maiestatis das Werk belasten würden. Zum Nachweis von Interpretationsfehlern, vom unpräzisen Umgang mit Fachwörtern, von redaktionellen Unzulänglichkeiten sei mit Einschluss von "Stilblüten" hier nur jeweils ein Beispiel zitiert: Das Weimarer Residenzschloss hat sich durchaus nicht im 17. Jahrhundert "als Dreiflügelgestalt bereits [ge]öffnet"(S. 327) – was der Autor wissen müsste, zumal er sich im Rückdeckeltext als "zuletzt [September 1991 bis September 1992] amtierender Direktor der Kunstsammlungen zu Weimar" zu erkennen geben lässt -; "Dieser Saal füllt das [!] ganze Mittelrisalit", muss man auf S. 42 lesen, und einen Gipfelpunkt philologischer Unzulänglichkeit bietet die Sequenz: "Er [unklar bleibt bis zum Satz-Ende, ob Architekt oder Baukörper] besitzt [!] eine bisher nicht erkannte Bedeutung jener Phase innerhalb der Schloßbaukunst ..., was durch sein frühes abtragen [!] begründet ist" (S. 31f.).

Hermann Wirth

Anmerkung

Durch Vermählung einer ihrer Töchter 1745 mit dem drei Jahre zuvor als Nachfolger der Zarin Elisabeth nach Russland gerufenen Enkel Peters des Großen und Herzog Karl Peter Ulrich v. Holstein-Gottorn.

English summary

Editorial

It is immediately obvious from the introduction by the President of the Deutsche Burgenvereinigung (DBV: German Castles Association), Alexander Fürst zu Sayn-Wittgenstein-Sayn, that this edition is something out of the ordinary. It is one in which we have a personal interest – a subject area in which we are closely involved (and which on occasion has been a matter of controversy): restoration for conservation purposes, as practised over recent years, and in particular the question of plasterwork and colouring at castles. Not just any castle, but our own castle - the Marksburg - because that is where the DBV's very credibility and its obligation, pursuant to its constitution, to set an example are exposed to the scrutiny of a broader, expert public. To this extent, this issue of Burgen und Schlösser not only shows how decisions on conservation matters have been made possible, and why, but also why decisions are ultimately taken, and how. It is therefore in a sense a question of accountability. It seeks to make the decisions taken hitherto as transparent and as comprehensible as possible. It also seeks to encourage further discussion and most importantly – an even greater sensitivity towards the way in which we treat the fabric of historical buildings. In other words, it is also a learning process in which it is only possible to recognise what we are already vaguely aware of.

Other opinions are welcome, and this is made clear by the authors of the articles, some of whom represent different schools of thought. It is also a corollary of the international conference in 1990 on *Plasterwork and colouring on mediaeval buildings* inspired and organised by the DBV, which encouraged a discussion of the subject which was both far-reaching and in-depth.

The decisive factor as far as the Marksburg is concerned was the consensus between conservationists and the DBV on a restoration concept in which different individual features could be co-ordinated and integrated,

in a particular sequence, taking into account a very broad spectrum of preliminary studies, and their likely effects on the complex as a whole.

The first five articles range from theoretical considerations via the preliminary studies to practical implementation. The next two broaden the scope with their different emphases. Regine Dölling discusses Magnus Backes and his links with the Marksburg (of which he was custodian from 1958 to 1961). Busso von der Dollen's article will be of particular importance in the future because he taps source studies and interviews with contemporary witnesses to discuss the uses to which the castle's rooms have been put in the twentieth century, thereby providing a sound basis for future plans for alternative use and restoration.

As former chief executive of the DBV. Klaus Tragbar is concerned with the fundamental issue of bare masonry versus plasterwork at castles. Closely connected with this is the question of how to ,read' the history of a building over a long period marked by many changes. He also considers the argument still being advanced by Magnus Backes in 1987 that although the castle had originally been plastered, the bare masonry of Bodo Ebhardt's war memorial by the Rhine in Braubach respected the creative harmony of the castle and the town walls as they were in his day. However, faced with the position maintained over a long period by the Rhineland-Palatinate Conservation Department, this approach, inspired by the romantic movement and the way it viewed ruins, is not something which can be automatically applied to an intact castle, but is more applicable to a ruin - which the Marksburg manifestly is not. Here, too, the bare masonry is the result more of chance than of design. This is the official line of the DBV which, in the final analysis, faced with the reality of rapidly accelerating decay of the greywacke walls of the outer courtyards and the need to work towards protecting and preserving them, is left only with the option of constructive protection in the form of extensive rendering. A basic agreement has been reached with the Conservation Department, represented by Doris Fischer, to use darker rendering on the outer are-

Burgen und Schlösser 4/2002 279

as, and lighter rendering on the nucleus of the castle (work on this started in 1992 with the Chapel Tower) to create uniformity in line with Dilich's plans of 1607/08. Of key importance here is a continuing analysis of the existing concept on the basis of preliminary studies by architectural historians, conservation experts, architects and complementary disciplines such as structural engineering or the natural sciences in the form of back-up analyses of historical and new rendering materials.

Lorenz Frank provides a detailed explanation of the genesis of the castle and the ways in which it has changed. On this basis he has produced building phase plans and formulated questions for future surveys on the basis of evidence such as building materials, put-log holes, dendrochronological sampling and a comparison of the findings with Dilich's five tables. Ferdinand Lawen, who has examined traces of old rendering and colouring, has identified no fewer than eleven different phases which he has charted and has also developed a concept for preserving rendering by setting and permanently joining loose layers with supporting masonry. Egloffstein's article is concerned mainly with an analysis of historical lime finish on the Rheinbau building and with the current alternatives in terms of properties and colour. The importance of shedding light on these issues is abundantly obvious from the incidental damage caused by inexpertly carried out measures at numerous conservation projects - not least castles.

Given that each of the articles is intended to stand on its own, there is some inevitable overlap. Since they were written from different perspectives this is not only acceptable but also evidence of an encouraging and necessary shared approach towards objectives and methods.

Hartmut Hofrichter

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