

## Schembs-Familientreffen in Herrnsheim



Das Schembs-Familientreffen mit 150 Schembsverwandten (auch aus Australien) findet immer in Herrnsheim im Château Schembsstatt.  
Foto: photoagenten/Alessandro Balzarin

Von Christian Mayer

**HERRNSHEIM** - Arno Schembs has got an great-great-great-great-great-... great-grandfather: Zacharias Schömbs, born in 1645. What does not even fit in one line here, is the beginning of a family history that was to spread all over the world. This weekend, 308 years after Zacharias' death, his descendants met at Arno Schembs' estate in Herrnsheim. They came from all over the world: from Australia, United States, France and many other countries as well as from different places in Germany. Only the relatives from Brazil couldn't come in person. Also present was little Robert Schembs from Seattle, one of the youngest Schembs' representatives. The young American played cheerfully with a european 20 € bill, though he was only used to know US\$-bills back home. Arno Schembs was sitting in that hurly-burly, a glass of wine in his hands, and said: " Actually this is only a famliy reunion like in every other family".

### Chronicle

The Schembs family goes back to Zacharias Schömbs, born in 1645.

Meanwhile the community includes more than 200 families.

There have been 2 major waves of emigration: During the mid of the 19th century and during /after the First World War.

Recalling that at the meeting also were family names like e.g. "Schömbs", "Schembs" and "Schamb" seemed to be the fault of the migration authorities. Within the past 4 centuries they did not always transfer the family names properly. But host Arno Schembs said: " We cannot take it all that seriously. Of course all descendants/friends of the Schömbs family are welcome here as well."

James D. Schembs from Phoenix (Arizona), who is called Jim by everybody and Reinhold Schembs, took it a little bit more seriously. They operated genealogy and confounded the results by investigating the enormous Family Tree and identified more than 200 families that all go back to the man with 11 "great-" before the "grandfather": Zacharias Schömbs.

"He was born in Laubenheim near Mainz but some of his 4 sons moved to Herrnsheim, others to Gundheim. From there some family branches later emigrated to Canada" told Arno Schembs. "Next year I want to make a tour from San Francisco to Vancouver with my wife. On our way will be numerous friends, including little Robert in Seattle, who certainly will have grown a lot until then."

In the family history of Schömbbs/Schembs/Schambs there have been 2 large emigration waves. During the mid of the 19th century and during /after the First World War. So one of the most exciting question asked while this family reunion again was: " Where do I come from?/who is my ancestor?". The American relatives for example live 9 to 11 flight-hours away from the Chateau Schembs in Herrnsheim so it is not possible to meet them every Christmas and/or Easter. Arno Schembs said: "I was touched 1999 at the first of four reunions within the past 20 years because it's kind of crazy when you get told: this guy is your second cousin. And he lives in Indianapolis ... and you live in Gundenheim".

Has Arno Schembs ever thought of emigrating within such a cosmopolitan family? He considered: "When I was 18, 20 years old ... that was an idea one could certainly have. When you are young, you want to leave. But when you have grown a little bit older ... this idea has faded away because you appreciate what you have at home, in your own surroundings in and around Herrnsheim, where you grew up, more and more".