Rorrefpondenz aus Deutschland. Epremberg Den 23 Februar 1905. Berthes Baltsbatt! Der Binter ift faft borüber unb bie erflen Brablingsboles find bur bie Belb. lerifen und Staare. Gegegenwärtig haben mir itarten Rorboftmin), ber aber nicht febr talt ift. Mm Sonntag ben 19. Februar veranftaltete ber menbijde Befangverein ein menbifdes Congert. Benbifde Lieber wurden gefungen, uns ter anderem eine wendifche Docheit in altmenbijcher Tradt, nebit alten Lan-1 jen aufgeführt. Bu bemerten mare bier , bag bie Robe bei ben Rangern fcon langt perantert ift, namlig alles auf beutfden Styl. Degegen bie ber Stane en noch unperandeit geblieben ift. Dies tes machte ein to großes Anffehen und Belauf, bag ber Gaal bes Derrn D. Road bis auf ben legten Blog telept mar, Bon Görlip und Spremberg bejten fich zahlreiche Bufdaver eingefunden um biefer intereffannten Borfellung bets jamobnen. In Bejng ber Riebertragt beftant ber alimobijde Mujug bes BRans res aus weigen Rniehojen und blauen turgen Jade und Wefte, bie wie eine Uniform fest jugetuopit murte. Der Ruchensnjug mer ein langer Rod aus bloven Lud, lange Stufeln unb rin ftruppiger Cplinterbut. Die gange Bertlichteiten ber Frauenfleibung, besteht aus einem. grünen nicht an langen Gewande, bes meift aus einem Gemifo sen Belle und Slachs jufammen gemes [5 ben und 91 Meter baju erforderlich ift. Der Schneiber bat niel Scheretet bamit, eine Baifte muß boppelt gefal. 18 tet werben und fo jugenabt, bag es fo 18 bleibt. Die Befte ift gleich baran genäht, baren feine farje biane Jede, <u>×</u> blane Strämpfe und niedrige Soube. Den Ropt fomidt eine Banbe aus rethem Ratun, mit weißen breiten Befab umustht, auf biejem ein ichmater Gireis fen feiner weißen Spipenftiderei, Diefe werden mittels Stärte und Blätterfen in nad vorn ftebenden Borm gebracht; Benn nun fo eine junge Dopjaga in cle ner folden tothen Banbe ftedt, liest fie genen einer aufblühenten Blume abnlich. Bet ter Trauer ift bieje Daube weiß ober faritt, Der Rungtmaler 28. Rraufe, fomte antere feigierten und photographierten einige biefer fomuden Benbinen, betm Rindlauf ober Dochjeiten, Golde Bils ber werden recht theaer verlauft unb amar ju etliche hundert BRart bas Gild. fe Die Benben bier gehören ber emanges liften Confeffion an bagegen bie ber D Bittenan wohnenden ber tatholifden, ь ð aber beibe baben noch etwas Aberglanben bes Alterthums vermijcht und haupt- " fäglich gegen bas 2ie Bebol, Rährres al In befgreiben mare nicht normenbig, ba te siele bet werthen Lefer aus Centigland 16 und ber wendifden Begend find, 10 10 branchen fie fich nur ber guten alten le Seilen erinnern: Sicible falbomejeje fimjern, meldig Bogom tycz a mjern. a. f. b. H Doch genug für birsmal. IR. D. Eufenbagner.

Correspondence from Germany

## Spremberg the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February, 1905

## Worthy Volksblatt!

Winter is almost over and the spring messengers, locally, are the field larks and the sparrows. We currently have strong north winds which are, however, not very cold. The Wendish Glee Club presented a Wendish concert on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. Songs of the Wends were sung and, among others, a Wend wedding was performed in old costumes and with dances of the past. It is to be noted, here, that custom among men has long ago changed, namely everything toward German style. In opposition, that of the women has remained un-changed. This resulted in a significant attraction toward attendance so that every last place was filled at Mr. H. Noack's hall. A number of observers were present from Goerlitz and Spremberg to experience such an interesting performance. As concerns the children, their costumes resembled the old fashioned suits of the men, with white knee length trousers and blue short jackets and vests which were buttoned tightly, as in a uniform. The church attire was a long frock of blue cloth, high boots and a fuzzy top hat. The considerable beauty of the women's attire consists of a, not too long, green skirt, woven mostly from a mixture of wool and flax, requiring about 21/2 meters. The dress maker had to do a lot of manipulating as one half is double folded and sewn together so that it would remain that way. The vest is attached and over it a fine short blue jacket, blue stockings and low-heeled shoes. The head is covered with a bonnet of red calico surrounded by a wide white braid upon which is a small stripe of petit embroidery. All this is made to extend forwards by means or starch an ironing. A young maiden, decked out in such a bonnet, looks exactly like a blossoming flower. During mourning, this bonnet is white or checkered.

The painter W. Krause, as well as others, sketched and photographed some of these neat Wendish women during the children's activities and the weddings. Such pictures are very expensive, costing several hundred marks each.

The Wends in our area belong to the evangelical confession whereas those who live around Wittichenau are Catholic but both harbor old time mixed superstitions mainly with respect to the Second Commandment. It is not needed to say any more since many of the worthy readers come from the area in Germany where the Wends live and will only have to remember the good old days:

Sserbjo, sakhowajcze szwjeru, woschich Wotzow rycz a wjeru, a t. d. [Sserbjo, sakhowajcze  $\beta$ wjeru,  $\beta$ wojich Wotzow rycz a wjeru, a t. d.]\* Wends, preserve faithfully your forefathers' language and religion, etc.

Enough for now. M. H. Railroader

> German translated by John Buerfeind Wendish translated by Gerald Stone

\*The quotation is in Upper Sorbian. The modern version is: 'Serbjo, zachowajće swěru swojich wótcow rěč a wěru, etc'. It is a rhyming couplet which appears as the refrain in Kilian's hymn 'Zbudźenje za Serbow'.