

Die Rheinpfalz

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## Stories from the Turning Period

Wolfgang Reeb is reading and telling in the "Café23"

BY ANDREAS FILLIEBECK

„It's a personal and also even a historical quite interesting adventure, which is told by the local author Wolfgang Reeb in "Café 23". Larded with anecdotes the author describes his departure eastwards in spring 1990, thus shortly after the fall of the wall. Thereby he rarely read from his book "Turning Period in Prague and Berlin", he rather spoke without notes.

It started working for Wolfgang Reeb in Chemnitz, in GDR-times Karl-Stadt. He wasn't busy with discontented boarders neither he had to change his D-Mark into the Ostmark, because he "traveled upstream", because most of the Germans were still on the way from East to West and not from West to East.

With a host family he quickly learned, that you are much better off in the former GDR, if you breed pigs or repair fridges besides your main profession. He himself saw his opportunity in arranging exhibitions and in giving presentations à la "How to become self-employed". He wouldn't have dreamed that he arranges in this context the first exhibition of consumer goods in Chemnitz in an association with a beverage retailer or reports in front of hundreds of people, for example how to apply for a trade licence. Short reports of with lignite covered cobblestone alleys or the dimmed light of the east streets delivered fitting atmosphere pictures.

According to Reeb, he turned his back to Saxony, when monetary union insurance agents, builders or estate agents overflowed the country and that way some innocent person from the East was overreached. He moved on to Prague and there he convinced decision makers of the need to arrange exhibitions, what he finally did on the exhibition ground of Prague, followed by the catering for the opera ball.

In fact the listeners of "Café 23" did not come to listen to the success of Wolfgang Reeb. It rather seemed to be interesting what Reeb told in addition. He seemed impressed by the talent for improvisation and the laissez-faire of the Czechs, even when he got victim of a K.O. –drops-attack in Prague and woke up with an empty purse in the bushes.

Reeb's book seems to be like a diary, a little bit random, but not without appeal.