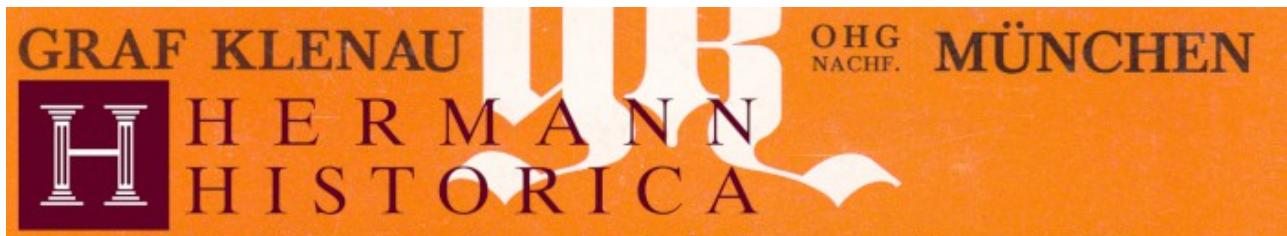


Graf Klenau / Hermann Historica an auction house with a shady history



or: how a crook became a count

Index (text in blue is clickable)

[Introduction](#)

[Erich Count of Klenau of Klenova, Baron of Janowitz?](#)

[The metamorphosis of Erich Hübner into Graf von Klenau.](#)

[Auctioneer](#)

[1969 - After the count's death](#)

[Late 1960's - growing interest in Nazi militaria](#)

[1971 - Sonderauktion Nachlass Anni Winter](#)

[Graf Klenau in the 1970's](#)

[Press about Klenau auctions, 1970's](#)

[Sales conditions 1975-1980](#)

[1977 - Graf Klenau becomes Graf Klenau Nachf.](#)

[1982 - Graf Klenau Nachf. becomes Hermann Historica](#)

APPENDIX A: Traced Graf Klenau auctions 1967-1981

By Jaap van den Born and Bart FM Droog
Nijmegen, Eeenrum
Version 2.0 - May 31, 2022
(first version February 2019)

Introduction

The axis in the world wide trade in Nazi memorabilia and Hitleriana is Hermann Historica (HH), an auction house in Munich (Germany). For more than fifty years this company and its direct predecessor Graf Klenau are flooding the market with a stream of alleged Nazi documents, medals, uniforms, cutlery, dinner plates, artworks, photos, daggers, headgear and so on. The auction house organizes 'normal' auctions of historical artefacts as well. The HH auctions generate an average annual turnover of over 15 million euros.^{1,2}

Whilst investigating paintings and sketches attributed to Hitler and originating from Graf Klenau/Hermann Historica, we discovered that most of these objects had one thing in common: they were, with a likelihood bordering on certainty, all forgeries. Yet they were all sold as 'authentic' or 'possibly authentic'. We discovered also that the founder of this auction house and the auction house itself have a rather odd history.

[Go to Index](#)

1 Company profile. Hermann Historica website, München, [seen 09-05-2019]. <https://www.hermann-historica.de/en/services/hermann-historica/>

2 Based on an analysis of a medium sized Hermann Historica Nazi Militaria auction (nr. 75r, November 16-17, 2017) we estimate that these kind of auctions generate a quarter to a third of the auction house's annual turnover. See: Jaap van den Born en Bart FM Droog. Minimumopbrengst van één Hermann Historica-veiling van nazishit, al dan niet vervalst: € 1.708.085,-. Droog Magazine, Eenrum, 10-03-2018. <http://www.bartfmdroog.com/droog/niod/auction-money.html>

Erich Count of Klenau of Klenova, Baron of Janowitz?

Hermann Historica stated circa 2006: "The beginnings of Hermann Historica oHG reach back almost 50 years to the auctions of Count Erich Klenau of Klenova, Baron of Janowitz, who around 1960 started to offer also "Orders and Decorations" as well as "Objects of Military History" in his well-established coin auctions."³

Now the last real Count Klenau, Karl⁴ von Klenau, Baron of Janowitz⁵, born in 1786, died on August 12, 1846 without male heirs.⁶

So who was this Count Erich? Was he *überhaupt* a count?

Count Erich's real name was Erich Hübner. He was born in Nuremberg, September 16, 1902.⁷ Little is known about his early life.

[Go to Index](#)

3 Company profile. Hermann Historica, LinkedIn. Undated, written in approx. 2006; seen 07-02-2019.
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/hermann-historica-m-nchen/about/>

4 Name also spelled as 'Carl'. He was the son of the better known Graf Johann von Klenau (1758-1819).

5 The historical familyname was: Graf von Klenau, Freiherr von Jannowitz. The spelling of these names varies in the different documents: Jannowitz / Janowitz / Janovic, Klenowa / Klenova, Klenowsky/ Klenovsky.

6 Sources: *Gothaisches genealogisches Taschenbuch der gräflichen Häuser*, 1841-1887.
Klenau, die Grafen von, Genealogie. Biographisches Lexikon des Kaiserthums Oesterreich. Band 12 (1864). Seite 76. <http://www.literature.at/viewer.alo?objid=11815&page=78&scale=3.33&viewmode=fullscreen>

7 Letter III/OA 1 from Dr. Hirschmann, official of Stadt Nürnberg, 04-08-1958.

The metamorphosis of Erich Hübner into Graf von Klenau.

