

Torgau

City Stories

Sites of the Reformation in Europe



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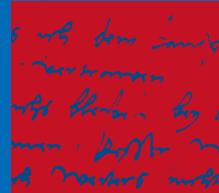
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History





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1

Historical view of Torgau from 1811

2

"A Hunt in Honor of Charles V at Hartenfels Palace" by L. Cranach the Younger, 1544

3

Friedrich the Wise, portrait by L. Cranach the Younger, 1544

4

Johann the Constant, portrait by L. Cranach the Elder, 1525-1527

5

Johann Friedrich the Magnanimous, portrait by L. Cranach the Younger, 1578

6

Former electoral chancellery in the Wintergruene - today Torgau's City and Cultural History Museum

7

*Wooden relief with the worship of the Three Holy Kings, around 1500
This relief can be seen in Torgau's City Historical Museum*

It was the night from February 28 to March 1, Ash Wednesday in 1525. The residents of Torgau stormed the Franciscan monastery and drove out the hated friars. Of course, such an outrageous crime usually would have resulted in the death penalty. But Europe was in

from the House of Wettin: Duke Albert and Elector Ernest of Saxony. By the middle of the 16th century, Torgau had developed into the Electoral Saxony's main residence under the influence of its ruler Ernestine as well as his successors, the brothers Fried-

rich the Wise and Johann the Constant and later his son Johann Friedrich the Magnanimous. The city experienced a political, economical and cultural hey-

day and became the political focal point of the Reformation in Germany.

Artists and architects created significant works which today count among the world cultural heritage. And Torgau would become the central seat of the administration. The Reformation brought more political influence and the authorities took over the administration of justice, monies and taxes as commissioned by the electors. This ended the feudal individual rule and established the centrally-controlled public show of power through officials. In 1485, an electoral chancellery was opened in the palace. The chancellery would serve as an enforcement organ for all state mandates of the elector. The "Old Chancellery" moved into an own building in 1536, the "Electoral Chancellery" in the Wintergruene.



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The division of Leipzig in 1845 also brought the partition of Saxony between the brothers



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History



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The most influence Torgau would have in its history undoubtedly came during Johann Friedrich the Magnanimous' reign. He turned Torgau into the capital of the Saxony electorate, one of the most powerful territories in the empire. His residence was at this time one of the most brilliant in Europe. Whoever wants to study Saxon history need only to come to Torgau. Counter-Reformation, war, fortress-building, administrative province and penal institutions all took away some of Torgau's splendor over the following centuries. But even these patina belong to the thousand years of Torgau's history and make up its undeniable interest - especially from a historical point of view.

The freedoms of the Reformation did not last long in Torgau though. Johann Friedrich and the troops of the Schmalkaldic Alliance of Protestant electors in Germany lost the battle near Mühlberg against emperor Charles V, initially hindering the schism in Germany. With the loss of the electorate to Duke Moritz of Saxony and the moving of the residence to Dresden began the end of Torgau's glorious times. What followed was occupancy by the Swedes in the 30-Year War in 1637, famine and the Plague.

Tied tightly to Torgau's history is also the Prussian King Friedrich II. He defeated the Austrian army during the 7-Year War at the Sueptitzer Heights on November 3, 1760, which proved a crucial battle militarily and historically. Another important name is Napoleon - who saw Torgau mainly as a bridgehead and who, starting in 1811, built the city into



Saxony's main fortress. A major portion of the Middle Ages reinforcements and many buildings in the Baroque suburbs were torn down during this time. The fortress fell in 1814 and the empire was split up at the 1815 Vienna Congress, turning Torgau partially into a Saxony province administered by the Prussians and at the same time into a Prussian border fortress against the Kingdom of Saxony.

Torgau was once called "small Potsdam" – seen as a home for authorities in the Prussian province. Much of the former Saxon cultural scene was administered from there. A district administration was put in place as well as local justice officials with 15 magistrates. At the end of the 19th century, industrialization followed the times after the dismantling of the fortress. The first factories were built outside the old city core. Glass production and agriculture

machine construction were among the first industries to arrive. And Villeroy & Boch helped making Torgau a big name again.

After the political success during the Reformation, Torgau was now experiencing a positive economical development, which can be seen today in the magnificent town houses along the city ring along with the Catholic Church.

But a chronology of Torgau's history is not complete without the most well-known image: Russian and US-American soldiers agreeing in Torgau to join forces and end World War II and the Nazi regime in Germany. This noteworthy day – called Elbe Day – is celebrated annually in Torgau.

Fort Zinna

The Fort Zinna fortress was erected between 1810 and 1813 under Napoleon's rule and was used as a prison for military detainees and forced laborers. Fort Zinna served as a Nazi Wehrmacht prison during the war as well as the central organization for criminal prosecution against undermining military strength, desertion and offenses concerning resistance and refusal. In 1943, the Imperial War Court was moved from Berlin to Torgau. Thousands of soldiers were sentenced to death there. In early April 1945, evacuation and escape actions were under way and remaining prisoners were liberated by the Allied forces.

At the same location later in the year, the Soviet military administration set up the Special Camp No. 8, an internment camp for members of National Socialist organizations as well as prisoners of war. Alone membership in one of these organizations or denunciation was enough reason to be detained. Concrete evidence or suspicions were seldom the case. From 1946 to 1948, Fort Zinna then served – under the name Special Camp No. 10 – as a transit prison for Soviet natives found guilty of treason and desertion and waiting for their transport to the Soviet Union. In January 1980, the East German Police took over the building as a GDR prison. Starting in 1956, mainly political detainees and members of banned religious clubs have served their sentences in Torgau. Today, there is a Saxon prison at Fort Zinna.



