

## English summaries

(Michael Swithinbank)

### **Oliver Fries: The margrave's castle complex at Gars am Kamp (Lower Austria)**

Gars Castle was founded as the principal residence of the Austrian margraves no later than the period following the defeat of Margrave Leopold II (\*c. 1050, † 1095) at the battle of Mailberg in 1082. As early as 1114, there is evidence of burgraves from the Kuenringer family in Gars. It is possible that during the period between these two dates construction of a principal residence for the margraves had already been completed. Presumably, Leopold II moved to Gars, at the latest, when the Benedictine abbey at Melk was founded in 1089; the castle chapel was consecrated by Bishop Ulrich I of Passau between 1092 and 1095. In addition, dendrochronological analysis of timber from the keep (felled in 1090) lends scientific support to our views on the period of construction of the castle. In 1114 at the latest, the year in which the foundation stone for the collegiate monastery at Klosterneuburg was laid, Leopold III moved his centre of operations further east. It may be assumed that Gars am Kamp temporarily became the main seat of the Babenberg margraves at the turn of the 11th/12th century, one important reason for this assumption being the monumental architecture, expressing dominance, seen for example in the octagonal freestone keep and the large scale of the complex. Whether the central 'fortified house' dates from the same construction phase or whether it formed part of an earlier castle complex remains to be determined. The considerable architectural differences and the use of different types of stone, two features which clearly distinguish the outer enceinte and its buildings (keep, gatehouse chapel and southern residential apartments?) from the 'fortified house', are the main factors suggestive of two construction phases separated in time.

### **Jörg Wicke: The advocates' castles at Plauen**

Weida, Gera and Plauen are the main places in the historical Vogtland, named after the advocates (Vögte) of Weida, a region between Saxony, Thuringia, Bohemia and Upper Franconia. About 200 fortified medieval sites testify to colonisation and consolidation by local aristocrats mainly between 1200 and 1300 AD. One of the largest, Plauen Castle (district of Vogtlandkreis, Saxony), was excavated in 2014 by the Archaeological Heritage Office of Saxony. Important results include detailed data which allow the reconstruction of the history of the buildings from the 13<sup>th</sup> century until 1945, foundations from the initial phase (13<sup>th</sup> century), a medieval well and a lime kiln (14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> century).

### **Dominik Brinkmann: Klopp Castle in Bingen am Rhein – description of the remains and reconstruction of the medieval state of the complex**

The scope for architectural research into Klopp Castle – whether by examining archives or the remains – is very limited. Fresh insights can now be gained only by studying pictures and secondary literature. Any attempt at reconstruction must still remain hypothetical until excavations are carried out or at least plaster and vegetation are removed in order to reveal masonry which can be scrutinised. Moreover, extensive research needs to be conducted in archives. To this day, Klopp Castle, with all its relevant construction phases, remains paradigmatic for the history of the region and beyond. Various political figures left their mark on the region with their numerous attempts at expansion. Klopp Castle served not only as an administrative centre and subsidiary residence for the Archbishops of Mainz but was also used for representative purposes. Aspects which are clearly perceptible are the romantic interpretation which influenced its historicist reconstruction in the mid-19th century, and the simplifications introduced when it was again reconstructed some 100 years later after suffering war damage.

### **Christian Tannhäuser: The Wysburg – a small castle on the upper reaches of the Saale in Thuringia which was razed during the Vogtland War**

The Wysburg near Weisbach in the district of Saale-Orla is one of many small medieval castles along the Saale which have been developed for purposes of tourism but about whose history little is known. The extensive archaeological excavations of the past 30 years have revealed important new findings. The many finds which have been dug up reflect the various aspects of everyday life in a late medieval noble castle. Particularly impressive in this context are the surviving traces of the siege and destruction of the complex in the Vogtland War (1354-1357). Archaeological research has shown that the Wysburg was built in a single phase at the turn of the 13th/14th century. The work was commissioned by the Advocates of Gera. During the Advocates' attempts to expand their territory in the region, the Wysburg served as a border fortification for defence against the neighbouring territory of the Counts of Schwarzburg, in addition to which it is assumed to have been intended as a new administrative centre in the planned area of expansion. After its destruction, shortly after the mid-14th century, the site of the castle was not reused.

