

English summaries

Udo Mainzer: The benefits of monuments to society

Monuments which have an emotional appeal are still the publishers' favourites. The conservation sector therefore has an increasing need to collaborate with associations to strengthen public awareness of the diversity of the historical built heritage so that the latter's social benefit as a whole is recognised and conservation strategies are developed. Throughout history people's assessment of the value of monuments has varied with the contemporary political background. Their historical significance is currently paramount. Globalisation has now resulted in the financial value of public and private life becoming more important and as a result economic benefit is taking precedence over the benefit deriving from cultural heritage. However, monuments are a vital element of the basic human need to preserve the built heritage and the collective memory, for the quality of life and future security of this and future generations. Only if an appropriate value can be granted to both can society enjoy the many-faceted benefits of monuments. (*I. Bloor*)

Hans-Wilhelm Heine: Archaeological research into castles in Lower Saxony

In the period 2008 to 2010 the Lower Saxony State Service for Cultural Heritage has been trying out a number of innovative approaches to surveying castles of the Middle Ages, for example a combined survey in the shallows of Steinhuder lake in the region of Hannover. Using geomagnetism, geosonar and georadar it has been possible to carry out a more accurate survey of the structure of the 'castle', a shallow area in the lake. A deed and existing finds suggest in all probability that this is the 'Kranenburg' as it was called in 1320. Astonishing survey results of various castles and their geographical location have been obtained from Airborne Laserscanning (Lidar). Topographical scale models of important castle sites such as Grosser and Kleiner Everstein, Homburg, Hunnesrück, Nienover and Burgberg near Dassel (districts of Holzminden and Northeim) are available for further research. The history of these settlements and their relationship with their immediate vicinity can now be studied.

The author concludes with a discussion of new digital surveys of other castles (Asseburg near Wolfenbüttel, and the Hohe Burg near Bockhorn, district of Friesland). (*P. Cole*)

Peter Ettl/Lukas Werther: Hungarian castles and seats of power in 10th century Bavaria

As part of a major research project carried out by the Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum of Mainz, a comparative study of castles and settlements in Bavaria in the 9th–11th centuries was launched in 2009. The first part of the article locates these studies in the context of existing castle research, presents a number of case studies and discusses the historical background, with particular reference to incursions by the Hungarians. The second part presents the questions addressed by the study and its methodological approach using the example of a case study from Northern Bavaria. (*P. Cole*)

Christian Frey: Castles and symbolic communication – Werla and Harzburg

In his struggle with Henry the Lion, Frederick Barbarossa made use of two ruins in Saxony: the castles of Werla and Harzburg. He used the symbolism of the castles and their history to serve his own purposes. In the 10th century Werla was Saxony's most important royal residence, but it was overshadowed by newly founded Goslar. Henry IV, who was at loggerheads with the Saxons, built the Harzburg and commissioned Benno, his architect, to create an entirely new type of castle which was to become the dominant type throughout the Middle Ages. It was not so much the military effect of castles that was of importance to Barbarossa; he was more interested in the messages that they put across. With Werla he was demonstrating the return of royal authority to Saxony, while the Harzburg represented strength and inflexibility. An investigation of such acts of symbolic communication could provide a fresh impetus to castle studies. (*P. Cole*)

František Záruba: The Italian Court in Kutná Hora

The article describes and elucidates the development of the Italian Court in Kutná Hora from its foundation ca. 1300 to the early 16th century. The Italian Court is an unusual symbiosis of town castle and mint and as such is unique in the whole of Central Europe. King Wenceslas IV built a luxurious

residence here in the late 1380s, one feature of which is the extremely beautiful St. Wenceslas chapel, probably the work of Peter Parler. In the 15th century the Italian Court became one of the most important residences in Bohemia and was used as such until 1527 when the last royal visitor was King Ferdinand I, after which it was converted into dwellings for officials. (*P. Cole*)

Miklós Racz: The ruin of Csesznek in Hungary

The ruin of Csesznek castle in the Bakony mountains is one of the best known, best preserved and also best researched castles (in terms of archaeological surveys) in Hungary. Once the castle was abandoned the modern accretions, once significant, were largely demolished and removed, leaving a late mediaeval castle – partly extended and corrupted as a result of earlier conservation work, but nevertheless original and uniform. The almost ostentatiously picturesque castle complex was built, to replace an earlier castle, by King, subsequently Emperor, Sigismund of Luxembourg in the early part of the 15th century and it was one of the secondary residences of what were the most influential families in the kingdom. Excavations started in 1967 and surveys have contributed to an understanding and interpretation of the history and construction elements of the castle and also an understanding of its material culture. (*P. Cole*)

Claudia Feller: Building costs for Rodenegg castle in the 15th century

The article discusses the building accounts of Oswald II von Wolkenstein, son of the famous poet and Minnesänger, for Rodenegg castle in the South Tyrol which was at the time in the possession of the reigning duke. The accounts, covering the period 1465 to 1467, probably formed the basis for the bills Oswald presented to the Tyrolean Duke Sigmund of Austria and his officials. The accounts contain an introductory list of the conversions and new building works carried out on the castle and its ancillary buildings; the rest of the accounts is divided into categories of work (blacksmiths, locksmiths, carpenters, etc.). This source not only provides information for socio-historical research, it also provides insights going beyond the narrow field of building research, for instance, into prices, wages, the number of days the various artisans worked and technical information such as the provenance of building materials. (*I. Bloor*)