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Thomas Bitterli

Foreword

Hartmut Hofrichter

This year's conference of the DBV's Academic Advisory Board took place in Braubach's Philippsburg and Marksburg from 25 to 27 January. Once again, as in alternate years, its theme was the „Youth Forum on castellology“, a series of events offering young academics the opportunity to report on their first projects and discuss them and other topics with the Board's members.

To encourage them further, and also to disseminate the projects to a broader public which would surely find them of interest, we promised, as before, to publish them in our journal.

We are particularly pleased that all those concerned delivered their reports in good time and we were therefore able to publish them in the same year and in a single volume.

There were eight presentations (four by guests from neighbouring countries), and another from a Board member was added because it was contiguous in both time and space with the first talk, was also on an archaeological theme, and moreover deserved attention because of the unexpected and spectacular results it provided.

It is natural that not all contributions from those starting out in the profession will be measurable by the strictest scientific yardsticks but the clear majority of them

convinced us of an astonishing level of professionalism and an unusual degree of commitment.

E. Fischer summarises the excavations carried out since 1975 in Osnabrück's Domburg district and their conclusive findings on the lay-out of early-mediaeval Domburg, the development of the settlement including its original topography and its associated roads. The remains of the missionary church consecrated in the year 786 were found under the nave of the present cathedral along with a section of the sanctuary wall, at least part of which was dated to before the 12th century on the basis of the material found. A V-shaped ditch which had previously been linked to the first fortification was found to be of more recent date. A more detailed clarification of the extent and appearance of at least part of the former bishop's residence should be afforded by the current major research project.

H.-W. Heine (Board member) reports on the emergency excavation in 2007 of the Heidenwall, previously thought lost, at the former crossing of the Hunte in the eastern part of Oldenburg before it was moved to the area of the current old town centre. Two aspects are worthy of attention: not just the opportunity, rare in this region, to excavate an eleventh-century castle site, but also the fact that the rows of clay-filled wooden box structures forming the two embankment rings can be dendrochronologically dated to within a year: 1032 for the inner ring and 1042 for the outer. Thus a massive wood-and-earth fortification has been brought to light which the author sees as evidence of a parallel development with the stone castles to the west and south. The next article, on the Wittelsbach castle of Wartenberg in Upper Bavaria, takes us back to the 12th century. *M.-J. Bauer* takes a historian's look at the question of whether, as claimed by local researchers, this now vanished site could actually have been the precursor to the current castle Trausnitz in Landshut. His conclusion: there was no displacement of a secondary royal household. Both cases involved the enforcement of Wittelsbach claims: in the case of the older, count (palatine) castle, Wartenberg, against the feudal families living there and the Bishop of Freising; and in the case of the more recent ducal castle of Landshut, against the Bishop of Regensburg.

Gozzoburg in Krems, Upper Austria, is an imposing three- or four-storey complex which has the appearance of a castle from the lower town owing to its situation on the hillside. It took its name from Gozzo, a city judge first document-

ed there in the year 1249, who took over an existing building and extended it to form a complex with administrative offices, representative rooms, the highest standard of residence and a symbolic defensive appearance. It also had a ground-floor loggia, a private chapel worthy of a nobleman, a hall (for feasts?) and an expensively decorated tower chamber presumably for high-ranking guests. The great significance of this complex, with its four sections projecting outward like towers, a major site for the Middle Ages, is also clearly and conclusively demonstrated in the interlinking of its public, semi-public and private spaces by *G. Buchinger/P. Mitchell/D. Schön/H. Schönfellner-Lechner*.

A. Schütz, who in 2006 undertook a comprehensive inventory of castles and seats of nobility in the Uckermark in the north-eastern marches of Brandenburg, recording some 250 locations at which such buildings had stood, still stand or might have stood, proposes, in view of the current inadequate state of research, a basic typology divided into four groups. Only nine sites can be unambiguously identified as mediaeval castles from the above-ground evidence. Urgent action in the form of fundamental research is needed if only to prevent these extensive archaeological remains (mainly from the 13th to 15th centuries) from being destroyed through ignorance.

Taking as his starting point the excavations in 1982-1992 and comparing the findings with the information contained in a deed of partition of 1301, which is regarded as the first mention of the site, *B. Koller* gives an overview of the current state of knowledge concerning Castrum Bene in north-eastern Hungary, a castle with an irregular, pentagonal ground plan with some buildings around the periphery. He also discusses the resulting discrepancies. The finds from the castle, which was probably destroyed as early as 1497, still require proper analysis, and further excavations will be needed to clarify certain points.

I. Scholz examines the castles of Archbishop Baldwin of Trier (reigned 1307-1354), which vary considerably in size and design, looking at issues of building administration, funding and building activity. Her conclusion: in every instance the design of the castle was the fruit of a joint effort on the part of the Archbishop, his advisers, master builders and financial experts who managed their resources rationally after a careful survey of the market for building materials. There is no evidence of a central buildings authority.