

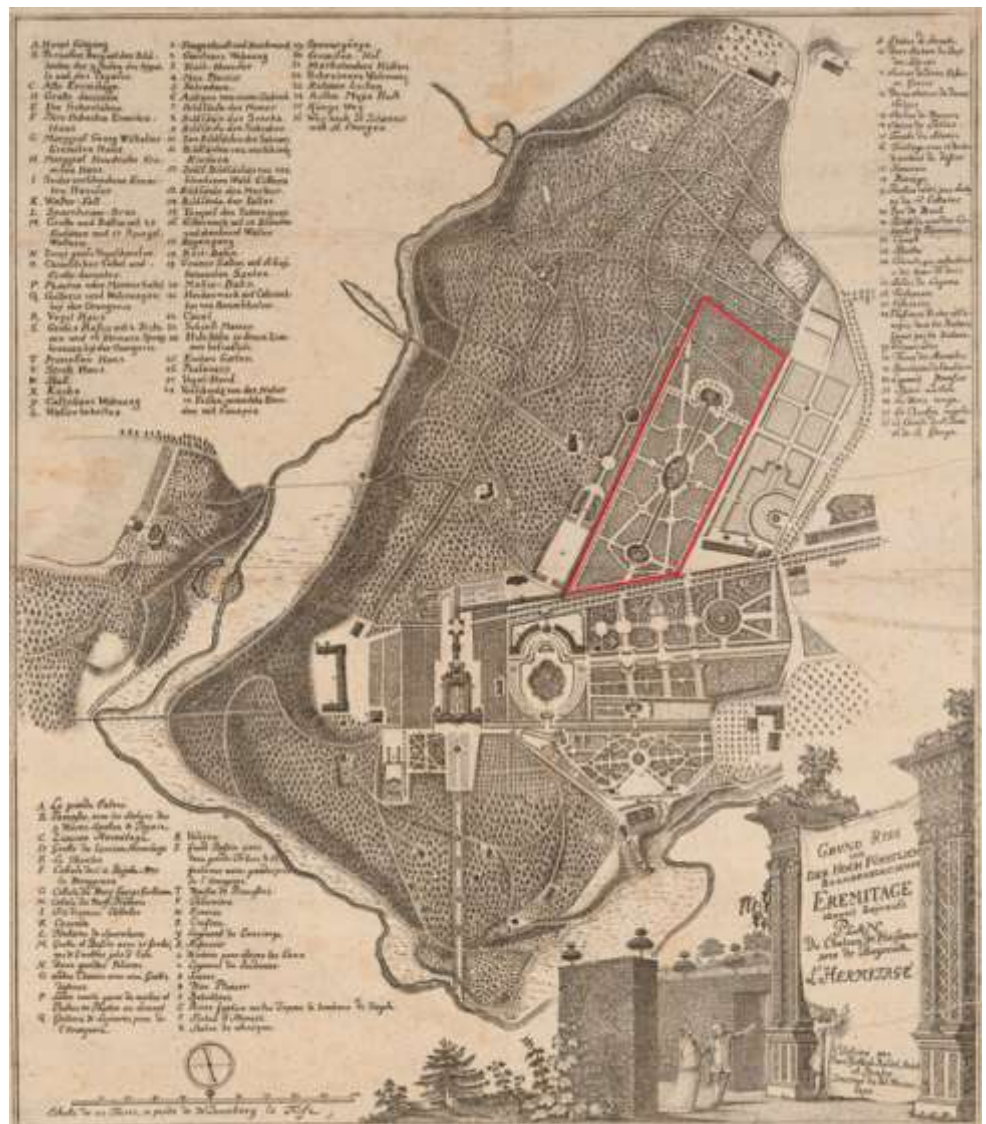
# Jeu de mail in Germany Part 2

In alphabetical order, I present the missing 'Mailbahnen', for which Volkmar Eidloth was kind enough to help me out. Apart from pictorial evidence, I did not find much information about the initiators or the people who played on these courses.

## 'Gartenanlage Eremitage', Bayreuth (Bayern)

The Eremitage in Bayreuth is a historical park laid out from 1715 onwards. The initiator was Margrave Georg Wilhelm. In 1718, he created the so-called Parnass and erected on an artificial rock, statues of Apollo and the nine muses. From there, visitors could follow the Maille-Bahn-Allee, a scenic road that led through the park to the course, enhancing the experience of the landscape.

<https://www.markgrafenkultur.de/portfolio-items/bayreuth-eremitage/>



Part of the text is both in German and French. In German, the course is called 'Maille-Bahn', and in French, 'Jeu de mail'. – From 'Grundriss von der hochfürstlichen brandenburgischen Eremitage ohnweit Bayreuth', Jean Gottlieb Riedel, 1740 – Bayerische Staatsbibliothek

*Dessau-Roßlau (Sachsen-Anhalt)*



In the 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century, there was a 'Maillebahn' in the 'Thiergarten' (zoo) in Dessau. Ludwig Würdig mentioned it in his 'Chronik der Stadt Dessau: von den frühesten Zeiten bis Ende 1875' (1876). In the chapter 'Der fürstliche Thiergarten bei Dessau im Jahre 1665', he writes that the Mailbahn was over 400 m long and over 10 m wide.

