



# Americans of Tübingen: *John Joseph Dorsch*



“Oh Tübingen, you hold such a special place in my heart! To the extent that one can love a town, I do love you!”

But, as we all know, love can be a deeply ambivalent emotion. For what love is not without complication? Our admiration for our beloved tends, perhaps too often, to be proportional to our frustration.

For eleven years, Tübingen was my home. I still call it my *Wahlheimat*.

It is a town whose history is immensely palpable, and thus, deeply formative. While walking along the winding *Straßen* and *Gassen* – or *Gässle* ☺ – of Old Town, one cannot help but be moved by the past. Though I can recall such fond memories, life in Tübingen was not without its complications. Living so far away, for so long, from my family, my friends, my culture, my language, was often emotionally exhausting. Having regularly to take action to ensure both a present and a future in Tübingen was often anxiety-ridden.

The story of my life in Tübingen was so full of ambivalent emotion, I felt I had to write (in German) a semi-autobiographical novella about it: a tragicomedy Bildungsroman, if you will, affectionally titled "[Haufen Philosaufen - ein Liebesbrief an Tübingen](#)". I suggest reading it if you wish to hear more!”

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