

*Giddings Deutsches Volksblatt*, 22 August 1931. Image 011700362.

Bautzen, Saxony, Germany

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22 August 1931

Dear Mr. Proske,

Finally I find time to write to you. As a student you have little time. I plan to pass my final examination at the university next Easter. Today I will send you an article about a monument which will be dedicated to the most famous Wendish poet, Andreas Seiler, on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August. I don't know if you know him but assume you do. He had written the following Wendish songs: "Zady našej pjecy kuntworki hraja!" [Behind our stove, the mosquitoes are playing.]; "Kurič trubku tobaka to je moja dobrota." [To smoke a pipe of tobacco is my joy.] Etc.

But now I have to ask a favor. About one half year ago I had written an article about the Wends in Texas in the magazine "Luzica." I had sent one sample of it to Pastor Birkmann. He ordered six more and one for you.

Best regards, Ernst Wehser, Bautzen

Se Sserbow - From Wendish Lusatia

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The Wends in the Wendish Lusatia are preparing for a special event. It will erect a monument for its most famous poet at the location where he served as a pastor. The town is called Lohsa, Prussian Lusatia. There are plenty of monuments in the world but the Wends deserve to honor their best as well. At the same time, they desire to let their German compatriots know that despite the fact that they comprise a small part of the total German population they have great spirits among them.

Who was this poet? His name is Andreas Seiler. 60 years have passed since the Wendish people had to bury him. But for us Andreas Seiler did not die. He continues to touch the hearts of the sons and daughters with his poems and songs. He was born on February 1, 1804 in Salzenforst near Bautzen. His talents were first discovered by the pastor at the St. Michaels Church in Bautzen. He advised Seiler's father to send his son to the gymnasium for further education. He was an excellent student and discovered his love for the Wendish people. In 1824 he wrote some poems which reflect such love. From 1826 to 1829 he studied theology at the university of Leipzig. He revived the local Wendish club called "Sorabicum" and wrote articles for the local newspaper named "Nowina." He met other Slavic people with whom he had opportunity to exercise his Wendish mother tongue.

In 1829 he passed his theological exam and started as deacon in Klix near Bautzen. In 1835 he was called to be pastor for the Wendish Evangelical Lutheran congregation in Lohsa, where he served until his death. He awakened to his literary life in this place. He published a Wendish newspaper called "Tydzenska Nowina" in which you could read his poems. He also deserves recognition for his support to the Wendish concerts which took place in Bautzen. The most famous Wendish composer is Karl August Katzer. These concerts found great recognition with the German music lovers. He was co-founder of the Wendish science association "Maćica Serbska". He remained a member until his death on October 15, 1872. All the people of the Wendish Lusatia are mourning his death.

The monument has been created out of Lusatian sandstone. A bust of marble of Andreas Seiler will be mounted on top of it. I will end my story with the song which will be inscribed:

Ha widźuli ptačata ćahnyć,

Hdyž lisćowu žołći so štom,

Chce myślička sobu so kradnyć,

We hwězdach pak pyta swój dom. (A. Seiler) [Myślička nazymu – A small autumn thought]

Ernst Wehser, Bautzen

Translated by Margot Hendricks