

DER SACHSENTAG

Der Sachsentag (Saxon Day) was celebrated for the very first time in Dresden, the capital city of Saxony, between Saturday July 4 and Monday 6 July 1914. It was conceived to mark 10-year anniversary of the democratic government established by King Frederick Augustus III in 1904. The patrons of the event were: Senior Major King Frederick Augustus III (1865-1932)(last *King* of Saxony 1904–1918); Georg, (last) Crown Prince of Saxony (1893-1943); Otto Friedrich Hermann Günther Count Vitzthum of Eckstädt (1855-1936) German politician, last President of the Industrial Chamber of the Saxon State Parliament (Landtag), last Heir (Majoratsherr) to Schloss Lichtenwalde; and Dr Dr Ing Beutler, Dresden's Supreme Mayor (Bürgermeister) of Dresden City Council (Landeshauptstadt Dresden).

Adolph Ziesche is remembered as the initiator and organiser of the festival, which, as the press described, brought the Wendeners, Vogtlanders, Upper Lausitzers, Altenburgers, Meissners, and Ore Mountain people together as one big family. A total of 36 delegations from all over Saxony represented their home regions in lively and colourful pageantry. The highlight of the festivities was a large parade on the Sunday which followed the former Prager Straße past Dresden Castle ending at the former Dresdner Vogelwiese, the fairground of Dresden.

Re-established in Freiberg in 1992, the Day of the Saxon (Sachsentag) remains the most important folk festival in the Free State. It is celebrated every year in a different city in Saxony during the first week of September. The main players during that time are Saxon clubs and associations. They publicise their activities and showcase traditional customs. Visitors of all ages enjoy a large variety of sports activities, classical music, community efforts and examples of traditional craftsmanship. The Sachsentag is managed by a board of trustees "Day of the Saxons", to which representatives of 80 Saxon federations and associations belong. The office of the President of the Board of Trustees was taken over on 7 June 2010 by the Saxon State Parliament President Matthias Röbler (succeeding his predecessor Erich Iltgen)

Adolph Ziesche (1875-1918) was of Bautzen, Sachsen, Germany. He died in Joinville, a city in Santa Catarina State, in the Southern Region of Brazil. At some point, he emigrated to Brazil through the port of Hamburg. There he met his wife Ana Kroehne (1877-1955).

Ref: various including Sachsentag Dresden 1914. Festschrift. Großes vaterländisches Fest für alle national gesinnten Sachsen daheim und in der Fremde. Festausschuß (Hrsg.) Dresden, Fr. Tittel Nachf. (Bernhard Kunath)