1
Moritz of Saxony, portrait by L. Cranach the Younger, 1578

2
"The Old Fritz" - King Friedrich II. of Prussia, portrait by A. Pesne, around 1745

3
Napoleon I. Bonaparte, lithograph by Vernet, around 1830

4
Memorial for the meeting of the Allies on April 25, 1945, in Torgau

5
Meeting at the Elbe, April 25, 1945 - Soviet and U.S. soldiers shaking hands

6
Battle at Muehlberg on April 26, 1547, engraving by J. de Geyn, 1614

7
Hartenfels Palace

8
Dresden became the electoral residence in 1547

9
Impressive and magnificent town houses from the 19th century

10
The water tower – built 1903/04 – once supplied all of Torgau with water.

11
Elbe harbor – the only still-functioning inland port in Leipzig county

12
The Torgau Doppelkopf by I. Domdey – a link between past and present

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Fort Zinna

Reformation



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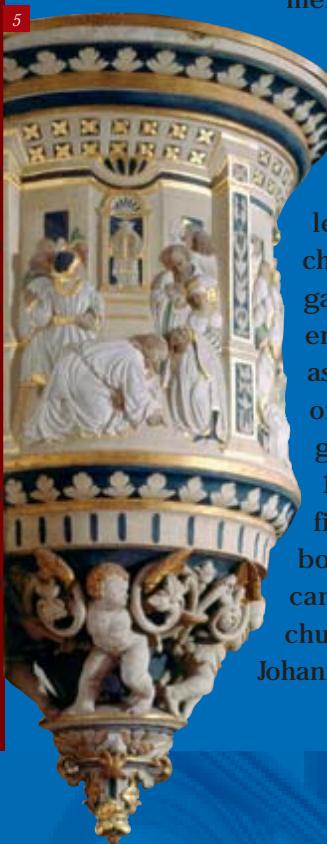
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There are a number of facts showing that Torgau played a leading role in establishing Protestantism. The first Torgau residents were baptized according to Evangelical rituals as early as 1518 in the still-Catholic St. Nicholas Church. In 1520, the first Evangelical church service was

Show off and express yourself! Stop soon!

Torgau – the political center of the Reformation

held there. Around 1522/23, the entire population of the city confessed themselves to the Reformation. The new beliefs were not stipulated by the electorate but instead were more a spontaneous movement free of constraints from the ruling parties. Johann Walter, a singer in the electorate court chapel, founded and led the first civilian church choir – the Torgau Choir. Walter would enter the history books as the “original cantor” of Protestantism. Together with Luther in 1524, Walter wrote the first Evangelical song book and later the duo came up with a new church service order. Johann Walter built up the

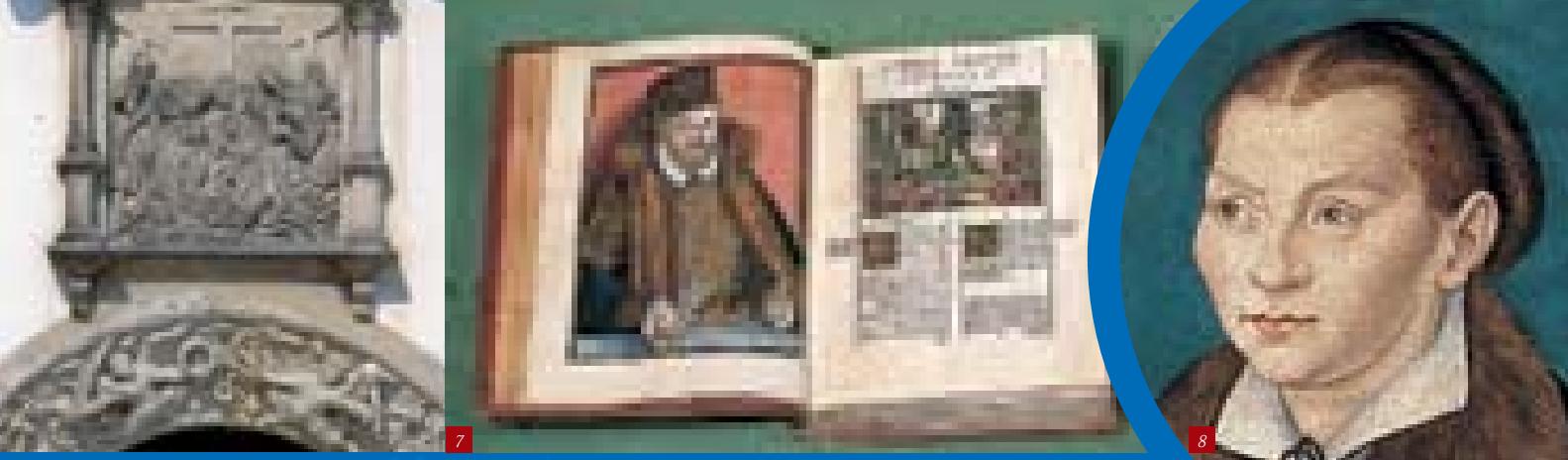


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Dresden courtyard chapel in the 1550s, becoming the founder of the current Dresden City Chapel.

Hartenfels Palace was the central location of the Reformation movement in Saxony. In 1526, the first political allegiances of reformed electors were formed there. As part of the Torgau Alliance Agreement, the Saxon Elector Johann and the Hessian Earl Philipp promised to support one another in case they were attacked because of their new beliefs. In 1530, Martin Luther, Philipp Melanchthon, Justus Jonas and Johannes Bugenhagen composed the Torgau Articles in the rooms of the Old Superintendent Building in the Wintergruene. The compositions were commissioned by Elector Johann as an Evangelical denomination works for the presentation to the Imperial Diet of Augsburg. The works formed the foundation of the Augsburg Confession – the still-valid Evangelical denomination works “Confessio Augustana”, the most important religious articles of the Lutheran Reformation.

The Palace Chapel, the first Evangelical church building, is a place of pilgrimage for all Protestants. Consecrated by Martin Luther with a sermon in 1544, the chapel is an important testimonial to the Reformation and a sign of the close relationship between beliefs and power in Saxony in the 16th century – a good climate for reforms. In 1534, Luther published the first German bible, which he began translating in



1521 under the protection of Elector Friedrich. Shortly thereafter he worked with Melanchthon on the "Instructions for Visitors". This work proved the magnum opus for the new order of state, community and church based on a

humanistic model which eventually would become the foundation of the separation of powers among the church, state and bourgeoisie in the 16th century.