On June 24, 1945 a refugee from Czechoslovakia, Vinzenz Joseph Klenowsky (1892-1964) contacted the Bavarian Ministry of Internal Affairs. Klenowsky claimed to be a descendant of the Count of Klenau. He claimed too that documents that could prove the Governor of his district supported his claim were stolen from him by the Czechs. In the direct post war chaos⁸ this story was accepted by the Bavarian authorities.

On August 2, 1946 Vinzenz Klenowsky, now carrying the name Vinzenz Josef Reichsgraf Klenau von Klenova, Freiherr von Janowitz and his wife Rosalie Katharine⁹ Reichsgräfin (etc.) adopted Erich Hübner, profession 'director', born September 16, 1902 in Nuremberg, officially working as a dealer in post stamps¹⁰, as their son.¹¹ This happened in the German town of Fürth.

Henceforth Hübner was also known as Erich Reichsgraf Klenau von Klenova.

At or shortly after the adoption Vinzenz Klenowsky presented his birth- and baptism certificate (issued in 1947!) as evidence for his presumed nobility. On this certificate was noted that Anna Janota, midwife from Ziskov, had declared that the baby had the title of 'Count of Klenova, Baron of Janovic.'¹²

This raises the suspicion that this birth certificate might be a forgery. If so, it would declare why this strange adoption of a professional criminal of the age of 44 ever took place: the adoption was a kind of a payment for the forged document.¹³

[Go to Index](#)

8 See for a better understanding of this period: Keith Lowe. *Savage Continent. Europe in the aftermath of World War II*. Viking, London, 2012.

9 Before 1945 known as Rosalie Katharine Schmieg, born in Prague, 27-12-1891.

10 Hübner-Briefmarken. Deutschl.-Preisliste 1946. List auctioned on E-bay, 18-02-2019.

A 'Erich Hübner', post stamp dealer from Nuremberg, advertised in the Deutsche Zeitung in den Niederlanden, 05-01-1941. We believe this is the same person as the 1946 post stamp dealer Erich Hübner / Graf Erich Klenau.

<https://resolver.kb.nl/resolve?urn=ddd:011119896:mpeg21:a0058>

11 Source: Letter III/OA 1 from Dr. Hirschmann, official of Stadt Nürnberg, 04-08-1958.

12 Information from a letter from Wolbertshofer. Kriminal-Obersekretär. 31 c 10.10 (S). Zentralamt für Kriminal-Identifizierung und Polizeistatistik des Landes Bayern. München. Abschrift 6.12.1950.

The part on the midwife is in German: "Die Hebamme Anna Janota aus Ziskov Nr. 23 hat angegeben: Der Taufling besitzt das Prädikat: Graf von Klenova, Freiherr von Janovic."

13 Until this very day the right of carrying the 'count' title by Vinzenz Joseph Klenowsky, his wife and his adopted family, (Hübner, his wife and son) is disputed. As far as is known the original birth certificate from 1892 of Vinzenz Klenowsky has never been checked.

Whatever may be the case: Hübner went somewhere between this adoption and 1950 to a part of Western Germany occupied by the Netherlands¹⁴, presumably in the Elten area. The Dutch press reported on him in 1951¹⁵:

"The best detectives of thirty seven countries are searching for many months now for Herr Hüpnér¹⁶, alias Graf Klenau von Clenova/ His photo, his prints and everything that can help to identify him are distributed by the International Criminal Police Commission¹⁷ in almost all countries of the world.

Because of this every one is aware that Herr Hüpnér is an international criminal, a swindler and a burglar, one of the most dangerous criminals who maybe is now.... somewhere in Finland.

But however long it takes, the police will catch him in the end. And that will be the end too of his swindling career. He will be no longer able to present himself as Graf Klenau von Clenova, the until very recently everywhere welcomed distinguished guest. As Graf von ... etc. etc, he cheated in his relatively young life numerous people in the most thorough paced ways. He spent the money of his victims in great luxury. And when he had spend it all, he started to swindle again. Or he committed burglaries, in which he stole valuables worth thousands of guilders." (...)

It is known that Herr Hüpnér, before he fled to Finland, resided for some time in the Netherlands, or better said: in the annexed areas, where he didn't stand out as a German speaking person. Moreover, in those areas people are still impressed by the 'Von' and 'Graf.' (...)

From a document from the Swiss police, dated December 6 1950, it appears that the Dutch authorities were looking for Hübner since January 1950. Hübner had fled to Finland, where he managed to receive a Finnish passport for foreigners. With that document he applied for a visitor's visum for Switzerland, which was issued to him on September 6, 1950. He was questioned by the Swiss police, when he was located in October 1950 in Hotel Excelsior in Zürich.

