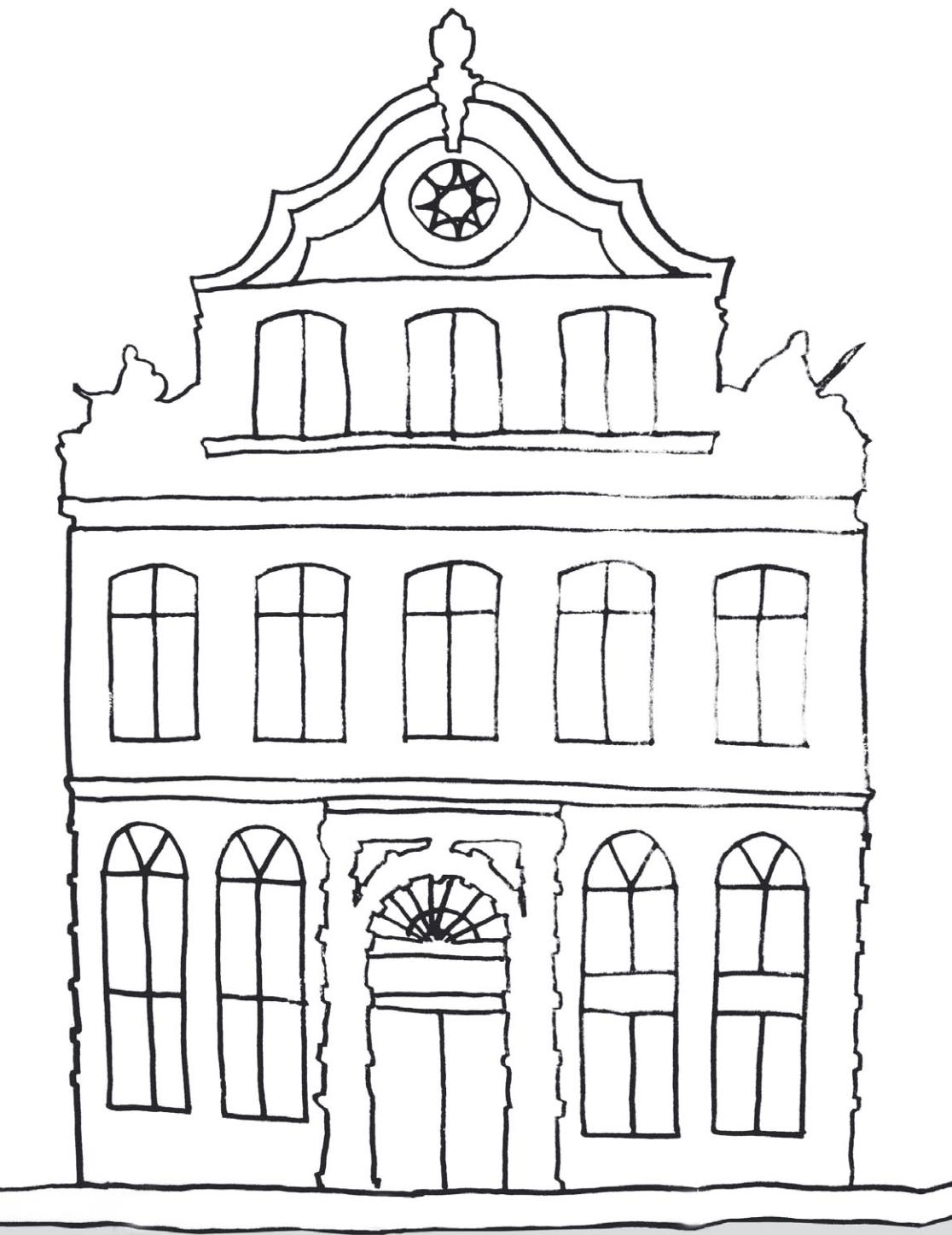


A house telling stories

The Buddenbrookhaus



die LÜBECKER MUSEEN



Welcome to the Buddenbrookhaus!



The Buddenbrookhaus is probably the best known house in Lübeck.

Why is that? A world-famous story is taking place here. **Thomas Mann** wrote it - the novel “**Buddenbrooks**”. Now you already know where the house got its name from. Today, a museum is located inside.

But who was this Thomas Mann? And how did he and his family become so important that they got their own museum? And what role does the house play in the novel?

