



CHRONIK LEPRINXOL®

1868
2018



**The company Leprince & Siveke was founded in Herford in 1868.
Messrs. Clement Leprince and Wilhelm Siveke founded a factory
for engine grease and machine oils and developed the brand "Leprinxol".
Greases and machine oils have been sold under this brand since 1868.**

**The 150 years which have elapsed since then form the
subject-matter of the chronology below.
To begin with, the founders, their families and family relationships are
presented and, following this, there is an outline of technical,
economic and chronological aspects of the company.**

Siveke

The Siveke family of merchants was resident in Herford as early as in the seventeenth century. Otto Albrecht Siveke (1765-1801), a merchant at the Lübbertor and a church provisor (municipal financial administrator) in Herford's New Town, entered 1764 into marriage with Christina Wilhelmina Scheffer (1737-1790). After her death, he married Maria Louisa Hoof (1766-1807) in 1792. She came from Hillentrup and was a daughter of the reeve in the administrative office of Sternberg in the county of Lippe-Detmold. Following the death of her husband, she married again in Herford in 1801. Her second husband was Johann Henrich Petermann¹. He was a merchant and also widowed. He came from the Osterwede farming community near Versmold.



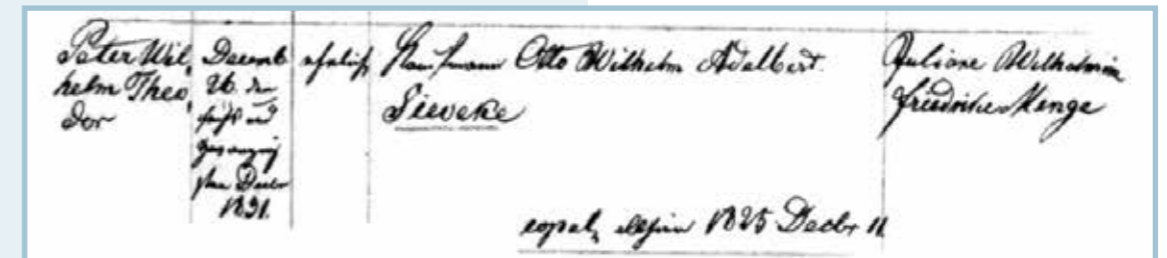
Wilhelm Siveke

Otto Wilhelm Adalbert Siveke (1794-1852), who will hereinafter be referred to as Wilhelm Siveke I, was an offspring of the Siveke-Hoof union. In the years from 1813 and 1815, he fought in the Wars of Liberation as a volunteer in the Infantry Corps of the Minden-Ravensberg Territorial Army Regiment (2nd Westphalian Regiment) [1]. After his military service, he also became a merchant and initially married Juliane Malwine Menge (1798-1825) in 1823. She was the daughter of merchant, mill owner and treasurer Johann Hermann Gottlieb Menge (1768-1844), who had married his first wife, Helena Friederica Schwartze (1765-1822), in Enger in 1796 and later married Friederike Louise Siveke (1777-1844) in 1822 after his first wife's death. Friederike Louise was a daughter of merchant Bernhard Henrich Siveke and the widow of miller Albert Henrich Kaiser (1774-1822), whom she had wed in 1799. Kaiser had also been the church provisor of the Herford Minster.

Still in the year of the death of his first wife, Wilhelm Siveke I entered into a second marriage with his sister-in-law Juliane Wilhelmine Friederike Menge (1801-1864). On his death² in 1852, he left behind ten children, of whom five were still minors. Their uncle Friedrich Wilhelm Loheyde, born in 1802, was appointed as their guardian. Loheyde came from Enger, was a merchant in Herford's New Town and as from 1840 married to his second wife, Alwine Christiane Emilia Menge, who was the same age as him.

¹ A merchant with the name of Petermann was elected as a representative of the municipalities of Herford and Vlotho in the Westfälischer Provinzial-Landtag (Westphalian Provincial Parliament).

Birth certificate of Wilhelm Siveke



² The tomb of the Siveke spouses still exists on the historical cemetery at the Eisgraben in Herford.



³ *Martha Siveke married Eberhard Michelly (1868–1952) from Posen in 1899. At this time, he was a First Lieutenant in the Artillery. When he retired, he had the rank of Colonel.*

⁴ *Hildegard Siveke married the medical doctor Johann Adam Bauereisen (1875–1961) in Herford in 1908. He came from Heilsbronn in Middle Franconia, was the son of a master baker and became a Professor at the University of Magdeburg.*

⁵ *In 1898, Clara Siveke married the medical doctor Gustav Carl Friedrich August David Hermann Menge (1864–1845) from Kreuznach.*



The Villa Siveke in Herford

⁶ *The honorary title of Kommerzienrat (Councillor of Commerce) was bestowed upon important persons in the Deutsche Reich (German Empire) who were active in business, provided that they had shown a concern for the public good. Among other things, Siveke had given a marble bust of the Roman philosopher Cicero to Herford's Friedrichs-Gymnasium (Secondary/university prep school) as a gift [25].*

⁷ *The Spanish flu, which was named after its first outbreak in Europe, claimed numerous lives in the autumn and winter of 1918, particularly among middle-aged people.*

⁸ *Stolp was captured by Russian troops without a struggle on 8 March 1845. The following night, the whole of the town centre was burnt to the ground.*

The names and the years of birth of the children from the two Siveke-Menge unions follow [2]: Henriette Wilhelmine Christiane and Henriette Juliane Emilie (twins, 1826), Louise Mathilde (1828), Hermann Wilhelm (1830), Peter Wilhelm Theodor (1831), Friedrich Louis (1833), Gustav Adalbert (1835), Friederike Louise (1838), Malwine Auguste Pauline (1840) and Elisabeth Adelheid (1847). Friederike Pauline died in 1824, a few weeks after her birth.