14 See: Chris van Mersbergen. Als sich die Niederlande Teile von NRW einverleiben wollten. Annexionspläne nach 1945. RP Online, Düsseldorf, 23-04-2018.

https://rp-online.de/nrw/panorama/nachkriegsgeschichte-als-sich-die-niederlande-teile-von-nrw-einverleiben-wollten_aid-18565819

15 Maurits Reckman. Elsevier., Amsterdam, 27-01-1951. Also published in *Nieuwe Courant*, Soerabaja, 07-02-1951.
<https://resolver.kb.nl/resolve?urn=MMNIOD04:000093213:mpeg21:a0073>

16 In the Dutch article his name was spelled as 'Hüpnér' - which is pronounced in Dutch almost the same as 'Hübner'.

17 A predecessor of Interpol. Both organizations existed next to each other for some time. NN. Our history. Interpol. Lyon (France)/Singapore, [seen 07-05-2019]. <https://www.interpol.int/Who-we-are/Our-history>

Apparently the Netherlands were only looking for Hübner on the accusation of illegally naming himself a count. Hübner showed the Swiss police his adoption papers. As these seemed to confirm that Hübner was justified in naming himself Graf von Klenau, he was released.¹⁸

At that time he was accompanied by Tyra Ekblom a.k.a. Tyra Reichsgräfin Klenau von Klenova, who had given birth to their son Arnhard on July 14, 1950, in Helsinki.¹⁹

As far as we know²⁰ Hübner, together with his wife and child, returned to Germany somewhere shortly after his conversation with the Swiss police. Hübner had nothing to fear in West-Germany - the existing pre war extradition treaty between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the German Empire had become invalid because of the fall on the latter.²¹ It lasted until December 13 1957, before a new treaty was signed.²²

As far as is known the Netherlands undertook no further steps against Hübner. They marked him and his wife as 'unwanted foreigners' and banned the couple the entry to the Netherlands.²³

Hübner kept a low profile until 1960, when he surfaced as an auctioneer.

[Go to Index](#)

18 Letter regarding Hübner Erich Johann, 1902 from Schweizerisches Zentralbureau Bern to Ministry of Justice, The Hague. Bern, 06-12-1950; Letters from Dr. G.J. de Graag concerning Erich Hübner, Consulaat der Nederlanden, Dortmund, 05-02-1951 and 14-02-1951. Copies of these letter (originals in an undisclosed private archive) are in the possession of Van den Born, Droog and Welt.

19 Michael Autengruber. Arnhard Graf Klenau verstorben, [April] 2019.

<http://cms.orden-der-welt.de/index.php/de/>

The same author mention on an English page on his site '1951' as year of birth.

20 It's expected that once the Germans newspaper archives are digitalized, more traces will become visible.

21 Overleg Den Haag-Bonn over hernieuwing uitleveringsverdrag. *Het Parool*, Amsterdam, 06-01-1953.

<https://resolver.kb.nl/resolve?urn=ABCDDE:010832198:mpeg21:a0050>

22 Overeenkomst tussen het Koninkrijk der Nederlanden en de Bondsrepubliek Duitsland [...] Verdrag betreffende uitlevering van 13 december 1957, Wittem, 30-08-1979.

<https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBV0001030/2002-04-01>

23 Statement in letter by Dr. G.J. de Graag. Netherlands Consulate, Dortmund, 05-02-1951.

Auctioneer

Hübner had already traded in post stamps at least since the 1940's. Around 1960 he became active as an post stamp auctioneer. We do know that Graf Klenau auction nr. 35 was organized in 1967, and auction nr. 46 in 1969.²⁴ If he organized some five auctions a year, than the first one must have taken place somewhere around 1960.

The first press report on the Klenau auctions we traced dates from 1965.



Count Erich and Countess Tyra, 1965

It's an article about a Klenau auction held in a room in the Nuremberg main railway station, where 884 medals and decorations were offered for sale.

Medals from the Nazi era were sold for low prices. The highest prices were paid for a 'Silvester' decoration from Vatican City, awarded in 1904. It was sold for 1075 DM. Other remarkable sales were those of a 'Distinction of the Golden Skin' (Orden vom Goldenen Vlies) for 580 DM, a 'Christ Decoration' from 1322 and a Soviet 'Red Star' for both 125 DM.

Most of the bids were done by per mail.²⁵

[Go to Index](#)

24 Bart FM Droog. Survey of Graf Klenau Auktions. See Appendix A.

25 1075 DM für Silvesterorden. "Nürnberger Nachrichten, Nürnberg, 20/21-11-1965. Gefrierfleischordnen" für nur 10 Mark. Stuttgarter Zeitung, 22-11-1965.



Algemeen Handelsblad, Amsterdam, 12-03-1966



Algemeen Handelsblad, Amsterdam, 24-12-1966
Newspaper Archive, Royal Library, The Hague; Delpher.nl

Advertisements for Graf Klenau auctions in Dutch
newspapers, 1966

At these earliest auctions only post stamps, coins and medals were traded. Later other militaria were also offered. As on 'the world largest militaria auction', organized by Klenau in October 1968. More than two thousand medals and awards from the Third Reich, SS daggers and all sorts of other Wehrmacht and SS material, as well as some Soviet items, were sold during this eight hours lasting auction. Most of the buyers were Americans, but also collectors from Scandinavia, the Netherlands, France, England, Austria, Switzerland and West-Germany bought the militaria.²⁶

Hübner became in 1968 even one of the founders of the *Bundesverband Deutscher Briefmarkenversteigerer*²⁷ (Federal Union of German Post Stamp auctioneers). But then he died in a car crash, 1969.²⁸



