

1 **Gregor Mendel's meeting with Pope Pius IX: the truth in the story.**

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10 **Abstract**

11 According to Hugo Iltis, Mendel had made a journey to Italy in the 1860s, not knowing when or for
12 what purpose. Mendel might then have also paid a visit to Pope Pius IX, and become acquainted
13 with the “later” Cardinal Teodolfo Mertel. Oswald Richter had already discovered that Mendel had
14 received a 3-months pass for the Italian states in mid-August 1863. In this article, I put forward new
15 evidence and arguments that it is very likely that Mendel took part in a three weeks’ organized
16 group tour to Italy in September 1863. This tour was organized by the same entrepreneurs as
17 Mendel’s group tour to the International Exhibition in London a year earlier. In Rome, the group was
18 received by the Pope. Furthermore, there were stays of several days in Naples and Florence.
19 Because Mertel had already become Cardinal four years before this trip, this part of the story about
20 Mertel cannot be correct. I argue that it is likely that the high dignitary whom Mendel met was Karl
21 von Hefe, professor of church history, spokesman for the group at the meeting with the Pope. It is
22 striking that in 1862 and 1863, Mendel could make expensive international trips, which were only
23 affordable to the societal elite. These major international journeys illustrate Mendel’s broad interest
24 in the world and the society of his days and contrast the view that he was a monk in recluse.

25 *Introduction*

26 Although Gregor Mendel is one of the greatest biologists in history, his life, and work, as a result of
27 his posthumous recognition, is still surrounded by many mysteries. His name is world-famous, but as
28 a person, he is largely unknown. These mysteries include the great international journeys he
29 undertook in the 1860s, first to Paris and London in 1862 and later to Rome. Recently Van Dijk and
30 Ellis (2020) have published new information about the journey to Paris and London, and here I
31 report new information regarding the journey to Rome.

32 We owe most of what is known about the life of Gregor Mendel to Hugo Iltis, Mendel's first
33 biographer. Shortly after the 'rediscovery' of Mendel's work in 1900, Iltis began to collect
34 information from people who had known Mendel. One of their memories was that Mendel had told
35 about a trip to Italy, where he would have met Pope Pius IX and became acquainted with the "later"
36 Cardinal Mertel. Augustinian Father Clemens Janetschek (1857-1908) suspected that it was around
37 1864 when Mendel was still an ordinary priest. According to Mendel's nephew, Alois Schindler
38 (1859-1930), Mendel had made the journey as a newly elected abbot, in 1868, to introduce himself
39 to the Pope, an assumption which was accepted by Gustafsson (1969, "to pay his respects to the
40 Pope") and Bishop (1999, "to be received by the Pope").

41 The story of the Italian journey has also inspired the movie "Gardener of God" (2009). This movie,
42 written and directed by Liana Marabini, shows a private conversation between Mendel and Pope
43 Pius IX, in which the Pope supports Mendel's scientific efforts. The film was launched in Rome in
44 December 2009, in the presence of Archbishop Gianfranco Ravasi, president of the Pontifical Council
45 for Culture. According to Amazon's product description: "The film tells how he was invited by Pope
46 Pius IX to the Vatican where they shared their views about science and faith, and how they are
47 related. The Pope recognizes the important scientific contribution of Father Mendel, and speaks the
48 prophetic words to him, "Father Mendel, your discovery will survive you and it will survive all of us".

49 According to Iltis (1924, 1965), it was sure that Mendel would have met Mertel, the later Cardinal,
50 during the Italian voyage. Furthermore, in Iltis' time, grapevines were still growing in the monastery
51 garden in Brunn (now Brno) grown from seeds Mendel had collected in Florence during his Italian
52 journey. Teodolfo Mertel had already become a Cardinal in 1859, and not after Mendel's journey, so
53 the story that Mendel met him on the journey, and he later became a Cardinal cannot be correct. I
54 will provide a more logical explanation below.

55 Father Janetschek joined the Augustinian Order in 1881, at least 13 years after Mendel's Italian
56 journey and three years before Mendel's death. Alois Schindler lived close to the monastery in

57 Brünn from 1870 to 1880ⁱ, and later together with his younger brother Ferdinand, five years his
58 junior. The nephews often met Mendel during the weekends (Schindler 1902, Krizenecky 1965).
59 Mendel had already been dead for 20 years when Ittis asked Alois about the travels. In that respect,
60 different recollections are not surprising. Often, however, these distorted stories contain some
61 truth.

