



An Inappropriate Reply to George Frankfurter

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Dear George,

Of course, I very much regret that Adam Smith is no longer honored by his Lang Toun. The reference to Kirkaldy as Smith's birthplace has been substituted to "The Lang Toun Twin Town of Ingolstadt." In many ways, this seems remarkable. Mary Shelley let Frankenstein produce his monster at Ingolstadt. More than two hundred years before the monster was created, the two cousins Ferdinand and Maximillian went to school at Ingolstadt. Ferdinand (of the Habsburg family) became Ferdinand II Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire while Maximillian (of the Wittelsbach family), starting as Duke of Bavaria, made himself Elector and leader of the Catholic party ("Liga") in the Thirty-Year War (1618-1648). Ferdinand and Maximillian were not just cousins but also brothers-in-law as, Maximillian's sister Maria Anna of Bavaria married Ferdinand – who was, of course, also her cousin.

If you think that this could be a problem of (too) close of a relationship you might wonder what came next. Ferdinand and Maria Anna of Bavaria had a daughter Maria Anna of Austria. It is said that she was a beauty, intelligent, and well educated (by the Jesuits). Perhaps it was no surprise that her uncle Maximillian, the brother-in-law and cousin of her father and her mother married her after his first wife died, but still, such intensive family ties were even in those days rather unusual. Their marriage seemed to be harmonious and they had two sons. The elder son is listed as Elector Ferdinand Maria (!) of Bavaria.

This is not a crap artist's history story – you find it textbooks, but you have to read them carefully. Otherwise, you will never realize that Maria Anna of Bavaria is the mother of Maria Anna of Austria – but is she also her aunty. Of course, this has nothing to do with Adam Smith and little with economics – but it has much to do with Ingolstadt and the Thirty-Year

War. This war reduced the population of the Holy Roman Empire by 1/3 and the population of Magdeburg shrank from 35.000 to a mere 450 after the Catholic army entered the city.

Without Ferdinand and Maximilian, we cannot think of a Thirty-Year War – and perhaps it was already at Ingolstadt where they planned the counter-reformation. But this is no reason why Kirkaldy should substitute the reference to Adam Smith by pointing to its twin town Ingolstadt.

Best wishes,
Manfred