### **Clemens Ludwig/Tobias Uhlig: Harras in southern Thuringia – a seat of the lower aristocracy from the late Middle Ages on the upper Werra**

In 2013/2014, a number of excavations were carried out in the area of Harras, a place in the district of Hildburghausen in southern Thuringia, as a preliminary to flood defence work. The archaeological research focused on the sites favourable to habitation on the edge of the lowland, where it was likely that traces of settlements would be found which corresponded in date to the well-known burial mounds from the Hallstatt and La Tène periods on the slopes of the Harraser Leite area. Besides objects from those periods, however, the fieldwork surprisingly also revealed the architectural remains of a settlement from

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the 13th/14th century belonging to the lower aristocracy which had not been recorded in written sources. The castle, to which an unusual representative building with stone foundations, together with a farm, belongs, was located to the west of the late medieval village on an island of alluvial clay among the boggy meadows, which is first mentioned in 1309. As the settlement and the village date from the same period, the site is of great interest from the point of view of the history of medieval settlements, because Harras can be taken as an example to illustrate relations between the lower aristocracy and land settlement during a period of late medieval expansion in the local region. The conclusion is that the nature of the buildings, the siting of the area of archaeological interest and – albeit subject to some uncertainties – also the finds are indicative of a socially elevated environment, so that the site discussed here can plausibly be regarded as the home of members of the lower aristocracy.

### **Frederic Zangl/Jens Boye Volquartz: Research into castles in Schleswig-Holstein**

For a long time, little attention was paid to the castles of Schleswig-Holstein, particularly by historians. Yet castles provide a useful key to the historical development of the surrounding region. The DFG project ‘Small castles as a phenomenon of social change and of the evolution of properties occupied by the nobility, exemplified by Schleswig and Holstein in the 13th to 16th centuries’ takes advantage of this possibility and examines castles in particular conjunction with the context in which they are located. The article affords some insight into the potential of a historical approach, and outlines some initial findings. The first result which may be cited is that there were indeed a good many castles in Schleswig-Holstein. However, most of those which date from the high and late Middle Ages are hardly recognisable in the modern-day landscape. Moreover, the lack of sites which correspond to the popular image of a castle as being a building at an elevated location, built from stone and defended by towers,

has helped to give the impression that there are no castles in the region. In addition, research to date has already established that there were differences between areas within the region, for example regarding types of castle and who was responsible for them. In Holstein and Stormarn, for instance, there is no evidence of the fortified and moated houses which existed in North Friesland. It can be demonstrated that towns were more important in Holstein and Stormarn than in the regions on the west coast, where stronger farming influence can be perceived.

### **Magdalena März: Zellerreit Castle near Wasserburg am Inn around 1600 – the seat of an estate official develops into a castle at the centre of a ‘Hofmark’ administrative area used as the country seat of the patrician family Kern**

The essay is concerned with the history of Zellerreit Castle near Wasserburg am Inn, including that of its architecture. It was originally the seat of an estate official. The most revealing period is that around 1600 under the Wasserburg patrician Abraham Kern the Elder, who was also largely responsible for the building in the form in which it survives to this day. In addition to historical and architectural/archaeological research, particular attention has been devoted to pictures and written sources, inter alia in Wasserburg town archive, where the aristocratic archive from Zellerreit Castle is preserved. It contains sketches and garden plans produced in the early 17th century by Abraham Kern, who commissioned the building work. The story of his life can be seen as a perfect example of the career of a ‘parvenu’ rising from the bourgeoisie into the aristocracy. The acquisition of Zellerreit ‘Hofmark’ (a local area defined for purposes of the administration of justice) and the expansion of the castle reflect the self-confidence of a rising bourgeoisie.