The son Wilhelm Siveke II founded the company Leprince & Siveke, a machinery fat and oil factory, in Herford in 1868 with his business partner, Clément Leprince. Leprince was responsible for the technical side of the business, while Siveke took over the commercial side. The brand Leprincol is established and from then on oils and fat products are sold under this name.

Siveke married Clara Henriette Dorothea Klasing (1851-1899), a daughter of book dealer Friedrich Adolph August Klasing (1809-1897) and Auguste Hermine Charlotte Nordsieck (1821-1866), who had been married since 1840, in Bielefeld in 1872. In 1835, Klasing was the co-founder of the publishing company and printing house Velhagen & Klasing, and his wife was the daughter of Bielefeld municipal and, later, district surgeon Friedrich August Nordsieck (1777-1830).

The Siveke-Klasing couple had four children: Auguste Friederike Louise Martha³ (1873 -1953), Auguste Clara Amalie Hildegard⁴ (1874-1949), Clara⁵ Pauline Julie (1877-1968) and August Otto Julius Wilhelm Siveke (1887-1918), short Wilhelm Siveke III [3].

Wilhelm Siveke II was appointed Kommerzienrat⁶ (Councillor of Commerce) and, from 1897, he was a member of the presbytery of Herford's St. Johannis municipality. On his death in January 1916, "brain paralysis" was recorded in the church register as the cause of death. His son Wilhelm Siveke III had meanwhile become the owner of the company and married Otilie Anna Clementine Elisabeth (Else) Müller (born 1892) in Herford in 1912. She came from Eiterfeld, which was at that time in the district of Hünfeld in East Hesse, and she was the daughter of pharmacist Gotthard Müller and Otilie Flemming.

At the outbreak of World War I in 1914, Wilhelm Siveke III was a Vice Sergeant in the regiment of the 8th Hussars. In September, he was promoted to Lieutenant in the Reserve Corps. It was while he was the holder of this rank that he died in a field hospital in Givet in the north of France in

October 1918, probably as a result of Spanish flu⁷. That is why his widow became the sole heir of the company. In 1920, she married Fritz Emil Ernst Lampe. The latter was born in Stralsund in 1884 as the son of Staff Sergeant Friedrich Johann Heinrich Lampe, who came to Westphalia as a Pharmacy Assistant. Around 1926, the Lampe couple acquired a pharmacy in Stolp (Polish: Stupsk) in Pomerania and took up residence there. In 1945, they committed suicide in view of the advancing Red Army⁸.

Two children were born of the Siveke-Müller union, Wilhelm Gotthard Siveke in 1913 and his sister Ingeborg Otilie in 1918, two months after the death of their father. These were Wilhelm Gotthard Siveke in 1913 and his sister Ingeborg Otilie in 1918. Wilhelm Siveke IV married Margarethe Sepperer in Stolp in 1940 and settled as a medical doctor in Herford after World War II. The next generation continued to be resident in Herford [3].



Board with fallen soldiers during the 1st World War





Dr. Wilhelm Normann

Normann

Dr. Wilhelm Normann (1870-1939), a nephew of company founder Siveke, became the most famous representative of the company. His mother, Friederike Louise Siveke (1838-1932), married Carl Friedrich Julius Normann (1840 -1923) in Herford in 1869. Normann, a son of Berlin merchant Carl Friedrich Normann and Wilhelmine Auguste Wend-scher, came to Petershagen an der Weser to become head teacher of the local primary school.

Carl Peter Wilhelm Normann was born in Petershagen on 16 January 1870. Among his godparents was also Wilhelm Siveke II, a brother of his mother. His sister Clara Wilhelmine Charlotte Luise was born in 1872. In the same year, the family moved to Herford, as the father Norman accepted a position as a merchant in the company of his brother-in-law Gustav Siveke⁹. His son Wilhelm started to attend school there in 1877. In 1880, the family moved to Kreuznach, as Normann Sr. had obtained a position there as a middle school teacher.

Julius Normann spent his retirement in Herford and became involved with the local history society there. Among other things, he compiled a chronology of the town in 1910 [4].

In 1888, Wilhelm Normann left the Kreuznach Secondary School without completing his Abitur (A-Level examinations) and entered the company Leprince & Siveke. Although he was entrusted with the management of the branch in the free port of Hamburg, the young man did not feel as though the position was sufficiently challenging. Therefore, he decided to commence chemistry studies in the Fresenius Laboratory¹⁰ in Wiesbaden in 1890. After having continued his studies in Berlin, Normann gained a doctorate from the University of Freiburg im Breisgau in 1900. The title of his dissertation was Beiträge zur Kenntnis der Reaktion zwischen unterschlorigsuren Salzen und primären aromatischen Aminen (Contributions to the knowledge of the reaction between hypochlorous acid salts and primary aromatic amines).

