

### Benjamin Rudolph: Straufhain castle

Straufhain, situated in southern Thuringia (south of Hildburghausen), is a late medieval example of a simple residential castle with internal and external fittings and with a tower. Only its height creates a certain effect which must have been more pronounced before the fourth storey was lost. The residential building marks a clear transition towards maximum defensive capability, as reflected in the four embrasures on the ground floor and the relatively small rectangular windows. The residential building was in all probability erected in the first half of the 14th century, as is indicated by the shape of the embrasures and two windows of similar design in the tower. Straufhain is mentioned as a castle as early as 1225 but there are no remains of this castle above ground, so it was probably a wooden building. In a deed of 1333 the Count of Henneberg gave the Hessberg family who held Straufhain as a fief permission to erect a tower, which may be the residential building.

### Susanne Fischer: A new look at the fortified church of Biertan (Birthälm) in Transylvania

The fortified church of Biertan is one of the largest of its kind in Transylvania. A survey carried out by the Karlsruhe Institute for Architectural History and Bucharest's Faculty of Architecture has produced new information on the history of this building. The article discusses the question of dating the west gallery, the different phases in the construction of the defensive floor and access to it via the sacristy. Particular attention is paid to the original early sixteenth century roof over the defensive floor. How the roof was built is not apparent from a statics survey but it is explained in its historical context.

### Lorenz Frank: Koblenz palace

Plans to repaint the former Electors' palace in Koblenz, built between 1777 and 1793, and a number of planned changes to the interior led to expert opinions being commissioned on historical and restoration aspects to help find the best approach to conservation. Written and pictorial sources and restoration work made it possible to determine precisely the original colour of the palace. The wall surfaces were a cool whitish-grey, while the architectural elements were grey. The palace retained this colouring until the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The wall surfaces were then painted light beige to creamy white, and the elements light red, although the details are not entirely clear. There have been repeated changes since then, with the result that the colour scheme is neither historically accurate nor aesthetically satisfying. The fact that detailed evidence existed only of the original colour scheme led to the decision to restore the original colouring. The architectural historian's report

led to more accurate information on the interior of the palace, the state of disrepair after destruction in the Second World War and the way in which it was rebuilt. In this way it has been possible to make a distinction between the original fabric, the historicist approach used in restoring individual rooms and the creation of modern offices. A number of works of contemporary artists of the region are now on display in the palace.

### Paul-Georg Custodis: Koblenz palace - 50 years of conservation

The new palace in Koblenz, built between 1777 and 1793, was entirely destroyed in 1944 with the exception of the outer walls. In close co-operation with the Land Ancient Monuments Department it was rebuilt in the years 1950 and 1951 as administrative offices. As part of the most recent restoration work in 1996 and 1997 the palace was given back its original baroque colour scheme of white and grey. The article discusses the restoration planning process between 1945 and 1997.

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