



“Frau Kathi” the strong woman behind the Master

Where did she live ? Explore her daily itinerary to get to work ...

Anton Bruckner's pocket-calendar (his handwriting) :

May 1880 :

« Katharina Kachelmaier, 9th District [Michelbeuern], Ackergasse Number 11, 2nd floor, door 12. »

July 1887 :

« Frau Kathi Kachelmaier, 9th District [Michelbeuern], Ackergasse Number 11. »

Today, « Tendlergasse » Number 11 (1090 Wien, Alsergrund), near the General Hospital campus.

The original L-shaped building, at the corner of « Wilhelm-Exner-Gasse », still stands !
(It houses, among others, 2 yoga studios : Aerial Yoga and Yoga Fusion.)

End of January - beginning of February 1870 : Anton Bruckner hires a new house-maid.

Her name : Katharina Kachelmayr (Kachelmaier, Kachelmayer), or simply « Frau Kathi ».

She will spend a few hours daily, taking care of the apartment and preparing the meals (like Swabian bread soup, salted pork accompanied by bread dumplings, and plum dumpling) . She will be devoted to him for more than 20 years (until his death) . She will succeed in gaining his trust, and some notoriety with his pupils and colleagues. She was born on 19 February 1846 and died on 23 March 1911 at the asylum of Steinhof, near Vienna. She was the wife of a worker.

Thursday, 23 March 1911 :
Anton Bruckner's longtime house-keeper Katherina Kachlmayr dies in Steinhof's mental hospital near Vienna.



Letter from Doctor Theodor Reisch (Bruckner's legal executor) to Hans Arnold Schwer (Viennese journalist and city councillor) :

« Vienna, on March 23, 1911.

DEAR “HERR” CITY COUNCILLOR !

I am writing this letter to inform you that the long-standing house-maid of Anton BRUCKNER, Mrs. Kathi Kachelmayr, for whom an application for a subsidy from the town council was written, has just passed away.

She died early this morning at the Steinhof, where she was treated since the beginning of this year.

I have made the funeral arrangements. It will take place on Saturday the 25th of this month, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, at the Steinhof. The corpse will be buried on its own lot at the Central Cemetery.

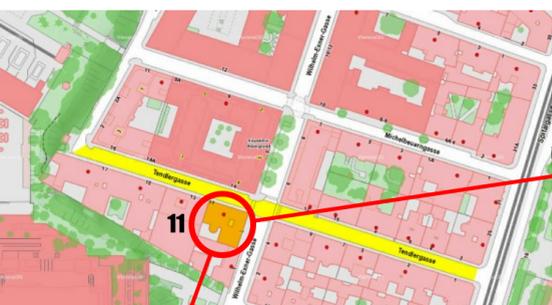
It would be reverent if a memorial stone would be placed on her grave and if you could possibly obtain a contribution from city council.

In total respect,

(Handwritten, barely decipherable :)

Theodor Reisch

To : “ Herr ” City Councillor Hans Arnold SCHWER, WIEN, VIII. »



(Map of today's Vienna)



Top back view



Top front view



Toponymy

Named « Feldgasse » : first in 1826 - then between 1843 and 1862.

Named « Neue Gasse » in 1829 (« Reifischen Grund »).

Named « Ackergasse » between 1862 and 1902 - from 1863, part of the parish of Alservorstadt.

11 September 1902 : The « Ackergasse » is finally renamed « Tendlergasse » in honour of Franz Tendler (1820-1902), a member of the Redemptorist Order, priest at the church « Maria am Gestade » (Mary at the Shore).

