

## **Rudi and Cristina Travel to Germany Summer of 2015**

It was a marvelous experience these meeting of "relatives" in Germany.

They all made a long way to meet us. Two Wolfgangs went to Swäbisch Hall and Edwin to Stuttgart. They came with their wives.

It was as we were meeting real brothers we did not see for a long time. Much empathy among all of us, inclusive the spouses.

In both meetings we had lunch together at very interesting places and the opportunity to appreciate very good German food and excellent beer.

In Sw. Hall there are five houses which belonged to Bratz, most of them directly in front of the cathedral. In one picture, the two Wolfgangs and I are in front of one of the houses where a beautiful conserved Coat of Arms with the name Bratz is placed over our heads. In another picture, we are examining the file which contains more than a hundred Braatz names from the Middle Ages onwards. Wolfgang from Uetze copied them all in a previous visit to that local museum. By the way, this same Wolfgang has already more than nine thousand names in our big table of ancestors, working hard to identify the sources, which is an enormous improvement over the previous publications of the list we made at our family site.

Still another picture has us under the car plate with our family name which Wolfgang (from Siemens and who organized the German family site) had specially ordered to show us at our arrival at the train station in Sw. Hall.

These meetings were the crown of all of Rudi and Cristina's trip to Europe, despite the wonderful 7 of 8 operas they attended. To meet them personally shook them emotionally, because it was over their expectations that they all would respond to my proposal.

We surely are not a family, but we have something important in common, and it is not only our name.



**Rudi and Edwin visit in Stuttgart**







**Wolfgang, Wolfgang, and Rudi under the car plate with our family name which Wolfgang (from Siemens and who organized the German family site) had specially ordered to show us at our arrival at the train station in Sw. Hall.**









The two Wolfgangs and Rudi are in front of one of the houses where a beautiful conserved Coat of Arms with the name Bratz is placed over their heads.





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