Mainzer Adelsverein (Hermann Willke, Nicolaus Zink, et al.)

Karte von Indian Point od. Indianola; Karte der Stadt Neu Braunfels; Karte der Stadt Friedrichsburg; Hafen von Indian Point oder Indianola (Carlshafen)

Lithograph (4 maps) on single sheet of paper, 27 x 39 cm., lithographed and printed by H. Delius, Berlin (Wiesbaden: Verein zum Schutze Deutscher Auswanderer nach Texas, 1850-1851). The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries Special Collections

This sheet of three town plans and a harbor map was part of a packet of materials published in 1851 by the Verein zum Schutze Deutscher Auswanderer nach Texas (Society for the Protection of German Emigrants to Texas, also known as the Adelsverein or Society of Nobles headquartered in Mainz and Wiesbaden). The port town and harbor of Indianola and the towns of New Braunfels and Fredericksburg all figured prominently in this project to settle hundreds of German emigrants in Texas during the 1840s and early 1850s. Employees of the Adelsverein who probably prepared these maps included Hermann Willke (ca.1822-after 1865), a young surveyor-engineer and Prussian army veteran and possibly Nicolaus Zink (1812-1887), also a surveyor-engineer and Bavarian army veteran who laid out the colony’s town of New Braunfels.

Of particular interest on the New Braunfels town plan is the notation “Standpunkt des Malers bei aufnahme des Panoramas” (Place where the artist stood when he made the panorama). This is a cross reference to the unfortunate Swiss artist Conrad Caspar Rordorf’s panoramic view of that town and it attests to the kind of attention to detail represented in the Adelsverein’s graphic publications which were intended for colonists and investors.