



Froebel star
(germ. *Fröbelstern*)

Christmas craft with
a long tradition

The European Forum Luciaday

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Delta Kappa Gamma Germany

Cinnamon stars,
straw stars, paper stars ...
Stars are an absolute must for
Advent and Christmas
decorations.

Without stars, Christmas
season just doesn't feel right.





We would like to present a star from the traditional German handicraft.

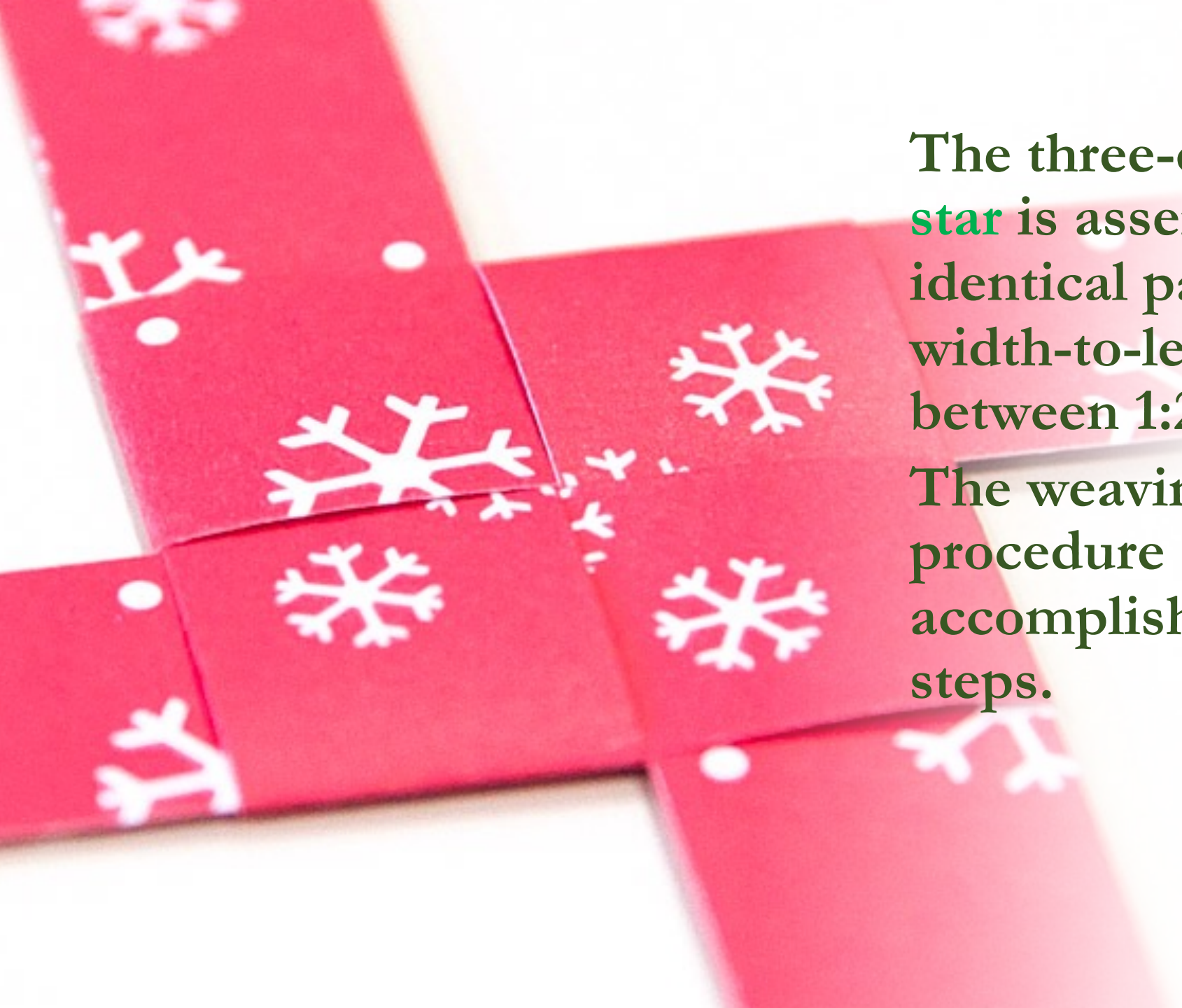
This star, which is normally folded out of paper, goes by the name of the **German star** or **Froebel star**.