With this qualification, he returned to Leprince & Siveke and took over the leadership of the laboratory in Herford. **In 1901, Normann made the groundbreaking discovery of the process of fat hardening.** With this method, liquid oils could, by the addition of hydrogen with the use of a nickel catalyst, be converted into neutral tasting and more utilisable fats. In this way, it was even possible to produce margarine from train oil of the whale which was an extremely cheap raw material.

Margarine had itself been discovered in France as early as in 1869¹¹, but only Normann's discovery paved the way for its emergence as a popular foodstuff [5].

A patent application was prepared in utmost secrecy. On 14 August 1902, the application resulted in the granting of the German Reichspatent number 141.029 with the title Verfahren zur Umwandlung ungesättigter Fettsäuren oder deren Glyceride in gesättigte Verbindungen (Process for Converting Unsaturated Fatty Acids or their Glycerides into Saturated Compounds).

After conducting practical experiments in Herford, the identical British patent number 1515 with the title "Process for Converting Unsaturated Fatty Acids or their Glycerides into Saturated Compounds" was granted on 21 January 1903. As a result, the English company Joseph Crosfield & Sons Ltd¹² became aware of Normann and initially purchased the rights to the British patent. As recognition and support was lacking in Germany, Normann decided to leave Leprince & Siveke in 1909 and to go to Crosfield. A year later, this company also acquired the rights to use the German patent.

From 1911 to 1922, Normann was the Technical and Scientific Manager on the development of Öl-werke Germania GmbH (Germania Oilworks Ltd) in Emmerich. This was a company which belonged to the Dutch Jurgens Group¹³, which had taken over the rights to exploit the fat hardening patent in Germany and which finally contributed a third to the German margarine production.

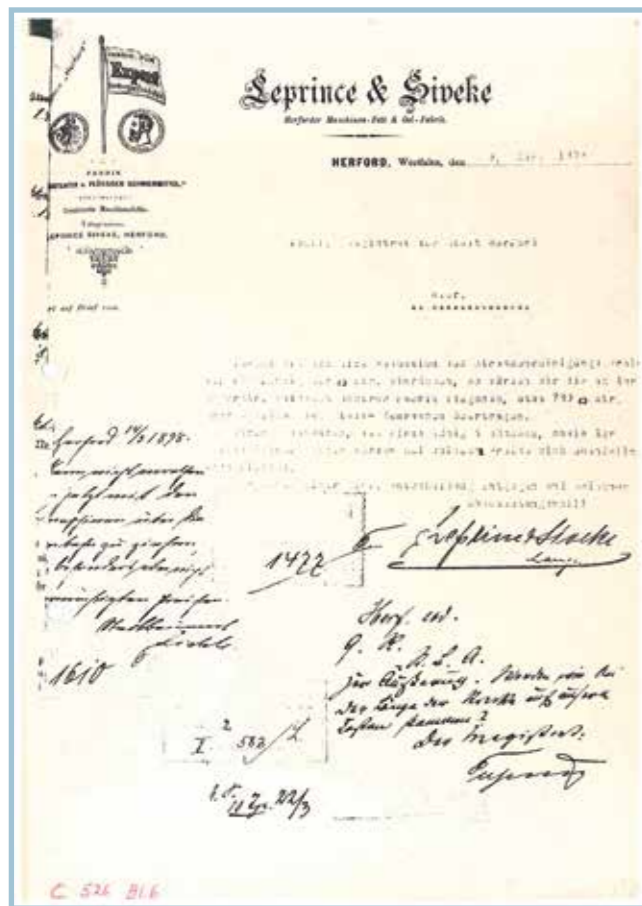
On 12 September 1916, Normann married Martha Auguste Marie Luise Uflerbäumer (1893-1980). She was a daughter of underwear manufacturer Henrich August Uflerbäumer (1863-1940) and Auguste Friederike Dorothea Bokelmann (1864-1939), and, for a while, she worked as a secretary at the Ölwerke Germania (Oil Works). The name of their only son was Wilhelm Erhard Otto Friedrich Julius Normann (1926-2011) [6].

After a further interlude at Leprince & Siveke, the family moved to Antwerp in 1927, as Normann was the Technical Manager on the construction of a fat hardening plant for a margarine factory there for two years. From 1929 to 1938, he worked as a chemist at H. Th.

Böhme AG¹⁴ in Chemnitz. It was there that the first fully synthetic mild detergent, Fewa, was developed in 1932. In 1934, the name of the company was changed to Böhme Fettchemie GmbH as a result of the takeover of the company by Henkel & Cie in Düsseldorf.

At the start of 1939, Normann retired. He was made an honorary member of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Fettforschung (German Society of Research into Fats). Shortly before his death, he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Münster. He died in Chemnitz on 1 May 1939.