A name bound to Luther and Torgau more than any other is Katharina von Bora, Luther's wife who actively supported his Reformation efforts. The pair met on many occasions in Torgau among Torgau residents and reform supporters. When she died in 1522, Katharina was buried in the Torgau St. Mary's Church. Her well-preserved and restored final resting place accommodates on the ground floor the Katharina-Luther parlor, a small museum.

After the defeat near Mühlberg, Torgau fell under the rule of Maurice of Saxony from the Albertine branch of the House of Wettin. Maurice, who spent time in the Johann Friedrich courtyard, turned to Luther's ideas and developed as a ruler his own form of Reformation. He preferred a slow change instead of a radical upheaval. He militarily supported Charles V in the Schmalkaldic War in 1547. And following his becoming elector after the victory near Mühlberg, he formed in 1551 an

elector alliance against the German emperor. In 1552, he forced Charles V to sign the Treaty of Passau, which guaranteed the Protestants the right to freely practice their religion until the next Reichstag. With the Religious Peace of Augsburg in 1555, the Treaty of Passau would become the bounding right of the entire Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation. The entailed motto: "Cuius regio, eius religio" – "whose the rule, his the religion" – secured the church's being and established Protestantism once and for all as a new religious persuasion in the Christian church.

1
Martin Luther, portrait by L. Cranach the Elder, 1529

2
Philipp Melanchthon, portrait by L. Cranach the Elder, 1568

3
House panel from the Old Superintendent Building – The Torgau Articles were composed here in 1530.

4
Grave Stone of Katharina von Bora in St. Mary's Church

5
The chancellery of the Palace Chapel, the first evangelical church building

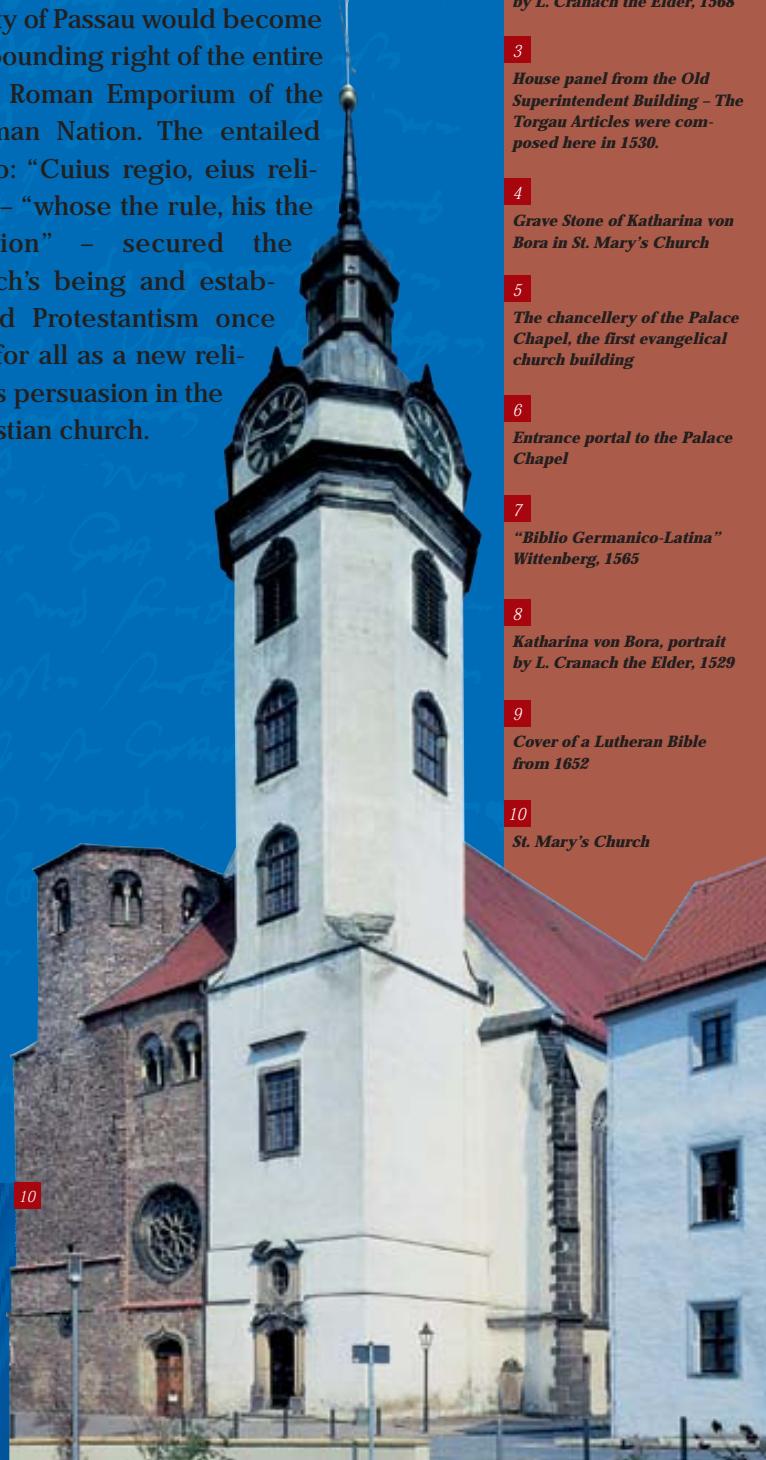
6
Entrance portal to the Palace Chapel

7
"Biblio Germanico-Latina" Wittenberg, 1565

8
Katharina von Bora, portrait by L. Cranach the Elder, 1529

9
Cover of a Lutheran Bible from 1652

10
St. Mary's Church



Citizens City





The saying goes: "The best way to happiness is through the stomach". And considering that old adage, the people of Torgau must have been one happy bunch since culinary delights have a long tradition in the city. Few know, for example, that the famous "Dresdener Stollen" actually comes from Torgau. Only a misunder-

Toys, music, medicine or the art of making people happy

standing of the Saxon dialect earned Dresden the Stollen birthrights – The "Drasdower Stollen" (the Stollen from court baker Drasdow) turned into "Dresdener Stollen". Just as bizarre as Torgau's drinking orders of 1579 – regulating the consumption of Torgau's beer among citizens based on rank and guild – was the "butter letter" from Pope Innocent VIII from 1490. In it, the Pope allowed butter to be used in baking during the time of fasting, bringing the "Drasdower-Dresdener Stollen" on its road to glory with this.

