

**MARKS OF OWNERSHIP OF SIX GENERATIONS:
THE LIBRARY OF THE PAHLEN FAMILY**

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The members of an ancient Baltic-German family, the Pahlens, can be found in various connections in the history of Estonia, Livonia and Courland – statesmen, military officers, promoters of agriculture, scientists and artists.

The manorial estate of Palmse belonged to the family almost for 250 years (1677–1919).

The baroque manor of Palmse, one of the most beautiful ones in Northern Estonia, was widely known for its successful, well arranged economy and innovative owners. The respectfully copious and rich library reflects the life and occupation, studies, curiosity and love for books of the six generations of the family. This magnificent historical collection of several thousand books is now held in the Academic Library of the Tallinn Pedagogical University, whereas the former library of the Estonian Literary Society forms the main stock of the Department of the Baltica Literature.

Many representatives of the Pahlen family were also members and honorary members of the Estonian Literary Society. Soon after 1919, the Pahlen family assigned their book collection to the library of the Estonian Literary Society.

The Estonian Literary Society, founded in 1842, was an organisation similar to the academy of sciences of today, with almost 20 subject sections, among others the section of archaeology and history, literature, art, natural sciences and technics. The museum collections of the society laid foundation to the Estonian History Museum, the Estonian Museum of Natural History and the Estonian Art Museum of today.

We can follow the tracks of the formation of the library in Palmse from the times of Arend Diedrich von der Pahlen (1706–1753). Among many other places in Europe, Arend Diedrich also studied at the Halle University. He took interest in architecture and engineering, focusing mainly on mathematical disciplines, but as customary at that time, he also studied languages, fencing and dancing [2, 21].

The inscriptions of Arend Diedrich are the earliest ownership marks found in the books of the Pahlens. One can be seen on the title page of the architecture book of Leonhard Christoph Sturm published in Augsburg in 1720. While in Halle,

Arend Diedrich also attended the lectures of Christian Wolff, a well-known professor of mathematics [2, 21].

An inscription in ink – *A. D. v. d. P. Halle 1724* stands on the bottom of the title page. 25 years later, his son the 19-year-old Gustav Friedrich, has added his name on the flyleaf of the same book – *Gustav Friedrich von der Pahlen 1749, 29. November*.

We can talk of a copious library in the manor of Palmse since Gustav Friedrich von der Pahlen (1730–1790). His name in various forms, with or without the title of a baron, can be found in hundreds of books, the exact number still being indistinct.

He has arranged his books in a certain order, there is a label with a number in ink on the backbone of a book. We can only assume that there was also a list or a catalogue of books but unfortunately it has not reached us.

The eldest part of the Palmse library comprises books of similar look – firm thick full leather bindings with gilded spines. The books are mostly in German, a few ones in Russian, on military affairs and fortification. It seems that young Gustav Friedrich has obtained an appropriate collection of applied literature – books on mathematics, architecture, building, fortification, land survey, wells, water mills, horticulture, healthcare, e.g. common diseases and their domestic treatment. Later, as a middle-aged man, he was engrossed in theology, his has left his numerous marginal notes, interlineations, underlinings and bookmarks in Herrnhuter publications of Halle.

Among the books of Gustav Friedrich there are tens of volumes with the inscription of his two-years-younger brother Magnus Christopher von der Pahlen (1732–1757) on the title page.

It was the tutor who first guided the children of a manor to books and knowledge. Among the schoolbooks of Palmse there are two Latin grammars by Joachim Lange (1670–1744) published in Halle in 1736 and 1741. Gustav Friedrich, Magnus Christopher and their sister Helena Friederica have left their names in those books. Among numerous scratches of a pen, inkstains, scribings and drawings, we can witness the signatures of the young Pahlens as an expression of an envolving self-consciousness:

G. F. von der Pahlen, d. h. 3 Oct, 1744

M. C. von der Pahlen. Palms d. h. 23 April Ao 1745

Helena Friederica von der Pahlen

Magnus Christophorus von der Pahlen Palms d. h. 8 Juni Ao 1747

Magnus Christopher von der Pahlen

It is obvious that the thoughts of the 13 and 14 year-old boys often jumped from Latin to horses, riders and swordsmanship that these enthusiastic drawings also prove. The caricatures of lords with wigs and ladies with coifs are so expressive

that many a member of the family must have recognised him or herself in those days.

Among the books of Palmse we can also find three copies of an hymnal *Sammlung geistlicher Lieder...* (Reval, 1771) that had belonged to Gustav Friedrich and his two younger single sisters. Gustav Friedrich has put down his name on the title page of an hymnal, as usual, and added some thoughts of the mightiness of God, of hope and peace that those will have who believe in him.

