

## König Ludwig II

### Ludwig II. - Childhood and Youth

Maximilian II thought his sons could learn faster than other boys of their age.

1. Therefore, Maximilian setup teachers for his two sons.
2. These teachers, however, were old-fashioned in their ways, and this became noticeable in Ludwig's later life.
3. Ludwig was also quite arrogant in his youth.

His difficult relationship with his mother, referred to earlier, was made worse by the fact that his younger brother, Otto, was very much her favorite. So Ludwig, who yearned for his mother's love, was often despondent about this. Sometimes he even hated his brother because of it. Ludwig Schaufert relates that on one occasion the crown prince took a snowball away from his brother because it was bigger than his own. When his tutor told him to give it back, he burst out: "Why shouldn't I have this snowball? I'm the crown prince!" Ludwig never let his brother forget that he was the heir to the throne. This was the only way he knew of coping with his mother's neglect of him.

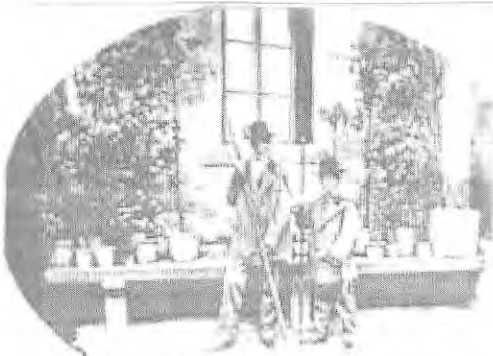
From his earliest childhood Ludwig discovered that it gave him great pleasure to give his possessions and money away to others. Apart from that Ludwig was a difficult child, which was hardly surprising in view of his unusual upbringing. He and his brother were both extremely shy and withdrawn. In spite of this the sensitive young Ludwig was generally liked by his fellow men. His father, Maximilian II, was relentlessly strict with his upbringing. It was not only at meal-times that the children experienced this. Youthful pranks and neglect of duty were punished with unrelenting severity. If a tutor reported unfavorably on Ludwig he was charged with administering the required caning.



Crown Prince Ludwig of Bavaria (left) with his parents and younger brother Prince Otto in 1860.



Prince Ludwig and his brother, Prince Otto, in 1860.



Prince Ludwig and his brother Otto in traditional Bavarian costume, probably at Hohenschwangau.

Ludwig and his brother Otto were strictly brought up with an emphasis on duty. Their parents Maximilian II of Bavaria and Marie of Prussia kept themselves at a distance.

Conflict between the two brothers often took on a quite dramatic form. On one occasion Ludwig tied up his younger brother and threatened to decapitate him! Only the intervention of a servant rescued Otto from this situation. In spite of such incidents the brothers generally got on well together.

Crown Prince Maximilian, a bit ignorant of the world and totally engrossed in his interest in science, had the two princes brought up very strictly and in no way prepared for the responsibilities that awaited them in later years.