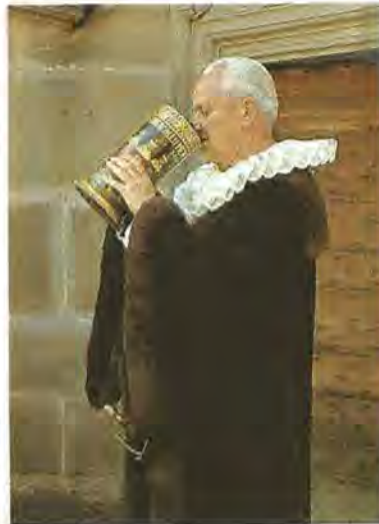


“MEISTERTRUNK” / “MAYOR’S DRINK”



Historical City Festival. General Tilly with his officers.

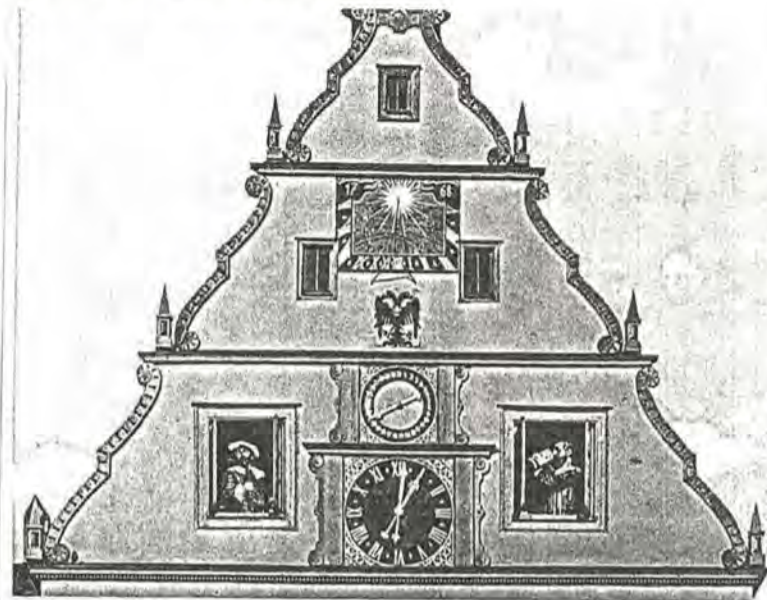
Mayor Nusch, emptying the 3 ¼ litres bumper.



Historical Arches: Soldiers at dice, a scene from the Thirty Years' War.

**The ‘Ratsherrntrinkstube’ or City Councillors’ Tavern ②**

This is in the Market Place and sports three sorts of clock on its Baroque gable as well as a bell tower jauntily set on its apex. The lowest of these clocks is the city’s main timekeeper, constructed in 1683. Above this is a ‘calendar clock’, then the imperial eagle and finally a sun dial. At 11 a. m., midday, one o’clock and at two o’clock and again at 9 p. m. and 10 p. m. there appear figures representing the principal parties in the ‘Meistertrunk’ or Drinking Feat which took place during the Thirty Years’ War.



The gable of the Ratsherrntrinkstube or City Councillors’ Tavern. In the windows left and right of the clock, Tilly and Nusch respectively.

The story goes that General Tilly, on 30th October, 1631, after encountering stiff resistance from its citizens was finally able to take the town. Accordingly, it was to be plundered and destroyed and its councillors executed. On the following day, the keeper of the wine cellar offers Tilly a 3¼ litre tankard of heavy Franconian wine as a toast to his arrival\*. The general for his part is willing to grant the city a pardon provided one of the councillors can drink off this beverage in one go. Nusch, a former mayor, manages it in ten minutes and so saves the city. It is said that he needed three whole days to sleep of the effects of this feat, but nevertheless lived to retell the tale for another 37 years, dying at the age of 80.



The Elector’s Tankard dated 1616 and thought to be ‘Welcoming Tankard’ of the imperial city. The vessel, whose capacity is three and a quarter litres or nearly seven pints, is at the centre of the story of the ‘Mighty Draught’ and can be seen in the Reichsstadtmuseum or Imperial City Museum.