



Grave plate of Michael Schober with replica of the Grave inscription

The grave of priest Michael Schober has got a special meaning at our cemetery. Schober was 44 years old, he was priest in Mainbernheim from 1613 to 1657. During his period of office there was not only the Thirty-Years-War but also the difficult plague years from 1631 until 1634. That's why priest Schober had to bury more than 3000 residents of Mainbernheim during his period of office. As he didn't leave his official residence during this difficult period of time the residents of Mainbernheim gave his grave a place of honour directly in front of the pulpit. Over the years the grave got overgrown. Moreover at the beginning of the 20th century the bronze plaque was stolen and sold to the Germanic Museum in Nuremberg. Now the support association



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We thank all donors who have supported us so generously so far! You are also welcome to become a member of the friends' association with an annual fee of € 10 or more. If you are interested, please contact the city of Mainbernheim (stadt@mainbernheim.de).

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„Alter Friedhof“ has succeeded in having a copy of his plaque produced. To present this at the Mainbernheimer cemetery again the original was scanned in the museum. A 3-D printing served as a basis for the preparation of the bronze casting which can now be seen at the cemetery in Mainbernheim again. The inscription says (contemporary transfer):

*In holy commemoration of Michael Schober V: Crailsheim
52 years of being priest at this place Mainbernheim waiting
for the glorious future of his Lord and saviour Jesus Christ in
whose religious understanding he passed away blessedly in
1657 at the age of 77 Maria was left as a widow together
with her sons Andreas and Christian Schober.*

The memorial plate Schober was excavated by Armin Grötsch, Georg Gurrath and Karl Wolf on 13th October 2016. After the refurbishment the memorial plate together with the bronze replica are located under the West arcades of the cemetery. The ceremonious dedication took place on Whitsun in 2018.

The portal of the builder Königsberger

Dr. Koningsberger from The Hague informed us that his ancestor Kilian Königsberger is incorrectly listed on the cemetery portal as the builder as Königsberg, also missing on the bottom of the coat of arms three through a crown covered mountains. For reasons of Monument protection, changes can't be made.



460 years of cemetery history

Between the relocation of the former "Gottesacker" (God's Acre) to the front of the Lower Gate in 1546 and the 1st enlargement in 1618 was a period of only 70 years. 248 years passed until the 2nd enlargement of the old part of the cemetery in 1866. For the 3rd enlargement in the year 1909 the existing wall of the cemetery had to be broken through in north-eastern direction. 60 years later, in 1969, a 4th enlargement of the cemetery in western direction was necessary due to an increase in population. With the installation of urngraves and a park-like area, the 5th enlargement was carried out in 2005 in the direction of "Kitzinger Straße" (Kitzinger Street).

With the overall refurbishment of the landmarked part of the cemetery in 2005, the restoration of old tomb slabs and epitaphs by the Förderverein Alter Friedhof Mainbernheim e.V." (Friends of the Old Cemetery Mainbernheim), as well as the last enlargement, the conditions were created to secure the future of the "Treasure of the Kitzinger Country".



The last enlargement of the cemetery as seen from "Kitzinger Straße".



The cemetery at Mainbernheim

The old part of the cemetery of Mainbernheim, a listed Monument, is one of the most notable monuments in the county of Kitzingen.

Originally there was a graveyard near the church before the present cemetery was created near the town gate in 1546.

In 1618 the steward of the margrave of Ansbach, the mayor and the council decided to enlarge and renovate the cemetery with the help of the local church community.

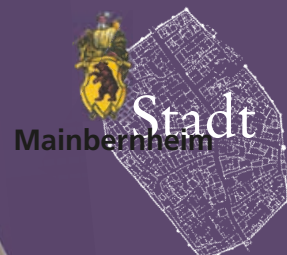
The entrance gate with its pilasters, cornice and gable dates from this time and is one of the most beautiful renaissance gates in Franconia.

Two plaques commemorate the foundation and the enlargement of the cemetery. These plaques are framed by the shields of Ansbach and Mainbernheim as well as by the shields of the steward, of the mayor and of the builders.

The gable is crowned by an urn and underneath between two garlands you find the inscription:
Renovated in the year 1821.

When you enter the cemetery you should think of the words inscribed in the gate:

„Here they lie sleeping in peace,
because here is the house of God
and a gateway to heaven.“



The pulpit erected in 1618



A plinth with diamond shaped ornaments supports the body of the pulpit. Its lintel holds the Latin inscription „He who knows that he will be born again through death dies in peace. That cannot be called death, but a new life.“ The pulpit is covered with a slate roof carried by two columns and a pillar. On the pillar you find the shields of two citizens of Mainbernheim and the letters ESS, the initials of the builder Ehrhard Schilling from Sickershausen. Stairs with railings lead up to the pulpit on the back of the pillar.



The gallery built in 1617/1618

In the 17th century seats were installed under a gallery with solid oak pillars. Gallery and benches are still the original and are used even today to seat the congregation at a funeral or memorial service.

On the pillars you find carvings of shields, the year 1617 and the letters A and B. There are still seven gravestones and epitaphs under the gallery.



One of the oldest monuments is the gravestone near the mortuary. It shows the vicar and councillor Meier and his wife who were spared in a plague epidemic that struck Mainbernheim and died in 1606 and 1616.

Other gravestones commemorate

Balthasar **Miltenberger** (†1638) and his mother (†1613), exiled from Hammelburg

Johann Friedrich **Jäger** (†1688), mayor

Eduart **v. Riedel** und **Löwenstern** (†1694), captain

Johann Erdmann **Gostenhöfer** (†1728), tax officer

Mich. Joh. Siegfried **Gebhard** (†1729), innkeeper

Daniel **Schickel** (†1783), tax officer

Monument of the brothers Stintzing

Near the pulpit you find on a stone plinth two pyramids decorated with vines. This monument is to remind us of the brothers Stintzing who were born in Mainbernheim and were benefactors of the town. At the age of 22 Johann Georg Stintzing moved to Hamburg and his brother moved to Lübeck. There they were very successful winemerchants with connections to Russia and America.



As a proof of their financial success and in memory of their childhood passed in Mainbernheim, they created a foundation in 1805 and donated 1000 florins to help citizens in need by providing work and a soup-kitchen.



A stone tells its story

In the entrance area of the old cemetery we find a sandstone memorial with a roof-like top and a stone urn. Georg Johann Heinrich Keerl, MD in Baltimore, North America, had the memorial raised for his mother in the year 1818 bearing the following inscription:

*Schlafe sanft im schönen Heimathlande, geliebte Mutter!
getrennt von Dir konnt ich Deinen letzten Segen nicht
empfangen. Doch auch in weiter Ferne blieb Dir die
dankbare Liebe Deines Sohnes. Sie folget Dir auch in das
Grab. Einst deckt auch mich dieselbe Erde, weckt auch
derselbe Auferstehungsmorgen, drum gute Nacht bis zu
dem frohen Wiedersehn!*

„As a proof of childlike love and gratefulness towards his mother, Mrs. Margaretha Barbara Keerl, née Landmann and remarried as Mrs. Margaretha Barbara Strohmenger, born November 22nd 1729, died March 22nd 1795, her only son Johann Georg Heinrich Keerl, MD in Baltimore, North America, had this memorial raised.“

