

Ludwig Guden (- 5 Jul 1900)

The Evening Star, July 5, 1900, p. 2

Dr. Girden Arrested

The Man Accused of Duping Residents of This City

A warrant charging Ludwig Girden with grand larceny was sworn out this afternoon by Detective Miller. The theft of a watch and chain is charged in the warrant. Inspector Boardman received information from Baltimore this afternoon of Girden's arrest in that city, and a detective went to Baltimore with the warrant and will make an effort to bring the prisoner here for trial.

Complaint was made to the police at headquarters yesterday afternoon against a man who introduced himself as Dr. Ludwig Girden, a graduate of Vienna, Munich, Augsburg and Heidelberg. He gave the information that he was a specialist in contagious diseases. Charges were made against the doctor by John B. Nierendorf, a saloonkeeper, at 1213 Pennsylvania avenue northwest, Edward F. Abner of the firm of Abner & Drury, brewers, and Rudolf B. Schwickardi, a clerk in the pension office.

The office address on the doctor's card was given as 231 4 1/2 street, but Detective Miller was informed yesterday that the man had no office at the 4 1/2 street house.

According to the information received by the detectives, Dr. Girden arrived in this city about ten days or two weeks ago and soon made the acquaintance of a number of business men and others. It is alleged that he obtained \$35 from Mr. Abner, \$20 from Mr. Nierendorf and a gold watch and chain, valued at \$125, from Mr. Schwickardi by alleging that he needed money to pay the expressage on about \$3,000 worth of medicines and instruments.

It is charged that when the doctor called on Mr. Schwickardi he stated that he must have \$11 right away. The latter did not happen to have the money in his pocket at the time and handed over his timepiece with the suggestion that he borrow the money on it.

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Weak Heart Causes Death

Ludwig Guden Expires in Cell at Police Station

Was Accused of Obtaining Money Under False Pretenses-- Arrested in Baltimore

Dr. Ludwig Guden, otherwise known as Dr. Ludwig Reiter, who was arrested in Baltimore yesterday for the authorities here, as published in yesterday's Star, was brought to Washington late in the afternoon by Detective Miller and locked up at the first precinct station. About 10 o'clock last night he became ill in his cell and died almost immediately. His body was removed to the morgue, where an autopsy was performed this afternoon by Deputy Coroner Glazebrook.

The Bavarian doctor was arrested in Baltimore at the request of Inspector Boardman. With money that he had obtained in this city, under alleged false pretenses, he had purchased a ticket for Bremen and had sent his baggage aboard the North German Lloyd steamer Rhein, on which he was about to sail. The valuable gold watch and chain he had obtained from Rudolf B. Swickardi, he had on him when arrested. He returned with Detective Miller without the formality of a requisition. On his way here he complained of being sick. Later, when he confronted some of his alleged victims at the first precinct station, he also said he was sick, and asked them not to be hard on him. Because of his illness, he said, he was unable to answer many questions, but expressed belief that he would be all right in a couple of days.

Remark Frightens Him

Before leaving the prisoner, who came here a stranger two weeks ago and gained the confidence of many persons, one of his alleged victims jokingly remarked:

"Wait till I see you at Sing Sing."

This had the effect of frightening the prisoner, the police believe, for he was very nervous when he returned to his cell. About 10 o'clock the attention of the station-keeper and Policeman Austin was attracted by the prisoner groaning, and when they reached his cell they found him on his knees apparently suffering intense pain. The cell door was opened and the police applied remedies while waiting for the arrival of a physician. Dr. Smith of the Emergency Hospital staff, who reached the station in a few minutes, found that life was extinct.

So far as the police know, Dr. Guden, or Dr. Reiter, obtained from people in this city a little more than \$100 and the watch and chain. During the time the doctor was in this city he boasted of his ancestry. He said his father was doctor to King Ludwig of Bavaria, who was drowned a number of years ago, and was with the king at the time and was also drowned. He frequently referred to his brother, who, he said, was a military officer. What the man's name really was the police do not know.

After his arrest he admitted that he had obtained money from a number of people here, but said he merely borrowed it, and declared it was his intention to return it after he reached home.

The autopsy showed that death resulted from a weak heart, and was caused by excitement.