

Rezensionen

„Nachruf“ und Appell zum Nachdruck in Neuauflage:

Thomas Bienert

Mittelalterliche Burgen in Thüringen. 430 Burgen, Burgruinen und Burgstätten

(Hrsg. v. Sparkassen-Kulturstiftung Hessen - Thüringen)
Gudensberg-Gleichen: Wartberg Verlag 2000, 463 Seiten, zahlreiche schwarz/weiße Abbildungen, Zeichnungen, Grundrisse, Aufrisse, Karten. Kasch. Festeinband. ISBN 10: 3-86134-631-1.

Sträflicherweise ist zu gegebener Zeit auf dieses mit berechtigtem Anspruch auftretende Burgenhandbuch, das auch als niveauller und seriöser Burgenführer gute Dienste tun kann, in den interessierten Kreisen nicht aufmerksam gemacht worden. Der beauftragte Rezensent hat die Nachricht, dass dieses beachtliche Burgenvademeum bereits vergriffen sei, mit verblüffter Verwunderung zur Kenntnis nehmen müssen. So bleibt nun der Appell an den Verlag, nachzudrucken oder gar eine Neuauflage in Angriff zu nehmen – oder die Hoffnung, dass die folgende Kurzrezension Anlass gibt, in Bibliotheken eingestellte Exemplare zu konsultieren.

Dieses als „fundierte Bestandsaufnahme“ (S. 6) angelegte „Inventar der Burgen des Freistaates Thüringen“ ist übersichtlich und benutzerfreundlich aufgebaut: Die vorangestellte konzise Einführung, die in Einzelaussagen, z. B. zur Burgentypologie, auch Widerspruch provozieren könnte, informiert knapp über die zeitliche und räumliche Entwicklung des mit dem sich nach Osten vorschiebenden Landesausbau (terra Plisnensis) einhergehenden Burgenbaues in Thüringen, auch hinsichtlich des Materials, der Dimension, Gestalt, Funktion und Lage sowie über den sich ändernden Kreis der königlichen und adeligen Bauherren, aus dem die Thüringer Landgrafen herausragen; chronologisch definiert das 7. Jahrhundert die Retro-Grenze für das Frühmittelalter, das Ende des mittelalterlichen Burgenbaues wird mit den Jahren 1300

und schließlich 1525 in Verbindung gebracht; den geografischen Rahmen bildet exakt das heutige politische Thüringen. Der lexikalische Teil (S. 14–367) mit den Einzelartikeln bietet in alphabetischer Folge die 17 (Land-)Kreise mit deren jeweiliger Gemeindeinteilung und die sechs (kreisfreien) Städte: Eisenach, Erfurt, Gera, Gotha, Jena und Weimar als Ordnungsprinzip für das Aufsuchen von Burgenstandorten, ein Prinzip, das leider die Gesetzesvorhaben zur Raumordnung (Gemeindestrukturreform) stören könnte.

Die einzelnen Artikel gliedern sich nach Lokalisierungsangabe und „Objekt“-Spezifizierung in geschichtliche Kurzaufsätze, die teilweise auch mutige freihändige Datierungsansätze auf Grund von Autopsie Bienerts sowie bis in die moderne Gegenwart reichende Informationen enthalten, ferner Beschreibungen unter Einschluss der Baugeschichte – des Bauzustandes, knappe Literaturhinweise, was durch das umfangreiche Quellen- und Literaturverzeichnis (S. 376–435) reichlich kompensiert wird, sowie fallweise Abbildungen (unterschiedlichen Formates) und/oder Grundrisse (ohne Maßstabsangabe) wohl nach Bedeutungseinschätzung von Bienert, so beispielsweise Altenburg, Kyffhausen, Leuchtenburg, Orlamünde, Runneburg, Wartburg. Den Kreisen sind jeweils hilfreiche Orientierungskarten vorangestellt. Eine Themenkarte des gesamten Thüringen hätte man zusätzlich gern gesehen. Zur Komplettierung der Dokumentation einschlägiger bruchstückhafter Nachrichten gibt es listenmäßige „Hinweise auf weitere Befestigungsanlagen“ (S. 368–375). Der Benutzung kommen willkommenerweise ein Glossar mit Begriffserklärungen, ein Objekt- und ein Ortsnamenverzeichnis entgegen. Die Burgenlandschaft Thüringen wird durch dieses Kompendium, das zwar kein wissenschaftliches Kind einer offiziell zuständigen Institution ist, sondern gebündelte private Initiativen, wie die Vor- und Geleitworte ausweisen, waren die Promotoren, dessen Entstehen aber ein solch erstrangiger Kenner der Materie, wie Hermann Wirth, Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, begleitet hat (vgl. S. 7), nicht nur adäquat, sondern mit mustergültigem Standard erschlossen.

