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CHRISTINA SCHMID, Ergrabene Kontexte. Interpretationen archäologischer Fundzusammenhänge auf Burgen. Formate – Forschungen zur Materiellen Kultur Band 2. Böhlau Verlag, Wien, Köln, Weimar 2020. € 85.00. ISBN 978-3-205-20979-9 (Hardback). € 69.99. ISBN 978-3-205-21180-8 (E-Book). doi: <https://doi.org/10.7767/9783205211815>. 585 pages with 105 mostly monochrome find tables and 87 coloured figures.

The work under review emerged from the PhD team project “RaumOrdnungen – Raumfunktionen und Ausstattungsmuster auf Adelssitzen im 14. bis 16. Jahrhundert”, supervised by Sabine Felgenhauer-Schmiedt, and funded by the Austrian Academy of Sciences. The project was hosted by the Institute for Medieval and Early Modern Material Culture (IMAREAL) in Krems between 2007 and 2010. The team project also included a historian’s doctoral thesis (Josef Handzell) and a doctoral thesis in German Studies (Gabriele Schichtag née Klug), which sought in parallel spatial approaches to aristocratic residential culture during the late Middle Ages and early modern period in southern Germany and Austria. Christina Schmid’s thesis consists of a voluminous text component (pp. 15–407) with a concise German summary and a rather short English abstract, as well as a catalogue of finds (pp. 469–583) and tables.

The “Introduction” (pp. 15–17, all translations by RA) presents, as an overarching research goal, to describe and understand the castle as a place of residence along the coordinates of “space”, “person / figure”, “object”, and “activity”. This archaeological dissertation consistently works object-centered: the basis consists of numerous finds unearthed with poor documentation on the noble residences of Reichenstein and Prandegg in the Eastern Mühlviertel in Upper Austria. Without an explicit mention, the dissertation is focussed – apart from a few particular types – on non-ceramic housewares and excludes drinking glasses and coins (which first becomes apparent in a passing comment on p. 153 and p. 227). Thus, the study sheds light on a central issue for European research, where large assemblages have been exposed in castles without sufficient documentation. Until now, it has not been possible to analyse these finds beyond a bare typological and chronological identification mapping their distribution.

The next chapter “Theoretical Basics: Architecture and its Meaning” (pp. 19–27), discusses the interdependence between built space, its inhabitants, and the fixed, as well as the movable special features we encounter as archaeological finds. “The Castle as Built Environment and a System of Settings” (pp. 29–34) reconsiders the possibility of identifying spatial functions and underlines the necessity of a holistic approach of a “Household Archaeology” (p. 34–35), which takes into consideration a castle’s structure, access, and inventory. The difference between the original building with its intended function and later changes of use is, however, a research problem that is somewhat exaggerated here (p. 29). After all, the perception of later uses is hardly distorted by the knowledge of the original configuration, if the inventory is subjected to stratigraphic building research,

which certainly allows the complete biography of the architectural shell to be written (G. ERIKSDOTTER, The stratigraphy of buildings: examples of the methodology of buildings archaeology. In: H. Andersson / P. Carelli / L. Ersgård, *Visions of the past. Trends and traditions in Swedish medieval archaeology* [Lund 1997] 741–761).

The chapter “Space and Activity on Castles from an Archaeological Point of View” (pp. 37–69) defines central terms used in the thesis. “Context” denominates features that underwent a primary or a secondary formation in the soil. A “single find” designates both a single object and an assemblage without known provenance. A concise discussion considers which human activities can leave archaeological traces, i. e. those leaving remnants surviving taphonomical processes and which an excavator recognises – and, we might add, publishes. The understanding of these traces as a reflex of historical reality in the sense of “New Archaeology” or also as a consequence of anthropologically determined behaviour in the sense of “Post-Processual Archaeology” is, however, rejected in favour of a multifactorial approach. The fundamental hypothesis is the readability of traces deriving from repetitive actions with a defined topographical setting. Against this background, a review of the find-bearing features on Swiss, German, and Austrian castle sites follows (pp. 52–56), in which historical function are consistently inferred from the presence or absence of certain groups of finds. The Chapter “The Interpretation of Single Finds without a Documented Context” (pp. 71–73) underlines these finds’ relevance as neglected source material. Schmid rightly points out the importance of interpretation during the registration process and develops a new approach comparing similar objects from known functional contexts. The following thoughts about the contextual understanding of archaeological finds underpin her argument (pp. 75–92). She structures the descent conditions in four *patterns* describing the relationship between the object and its provenance: “Pattern 1 – Intentionally and Contemporary Deposited Finds” comprises grave goods and deposits. The somewhat misleading title, “Pattern 2 – Topographically Significant Objects” gathers objects unintentionally enclosed due to a sudden incident (fire, collapse), which might include older items left or stored on-site without any relationship to the activity. The reviewer counters that a careful excavation can identify these old objects – and even useless waste does belong to the “accepted” contents of a room. Moreover, this pattern explicitly includes glacier corpses and sunken ships – both are comparatively seldom in castles! “Pattern 3 – Objects in Relationship to their Context of Use” describes all other features documented during excavation with a known provenance but possibly containing re-deposited material. “Pattern 4 – Only Vague Context Known” summarises all objects from a place without an archaeological context. “Pattern 5 – Unknown Context” designates all finds without a provenance, and surprisingly includes metal detector finds that usually ought to be discovered at known coordinates today; even a plough is not able to change the find spot of an object significantly, as Walter JANSSEN’s study on the deserted village of Königshagen (DE) has proven (Königshagen: Ein archäologisch-historischer Beitrag zur Siedlungsgeschichte des südwestlichen Harzvorlandes [Hildesheim 1965]). Consequently, the latter pattern should be limited to objects without origin from a museum or other collections.