*In his book, Würdig gives some indications about the layout of the maillebahn. This map is the oldest of the 'Tiergarten' I could find, and, alas, it contains not enough leads for me to locate the exact lay of the alley. – Detail from 'Orte jüdischen Lebens auf einem Plan der Stadt Dessau aus dem Jahr 1809' (LASA, Slg. 19, 11/D 462) –  
© Landesarchiv Sachsen-Anhalt*

*'Großer Garten' (Great Garden), Dresden (Sachsen)*

The Großer Garten is a [Baroque-style](#) park in central [Dresden](#). It is rectangular in shape, covering approximately 1.8 square kilometres. John George III, Elector of Saxony, established the garden in 1676, and it has been a public garden since 1814.



The map from 1850 indicates the location of the 'Maillebahn'.

*Plan des Großen Gartens von 1850 nach dem Original von Johann Leonhard Maximilian Keyl (1724-1793) –  
<https://history-in-your-hands.com>*

*Hamburg (Stadtstaat Hamburg) , Jungfernstieg – 'Palmaille'*

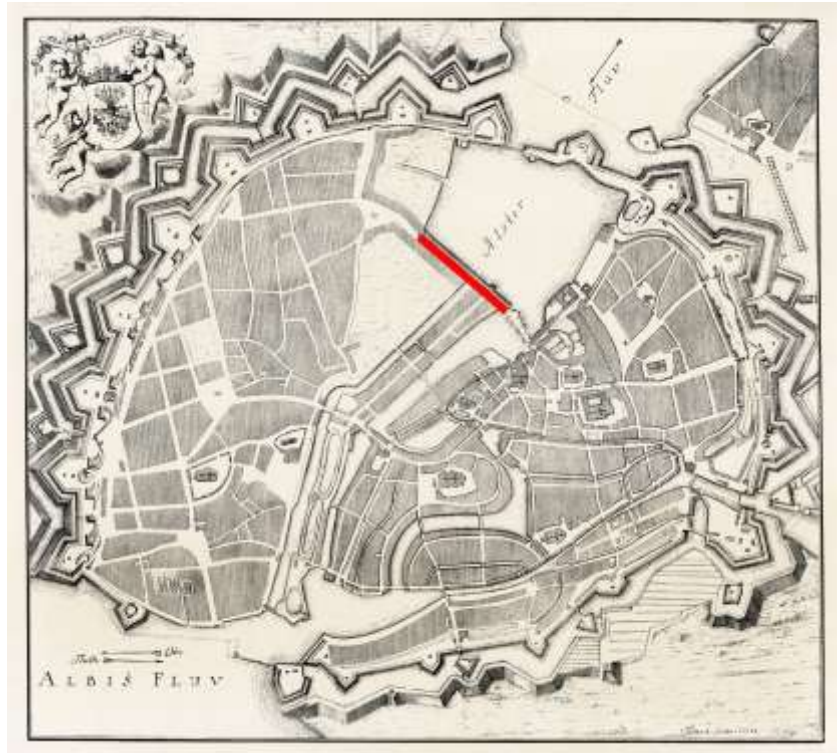
In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the town council decided to build a new fortification wall. The Mühlendamm became a protected inner-city passage-way/alley between Hamburg's old and new towns. In 1665, the street was remodelled according to the example of Altona's Palmaille by widening it to create a playing lane bordered by trees.

Subsequently, the name Palmaille was also used for a time until 1684, when it was renamed Jungfernstieg.

The small promenade was transformed into a wide lane planted with lime trees by adding large quantities of earth.

<https://www.hamburg.de> –

Sebastian Husen: Jungfernstieg



Christian Friedrich Fritsch, 1722 –

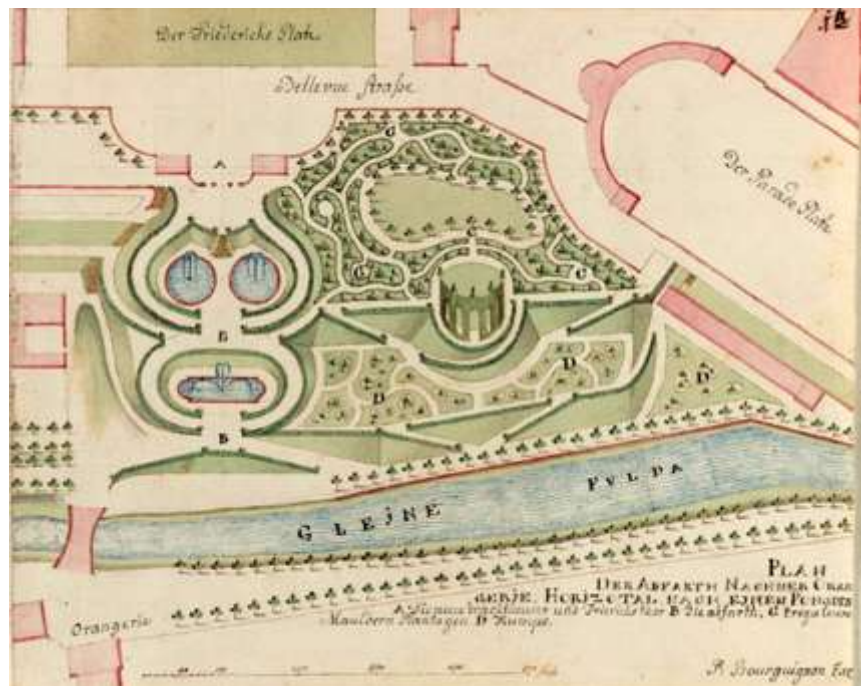
Photo-litho-graphisches Replikat, Verlag Strumper & Co., 1880