In 1940, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Fettwissenschaft (German Society for Fat Science) created a medal in memory of Normann. Since that time, the medal has been awarded to deserving researchers and sponsors. In Herford and Emmerich, streets were named after Normann and, since 1972, a Herford vocational school, now the technical college, has borne his name. It offers courses in construction, wood technology, nutrition, paint technology and interior design as well as agriculture.



Letterhead from 1898

⁹ Gustav Siveke married Marie Johanne Louise Steffen, born in 1844, the daughter of a soap manufacturer, in 1867.

¹⁰ The chemistry laboratory named after him was founded by Carl Remigius Fresenius (1818-1897) in 1848.

¹¹ Hippolyte Mège-Mouriès (1817-1880) is regarded as the founder of margarine. The aim had been to find a cheap and durable butter substitute for the French Army. He sold his patent to the Dutch company Jurgens in 1871.

¹² Joseph Crosfield (1792-1844) founded a soap factory in Warrington (between Liverpool and Manchester) in 1815.

¹³ The Dutch butter dealer Anton Jurgens (1805-1880) started to produce margarine in 1871.

Under the management of his grandson Anton Johann Jurgens (1867-1945), the company became the Unilever organisation in 1930 together with British partners.

¹⁴ Hermann Theodor Böhme (1850-1908) started a business selling drugstore products, paints and chemical products in Chemnitz in 1881.





Clement Leprince

Leprince

In Liège, the name Leprince (Le prince) is found as far back as the sixteenth century. The engineer Louis Clément Leprince was born in Liège on 29 August 1815 [7]. His father, François Dieudonné Leprince, was an innkeeper and a hotelier and presumably born in Aywaille at the foot of the Ardennes in 1768. His mother, Jeanne Catherine Lambertine Vanasten (1788-1859), was the daughter of a farmer from Sittard in the Dutch province of Limburg. The family lived in Rue Puits-en-Sock 29. No more is known about son François Dieudonné Joseph Leprince, who was born in 1812. François Dieudonné Leprince (1814-1866) became an entrepreneur and died unmarried in Liège. A sister called Sophie Marguerite Leprince (1825-1897) also remained unmarried.

Henri Edmond Leprince (1819-1867), a younger brother of the engineer, also became an entrepreneur. In 1865, he, together with his company Henri Leprince Appareils à Gaz (Henri Leprince Gas Appliances), ranked among the most highly regarded merchants in Liège [8]. In the same year, he married Maria Magdalene Josepha Ernestine Sinzig¹⁵ (1839-1868). She was a daughter of Düsseldorf master coppersmith and brass welder Johann Adam Franz Sinzig (1798-1848) and Augustine Ernestine Peters (who was born the daughter of a master cobbler in 1799) the two having been married since 1828. By 1885, both Henri

Leprince and his wife had died, which was when their joint daughter, Françoise Augustine Ernestine Leprince, who was born in 1866, married François Henrotte in Liège. The bridegroom, who was born in 1860, was stationed in Liège as a Second Lieutenant at the time.

Clément Leprince first became a pioneer in the field of gas lighting¹⁶. He improved the method of coal-based gas production¹⁷ and played an important role in the construction of gasworks and public lighting systems. The "Leprince system" was initially used in the middle of the nineteenth century in Liège¹⁸ and Verviers¹⁹ to provide lighting for factories and in Dutch Maastricht to provide street lighting [9].

The contract between the Leprince brothers and the town of Maastricht was concluded in February 1857 [10] [11].

Clément was the technician, while Henri assumed responsibility for the commercial and administrative duties. The latter also included the protection of intellectual property. Thus, Henri Leprince was granted Belgian patent number 273 in 1844. This protected the invention of an appliance which could be used to obtain gas from coal, tar and similar substances with cover for ten years. In 1847, there was a patent dispute which was brought before the courts, as Alphonse Bodart²⁰ was of the view that the lighting system installed in Verviers violated his patent which had already

been registered in 1841. The court had an expert assessment carried out and it was established that Bodart's patent was obsolete, as a similar method for the production of a gas for lighting had already been made public in 1839 in Paris. As a result, the action was dismissed in 1852 [12].

In 1857, Belgian patent number 3944 with the title "Un procédé de réunion de matières pour la production de gaz d'éclairage" (A method for combining materials for the production of a gas for lighting) followed for Leprince. As early as in 1846, Leprince was granted a patent with the title "Système de fabrication de gaz hydrogène carbure" (System for the production of hydrogen carbide gas), which was concerned with the production of hydrocarbon gas. In 1855 and 1857, there followed French patents for gas appliances and, in 1861, there was another patent for gas burners. In 1855, an authorised representative submitted British patent 1423 (Apparatus for the manufacture of gas) in Henri Leprince's name.

As early as in 1846, gas engineer Leprince was to be found in the address book for Düsseldorf. In 1841, Johann Franz Sinzig was granted a concession which allowed him to operate a brass foundry with an adjoining gas factory in the part of the town known as Pempelfort. In 1845, Sinzig was awarded a patent for a retort for gas production as well as a washing and purification apparatus for gas within the area of application of the Prussian State and for a period of eight years. The purified gas had a higher luminosity. Prior to the introduction of underground pipes, the gas was transported in metal cylinders and in specially treated leather containers. In 1846, the city of Düsseldorf concluded a contract for a term of twenty years with Sinzig for the operation of 200 to 300 street lamps as well as the lighting of public buildings and the supply of lighting to private households. In September 1848, the first gas lamps were lit in Düsseldorf.