The hymnal of Anna Wilhelmine (1734–1799) can be recognised by the stamp with her initials *AWDP* on the title page and the flyleaf. Helena Friederica's name on the flyleaf of her hymnal dates from February 8, 1773. Thirteen years later she must have had her hymnal rebound, for on the upper cover of the modest dark leather binding the gilded but dulled by now name of *HELENA FRIEDERICA VON DER PAHLEN*, and on the lower cover the date *1786*, strike the eye.

Hans von der Pahlen (1740–1817), the 8th child of Arend Diedrich von der Pahlen and Magdalena Elisabeth von Derfelden, became the next owner of the manor.

Two of his inscriptions has been found, both in the regulations of the authorities. The first one, on the title page of the book published in Tallinn by Lindfors under the title *Auswahl derer wichtigsten in denen Landes- und Stadtgerichten des Herzogthums Ehstland, auch noch jetzt geltenden Königl. Schwedischen Verordnungen*. In July 1782, he has written his name on the title page of the German translation of the instructions of Catherine II *Ihro Kaiserlichen Majestät Catharina der Zweiten, Kaiserin und Selbstherrscherin aller Reußen, ec. ec. ec Verordnungen zur Verwaltung der Gouvernements des Rußischen Reichs* (St. Petersburg, 1776).

On September 10, 1775 Hans von der Pahlen married Beate Ulrica Sophia, his neighbour, daughter of Karl Magnus Stenbock, the lord of the Kolga manor. They had 10 children. The third but the first son was born in February 1779, and was named after his grandfather of Kolga Carl Magnus.

Carl Magnus von der Pahlen (1779–1863) is perhaps the most well-known of the lords of the Palmse manor. His noble behaviour and the beauty of the then prosperous Palmse has been praised in the memoirs of his contemporaries and told legends from the lips of the common people.

Carl Magnus has been remarkably successful, both in military and civil service. At the age of 18, he started his military career as a cornet in a dragon regiment of Riga, campaigned several times, got wounded and was highly decorated for his bravery and services. Later on, he also occupied eminent posts: from 1821 to 1827 he was elected district magistrate of Estonia; from 1827 on, he was on a diplomatic mission in Sweden; from 1828 to 1835 curator of the Tartu teaching circuit and the

Tartu University; from 1830 to 1845, e.g. for fifteen years, governor general of Estonia, Livonia and Courland, and military governor of Riga.

The library of Carl Magnus von der Pahlen was worthy of his glory – expensive leather bindings, richly gilded and decorated, covered with moiré silk; endless series in German, Russian and French, works of the most important authors of his time, for example, the collected works of Voltaire in 92 volumes, the works of Kotzebue, a popular writer in Estonia, in 31 volumes, reference books, books on history, travel books. More and more, the library turned into a collection of encyclopaedical scope. The ownership mark of Carl Magnus is modest, at first, a plain name *C. M. Pahlen* without titles on blank flyleaf, later as simple, an ink stamp on the title page.

In some twenty books we find beside his inscription or ink stamp, a dedication of the author or the publisher, handwritten or printed, one even in gold. The books with dedications are mostly connected with the years when he was curator or governor general.

On December 14th, 1852, on the 50th anniversary of the Imperial Tartu University he was elected honorary member of the university. There are two dark purple gilded leather bindings at the university library, a royal donation in the true sense of the word. Dedications in both the books show that the King of Sweden and Norway had donated them to baron Carl Magnus Pahlen, who in his turn, had presented them to the university library [5]. From 1813 to 1814 Carl Magnus ran the cavalry regiment of King Charles XIV John, the then crown prince.

Carl Magnus was married twice. Betsy Essen, his first wife, gave birth to a son on December 29, 1819, and three weeks later, on January 22, 1820, she passed away at the age of only 22. Even today legends are told about the exceedingly beautiful Betsy, places are shown in the manor park where she liked to walk, sit and read.

Betsy's name occurs in two books: first, in the verse comedy of Jakov Knjaznin *The Boaster* in a big heavy leather binding. Her name has been written in a childish handwriting, both in Slavic and Latin letters. The second book, more rare in those times, is an English Grammar *Evangelisches Lesebuch für Anfänger; nebst Wörterbuch und Sprachlehre* (Berlin, 1804).

Was it her tutor who had written *For a Memory of P. John* on the flyleaf? Aside stands the name *Betsy Essen* in a childish handwriting, and on the title page, the same name *Betsy Essen* rather from the hand P. John.

Three years later Carl Magnus married again but not the lady of noble birth. He married Katharina Wilhelmine Arvelius, a Baltic German poet and playwright, a daughter of Friedrich Gustav Arvelius, theology professor of the Tallinn Gymna-

sium. Kitty's first inscription *Kitty Arvelius, 1821* is found in the collection of sermons by Karl Heinrich Pässler, high priest of the Tallinn Dome Cathedral, and the second one *Kitty Arvelius, 1822* in a prayer book printed in Berlin.

