

## **ACHIM von ARNIM**

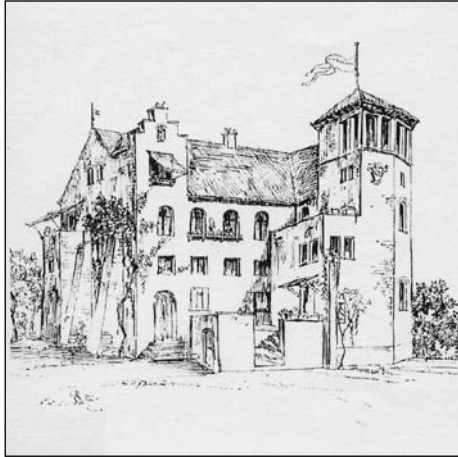
(1781 – 1831)

Buried at Wiepersdorf

Poet, Writer

Born Carl Joachim Friedrich Ludwig Achim. He often went by Ludwig Achim. Today he is known as “Achim von Arnim”.

Achim von Arnim is a descendant of the Uckermark family branch Blankensee. His father was Joachim Erdmann von Arnim (1741 – 1804), a royal chamberlain, who



possessed a number of estates in the Uckermark and served the King of Prussia as ambassador (legate) at the court of Copenhagen and later in Dresden. He was then commissioned as “Directeur des Spectacles”, managing the royal theatre in Berlin. With the funds of his mother-in-law, Caroline Marie Elisabeth Daum, a banker’s daughter who married Hans Labes in her second marriage, Joachim Erdmann von Arnim then bought the so-called “Ländchen Bärwalde”, which was comprised of the estates of Bärwalde, Wiepersdorf, Mainsdorf, Herbersdorf, Rinow, Weißen and Kossin.

Bärwalde

After his death in 1804 these estates remained at the right of disposal of his mother-in-law. These she did not bequeath to her two grandchildren, Achim and his brother Carl Otto Ludwig, called “Pit” (1779 – 1851), but to her eldest great-grandchildren, who were yet to be born. Thus it came about that Achim spent a great part of his life in Wiepersdorf managing the estates but never actually claiming ownership. Achim’s mother was Amalia Caroline Labes (1761 – 1781), who died just after Achim was born. Together with “Pit” he was brought up in his grandmother Labes’ house without any considerable relationship with his father.



Achim von Arnim, drawing by Clemens Brentano

1793 – 1798 He attended the Joachimstalische Gymnasium (GB: grammar school/ USA: high school) in Berlin.

1798 – 1800 He went to university in Halle and studied Law, Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry. He was a member of a literary circle that met in the house of the director of music and composer Johann Friedrich Reichardt and became acquainted with Reichardt’s brother-in-law Ludwig Tieck.

1799 First publication of “Versuch einer Theorie der elektrischen Erscheinungen” ( Attempt at a theory on electric phenomena) until 1806. He cooperated with his teacher L.W. Gilbert in editing the “Annalen der Physik” (Annals of physics).

1800 - 1801 He continued his studies in Göttingen.

- 1801 He began a friendship with Clemens Brentano;
- 1801 – 1804 He began a journey together with his brother to expand his horizons. This was in several stages: from Dresden, Prague, Regensburg, Munich, Frankfurt a. M., Stuttgart, Switzerland, upper Italy, France, London, Wales, Scotland and the Netherlands.
- 1802 His first novel “Hollins Liebesleben” was published.
- 1802 He journeyed along the Rhine together with Clemens Brentano. His permanent residence was in Berlin, but he lived alternatively in many different places.
- 1805 He lived in Heidelberg where he worked on “Des Knaben Wunderhorn” together with Clemens Brentano.
- 1806 – 1808 Together with Brentano he published 3 volumes of the collection of folk songs, “Des Knaben Wunderhorn”.
- 1806 He resided in Halle and Göttingen.
- 1807 He resided in Königsberg, Weimar and Kassel.
- 1808 He resided in Heidelberg.
- 1809 He became acquainted with Joseph von Eichendorff.
- 1809 His collection of novellas “Der Wintergarten” was published.
- 1809 – 1813 He founded the “Christlich-Deutsche Tischgesellschaft” of Prussian patriots in Berlin and he cooperated on the “Berliner Abendblätter”.
- 1810 His novel „Armut, Reichtum, Schuld und Buße der Gräfin Dolores. Eine wahre Geschichte zur lehrreichen Unterhaltung armer Fräulein aufgeschrieben“ was published.
- 1811 He married Elisabeth (Bettina) Catharina Ludowica Magdalena Brentano, Clemens Brentano’s sister.
- 1813 He served as the captain of a battalion of a conscripted militia in Berlin.
- 1813 Editor of the “Preußische Correspondenten” from 1814. He resided predominantly in Wiepersdorf, but in between he also lived in Berlin, on his Uckermark estates and travelled.
- 1817 The first part of his novel “Die Kronenwächter” was published; the second part remained unfinished and was published by his wife Bettina in 1854 from 1818. He lived mainly farming and managing his estates Bärwalde, Wiepersdorf, etc.  
His wife Bettina lived predominantly in Berlin.
- 1831 He died in Wiepersdorf on January 21<sup>st</sup>.