Carl August Lückerrath

English summaries

Désirée Dall'Agnol: Mediaeval hill castles in the Pfälzerwald biosphere reserve

There are about sixty castles – mainly ruins – in the Pfälzerwald region. They constitute a remarkable tourist potential, albeit one which has been barely exploited – with the exception of Trifels and Hambach. The author analyses the concept of a society in search of new experiences, reports on the reasons why people visit castles and looks into the question of what value is attached to the reconstruction of castles and using them as a backdrop for other activities. The article also discusses how conservation can be reconciled with tourism, which does not have a long tradition in the Pfälzerwald. What is important for the forty ruined castles in the natural park is to preserve them in a consistent way in line with the principles of conservation. At the same time, however, efforts must be made to present them professionally.

Eberhard-Johannes Klauk: Vegetation in the wall joints of ruined castles in the Moselle valley and the Hunsrück

Efforts to preserve historical castles in their original state are to be welcomed, but often these efforts miss the point, resulting in sites that are architecturally boring and boring because the history of the site which can be interpreted from the vegetation has been eliminated. On the other hand, ruined castles which have been carefully preserved are a refuge for interesting, unique vegetation. In the area studied an important role is played by asplenium/polypodium colonies of ferns in conjunction with *Sedum album*. It is typical of the development of vegetation on castles and ruins of greywacke and Hunsrück slate in the Moselle Valley and the Hunsrück – a development which seeks to satisfy both plants and Man. The most obvious mistake in wall maintenance is to completely seal the joints. Castles and ruins with herbaceous growth have a certain architectural value, and no harm is done to the fabric. The point to bear in mind, however, is that the

uncontrolled growth of any type of vegetation leads to real damage. Another problem is the use of herbicides: if they are used over a lengthy period the structure of the lime mortar is destroyed and stonework can subside. In the final analysis ruined castles are to a certain extent like gardens—places where plants grow under human control. If this is understood they can be ‘managed’ for tourist purposes.

Stefan Ulrich: Arras, Beilstein, Bernkastel, Cochem and Thurandt

The article is concerned with details of the architectural history of a number of Moselle castles which are discussed in a work published by the author and which are intended to prompt further study of Moselle castles which have been largely ignored. For example, the prevailing view has been that the keep of Arras castle (first mentioned in 1120) is Romanesque. However, the rectangular tower with its rusticated ashlar and oilets is more common in the mid-thirteenth century, and in fact there is documentary evidence of a tower being built in about 1253. The interesting feature of Beilstein castle, too, is the keep: it probably dates from the mid-thirteenth century, which is nearer the time when the castle was built, or first mentioned, in 1268. At Bernkastel (also known as Landshut) the remains of a corner turret have been identified on the defensive wall. Given the fact that the castle was probably built in about 1277, and given the spread of this type of feature, this could be one of the earliest such turrets on (present) German soil. At the imperial castle of Cochem which, contrary to the prevailing opinion, must date from about 1100 at the earliest, the most important feature is the keep. Its octagonal shape is allegedly the result of the encasing of an older tower. However, there is no evidence to support this theory. The castle of Thurandt (the name comes from Toron in the Holy Land) was built in about 1200. However, its present appearance with its two round keeps is largely the result of rebuilding in the period after 1248. The original extent is entirely unknown. A largely overlooked, partially preserved section of wall with two corner turrets in the northern half could possibly be the remains of a residential tower from the period when the castle was built.