Alexander von der Pahlen (1819–1895), the only son of Carl Magnus von der Pahlen, was an outstanding politician of the second half of the 19th century in the Baltic governments, worthy of his father both for his magnificent career, high titles and remarkable achievements.

From 1862 to 1868, Alexander was Head of the Knighthood of Estonia, district magistrate, and councillor. Since 1868 he was President of the Baltic Railway Company. It were mostly due to his ideas, energy and his organizing capacity that the train started running between St. Petersburg, Tallinn and Paldiski in 1870, and Tartu in 1876. He has deservedly been called founder of the Baltic railway [6, 50].

Alexander inherited the prosperous, splendidly completed manorial estate of Palmse together with his father's library. It was systematically augmented and during the years grew up to several thousand books. In 1872 a manuscript catalogue of the library was compiled [3].

There is a name *A. v. d. Pahlen* on the upper cover of the leather binding with gilded ornament, and the words *Palm's Bibliothek* on the backbone. The books have been classified into almost twenty classes: Russian books (151 copies): the works of Lomonosov, Derzhavin, Marlinski, Pushkin, Zhukovsky, Krylov and others; French literature (655 copies): literary classics, like Molière, collected works of Voltaire in 92 volumes, works of Rousseau (all together 188 copies); French history literature (1,349 copies); travel books and geography (41 copies); reference books (18 copies); children and juvenile books (22 copies); biographies (18 copies); French belles-lettres – under the title novels (134 copies), just to mention Chateaubriand, Dumas Son and Father, Victor Hugo, Balzac, George Sand, Béranger. Another big subdivision is German literature (1,530 copies): first of all, the 108 volumes of reference books; then history (427 copies), together with the history of the Baltic provinces (151 copies); a few philosophy books, German literary classics (386 copies), just to mention Klopstock, Wieland, Herder, Schiller in 12 volumes, Goethe, Lessing. Finally, geography, discoveries (165 copies) and natural sciences (105 copies).

All in all, there are 2,236 copies in the catalogue. Double numbering has been used – a standing numbering from the beginning to the end, and the other within every subdivision. Those numbers can also be found on the labels pasted on books.

The inscription of Olga Grote (1826–1888), the wife of Alexander Pahlen, can be found in her personal books, like hymnals, or collections of sermons presented to her. The hymnal with the dedication *Olga Pahlen 28. Februar 1852* and the signature *Masing*, bears the gilded initials *O. v. d. P.* on the lower cover.

Alexis von der Pahlen (1850–1925), the eldest son of Alexander, inherited the

interest in natural sciences from his father, who among other things was also an enthusiastic geologist. From 1870 to 1875 Alexis studied at the Tartu University, took his degree in mineralogy, specialised in paleontology and already as a student discovered the fossils unknown to the science, and thus recorded the name of the family in the history of world science.

The fossil of the sea urchin, the oldest and the rare in the world, was named after him *Bothriocidaris pahleni*. Besides the sea urchin, two more trilobite species have been named after him, one of the mollusc of the genus hand-footed and the other of the genus head-footed [4, 18–20].

The research work of Alexander Pahlen, about *Orthisina*, the genus of the hand-footed of the Baltic Silurian, was published in the Transactions of the Academy of Sciences of St. Petersburg in 1877. His gilded initials can be seen on the backbone of the three half leather bindings and multiple manuscript notes in a mineralogy book. A conspectus of lectures during his time at the university with the same handwriting is kept at the Estonian History Museum [1,10].

In 1877 Alexander Pahlen married baroness Lubi (also Lubinka) Stael von Holstein (1857–1902). Her books marked as *L. Stael* and *L. Pahlen* are mostly philosophical or religious.

The youngest of the nine children of Alexander von der Pahlen, Friedrich von der Pahlen (1858–1889) or Fedinka, as he was pettingly called, was keen on biology. From 1878 to 1883 he studied at the Tartu University and took his degree in zoology. From 1886 to 1889 he was conservator at the St. Petersburg Zoology Museum. He has left behind in Palmse eight volumes of the book on wild animals *Die Säugethiere* (Leipzig, 1876) by Brehm. His gilded initials *F. v. d. P.* are on backbone of every volume. So far, two zoology books of Friedrich Pahlen with his inscription and the ink stamp have been found at the Tartu University Library.

Arend Dietrich (1878–1945), the eldest son of Alexander Pahlen, became a chemist. He studied at the Tallinn Peter High School; from 1900 to 1906 he continued his chemistry studies at the Riga College of Technology and from 1904 to 1906 at the Karlsruhe University of Technology where he took the degree of a graduate engineer. For some time he worked at the Schlüsselburg dynamite works and after that carried on the academic work at the Karlsruhe University of Technology. His inscription *Arend Pahlen* is in two books: in Shakespeare's plays King Lear and Coriolanus, and in the historical stories of Dardin.

