

Christof Krauskopf: The Schnellerts – the mystery of a „perfectly normal“ castle

The Schnellerts, a small thirteenth century castle with an enclosing wall, has always been the cause of speculation about its history and its occupants. It lies in the Odenwald between Reinheim and Reichelsheim but, because of the lack of documentary evidence, only after extensive excavations has it been possible, on the basis of the finds, to date the castle more accurately. Yet even after the mystery of the date has been resolved there is still room for idle theorising, and not only with regard to the legend of the „marauding army“ associated with the castle. For example, it is claimed that some of the finds originated in the Orient, that the castle was built in two phases or that there was some connection with the Knights Templar. However, none of these theories will stand up to critical examination. Previous attempts to link the castle with particular noble families have also proved mere speculation. Finally, descriptions of encounters with „ghosts“ who are alleged to have provided „accurate“ information on when the castle was built and when it was destroyed show how even today unresolved, or only partially resolved, questions are seized on to create fresh myths.

Heiko Seidel: Notes on the building history of Fürstlich Drehna in Lower Lusatia

The stately manor of Fürstlich Drehna in Lower Lusatia, roughly half way between Berlin and Dresden and west of Cottbus, is a complex building of heterogeneous building phases. Political conditions were such that extensive investigations of the history of the building were not possible before the end of the 1980s. The article presents a critical evaluation of verifiable sources and the primary literature, mainly dating from an earlier period, and seeks to place in context recent studies of the building history.

Christoph Bittel: Bad Mergentheim – the past and present of the Teutonic Order are brought to life in the palace and museum

An earlier building, probably a moated castle, on the site of the rambling palace which now stands in Bad Mergentheim was donated in 1219 by three brothers of the noble family of Hohenlohe, which held extensive estates in Franconia, to the Teutonic Order. This religious community – originally founded as a hospital confraternity in Palestine in 1190 and expanded to form an order of knights in 1198 – had its headquarters in Bad Mergentheim from 1527 to 1809. However, the Roman Catholic order, which is now run from Vienna, was at the peak of its power in the period from 1231 to 1525 when it conquered, cultivated and administered a large unified territory in Prussia and in the Baltic. In the period 1989 to 1996 the palace in Bad Mergentheim, which now belongs to the provincial government of Baden-Württemberg, was generously restored with state aid. Today, housed in its venerable walls on the edge of the old town, is the 'Museum of the Teutonic Order', the only one of its kind, which shows the history of the Order from its origins at the time of the crusades to the present day.

Rainer Kunze: Bödighheim – general plan and earlier building history

Bödighheim is interesting in that it can be precisely dated, it has developed over five centuries into a palace in miniature, it is still occupied by the descendants of its builder and it retains major features from every epoch. The mediaeval and renaissance periods reveal surprises: the small castle was protected by a keep of red dressed ashlar and a two-sectioned chemise of smooth, white ashlar, while the huge outer bailey was a moated castle in the valley. Another surprising fact is that it is possible to reconstruct from what still remains of the 16th century building – details of which are of very high quality – a renaissance manor house with two wings and a stair tower, with the broad moat (now filled in) serving as the courtyard. The third, and last, main phase in its construction was the shift to the valley; a rural baroque edifice in the former outer bailey with a park next to it.

Die Autoren dieses Heftes

Dr. Christoph **Bittel**, Bad Mergentheim
Ulrich **Feldhahn** M.A., Stuttgart
Dipl.-Ing. Konrad **Fischer**, Hochstadt a. Main
Dr. Walther-Gerd **Fleck**, Stuttgart
Dr. Hans-Wilhelm **Heine**, Langenhagen
Hans-Jürgen **Hessel**, Hofheim-Wallau
Siegfried **Hildebrand**, Halle
Jaroslaw **Kolaczek**, Breslau
Christof **Krauskopf** M.A., Berlin
Rainer **Kunze**, Mannheim-Almenhof
Heiko **Laß** M.A., Marburg
Matthias **Rasch**, Warburg
Benjamin **Rudolph**, Berlin
Dipl.-Ing. Heiko **Seidel**, Hannover
Dr.-Ing. Stefan **Uhl**, Warthausen
Prof. Dr. phil. habil. Dr.-Ing. Hermann **Wirth**, Weimar
Dr. Joachim **Zeune**, Eisenberg

**Neue Anschrift des
Europäischen Burgeninstituts,
der Fachbibliothek und
der Redaktion „Burgen und Schlösser“
ab sofort**

**Philippsburg
Schloßstr. 5**

56338 Braubach

Tel. 02627/974156 (Zentrale)

02627/974157 (Redaktion/Verlag)

02627/974158 (Institutsleiter)

Fax 02627/970394

Email: DBV.EBI@t-online.de