62

63 *Research into the Italian journey*

64 Oswald Richter (1943) found in the pass protocol book that Mendel received a 3-month pass for the
65 Italian states on 14 August 1863. Since the new school semester started on 3 October (Weiling
66 1993), Mendel's Italian journey must have taken place between 14 August and 3 October. Traveling
67 from Vienna to Florence or Rome in 1863 was a complicated matter. As the Italian train network was
68 not yet connected, the journey would have to be made partly by boat (Genoa - Livorno and Livorno -
69 Civitavecchia, *visa versa*). Besides, Mendel probably did not speak Italian, and bandit gangs were
70 active around Rome. Because Mendel had participated in a group journey to Paris and London in
71 1862 (Van Dijk and Ellis 2020), I investigated the possibility of whether his Italian journey might also
72 have been made with a tour group. Historical newspapers indeed showed that the same
73 entrepreneurs who organized the journey to Paris and London in 1862, Neumeyer and Mihailovič,
74 also advertised a group journey (*Internationale Fahrgesellschaft*) to Florence and Rome in 1863,
75 departing on 1 September from Vienna and returning on 24 September in Venice (Figure 1). This,
76 thus, fell precisely within the period that Mendel was free.

77 The section of hotel arrivals in the *Fremden-Blatt* showed that Mendel was in Vienna around the
78 date of departure. Therefore it very plausible that Mendel took part in this group travel. The
79 organizers managed to arrange an audience for the group with Pope Pius IX, which is consistent with
80 the story of Alois Schindler. The Viennese newspapers reported extensively about this special event.
81 The Pope spoke briefly with all the clergy, so also with Mendel, if he was present.

82 The *International Fahrgesellschaft* train departed from Vienna on Tuesday, 1 September. In the
83 *Fremden-Blatt* of Thursday, 3 September, Mendel is listed at the *Goldene Lamm* hotel in Vienna. To
84 participate in the journey, Mendel must have checked into a hotel by Monday, 31 August. So
85 Mendel's name can be found in the arrivals list three days later. However, from other journeys,
86 where the arrival date is known, it can be inferred that a delay of 3-5 days in the publication of the
87 names is not exceptional (Van Dijk and Ellis 2020).

88 Since Rome is the center of the Catholic Church, it was conceivable that Mendel might have made
89 the journey with other clergies from Brünn, especially Augustinian brothers. The year before,
90 Mendel traveled to Paris and London with his friend Johann Nave. In the period between 30 August
91 and 5 September, 59 other residents of Brünn were found in the arrivals list, but this did not include
92 any fellow brothers. So there is no evidence that Mendel traveled with colleagues, but this does not
93 necessarily mean that he traveled alone, as not all guests' names were published.

94 The train would depart from Paris and would, on the way to Vienna, pick up participants in Baden,
95 Württemberg, and Bayern (*Wiener Zeitung*, 09-07-1863). On 31 July, the *Wiener Zeitung* wrote that
96 until then, most of the participants were from Paris and Stuttgart and that the journey was
97 guaranteed. Just like the Paris and London group tour, the participants belonged to the elite and
98 well-to-do class of society: "nobility, senior soldiers, civil servants, writers and artists, university
99 teachers, merchants, manufacturers, etc., etc." Ultimately, the pleasure train had more than 100
100 participants, in addition to Austrians, Germans and Frenchmen, also Englishmen (*Innsbrucker*
101 *Nachrichten* 08-10-1863). Thirty participants were from the German statesⁱⁱ, and 42 were from the
102 Austrian empire (*Wiener Zeitung* 16-09-1863). The only names that are known are from seven
103 German participantsⁱⁱⁱ. The *Fremden-Blatt* and der *Wiener Zeitung* both had a correspondent on the
104 journey who reported on several episodes.

105

106 *The program of the pleasure train*

107 The pleasure train left Vienna on Tuesday, 1 September, at 9 am. The travel program is described in
108 the advertisement in Figure 1. The route is shown in Figure 2, and the itinerary is listed in Table 1. A
109 total of four stages were completed by boat. On the new rail route connecting Rome and Naples, the
110 night train had to be avoided because this area was too dangerous due to the operation of bandits.
111 Milan and Genoa were briefly visited on the outward journey, but for longer on the return journey.
112 There was half a day at Pisa to visit the cathedral, baptistery, and the famous leaning tower, "with
113 clear and understandable explanations by Dr. Von Hefele, professor of church history and
114 archeology at the University of Tübingen" (*Fremden-Blatt* 17-09-1863). Then a few days in and
115 around Rome for churches, art treasures, antiquities and museums and trips to Frascati and Tivoli,
116 and then on to Naples where a boat trip was made in the Bay of Naples. The Vesuvius volcano and
117 the excavations at Pompeii and Herculaneum were also visited. On the way back, there was a three-
118 day stay at Florence with visits to the Uffizi museum, the Medici palaces, and the Santa Croce with
119 tombs of and monuments for famous artists and scholars such as Dante, Michel Angelo, Cellini, and

120 Galilei. Here Mendel collected his grape seeds, the bushes of which were still growing in Brünn in
121 Iltis' time. During the stay in Milan, an excursion to Lake Como was made. On Thursday, 24
122 September, the train arrived in Venice, where the group split. The French and the English traveled
123 back via Marseille, the Germans over South Tyrol, and the Austrians to Vienna.