Musicians, doctors, philosophers, aesthetes from all countries – come together in Torgau. For here are your roots. Whether Lucas Cranach, Jan Breughel Sr. or Albrecht Duerer – all of them gave the royal seat Torgau an endless coming and going. City tours specializing in the sights of any of these names would take days.

Torgau is also the origin of church music. In 1527, Johann Walter, the "original cantor of Protestantism", founded the "Torgau Choir Society" – the first civilian singing

club. He set to music various texts from Luther and what surfaced was the German Evangelical chorale, the foundation for music's historical development in Germany. In addition, the Torgau native Walter helped Dresden develop one of its top attractions: the Dresden City Chapel. Walter founded it in 1548 as an electoral court chapel. Today, the annual Evangelical Church Music Festival is always a special date on Torgau's calendar of events.

Another person who turned Torgau into a common term for music lovers was Heinrich Schuetz, the composer and chapel master at the Dresden courtyard.



Schuetz brought about a milestone in German music history on April 13, 1627, when his opera "Daphne" was presented at the Torgau Palace – the first German language choir opera.

1
The Procession of the Warriors from 1542, drawing by W. Wollschlaeger, second half of the 19th century

2
Production of "Dresdner Stollen"

3
Traditional Procession of the Warriors – biggest fair in Torgau

4
Torgau city seal from 1504

5
Town Hall at the Market, built between 1563 and 1579

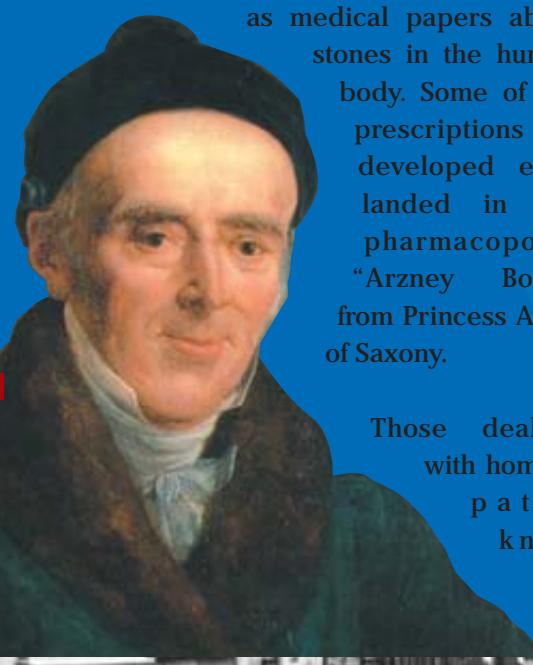
6
Heinrich Schuetz, portrait by C. Spetner, around 1660 (copy by C. Mueller, 1985)

7
Notes from the religious hymn book from Johann Walter, Wittenberg, 1524

8
Beer jug from the Torgau brewery – build according to historical models

9
Certificate with the electoral seal from 1504: "The council of Torgau leases the Spitals-hufen to a number of citizens"

Citizens City



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Those dealing
with homeo-
pathy know

Torgau's special flair which attracted reformers and musicians apparently inspired natural scientists as well. During the 16th century, Torgau was home to the multi-talented Johann Kentmann – Renaissance scholar, doctorate of medicine, natural scientist and Torgau's city physicist from 1554 to 1574. In his home on Schlossstraße – today the Kentmann House – Kentmann wrote numerous works which would prove invaluable to future generations of natural scientists. He published prior to 1550 extensive directories of cities, churches and monasteries in the region. He also wrote a book of herbs in which he presented around 600 plants from the Saxony region. And Kentmann was the first to produce a directory of fishes and birds from the Elbe region with their German names. In addition, he wrote various works about appropriate behavior as well

as medical papers about stones in the human body. Some of the prescriptions he developed even landed in the pharmacopoeia "Arzney Book" from Princess Anna of Saxony.

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the doctor and chemist Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, who wrote his magnum opus "Organon of the rational art of healing" in his home on Pfarrgasse in Torgau.

Another Torgau name, Claus Narr, earned fame in an entirely different way. Narr's pranks and hair-splitting nature made him one of Germany's most famous court jesters. The one-time goose herdsman from Ranstedt near Leipzig moved to Torgau as a young boy. One day, an elector carriage was travelling through Narr's home town and he tied the necks of his geese to his belt to watch the carriage pass. The geese were nearly choked to death, but Narr earned a place as jester for the Saxon elector. Claus Narr became the prototype court jester, even performing as a rascal. One of the most famous stories goes: Once when the ruler wasn't in, he secretly unchained a bear on the grounds. After the bear smashed all the windows of the palace, the elector gathered the servants and asked who was the guilty party. The person would have his ears cut off. Claus Narr grabbed his ears and said to his dog Lepsch: "Lepsch, don't let me get caught. Be quiet and don't turn me in." The phrase "Lepsch, don't let me get caught" turned into a saying in German for warning somebody not to blab something.

Even after Torgau's brilliant times ended with the moving of the electoral Saxon residence to Dresden, the city still attracted big names. The Russian Czar Peter the Great spent time in Torgau in 1711 to see his son get married at





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Hartenfels Palace. Peter the Great also met with Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz at the former electoral chancellery. The philosopher of the Enlightenment and progenitor of mathematical logic met the czar to discuss the development of science. This discussion inspired Peter the Great to found the Petersburg Academy in 1724.