*'Maille-Bahn', Kassel (Hessen)*

The only reference to the Maille-Bahn I found is about the adjoining picture:

"The loop of the ramps under the Friedrichstor (A) continued to exist as the 'Malien-Bahn' (later 'Maille-Bahn') and was only changed to an S-shaped descent (B), according to a design by Heinrich Christoph Jussow before 1820."

<https://www.graphikportal.org/document/gpo00213899>



Drawing Pierre Bourguignon,  
Gärtner, 1782 – ©

Museumslandschaft Hessen  
Kassel –

<https://architekturzeichnungen.museum-kassel.de/13640/>

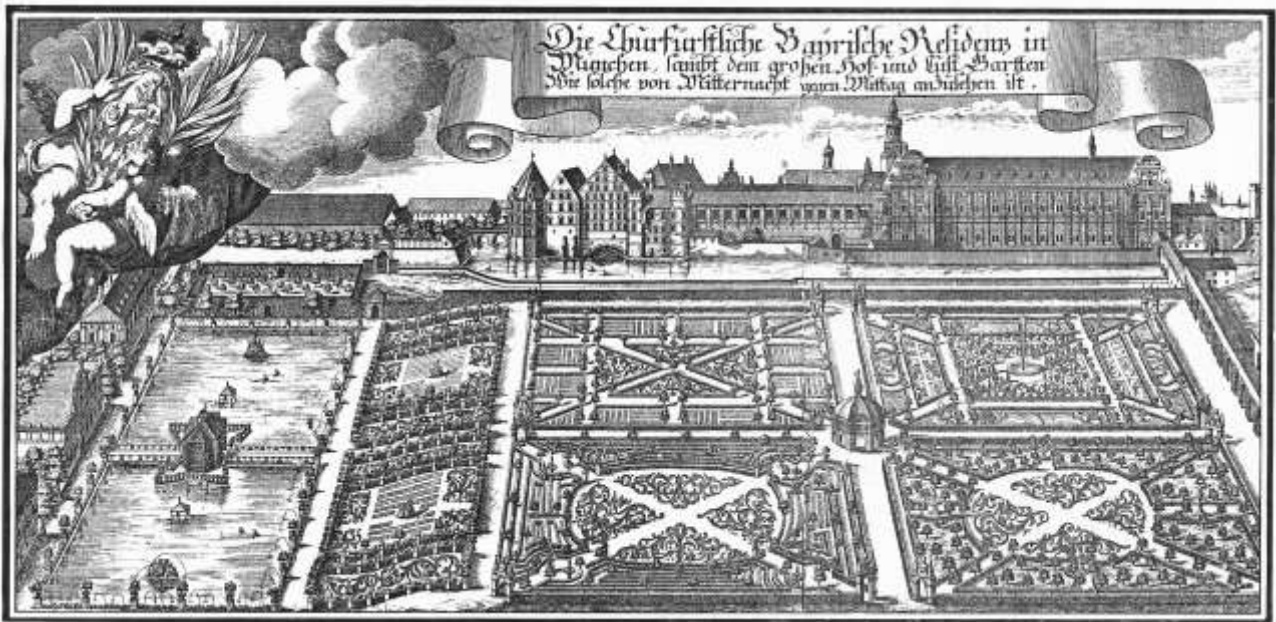
## *Hofgarten, München (Bayern)*

Built in the Italian Baroque Renaissance style, the gardens have undergone numerous redesigns over the years.

The 'Mailspiel' was played in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. In 1776, Elector Karl Theodor had the lime trees, which today run straight through the courtyard garden and fill the pond, planted in place of the flowerbeds, sparing the already standing wild chestnut trees and the outer avenues. It was also the year in which the mail disappeared.

<https://stadtdgeschichte-muenchen.de>

Most courses were laid out with four rows of lime trees to provide shade for the players. In the Hofgarten in München, these were planted in the year the game of mail disappeared.



*On this engraving from Michael Wening (1701), I do not recognise the mail court, but probably on one of the outer avenues. – Gothein, Gartenkunst, 1923*

And to conclude this contribution, the map of Germany with the 22 courses filled in.

