

Das Buch schließt mit dem Apparat sowohl den Anmerkungen als auch nochmals einer kompletten Literaturliste und einem gut verwendbaren Index.

Insgesamt wird versucht, die jeweiligen Überlieferungslücken im archäologischen Bestand, etwa bei fehlenden Steingebäuden, mittels anderer Kriterien, wie Gebietsgrenzen oder Genealogie, zu überbrücken. Dennoch sind die hier behandelten topografischen Ansätze nur als „weiche“ Anhaltspunkte zu bewerten. Bei den erstaunlich wenigen beigegebenen Karten sind Angaben wie „early church, definite“, „probable“ oder „possible“ (etwa S. 78 Abb. 4.1) nur schwer zu prüfen, da das Werk fast keine katalogartigen Aufzählungen zu den Befunden enthält.

Die Beiträge tragen eher den Charakter von Arbeitsberichten und sind ohne nähere Kenntnis des Lesers hinsichtlich der jeweiligen Gebiete nur schwer nachvollziehbar. Sie dienen vielmehr der Dokumentation bisher erarbeiteter Hypothesen und Erklärungsansätze und halten den Arbeitsstand dazu fest. Insofern darf der Band als Dokumentation für Geleistetes, aber auch als Diskussionsanregung für Künftiges und für das Thema generell angesehen werden. Wechselwirkungen zwischen Religion und Kulturlandschaft bleiben als Thema interessant, wenn die Menge auswertbaren Materials eine sinnvolle Synthesenbildung zulässt.

D-50923 Köln
Albertus-Magnus-Platz
E-Mail: sristow@uni-koeln.de

Sebastian Ristow
Archäologisches Institut der Universität zu Köln

DIETER LAMMERS, Kloster Lorsch – Die archäologischen Untersuchungen der Jahre 2010–2016. Klostermauer, Spittelsberg, Klausurgebäude, Klostergelände. Schriften zum Kloster Lorsch volume 1. Verlag Schnell & Steiner, Regensburg 2018. € 59.00. ISBN 978-3-7954-3269-0 (Hardcover). 336 pages with 376 illustrations, mostly in colour.

Given both the great historical significance of Lorsch Abbey and the complexity of its research history, this monograph raises high expectations. The Benedictine Abbey at Lorsch, first mentioned in 764, wielded a political, economic, and cultural influence which extended far beyond its immediate neighbourhood in the Upper Rhine area and lasted right up until the High Middle Ages. Its privileges as an imperial abbey, conferred by Charlemagne, its vast estates, and the distinction of being the burial place of leading members of the Carolingian dynasty, including Louis the German, are indications of its status. It maintained this pre-eminence until the mid-13th century, and its final decline was precipitated only by the devastations of the Thirty Years War. Only a few ruins now remain, but these include the *Torballe* (gatehouse), which is of considerable significance from the point of view of the history of art. Since 1991, the complex has been listed as a UNESCO world heritage site.

Apart from a few small test excavations carried out around 1900, our picture of the abbey and its construction history relies mainly on the excavations conducted by Friedrich Behn between 1927 and 1937. His results were published as monographs in 1934 and 1949. Many scholars, however, voiced misgivings, which eventually prompted a research project by the University of Bamberg that lasted from 1998 to 2008. Further investigations were conducted by the University of Heidelberg between 2010 and 2016 (see pp. 11–12; also I. ERICSSON / M. SANKE [eds], Aktuelle Forschungen zum ehemaligen Reichs- und Königskloster Lorsch. Arbeiten Hessische Hist. Komm. N. F. 24 [Darmstadt 2004]; A. ZEEB ET AL. [eds], Kloster Lorsch. Vom Reichskloster Karls des Großen zum Weltkulturerbe der Menschheit. Ausstellung Museumszentrum Lorsch 28.5.2011–29.1.2012 [Petersberg 2011]). These were carried out in connection with an extensive

programme of restoration and rebuilding work within the abbey precincts. This complex research history is significant when reviewing the present book: the purpose of the fieldwork was not only to revisit and re-evaluate the 1920s and 1930s excavations but also to implement modern heritage preservation principles, while at the same time attempting to find answers to still-unresolved questions through new, minimally invasive, research excavations. This was not helped by the fact that the excavations conducted between 1998 and 2008 have so far produced only preliminary reports and a brief, though highly informative, summary for an exhibition catalogue.

The present monograph is divided into six substantial chapters which provide an overview of the research history, discussions of both the larger excavation complexes (the abbey wall, the Spittelsberg, and the cloister) and the test trenches accompanying construction works, and, in conclusion, a brief overall evaluation.