Crafting Froebel stars originates in **German folklore**.


Traditionally the stars would be dipped into wax and sprinkled with glitter after being folded.

The star can be considered a form of **origami**, because it is made of identical paper sheets and assembled without glue.



The three-dimensional **Froebel star** is assembled from four identical paper strips with a width-to-length proportion of between 1:25 and 1:30.

The weaving and folding procedure can be accomplished in about forty steps.

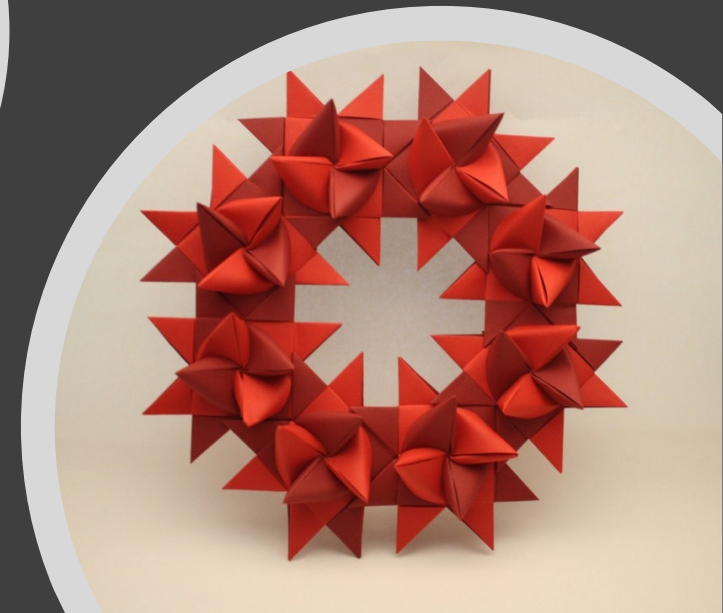


Today, **Froebel stars** are very common in Germany, although few people know how to make them.

If you would like to try it yourself, you can find instructions in English here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7rr34gOba5Q> (2 parts)

You can find the stars
as Christmas tree
and wreath
decorations,
as mobiles or
garlands...