But there are also other stories to be told about Torgau. The city's residents experienced the least-bloody battle in history in 1542. On March 21, 128 men from the Torgau armor-clad civilian force, including 50 mounted men, marched into a battle which never took place. The nearby city Wurzen didn't want to pay the so-called "Turk tax" on wars in which it did not participate. The conflict – later known as the "Wurzen Fehde" – ended peacefully thanks to last-minute negotiations by Luther and the Hessian Earl Philipp.

The Torgau warriors returned at full strength and unscathed on Easter 1542. The elector allowed the men from then on to celebrate a memorial festivity, serving both as a military exercise and public entertainment. The procession of the warriors was celebrated every two years until 1938 and reached notoriety throughout Germany. The spectacle returned to Torgau in 1994 as a fair.



1

Dr. Johann Kentmann, by an unknown master

2

Entrance portal to the Kentmann House on the Schlossstraße

3

Place of death of Katharina von Bora on the Katharinengasse

4

Details of the ceiling fresco in the Mayor Ringenhain house on the Breite Straße

5

Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, portrait by an unknown painter

6

View down the Holzweibrigstraße, formerly Schulzenstraße, photography from the first half of the 20th century

7

Former house of Mayor Ringenhain, who lived in Torgau in the 17th century

8

Hahnemann House in the Pfarrstraße

9

Claus Narr as porter figure at Hartenfels Palace

10

Renaissance oriel at town hall

11

Historical facades



Architecture



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»Torgau's buildings exceed in beauty anything from the ancient world. Even King Salomon's temple looks like it!«

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2



as made from wood. « Martin Luther



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6

The architects of the Renaissance era left behind in Torgau's Old Town a whole area of monuments of the highest quality. Offering more than 500 individual monuments, memorials or statues, the city is not just a treat for architects. Massive renova-

tural development spanned a long time frame. Originally, it was built as an early Middle Ages defense castle, designed to protect the Elbe River crossing and the tradeway which had started there. In 1485, renovations began to turn

Hartenfels into a four-wing domicile palace. Under Johann Friedrich's watch, Hartenfels would become a magnificent residence, which today is one of Germany's most influential early palaces and under his reign, the architect Konrad Krebs designed the Grand Staircase with magnificently-decorated parapet, thereby constructing a spiral-formed, self-carrying staircase. Its boldness makes one wonder how it still works today.

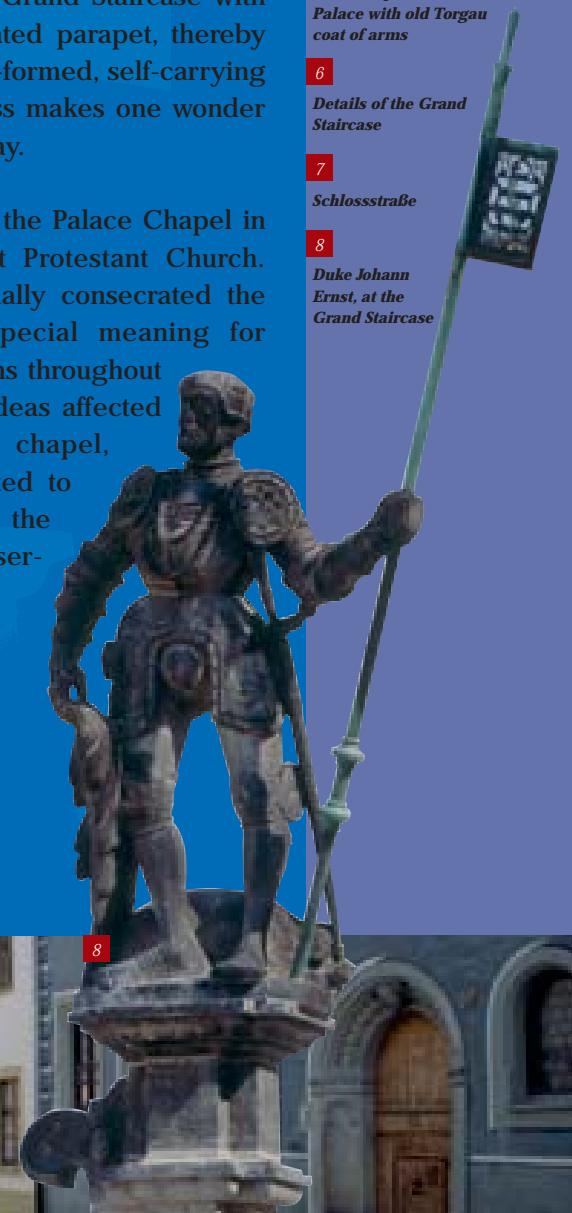
tions have occurred in the Old Town since the late 1960s, saving many historical treasures and even opening them to the public. Today, visitors can tour many of the magnificent 16th century town houses in which beautiful vaulting and ceiling fresco are still preserved.

The Old Town's Middle Ages buildings were nearly entirely destroyed by the fires of 1442 and 1482. But by 1505 there were 339 houses rebuilt in the inner city. And by the middle of the century, the city within the city's walls was entirely rebuilt.

The division of power in Torgau in the 16th century is clearly present in the city's architecture. Torgau is well known for the former electorate residence Hartenfels Palace – a sign of worldly power, impressive churches as a symbol of the Christian faith and the historical market place with town houses, official buildings and the town hall which represents the increasing influence of bourgeoisie since the Reformation. Over the course of history, Hartenfels has always had a central influence. Its architec-

With the opening of the Palace Chapel in 1544 came the first Protestant Church. Since Luther personally consecrated the chapel, it has a special meaning for Evangelical Christians throughout the world. Luther's ideas affected the design of the chapel, which was constructed to fit the criterion for the Evangelical church service.