The actual interpretation of the finds starts with the traditional typo-chronological classification based on dated comparative finds and features, mostly from castles, but also including urban objects. In a second step, the reference objects are contextualised in identifying their provenance “pattern 1–4”.

The chapter “Contextual Interpretation Applied on the Assemblages from Reichenstein and Prandegg Castle – Spatial and Historical Circumstances” (pp. 93–124) gives a shocking review of the archaeological state of research on castles in Upper Austria. Until today, apart from a few modern studies, research is based on monographs written in the first half of the 20th century, which long for an update. Complete excavations of castles are either absent or unpublished (Water castle

Neyharting: “meanwhile, the excavation documentation seems to be lost”, p. 94). Since the 1990s, excavation activities accompanying construction work on castles have been considerably intensified, but Austrian monument law does not offer any practicable means for serious excavations. For example, in 2011 and 2012, only small sondages were possible to prepare the new planned museum building in Reichenstein Castle’s courtyard (p. 97). This sounds more like a mid-20th century approach than modern archaeology. We read about “sondages, surveillances”, and heart-touching efforts by “amateur historians and treasure hunters” (p. 98) to save and preserve things during “restorations”. The Alfred Höllgruber collection, which formed the material basis of the dissertation, also falls into this category. It was created in the course of field work and factually undocumented excavations by the primary school teacher on the slopes and grounds of many castle sites, including the Reichenstein and Prandegg castles. The collection became a part of the Oberösterreichisches Museum. A brief summary of the castles’ owner and building history completes the background.

The dissertation’s core is formed by the chapter “Contextualized Interpretations of Find Assemblages in Reichenstein and Prandegg Castles – Finds as Evidence for Areas of Life and Activity” (pp. 125–380) that discusses the finds structured by their function. After an intensive typo-chronological classification of each find category, the contexts of reference finds are discussed in each case. Apart from apparent identifications, we meet some surprising, but well-argued stipulations: Spoons are by no means clearly table utensils, but could also belong to the field of pharmacy (p. 143). Pans would be expected in the kitchen, but they also seem to belong to the brewery (p. 146). Buttons and other appliquéés primarily appear in graves (pp. 259–260; 262), probably due to rough excavation techniques in castles and towns. Horseshoes and their nails are found in castle courtyards, cellars, and collapsed buildings (p. 294), while book clasps are more common in monasteries than in castles (pp. 309–311). Most of the medieval marbles used for comparison come from the Brandenburg Cistercian convent of the Marienwerder (DE; p. 320), but supplementary reference should be made here to the exhibition of the Heilbronn City Museum (*Spielzeug in der Grube: lag und schlief. Allerlay Kurtzweil. Ausstellung der Städtischen Museen Heilbronn 1993*) or to Verena HOFFMANN’s analysis of Saxonian toy finds (*Allerlay Kurtzweil. Mittelalterliche und frühneuzeitliche Spielzeugfunde aus Sachsen, Arbeits- u. Forschber. Sächs. Bodendenkmalpfl. 38, 1996, 127–200*) which tend to support the expected image of marbles as children’s toys.

