

## Preface

The Baden-Württemberg State Historic Preservation Office was glad to take up the ICOMOS initiative to organize a joint conference on the island of Reichenau. Although the conference theme, "Climatic Stabilization and Building Physics – Sustainable Approaches to Safeguarding the World Cultural Heritage" was discussed before the background of World Heritage sites, it is of course a topic of significance for cultural monuments of all types.

In late 1993 the former Cistercian abbey Maulbronn became the first monument from Baden-Württemberg to be inscribed on the World Heritage List, as the most completely preserved monastery complex of this type north of the Alps. In 2000 the monastery island of Reichenau was also declared a World Heritage Site, as outstanding evidence of the great cultural-historical significance of medieval Benedictine monasteries. In Maulbronn as well as on the island of Reichenau inscription in the World Cultural Heritage List brought about an increase in the number of tourists. In Maulbronn 92,000 tourists were counted in 1993, 169,000 in 1994, and c. 140,000 in 2004.

We have no reliable figures for daily visitors to the island of Reichenau, but we know that the number of overnight stays was c. 200,000 in 1999 and c. 220,000 in 2003; we can assume that the number of day tourists has grown considerably. As positive as this development is in principle, nonetheless preservation professionals must also pursue this trend critically, since it in fact simultaneously harbors great dangers for our cultural monuments. We can observe this problem quite concretely on the example of St. George in Oberzell, where the issue of climate control and stabilization raises major problems for the preservation of the valuable works of art.

In the past the Baden-Württemberg State Historic Preservation Office, in conjunction with the relevant local representatives, has given very special support to the World Heritage sites. For instance in 1997, on the occasion of the 850th anniversary of the founding of Maulbronn Monastery, our office published for the first time a comprehensive volume on the history of the former Cistercian monastery (Maulbronn. *Zur 850jährigen Geschichte des Zisterzienserklosters, Forschungen und Berichte der Bau- und Kunstdenkmalfpflege in Baden-Württemberg 7*, Stuttgart 1997). In cooperation with the State Building Administration, which is directly responsible for the monastery, we decided upon joint work measures to guarantee preservation of a cultural monument that is subjected to enormous strains from tourism, in addition to its use as a boarding school.

The commitment of Baden-Württemberg's preservation professionals to the island of Reichenau goes back decades. Experts in various fields, including inventorization, advisory services for planning, archaeology, practical preservation, photogrammetry and restoration, have been active in diverse ways in the past. Extensive archaeological investigations and building research were carried out in Mittelzell. Special mention should

be made of the restoration campaign in St. George in Oberzell, from 1982 to 1990, under the intensive supervision of the Baden-Württemberg State Historic Preservation Office. The results of the comprehensive investigations with their pioneering methodology were presented to professional circles in 1999 (Dörthe Jakobs, *St. Georg in Reichenau-Oberzell. Der Bau und seine Ausstattung, Forschungen und Berichte der Bau- und Kunstdenkmalfpflege in Baden-Württemberg 9*, Stuttgart 1999).

The handling of World Heritage sites was already the subject of a conference under the auspices of Arge-Alp in March 2003 ("UNESCO-Welterbe: Lust und Last", Arbeitsheft 14, *Landesdenkmalamt Baden-Württemberg*, Stuttgart 2004). Experts from various disciplines discussed problems which also exist on the island of Reichenau. In the course of maintenance of the Reichenau churches such extreme soiling was diagnosed that ever-shorter intervals between interventions were necessary. The microbiological attacks in St. George were especially extreme. It became apparent that high humidity and condensation can particularly promote biological attack on wall paintings. This knowledge made it necessary to plan measures to manage visitation, measures which we hope can be put into action in the near future in cooperation of the community of Reichenau. Dr. Dagmar Zimdars and Helmut Reichwald report on this project in the present publication. With funds from the Baden-Württemberg State Foundation and professional advice from the State Historic Preservation Office, the Regierungspräsidium in Freiburg is planning construction of three visitor information sites in Oberzell, Mittelzell and Niederzell, as one component of an appropriate regulation of visitors.

The care of the cultural monuments that have been entrusted to us, in particular of course the especially significant ones, is a task to which we must devote great professional expertise. Therefore I was particularly pleased that this conference topic met with such broad interest.

On this occasion I would again like to thank all the speakers for their readiness to participate in the conference. My thanks also go to all those who contributed to the success of the conference, in particular the many helpers in the conference office. This includes my office's public relations department and in particular Dr. Sabine-Leutheusser-Holz, who was responsible for organization of the conference. Dr. Dörthe Jakobs from my office and Dr. Matthias Exner from the Bavarian State Historic Preservation Office, who directed the project from its beginnings all the way to this publication of the conference proceedings, also deserve special thanks, as does the community of Reichenau for the hospitality and assistance in the organization of the conference. Finally, I would like to express my thanks to Prof. Dr. Michael Petzet for his constructive cooperation and his committed support for a "strong" preservation practice in Baden-Württemberg's political landscape.

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