

Manufacturers of High-Grade Artistic Gas and Electric Chandeliers, Candelabras, Lanterns, Brackets, Old-Fashioned Door Fixtures, Fire Place Goods, Antique Armours, Hammered Shields, Memorial Tablets, Statuaries, Monuments, Etc.

**C. COLNIK MFG CO**  
Structural & Ornamental Iron  
MILWAUKEE WIS.

**CHURCH WORK  
IN ALL STYLES**

Telephone South  
483.

732 to 740  
Greenbush St.



Colnik was aware that by getting into the structural end of ironworking that he would profit greatly.

Before he came to America he had witnessed other ornamental ironwork shops in Europe doing the same. It was only natural that if you made a decorative stair railing, why not make a fire escape as well, and wouldn't it be a good idea to make a decorative manhole cover to ornament the street. There was one Smith that Cyril had great affection for who had been very successful in doing both structural and artistic metalwork. His name was Albert Milde and he had the largest ornamental ironworks in Austria.

Milde was 32 years older than Cyril and very famous in Austria as the Court Art Smith for Emperor Franz Joseph. He was sought after by Vienna's royalty and wealthiest citizens. When Cyril first visited Milde's factory as a teenager, he was in awe, Milde's skill at forging was a great inspiration to the young Smith, and on his last visit to Milde's shop in April 1890 the great master presented him with his recently printed portfolio.

*Above: An ad from a 1904 Milwaukee phone book for C. Colnik Manufacturing Co.*



62 *Right: Portrait of Cyril Colnik in 1894.*

Comptoir & Werkstätten:  
 III., Untere Viaductgasse  
 Nr. 35 & 37 u. Hetzgasse 12.

MÜNCHEN 1876.



I. PREIS.



K. K. Hof-Schlosser  
 Kaiserl. Königl.

FILIALEN:  
 I. Bez., Postgasse Nr. 22.  
 Lemberg, Jagiellońskagasse 5.

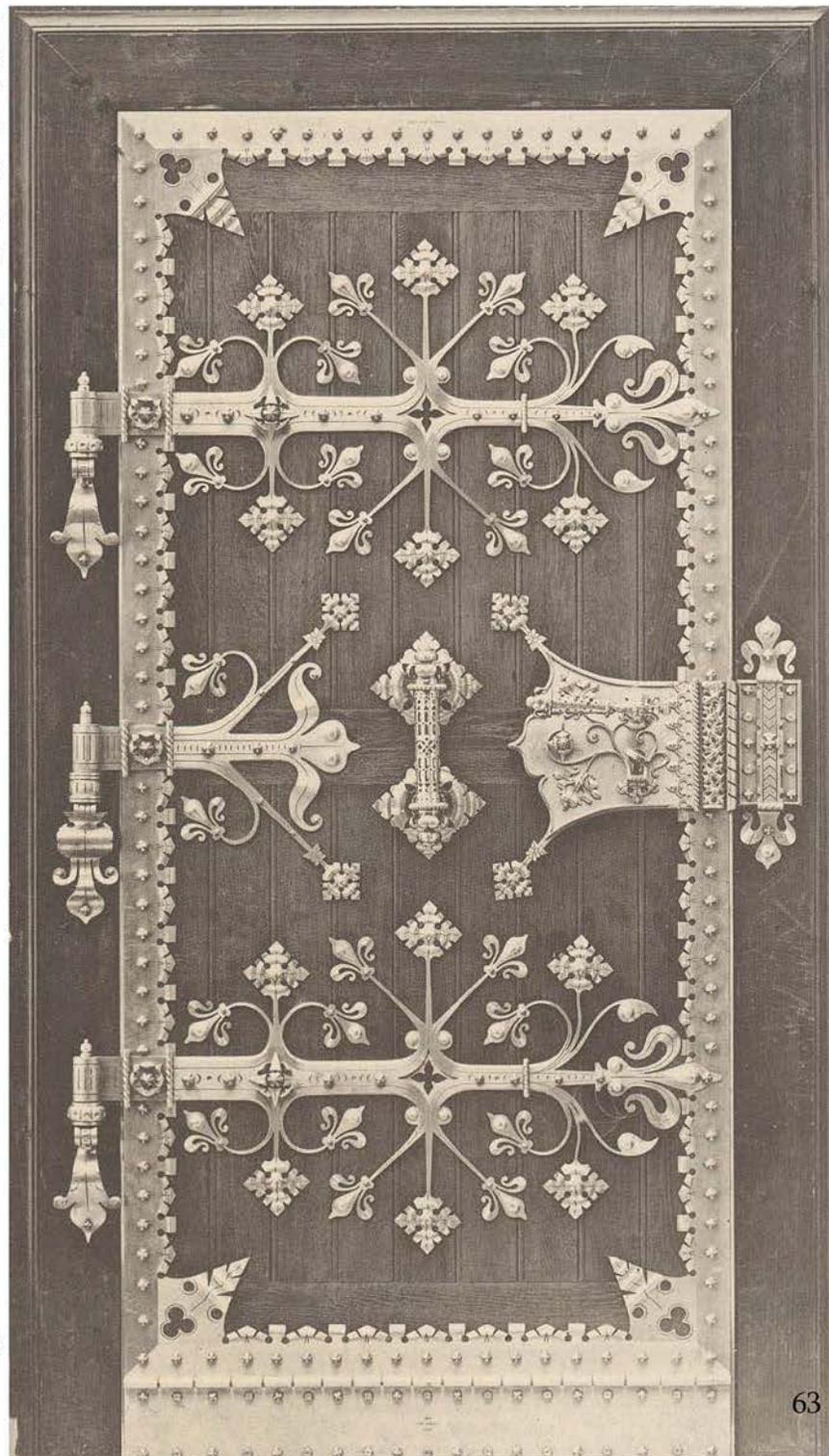
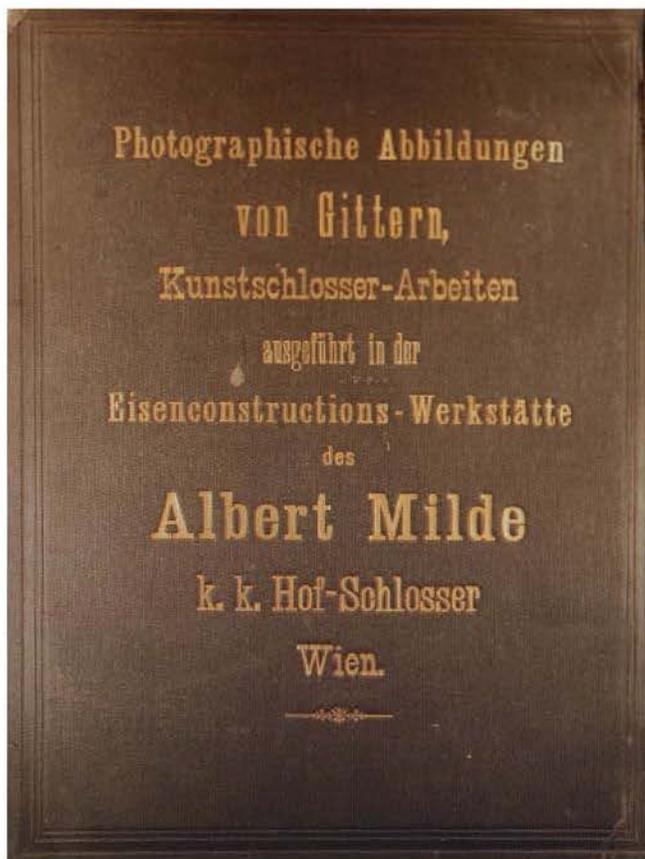
MÜNCHEN 1876.