¹⁸ Leprince provided the Cockerill Works at Seraing near Liège with lighting. In 1817, the English brothers John Cockerill (1790-1840) and James Cockerill (1787-1837) founded a company which included steel works and rolling mills as well as a machine works.

¹⁹ In Verviers, there was a cloth factory whose origins can be traced back to Jean François Biolley (1755-1822).

²⁰ Auguste Florent Alphonse Bodart (1806-1881) was an inventor, industrialist and mayor. He built several gasworks in Belgium.

As it is thought not to have been possible for Sinzig to have acquired the know-how to produce gas for lighting himself, it is assumed that Clément Leprince assisted, in the background, the father-in-law of his brother Henri [8].

From Düsseldorf, Leprince could also realise gas lighting projects in other German towns. Thus, gasworks constructed by Leprince entered into operation in Brunswick in December 1852. The works were initially operated by an Aktiengesellschaft (~ a public limited company) and were later taken over by the city authorities.

Compared with his competitors, the higher luminosity of Leprince's gas and his smaller and thus more cost-effective gasometers were convincing. A chemical analysis of Leprince's gas which was performed in 1858 showed the presence of not only around 67% hydrocarbon and 25% hydrogen, but also small proportions of carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide as well as traces of nitrogen [10].

¹⁷ The Italian Felice Fontana (1730-1805)

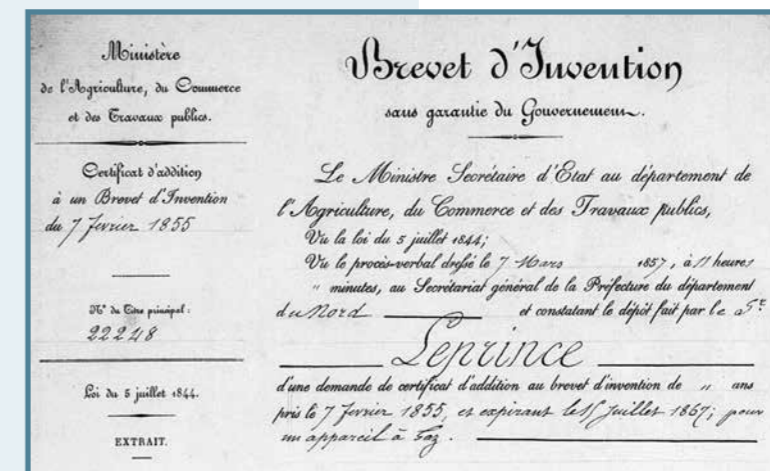
discovered the decomposition of steam by glowing coal in carbon monoxide and hydrogen in 1780.

However, pure hydrogen does not light up when combusted. From 1834, Alexandre François Gilles (1784-1845) known as Selligue produced a gas for lighting in the form of "hydrocarbon gas" or, in short, water gas in Paris and used this to provide street lighting in several French towns [26].

At the same time as Leprince, Stephen White had a process for an enriched gas for lighting patented in Manchester in 1847 [27].

¹⁵ One of the witnesses to the marriage was Guillaume Leprince, the 35-year-old brother of the bridegroom, who was a man of private means and resident in Beyne-Heusay, a municipality in the province of Liège.

¹⁶ In Continental Europe, Vienna was from 1818 the first town in which coal gas was used to provide street lighting [13].



French patent for gas appliances



²¹ Boghead and Lesmahagow coal are specific types of bituminous coal. In both cases, the names were derived from extraction sites in Scotland.

Leprince appeared in the Bremen address book for the first time in 1854. In September of this year, his gas factory there entered into operation. Although such a proposition had already been considered as early as in 1824, the decision to introduce gas lighting in Bremen, which was to include 2,100 "street flames" and 50,000 "private flames", was only taken in 1852. At this time, the city had around 80,000 inhabitants. The need for gas quickly exceeded expectations and an application for a third gasometer was submitted as early as in 1854. In the first ten years, the annual amount of gas quadrupled and after the second decade it had increased tenfold [13]. For the production of gas for lighting, stone coal from England was used until 1860 and then there was a change to Westphalian coal. According to Leprince's method, resin and boghead or Lesmahagow coal²¹ was added [14].

Gas lantern lighting
the streets around 1850



The municipal authorities of the city of Göttingen had considered introducing street lighting in as early as 1835. However, it was only in 1858 that the offers of several competitors, including Leprince, were subjected to an expert assessment. By way of a comparison, the actual conditions which existed in downtown Hanover at that time were 535 "street flames" and 8,000 "private flames". In Hanover, there had been a gasworks ever since 1826. Although Leprince had been afforded good opportunities in the meantime, he finally did not stand a chance in Göttingen, as the city had brought its own gasworks into operation in 1861 [15].

