

English summaries

Cord Meckseper: The Kaiserhaus (imperial palace) in Goslar

The Goslar Kaiserhaus is the largest and only hall-type imperial palace to remain continuously roofed to the present day. The building, which was never fortified in its own right, can be dated back to the late Ottonian era. The Kaiserhaus is presumed to have been designed under Heinrich III (1038–1056) and, with its central position probably already in place, may have been depicted in a contemporary miniature illustration. Its present appearance dates back to the 12th century; despite a dendrochronological date of around 1182, the architectural forms do not allow a precise dating. The unique design, in the form of an open and grand loggia, is not necessarily the work of the emperor; this task was often delegated to the master builder. A stairway pavilion which was added to the Kaiserhaus around 1200 was the prelude to a ceremonial layout of rooms which culminated in the upper floor's great hall. The arrangement of rooms employed at the Goslar Kaiserhaus would still be shaping residences in the 18th century such as the Prince-Bishop's palace in Würzburg.

Markus C. Blaich: Comments on the debate about the building history of the Kaiserhaus in Goslar

In many respects, the history of the building of the Kaiserhaus in Goslar has not been established satisfactorily. The main question is whether remnants of the Salian wall can still be found on the ground floor or whether the entire building is a new construction from the 12th century. Since these positions are mutually exclusive, it is not unreasonable to re-consider the archaeological findings. Between 1977 and 1982, excavations were carried out between the Kaiserhaus and St Ulrich's Chapel where a structure identified by U Hoelscher already exists which cannot be dated any earlier than the middle of the 12th century.

Many artefacts and finds which have been interpreted as proof of the 10th century 'keep' are associated with this section of the building. However, a critical look at the published preliminary reports shows that this interpretation needs to be treated with caution. The validity of using dating should not be overrated. From a historical-architectural perspective, interpreting the findings as proof of a 'keep' is quite unusual and does not fit in with considerations of construction history (underfloor heating). At the present time, a satisfactory interpretation of the revealed and published findings is not possible. Ground research cannot provide any statement concerning the Kaiserhaus's construction history.

Wilfried Pfefferkorn: Wolkenstein in Saxony

Wolkenstein is a small town in the Erzgebirge; the castle of the same name dates back to 1220/30 when it was built by the Lords of Waldenburg. Today, the castle can be divided into the north and south wings which are connected by the keep and the gate lodge on the town side. The building is in the shape of an irregular polygon, opening up in a horseshoe shape to the west, although old pictures and ground plans show a closed site which suggests the existence of a west wing. No arrow slits or battlements are found in the search of the site for remains of the castle; only its position indicates that it was once fortified. However, the building referred to above as 'the keep' is indeed a converted medieval building, as evidenced by its solid, windowless walls. The House of Wettin were feudal lords of Wolkenstein from the end of the 14th century, and after the Waldenburgs died out in the male line, the castle served as a dower house until 1479 when it reverted to the Wettins who began to build in earnest. The article is confined to the south wing as construction work on it has provided plenty of source material. From an architect's point of view the central question is to what extent the building itself can provide answers to its construction history. Are any dates available to aid the method of dating? Does the arrangement of rooms provide clues to the former purpose and hence to the time of construction? Are

there any architectural details, e.g. decorative elements, that will permit dating on the basis of style? Which wooden structures allow for dendrochronological dating? What conclusions on the history of construction can be drawn from studying old paintings and/or drawings? On the third floor of the keep, there is an ornamental depiction with the date 1499 to be found on an edge beam. The painting framing the window in the great hall on the second floor of the south wing contains a note of the year 1536. Wolkenstein Castle shows us that an extremely modest group of buildings – a converted castle – contains as many as two great halls and five smaller ones in the south wing and keep. Five different types of windows characterise the facade, with 18 windows displaying a curtain arch and eight windows featuring richly designed jambs, which indicates a time frame of 1488–1510 for the former and 1510–1530 for the latter. It was possible to take 37 samples from wooden structures in seven different areas in order to perform dendrochronology. The south wing's new construction and the keep's reconstruction began around 1495 and were finished around 1536. Extensive architectural changes took place in the 19th century. The west wing was demolished and a prison was built. The space not needed for this was converted into apartments. The halls on the first and second floor of the south wing and the keep are now used partly as museum rooms and partly for events such as concerts and parties, etc. Barrier-free access to these events could be provided by restoring the situation from before circa 1860 by reconstructing the west wing, to include the required rooms and a lift.

Reinhold Winkler: The overwintering of 'foreign fruit trees' in the Munich Residence gardens created by Albrecht V (1550–1579) and Wilhelm V (1579–1597)

A survey of the published sources regarding artistic activity at the court of Munich indicates that the oldest records concerning the overwintering of plants susceptible to frost date from no earlier than the mid-16th century and that only a small amount of source

material dating back to Duke Albrecht V's reign (1550–1579) is available. It is not until the reign of his son, Duke Wilhelm V (1579–1597), that archived documents recording the purchase of citrus plants and the horticultural care and overwintering space required by them become more and more frequent.

The absence of such documents before Wilhelm V's time may be due to a lack of source material, or it may simply indicate little interest in cultivating citrus fruits on the part of the duke. The latter explanation becomes more likely when it is borne in mind that it was Ferdinand I who first brought the orangery to the princely courts of the Holy Roman Empire and who introduced plants and citruses from his home country to German-speaking courts north of the Alps by cultivating them in the gardens of the Hofburg in Vienna and of Prague Castle. Hence, the first attempts at growing citruses outdoors north of the Alps or cultivating and overwintering them as pot plants were not made until the first half of the 16th century. A sense of routine concerning the handling of plants susceptible to frost appears to be reached by the middle of the 16th century; from now on the planting and cultivating of such plants is solely dependent on the wishes and interests

of the monarch. This is certainly the case with the Dukes of Württemberg in Stuttgart while the Bavarian Duke Albrecht V appears to have been more interested in hunting, court music and his own collections for which he specifically had the Cabinet of Curiosities and the Antiquarium built. It was not until Duke Wilhelm V that a methodical approach to purchasing and growing frost-susceptible citruses was taken. For this purpose, the palatial building in his grandfather Wilhelm IV's pleasure garden was converted into a greenhouse for figs and Seville oranges. It was demolished in 1617 and replaced with buildings in Maximilian I's 'New Court Garden' to overwinter those golden globe-bearing trees which play such a vital part in elevating the early absolutist ruler.

Gerd Geburtig: Evacuation and safety plans for temporary castle events

Castles are becoming more and more popular as venues for large-scale parties and events. Under current fire safety regulations, historical sites temporarily become places of public assembly if single rooms have a capacity of more than 200 people or if a total of 200 people have only one emergency exit route. The same

applies outdoors whenever public spaces – e.g. courtyards or palace gardens – can accommodate more than 1,000 people. Local authorities are increasingly demanding additional safety plans for special events with an anticipated large attendance, which often require a building licence. The use of castle or palace grounds for special events, especially during the open air season, can be arranged if the following points are observed: all the basic safety features – emergency exits in particular – must be officially approved and the necessary obligatory measures must be recorded in an appropriate safety plan. In individual cases engineering expertise may help to find solutions that avoid inappropriate modifications to a historic building. Once the requisite protection, whether or not pursuant to building regulations, and possible risks have been identified, the interaction between the safety components can be determined on the basis of the subsystems that need to be tested and proven to work. This will require selecting relevant scenarios and regulations for each individual case and establishing appropriate engineering methods to provide proof of the fire protection plan. This will provide an overall fire safety plan which will simplify the paperwork.