

English summaries

Andrea Bulla and Hans-Werner Peine: Octagonal defensive architecture of the Hohenstaufen period – Holsterburg near Warburg

A site survey and further archaeological investigations carried out by the Westfalen-Lippe archaeological service have revealed a monumental octagonal ring wall made of large, high-grade smooth ashlar. This makes the Holsterburg a late representative of those impressive octagonal castles which were built at only a few sites in Europe, such as the castles of Eguisheim, Guebwiller and Wangen in Alsace, Tübingen-Kilchberg in Baden-Württemberg and the Torre di Federico in Enna in Sicily. The octagon of Holsterburg gave protection to several buildings erected adjacent to it. The evidence so far suggests an interior extending over several storeys covering as many as three periods of use. The unusual features of the residential building include a luxurious hot air heating system and a tiled stove which probably consisted of semi-cylindrical 'Tannenberg' tiles; this type of stove can therefore be confidently dated to the late 13th century at the earliest. Although the initial building phase can be dated on the basis of only a few finds, indicating a period of 1170-1180, a large number of later finds confirm that the castle was destroyed in 1294.

Udo Liessem: Augusta in Sicily – observations on the octagonal front wall tower of Frederick II's castellum: a report on work in progress

The castellum of Augusta in the eponymous town in the province of Syracuse is one of the least well-known castles built under the emperor Frederick II although in terms of its conception and construction it is one of the greatest secular buildings of its age. This can be seen in the fact that it was part of a Spanish fortress in the 17th and 18th centuries and it served as a high-security prison until 1978. Today only the ground floor dates from the Hohenstaufen period.

The west wing is relatively well preserved. Augusta was built between 1232 and 1242, at the same time as the castella in Catania and Syracuse. With dimensions of ca. 60 x 60 m the quadratic building is the largest of the three castles. Three broadly similar wings form a large courtyard. They each consist of a long hall, just on 60 m in length but only one bay deep in front of which is an arcade open to the courtyard. Both, the halls – used essentially for grain storage – and the arcades have cross-rib vaulting. On the northern side a ring wall completes the square. In the middle of this wall is an octagonal tower (now capped), which not only points westward but also has an obvious impact on the courtyard side. The unique feature of this tower consists in the fact that the entire surface is faced with two forms of rusticated ashlar: bulging and diamond faced. The surfaces of the tower are of an extraordinarily high quality and quite remarkable precision. The tower, which is unique, should be seen as a symbol of power and the associated aspirations of the emperor.

Jens Friedhoff: 'The living Middle Ages' and 'forgotten castles' – the motte of Lütjenburg and the ruin of Glambeck in Schleswig-Holstein

The cultural landscape of the north German coastal region is largely characterised by baroque and classicistic stately homes and mediaeval village churches. Mediaeval castles are apparent only as ground monuments. In Schleswig-Holstein there are substantial remains only of Glambeck on the island of Fehmarn, built by the kings of Denmark in the 13th century. Against the monumental background of the modern leisure centre and marina Burgtiefe, built between 1966 and 1972, the ruin of the brick-built donjon and remains of the ring wall of Glambeck castle appear as rather modest window-dressing which, despite its significance for the history of the region and for castellology, risks being increasingly forgotten. There are no information panels with explanatory text. By contrast, the motte of Lütjenburg, freely reconstructed since 2002, away from modern residential and commercial areas in an open field, is particularly popular, and within the

space of only a few years it has become a favourite excursion in eastern Holstein. On the basis of archaeological finds from the region a late mediaeval motte, consisting of a bailey and a donjon has been created. Although it is of secondary importance compared with original castles, it is an impressive example of the castle landscape of Schleswig-Holstein which has sunk into oblivion.

István Feld: Researching and 're-constructing' the late mediaeval castle of Solymár near Budapest

Until its destruction in the mid-16th century, Solymár castle built in the late 14th century in the centre of the mediaeval kingdom of Hungary served as a powerful base for the rulers or mighty magnates of the country. In the 18th century the local residents dismantled the ruins (partly down to the foundations) and the castle soon disappeared from the countryside. The article discusses, firstly, the history of the archaeological study of the castle which has been going on in phases since 1929 and is still not complete, and outlines the building history of the castle. It then goes on to describe the 'reconstruction work' of 2006: not only were sections of the outer walls rebuilt, but the donjon building, the gatehouse and the well were also modernised. The approach adopted and the direction which future work should take are under discussion.

Milan Sykora: Kalich, Panna und Litýš – three Hussite castles in North-Western Bohemia

The article is concerned with three castles in North-Western Bohemia built at the beginning of the Hussite wars (1419–1485). They made use of thick earthwork ramparts and bastions with wooden wall walks which permitted not only passive defence against firearms but also their active use in sophisticated systems. In addition to these castles there were almost one hundred others on the territory of the kingdom of Bohemia forming part of a not very large group of castles which had a decisive influence on the development of European defensive architecture of the modern period.