
A castle and its lords The Cadolzburg experience





I wish you an exciting visit to Cadolzburg!

Dr. Markus Söder, MdL
Bavarian State Minister of Finance, Regional Development and Regional Identity

The castle as a seat of government

'Cadolzburg' was first mentioned in a document in 1157. In the mid-13th century it was acquired by the burgraves of Nuremberg from the (Hohen-)Zollern family who rebuilt it; only the so-called crypt, which is probably from the previous 12th-century building, is older. During the following centuries the castle was extended to create a prestigious complex. When in the 14th/15th centuries the Hohenzollerns came into conflict with the city of Nuremberg, the ambitious rulers of Franconia made Cadolzburg their seat of government. After the court was relocated, the castle continued as an important administrative centre of the Brandenburg-Ansbach margraviate until the end of the 18th century.

At the end of the Second World War the castle went up in flames. A few decades ago the Bavarian Palace Department began to restore it, first securing the rock on which it stood and the building substance. With the opening of the museum, the conversion of the Old Palace that was commenced in 2005 is now complete.



Gold guilder, probably 1470 – 1486



From burgraves to electors

The Franconian Zollerns' centre of power was the 'land below the hills' around Cadolzburg and Ansbach. Here they issued documents, gave orders, dispensed justice, waged war, received high-ranking guests, celebrated and went hunting – and here they kept their supplies, payment in kind, important documents and cash.

After acquiring prosperous areas 'above the hills' around Bayreuth and Kulmbach the burgraves finally achieved another, massive increase in status: from 1415/1417 Friedrich VI and his sons were electors of the Mark Brandenburg, and were thus included among the seven rulers entitled to elect kings, the most powerful princes in the German Empire. When the two branches of the family separated on a permanent basis at the end of the 15th century, the golden age of Cadolzburg came to an end. The descendants of Friedrich and Albrecht however went on to become Prussian kings and German emperors – but never forgot their Franconian roots and were not afraid to acknowledge them publicly.



*Albrecht Achilles, Swan Order altar (detail), after 1484,
St Gumbertus, Ansbach (above);*

Mace, c. 1500 (below)



The museum: 'A castle and its lords. The Cadolzburg experience'

With an exhibition area of around 1,500 m², Cadolzburg has become an attractive castle museum. It is designed to provide an entertaining and informative encounter with the late medieval period that was the golden age of Cadolzburg. This period is not always so remote, grey and unapproachable as many people think! Here you can admire splendid outfits and quotes from the princes, have fun playing unique history games and experience impressive media installations. The exhibition of course also includes numerous original objects and elaborate reproductions. It describes everyday topics such as cooking, sleeping, the composition and timetable of the court, legal relationships, politics, communication and representation, as well as war in the period when firearms were first introduced, hunting, dancing and tournaments. In addition, the building itself can tell numerous





Below from left to right:

Mock tournament, tournament book and family chronicle of Walther Marx, 1505-1511 (Cgm 1930, fol. 1v, Bavarian State Library);

Crossbowman, c. 1430 (B 12; Friedrich Alexander University Erlangen, University Library);

Messenger from the court offices game, c. 1455 (KK 5112; KHM-Museumsverband Vienna);

Tournament with clubs, Rudolf von Ems 'Willehalm von Orlens', 1441 (HS 998, fol. 227r; German National Museum Nuremberg)

stories of its own about its various usages and eras. A multimedia guide, finally, gives visitors the opportunity to take an individualized tour of the exhibition by means of additional explanations, forms of presentation and in-depth information. Here contemporary museum resources enable visitors to experience for themselves what it was like to live in a 15th-century prince's castle.

During the opening season, there is a comprehensive event and communications programme at the castle providing additional insight into the everyday culture of the Late Middle Ages and further artistic presentations.



A castle and its lords: The Cadolzburg experience

Burg Cadolzburg

90556 Cadolzburg
burg-cadolzburg@bsv.bayern.de
Tel. +49 9103 70086-22/21
www.burg-cadolzburg.de

Opening times

April – September: 9am – 6pm
October – March: 10am – 4pm
Closed Mondays

Organizer



Bayerische
Schlösserverwaltung
Postfach 20 20 63
80020 München
Tel. +49 89 17908-0
www.schloesser.bayern.de

Publications

- > Children's publication about Cadolzburg (in German)
- > *herr im hauß* – Die Cadolzburg als Herrschaftssitz der fränkischen Zöllern im Mittelalter

Admission

€7 regular | €6 concessions and groups of 15 and over

Combination ticket Cadolzburg and Imperial Castle of Nuremberg
€12 regular | €10 concessions

Combination ticket Cadolzburg and Cadolzburg Historical Museum
€8.50 regular | €6.50 concessions

There are also tours in English.

Children under 18 free

Further Hohenzollern places of interest

www.hohenzollern-orte.de

Public transport

Train from Nuremberg and Fürth
www.bahn.de
www.vgn.de

