

Hans-Peter Hye, Eduard count Taaffe – a childhood friend of emperor Francis Joseph? (p. 65–79)

Whenever count Eduard Taaffe (1833–1895) is mentioned as governor, minister and prime minister, there usually is a reference to his childhood friendship with the later emperor Francis Joseph. But Taaffe, as is shown here, did not belong to the inner circle of the emperor's childhood friends. The claim, raised for the first time in 1868, served to enhance Taaffe's importance, and gradually it served to explain his brilliant career and thereby replaced the actual reasons.