

Transcription of the report by Leutnant Laiber, head of the 42nd police district in Berlin to the Berlin City Police Department

Berlin, January 5. 1887

On January 5 (...) at approximately 10 o'clock in the morning the constable Werner 2402, who is stationed in this precinct, came across eight boys of the boy's choir, which has been trained by headmaster Marquardt (retired), domicile Johannestisch 4, that was under the guidance of the pupil Richard Günzel, date of birth October 11, 73, Berlin, domicile at his parents' Großbeerenstrasse 8, as they were singing religious songs in the courtyard of the premises Prinzessinenstrasse 22 and instigated various disturbances.

The boys nudged each other on purpose and some of them laughed out loud during the performance. They also collected coins that inhabitants of the house had thrown on the courtyard. Moreover, the sacred songs were sung in such an unharmonious and incomprehensible fashion that the singing resembled blasphemy and the inhabitants [of the tenement house] expressed their sorrow about such an activity.

According to the statement of Günzel, the boys sang over a period of eight days from door to door on behalf of Marquardt, who was in his apartment, without any legitimation and collected money. Marquardt admitted today the aforementioned facts and stated that a further three boy's choirs led by other persons are singing religious songs from door to door on a daily basis on his behalf. As per day order 14.10.85 Nr. 45 ad. 6, Marquardt was granted a permit to perform religious songs in this area from door to door with the choir led by him. As Marquardt left the guidance of his singers to other persons and the singing resulted in mischief and panhandling, the precinct obediently leaves this issue to the concern of the royal Police department.

Sincerely,

Laiber [???

Police-Lieutenant