In 1856, Leprince offered his services to the city of Neuss, but was also unsuccessful there. As coverage of the market for gas lighting became noticeable, Leprince started to look for a new field of activity at this time. He found this in lubricant oils and fats, which were increasingly being required for machinery from the middle of the nineteenth century. Lastly and just as importantly, the railway was also a particular driving force.

On 11 August 1853, the wedding of Clément Leprince and Anna Francisca Hermanns (1830-1898) took place in Cologne. Three daughters were born of this union, all three being born in Bremen: Anna Maria Josephine Wilhelmine (1854), Elisabeth Clementine (1857) and Marie Clementine Leprince (1863). The middle daughter was married in an Evangelical church in Herford in August 1882. The bridegroom was called Gottlieb Malchus Kranold. He was born in Osnabrück as the son of pastor and consistorial councillor Johann Gottlieb Kuno Kranold (1813-1872) and Marie Julie Apollonie Dorothee Malchus (born 1820), the daughter of a senior tax official who had married her husband in Hanover in 1846. Kranold was an architect and a civil engineer and he later became a government building officer and a land building inspector in Siegen.

The two others married in 1884, again in Herford. Marie Clémentine married Carl Hermann Menge in the Evangelical Herford Minster in June. Born in 1855, he was the son of lawyer Hermann Eduard Menge (1814-1859), who married the merchant's daughter Agnes Luise Friederike Budde (1822-1891) in 1844 in Herford, when he was a senior assistant judge. His parents were Johann Hermann Gottlieb Menge and Helena Friederika Schwarze. As a result, the Leprince and Siveke families were also related.

Daughter Anna was married in a Catholic church in October. Her husband's name was Josef Wilhelm Hubert Schmitz and he was the city architect and, later, the district architect in Cologne-Deutz. It was there that their son Walter Clemens Gustav was born in 1885.

Clément Leprince died in Herford on 25 November 1890. Three days later, he was buried in the cemetery of the Catholic community of St. John the Baptist. His wife survived him by eight years.



Tomb of the Clément Leprince

The Leprince & Siveke family business

The start of the business year of the Leprince & Siveke company, which was founded in 1868, was established as being 1 July. The company was given the name Herforder Maschinenfett- und Oel-Fabrik Leprince & Siveke (Herford Machine Fat and Oil Factory Leprince & Siveke).

Initially, Leprince was a manufacturer in Bremen, while Siveke represented the business in Herford. In an article with the title A new lubricant which appeared in 1869, Leprince introduced his new product in his capacity as a "mechanical engineer". The product was obtained from a Norwegian bituminous coal which was blended with other substances [16].

As early as in the first years of its existence, the company expanded its product portfolio. In 1870, sales partners for a new type of sewing machine oil [17] were sought in a newspaper advertisement. In an advertisement which appeared in 1873, not only machine lubricants but also a fat for car axles were offered and letters of recommendation which had been received were also printed with this, including one from the management of the regional postal administration in Frankfurt/Oder [18].

Immediately underneath this advertisement, there was another one in which Wilhelm Siveke extolled the virtues of coke ovens for greenhouses.

This new branch of the business was presented in detail in a brochure entitled Neuer Füllöfen für Coaks & Piesberger- (Anthracit) Kohle (New Filling Oven for Coke & Piesberg Anthracite Coal), which appeared around 1875²². The ovens were available in designs A, B, C and D, with C being recommended for the heating of churches. Two to four ovens were to be used, regardless of the church size. There was also an additional text under the title "Heating of churches". Worth noting are the appended letters of recommendation from the church communities in Barmen²³, Langerfeld, Ruhrort and Rosbach an der Sieg as well as the garrison community in Kassel. In 1875, the management of the Cologne-Minden Railway Company also contributed a recommendation which stated that the filling ovens of Leprince & Siveke had proven to be very suitable for the heating of railway stations.

In 1880, the company appeared at the Düsseldorf Trade Exhibition as exhibitor number 1026 with "liquid and consistent machine and automobile fats" [19]. In 1884, Leprince & Siveke installed the first gas engine²⁴ in Herford [20].

On 17 February 1887, Leprince & Siveke were granted German Reichspatent number 40.724. Under the title

²² *The process for producing the higher-grade fuel coke (old spelling "coaks") from stone coal was developed in the early eighteenth century in England. Piesberg anthracite coal came from the mine with the same name in Osnabrück, which was in operation from the fifteenth century to 1898. Anthracite or bright coal is distinguished by its high energy content and its low-residue combustion.*

²³ *The Friedenskirche (Peace Church) in Barmen, which was consecrated in 1871, offered seats for 1,200 people.*

²⁴ *Gas engines were widely used in industry after a patent was granted to Étienne Lenoir (1822 – 1900) from Luxembourg in 1860.*

²⁵ *Von Hohorst was the son of a merchant from Halle an der Saale. He gained his doctorate in chemistry from the University of Marburg in 1907. In 1910, he was the co-author of a laboratory book for the inorganic chemistry industry.*

²⁶ *This was Else Lampe (née Müller), a Siveke widow.*

"Coke filling oven", a design characterised by a vertical, double-walled cylinder was described. Inside this, there was a filling pipe perforated with holes which was to be filled with coke in order to supply the combustion chamber underneath. The air-filled space between the internal and the external walls served as a warming room and for the extraction of smoke gas. As described in the previously mentioned brochure, it was also possible to obtain the external tin column in a decorated form for an additional charge.

