

## Senior Mayor August Erdmann

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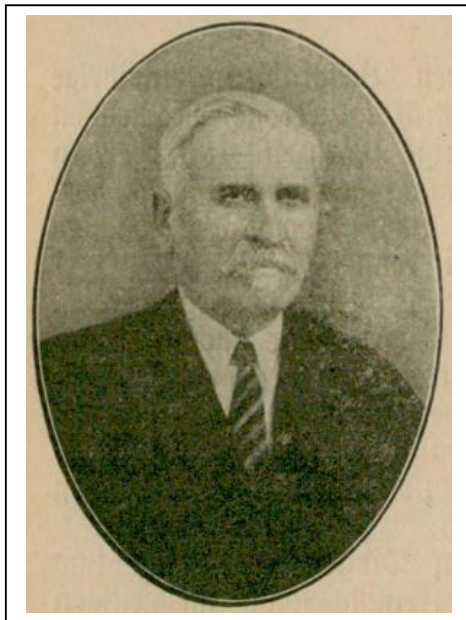
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[Note: Comments in square brackets in the document are those of the translator.]

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### Senior Mayor (*Oberschulz*) August Erdmann

The mayor of the municipality of Tarutino, August Erdmann, was able to celebrate the Golden Wedding Anniversary with his wife Luise, née Banek, on 27 October, 1934. He was already able to look back on serving our communities for over a fifty year term in office on 01 May, and on 18 August, 1934, celebrate his seventieth birthday.



Is it not a wonderful sign of Divine Providence that a man of our people could experience these three memorable days within one year? Words are only a weak expression of our true feelings in regard to the Eternal shaping so wonderfully the lives of people. Fifty years in office! This number alone is already speaking out in a loud and eloquent voice. They are years of continuous community service that imprints the human life to a single major act.

August Erdmann was born in Tarutino on 18 August, 1864. He started his official career in Albota as sexton-teacher and town clerk (*Gemeindeschreiber*) on 1 May, 1884,. From here, he moved to Jakobstal in 1887, in the same double capacity, but already was followed by a call as a village clerk (*Dorfschreiber*) in the municipality of Neu-Arzis, in 1888, where he remained for four years. In November of 1892, he was elected as administrative area secretary (*Wolostschreiber*) by the municipality of Paris. Here he was also appointed to the office of administrative area court of justice secretary (*Wolostgerichtssekretärs*), which he also later retained. From 1900-1903, he worked in the same capacity in Arzis; then he came to Tarutino where, up to the end of the great war, he worked as administrative area secretary for fourteen years. In the years 1918-1920, he was secretary of the Trust Council of German

Colonists in the Black Sea Region (*Vertrauensrates der Deutschen Kolonisten im Schwarzmeergebiet*), in Berlin. Returning home, he became secretary of our church and ethnic organizations of the Consistory and the People's Council in 1920, and remained, when later the councils of the two institutions were separated from each other, secretary of the Consistory until 1926. In the years 1926-1929, he was a member of the Cetatea Alba District Council and, at the same time, also a member of the standing committee, "Delegatia permanenta". He has been mayor of the municipality of Tarutino since July of 1931, and he has held this post until today, despite various changes of government.

That August Erdmann, at the age of 67, was appointed as the mayor of the largest German community and has managed successfully to prevail as such, shows his firmness of character; and that he learned to master a foreign language in his older years, emphasizes even more the skills and endurance of this man.

The various bridges and cement walkways constructed over the drainage ditch running through the village, the reconstruction of the administration building (Primarie), the creation of the electrical station, the creation of a public garden, the laying out of avenues and sidewalks, even the enlarging of the square in front of the church—all works that have contributed significantly to the beautification of the street scene and improvement of civil life in Tarutino—are due for the most part to his energy and his decisiveness during his time in office in Tarutino.

He has always felt joy and satisfaction in his office. A day—so he himself once said—which is not filled with work and duty, means for him a sin of omission, compared to the task and aptitude of a person. He worked tirelessly not only in the professional government job, but even his leisure hours were largely dedicated to serving his community and his people. So, among others, he was a member and later on for several years chairman of the school council of the Tarutino German Boys High School from 1912 to 1926, and from 1917 to 1927, also a member of the school council of the Werner School in Sarata.

His life is sustained by an unconditional duty to his profession and his people. His personality is characterized by a strongly pronounced feeling of justice and tireless hard work. Also the fact to be highlighted is that he, not all that well off materially, having wonderfully understood the fulfilling of his fatherly obligation to raise up his twelve children so that they become worthy members of their community and our nation as a whole, possesses the core German nature of an everyday man. He is a proven, true son in our Bessarabian German homeland, on whose proven powerful collaboration we also—despite the seventy years—count on into the future.

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