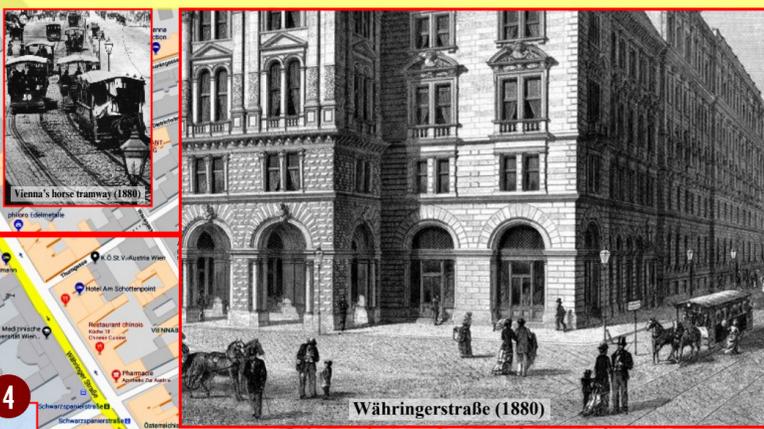
In 1857, Tendler founded the first Catholic Youth Association in Vienna. In 1858, he was employed as pastor and catechist at the Imperial-Royal orphanage located on today's « Boltzmannngasse ». He worked there until 1869 as director of the so-called « Präparandie », a teacher training college.



Vienna's horse tramway (c. 1876)



Old General Hospital



Währingerstraße (1880)



Otto Wagner's Hospital in Steinhof near Vienna.

Legend

- 1 October 1868 - Summer 1876 : Bruckner's first « real » apartment in Vienna - a « Biedermeier » style residential building located at « Währingerstraße » No. 41, in the 9th District. Door No. 10, on the last floor.
- 2 The Old General Hospital (« Altes Allgemeines Krankenhaus ») attached to the University of Vienna exerted international influence thanks to talent drawn from all corners of the Habsburg Empire.
- 3 The « Narrenturm » (Fool's Tower) is continental Europe's oldest building for the accommodation of mental patients. Built in 1784, it is next to the site of the Old General Hospital.
- 4 29 or 30 October 1878 : Evaluation of the brand new Eberhard Friedrich Walcker organ in the « Votivkirche » (in the presence of Emperor Franz-Josef) by Dr. Karl Hausleitner, Gottfried Freyer and Court organist Anton Bruckner (the latter in replacement of the ill Eduard Hanslick).
- 5 15 November 1877 - 4 July 1895 : Bruckner lived in a typical Viennese 2 room apartment (more spacious than comfortable because the furniture was obsolete) on the 4th floor of the « Hôtel de France » (at « Heßgasse » No. 7), located right next to the « Ringtheater » and near the « Votivkirche ». It was graciously offered by Anton Ölzelt jr.
- 6 8 December 1881 : Bruckner witnessed the greatest incendiary catastrophe in the history of the city of Vienna. From his window at the « Hôtel de France », he saw the stage of the « Ringtheater » collapsing in the blaze. « On both sides, numerous corpses. Most between the second and third floors. » (Bruckner)
- 7 After his Monday evening lecture at the University, Bruckner frequently went to the coffee-house situated near the Stock-Exchange. The guests, for the most part, were stock-jobbers who gazed curiously at the strange composer who ordered coffee and read the newspapers.
- 8 After 15 September 1881 : Doctor Carl Rabl (from Wels) introduces his friend Anton Bruckner to the round-table of eminent physician doctors at the « Gasthaus zum Riedhof » Hotel-Restaurant (« Zum Riedhof Wirtshaus ») - at the corner of « Wickenburggasse » No. 15 and « Schließelgasse » No. 12 (14), in the 8th District (« Josefstadt »).
- 9 11 October 1884 : Emperor Franz-Josef inaugurated the Renaissance style main building of the University of Vienna located on the « Schottenterrace ». Bruckner held his lectures twice a week, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, at the Auditorium No. 8, right staircase, 2nd floor. (Eduard Hanslick's lectures sometimes took place in the same room, or adjoining one.)

Frau Kathi probably walked to get to Bruckner's apartment at Währingerstraße No. 41

It is possible that she took the horse tramway to get to Bruckner's apartment at Heßgasse No. 7

German article of interest in :
BRUCKNER
1881-2011

available at
bruckner.com

GERTRUDE QUAST-BENEŠCH (†)
« A Historische Paradoxie » -
Katharina Kachelmayer, Bruckners Haushälterin.