ω</b> <sub>dv</sub>
<b>Δ</b> <sub>dia</sub> <b>L</b> <sub>lla</sub>	<b>L</b> <sub>tie</sub>	<b>C</b> <sub>ti</sub>	<b>F</b> <sub>tho</sub>	<b>Φ</b> <sub>thu</sub>	<b>P</b> <sub>tiv</sub>
<b>G</b> <sub>tsa</sub>	<b>V</b> <sub>tso</sub>	<b>K</b> <sub>tsi</sub>	<b>K</b> <sub>tso</sub>	<b>J</b> <sub>tsu</sub>	<b>C</b> <sub>tsv</sub>
<b>G</b> <sub>wa</sub>	<b>Ω</b> <sub>wt</sub>	<b>Ω</b> <sub>wi</sub>	<b>Ω</b> <sub>wo</sub>	<b>Δ</b> <sub>wu</sub>	<b>Δ</b> <sub>wv</sub>
<b>Ω</b> <sub>ya</sub>	<b>B</b> <sub>ya</sub>	<b>Δ</b> <sub>yi</sub>	<b>h</b> <sub>yo</sub>	<b>G</b> <sub>yu</sub>	<b>B</b> <sub>yv</sub>

Wait, but what the fug is a syllabary? You can already get it from context, but let's stop for a while and do a brief run-down of some basic terms. The general categorization of scripts, divided into three categories of writing is as follows :

1. Logographic in which signs, logograms, symbolize a given word. Our numerals and Chinese characters are logograms. Almost writing system is purely logographic. An obvious shortcoming is the number of characters which can count thousands which makes it difficult to memorize and to create typefaces.
2. Syllabic, where signs represent individual syllables, the set of those being called syllabary. Syllable writing was created when people noticed that some complicated logograms can be replaced by simpler characters representing homophones and longer words can be constructed from a few shorter logograms, in the form of a rebus. Scripts that are pure syllabaries contain from fifty to hundred signs.
3. Alphabetic, where characters represent sounds (phonemes). The first variants of alphabetical systems were simplified syllabaries - all syllables beginning with the same consonant would be merged in one character (this variant known as the abjad is represented by Arabic and Hebrew). Thanks to this, the number of signs was reduced, but often it was uncertain what vowel follows a particular character. In Hebrew or Brahmi solution was to add a smaller sign to the character that indicates the type of vowel that should be pronounced with it (this subcategory is called abugida). The Greeks who didn't have so many consonants decided to redefine some Phoenician characters to denote vowels, which led to the creation of a system as we know it.

Ok, we are good to go.



### Harappan script

This script or “script” was supposedly a writing system of Harappan civilization, a very developed early urban culture from Indus valley, in many ways superior to modern India - one being knowledge of toilets. Their trade networks reached as far as to modern Iraq to the west and northern Afghanistan and Iran to the north. Some suggest they were speaking a proto-Dravidian language or were related to pre-iranic middle eastern people. In fact, some genetic researches had shown similitude of maternal genes between Pakistani Dravidian speakers and some of the remains found in Elamite burial grounds which could confirm either of the theories if interpreted accordingly.

The first examples of those signs appear around 3000BC, in the period known as Late Harappa, while around 1900BC, defined by urban decline and plagues the artifacts with inscriptions become increasingly more scarce.

There had been identified around 300-400 signs, parts pictographic on various stages of simplification, parts abstract. Some signs show the presence of something like accent signs which would suggest a phonetic nature while the low amount of signs rules out the possibility of a purely ideographic writing system, so those both arguments suggest a mixed ideographic-syllabic nature. It was written from right to left.

Interestingly enough the script shows almost no evolution - in all its long history symbols remain basically the same, which would point for some kind of priestly usage similar to Egyptian hieroglyphs.