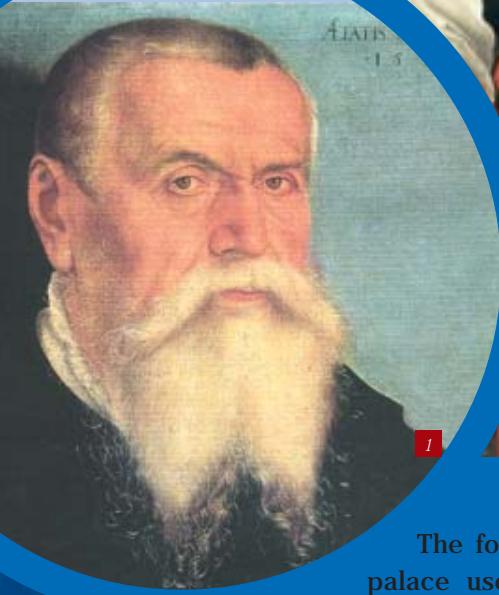
- 1 Hartenfels Palace
- 2 Palace in baroque style
- 3 Grand Staircase, built by Konrad Krebs in 1536
- 4 Market place
- 5 Entrance portal to Hartenfels Palace with old Torgau coat of arms
- 6 Details of the Grand Staircase
- 7 Schlossstraße
- 8 Duke Johann Ernst, at the Grand Staircase



8



Architecture



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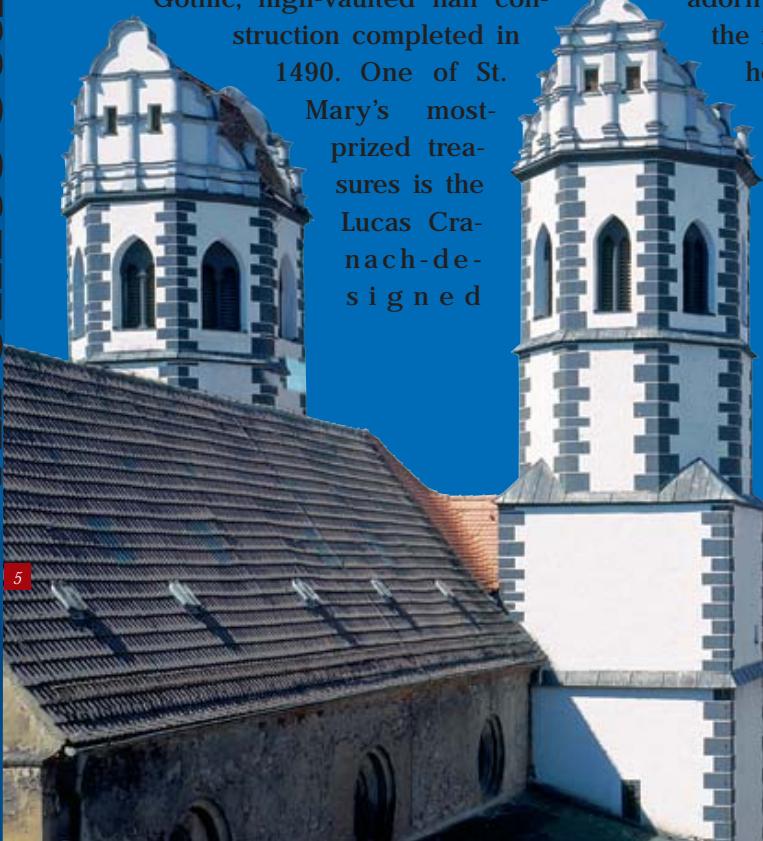
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The following centuries saw the palace used as a poorhouse, barracks, a prison, an orphanage, a military hospital and a seminary for women. Today, Hartenfels is again an administrative seat and is piece-by-piece regaining its old brilliance through extensive restorations. In the 1970s, film-makers discovered the palace, which offered a fairy-tale setting for the "Sleeping Beauty" film. Hartenfels is not just one of Germany's most beautiful and imposing palaces. The Torgau electorate also had a "secret" pulley built into the spindle of the bottle tower, supplying guests in the drinking parlor on the top floor with a steady flow of wine.

One of the oldest monuments in Torgau is the St. Mary's Church, which towered over Torgau even in drawings from Lucas Cranach. It was built in the 12th century as a Roman basilica. After a number of expansions, visitors today stand before a late-

Gothic, high-vaulted hall construction completed in 1490. One of St.

Mary's most-prized treasures is the Lucas Cranach-designed



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"Altar of the Fourteen Auxiliary Saints", one of the few remaining pre-reformation works of the Torgau court painter. In addition, Katharina von Bora is buried there. The chiseled half-relief grave stone, made especially for her out of sandstone, represents a lively picture of Luther's wife. Her stony image also carries a symbolic message for the after life: Katharina has in her hands the Lutheran bible, her husband's magnum opus.

The former St. Nicholas Church is considered the successor to the St. Mary's Church. Originally built as a preacher's church, the St. Nicholas church has experienced a number of structural changes since its construction in 1250. The church was closed in 1529, secularized and turned into a municipal hall which served as a wine depository and storage area for cloth makers and furriers. As part of restoration work in 1994/95, the St. Nicholas Church towers – the Torgau miters – were brought back to their old brilliance and now adorn the town hall courtyard. They were given

the name miter because they look like the headgear usually worn by the honorary bishops. Between 1563 and 1579, the town hall stood on the grounds of the former cemetery of the former church. The town hall is still considered today one of the largest and impressive council buildings in Saxony.

Construction in Torgau stagnated when Elector Johann Friedrich was forced to leave after the battle near Muehlberg. Torgau long had to deal with the effects of the 30-Year and 7-Year wars. Its mar-

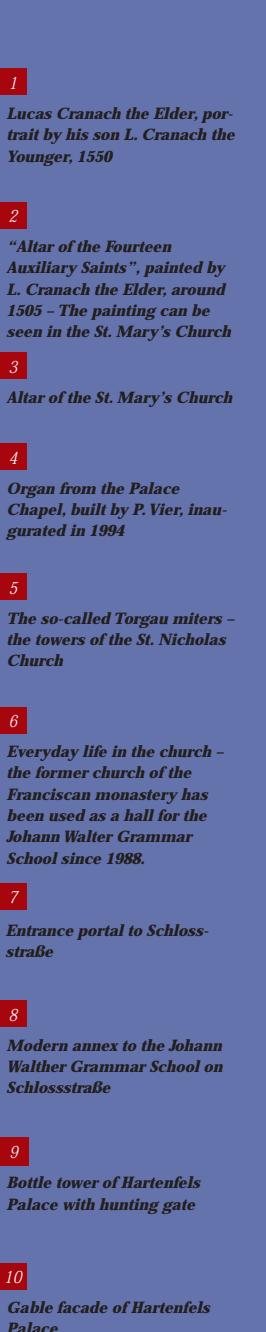
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ketplace resembled one big construction site around 1800. Torgau's vision began to change in the 19th century, with a fortress being built in 1811 in a city once known for its residences. Napoleon began the building and the Prussians continued it after 1815. Some 180 houses in the baroque suburbs were destroyed during the construction of the fortress. The city remained a fortress until 1889.

