

The Central Bureau

The Central Bureau was founded in 1879. Due to the tremendous growth two new floors had to be built in 1900. The old Central Bureau was turned into a chemical laboratory. Although a trading company legally has no board of directors, you can say that Mr Wilke, Mr Killing, August and Joseph Thyssen were the leaders of this enterprise. Joseph Thyssen represented the firm internally and supervised the daily activities in the commercial area. His brother August Thyssen represented the firm on the outside. They were working together in one office.

Albert Killing managed the accounts department of the Thyssen group until 1882.

Remarkable innovations in bookkeeping were introduced under the management of Killing's successor Ernst Nölle. He separated the production-cost from the new building investments. Mr Nölle only allowed money transfers from this account, after the management had signed them.

Among other things the calculation books of this department had to be shown to the Central Bureau since 1883. It didn't work for a long time because of a conflict between the factories and the management. In this conflict August Thyssen had always been supporting the management. Hermann Eumann entered the accounts department in 1883 and took over the first independent revision-office. It was his duty to give Mr Killing an exact income of the four cashboxes every month until 1890.

Afterwards he became the leader of the accounts department and even became the director with all of Killing's tasks in 1904.

Some time later Eumann was so important, that he was considered to be the company's minister of finance.

After the death of Joseph Thyssen he took his place next to August Thyssen. On 31. March, 1926, a few days before August died, Hermann Eumann left the company. Some customers complained about difficulties in the area of communication. For this reason a telephone operator was employed in 1891. At the same time they tried to work with typewriters. But the result wasn't good enough for Killing. That was the reason why the typewriters were not in use for another decade.

In the office there was still nobody who was authorised to sign, so the whole correspondence of sales, purchase and material-management had to be signed by Joseph Thyssen, Wilke or Killing. This did not change until the purchasing department, material-management and the management of stocks became the "material-management" under Moritz Pickhard. This department fixed the price for the material exchange among the different departments. It was also responsible for the transport of goods, except for oversea-transport. Killing managed this personally.

There had been an orderbook for each department since 1882. It had to be countersigned by Franz Wilke.

The Central Bureau had been managed by less than 100 people since 1896. In 1934 this department was subordinated to the main management of the German pipeworks.