124

125 *The papal audience*

126 The group arrived in Rome on 6 September and was received at the Vatican in the late afternoon on
127 the 9th. The *Fremden-Blatt* correspondent sent a telegram from Rome that was published the next
128 day (Figure 3):

129 "We receive the following telegraphic message about the participants in the Italian pleasure tour
130 organized by Messrs. Neumayer and Mihailovič, dated Rome, 10 August [sic: September], Evening:
131 Today, through the mediation of the Austrian ambassador, His Holiness the Pope received all the
132 participants of the pleasure tour in the Vatican, devoted some benevolent words and gave everyone
133 his apostolic blessing. The group arrived safely in Rome on the 6th and will leave the Holy City on the
134 12th to go to Naples. The state of health is excellent." The telegram was also published in several
135 other newspapers. The papal audience was later described in detail in the *Fremden-Blatt* and the
136 *Wiener Zeitung*. The *Wiener Zeitung* of 18 September 1863 wrote (For the original German text, see
137 Appendix I):

138 "The day before yesterday, Neumeyer's travel group had the good fortune to be received by His
139 Holiness the Pope in a special audience in the great throne hall of the Vatican. The audience was
140 arranged through the mediation of his Excellency the k. k. Ambassador to the Holy See Freiherrn v.
141 Bach, upon demand of Messrs. Neumeyer and Mihailovits. Around 5 p.m., most of the group went
142 to the Vatican in a long row of carriages. They were led into the Audience Hall and told to form a
143 long double row. Accompanied by Monsignor Talbot^{iv}, and the Master of Ceremonies, Monsignor
144 Pacca, His Holiness soon entered the hall, giving with a sonorous voice a short salutation in French to
145 the assembled people, who had kneeled when the Holy Father entered (Figure 4). His Holiness
146 expressed his delight at the arrival of the German caravan in Rome under the skillful guidance of
147 Messrs. Neumeyer and Mihailovits, adding to have given this audience on the mediation of the k. k.
148 Austrian Ambassador upon the request of the directors of the train. He asked in which language the
149 majority preferred to be addressed, whether in Latin / Italian or French. Mr. Neumeyer now spoke
150 and requested His Holiness to use the French language, which was understandable to most.

151 The Holy Father sat down in the throne chair and first Professor Dr. v. Hefele, from the Catholic
152 Theological Faculty of the University of Tübingen, stepped forward in his ceremonial clothes and
153 recited his curriculum in Latin and gave an eloquent speech, expressing his deep sentiments of how
154 much he appreciated the great fortune of being allowed to appear before the Holy Father to receive
155 the apostolic blessing, to which he humbly committed. His Holiness also asked some questions in
156 Latin to the kneeling, accompanied them with a few benevolent words, and then gave the apostolic
157 blessing. The other clergymen in the group also made their requests in Latin, and each one received
158 a kind word in the same language with an apostolic blessing. The clergy, about ten in number, were
159 all from Austria and Württemberg. They were followed by the secular members, first of all, the
160 directors of the train, who, like your rapporteur, used the French language, and everyone received a
161 gracious word and an apostolic blessing. Many had spread rosaries, crucifixes and medals bought
162 during the day so that the papal blessing could also be issued on them. To commemorate this
163 memorable hour, Professor v. Hefele received a remembrance coin with the portrait of the Pope,
164 Monsign. Pacca issued the others a piece of marble from the Columbarium Calixti that was cut into
165 the shape of a paperweight^v. Finally, the Holy Father raised from his throne chair and made a short
166 farewell speech in Latin to the assembled people, issuing an apostolic blessing to the whole
167 congregation. Lively and enthusiastic Evviva's from everybody accompanied the departure of the
168 Holy Father, who had made a deep impression on everyone with his benevolent and heart-winning
169 nature and his beautiful majestic stature so that none of us will ever forget this trip to Rome".

170 From the newspaper reports, we can conclude that Mendel exchanged a few words in Latin with the
171 Pope. However, it was not a private audience, as depicted in the movie "Gardener of God". The
172 director Liana Marabini claimed that the scenario was based "on several documents of the
173 monastery of Brünn and private collections containing letters from the monk." (Villa 2009). This,
174 however, is unlikely to apply to the meeting, and the scene in the movie where Pius IX and Mendel
175 discuss science and faith has to be seen as a piece of artistic freedom. Since Mendel received his
176 pass for the Italian States on 14 August (Richter 1943), well before the scheduled audience of the
177 group to the Pope was announced (*Wiener Zeitung* 23 August 1863), devoutness could not have
178 been the reason for Mendel to participate in the group journey. Mendel must have been interested
179 in classical antiquity, renaissance culture, and the people and the country.