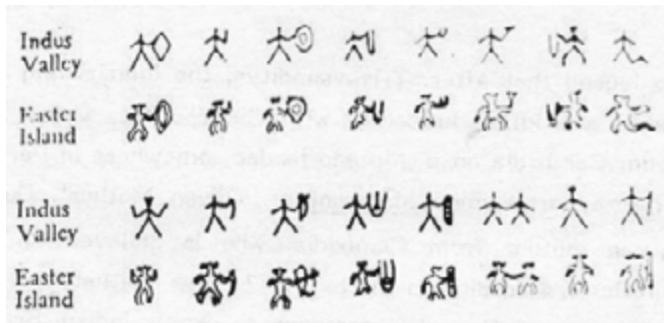
Pretty neat, huh? But here the problem starts...

Relative advancement of the civilization, and trade contacts with literate societies prompts us to believe that the Harappans used a complete writing system but there is one big issue with this idea. Most of the inscriptions are very short sequences of signs (the longest has 17 of them) accompanying the images, which made some researchers question the notion that Harappan society was literate at all. It could be argued that symbols were used to determine ownership or be part of some religious rites. No other literate culture left writing as scarce, there are no Harappan steles which were a favourite propaganda documents used by early literate societies. Others criticize the statistical approach derived from cryptographic methods which may have helped Michael Ventris to decipher Linear B but created many false assumptions.





tions about the nature of signs, ignoring the polyvalence of the early scripts, with many scholars inventing some bizarre grammatical rules in order to tailor the results of analysis to their needs. Indus Valley script case is doubly complicated because many people working on decipherment had their skin in the game, some supporting Indo-aryan thesis, others trying to find connections to Brahmi scripts or Veda to further Hindutva case and finally with others trying find in the script a proto-dravidian to show that those people once ruled whole subcontinent. Other more outlandish theories included connection with Easter Island pictographs, showing once again the absurdity of the purely morphological methods of



decipherment.

Of course there is a possibility that large corpus of cursive Indus Valley script existed on some perishable materials like palm leaves, parchment etc but there is a considerable number of civilisation relied on perishable materials like Neo-Assyrians, Neo-babylonians or Etruscans, that left no documents but we know about the writing culture thanks to scribbles and remains of styli, pens, brushes, depictions of scribes in art etc.

It's an interesting problem and i invite you to do your own research to get unbiased image.



## Linear Elamite script

Next script we will discuss was often brought up as an argument for Harappan literacy, because it was used by their “neighbours” but has better claims to be considered a real one, even the shortest examples of it are longer than majority of Indus epigraphs found. For example one silver vase carries a solitary line of Linear Elamite that on its own is 2 1/2 times longer than any known Indus inscription.

Elamites had arisen around the beginning of the 3rd millennium BC, first accounts of their rulers come from 2700BC, they were not-Semitic, pre-Iranian group of people inhabiting what is now Khuzestan region in Iran. They would contest Susa with Sumerians and each of the civilizations would dominate the other in different periods. Many contacts with Indus civilization had been attested. The end of the Elamite relevance came after the series of lost wars with Assyrians and migrations of Indo-European Persians and Medes and is ultimately dated on 539BC. Elymais, a Persian and later Parthian vassal was supposedly ruled by the local dynasty till it was incorporated into Sasanian Empire in 224AD.

Proto Elamite writing was pictographic and seem to be related to prehistoric Mesopotamian pictographic systems which inspired the Sumerian cuneiform. At the end of the 3rd

millennium BC, they developed a linear writing system that coexisted with logo-syllabic Elamite cuneiform.

As for today 22 linear Elamite documents had been found, with around 70 identified signs, but some of the recent ones come from illegal excavations and may be forgeries. This uncertainty about newer documents makes it hard to determine whether the system was syllabic which was presumed before when only scarce inscriptions discovered by French were available. now with the increasing number of signs, it is becoming less certain. Linear Elamite could be written from both rights to left or from left to right. The text may start at the top or the bottom.

