

Auszug vom Schmidt Journal in Hans Rigels Chronik (ca. 1634-72)
Stadtbibliothek Nürnberg, Amb 652.2°
(transcription by Joel F. Harrington, English translation by Joel F. Harrington)

Anno Christi 1587th Year

January 5th 1587. Hans Krauss of Burgkunstadt, aka Locksmith John, a church thief. Broke into the church at Emtmannsberg, stole the chalice, and broke open four trunks, stealing the vestments. Also helped ambush and attack people in their houses by night. Captured at Betzenstein and executed with the rope here at Nuremberg.

April 3rd 1587. Utz Kohler from Memmingen, aka Club, a thief, already flogged out of [Nuremberg] once on December 22nd '86; Georg Kohler, aka Farmer's Man; Hans Seger, aka the Eschenbacher; three thieves. Flogged out of town with rods. [Utz] Kohler later strangled.

April 15th 1587. Hans Igl from Baiersdorf; and Laurenz Pfeiffer from Hollfeld; both thieves. Flogged out of town here with rods. Pfeiffer later strangled here on Feb 29th '88.

April 25th 1587. Hensa Albrecht, a [Nuremberg] citizen's child, a tailor and a thief. [Already] guilty of perjury eleven times. With his companions broke into the Lazareth [hospice], also stealing here and there in the city. Executed with the rope here at Nuremberg.

May 4th 1587. Georg Schober from Troschenreuth, aka Little Capon, a thief. Stole four horses and one cow as well as innumerable [pieces of] clothing. Executed with the rope here at Nuremberg.

May 30th 1587. Georg Wolff from Nuremberg, aka the Bamberger, a nailmaker and thief. His father was the municipal nailmaker. Stole money from the purses of people at night, while they slept. Executed with the rope here at Nuremberg.

June 8th 1587. Lienhardt Günther of Langenzenn, aka Tettelweber, an arsonist. Ten years ago, without any cause, burnt down at Fach the farmer Weiss's barn [full] of grain valued at 500 fl. And a year ago, without any cause, burnt down the farm of a farmer of Eckersdorf, called Weiller, together with grain, fodder, as well as all his cows, together worth up to 2,000 fl., which cost [Weiller] 5,000 fl. to rebuild. He then offered him a new contract. On this account out of mercy executed here with the sword and [the body] afterwards burnt.

July 20th 1587. Gertraut Schmidtin of Fach, a peasant girl [and] a heretic, who lived in lewdness for four years with her own father and brother, themselves burnt alive at Langenzenn eight days later. Executed with the sword out of mercy. Botched.

August 22nd 1587. Cunz Wolff from Eschenau, a saddler, who only had one hand; Georg Kolb from Nuremberg, a gardener; two robbers and companions. Robbed a carter near Erlastegen, took 16 fl. from a farmer behind Heroldsberg, and also robbed six female bread carriers, taking money and bread. Also attacked two pedlars, but didn't take anything. Out of mercy both executed here with the sword.

August 29th 1587. Elisabeth Rossnerin from Leibsgrün , a day-laborer and beggar. Strangled and stabbed with a dagger her [female] companion, also a field-worker, in a pea-field at Gebersdorf, taking 4 pounds 9 pfennings from her. Executed here at Nuremberg with the sword out of mercy, because she was a poor creature with a crooked neck.

October 17th 1587. Christoph Schmidt from Nuremberg, aka Cooper Chris, a thief. In 1575 banished from the land for thievery. Recently entered eight [dressing] rooms at the public baths, wearing old clothes, and when he went out put on the best [ones] of other people, leaving his old ones in their place. Otherwise stole much. Executed here at Nuremberg with the rope.

October 27th 1587. Paulus Bayr from Röthenbach, aka Little Blacky; Hensa Werner from Königshofen, aka the Little Franconian; two thieves. Flogged out of Hersbruck with rods. Bayr later strangled here.

December 8th 1587. Martin Mertz from Solberg, who lived at Kalchreuth, a robber and murderer. Committed two murders, two home invasions, and twenty-three robberies. Also stole a great deal besides. While intending to climb into Pyrbaum castle, he carried his arm in a sling, and begged in front of the castle while he cased it. When he was suspected and [the arm] was viewed by a barber, [he saw] that there was nothing wrong with it. On that account executed with the wheel at Pyrbaum.