180

181 *Did Mendel meet the later Cardinal Mertel?*

182 Iltis wrote that it was certain that during the trip, Mendel had become acquainted with the later
183 Cardinal Mertel (so not friends, as the German Wikipedia states). Theodolfo Mertel (1806-1899) was
184 born to German parents who had emigrated to Italy. Mertel, a lawyer, was appointed as Minister of
185 Justice and Home Affairs for the Papal State in 1853 by Pius IX and was part of the inner circle of the
186 Roman Curia (Figures 5 and 6). It is easy to demonstrate that the story that Mendel met the “later”
187 Cardinal Mertel in Rome cannot be correct because Mertel had already become Cardinal four years
188 earlier, 1859 (Wikipedia). It is also difficult to understand how a simple priest like Mendel might have
189 met a high-ranking official from the Roman Curia at the time. Since Iltis does not provide any further
190 evidence as to why it is certain that Mendel met Mertel, he likely drew this conclusion, as both
191 Father Clemens and Alois Schindler mentioned Mertel. What remains of this story is that during the
192 Italian journey, Mendel met a probably German-speaking person who later held a high position in
193 the Catholic Church.

194 I think this was probably Karl Joseph von Hefele (1809-1893)(Figure 7), the professor of church
195 history at the University of Tübingen, who spoke on behalf of the group during the papal audience.
196 During the Italian journey, Mendel would have spent three weeks in the company of Von Hefele,
197 who was ordained Bishop of Rottenburg (Germany) six years later in 1869. This is in line with the
198 story of a German-speaking person who was later given a high ecclesiastical function. Von Hefele
199 would play an important role at the Vatican Council of 1870, which elevated the doctrine of the
200 infallibility of the Pope to a dogma. This first general Council in more than 300 years lasted from
201 December 1869 to September 1870 (Kirch 1913). Initially, an important group of Bishops disagreed
202 with the infallibility dogma. Von Hefele was one of the prominent spokesmen for the opponents of
203 this dogma and initially threatened to resign as a Bishop. Mertel, on the other hand, represented the
204 Roman Curia and sat directly next to Pius IX at the Council (Arthur 1903) and was, without doubt, an
205 advocate of the infallibility dogma.

206 The *Linzer Tagespost* (30-12-1869) described von Hefele as follows: “An excellent scholar, of a liberal
207 mind, a man who considers tolerance, education, and progress to be compatible with the Catholic
208 religion, Bishop Hefele is thoroughly oppositional to the outrageousnesses that the Jesuits are doing
209 to the Catholic religion”. Tüchle (1969) called him the: “Most learned of the German Bishops of the
210 19th century”.

211 Von Hefele made frequent appearances in the Viennese and Brünner newspapers. Between 1869,
212 the year von Hefele became a Bishop, and 1880, his name is found 463 times in Austrian newspapers
213 in the ANNO database^{vi}. Von Hefele is also often mentioned in the Brunner newspapers (32 times
214 between 1869 and 1880; MZK^{vii} and DIFMOE^{viii} databases). Von Hefele left the Council early to avoid

215 voting on the dogma. Finally, he gave up his struggle and submitted to the infallibility dogma, as one
216 of the last Bishops to do so, in April 1871. On 18 July 1871, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the infallibility
217 dogma.

218 Mendel will have closely followed the discussion about the infallibility dogma in the newspapers,
219 and he may also have spoken about his acquaintance with one of the major players in the presence
220 of his nephews (the oldest Alois was 12 years old in 1871). When Ittis asked Alois Schindler about it
221 in the early 1900s, Mendel had been dead for 16 years, and probably he only remembered that
222 Mendel had become acquainted in Rome with a German-speaking cleric who later became a high
223 dignitary. Von Hefele had been dead then for ten years (1893), and Alois Schindler may not have
224 been able to make the association. Mertel, on the other hand, had died only a few years earlier (in
225 1899) and had been a well-known figure at the Vatican in Rome, of one of the few of German origin
226 and thus German-speaking. Ironically, Mertel was probably not an enthusiastic speaker of German,
227 because, in correspondence with the pastor from the Bavarian village where his parents came from,
228 he was annoyed that the pastor replied not in Latin, but German (Anonymous 2009^{ix}).

229

230 *Conclusions*

231 It is not surprising that the memories of Father Clemens and Alois Schindler were different and
232 proven to be inexact. The journey was an event they had not participated in themselves, and Mendel
233 had told the relevant stories many years earlier.

234 In the case of the Paris and London journey, it is beyond doubt that Mendel participated in the group
235 tour, because of one of his letters mentioning it and because his name is on a participants list. The
236 timing of the Italian journey (in the six weeks interval that Mendel did not have to teach and had a
237 valid passport), organized by the entrepreneurs who also organized the Paris and London journey
238 the previous year, the fact that at Mendel was in Vienna at the of departure of the train and the fact
239 that the group was received by the Pope makes it very likely that Mendel participated in this
240 journey. It is hard to imagine how he might otherwise have made the arduous journey to Rome and
241 Florence. This is strong circumstantial evidence, although definitive proof would be, for example, the
242 finding of the paperweight papal souvenir at the Augustinian monastery in Brno, or Mendel's name
243 in the Italian hotel registrations.