This booklet and our exhibitions can answer all these questions. On the ground floor, the permanent exhibition “The Manns – a family of authors” is located. There, you can find lots of information about Thomas, his brother Heinrich, and many other members of the large Mann family.

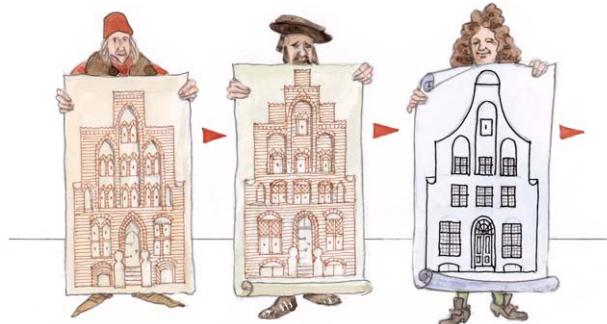
Upstairs, you can visit the permanent exhibition “The ‘Buddenbrooks’ – Novel of the century”. There are two rooms furnished exactly the way they are described in the novel. This means that you are able to step right into the world of the novel.

Have fun!

The museum from the outside



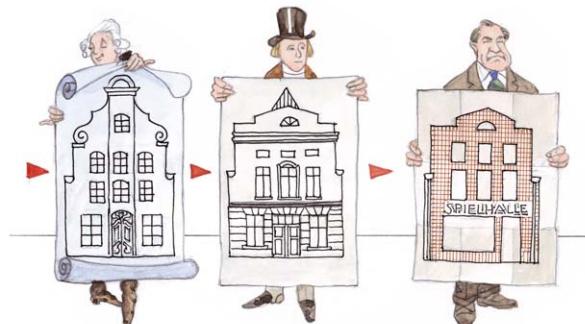
efore you visit the exhibitions, go back outside and look at the house. In the old district of Lübeck, you can find lots of beautiful houses. It's rather easy to find out when those houses were built, because people always preferred a different style in each century.



15th century

16th century

17th century



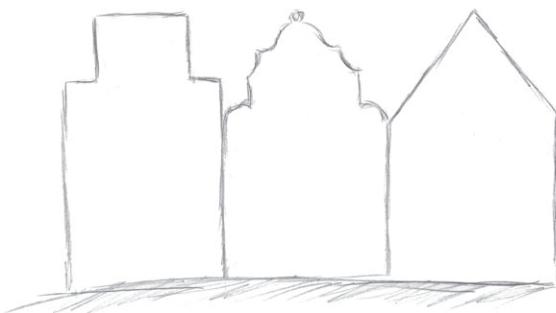
18th century

19th century

20th century

Today, we are living in the 21st century that lasts from year 2000 to the year 2099. The people of the 15th century therefore lived between 1400 and 1499.

Which century do you think the Buddenbrookhaus was built in? And what about the two buildings to the left and to the right of it?



On the roof, you can see two figures. Those figures represent two important things that can't be put into pictures: "time" and "fortune". We call those figures "allegoric figures". There is one famous allegoric figure you surely know: the Statue of Liberty in New York.



Above the main entrance, there's a Latin saying: “**Dominus providebit**”. It translates to “The Lord will provide.” It means that God will always take care of us. In former times, good wishes like this were often written above an entrance.

The face of a building is called a façade. The façade of the Buddenbrookhaus is still as white as it was built by the order of the merchant Johann Michael Croll. This is because the façade has been declared a historic monument and has to be preserved just the way it is.

But you can colour the picture of the façade inside this booklet's cover as much as you like. Maybe you can think of another saying to write above the entrance? What would you like to wish the house and its visitors?

The Mann family

Thomas Mann and his older brother Heinrich Mann lived as children in Lübeck and went here to school as well. The Buddenbrookhaus was the home of their grandparents. During World War II, the house was completely destroyed, and only the façade was left standing. The museum is located in the new building behind it.

