

English summaries

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Christian Fritzsche/Benjamin Rudolph: The Leuchtenburg near Seitenroda (Thuringia) – architectural history of the ward

Research into the architectural history of the Leuchtenburg between 2008 and 2015 added considerably to our knowledge of the development of the ward, covering developments in the High Middle Ages and Late Middle Ages, as well as more recent modifications dating from the 17th to 19th centuries.

The architectural chronology begins in the first half of the 13th century with a layout which probably formed a relatively regular rectangle, containing a freestanding cylindrical keep behind the curtain wall and what may possibly be interpreted as having been some modest residential quarters. In the 15th century, the residential building was extended to twice the previous size, reaching to the tower, and the ward was reinforced by placing in front of it a polygonal outer ward, including four towers built into the walls and a revetted moat. From numerous building and conversion projects carried out in the 16th and 17th centuries, it is clear that the ward was already very substantially altered at that time, although the modifications are no longer extant, because the structures concerned were largely destroyed by the major fires in 1602 and 1658, and the details can only be reconstructed to a limited extent. In its current form, the ward is the result of the reconstruction in the years after 1658, when a large court house was built, and of the thorough transformation of the castle into a 'prison, poorhouse and madhouse' from 1720, combined with further extensive building work, which created a barrack-like structure with four wings around a narrow courtyard. Except for the keep and the outer ward, this hardly resembled a castle at all any longer. The fact that the complex now looks so medieval again is mainly due to the substantial demolition work undertaken in the core area at the end of the 19th century and the addition to the keep of a conical roof and crenellations.

Ines Spazier: The Leuchtenburg near Seitenroda (Thuringia) – the archaeological research in the lower ward, revealing initial signs of settlement from the early 12th century

Near Seitenroda in the Saale-Holzland district, the Lobdeburg family built the Leuchtenburg on the Leuchtenberg plateau around 1200. For that purpose, the plateau on which the castle stands was levelled. The castle was probably built not on a greenfield site but on a plot which had been occupied by some kind of settlement in the Early to High Middle Ages. The Leuchtenburg now comprises a ward and a lower ward, surrounded by an inner and an outer curtain wall. Vestiges of the medieval building can still be found in the ward in the form of the round keep and the remains of a chapel. A rectangular medieval building was documented during excavations in 1994. The lower ward had been almost totally transformed by building in the 18th/19th centuries. During archaeological excavations by the Thuringian Regional Office for the Preservation of Monuments and Archaeology between 2009 and 2012, the western part of the lower ward was examined. This revealed a wall constructed from red sandstone ashlars, up to 1 m thick, which, from the mid-13th century at the latest, had served to close off the lower ward and which followed the line of what is now the outer curtain wall. It survived, with a few courses of stones, to a height of up to 3.10 m. At the narrowest point, a 2.30 m wide gate was erected directly to the west, access to which was probably through a narrow approach passage. Dendrochronology points to a date for the gate of around 1075 or 1100/1110), as part either of an older inhabited site or of an older complex of buildings. When the curtain wall was built, the gate was incorporated into it. Alternatively, the dated wood may be a spolium which had belonged to an earlier settlement on the plateau. The curtain wall which was studied by archaeologists could have surrounded a first lower ward extending to where the recently built technical control room stands. This adjoined a second lower ward, slightly higher up, which, together with the ward, was provided with an external curtain wall in the 15th/16th century which was built in

line with the curtain wall of the first lower ward. Thus the Leuchtenburg could have acquired a tripartite layout in the form of two lower wards and the ward, which would explain the size of the existing lower ward.

Along the middle reaches of the Saale, in Saalfeld, Rudolstadt, Orlamünde, Jena (Johannisberg and Hausberge-Kirchberg) and Dornburg, numerous early medieval castles or Ottonian lords' residences were built. If one considers the locations of the first three and the last three of these, one observes a large gap between them, which would be filled by means of an early medieval fortification on the Dohlenstein/Leuchtenburg.