26 SS-Hemden und Offiziersdolche für USA. *WNZ*, 21-10-1968. The total revenue was not mentioned.

27 50 Jahre Bundesverband deutscher Briefmarkenversteigerer - eine Erfolgsgeschichte, gewürdigte am 0. Juni 2018 in Düsseldorf. Allgemeine Postwertzeichen-Handelerverband, v13-06-2018. <https://aphv.de/50-jahre-bundesverband-deutscher-briefmarkenversteigerer-eine-erfolgsgeschichte-gewuerdigt-am-9-juni-2018-in-duesseldorf/>

28 [Unknown militaria club]. Secretary's report for May-June 1969. Page 34. [No further details known]. http://www.omsa.org/files/jomsa_arch/Splits/1969/8718_JOMSA_Vol20_7_34.pdf

1969 - After the count's death

After Erich Hübner died, his widow Tyra and son Arnhard took over the company. In many newspaper reports on the Klenau auctions in the 1970's they are named as the auctioneers.

Under the administration of Erich these Nazi militaria auctions had already started, but we haven't detected alleged Hitler items on the 1960's auctions yet.^{29,30}

Tyra and Arnhard must have realized that offering Nazi militaria and specific material allegedly once owned or made by high profile Nazis is very profitable. Under their leadership Graf Klenau von Klenova grew very quickly to become the most important Nazi militaria auction house in the world. And they *must* also have known that the authenticity of many objects was questionable, as they stated in their sales conditions that they were only mediators for unnamed consignors, not to be held responsible for mistakes in the descriptions of the lots, and that the buyer had to take all risks.³¹



Reichsgraf Arnhard Klenau von Klenova, 1970
Source: Bildarchiv BSB



Reichsgraf Arnhard Klenau von Klenova, ca. 2018.
Source: Michael Autengruber

29 A great number of Certificates of Authenticity issued to alleged but clearly forged Hitleriana have dates in 1967-1969 on them. These were allegedly written by Anni Winter, the housekeeper of Hitler's Munich apartment. If these CoA's were indeed issued by her, this might indicate that in the late 1960's the trade in Hitleriana was getting into gear. See: Bart FM Droog. Anni Winter. The Hitler Forgery Industry. Droog Magazine, Eenrum, 23-03-2019. <http://www.droog-mag.nl/hitler/coa/winter/>

30 This might change after studying all Graf Klenau catalogs.

31 See: [Sales conditions 1975-1980](#)

Late 1960's - growing interest in Nazi militaria

In the late 1960's the interest in militaria, and especially in Nazi militaria grows explosively. This is revealed by several newspaper articles. One, from 1968, reports about a the German militaria dealer Lothar Hartung, who was actively looking for buyers and the sellers in the Netherlands³² - which is remarkable, as in the first part of the 1960's trade in such items was more or less taboo in that country.³³

In 1969 the British militaria trader Roy Butler remarked to *De Volkskrant*, that in the past three years the prices had risen by 20 to 50 percent.³⁴

In Dutch newspapers more and more ads for militaria appear, and the auction catalogs become thicker and thicker. The Nazi militaria trade becomes a booming business.

32 Verzamelen. *De Volkskrant*, Amsterdam, 17-06-1969.
<https://resolver.kb.nl/resolve?urn=ABCDDE:010848120:mpeg21:a0161>

33 In suikerzakjes zit toekomst. *Het Vrije Volk*, Rotterdam, 11-01-1960.
<https://resolver.kb.nl/resolve?urn=ddd:010950923:mpeg21:a0218>

34 Nazi-sport. *De Volkskrant*. Amsterdam, 19-08-1969.
<https://resolver.kb.nl/resolve?urn=ABCDDE:010847894:mpeg21:a0153>

1971 - Sonderauktion Nachlass Anni Winter

The 55th Graf Klenau auction 55., April 2, 1971, where the 'Nachlass Winter' (legacy of Anni Winter) was offered, can be seen as a turning point in the Hitleriana trade. Except for a few alleged Hitler watercolors, there was until then only a limited offer of alleged Hitler items on militaria auctions.

After this auction the number of Hitleriana only grew and is still growing, a clear sign that many, if not most, of these artefacts are forgeries or wrongly attributed to Hitler.

On this 1971 auction at least alleged 56 Hitler items 'from the legacy of Hitler's former housekeeper Anni Winter' were sold. Which is quite amazing, as in 1954 she possessed only 10 Hitleriana.³⁵ There was overwhelming media attention³⁶ for this auction, which drew buyers from Great Britain, Germany, the United States and France.³⁷

The revenue of this special auction was relatively small (compared with the revenues of present Nazi militaria auctions): 30,000 Dutch guilders; what would amount, after inflation correction to some 56,000 euro in 2018.³⁸

[Go to Index](#)

35 Jaap van den Born and Bart FM Droog. The Anni Winter Collection or: the miracle of the suitcase. *Droog Magazine*, Eenrum, 03-05-2009. Page 8.
<http://www.droog-mag.nl/hitler/2019/anni-winter-or-the-magic-suitcase.pdf>