Thomas Steinmetz: New thoughts on the early history of the castle at Hirschberg an der Bergstraße – a link between castle building and mining

Historians have always regarded the lower of the two castles above Leutershausen as the historical castle Hirschberg, for which there is documentary evidence of the eponymous owners dating back to 1142. The castle situated 100 metres higher on the ‘Schanzenköpfe’ was also regarded as owned by the lords of Hirschberg-(Strahlenberg), even though by 1400 the already abandoned castle hill had been invested in vassals of minor nobility by the electors palatine. Achim Wend sought to demonstrate, in contrast to the prevailing view, that the upper castle was the historical Hirschberg castle while the lower castle was the older Strahlenburg, from 1174. Steinmetz has re-evaluated the historical sources, concluding that they do not permit such a reinterpretation but clearly point to the lower castle, now known as Hirschberg castle ruins, being the historical castle Hirschberg. The most likely builder of the upper castle is Konrad, Count Palatine (1156-1195), who had acquired half of Hirschberg castle before 1184. We can assume, although not prove, a link between the construction of the two castles above Leutershausen and the silver mines in the neighbouring village of Hohensachsen. A mine and miners’ housing situated there are mentioned in 1291 as the possession of the lords of Hirschberg-Strahlenberg. Archaeological research will perhaps provide future evidence of this link. By 1329 Hirschberg castle had already been demolished for reasons we are unaware of. According to archaeological findings the upper castle had already been abandoned a century before.

Thomas Tritschler: Hoh-Eckerich/Haut-Echéry – a little-known castle on the border between Alsace and Lorraine

The castle ruins rise from a rocky prominence at the far end of Petit Rombach (Klein-Rumbach) valley, which opens into the valley of Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines at the western end of the market town of Sainte-Croix-aux-Mines. There is very little to see: a few wall remains and some steps

hewn from the rock. The best-preserved remains are those of the chapel, boldly built at the south-eastern end of the rock in the second half of the 15th century. The castle was probably built by the Von Eckerich family in the second half of the 13th century. The lords of Eckerich were tenants of the Dukes of Lorraine and vassals of the Rappoltsteins. Later families with a right to the castle were the Waffeler von Eckerich, the von Andolsheim family and the Hattstatts. The castle seems to have fallen into ruin in the course of the 17th century and not been destroyed in fighting. The ruins are currently in a very poor and inexorably worsening state.

Reinhold Schneider/Ingrid Hagen: Restoration of the former brew house of Haus Ermelinghof in Hamm’s Bockum-Hövel district

In 2001 initial plans were made to renovate the empty and very dilapidated brew house of Haus Ermelinghof in Hamm. The brew house is a long, rubble-walled building with a red-tiled upper storey. The many windows indicate that the building was originally planned as a residence. However, while it was being built or at any rate soon after, the decision was taken to convert it to commercial use, so in 1609 a large bay window which could be used for residential purposes was constructed on the courtyard side and the cellar, which was almost completely above ground, was given a double-aisle groined-vault ceiling. A large, twin-flue fireplace in the centre served as the outlet for the fumes from the brewery installed there. Schneider and Hagen drew up a realistic building plan as preparation for the planning and renovation stages. The brew house, built precariously on an artificial sand mound, suffered from extensive subsidence, particularly after the start of large-scale mining work in the 19th century. The conservation of the building is based on the principle of preserving the original substance as much as possible. This will keep costs to a minimum. There are three potential future uses: as a health centre, a cultural centre or a café.

Ivor Bloor/Philip Cole