At the start of the twentieth century, a new chapter in the company's history started as a result of the Wilhelm Normann's previously described invention of a process for the hardening of fat. Like the majority of German industry, however, the owner of the company, Wilhelm Siveke II, was sceptical and, although the first oil hardening plant was brought into operation in Herford in 1908, his nephew left the company the following year.

According to information presented to the Chamber of Commerce in Bielefeld in January 1922, "Siveke heirs" were owners of the company and the management lay in the hands of Dr. Carl Julius Conrad von Hohorst (born in 1883)²⁵. At this time, the staff consisted of two male salaried employees and one female salaried employee as well as six workers. Apart from the headquarters in Engerstraße in Herford, there has also been a branch in Kleine Grasbrook in the free port of Hamburg since 1888. It was differentiated between two areas of business. Department A produced technical oils and fats, while Department B produced insulation materials for electrical installations, these also being exported to Holland, Sweden



German Reich Patent for the "coke filling furnace"

and Switzerland. As raw materials, oils, pitch and resins were mainly imported from America, although some came from Galicia. The company was a member of the Arbeitgeberverband Herford (Employers' Association in Herford) as well as the Verband Deutscher Oel-Großhändler und Fabrikanten e. V. (Association of German Oil Wholesalers and Manufacturers) [21].

An evaluation of the existing business was undertaken by the Chamber of Commerce in Bielefeld in 1922 for the planned conversion into a public limited company [22]. The background to this was the question of what proportion the basic capital of the general partnership previously owned by the "Lampe wife"²⁶ should have in the new company.

A Herford expert estimated the value of the real estate of the company's headquarters to be about 2.4 million marks. Added to this were 1.4 million marks for the factory installations as well as the office and laboratory fittings. However, amounts were also deducted for the age of the assets. Apart from a fifteen-year-old steam machine, for example, only clearly older machines were present. As the premises in the port of Hamburg were only leased, the value of the land was not taken into account. The buildings standing on the land dated from 1888 and this is why they were assessed as of low value. The machinery and equipment in Hamburg were estimated as having a value of around 0.5 million marks. To summarise, the experts came to the conclusion that the company which was being contributed was worth a total of 2.5 million marks.



1875 published folder titled "New Filling Furnace for Coaks & Piesberger (Anthracite) coal".

On 1 August 1922, the business was converted into a public limited company with the name "Leprince & Siveke A.G.". There were seven founder members, including the Geheimer Justizrat (Privy Councillor of Justice) Hyacinth Clemens from Cologne as well as the banks Johann Peter Clemens in Koblenz²⁷ and Rautenstrauch & Clemens in Trier.

Factory manager Franz Daeschner in Köln-Braunsfeld and merchant Kurt Daeschner were among the founders. Mention should also be made of retired Cavalry Captain Count Friedrich Christian von Plettenberg (1882-1972) in Bretzenheim. Von Plettenberg had served as an officer during World War I and then become a well-known wine grower at the Nahe (river). Among other things, he was a member of the management board of the Deutsche Weinbauverband (German Association of Viticulture).

5,000 shares worth 1,000 marks each were issued, with a half being owned by Mrs. Lampe, that is to say by the heirs of the Siveke family. The returning Dr. Wilhelm Normann and Kurt Robert Carl Daeschner (1892-1955) formed the management board in their capacity as directors. The merchant Daeschner was born in Antwerp. Prior to joining Leprince & Siveke, he had been Managing Director of the Stahlbearbeitungs-Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung (Steel Processing Limited Liability Company) in Cologne. His father, Franz Ludwig Christian Daeschner (1866-1938), came from an old Karlsruhe burgher and merchant family. The son was married to Wilma Marie Agnes Bode (1894-1978) from Altenbruch near Cuxhaven. The couple had two children who were born in 1923 and 1925.

The first year of business of the new public limited company was successful. A net profit of around 3.7 million marks was generated and it was then decided to increase the capital to 30 million marks, of which the previous shareholders took over a sixth, while the remaining 20 million marks were left to a banking group to be used in the best way possible [23].

In 1924, however, everything looked completely different and the company had to be temporarily placed under supervised management in order to avoid bankruptcy. In this year, there was a change to gold marks²⁸. As the individual share was assessed as being worth one Reichsmark, the value of the total capital fell to 30,000 marks. As a result of this confusion, Dr. Normann and Daeschner ceased to be directors and Dr. Franz Piekenbrock²⁹ became the sole member of the management board.

On 22 June 1924, however, a further Reichspatent (no. 438754) was issued in favour of Leprince & Siveke. It had the title Verfahren zum Reinigen von Kohlenwasserstoffen (Method for purifying hydrocarbons) and was intended to be used for the purification of mineral oils or lignite coal oils. The introduced method was essentially characterised by the use of small quantities of purifying substances ("fuller's earth"³⁰) and so the emergence of an undesirable muddy consistency could be avoided.