36 See a.o.: Dertig mille voor voorwerpen Hitler. *Het Parool*, Amsterdam, 03-04-1971.
<https://resolver.kb.nl/resolve?urn=ABCDL:010836353:mpeg21:a0217>
Hitler Guest Book Brings \$928. *Oxnard Press Courier*, Oxnard (California, USA), 04-04-1971.
Hannelore Schutz. Deutsche haben von Hitler genug. *AZ*, [German newspaper], 05-04-1971,
Hans Knoop. Dranghekken. *De Telegraaf*. Amsterdam, 06-04-1971.
<https://resolver.kb.nl/resolve?urn=ddd:011198266:mpeg21:a0334>
Gemeldet aus Absurdistan. *Rheinischer Merkur*, Bonn, 10-04-1971.
Bidding for Adolf. *Time Magazine*, New York, 19-04-1971.
Ilse Schäfer/ BNP. Adolf Hitler als "Markenartikel". Notizen von einer NS-Auktion in München./ *Der Neue Mahnruf*, Wien, Heft 5, Mai 1971. [http://anno.onb.ac.at/cgi-content/anno-plus?aid=dnm&datum=19710105&query=\(\(text:graf+text:klenau\)\)&ref=anno-search&seite=5](http://anno.onb.ac.at/cgi-content/anno-plus?aid=dnm&datum=19710105&query=((text:graf+text:klenau))&ref=anno-search&seite=5)

37 Gastenboek voor Hitler voor DM 3400. *De Tijd*, Amsterdam, 05-04-1971.
<https://resolver.kb.nl/resolve?urn=ddd:011235792:mpeg21:a0087>
38 Value of the Guilder/Euro. International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam. [Used 09-05-2019].
<http://www.iisg.nl/hpw/calculate.php>

Graf Klenau in the 1970's

In the 1970's Graf Klenau oHG³⁹ launched more and more Nazi militaria and Hitleriana. Amongst its clients were the Marquess of Bath⁴⁰, Fritz Stiefel - the German industrialist who was offered the first copy of the fake Hitler diaries⁴¹ - and Billy F. Price, a Texan industrialist, all plagued by Hitlermania.⁴²

Graf Klenau auctioned in these years a yet still unknown number of watercolors and sketches attributed to Hitler, but in many times products of Konrad Kujau and other forgers. Many of those works were accompanied by fraudulent certificates of authenticity issued by two notorious Hitler art swindlers, the German August Priesack⁴³ and the Austrian Peter Jahn.⁴⁴

Klenau also sold 'authentic Hitler architectural sketches' brought in by Albert Speer.⁴⁵ As well as numerous other Nazi memorabilia and militaria. Some of these goods were authentic, many however were not.

This whole charade of swindlers, forgers, ex-Nazis, disputed nobility and wealthy Hitler maniacs was joined by a man called Wolfgang Hermann, somewhere in the early 1970's. He expanded the existing Klenau portfolio by auctions of "Arms and Armour" and "Antiquities".⁴⁶

"At around the same time that he had received the diary from Kujau, Stiefel decided that the time had come when he should seek an expert's opinion on his remarkable Hitler archive. He asked Kleenau [= Klenau], a firm of Munich auctioneers who handled important manuscripts, if they could recommend an authority on Hitler's art and writing. Kleenau give him the name of August Priesack."

Robert Harris, *Selling Hitler*. Faber & Faber, London, 1986.
Chapter 10

39 oHG = offene Handesgesellschaft = special kind of trade company

40 Buyer of lot 2674, Karlskirche. Auction nr. 177, March 15 1980. Source: auction catalog and *Adolf Hitler als Maler und Zeichner* (1983), nr. 240.

41 Robert Harris. *Selling Hitler*. Faber & Faber, London, 1986. Chapter 7.

For this investigation the e-book-version (Arrow Books, Random House, London, 2009) was used.

42 Bidding for Adolf. *Time Magazine*, New York, 19-04-1971.

43 Jaap van den Born en Bart FM Droog. Prof. Dr. August Priesack. *Droog Magazine*, Eenrum, 06-07-2018.
<https://www.bartfdroog.com/droog/niod/priesack.html#english>

44 Jaap van den Born en Bart FM Droog. Peter Jahn. *Droog Magazine*, Eenrum, 06-07-2018.
<https://www.bartfdroog.com/droog/niod/jahn.html#english>

45 A.o on auction nr. 177, March 15 1980. Source: auction catalog.

46 Company profile. Hermann Historica website, München, [seen 09-05-2019].
<https://www.hermann-historica.de/en/services/hermann-historica/>

[Go to Index](#)

Press about Klenau auctions, 1970's



Not only the work field was expanded, the number of annual auctions grew too. Regularly the press reported on them - a small anthology:

- 1976:** Rare Nazi material yields high profit (*NRC Handelsblad*, Rotterdam).⁴⁷
- 1977:** Auction of alleged Hitler watercolor from 1915/1916 (*Zierikzeesche Nieuwsbode*, NL).⁴⁸
- 1978:** A handwritten letter by Eva Braun (*The Cornell Daily Sun*, USA).⁴⁹
- 1978:** A matrimonial sword. (*NRC Handelsblad*. Rotterdam)⁵⁰
- 1978:** The auction of Goering's boat (*Der Spiegel*, Hamburg)⁵¹
- 1978:** [On Klenau auction] (*Die Zeit*, Hamburg)⁵²

1978: Brown nostalgia (*Die Zeit*, Hamburg)⁵³

1979: Hitler watercolors (allegedly from 1904 and 1907) (*Leidse Courant*, NL)⁵⁴

[Go to Index](#)

47 Zeldzaam nazimateriaal brengt goed geld op. *NRC Handelsblad*. Rotterdam, 01-06-1976.

<https://resolver.kb.nl/resolve?urn=KBNRC01:000025370:mpeg21:a0059>

48 Toch nog steeds... *Zierikzeesche Nieuwsbode*, Zierikzee, 16-06-1977. Pagina 7.

<https://krantenbankzeeland.nl/issue/zni/1977-06-16/edition/0/page/7?query=>

49 nm A handwritten letter by Eva Braun (*The Cornell Daily Sun* (USA), 15-09-1978.