I. PREIS.

**HOF-KUNST-BAUSCHLOSSEREI UND EISENCONSTRUCTIONS-WERKSTÄTTE.**

The one hundred leaf portfolio contained photographs of Milde's best work. As a young man Cyril began collecting books and other images of ornamental metalwork. He brought dozens of these job books and portfolios with him when he came to America in 1893. And after establishing himself in Milwaukee continued to invest money in ironwork books, they served as inspiration and reference for his future work.



*Above top: Albert Milde's letter head.  
 Above: Cover of Albert Milde's portfolio.  
 Right: An oak door from Milde's portfolio clad in fantastic polished iron hardware.*



*Gear leaf and flower executed by Albert Milde. Page from Albert Milde portfolio, showing his ability at forging natural forms. He had great skill at doing this. The goal of many artsmiths of the time.*



Albert Milde was born on Feb. 7th 1839. He was first apprenticed to Moritz Plank in Wieden in 1858 and from January 7th 1860 with Master Franz Sawischa. In 1863 at age 24 with 8 workers he started his own forge and foundry, first in Laurenzerberg and then in Vienna. His skill was so great that he was given the title "Kunstschlosser (Artistic Wrought Iron Smith)". In 1869 Albert Milde employed 160 workers at his factory, and Artistic Smith work and art foundry work became his

professional life's ambition. Colnik had visited his shop several times before working with Reinhold Kirsh in Munich. Milde's factory produced roof trusses, beams, iron stair cases and bridges. His work was displayed at



*Albert Milde*  
 Heller des Franz-Josef-Carls,  
 k. k. Hof-Münz- u. Prägn-Schlosser  
 und Eisen-Constructeur.

BÜRGER WIEN

Druck von L. Döbbling Wien

The World's Fair in Vienna 1873 where he won many awards. His participation at The Paris World's Fair in 1878 contributed to his prestige in Foreign Countries. Albert Milde was honored with the Franz Joseph order (Medal). In 1888 he organized an exhibition of the works of his fellow Viennese Art Smiths, which became a splendid representation of the Viennese Smith trade in general. A frank word, which he dared to direct to the Imperial Majesty when his Majesty visited this part of the exhibit was held against him in some circles, namely that the business returns were not in proper relation with the outstanding work of the Viennese Smiths due to circumstances of the time. He was one of the most famous personalities of Viennese industry, owner of the biggest ornamental iron factory in Austria, Albert Milde died on the 8th of November 1904.

Above: Portrait of Albert Milde.

Top right: Gas lantern made by A. Milde.

Bottom right: A stair rail with griffen newel post by A. Milde.

