

# Abdu'l-Bahá's Travels to the West

## Paris and Germany

22 January-8 April 1913

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'Abdul-Bahá in Paris

# Paris

'Abdu'l-Bahá arrived in Paris on 22 January, staying in an apartment at 30 Rue St Didier. He was not well and did not give too many talks, but did keep meeting visitors. A banquet was held for Him by the Esperantists on 12 February, which He addressed, and again He spoke the next night to the Theosophists.

# Paris

On 17 February he spoke to three meetings during the day and visited Pasteur Monnier's Theological Seminary in the evening. He addressed the Alliance Spiritualiste at the Salle de Troyes on 21 February.

# Versailles

He visited the Palace of Versailles and a children's home, where he deplored the contrast between "*the magnificent buildings kept solely for entertainment, while the poor were abandoned to such misery and wretchedness*".

(‘Abdu’l-Baha, in Earl Redman, *‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Their Midst*, Oxford: George Ronald, 2011, p. 309)





Palace of Versailles





Palace of Versailles

# Paris

He spoke of the “*dismal materialism overshadowing Paris*”, and much later said of his visit “*in Paris no one would mention the name of God. I used to speak about God to many people and they would ask me to take another topic.*”

(‘Abdu’l-Baha, in Earl Redman, *‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Their Midst*, Oxford: George Ronald, 2011, p. 309)



# Germany

On 30 March, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá went to Germany until 7 April, visiting Stuttgart, Esslingen and Bad Mergentheim. He said *“How attracted and enkindled are the German Bahá’ís! How full of love they are! Love does not need a teacher.”*

(‘Abdu’l-Baha, in Earl Redman, *‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Their Midst*, Oxford: George Ronald, 2011, p. 312)

# Stuttgart and Esslingen

In Stuttgart, He gave many interviews, and spoke at the Burger Museum to over 500 people. He then went to Esslingen about ten kilometres away to speak at a large meeting with about 50 children and 80 adults. As 'Abdu'l-Bahá entered, each child gave Him a bunch of flowers, and He gave them small boxes of chocolates and bonbons. He gave the children a short talk.

# Children

*These children are of the Kingdom, they are illumined with the Light of God... I love them very much. They are mine... May God guide and protect them, make them useful men and women for the advancement of the Kingdom on earth.*

(‘Abdu’l-Baha, in Earl Redman, *‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Their Midst*, Oxford: George Ronald, 2011, p. 314)

# Stuttgart

A group photograph was taken in front of the hall.





'Abdu'l-Bahá with the children

# Stuttgart

Back in Stuttgart the next morning, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá spoke of the children’s meeting.

# Children

*The effect of last night's meeting will be put on record in the world of eternity. The mentioning of it will be throughout the centuries and will be recorded in the countries of the Orient.*

# Children

*Because these children are tender plants, their hearts are clear and transparent. They have not yet come to the dross of the world; that is why Christ said. “Blessed are the children, for they are of the Heavenly Kingdom.”*

(‘Abdu’l-Baha, in Earl Redman, *‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Their Midst*, Oxford: George Ronald, 2011, p. 314-315)



# Germany

'Abdu'l-Bahá was taken on a tour of the Royal Palace of Emperor Wilhelm, and then on a tour of the cherry blossom district in full bloom, and to the Black Forest. He spoke at a Unity Feast hosted by the Frauen Club, for the Esperantists, and on women at an evening meeting at the Obere Museum.



Obere Museum, Stuttgart

# Germany

On 7 April 'Abdu'l-Bahá was taken for a night to a health spa and hotel in Bad Mergentheim belonging to Consul Albert Schwarz, later named a Disciple of 'Abdu'l-Bahá by Shoghi Effendi. A monument was erected in 1916 commemorating His visit.



Consul  
Albert  
Schwarz



Monument  
to  
'Abdu'l-  
Bahá's  
visit