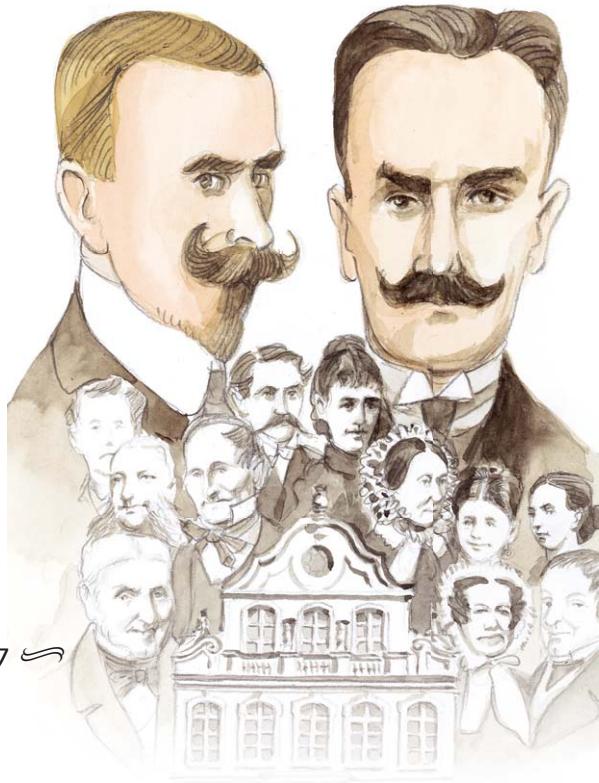
Both Thomas and Heinrich were writers.

Now, enter the exhibition
on the ground floor.

Heinrich Mann

Thomas Mann

Do you recognize Thomas and Heinrich on the big family picture at the entrance? If you look closely, you can find pictures of their parents and grandparents in the display cases on the left.

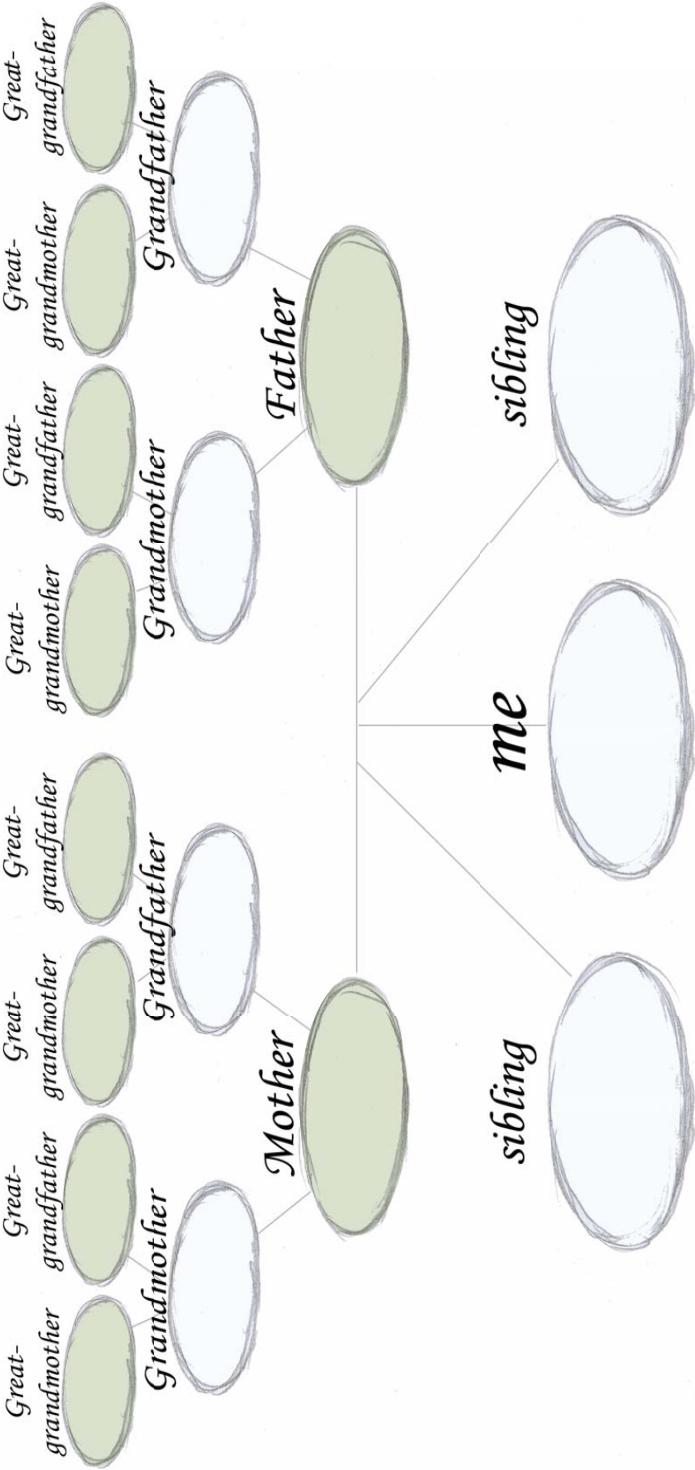


The Manns are a very large family. With the help of the family tree, it is possible to trace the family history very far back. You can find the family tree on the big white banner in the exhibition. Can you find Heinrich and Thomas on it?