Gustav Christian von der Pahlen (1883–1914), the youngest son of Alexis Pahlen, also studied at the the Riga College of Technology. At first, from 1901 to 1904 engineering, after that from 1904 to 1905 agriculture. From 1905 to 1906 he was in military service, and from 1907 on manager at the Embūte castle in Courland. In Estonia he studied at the Vodja Agricultural School, from 1908 to 1909 managed the manor of Pada in Virumaa and in 1909 took over the homely manor

of Palmse, that his elder brother who was devoted on chemistry, had given up in his favour. Gustav Christian fell on August 29, 1914, e.g. during the first month of the World War I in Drautischken, Eastern Prussia.

His inscription *Gustave Pahlen 1892*, in a studious handwriting of a nine-year-old boy, can be seen in the small French storybook *Histoire d'un petit homme* by Robert Halt in red calico binding. The ten-year-old Gustav Pahlen already owned a stamp to mark his books. The impression was discovered in another illustrated French storybook *Mes amis et moi* by Albert Cim, published in Paris in 1893, likewise in red calico binding with gilded ornament. Two more books with his stamp have survived, both in red and gold design, namely a storybook for boys *Trois collegiens en vacances* by La Porte, and *Tom Brown* from the classics of the English juvenile literature by Thomas Hughes, in the authorized French translation, published in Paris in 1890.

On our brief journey through 200 years we have, in our own way, got acquainted with the representatives of six generations of the Pahlen family. Autographs, stamped bookplates, initials on book covers and backbones, labels, dedications, hand written notes on margins or blank leaves are the ownership marks of the nineteen identified persons.

At least six persons in the genealogy of this large family need further identification, for the first names keep repeating from generation to generation. Besides, there are some ten other persons who might be friends, relatives, tutors, or who knows what.

Three major shares in the library of Palmse can be distinguished: the books of Gustav Friedrich, Carl Magnus and Alexander von der Pahlen.

In addition to the above mentioned marks of ownership and other signs, the books carry along the touch of a hand of the former owner, remind us of a pathetic moment or situation, sometimes even offer a startlingly lively experience of recognition. All the trifles found in books – pieces of paper with bills or drawings, scratchings and tests of signatures in schoolbooks, bookmarks, silk ribbons, torn pieces of paper, stains of tallow, wine, juice, even blood, dance card of a ball, a fan, a blue bird feather, cowberry twigs, helms, leaves, flowers, forget-me-nots – tell of the former owner.

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Abstract

The members of an ancient Baltic-German family, the Pahlens, can be found in various connections in the history of Estonia, Livonia and Courland – statesmen, military officers, promoters of agriculture, scientists and artists. Over 200 years the representatives of six generations of the Pahlen family collected books. The article describes autographs, stamped book-plates, initials on book covers and backbones, labels, dedications, hand written notes on margins or blank leaves as the ownership marks of the nineteen identified persons. At least six persons in the genealogy of this large family need further identification, for the first names keep repeating from generation to generation. Three major parts in the library of Palmse can be distinguished: the books of Gustav Friedrich, Carl Magnus and Alexander von der Pahlen.

All the trifles found in books – pieces of paper with bills or drawings, scratchings and tests of signatures in schoolbooks, bookmarks, silk ribbons, torn pieces of paper, stains of tallow, wine, juice, dance card of a ball, a fan, a blue bird feather, cowberry twigs, helmets, leaves, flowers, forget-me-nots – tell of the former owner.

PAHLENŲ ŠEIMOS BIBLIOTEKOS KNYGŲ NUOSAVYBĖS ŽENKLAI

MARE LUUK

Santrauka

Senos Baltijos vokiečių Pahlenų šeimos narius – politikus, karininkus, žemvaldžius, mokslininkus ir menininkus – mena Estijos, Livonijos, Kuršo istorija. Daugiau kaip 200 metų šešios Pahlenų kartos rinko knygas. Palmės biblioteką sudaro trys pagrindinės dalys: Gustavo Friedricho, Carlo Magnuso ir Alexanderio von der Pahlenų knygos. Straipsnyje aprašomi 19-os identifikuotų asmenų knygų nuosavybės ženklai: autografs, ekslibrisai, inicialai viršelyje ir nugarėlėje, etiketės, dedikacijos, rankraštinės pastabos paraštėse ar tuščiuose lapuose ir t. t. Dar mažiausiai šešis šios didelės šeimos asmenis reikės identifikuoti. Įvairios knygose randamos smulkmenos – sąskaitos, piešiniai, parašo bandymai, šilko kaspiniai, knygų žymekliai, dėmės, šokių kortelė, vėduoklė, lapai, gėlės ir kt. – pasakoja apie ankstesnius savininkus.