In his introduction (pp. 11–20), Dieter Lammers begins by summarising the research history before going on to explain in detail the methodology of the excavations and their documentation. Key to these explanations is the scheme employed to illustrate the findings: a letter-and-number code distinguishes the small test trenches from the more major excavations while also providing an initial classification according to year of excavation. The code was originally devised for the excavations which began in 1998 and has been systematically extended by Lammers. Although this reviewer would have preferred a less cumbersome approach as expanded by Lammers, the scheme nevertheless now allows the features recorded during the older excavations, with insecure interpretations, to be correlated with the results of the modern investigations, and an overall evaluation of the archaeological features at Lorsch Abbey to be undertaken. This approach is exemplary.

The arguments proposed by Lammers can be followed with the help of numerous photographs and colour-coded section drawings. It should be noted here that the colours correspond to defined chronological horizons and are intended as an aid to their interpretation; they are not, for example, indications of soil structure or the construction materials used. As the descriptive texts are immediately followed by the catalogue and index of finds, there is no need for any laborious leafing to and fro. The brief commentaries on dating and interpretation provided in the catalogue are extremely helpful, as are the numerous illustrations. In particular, the photographs of the old excavations allow easy comparison with the new documentation. The list of finds, mainly pottery, makes use of a preliminary classification by Markus Sanke and is thus commendably brief (pp. 21–28). It speaks for the monograph's thoroughly methodological approach that D. Lammers expressly draws attention to the fact that the chronological horizons identified should not be equated with the individual building phases recognisable from the structural features.

Investigations in the vicinity of the eastern gate and adjacent sections of the cloister walls (pp. 31–56) initially uncovered levelled strata and layers of rubble dating from the 15th and 16th centuries. Therefore, the reconstruction of the east gate and wall, documented in Friedrich Behn's earlier excavation, can be dated to the 13th / 14th centuries on stratigraphic grounds; older segments of the wall were only partially recorded. The remains Behn uncovered cannot therefore have been those of a (Carolingian) "ceremonial gate", as he proposed. The first task of redocumentation at the south gate (pp. 57–81) was to distinguish modern additions and alterations (dating from the 17th / 18th and 20th centuries) from the older features relating to the medieval history of the abbey. The results show that the gate was indeed medieval, and the abbey wall visible today was thus built in the 10th–12th centuries.

Investigations of the north-eastern section of the abbey wall confirmed the above-mentioned results (pp. 100–145). Here, indications were discovered of two aspects important for an overall analysis of abbey life, whose thorough examination, however, had to be postponed in deference

to cultural-heritage regulations (imposed by UNESCO at World Heritage sites!): finds of (non-ferrous) slag and bone blanks were the first evidence of craftworking during the High Middle Ages; the foundation walls and floor pavement of a building dating from the 8th/9th centuries were also discovered.

A number of overall conclusions are drawn from these investigations, the first being that most of the abbey wall visible today in the eastern and southern area of the precinct follows the course of the early medieval wall, the 8th/9th-centuries' wall having been rebuilt during renovations in the 10th to 12th centuries. This is also true of the wall on the northern side of the abbey complex, where, additionally, there seems to be evidence of a pincer gate. It may be cautiously deduced from the course of the walls that the abbey precincts were originally designed in the shape of an almost regular octagon. The situation in the western section of the abbey, however, diverges from this plan; here, significant deviations and / or extensions can be observed. Should we conclude that these represent an extension of an initially smaller abbey precinct? Or was the original concept simply not consistently carried out? It speaks for the quality of the monograph that whilst even pictorial sources from the 16th/17th centuries are consulted in relation to this question (pp. 146–154), the author resists the temptation to force any final conclusion.

In the area between the eastern side of the cloister and the abbey wall, the earlier excavations by F. Behn uncovered numerous walls and / or foundations. Following redocumentation carried out between 2002 and 2004, these walls were interpreted as the remains of two buildings constructed in the 12th/13th and 14th centuries, respectively, and identified as kitchens and an *infirmarium*. The test trenches of 2010 confirm these conclusions (pp. 82–99). It is interesting to note that the positioning of the window niches can be taken as an indication that the buildings had two storeys.