As a poet and writer Achim von Arnim was one of the most prominent figures of the Romantic period, being influenced mainly by his friendship and acquaintanceship with Clemens Brentano, Ludwig Tieck, Friedrich and Dorothea Schlegel, Goethe, the Brothers Grimm, Joseph Görries, Heinrich von Kleist, Joseph von Eichendorff and many others. He developed an “exuberant imagination” and had difficulty in sticking to conventions. His work often seems to be out of touch with



Wiepersdorf

reality. In many cases his train of thought spins a yarn that creates an illusionary world. Yet he was certainly not a dreamer. His intention was to find richly symbolic connections and parallels to reality.

“Arnim shows the major characteristics of a poet of the Romantic period in German literature. The so-called Heidelberger Romantic period is closely connected to his name and is well represented by his works, though strictly speaking, this description is not sufficient to fully represent the author and his work accurately. He wrote almost exclusively for the daily press he remarked in later years and in doing so referred to an essential part of his work that had been greatly overlooked in literary research (...)” (1)

“A. was a Prussian nobleman of its best kind, firmly rooted in his native soil, with a sense of tradition and a deep respect for the past. He was sincere and kind, had ‘a chivalrous appearance’ (Eichendorff) and was too honest for the services at court and above matters of form, which he mastered with ease yet often disregarded. He had a habit of playing practical jokes and was full of the joys of life. He was a reliable friend who supported those in need. (...)” (2)

Heinrich Heine gave the following opinion: “Ludwig Achim von Arnim is a great poet and was one of the most original individuals of the Romantic school... This writer has remained largely unknown to the general public and has only this great reputation among literary circles. The latter, although acknowledging him with absolute respect, did not praise him suitably in public.”(3)

- (1) **Hahn, Karl-Heinz** in Ludwig Achim von Arnim, Werke in einem Band, Weimar 1989
- (2) **Neue Deutsche Biographie**, published by the Historische Kommission bei der Bayerischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, Berlin 1953
- (3) **Heine, Heinrich**: in Die Romantische Schule, 1835; quoted from Kastinger Riley, Helene M.: Achim von Arnim in Selbstzeugnissen und Bilddokumenten,rororo,Reinbek b. Hamburg, 1979

### **Works:**

**Des Knaben Wunderhorn**, collection of folk songs, three volumes, published together with Clemens Brentano

**Der Wintergarten**, older novellas retold

**Schaubühne**, collection and free rendering of older dramas

**Tröst Einsamkeit**, collected contributions of a newspaper edited by A. in Heidelberg and called Einsiedler

**Hollins Liebesleben**, a novel

**Armut, Reichtum, Schuld und Buße der Gräfin Dolores**, a novel

**Die Kronenwächter** 1st volume

**Die Kronenwächter**, 2nd volume, unfinished and published by Bettina von Arnim in 1854

**Isabella von Ägypten, Kaiser Karls V. Jugendliebe**, a story

**Die drei liebevollen Schwestern und der glückliche Färber**, a story

**Der tolle Invalide auf dem Fort Ratonneau**, a story

**Frau von Saverne**, a story

**Fürst Ganzgott und Sänger Halbgott**, a story

**Die Majoratsherren**, a story

**Metamorphosen der Gesellschaft, Sonntags-Erzählung des Landpredigers**, a story

**Die Gleichen**, a drama

**Halle und Jerusalem**, Studentenspiel und Pilgerabenteuer, a drama

**Der Auerhahn**, a drama

**Woldemar**, a drama

**Die Vertreibung der Spanier aus Wesel im Jahr 1629**, a drama

**Die Kapitulation von Oggersheim**, a heroic comedy

**Die Appelmänner**, a shadow play

#### **Reference to bibliography:**

**Kastinger Riley, Helene M.:** Achim von Arnim in Selbstzeugnissen und Bilddokumenten,rororo Bildmonographien, Reinbek b. Hamburg, 1979

**Lüders, Detlev** (editor): Achim von Arnim, Katalog der Ausstellung im Freien Deutschen Hochstift – Frankfurter Goethe-Museum, 30. 6. – 31. 12. 1981, Frankfurt/Main, 1981

Detailed references in the Bildmonographie by Helene M. Kastinger Riley, see above

Text by Jasper von Arnim, February 2003.  
translated by Thekla von Arnim, October 2009

#### **Further information:**

<http://www.wortblume.de>

<http://www.gutenberg.spiegel.de/arnim>

[http://www.onlinekunst.de/liebesgedichte/liebe\\_arnim.html](http://www.onlinekunst.de/liebesgedichte/liebe_arnim.html)

<http://www.uni-koeln.de/phil-fak/idsl/arnim>