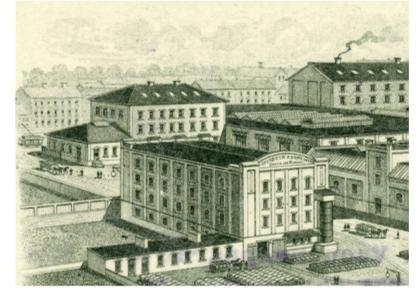




MUNICIPAL ARCHIVE IN THE FORMER THURN UND TAXIS POST



The **Neuss municipal archive** was first mentioned in a document in 1242 (“archivum publicum Nusie”) and is therefore one of the oldest in Germany. Until the 17th century, the archive was part of the **city registry** on Krämerstraße, after which it was located in the **town hall** by the market, built in 1638 and destroyed in 1944. After the relocation of the archive holdings and their provisional rehousing due to the war, the archive has been located in two listed buildings on Oberstraße since 1967. Administration, a reading room as well as an events and exhibition room are located in the **former Thurn und Taxis post office**, with the repository in the adjoining former **candle warehouse**.



Overbeck & Sohn GmbH stearin and candle factory, letterhead, around 1910



Neuss municipal archive in the former post office (1778) and candle warehouse (1909), watercolour by Alfred Book, 1976



The building at 15 Oberstraße (left) with a view of the Obertor gate, postcard, around 1930



View of the former post office at 15 Oberstraße and the industrial buildings of the Overbeck candle factory, photograph, around 1960

The **neo-classical *Stadtpalais***, designed by architect **Peter Leydel**, was built in 1778 by the mayor and **postman Peter Joseph Nepes** on the open area on which the citadel had stood from 1679 to 1686. The building was used by the **Thurn und Taxis Post** until 1834 and was also the representative residence of the wealthy Nepes family. The post horses were changed and passengers and mail were collected in the stables to the rear.

In 1851, the **Sels brothers** built their **stearin candle and light factory** behind the former post office. The Overbeck candle factory was located here from 1906 to 1965. After the city of Neuss acquired the land and buildings, the **municipal archive** moved into the **administration building**. The listed candle warehouse in the courtyard, which was built in 1909 and is a typical reinforced concrete building of industrial architecture, has become a repository for the valuable historical documents of the city from nine centuries.

(Sources and texts: Neuss municipal archives)



Old staircase in the municipal archive, photograph, 1969

