

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 1880<sup>i</sup>, 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 states<sup>ii</sup>, and 42 were from the  
102 Austrian empire (*Wiener Zeitung* 16-09-1863). The only names that are known are from seven  
103 German participants<sup>iii</sup>. 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 Brunn 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<sup>iv</sup>, 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<sup>v</sup>. 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<sup>vi</sup>. Von Hefele is also often mentioned in the Brunner newspapers (32 times  
214 between 1869 and 1880; MZK<sup>vii</sup> and DIFMOE<sup>viii</sup> 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<sup>ix</sup>).

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 angebotene 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.

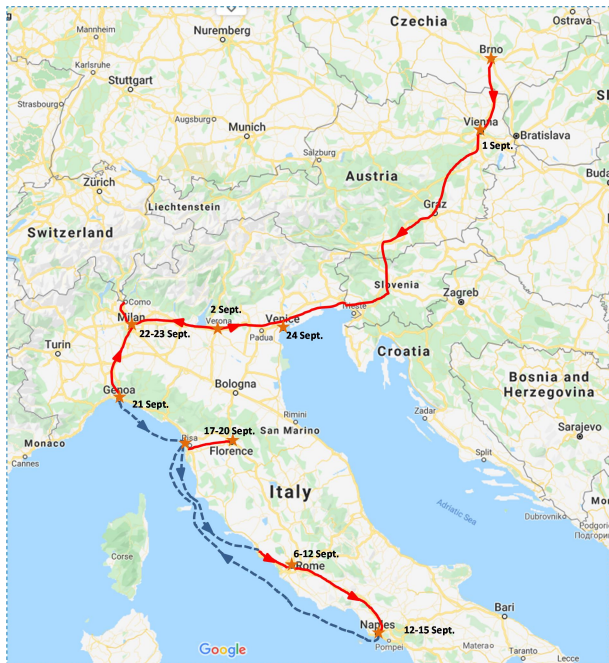
**J. Neumeyer & Mihailovic,**  
Begründer der Gesellschaftsfahrten mit ganzer Verpflegung, Wien, Stadt, Herrngasse Nr. 6.

[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

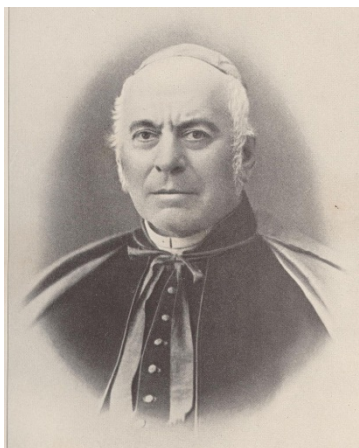
319 **Figure 4.** Group portrait. Pope Pius IX and members of the Papal court (1868). Monsignor Pacca is the second  
 320 person on the right; Monsignor Talbot is standing on the right behind the Pope (Credit: [Wellcome Collection](#)).

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 Populo.

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 Berichterstatter 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

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

<sup>ii</sup> 16 were from Württemberg, 10 from Prussia, 2 from Baden, 1 from Bayern and 1 from Frankfurt.

<sup>iii</sup>The *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.

<sup>iv</sup> the Pope's chamberlain and secretary (Reinhard 2009).

<sup>v</sup> with the name of the site and of Pope Pius IX engraved in it

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

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

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

<sup>ix</sup> „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.“