

After his death, August the Strong was succeeded by his son **August II**, who made Fröhlich – in addition to his position as “kurzweiliger Rath” – also “Obermühlen-Commissarius” overseeing the construction and maintenance of mills throughout the country. A position, that not only spoke of his qualities as a miller, but also brought him great wealth. In 1753, the electoral prince awarded him and his son with the Marienmont-mill in Warsaw.

He erected an apartment building at the “Elbebrücke” in Dresden which soon – as of it’s strange appearance – was known as “Narrenhäusl” – or jesters house throughout the region. Today, a Fröhlich-memorial, built by famous sculptor Heinrich Apel in 1979, can be seen on the former location of this “Narrenhäusl”.

As the transmitted stories tend to mix with fiction it’s hard to say what is true and what is legend. A reliable source I would recommend is:

Rückert, Rainer (1998): Der Hofnarr Joseph Fröhlich. Taschenspieler und Spaßmacher am Hofe August des Starken. Offenbach: Edition Volker Huber.

For a good overview of his life and work, one might also turn to **Lukas Mügges** (Universität Braunschweig) academic paper (2017): Joseph Fröhlich: Der letzte Erbe einer Tradition?

Better known to the general public are the books “Der Narr und sein König” by **Eberhard Görner** and the Chronicle “Hofnarr Fröhlich” bei **Carl Wilnau**. Written in a narrative style, they influenced – and still do influence – the perception people have of Fröhlich nowadays.

If Fröhlich himself worked as a quack doctor or dentist is still a matter of dispute, but many objects in his estate would make a good case to believe so.

Despite his success, he never forgot his humble roots, as he was not only known for his deeds done in his employments, but also for his good heart and his generosity towards the poor.

Joseph Fröhlich today

Undoubtedly, Fröhlich was a fascinating figure in many ways. His multi-layered personality, expressed through magic and tricks seemed to be the key to his success.

In the city of Dresden, Fröhlich is still a well-known historical figure. Not only through busts and pictures of him in museums, but also through clever city marketing, which uses the character for posters and brochures, and even has special “Fröhlich“-Tours of Dresden for kids.



Joseph Fröhlich from a collector’s point of view

Contradictory to the fact, that he seems to be nearly forgotten nowadays, there is an extraordinary amount of pictures and busts, depicting Fröhlich or one of his characters, which are regularly sold for premium prices at art auctions. But also for those of us who don’t want to spend top dollar on Fröhlich memorabilia, there are many more recent pieces at a more reasonable price.

Joseph Fröhlich and Austria

Back in his day, it was a well-known fact that Fröhlich was from Austria. The “Ausseeerland”, the place where he was born, is not only the geographical centre of Austria, but has also one of Austria’s most beautiful and picturesque landscapes.

In many historical events – and especially during Carnival – you can find the figure of the jester throughout the country. The costume nowadays associated with Fröhlich is very much adjusted to the traditional uniform of the Ausseeer Schützenmeister – which you can still find at Kammerhofmuseum in Bad Aussee.

Owed to **Kalanag’s** good connections to NSDAP leaders and his own private plans to spend the end of WW2 in Bad Aussee (an idea shared by many top-politicians of the Nazi party and war criminals), the MZvD congress of 1944 was held in the city. An academic publication about Kalanag and his involvement with leading figures of NAZI-germany is currently under preparation by **Uwe Schenk** and **Michael Sondermeier** of Zauberzentrum Deutschland. Undisputed today is, that Kalanag gained many benefits through his involvement with the party.

Another interesting fact about Bad Aussee is, that during the last months of WW2, a large amount of art, confiscated from jews or stolen from museums all over Europe, was brought here to be stored in the salt mines of Altaussee, before they would reach their final destination in the planned “Führermuseum” in Linz. When all hope for nazi