The third chapter presents the results of investigations in the Spittelsberg area (pp. 155–182). On the overall plan, the area in the south-west corner of the abbey precincts looks like a later extension; this is also suggested by 19th-century illustrations. In the monograph, there is no explicit reference to the suggestions made earlier in this regard, in connection with the possible course of the abbey wall (see above). In 2010 and 2013, several investigations were conducted in this vicinity in advance of building works, but owing to the small size of the areas investigated, the overall results were inconclusive. The dating of a number of features, however, is highly significant, including that of a grave assigned to the 8th/9th century. Previously discovered graves dated from the 12th century and were associated with a hospital which appears in written sources. It is now clear that the Spittelsberg area was already in use as a cemetery in the 8th/9th centuries. Since hospitals usually lay outside abbey walls, two further considerations arise in relation to the significance of the Spittelsberg area: firstly, in the opinion of the reviewer, the new information supports the notion that construction of the abbey initially followed a basic plan (see above); secondly, we must ask what role this area played in the abbey's early history. D. Lammers hinted at his thoughts on the matter in a preliminary report published in 2014. For more on the question, we must await the appearance of forthcoming volumes.

Excavations conducted in the area of the so-called 'Elector's House' – the hunting lodge of the Archbishop of Mainz – were of the nature of rescue interventions connected with the re-routing of a number of supply lines (pp. 185–230). As well as features dating from the post-medieval and late medieval periods, these uncovered numerous traces of 10th to 12th-centuries' settlement. The limited nature of the excavations, however, permitted only a tentative interpretation. Investigations in the transitional zone between the church and the cloister, however (pp. 231–305), were more conclusive. Here, it was possible to reopen all the old excavations by F. Behn, where numerous post-medieval features were distinguished from medieval structures and all the features documented according to modern standards. This resulted in both new dating and a new interpretation

of the features. It appears that these were the foundations of a building which preceded the later south wing of the cloister. The discovery of column bases shows that the cloister's west wing must have been built in the decades around 1000. The ground-plan of this part of the abbey complex is thus relatively reliably established, although the functions of the various rooms could only be tentatively assigned. Other sections of buildings can be dated to the Late Middle Ages, while an extensive rebuilding programme took place in the 17th and 18th centuries (pp. 306–308).

Lammers' analysis lives up to the expectations mentioned at the beginning of this review: he has succeeded in making evident both his approach to the analysis of the old excavations and the quality of the modern redocumentation. It is also clear that a successful balance has been maintained between the planned academic excavations and the emergency excavations determined by building activity. Of course, it is still too early to expect a comprehensive reinterpretation of the structure of the abbey precincts. For that, we must await the analysis of the excavations from 1998 to 2008 and a comprehensive correlation with the older excavations and, in particular, with architectural research on the *Torballe* and the church. The book ends, therefore, somewhat abruptly. Nevertheless, only two years after the end of this complex fieldwork, we have an initial survey which goes much further than a preliminary report. A complete analysis of all the excavations is not possible; that goal may still be a long way off. But the first steps have been taken!

Translated by Isabel Aitken and Sandy Hämmerle.

D-30175 Hannover
Scharnhorststraße 1
E-Mail: markus.blaich@nld.niedersachsen.de

Markus C. Blaich
Niedersächsisches Landesamt für Denkmalpflege

ULRICH LEHMANN, Wurbunte Klingen: Studien zur Konstruktion, Herstellung und Wertigkeit der frühmittelalterlichen Spatha in Westfalen. Veröffentlichungen der Altertumskommission für Westfalen, Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe volume 21. Aschendorff Verlag, Münster 2016. € 39.00. ISBN 978-3-402-15009-2. 539 pages with 269 figures, 5 tables, 112 plates, and 1 map.

This very comprehensive volume is divided into 333 pages of text and a catalogue of 170 pages which, in turn, consists of text and corresponding plates. The subject matter of the book is the analysis and comparative presentation of 32 early medieval spathae; 28 of these were found in Westphalia, the other four in the immediate vicinity. They date from the period between the 6th and early 9th centuries AD. The book is based on Ulrich Lehmann's doctoral thesis, which was submitted to the Ruhr University of Bochum in 2014. The work was carried out and published with support from the *Altertumskommission Westfalen* (Antiquities Commission of Westphalia) and the *Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe LWL-Archäologie für Westfalen* (Regional Authority of Westphalia-Lippe, LWL Archaeology for Westphalia). In 2016, Ulrich Lehman won an award from the LWL regional authority for making a significant contribution to the exploration of Westphalia's regional history without substantial state support.

The book comprises eleven chapters whose contents shall be summarised here. The first three chapters (pp. 1–44) present the spatha as a weapon, its research history, and the available methods of scientific analysis. Unfortunately, this section lacks an illustration of a double-edged sword with the technical terms for all the component parts, which would have saved the reader from scratching their head over what a *Hilze* (sword grip) might be.