Franz Nagel/Eberhard-Helmut Paulus: Heldburg Fortress – history, restoration and presentation of a monument

Heldburg Fortress in Southern Thuringia is a prominent feature in regional and architectural history and, for that reason, was transferred to a foundation, the Stiftung Thüringer Schlösser und Gärten, in 1994. Since then large parts of the site have been restored. Today, an appropriate use has been found for Heldburg Fortress as the home of the German Castle Museum. Thus it is a significant cultural and touristic site and at the same time a central locus of identification within the border region between Bavaria and Thuringia. The current state of Heldburg Fortress is primarily the outcome of a major transformation and extension of the castle complex in the mid-16th century, which, however, having been founded in the High Middle Ages, had a longer history and development period behind it.

The earliest evidence for the existence of Heldburg Fortress dates from the mid-12th century. As the official residence of the Counts of Henneberg, it served to secure the border. Parts of the building known as the Jungfernbau survive from that period.

In 1374, Heldburg Fortress came into the possession of the Saxon ruling house, Wettin, through marriage, and in 1485 into that of the Ernestine line of that house. Heldburg Fortress acquired its character as a mountain castle with the construction of the 'French Building' in the 1560s. The ostentatious display involved in this is

closely associated with the Grumbach feuds in which Duke Johann Friedrich the Middle had become embroiled in an attempt to regain for the Ernestines the electorship that they had lost in the Schmalkaldic War.

In Thuringia, a feature of the 17th and 18th centuries was the existence of small states. That too is apparent from Heldburg Fortress. In 1826, the Ernestine duchies were reorganised, and Heldburg Fortress passed into the hands of Sachsen-Meiningen. Duke Georg II initiated the second artistic heyday of the complex. In accordance with the period's taste, leaning towards historicism and marked by the 'castle Renaissance', he tailored the silhouette of the overall complex, as well as many parts of the interior, to his ideal picture of the Renaissance and the Late Middle Ages.

During the period of Germany's division by the Iron Curtain, access to Heldburg Fortress was limited. It was being used as a children's home. In 1982, a fire caused serious damage, particularly in the French Building, and it was possible for work on repairing the damage to begin only after reunification, by means of a joint project undertaken by Thuringia and Bavaria. Thus it was only in 1990 that the restoration began as a cross-border cooperation project; from 2009 to 2013, the fortress was restored in preparation for use by the German Castle Museum. The research into architecture and written sources associated with the site, as well as examinations of the fabric connected with restoration, have revealed much new information, particularly regarding the way in which the castle has been equipped and used at different

times. They clarify the picture of a castle which has evolved while remaining in use virtually without interruption from the Late Middle Ages until the present.

**Ulrich G. Großmann:
The German Castle Museum**

The German Castle Museum in Heldburg Fortress aims to shed light on fundamental aspects of the history, including the cultural history, of central European castles. The exhibits in the German Castle Museum originate from the Federal Republic of Germany, the Czech Republic, Austria, North and South Tirol, Switzerland and Alsace, so essentially from the 'Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation', as it was known in the late Middle Ages.

Central to the museum are the history, transformation and appearance of castles in the part of Central Europe indicated above. Castles were fortified residences belonging to feudal lords which were built in the Middle Ages and used into modern times, over a period of far more than 1000 years, therefore. The permanent exhibition of the German Castle Museum is scheduled to open on 8 September 2016.

The museum occupies 40 rooms and an area of 3000 square metres in the French Building of the fortress. It is directed by Ike Elbers; the exhibition was designed by a team headed by Anja Grebe (Danube University Krems) and the author, with a number of sponsors from the Wartburg Society and the German Castles Association, but particularly the German Historical Museum and the Germanisches Nationalmuseum.

The advertisement is a horizontal banner with a light beige background. On the left, there are three small square images of historical buildings: a castle on a hill, a large stone building by a river, and a large stone building with a tower. On the right, there are two larger images: a large, ornate stone castle and an aerial view of a large estate with multiple buildings and a park. In the center, there is a logo consisting of a line-art drawing of a castle and a church, with the text 'VERMITTLUNG HISTORISCHER IMMOBILIEN' and 'DHO' below it. Below the logo, there is a paragraph of text in German: 'Wir vermitteln Burgen, Schlösser, Herrenhäuser, Fachwerkhäuser und andere historische Immobilien'. At the bottom, there is a phone icon, a website icon, and the contact information: 'www.schloss-burg-verkauf.de' and '08062-906610 906622'.