Torgau today is especially characterized for culture and history and has remained unspoiled in many ways despite its changing history. The old Renaissance architecture, the palace complex, the churches, the old street ways of the wealthy bourgeoisie as well as the alley-ways of the poor tradesmen have changed very little over the course of the centuries. And the restoration measures taken in the past 30 years have saved many projects in the last minute, making sure the city's charm remains for future generations.



1
Lucas Cranach the Elder, portrait by his son L. Cranach the Younger, 1550

2
"Altar of the Fourteen Auxiliary Saints", painted by L. Cranach the Elder, around 1505 – The painting can be seen in the St. Mary's Church

3
Altar of the St. Mary's Church

4
Organ from the Palace Chapel, built by P. Vier, inaugurated in 1994

5
The so-called Torgau miters – the towers of the St. Nicholas Church

6
Everyday life in the church – the former church of the Franciscan monastery has been used as a hall for the Johann Walter Grammar School since 1988.

7
Entrance portal to Schlossstraße

8
Modern annex to the Johann Walther Grammar School on Schlossstraße

9
Bottle tower of Hartenfels Palace with hunting gate

10
Gable facade of Hartenfels Palace



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Tourism





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The special charisma of Torgau has always drawn big names. At least by the time when Luther, Melanchthon, Jonas and Bugenhagen composed the Torgau Articles as Evangelical domination works, Torgau also gained popularity as an Evangelical place of pilgrimage. But the 1,000-year old city offers enough reasons for even the most

Torgau Scatagories

Torgau is a happy host

modern globetrotters to stay around for a while. And to figure out where you should go first, plenty of games of Torgau Scatagories are needed.

Torgau takes pride in caring for or preserving historical sites, something which can be sensed everywhere in the city. Visitors experience a trip back to the 16th century with a trek to the marketplace with its beautiful Renaissance town hall and the nearby town houses. And don't forget to take the chance to visit one of the historical restaurants. Don't worry, these days no electorate allowance is necessary to enjoy a traditional Torgau beer.

People like to celebrate in Torgau and there's plenty of spectacles and festivals at which you can drink plenty, for example at the Middle Ages festivals or the procession of the warriors celebrated since the "Wurzen Fehde" conflict. City mascot Claus Narr annually delights Torgau natives and visitors from throughout the

world. Friedrich the Wise brought Narr to the palace as a court jester, and Narr's popularity is kept alive through the statute of himself and his dog Lepsch – built around 1535 at Grand Staircase. In addition, Torgau regularly is host to leading musical and cultural events.

Punctually at noon and again at 6 p.m. comes a trio of chiming bells from the St. Mary's and St. Nicholas churches as well as the bell tower from the Hartenfels Palace. A tour through the city also offers different, interesting details to be discovered. Some of them are the privileged pharmacy of the Electoral Saxony, Germany's oldest toy shop on Baeckerstraße, two beautiful sandstone portals at Baeckerstraße 3 and 8 and the former brewery at Fischerstraße 11. But modern buildings also are well integrated into Torgau's protection of historical monuments, which can be seen at the grammar school which was expanded in 1995.

And besides the numerous structural treats, tempting small shops and antique stores, visitors are also offered the hospitality of many restaurants and cafes.

Thanks to volunteer work since 1953, bears can once again live in the ditches in front of the palace. And the bears nowadays live a comfortable life in Torgau. They no longer have to worry about growling stomachs or hunting.

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Guild symbol of Germany's oldest toy shop on Baeckerstraße

Well at market place with figure of Claus Narr

Middle Ages hustle and bustle rule over the market place during the annual Torgau Old Town festival

The Glacis, the former protective wall of the fortress and now the city's park, encloses nearly entirely Torgau's inner city.

Night life at Hartenfels Palace

Bear ditches at Hartenfels Palace



Tourism



Because instead of hunting bears, now its all about checking out the beavers – in fact, not far from the doors to the city, at the nature reservate “Big Pond”. It was laid out more than 500 years ago and, at 260 hectares, is the biggest fish pond in Saxony. The German nature conservancy association built a beaver farm there in 1995. Excursions include observing beaver lodges and dams and discovering local plants and animals. Some 200 bird types can be observed and thousands of wild geese rest and sleep here during the winter months.

There are still other sites in Torgau with a rich history. Hartenfels Palace looks over the city with a long tradition as the Electoral Saxon royal seat. Hartenfels astounds visitors with its simple and harmonic architecture as well as its unique Grand Staircase. The list of places to visit is long: the Palace Church, the electorate chancellery, the Old Superintendent Building, the final resting place from Katharina von Bora, the St. Mary's Church, the Kentmann House and the old Franciscan monastery. And the Torgau Information Center on Schlossstraße is waiting to tell you more.

Wherever there's celebrating, there's also dancing. And the Renaissance dancers of the Torgau Art and Culture Club Johann Kentmann are a living example of that. The club offers a performance based on historical descriptions of courtyard and rural dances from the 16th century in costumes true to the originals. Actually we should

feel lucky we can still enjoy this art today in Torgau. The dances – which used to be forbidden as “devil's stuff” – weren't recorded until the middle of the 16th century. They were originally passed on by dancing for or with someone.