244 The Italian voyage was Mendel's second international journey, after that of 1862 to the London
245 Industry Exhibition. These luxurious journeys were expensive and almost exclusively made by the
246 higher classes of the Austrian Empire. The London journey cost fl. 250 and the Italy journey fl. 300.

247 Mendel as a supplement teacher will have only earned fl. 400-500 a year (*Mährische Correspondent*
248 09-06-1868), so the travels cost about half a year's salary. The journeys were not paid for by the
249 monastery, because, unlike many shorter trips, Richter (1943) could not find them in the cash books
250 of the monastery. Iltis (1924) assumed that Mendel would have made these expensive journeys after
251 he became the abbot in 1868 when he earned much more, but that turns out not to be the case.
252 After 1863, Mendel made no further major international journeys before being elected abbot in
253 1868, which may indicate that it was a one-time opportunity in 1862 and 1863. This could possibly
254 be related to an inheritance because his mother died on 28 March 1862 (his father had died in
255 1857). It is known that in 1842 Mendel received part of this heritage from his sister Theresia to pay
256 for his studies at the Philosophical Institute at Olmütz (Kříženecký 1965), but it is possible that when
257 his mother died in 1862, a remaining part became available. After he was elected as abbot, Mendel
258 made one more international journey, in September 1871, to Kiel, northern Germany, to attend an
259 international conference of beekeepers and visited Cologne and Frankfurt on the way back.

260 The common view of Mendel is often that of a monk who carried out his meticulous crossing work in
261 isolation inside a monastery in a provincial town in Austria. This image of seclusion, however, is
262 misplaced. First, Mendel was not a monk but a friar and taught outside the monastery at a public
263 secondary school. Secondly, Brünn was not a provincial town, but the industrialized capital of
264 Moravia, with a particularly rich cultural and scientific life, in which Mendel actively participated.
265 Thirdly, Mendel made major international journeys in the 1860s. So far, little more was known about
266 these journeys, "except that they took place" (Iltis 1965). Details of the London journey have
267 recently been uncovered by Van Dijk and Ellis (2020), and here the same has been done for the
268 Italian journey. They create the image of a confident, enterprising man, interested in other countries
269 and cultures, and in technical progress rather than of a monk in recluse.

270

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274

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Internationale Gesellschaftsfahrt
n a c h
Florenz, Rom, Neapel, Pompeji und Herculanium.

Teilnehmer an dieser Fahrt werden aus **Paris, Stuttgart, München, Dresden und Frankfurt in Wien** eintreffen, von wo die-
selben mit den Teilnehmern aus Oesterreich vereint die von den Geseftigten persönlich geleitete Reise mittelst Südbahn am **1. September, 6 Uhr**
Morgens, in geschlossener Gesellschaft antreten werden.

Dauer der ganzen Reise **24 Tage**. — **Aufenthalt in den Hauptstädten Italiens 14 Tage**. Es findet nur diese **Eine** von den
Geseftigten arrangirte Fahrt nach Italien statt und wird die Gesellschaft aus 150 Personen bestehen. Durch Vormerkungen in **Paris und Stuttgart**
ist diese Fahrt bereits gesichert. Die Reiseordnung wird vielfach ausgesprochenen Wünschen gemäß, so weit dies nur zu erzielen möglich war, zu Lande
per Eisenbahn genommen, somit durch ein schnelleres Reisen der angegebene längere Aufenthalt in Italien erzielt werden, u. z. von **Wien** per Bahn
über **Triest, Padua, Verona, Mailand nach Genua**, von da mittelst Separat-Dampfboot der Messageries Imperiales unter französischer Flagge
nach **Livorno**, per Bahn nach **Florenz**, per Dampfer nach **Civitavecchia**, per Bahn nach **Rom, Neapel, Herculanium und Pompeji**. —
Die Rückreise findet von **Neapel** aus in direkter Fahrt über **Rom, Civitavecchia nach Genua, Mailand und Venedig** statt, allwo die Ver-
pflegung der Unternehmung endet, und den Teilnehmern **vierzehn Tage gültige Retourfahrkarten** zur Rückreise nach **Wien** in getrennter Ge-
sellschaft eingehändigt werden.