There were attempts to decipher the script with aid of bilingual Akkadian-Elamite stele known as “tableau lion” but they failed.

What is the most interesting about this shortlived writing system is that there are certain morphological similarities found between this script and Harappan inscriptions, this along with archeo-genetic researches and found artifacts prove intense contacts between those two distant cultures.



## Luwian hieroglyphics

The writing previously known as “Hittite hieroglyphics” turned out not to belong to Hittites and not to be hieroglyphics in the literal sense (i.e. holy writing used only for religious purposes) or in the colloquial sense (it was not logographic writing for which Egyptian hieroglyphics are mistakenly considered).

Its creators seem to be Luwians, who although related to Hittites were a separate group of Indo-Europeans who around 3rd millennium B.C. made their way to Anatolia and settled in the south-western and central part of it. The first mentions of those people come from the Assyrian colonists and date back to the beginning of the 2nd millennium BC.

It is not clear whether the Luwians had a unified statehood or were rather a cultural continuum of city-states loosely connected by trade relations. What is certain is that their writing was strongly rooted in the region, as evidenced by the fact that western Anatolia never adapted cuneiform writing and that Hittites quickly adopted the script in own empire and successor states (Hittite cuneiform was also used in the empire), script survived till the fall of the last neo-Hittite states in the 8th century BC.

Today, the size of the Luwian script is estimated at over 500 symbols, 225 of which are logograms and the rest are syllables (most of them open syllables like ka, ke, ki, ko, ku, etc), and determinatives, used to determine whether a given



sign represents full word or just a syllable. There were two variants of writing, monumental used to decorate steles and sculptures and linear, more practical for handwriting.

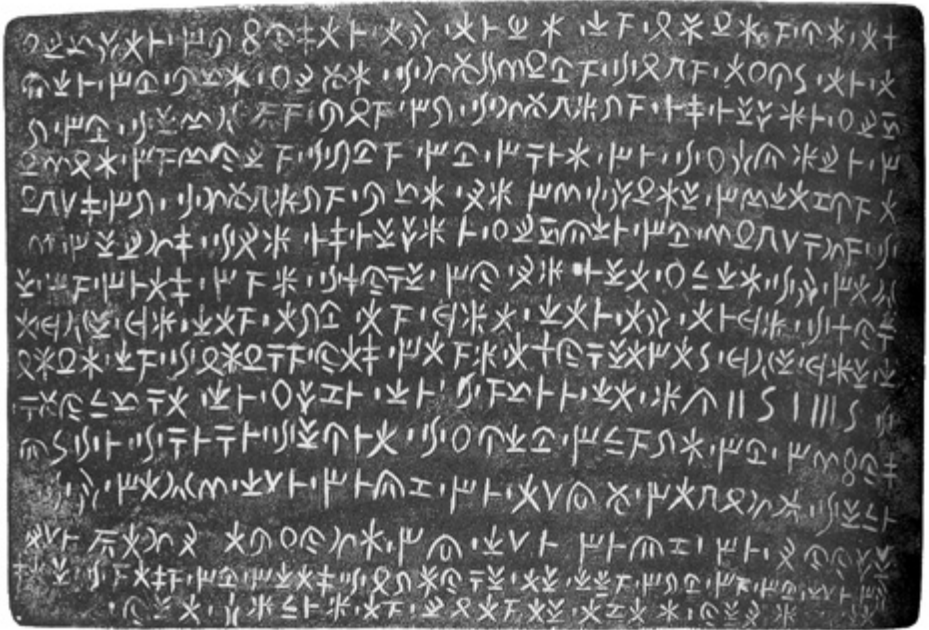
Individual words were usually written from the top to the bottom, similarly as in the case of the Egyptians.

Multi-line sentences were written in a way called boustrophedon – written from right to left in alternate lines, imitating the movement of the ox that plows up the field, where the Greek name comes from.