And don't forget your comfortable shoes when touring the many hiking and biking trails around Torgau. The “Torgau Way” was mentioned as a link between Torgau and Dresden as early as the beginning of the 18th century. Back then, it was mainly used by guides. But today the 46.5 kilometer-long trail takes hikers passing idyllic fields and forests, the refreshing Pressle Pond and sunny meadows. A rest can best be enjoyed at the small Groitsch Church. Further on comes Sueptitz, where the 7-Year War ended. Trekkers reach the Elbe at Torgau-Reptitz and further upstream comes the Torgau city park, the Glacis, which leads to the inner city and plenty of shopping offers. Those more interested in two wheels have some 155 kilometers of bike trails around Torgau at their disposal. And from the Elbe, there are international trails between Hamburg and Prague. Strolling or riding along the Elbe is still not enough? Then maybe you should take a dip in the waterway?

Torgau is surrounded by wide-open and idyllic pastures and heath landscapes, filled with various flora and fauna, forests, meadow valleys and numerous old tree-lined walkways. The Dueben, Dahlen and Annaburg heath are optimal destinations for a getaway from daily stress. Some 500 kilometers of hiking trails are specially sign-posted to make it easier for vacationers





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1
Windmill in the Torgau-Oschatz administrative district

2
Torgau carries on the tradition of the Renaissance dances of the 16th century

3
Elbe Day remembers the meeting of Soviet and US-American soldiers in Torgau in 1945

4
Elbe countryside

5
Stud farm Gräfritz - The castle was built in 1722/23.

6
Horses from the traditional stud farm Gräfritz

and tourists to get around in the beautiful nature areas. But the nearby towns and villages are also worth a visit: the former manor houses east of the Elbe, the Lichtenburg Palace in Prettin, the Roland at the town hall in Belgern, the goose well in Dommitzsch or the Pretzsch Palace. Those who love riding horses can find their joy some seven kilometers east of Torgau at the Gräfritz stud farm. The farm, which August the Strong wanted to expand in 1722, served mainly to breed horses for the electoral stable in Dresden. Early on, Gräfritz belonged to Saxony and then to the Prussians. In the meantime, it has become one of the leading German stud farms for full-blooded breeding.

Torgau today is a cradle of Saxon history, culture and science. It is a place of pilgrimage for Protestants throughout the world as well as a home to nature and a host of excitement every move one makes. Torgau is full of surprises. Torgau shows off and expresses itself. See you soon in Torgau.

Dr. Karl Braeunlich: Was ich den
Fotos mitteile, ist sehr viel interessanter.
Zum einen hat er die kleinen
Höhenunterschiede aufgenommen. Das
müssen wir uns auch merken.

Man kann hier an
ihre Formen so ziemlich ab-
lesen, welche Art der Lebewesen
die Pflanze waren. Viele Pflanzen
haben Fruchtfächer, manche sind
Glockenförmig. Manche haben
die Form des Menschen oder
Affen? Nur wenn man die Pflan-
zen so hält, kann man sie an-
schaulicher und farbiger
verstehen und Wind und andere
Naturkräfte nicht so phantastisch
imponieren.

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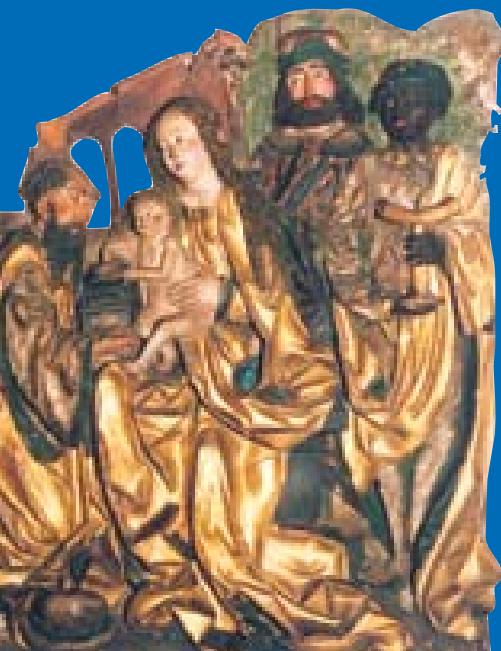
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1 and 2 (Composing)

Errors and printing mistakes reserved.
Torgau, February 2004



Chronological Table

around 973	trading location founded near Torgau
1442/82	large city fires
1485	construction begins on Hartenfels Palace (until 1623)
1519	first sermon in German language
1524	first Evangelical Church hymn book
1525	Torgau Alliance
1530	Torgau Articles
1532	Torgau becomes capital of Saxon electorate
1534	publishing of first bible in German language
1542	procession of the warriors
1544	Luther inaugurates palace chapel – first Evangelical church building
1547	battle near Muehlberg
1551	Torgau electors alliance
1555	Religious Peace of Augsburg
1760	battle at the Sueptitz Heights
1811	Napoleon conquers Torgau and builds city into a fortress
1815	separation of the empire – Torgau under Prussian rule
after 1815	Torgau becomes administrative site of the Prussian controlled province Saxony
End of 19 th cent	end of the fortress and begin of industrialization in Torgau
1945	April 25: Soviet and U.S. soldiers meet in Torgau



Siehe Bildern ob. das ich dem Informationsraum nicht mehr vorwerken kann.

Im anderen hat ich Ihnen die den Architekturen angenommen. Dafür wurde mir erlaubt, zwei neue und weitere neue Bilder

Moin Leute hier ein paar Bilder. Nur eins ist als Foto in der Galerie davon verloren. Das Bild zeigt verschiedene auf dem Landgut und der Stadt für das kleine Dorf zu verkaufen. Und es ist sehr viel frisch gefüllt, umgangssprachlich war das jetzt noch Gott's kommen. Weil es noch keine Blüte. Was ist das man da Pflanzen? Und die Gräser sind schon? Welche kann der Kleinen wegbrachte sein? Da habe man jetzt am Ende der grünen Blätter sind (als hier und sammeln). Wenn das