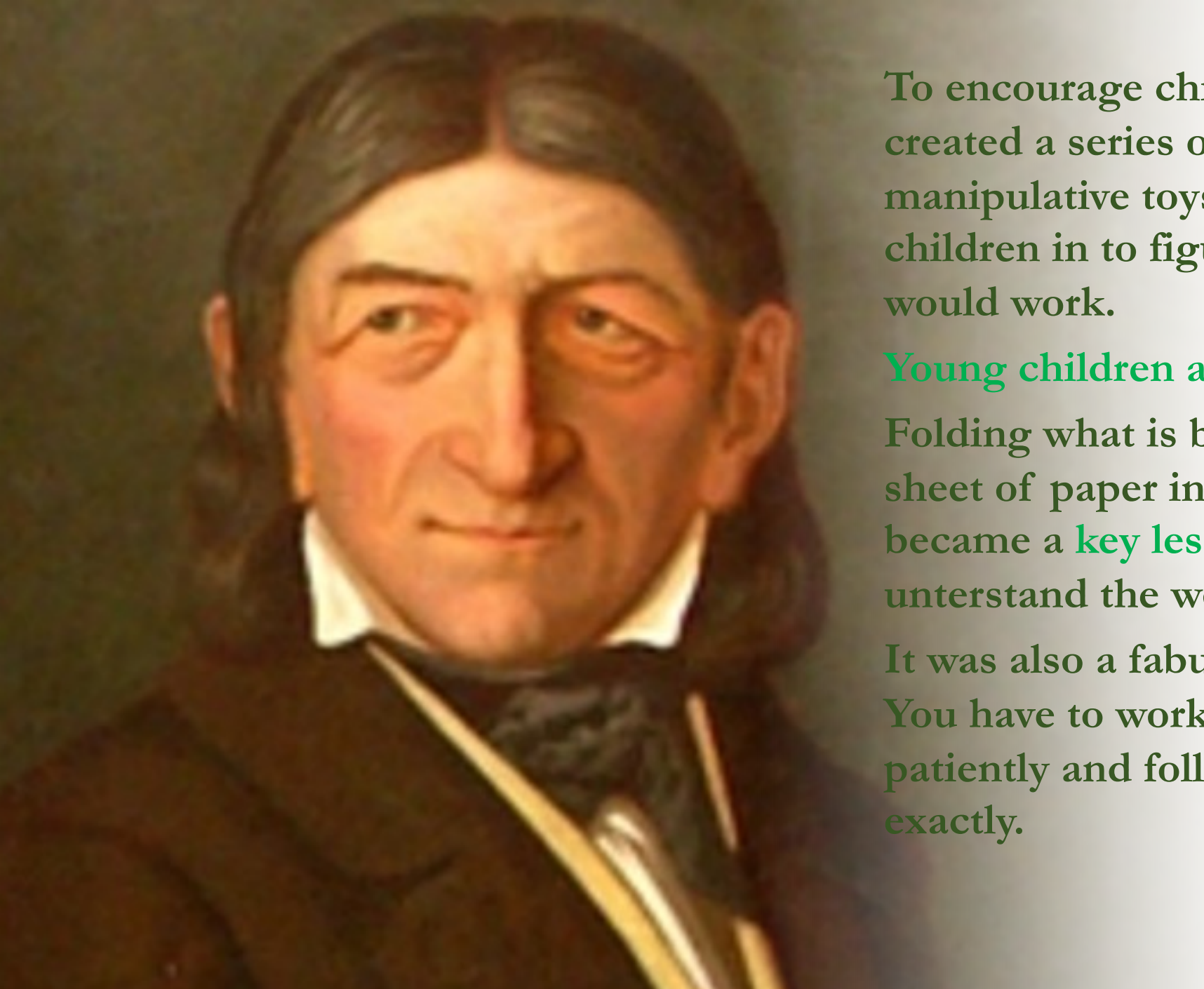
Why this stars
are known
as **Froebel Stars?**



As a staunch believer that children should learn through creative play, the German educator **Friedrich Fröbel** established in the little Thuringean town *Bad Blankenburg* (in the Middle of Germany) a school that became the first **kindergarten** in 1840.

Friedrich Wilhelm August Fröbel (1782-1852)

<https://www.bad-blankenburger.de/cms/page/mod/hs/content.php?sid=05hm1292861657K&eid=16>

