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Welcome to the Hahnemanns!



**VEREIN ZUR
FÖRDERUNG DER HOMÖOPATHIE E. V.**
Hahnemannhaus-Gesellschaft
Im Kleinfeld 19, 76689 Karlsdorf-Neuthard

The Hahnemann House in Köthen

The Hahnemann House in Köthen is one of those magical places that is alive with history and culture. From 1821 to 1835, it was home to the renowned German physician, chemist and pharmacist, Dr Samuel Hahnemann [1755-1843]. This decade in the life of the founder of homeopathy proved to be one of mixed joys and sorrows. It was in Köthen where he married his second wife Melanie, 44 years his junior, and also grieved for his first wife, Henriette, who had died five years previously. Köthen was to become a hotspot for homeopathy, a breeding ground for new ideas which continue to inspire medical science today. The aura of Dr Hahnemann and his life's work are still noticeable in Köthen today.



A welcome respite for Hahnemann

Köthen was to replace the metropolis of Leipzig as the new abode for the hitherto restless Hahnemann. It was at this point that he first sought to find some tranquillity in his life. The 66-year-old medical practitioner thus asked his patient, Duke Ferdinand von Anhalt-Köthen, to find him a “modest residence” for the few remaining years of his life and allow him to self-dispense his remedies. He was granted both of these wishes, meaning that Hahnemann could at last leave Leipzig, where a ban had ultimately been placed on his self-dispensing practices subsequent to sinister intrigues and campaigns against mainstream medical practitioners of the time. Hahnemann purchased the house with its small garden in Köthen, on Große Wallstraße 47.

Köthen becomes the center of homeopathy

Even in the small, sedate town of Köthen, Hahnemann continued with his medical teaching. In fact, the town was to become a center for homeopathy: patients from all over the world flocked to his practice. The cosmopolitan Hahnemann corresponded with hundreds of enthusiastic amateurs and professionals worldwide. Yet he still found the time to revise his life's work. If you close your eyes while standing in these historic rooms, you can almost sense the energetic aura of the master practitioner. Hahnemann developed two important homeopathic principles in Köthen: firstly, the miasma theory, which today still plays an essential role in the homeopathic treatment of chronic diseases, and secondly, the high-potency formulations, which became an important addition to his therapeutic concept. In 1829 he celebrated the golden anniversary of having become a doctor. This gave rise to the foundation of the “German Central Union of Homeopathic Physicians”. During the cholera epidemic in 1831, Hahnemann achieved outstanding success.

Melanie and the move to Paris

Hahnemann's wife Henriette passed away in 1830, at which point some of his daughters took care of their busy father. In 1832, Hahnemann's home became the birthplace for Germany's “General Homeopathy Journal”, which is still in print today. In 1835, at the age of 79, he married the much younger Melanie d'Hervilly-Gohier, a French artist. He had previously treated her as a patient, curing her of her “tic douloureux”. In the summer of the same year, he followed his second wife, in perfect health, to Paris. He practiced his medicine there, to much acclaim, until his death. He left his house in Köthen to his children.

And today: come and marvel!



For a number of decades, Hahnemann's former base in Köthen was mostly forgotten, and was used as a residential dwelling. To restore the house to a living showcase for homeopathy, Dr Karl-Heinz Gebhardt, Chairman of the Society for the Promotion of Homeopathy – Hahnemann House Society,



suggested that the house be bought. This was achieved in 1994. Renovation work was undertaken to return the roof, dormer windows and timber framing to their former glory, and the original front door was restored. The entire exterior was rebuilt, and the garden was redesigned. The house is now home to a homeopathy practice, plus a museum that is open to the public. It almost feels as if members of the Hahnemann family are still bustling away inside.

Köthen offers the unique opportunity to see and experience an element of German medical history that is more than 200 years old. It's a must for any friend of homeopathy. Visit the Hahnemann House in Köthen to experience the aura of the master of homeopathy.

A little support goes a long way

The extensive renovations not only took a while, but were also costly – almost beyond the reach of a small charitable society. And they are by no means finished. The upkeep and the ability to welcome the many interested visitors from home and abroad to walk in Hahnemann's footsteps are a costly enterprise. The small amount of income generated from running the house is not enough to cover the costs of heating, management and repairs. Please therefore help us to ensure that the house can continue to be run in the future. Help preserve a jewel of German medical and cultural history with your donation. Keep the Hahnemann House alive!

