

## English summaries

(Michael Swithinbank)

### **Georg Peter Karn: Pro decore civitatis' – Tower houses and aristocratic town houses from the early modern era in Mainz and their forerunners**

As the capital of an ecclesiastical electorate, offering desirable career opportunities, Mainz was particularly attractive to nobles, numbers of whom came to live there: a fact that was reflected in the construction of lavish town houses. The 12th century tower house 'zum Stein', with its groups of rich Romanesque windows on the upper floors, is thought to have been built by an estate official. After Mainz was stripped of its city privileges on account of the Mainz Diocesan Feud in 1462, and after the construction of the Martinsburg castle for the Archbishop, many aristocratic town houses were built, some of them fortified, such as the Königsteiner Hof (later renamed the Ältere Dalberger Hof) with its late Gothic residential tower. Whereas in the 16th century and the first half of the 17th, buildings had followed the irregular contours of the parcels of land on which they were built and had their corners decorated with bay windows and gables, the early baroque Schönborner Hof was the first to have a symmetrical façade and a ground plan open on one side. The location of the as yet undeveloped areas inside the city walls, particularly near the former livestock market and linen-bleaching fields, enabled the leading families to build extensive complexes, in some cases with ornamental gardens. In the 18th century, the growing desire of the Mainz nobility to show off their wealth resulted in a perceptible increase in the scale of buildings, while architectural designs were increasingly influenced by the architecture and typological models of the culturally dominant European courts in Vienna and Paris.

### **Jens Fachbach: Aristocratic town houses from the early modern era in Koblenz/Ehrenbreitstein, the seat of the Electors of Trier – a search for vestiges**

The city of Koblenz, which, from the first half of the 17th century, together with Ehrenbreitstein on the right bank of the Rhine, was the seat of the Electors of Trier, possessed a whole series of imposing noble houses. Because much of the city was destroyed in the Second World War and during the subsequent reconstruction, hardly any visible traces of these buildings now remain. The article recalls this largely forgotten chapter in the history of Koblenz/Ehrenbreitstein as the joint seat of the Electors of Trier and makes suggestions for further research. Archive material, some of which has only become accessible relatively recently, is particularly important here, because in many cases it is the only source that can be drawn upon to reconstruct buildings.

### **Eduard Sebald: Medieval tower houses in Trier**

In contrast to Mainz and Koblenz, in Trier a total of 13 medieval tower houses have survived: four from the high Middle Ages, either still standing or in the form of remains, a further eight from the same period in the form of smaller architectural remains, spolia and evidence in pictorial and/or written sources, and also one laggard from the late Middle Ages. The best-known buildings are the Frankenturm, the Dreikönigenhaus and the Steipe. The Romanesque tower houses feature masonry incorporating Roman material in architectural styles based on, and imitating, those of antiquity. One motive for this lay in admiration for the durability of the ancient masonry, which can also be found expressed in contemporary sources. On the other hand, it also shows that, in Trier, where ancient buildings remained visible for considerably longer than elsewhere and formed part of the streetscape, people were considerably more directly aware of the distant past. Buildings with such military features as high-level entrances and battlements were constructed by members of the upper class. In contrast, the Dreikönigenhaus (built 1200–1230), no longer possessed any military features: the famous façade, in particular, was intended simply to make a commanding impression. The late medieval Steipe was financed from the coffers of St James's civil hospital and the Brotherhood of St James. It served as a venue for feasts and receptions for the citizenry of Trier. Located on the main market place and opposite the cathedral, where the city's ruler, the Archbishop, resided, its battlements look back to the tradition of fortified tower houses from the 11th century.

### **Cornelia Knepe: A land of nobles and their homes: the territory of Vest Recklinghausen in the Middle Ages and early modern era**

Rich ecclesiastical property in the territory known as Vest Recklinghausen, the area held by the Archbishop of Cologne between the Lippe and the Emscher, needed to be administered and defended. Many retainers were rewarded by being granted fiefs, which assisted their rise, and from the late 12th century onwards they built castles. Among the most powerful were the Horst, Oer and Westerholt families, whose castles became the starting points for small fortified towns and territories in which they exercised judicial authority. By the beginning of the 15th century, at the latest, they had been compelled, not altogether voluntarily, to accept the overlordship of the Archbishops of Cologne, but they regained considerable influence in the period (1446–1576) when the Vest was mortgaged to the Lords of Gemen and subsequently the Counts of Schaumburg. The Renaissance complexes of Horst and Herten owed their construction to their owners' skill at exploiting the difficult situation before and after 1576 by actively engaging in the administration of the Vest, and these men expressed their political and economic power by building grand castles.