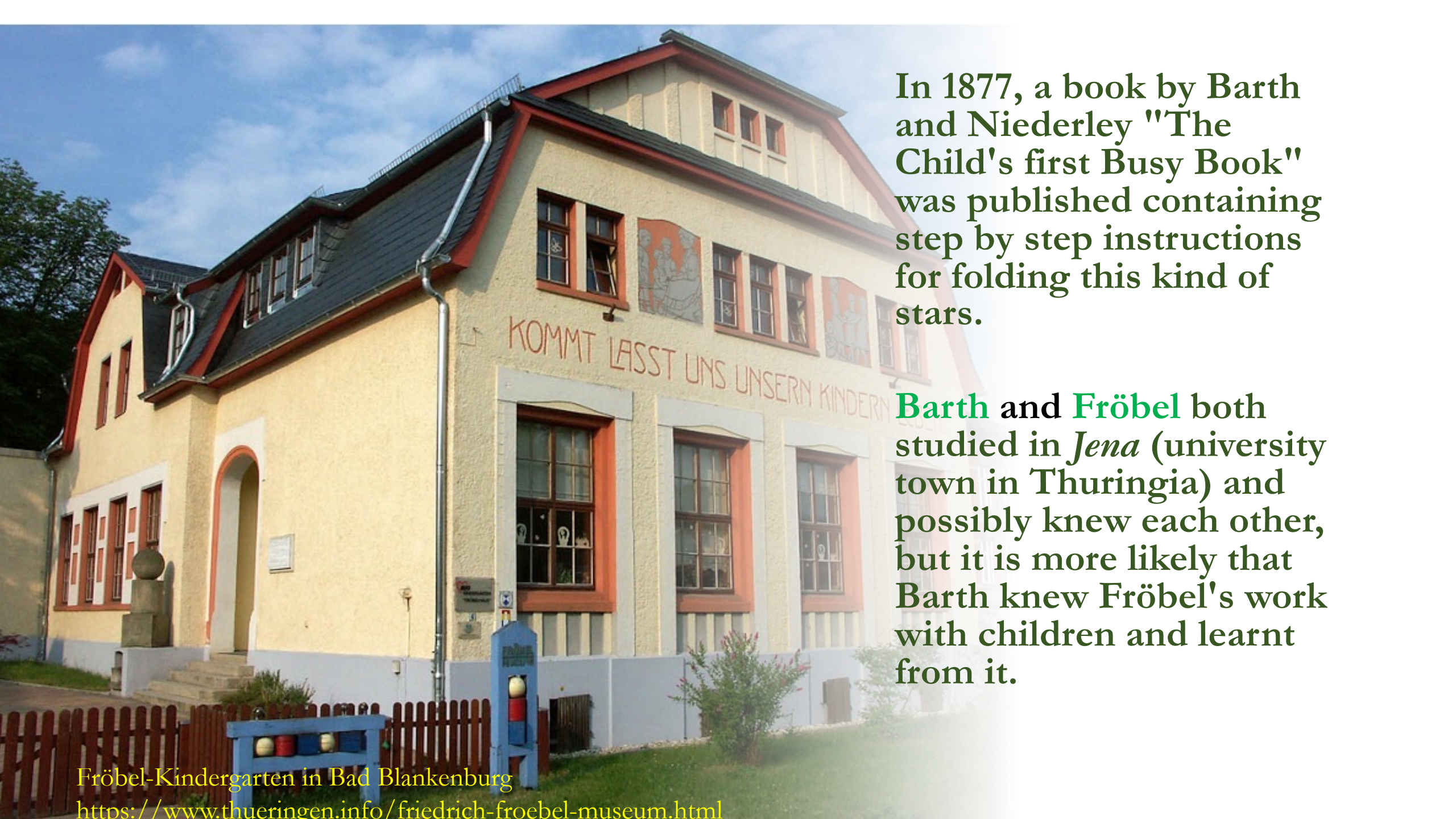


To encourage children's learning, he created a series of „gifts”, puzzles and manipulative toys, that would draw children in to figuring out how the world would work.

Young children also learns paper folding.

Folding what is basically a 2 dimensional sheet of paper into a 3 dimensional star became a **key lesson in maths** to help understand the world around them.

It was also a fabulous lesson in precision. You have to work very carefully and patiently and follow the steps (40 in total) exactly.



In 1877, a book by Barth and Niederley "The Child's first Busy Book" was published containing step by step instructions for folding this kind of stars.

Barth and **Fröbel** both studied in *Jena* (university town in Thuringia) and possibly knew each other, but it is more likely that Barth knew Fröbel's work with children and learnt from it.



The star was named after **Friedrich Fröbel** in the 1960s.

The great educator may not have "invented" the **Froebel star**, but he taught it to many, and even more than a century and a half later, his contributions are still part of our vocabulary, his legacy is still alive and at the same time wonderfully connected to our traditional folk art.



*We wish you a
wonderful Advent
and Christmas
season, may the
stars shine and
bring peace and
joy to all.*