In March 1925, the ordinary capital was increased to 100,000 Reichsmark. At the General Meeting in June, however, the share capital had to be reduced to 75,000 Reichsmark as a result of losses. At the same time, the Hamburg branch was closed.

In around 1926, the successors of the founding Siveke family gave up their shares and probably used the proceeds to purchase a pharmacy in Stolp.

In August 1929, Bielefeld merchant Friedrich Remmert (1899-1960) replaced Dr. Piekenbrock as the sole member of the management board of the public limited company. In October 1931, Wilhelm Meyer, a merchant in Herford, was granted "Prokura" (full power to act and sign on behalf of the company).

Against a background of carrying forward further losses, the General Meeting decided to reduce the share capital to 60,000 Reichsmark in 1933. On 1 October 1936, the public limited company was again converted into a general partnership. Friedrich Remmert and Wilhelm Meyer were now the owners of the business. After the departure of Meyer, the merchant Helmut Remmert, an adopted son of Friedrich Remmert who was born in 1940, took Meyer's place.

In 1974, the business was converted into a limited partnership. In April 1986, Helmut Remmert ceased to be a partner and became a limited partner. The owner of Leprince & Siveke GmbH & Co. was from that time on Remmert Verwaltungs- und Beteiligungsgesellschaft (Remmert management and holding company) in Herford.



Briefkopf aus dem Jahr 1930

²⁷ The bank Johann Peter Clemens was founded in Koblenz as early as in 1810 and existed until 1931.

²⁸ In the postwar period, the inflation which was seen in the German Reich during World War I reached huge proportions. On 15 November 1923, the Rentenmark [named after the German Rentenbank] was first introduced in a ratio of a 1:1,000,000,000,000. One year later, there was a change to the Reichsmark backed by gold.

²⁹ The chemist Franz Piekenbrock from Herford was granted a German patent for special containers to transport paints containing solvents in 1929.

In 1950, a process for the production of soil improvers was patented and, in 1951, a patent was granted for a process for the production of roofing and insulating cardboard soaked in stone coal tar or bitumen.

³⁰ By fuller's earth is meant expandable minerals which are used to refine oil and clean other liquids.

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THE LEPRINXOL GMBH TODAY

In 1999, Helmut Remmert retired completely and Emil Finke GmbH & Co. KG³¹, Bremen, took over his limited partner's capital contribution. As from then, Axel Kaste was responsible for the acquisition as well as the managers. Reorganisations in and changes to the Finke Group in 2000 resulted in the termination of the company in Herford [24]. The Herford site was completely relinquished. At the end of 2001, Axel Kaste left the Finke Group.

Leprinxol was a partner of Unil Deutschland GmbH for many years, and it sold its shares to the company Scharr KG in Stuttgart.

On 23/05/2002³², Axel Kaste and his wife, Nikola Kaste, founded Leprinxol GmbH in Bremen, and the Leprinxol brand was revived again with new business. Initially, there were regional sales of car and industrial lubricants. In 2002, the Leprinxol brand was also registered with the German Marken- u. Patentamt (Patent and Trade Mark Office) and it now has international registration.



Dealer advertising abroad

³¹ Emil Finke (1858-1911) founded a trading company for lubricants in Bremen in 1884 together with a partner.

This company gave rise to the present-day Finke Mineralölwerk GmbH.

³² The name of the founder "Leprince" and the main product "oil" gave rise to the brand name "Leprinxol", which was registered with the Deutsches Patent- und Markenamt (German Patent and Trade Mark Office) on 23 September 2002.



Storage area of Leprinxol GmbH





Sales areas of Leprinxol GmbH
Picture middle left:
Martin Wright, Managing Director Petro Canada
Axel Kaste, Managing Director Leprinxol
"Crystal Drum Award"
Tank storage of Leprinxol GmbH



Filling of Leprinxol Synth Premium 5W-30

In 2003, the first export business could be concluded with the Lebanon. Today, Leprinxol lubricants are sold throughout the world. Inter alia, partners are in Taiwan, Korea, Lebanon, South Africa, Venezuela, Russia, Austria, Denmark, Sweden, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, and many more countries.



As of 01/10/2004, a dealer agreement was concluded between Petro-Canada Europe Lubricants B.V., represented by its Managing Director Mr. Martin Wright, and Leprinxol GmbH, represented by its Managing Director Axel Kaste. This was the start of a very valuable partnership which oversaw much successful business.



As a result, the product portfolio was extended by premium products of a global brand which has its own base oils, refineries and very modern lubricant manufacturing facilities – a milestone. As the best-performing partner of Petro-Canada Europe, Leprinxol obtained the Christal Drum Award in 2014.

In the years which followed, the company invested in its own fuel depot, warehouse and attracted many new customers and dealers. Today, the company has expanded to include new divisions and it is constantly growing. Thus, the export business has expanded and is attracting new customers. Direct marketing has been established in Germany. The wholesale trade with its bulk business, that is to say base liquids and finished products from the Rotterdam fuel depot, has grown steadily.

Quality is the company's top priority.



Leprinxol today produces and sells around 600 different products that meet all the major requirements of industry and commerce.





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