In **Rom** wird die Gesellschaft durch **sieben Tage** in Mr. Sauve's „Hotel de la Minerva,“ in **Neapel** durch **drei Tage** in Mr. Dr.
Landi's „Hotel de Russie,“ in **Florenz** durch **zwei Tage** im „Hotel New-York,“ in **Genua** einen **Tag** im „Hotel de Ville,“ in **Mailand**
einen Tag und Nacht im „Hotel Reichmann“ logirt und verpflegt werden. — Sämmtliche Hotels sind ersten Ranges. **Die Fahr- und Verpfle-**
gungskarte in Waggon II. Klasse (inklusive 40 Pfund Freigezack, Logis, ganzer Verpflegung von Wien ab während der Reise in den Bahn-Restau-
rationen, am Bord des Dampfbootes, in allen Hauptstädten des Aufenthaltes, Luft-Trains nach Herculanium, zu den Ausgrabungen nach Pompeji,
nach Frascati, Vertheilung des **Vesuvius**) kostet von **Wien aus 300 fl.**, von **Prag aus 310 fl.**, von **Pest aus 310 fl.** W.-M. — Das
Reisegepäck ist einige Stunden vor Abgang des Zuges abzugeben. Reisepässe haben mit dem Visa der schwedischen Gesandtschaft für Italien und der Aun-
tariat versehen zu sein, und besorgt die Unternehmung die Wirtung. — Es werden der Gesellschaft vielgereiste und sprachkundige Reise-Gouriere, welche die
Fahrt bereits mit englischen Familien gemacht haben, zur Dienstleistung während der Reise beigegeben. — Mit den Fahrkarten wird eine Detail-Fahrord-
nung sammt der Namensliste eingehändigt. — Vormerkscheine gegen Erlag von 50 fl. werden in Wien bei der Unternehmung, und in Pest und
Prag bei den Bahn-Kassen bis zur Kompletirung der Gesellschaft ausgegeben; vom 10. bis 20. August erfolgt die Ausgabe der Fahrkarten gegen
Einsendung der weiteren 250 fl. W.-M.

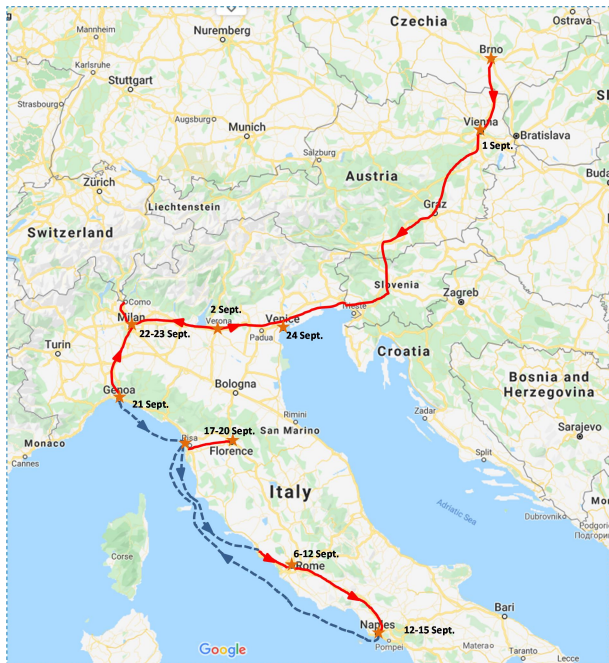
J. Neumeyer & Mihailovic,
Begründer der Gesellschaftsfahrten mit ganzer Verpflegung, Wien, Stadt, Herrngasse Nr. 6.

[225—1] **Vierte und letzte diesjährige Gesellschaftsfahrt dieser Unternehmung.**

309

310 **Fig. 1.** The advertisement for the International group-tour in *Der Kamerad: österreichisch-ungarische Wehr-*
311 *Zeitung* (Austrian-Hungarian Army Newspaper) of 24-07-1863.

312



313

314 **Fig. 2.** The route and dates of Mendel's journey to Italy.

* Wir erhalten folgende telegraphische Depesche über die Teilnehmer an der von den Herren Neumayer und Mihailovic veranstalteten italienischen Vergnügungsreise, datirt Rom, 10. August, Abends: Se. Heiligkeit der Papst empfing heute durch Vermittlung des österreichischen Botschafters sämtliche Teilnehmer der Vergnügungsreise im Vatikan, würdigte einzelne wohlwollende Ansprachen und ertheilte allen seinen apostolischen Segen. Am 6. kam die Gesellschaft wohlbehalten in Rom an, und verläßt am 12. die heilige Stadt, um sich nach Neapel zu begeben. Der Gesundheitszustand ist vortrefflich.

315

316 **Fig. 3.** Telegram about the visit of the group to the Pope (*Fremden-Blatt* 10 September 1863).