<https://cdsun-test.library.cornell.edu/?a=d&d=CDS19780915.1.6&>

50 Het huwelijkszwaard. *NRC Handelsblad*. Rotterdam, 04-09-1978.

<https://resolver.kb.nl/resolve?urn=KBNRC01:000026231:mpeg21:a0073>

51 Jagdsitz am Deck. *Der Spiegel*, 38/1978, Hamburg, 18-09-1978.

<https://www.spiegel.de/spiegel/print/d-40607101.html>

52 Fritz J. Raddatz. Bruder Baader. *Die Zeit*, Hamburg, nr. 42/1978, 13-10-1978. (seite 3)

<https://www.zeit.de/1978/42/bruder-baader>

53 Brigitte Zander. Braune Nostalgie. *Die Zeit*, Hamburg, nr. 50/1978, 08-12-1978.

<https://www.zeit.de/1978/50/braune-nostalgie>

54 AP. Weer aquarellen van Hitler verkocht voor fl. 27.000,- *Leidse Courant*, Leiden, 12-06-1979.

<https://leiden.courant.nu/issue/LLC/1979-06-12/edition/0/page/10>

Sales conditions 1975-1980

Basically, Graf Klenau oHG refused to take any responsibility for authenticity issues.

Every responsibility for correct descriptions, either in the catalog, or orally made by the auctioneer, was denied. All risks were for the bidder/buyer.

Versteigerungsbedingungen 1975⁵⁵

1. Die Firma Graf Klenau oHG führt die Versteigerung als Kommissionär der nicht zu benennden Einlieferer durch und als Proptergeschäft bei eigenen Losen der Versteigerer(*). (...)

2. (...) Nach dem Zuschlag können generell Beanstandungen jeder Art und Weise nicht mehr berücksichtigt werden. Der versteigerer übernimmt insbesondere keine Haftung für offene oder versteckte Mängel jeder Art. 9...) Die Beschreibungen im Katalog erfolgen sorgsam nach bestem Wissen. Sie stellen jedoch keine zugesicherten Eigenschaften im Sinne von 459 ff BGB⁵⁶ dar.

6. (...) Mit dem Zuschlag geht jedwede Gefahr an der ersteigerten Sache auf den Erstehher über. (...) Aufgeld von 15% (...)

Versteigerungsbedingungen 1980⁵⁷

(2) Die Katalogbeschreibungen werden nach bestem Wissen und Gewissen vorgenommen. Sie wie auch mündlich abgegebene Erklärungen, sichern keine Eigenschaften im Sinne von §§ 459 ff Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch zu.

In the 1980 catalogs the terms of sale were also presented in English, but with a rather strange disclaimer (as many clients couldn't understand German):

Terms of sale

This is a free translation and only the German version has legal force. By submitting bids you agree to our terms of sale as stated below.

1. The auctioneer acts as comissioner for unnamed vendors. (...)
2. (...) Catalogue descriptions are made conscientiously but without warranty.
6. The knock down commits a bidder to take a lot and pay for it. From now on the buyer has every risk. (...)

[Go to Index](#)

55 Katalog 113. Auktion 8. November 1975

56 Reference to the Federal German Civil Lawbook.

https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/bgb/_459.html

57 Katalog 177. Auktion 15. März 1980

1977 - Graf Klenau becomes Graf Klenau Nachf.

According to his friend Michael Autengruber⁵⁸ Arnhard left the firm in 1977. The auctionhouse was then called Graf Klenau Nachf. oHG.

After Arnhard's death in 2019 Autengruber wrote:

"Später bezeichnete Arnhard seinen 1977 erfolgten Rückzug aus der Firma als einen entscheidenden Fehler, da diese in der Ordenswelt unter dem Namen Graf Klenau mit einem kleingedruckten Nachf. (für Nachfolger) zu trauriger Berühmtheit gelangte."

"In later years Arnhard described his leaving the company in 1977 as a decisive mistake, since in the orders and decorations circuit, the name of Count Klenau followed by the in smaller letters printed 'Nachf.' (for successor), became quite infamous."

