

SCHMIDTING Wilhelm

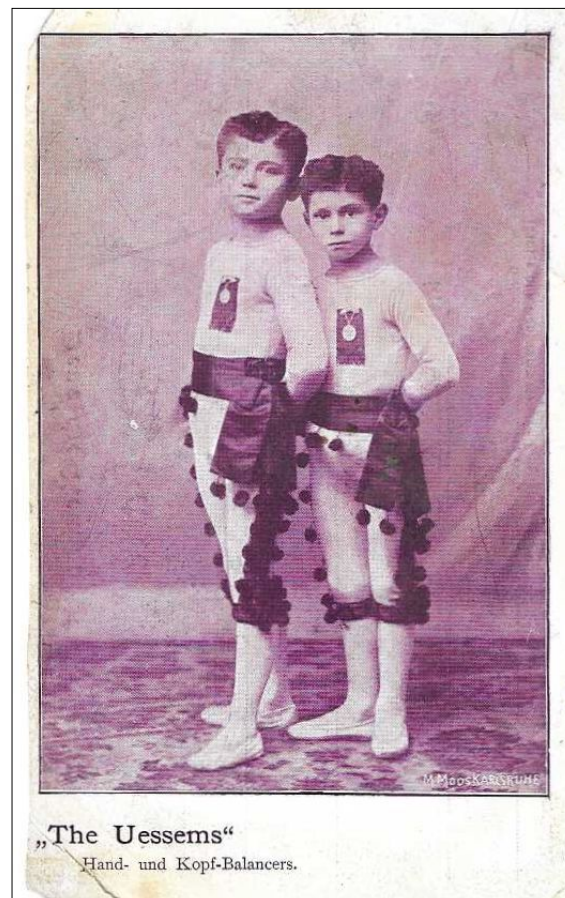
(1866 -)

Köln (DE)

Addendum

Public attention

Around 1900 ¹



1904.²

THE UESSEMS

Some Particulars of Their Career.

After the reports which have come from the south as to the amazing performance of the Uessems - which even the papers who never ladle out praise with anything larger than a salt-spoon have described as the most marvellous turn ever seen on the Vaudeville stage in Australia - the public will naturally be anxious to hear something of the artiste who heads the variety company opening at the Theatre Royal tonight. With the object of getting some information as to their career and their performance, an "Observer" representative waited on Herr Uessem and Fraulein Uessem and the "star" Uessems at their hotel yesterday, being introduced by Mr. Harry Rickards, Brisbane manager.

¹ *Deutsche Reichspost*, Postkarte (undated)

² [Saturday Observer \(Brisbane\)](#), Saturday 6 August 1904, page 7

Herr Uessem, with justifiable pride as the father of two such sons, introduced the boys, and their photos as they will appear in tonight's "Sports Observer" will give some idea of what they are like. The family are Germans, and the talent of the lads has been developed within the last six or seven years, it appears that the elder Uessesms, in the years gone by, were gymnastic performers of considerable fame in their own country. The lads were born in Cologne, and, till seven or eight years ago, were living with their grandmother. Her death made it necessary for the boys to be with their parents, and they were five and six years old respectively when their father allowed them to appear in public with himself and wife. Their knockabout turn was neither arduous nor pretentious, and they did it so well that before long Herr Uessem decided to try what a course of gymnastic training would do for them. "The result," as he says, "far exceeded my expectations. A course of six weeks did wonders for them. They were small - one weighed only 28lb. and the other 38lb. - 4st. 10lb. between them - yet they were strong and wiry, and apparently born gymnasts."

"And their first appearance?"

"They made their first separate appearance in 1900, having been trained as equilibristic acrobats. The "turn" was similar to that which they do now, only of course they have developed wonderfully since. It was at a provincial town in Germany, and they created a furore. As usual with a new turn, agents rushed them, and they were soon travelling everywhere, heading the bill always."

"In their work, are you not afraid of a serious accident?"

"Well, to tell the truth, I would always sooner tackle the ladders myself than see them do it, I cannot stand and watch them without a tremor; but my mind is easy when I remember the perfect confidence each has in each, and though one fall might cripple them for life - well, they have never had an accident of any kind yet. And it means work for me, too; for we play Berlin, London, and Paris every 3 years, and even in the recess there is much work to do."

"You don't work all the year then !"

No; for nine months we are here, there, and everywhere. The remaining three we - at all events we do not appear in public. Those three months are spent at our home in Luxembourg in the preparation of new feats - the public of Paris and London must have new feats."

