Review of Dr. Gerret Liebing Schlaber, historian in Aabenraa, Denmark, in *Grenzfriedenshefte: Quarterly journal of German-Danish dialogue*, 4 (2013), pp. 286-287:

The Apenrade shipowner and also briefly national-liberal deputy in the Reichstag and the Prussian Diet was without doubt one of the most colourful characters in the political, economic and social life of the [North Schleswig] region in the last quarter of the 19th century. Therefore we welcome the fact that an academically well-founded biography was published on Michael Jebsen whose shipping company still exists and is not solely an important enterprise for Apenrade. Bert Becker, professor of history in Hong Kong, where the second headquarter of the Jebsen shipping company is located, thoroughly consulted an extensive range of primary sources, of which the company archives in Apenrade plays a special role.

The size of the book should not put you off. It is meaningfully divided into chapters detailing the Jebsen family, the sailor, the fleet manager, the shipowner, the parliamentarian, and finally the (German) North Schleswiger Michael Jebsen. Each is closed with its own conclusion and is highly entertaining to read. Detailed indexes of persons (with biographical information), organisations, ships, and places facilitate access to specific parts of the book. All in all Becker draws a many-sided picture of an unusual man who did a great deal for his town and maritime trade which at the time was already becoming increasingly globalised, and who was also a key voice in the German Association for Northern Schleswig, and one of the driving forces in the creation of the national meeting place on the Knivsberg. Although his political opponents in regional politics, such as H.P. Hanssen, confirmed that he, in spite of his clear pro-German standpoint, was on good terms with them, the street [in Apenrade] – laid out during the time of the German Empire and named after him – was renamed by the Danish administration soon after 1920. It has only been since 2005 that the small square in front of the company’s headquarters once again bears Jebsen’s name.

It is hoped that this interesting, impressive and well-illustrated biography will find many readers on both sides of the border. Well-researched portrayals about German North Schleswig historical persons are heretofore rare to come across.