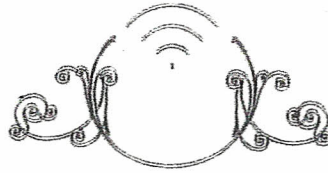


250x420x2mm HF



PALAIS DES BEAUX ARTS

Wien III, Löwengasse 47a
1908-1938 / 2014-Present

When near this plaque, connect your device to the wireless network
Palais des Beaux Arts and it will open in your browser automatically,
or manually open the URL: www.palaisdesbeauxarts.at

Dear Vienna,

110 years since this Beaux Arts bauble of the arts was built, I began to look for my great-grandfather Arnold Bachwitz whose vision it was in 1908. It was mentioned in some post-WWII documents as I searched for him, the Palais building becoming, literally, my only tangible heirloom in Vienna, but it was too large to move.

Arnold was said to be patriotic and collegial, generous and retiring. A monarchist and Jewish, a patron of the arts and of business. With his wife Rosine, their children Alice and Grete, they ran Atelier Bachwitz, an international publisher that produced and distributed fashion designs and lifestyle magazines. The Palais housed these endeavors and was to be a continuing gift to the street and its galleries, of benefit to artists, visitors, and, unexpectedly, a shelter for children in WWI. The Palais des Beaux Arts was nostalgic toward the grand past it was built within, yet also fully invested in a future that was not to be. Unforeseen wars, acute hatred and economic depression will do that.

Coming late to life, I regret not ever having had a cup of coffee with Arnold, were he willing to do that. He seems stern, but photographs can lie. I would be curious about him even were he not related to me (or vice versa). Such a person is always interesting.

I am still waiting to touch the building. We share DNA, it and I.

Be well,

Thomas D. Lonner, 2020
Bainbridge Island, Washington, USA
IP Address: 174.21.167.126.

ca. 1:2

06. OKT. 2020