Truth is, that before Arnhard left the company, Graf Klenau was already selling forged Hitler and other alleged Nazi objects for real. His friend continues:

"Arnhard Graf Klenau war eine durchaus ambivalent strukturierte Person. Einerseits verfügte er über ein immenses ordenskundliches, historisches und kunsthistorisches Wissen, das er auch gerne mit anderen teilte und sie auf entsprechenden Wunsch hin förderte. Es ist sicher nicht übertrieben darauf hinzuweisen, dass die heutige Ordenskunde und ihre Protagonisten ohne ihn vermutlich eine andere Richtung genommen hätten. Er war ausge-sprochen liebenswürdig, höflich und charmant, konnte hervorragend kochen, liebte guten Wein und Gespräche in entsprechender Gesellschaft und konnte auch sehr großzügig sein. Ja, er war ein Mensch des Genusses und liebte das

Arnhard Graf Klenau was a thoroughly ambivalent person. On the one hand, he possessed an immense knowledge of science, history and art history, which he also gladly shared with others and promoted them upon request.

It is certainly not an exaggeration to point out that today's knowledge of orders and its protagonists would probably have taken a different direction without him. He was extremely gracious, polite and charming, he was an excellent cook. He loved of good wine and conversations in good company and could also be very generous. Yes, he was a man of enjoyment and loved life, especially in the time before his

58 Michael Autengruber. Arnhard Graf Klenau verstorben, [April] 2019.
<http://cms.orden-der-welt.de/index.php/de/>

Leben, besonders natürlich in der Zeit vor seiner Krankheit.

Aber leider muß ich auch erwähnen, daß Arnhard in Affären um gefälschte Ordensinsignien verwickelt war.

Allerdings waren es deutlich weniger, als ihm allgemein unterstellt wird, denn der allergrößte Teil wurde von der Nachfolgefirma, die seinen Namen mit dem kleinen Zusatz Nachf. trug, angeboten und verkauft, als er schon längst nicht mehr deren Inhaber war. Aber dennoch hat er - wenn auch gezielt und nur in kleiner Stückzahl - eine Reihe von Orden herstellen lassen und als Originale vermarktet.

Ja, es gilt eben auch für Arnhard das Wort von Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832): *Wo viel Licht ist, ist auch viel Schatten.*"

illness.

But unfortunately I must also mention that Arnhard was involved in fake order affairs.

However, it were significant less affairs than generally assumed, because the largest part of the forgeries was offered and sold by the successor company, which bore his name with the small addition Nachf., when he was no longer the owner. But nevertheless he has - albeit selectively and only in small numbers - produced a number of medals and marketed them as originals.

Yes, the words of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832) apply to Arnhard: *where there is a lot of light there is also a lot of shadow.*"

1982 - Graf Klenau Nachf. becomes Hermann Historica

"Wolfgang Hermann and Ernst-Ludwig Wagner jointly took over the company in 1982, re-named it "Hermann Historica oHG" and had a decisive influence on the development of the ever expanding business. In subsequent years Franz Hermann and Thomas Rief also became partners. (...) By the end of 2017, Forum Arte GmbH, Germany, acquired a majority share in the company from the previous owners.

Today, the auction house with its approximately 40 staff members has cooperations and representatives in many European countries as well as in the United States. For its more than 40,000 clients worldwide, Hermann Historica GmbH ran two auctions a year until 2018, and is now accelerating this to six auctions annually as of 2019. 2019 also saw the introduction of a new type of auction, the online-only sale, where all bidding is done exclusively on the internet. Some 14 to 16 thousand collectors' items are auctioned off, generating an average annual turnover of over 15 million Euros."⁵⁹

Hermann Historica continued and multiplied since 1982 the activities of Graf Klenau. The previous owners, Tyra 'Reichsgräfin' von Klenau von Klenova and Reichsgraf Arnhard von Klenau von Klenova continued with their own Graf Klenau auctions until at least 1987 - when Graf Klenau auction nr. 229 was held. But as far as is known only medals and decorations were sold.

Tyra published under the name Tyra Gräfin von Klenau a number of catalogs about the prices of coins. (*Deutsches Münzpreis-Jahrbuch*, editions 1976 - 1984). Arnhard published under the name Arnhard Graf von Klenau a number of books about European medals and decorations. He died on April 3, 2019, in Offenbach/Main, April 3, 2019).⁶⁰ The dates of birth and death of Tyra are unknown.

Even though the company changed of owners and name for more than 35 years ago, it still refers in all publications to its founder, Count Erich Klenau von Klenova, Baron of Janowitz

When we discovered his shady past and contacted the press spokesperson of Hermann Historica with some questions about him and the company's past, she did not respond.⁶¹

59 Company profile. Hermann Historica website, München, [seen 09-05-2019].

60 Michael Autengruber. Message about Arnhard Reichsgraf Klenau von Klenova's decease, april 2019. <http://cms.orden-der-welt.de/index.php/en/>