“Space – Function – Fitting: Result and Perspective” (pp. 381–402) initially repeats the theoretical premises of the introductory chapters in an avoidable duplication. While the chapter about owner and building history assumed Reichenstein’s erection in the early 13th century (p. 108), here, the find analysis argues for an earlier date “after about 1150” (p. 387), which is a remarkable discrepancy that would deserve a further discussion. The number of finds increases in the late period (1450 until 1650), signifying its intensified use. Also, Prandegg is, according to the findings that start “about 1150” (p. 388), considerably older than its first mention in written sources 1287 (p. 116) or its oldest preserved buildings from the late 12th century (p. 121). Like Reichenstein, Prandegg flourished between 1460 and 1650, also showing an increased quality in the objects. In the next step, the households’ position in social networks is analysed. Schmid does not use formal network analysis or other multivariate tools that would have been able to “scrutinise all connected parts in a society” (p. 390) if she had defined and examined archaeological variables.

The systematic analysis of the comparative contexts differentiates the interpretation of the two castles: The finds from “Kitchen and Table” mark up the living room and the adjacent (?) kitchen. “Husbandry and Agriculture” do not play a significant role, which is a crucial result that indicates an outsourcing of these functions. Christof KRAUSKOPF interpreted this as an indicator for a lord belonging to the higher nobility (*Tric-Trac, Trense und Treichel. Untersuchungen zur Sachkultur des Adels im 13. und 14. Jahrhundert. Veröff. Dt. Burgenvereinigung B 11 [Braubach 2005]*). Not

surprisingly, weapons and armour appear in the living space or in the cellar, which also applies to chests and locks. Horse stables are also to be expected in a castle. The living area comprises tools for craft and textile production, the latter usually in heated rooms. The assumed bathhouse at Reichenstein Castle (fig. 19) is not a singularity: the Schlössel Castle close to Klängenmünster also provided such a luxury (D. BARZ, Das „Schlössel“ bei Klängenmünster. Erkenntnisse zum Alltag auf einer salierzeitlichen Burg. In: C. Müller [ed.], Burg und Stadt. Forsch. Burgen u. Schlössern 11 [München 2008] 217–226). Religious objects are not restricted to the castle chapel but were also personal and mobile belongings.

All in all, this is a commendable and successful research project: the approach of not only drawing conclusions about the chronology of a castle and its integration into social networks from more than 14,000 (!) unstratified finds, but also using the finds themselves as a source for spatial functions via comparative finds, is extremely innovative and effective. We cannot blame Schmid for the sparse state of research concerning structures and functional spaces on Southern German and Austrian castles that set narrow limitations to her work. A more detailed analysis of the archaeology and history of construction of the two castles would have been useful, but this would certainly have gone beyond the scope of the project.

Minor editorial weaknesses should be noted, such as certain textual redundancies or the lack of an overview map, which would have facilitated the localisation of the castles in the Lower Mühlviertel. The path from the text section to the object depiction only through the catalogue is impractical. The ground plan (fig. 20) does not show the 13th century period, and the full citation of Olsen 1990 (p. 72 fn. 10) is missing in the bibliography. Until the last page, it remains unclear to the reviewer why the title of the book is actually “Excavated Contexts” – the finds under discussion neither derive from a regular excavation nor known contexts. *Erschlossene Kontexte* / “Investigated Contexts” would have made a better match. Yet, these are small details; the volume is a piece of methodological pioneer work and essentially contributes to the research on medieval material culture. It deserves a broad perception, even beyond the study of medieval castles.

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WAYNE D. COCROFT / JOHN SCHOFIELD, Archaeology of the Teufelsberg. Exploring Western Electronic Intelligence Gathering in Cold War Berlin. Routledge Archaeologies of the Contemporary World. Routledge, London 2019. £ 44,99. ISBN 978-1-13833-7-107 (Hardback). £ 16,99. ISBN 978-0-36767-184-6 (Paperback). £ 22,50. ISBN 978-0-42944-2-629 (E-Book). doi: <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429442629>. 162 Seiten mit 123 Schwarz-Weiß-Abbildungen.

Dieses Buch, veröffentlicht bei Routledge im Jahre 2019, hat eine komplexe Geschichte, da bereits 2016 eine deutsche Fassung erschien. Ich gehe auf diese Umstände am Ende des Reviews nochmals näher ein. In dieser Rezension beziehe ich mich auf die englische Fassung von Wayne D. Cocroft und John Schofield samt ihrer Kapitelzählung: Nach einer kurzen Einführung (S. 1–5) folgt in Kapitel 2 eine auf unterschiedliche Orte fokussierte Geschichte der Abhöranlagen der West-Alliierten in West-Berlin (S. 6–39), sodann eine näher auf den Teufelsberg eingegrenzte Geschichte der Zeit des Kalten Kriegs (S. 40–59). Ein kurzes Kapitel 4 geht auf archäologische Methoden und Ansätze ein (S. 60–65), um dann im bei weitem längsten Kapitel 5 die einzelnen Gebäude bzw.