"And - you will excuse the ambiguous nature of the inference - but do they perform all the feats that the posters shows?"

"Well," with a laugh, "you remind me of the competition for the biggest liar, which was won by the man who said he was a poster artist for a big travelling concern. But honestly they do everything that the poster says, and more. The elder boy has marvellous strength, and can lift his brother easily above his head with one hand. Indeed, he does this in several feats, notably where they shake hands, and the younger brother springs to the hand balance on the elder's hand, and is then lifted at arm's length above his head. Hackenschmidt, the wrestler, in London, said the elder boy, in proportion to his size, was the strongest human being alive. He is only 8lb. heavier than his brother."

In reply to further questions, Herr Uessem said the lads had hardly any exercise at all during the day, their turn at night proving sufficient to keep them in trim. The children are denied nothing; there as no such thing as dieting. They eat and drink what they like, just as every ordinary child does, but in place of tea or coffee they have cocoa. Tea and coffee are not good for people who require healthy nerves.

They come to Brisbane after a short season at Sydney and Melbourne, and Australia direct from the Empire Theatre, London. Their short engagement would only permit of a fortnight for a Brisbane or an Adelaide trip, and Mr. Rickards, anxious that Brisbane theatregoers should have the chance of seeing them, sent them up for a season of eight nights. It is to be hoped that Brisbane theatregoers will avail themselves of the opportunity that Mr. Rickards has provided, otherwise there is nothing else for him to do but keep his big "turns" for the South, where they are sure to draw.

1906 ¹

Remich. Touristenhotel.

Hr. Schmidting, welcher sich vor einigen Jahren eine Villa beim hiesigen Bahnhof von Hrn. I. Greiweldinger angekauft hat, ist seit mehreren Monaten mit dem Umbau derselben beschäftigt. Die ganze Einrichtung entspricht mehr derjenigen eines Hotels (Fremdenzimmer, Speisesaal, Billardzimmer!) als einem Privatgebäude, und die Annahme, daß man es mit einem Touristenhotel zu tun hat, dürfte sehr richtig sein. Die moderne Einrichtung und die prachtvolle Lage (in nächster Nähe des Waldes) dürften dar

¹ Obermosel-Zeitung, 15 May 1906, page 2

Geschäftsvorhaben sehr begünstigen. - Hr. Schmidting und zwei seiner Söhne traten in den letzten Jahren als Akrobaten in Amerika, England und Deutschland mit großem Erfolge auf und soll im nächsten Jahre seine künstlerische Laufbahn mit einer Reise nach Australien beenden.

1909 ²



1910 ³

Die hier ansässige Artistenfamilie Schmidting, die unter dem Namen The Uessesms bekannt und berühmt ist, gastierte am Sonntag zusammen mit dem Zauberkünstler Weier in Diedenhofen in den Reichshallen. Mehr als 60 Personen von hier waren aus diesem Anlass nach dort gereist, denn die Künstlerfamilie ist hier sehr geachtet. Erstaunlich, wirklich im Sinne des Wortes nie dagewesen, waren die frappanten Leistungen der Artisten in Diedenhofen, sowohl die Kraftleistungen wie die Turn-, Balancier- und Jonglierkünste. Schade, dass es nicht möglich ist, diese Künstler, die bereits in Amerika, Australien, England, Russland und anderen Staaten aufgetreten sind, auch einmal bei uns "arbeiten" zu sehen.

1928 ⁴

Les 4 Uessem sont difficiles à cataloguer. Leur travail réunit l'équilibre mains à mains, l'antipodisme, l'équilibre sur échelle verticale, l'équilibre sur la boule. Ils ont très ingénieusement fondu ces diverses spécialités dans un numéro qui reste intéressant de bout en bout. Ils sont quatre. L'un d'entre eux est très petit de taille, le principal porteur est également plus petit que les deux cascadeurs. Ils usent beaucoup de l'équilibre tête à tête à l'aide d'un casque qui emboîte également les têtes du porteur et du cascadeur. Ce léger avantage est compensé par les équilibres très difficiles qu'ils réalisent. C'est dans la position tête à tête qu'ils grimpent et descendent une échelle vacillante, qu'ils exécutent le travail d'antipodisme à la perche horizontale supportant un contrepoinds à une extrémité et un second voltigeur à l'autre bout. Ce numéro est mené avec beaucoup de méthode, de discipline et d'entrain.

² [Printerest](#)

³ *Obermosel-Zeitung*, 15 February 1910, page 2

⁴ *Chantecler artistique et littéraire*, 5 May 1928, page 2

Family tree