The writing was deciphered thanks to a bilingual Luwian-Phoenician stele from Karatepe, Turkey.

							
to embrace	eagle	donkey/ass	to hear	bird	ancestor	good	cow
							
heaven	dog	to take	goat	head	camp	stag	horn
							
leg	cross	with	chariot	to give	god	house	I
							
horse	woman	flames	strong	forehead	child	below	wrath
							
judge	hare	to bind	libation	staff	long	moon	great
							
great lord/king	hammer	bad	hand	mountain	west	eye	
							
all	east	sheep	bread	foot	foot	fish	to put
							
before	prophet	first	kingdom	king	Sarruma	chisel	sun
							
column	above	throne	thunder	hoof	city	vase	wine





## Cypriot syllabary

The first text documents found in Cyprus date back to 1500-1200BC and were written in a letter known as Cypro-Minoan, an ideographic script of unknown origin. Scarce examples, lack of bilingual writings, ignorance of the language of Cyprus before the Mycenaean infiltration, had prevented the deciphering of this first Cypriot writing system. Many early researchers believed in the links to the Minoan culture (as seen in the name) but no decisive proof had been delivered so far and a lot suggests more cultural exchanges with the Levant than with Aegean in that period.

Origins of the newer Cypriot script, known as Cypriot syllabary, are similarly unclear. It's not even clear whether the older and the newer Cypriot scripts are related. The early connection suggested between Linear A is today questioned.

Structure-wise Cypriot syllabary is similar to Linear B - it contains 56 characters, most of which are open syllables. Just like Linear B the script was designed by non-greek speaking people and just adopted by them as visible by the difficulties in transcribing greek sounds - for example “andrias”(man) had to be written down as “a-ti-ri-a-se”, “basileus”(king) as “pa-si-le-ve-o-se” etc

The deciphering was possible thanks to multiple artifacts with both Cypriot and Greek writings. Analysis of the Cypriot Greek dialect found similarities with dialects from Pamphylia (southern Turkey, presently Antalya) and Arcadia (central Peloponnese). Around the 4th century BC, this writing was replaced by the Greek alphabet.

✱	∪	↑	∩	✱	⊖	≠	Ω	V	†	)	)	)
a	ja	ka	la	ma	na	pa	ra	sa	ta	xa	wa	za
✱		↘	8	✱	∩	S	∧	∩	∩	∩	∩	
e		ke	le	me	ne	pe	re	se	te	xe	we	
✱		∩	∩	∩	∩	∩	∩	∩	∩	∩	∩	
i		ki	li	mi	ni	pi	ri	si	ti		wi	
∩	∩	∩	+	∩	)	∩	∩	∩	F		∩	∩
o	jo	ko	lo	mo	no	po	ro	so	to		wo	zo
∩		✱	∩	✱	)	∩	)	∩	F			
u		ku	lu	mu	nu	pu	ru	su	tu			

This is it for now, in next issue we will leave the fertile crescent and take a look at some of the American scripts. See ya in a months time!

## FAQ

### How can I contribute?

You can write an article, a poem, make pictures or submit something else creative.

### Where can I submit something?

Current thread, email or discord.

### When is the next deadline?

Generally every two-three weeks, depending on the amount of content. For exact dates see the thread or contact us

### Do I choose the pictures for my articles?

You can choose/make them yourself if you wish to, otherwise someone else can decide for you.

### Is there a length limit?

Generally we try to keep articles between 700-3.000 words. If necessary or justified by interesting form or content, exceptions are possible.

### What topics are suitable?

Alle, since any topic is KC-tier with the right approach.

### How do I know if my text is good enough?

As a rough measure see the already existing texts.

Some are for assburgers, other are less serious.

What needs to be present is at least an attempt to bring some structure into your text, since we don't want a zine made out of random thrash.

We are not grammar nazis, runglisch, weird stylistic choices and grammar abuse are fine, as long as you reread your text and try to be understandable.

### Contact

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discord.gg/juAshwD