61 E-mail Bart FM Droog to Maria Burdick, Communication and press department Hermann Historica, 07-02-2019; 10:42 hrs.

APPENDIX A: Traced Graf Klenau auctions 1967-1981

#	Sort	Date	Catalog
35. Auktion	?	1967	
46. Auktion	Militaria. Waffen	10. Oktober 1969	
49. Auktion	Militaria. Waffen	3. April 1970	21 p.?
50. Auktion	Orden	4. April 1970	
51. Auktion	Militaria - Waffen	9. Mai 1970	ca. 60 p.
52. Auktion	Waffen + Militaria		
53. Auktion	?		
54. Auktion	Münze	März 1971	
55. Auktion Sonderauktion	Waffen und Militaria Nachlass Winter	2. April 1971	
56. Auktion	?	1971	
57. Auktion	?	1971	
58. Auktion	?	1971	
59. Auktion	?	1971	
60. Auktion	Militaria + Waffen	22. Oktober 1971	
69. Auktion	Militaria	10. November 1972	30 p.
70. Auktion	Alte Waffen	11. November 1972	36 p.
75. Auktion	Braunschweigische Orden	26. Mai 1973	ca. 16 p.
76. Auktion	Orden und Ehrenzeiche	26. Mai 1973	ca. 40 p.
77. Auktion	Militaria	15. Juni 1973	40 p.
78. Auktion	Alte Waffen	16. Juni 1973	30 p.
79. Auktion	?	1973	
80. Auktion	?	1973	
81. Auktion	?	1973	
82. Auktion	Ethnologica + Primitivgeld	26. Oktober 1973	
83. Auktion	?	1973	
84. Auktion	?	17. November 1973	
85. Auktion	Militaria	17. November 1973	46 p.
86. Auktion	Orden und Ehrenzeichen	1. Dezember 1973	ca. 50 p.

87. Auktion	Militaria	15. Februar 1974	46 p.
	Lagerkatalog Orden und Ehrenzeichen ("Merkur-Angebot")	"März 1974	Zus. 6 Teile
90. Auktion	Orden und Ehrenzeichen	23. März 1974	ca. 80 p.
91. Auktion	Alte Waffen	18. Mai 1974	32 p.
92. Auktion	Militaria	18. Mai 1974	50 p. + Nachtrag 4 p.
93. Auktion	Orden und Ehrenzeichen	8. Juni 1974	ca. 80s p.
94. Auktion	?	1974	
95. Auktion	?	1974	
96. Auktion	?	1974	
97. Auktion	Militaria	27. September 1974	60 p.
98. Auktion	?	1974	
99. Auktion	?	1974	
100. Auktion	?	1974	
101. Auktion	Alte Waffen	8. November 1974	56 p.
102. Auktion	?	8. November 1974	
103. Auktion	Militaria	8. November 1974	44 p.
104. Auktion	Orden und Ehrenzeichen	30. November 1974	ca. 80 p.
105. Auktion	?	1974 or 1975	
106. Auktion	Orden und Ehrenzeichen	8. März 1975	ca. 80 p.
107. Auktion	Alte Waffen - Militaria	12. April 1975	56 p.
108. Auktion	?	1975	
109. Auktion	?	1975	
110. Auktion	Alte Waffen - Militaria	5. Juli 1975	56 p.
111. Auktion	Orden + Ehrenzeichen	4. Oktober 1975	
112. Auktion	Alte Waffen	7. November 1975	48 p.
113. Auktion	Militaria	8. November 1975	152 p.
117./118. Auktion Auktion	Alte Waffen + Militaria 3 'Hitler' watercolors ⁶²	24. April 1976	139 p.

62 Sources: Auction catalog and: 1 aquarel van Hitler, verkocht voor 12.000 DM. April 1976. *NRC Handelsblad*,

121. Auktion	Ordensammlung Hessen	1976	
122. Auktion	?	1976	
123./124. Auktion	Alte Waffen - Militaria	30. Oktober 1976	124 p.
132. Auktion	Militaria	2. April 1977	
133. Auktion	Orden + Ehrenzeichen	5. Juni 1977	
134./135. Auktion	Alte Waffen - Militaria	25. Juni 1977	100 p.
136. Auktion	?	1977	
137./138. Auktion	Alte Waffen - Militaria	22. Oktober 1977	150 p.
145./146. Auktion	Alte Waffen - Militaria	25. Februar 1978	96 p.
? Auktion	Letter by Eva Braun ⁶³	30. September 1978	
157./158. Auktion	Alte Waffen und Militaria	2. December 1978	72 p.
Merkur Angebot	Orden + Ehrenzeichen	Januar 1979	
161./162. Auktion	Alte Waffen + Militaria	3. März 1979	
165./166. Auktion	Alte Waffen und Militaria	9. Juni 1979	112 p.
169. Auktion	Alte Waffen und Militaria	22. September 1979	95 p.
173./174. Auktion	Alte Waffen + Militaria	24. November 1979	
177. Auktion	Militaria	15. März 1980	
181. Auktion	Militaria	21. Juni 1980	
? Auktion	4 Hitler watercolors and 1 sketch ⁶⁴	20. September 1980	
186. Auktion	Alte Waffen	30. Oktober 1980	
187. Auktion	Orden und Ehrenzeichen	1981	ca. 100 p.
190. Auktion	Orden und Ehrenzeichen	1981	ca. 100 p.
194. Auktion	Alte Waffen und Militaria	3. Mai 1981	80 p.
195. Auktion	Primitivgeld. Ungewöhnliche Zahlungsmittel	5 Juni 1981	44 p.
196. Auktion	?	1981	
197. Auktion	Orden und Ehrenzeichen	1981	ca. 100 p.
199. Auktion	Orden und Ehrenzeichen	1981	ca. 100 p.

Rotterdam, 01-06-1976

63 Source: *Cornell Daily Sun* (USA), 15-09-1978

64 With CoA's by Speer and Priesack.. Source: *Volkskrant*, Amsterdam, 05-09-1980.