But look out! There are a lot of names used twice. In the past, children were often given the first names of their parents and grandparents. Particularly the sons were named after their fathers.

What would your name be if you had been given the first names of your father or your mother on top of your own first name?

Would you like to make your own family tree? Then take a look at the next page.



The Buddenbrooks



lthough the house was named after the Buddenbrook family, this family is not real. Thomas Mann imagined it. But he had a model for every character in his novel. Thomas mostly used members of his own family as models. The world he described in his novel is not real, but it could have been.

Now go upstairs and enter the exhibition about the Buddenbrooks.

Thomas wrote his novel over a hundred years ago. He was still a young man then, but the novel made him famous very quickly. He even got the Nobel Prize in Literature for it later.

Now look for this place
in the exhibition:



Suddenly, people in every part of the world wanted to read the book. Therefore, it has been translated in 40 languages. In which language are the books on the picture? All of the books in the display case are translations of “Buddenbrooks”.

Only the people of Lübeck were not very happy about the novel at first. A lot of esteemed citizens realized they had been used as a model for a character and thought they had been made fun of. In “Buddenbrooks”, there are indeed a lot of strange and funny characters. Thomas described them with a big sense of humour.

Today, the people of Lübeck are very proud of the fact that Thomas Mann let his famous story take place here. The novel was made into a film several times as well.



Can you find this object
in the exhibition?

It is a toy that was used as a prop in the movie. It was made to look exactly like it would have been in the 19th century, when “Buddenbrooks” is taking place.

But what is the novel actually about?

It tells the story of the Buddenbrook family over four generations: the great-grandmother and great-grandfather, the grandmother and grandfather, the mother, father, aunts and uncles, and finally the youngest of the family: Hanno Buddenbrook. The Buddenbrooks are very rich and well-known merchants living in Lübeck. The novel starts as the family has just moved into its new home with the beautiful white façade and the elegant furniture.

The rooms in the museum are built to look like they are described in the novel.
Take a look around!

The family's son, Hanno Buddenbrook, has a hobby. Find this object, and you'll know what it is!



Just stop right in front of it and listen closely. When Hanno isn't playing, something else could be heard here. Do you recognize the sound?

Now find this place:

Why is this object lying around? And what about the white cloth?

The story of the Buddenbrooks starts very happy, but their happiness vanishes bit by bit. There are lots of reasons for this: the Buddenbrooks make bad deals and are deceived by frauds. In the end, the house gets sold – to the Buddenbrooks' biggest rival, no less. The white cloth prevents everything from getting broken or dirty while the family is moving out.

But as long as the novel has many readers, the story is not finished. The Buddenbrook family lives on in the readers' imagination.



*We'd be happy to see you again
soon!*

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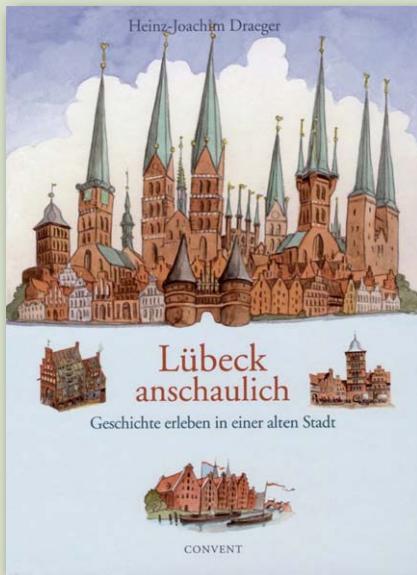
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the drawings.

Do you want to know more about Lübeck and its history? The drawings in this booklet are taken from the book "Lübeck anschaulich" by Heinz-Joachim Dräger. You can learn many more interesting things with it.

The book is available at our store (in German only).



Buddenbrookhaus

Heinrich-und-Thomas-Mann-Zentrum

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