317



318

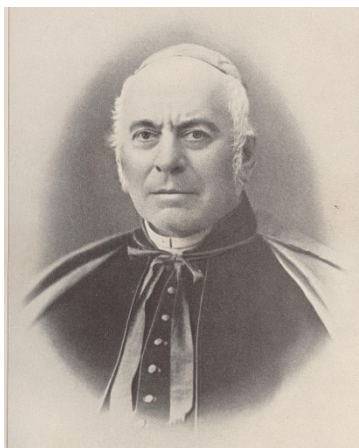
319 **Figure 4.** Group portrait. Pope Pius IX and members of the Papal court (1868). Monsignor Pacca is the second
 320 person on the right; Monsignor Talbot is standing on the right behind the Pope (Credit: [Wellcome Collection](#)).

321



322

323 **Figure 5.** Pius IX with the King of the Two Sicilies Francesco II (left with the dark tailcoat) in 1862 in Anzio. The
 324 person in between them is likely Cardinal Teodolfo Mertel. Left of the King stands Monsignor Talbot and
 325 second left Monsignor Pacca (Source: Wikipedia).



326

327 **Figure 6.** Cardinal Teodolfo Mertel in later years (Source: Wikipedia).

328



329

330 **Figure 7.** Bishop Karl Joseph von Hefele (as Council participant, 1870) (Source: Wikipedia).

331

332 **Table 1.** The travel scheme of the Italian group tour 1863.

333

334 1 September Departure from Vienna, 9.00 am; night train

335 2 September first longer stop at Nabresina near Triest

336 arrival at Verona, the first night in a hotel

337 3 September Peschiera [del Garda] crossing border Austria-Italy Desenzano del Garda

338 Brescia, Bergamo, Milano

339 4 September arrival at Genua around noon, night boat (Aunis) to Livorno

340 5 September arrival at Livorno, anchor laid off for one day

341 trip by train to Pisa

342 6.00 pm. departure from Livorno night boat (Aunis)

343 6 September at dawn: arrival at Civitavecchia; the border between the Papal States and the
344 Kingdom of Italy

345 arrival at Rome, 16.00 pm. Hôtel de la Minerve

346 7 September sightseeing

347 8 September Catholic festival ceremony lead by the Pope at St. Maria del Popolo.

348 afternoon: Frascati, Albano, Grottaferrata

349 9 September 5.00 pm. audience at the Pope

350 10 September sightseeing

351 11 September sightseeing

352 12 September from Rome to Naples by train. Crossing border between Papal States and the
353 Kingdom of Italy. Arrival at Naples late in the evening. Hôtel de Russie. Sightseeing.
354 Two large church festivals, Museum Borbonico, Posilipp with the Seiano tunnel, San
355 Martino's with the Carthusian monastery, and Castel Sant Elmo

356 13 September ascend of the Vesuvius

357 14 September visit Pompeii and Herculaneum

358 15 September Camaldoli hill with the Camaldolese monastery

359 in the evening: departure night boat (Aunis) to Livorno

360 16 September boat voyage to Livorno

361 17 September arrival in Livorno (after 37 hr – two nights – on the boat). Train to Florence. Hôtel
362 New-York

363 18 September Florence; sightseeing: dome (Mendel collects grape seeds)

364 19 September Florence

365 20 September train from Florence to Livorno

366 boat voyage to Genua, arrival in the evening, check-in Hôtel de Ville

367 21 September Genua

368 train to Milano, arrival in the evening check-in, Hôtel Reichmann

369 22 September Milano

370 23 September excursion to Lake Como

371 24 September arrival in Venice.

372

373 **Appendix**

374

375 **Wiener Zeitung 18 september 1863, p2**

376

377 *„Privat correspondent in Rom, 11.September*

378 “Vorgestern hatte die Neumeyer'sche Reisegesellschaft das Glück von Sr. Heiligkeit dem Papste in
379 besonderer Audienz im großen Thronsaale des Vatikan empfangen zu werden, was man der
380 Verwendung Sr. Exzellenz des k. k. Botschafters beim päpstlichen Stuhle Freiherrn v. Bach, an den
381 sich die Herren Neumeyer und Mihailovits deshalb gewendet, zu verdanken hatte. Abends vor 5 Uhr
382 verfügte sich die Gesellschaft ihrer großen Mehrzahl nach in einer langen Wagenreihe nach dem
383 Vatikan und wurde dort in den Audienzsaal eingeführt und in einer langen Doppelreihe aufgestellt.
384 Bald trat Se. Heiligkeit begleitet von Monsign. Talbot und dem Ceremonienmeister Monsign. Pacca
385 in den Saal und hielt mit sonorer Stimme eine kurze Anrede in französischer Sprache an die
386 Versammelten, die sich bei dem Eintritt des h. Vaters auf die Knien niedergelassen hatten, worin er
387 seine Freude über die glückliche Ankunft der deutschen Karawane in Rom unter der geschickten
388 Führung der Herren Neumeyer und Mihailovits ausdrückte und hinzufügte, daß er sich auf
389 Verwenden des k. k. österr. Botschafters für die Bitte der Herren Directoren des Zuges bewogen
390 gefunden habe, diese Audienz zu erteilen. Er wünsche zu wissen, in welcher Sprache die Mehrzahl
391 angeredet sein wolle, ob in der lateinischen/ italienischen oder französischen. Herr Neumeyer ergriff
392 nun das Wort und bat Se. Heiligkeit sich der französischen Sprache bedienen zu wollen, die den
393 meisten verständlich sei.

394 Der h. Vater ließ sich nun auf den Thronessel nieder und zuerst trat Professor Dr. v. Hefele, von der
395 katholisch-theologischen Facultät der Universität Tübingen [later bisschop], im geistlichen Ornate
396 vor und trug in lateinischer Sprache und in gewandter Rede seine Personalien vor, gab seinen tiefen
397 Gefühlen Ausdruck, wie hoch er das Glück zu schätzen wisse, vor dem h. Vater selbst erschien zu
398 dürfen und den apostolischen Segen zu empfangen, den er sich hiemit demüthigst erstehe. Se.
399 Heiligkeit richtete gleichfalls in lateinischer Sprache einige Fragen an den Knieenden, begleitete sie
400 mit einigen wohlwollenden Worten und ertheilte hierauf den apostolischen Segen. Auch die übrigen
401 geistlichen Mitglieder der Gesellschaft trugen ihre Bitten lateinisch vor und jedem ward ein
402 wohlwollendes Wort in gleicher Sprache nebst dem Segen zu Theil. Die Geistlichen, etwa zehn an der
403 Zahl, waren sämmtlich aus Österreich und Württemberg. Auf sie folgten die weltlichen Mitglieder,
404 voran die Directoren des Zuges, die wie Ihr Berichtstatter sich der französischen Sprache

405 bedienten, und Jedem ward ein huldvolles [genadig]Wort und der apostolische Segen. Viele hatten
406 dabei am Tage gekaufte Rosenkränze, Crucifixe und Medaillen vor sich ausgebreitet, damit auch
407 über sie der päpstliche Segen gesprochen werde. Professor v. Hefele wurde mit einer
408 Gedächtnißmünze mit dem Bildnisse des Papstes, die übrigen jeder mit einem in Form eines
409 Briefbeschwerers zugeschnittenen Stück Marmor, die aus dem Columbarium Calixti stammten, zur
410 Erinnerung an diese jedem unvergeßliche Stunde beschenkt, die sie aus den Händen Monsign. Pacca
411 empfangen. Zum Schlüsse erhob sich der h. Vater von seinem Thronessel und hielt noch eine kurze
412 Abschiedsrede in lateinischer Sprache an die Versammelten, ihnen insgesamt noch den Segen
413 ertheilend.

414 Lebhaft und begeisterte Euvivas aus aller Munde begleiteten den Abgang des h. Vaters aus dem
415 Saal, der auf alle durch sein wohlwollendes und herzwinnendes Wesen und seine schöne
416 majestätische Gestalt einen tiefen Eindruck hervorgebracht hatte, so daß keinem von uns je diese
417 Reise nach Rom aus dem Gedächtniß entschwenden wird.

418

419

ⁱ from the fifth grade of the *Volksschule* (primary school) until his final exam of the Gymnasium.

ⁱⁱ 16 were from Württemberg, 10 from Prussia, 2 from Baden, 1 from Bayern and 1 from Frankfurt.

ⁱⁱⁱThe *Augsburger Post Zeitung* (24-09-1863):

Prof. Karl Joseph von Hefele, Professor in theology and church history, from Tübingen,
Priest Dr. Stephan Uhl, Chief editor of the *Deutsche Volksblatt*, from Stuttgart
Dr. H. Czolbe (of Zolbe), Chief military doctor, from Königsberg,
Herr Glasmacher, merchant from Köln,
Herr Hoette, secretary of the *Chambre du Commerce*, from Elberfeld,
Herr Major von Tempelhoff from Aachen,
Dr. Viol, honored doctor (*Sanitätsrath*) from Prussia.

^{iv} the Pope's chamberlain and secretary (Reinhard 2009).

^v with the name of the site and of Pope Pius IX engraved in it

^{vi} ANNO (AustriaN Newspapers Online), the virtual library of the Austrian National Library
(<http://anno.onb.ac.at/index.htm>).

^{vii} Digital library of the Moravian Library in Brno (Moravská zemská knihovna)
(<http://www.digitalniknihovna.cz/mzk>)

^{viii} DIFMOE; Digitale Forum Mittel- und Osteuropa (<https://www.difmoe.eu/d/>)

^{ix} „Bis ins hohe Alter hielt der Hobby-Historiker und Hobby-Archäologe Kontakt mit Eglfing, unterstützte unter anderem Nachkommen seiner Tante Margarethe und war verstimmt darüber, dass der dortige Pfarrer seine lateinischen Briefe auf Deutsch beantwortete.“