



Göttinger Terminkalender 2009



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January - Lions Made Of Stone

Today, two lions made of stone sit to the left and to the right of both stairways of the old town hall in Göttingen. As the heraldic animals of the town they symbolise the former affiliation to the guelf duchy of Brunswick-Lüneburg.

The court-artist Heyd created four such lions in total that were to sit guard at the town gates. The first were put up next to the town guards at the Weender Gate near the end of October 1780. Due to their popularity amongst the population of Göttingen the artist created two further guards that were placed at the Groner Gate in 1795. But the Gatekeepers had to vacate their spots in 1863, as they got in the way of the building of the auditorium. The lions found their new home at the Geismar Gate. In 1945, at the end of World War II, they fell victim to the tanks on occasion of the invasion of the Americans. A replica of one of the lions is to be found at the Geismar Gate again today. The original lions of the Groner Gate are however reserved and have guarded the stairways of the town hall since 1872.

Source: Göttinger Monatsblätter, Ausgaben 52, 58, 63, 69.

February - The Messenger

In front of the main post office of Göttingen "The Messenger" hovers filigree and gracile across the forecourt of the railway station. The late artist Hans-Gerd Ruwe from Osnabrück created this sculpture made of bronze in 1983. It serves as a symbol for the mail's job; to deliver messages. Clouded in secrecy the bearer of news can become the bearer of fate- like Hermes the Greek messenger of the gods. Uncertain are the news. Until the delivery felicity and misfortune are in his hands. With zestful whiplashes the messenger hurries from one place to the next on top of a flying cart. Circles and curves bundle the energy of the motion and show the expectation the direction and the destination. It was Ruwe's intention to juxtapose the tense dynamic of the delicate sculpture and the immense, strongly masculine building of the main post office of Göttingen. The communication between the fleetingness of fate and the reliability of the former German Federal Mail is documented strikingly by the composition

Source: Ruwe, Hans-Gerd, Beschreibung als Wahlthema, „Der Bote“.

March - Bike-Town

The first impression does not betray you! The masses of parked bicycles in front of the main train station are due to the fact that almost a fourth of all journeys are travelled by bike in Göttingen. Approximately 100,000 bike rides are embarked upon per day by cyclists within the town boundaries. Göttingen invites people to exchange the car for a bike by the great number of bicycle paths, and the legalisation allowing to go down one-way streets if on a bike. Amongst students in Göttingen the bike ranks first: 82 percent take the bike for their way to university.

Compared to other university towns Göttingen takes second place in Germany. As well as parking your bike on the outside, the bicycle parking lot at the station forecourt offers 900 inside parking bays, which are used to 60 percent during the week, reaching up to 80 percent on weekends. Mainly students and employees, who leave the town for a few days and want to find their bike dry and safe on their return, use this possibility.

Source: www.goettingen.de



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April - Students Halls of Residences in Göttingen

The Georg-August University founded in 1737 by George II. of England and Hanover is the oldest university in Lower-Saxony still in existence. Internationally it is one of the most important research universities. 44 noble prize winners taught and worked in Göttingen. The Georgia Augusta took part in the initiative for excellence of the German Federal State successfully, and thus now belongs to one of the top nine universities in Germany. The university forms the townscape due to the university buildings that are spread out across town and the round-about 26,000 students that make up around a fifth of the population of the town. Student Services provide more than 5,000 rooms in house- and flat-shares. The accommodations are in historic stud timber houses in the city centre, in modern apartment blocks close to the campus around the square of the Göttinger Seven, and even brand new housing estates in the northern area of the university. Thus students have the possibility to live cheaply all across town.

Source: www.uni-goettingen.de; www.studentenwerk-goettingen.de

May - University for children

The university of Göttingen aims to make science attractive for the young with their offers for young researchers to pupils. Differing research areas have been introduced since the summer term 2004 to young participants from year three on according to the motto: "Nosy for new things- hear more, see more, know more." Since then each semester new scientific issues that are of interest to children have been presented vividly. Children up to the age of 12 cannot only hear much about dinosaurs and mummies, spectacular experiments from the world of chemistry, abstract questions from the area of math or law, but explore them themselves and take part in them. The visit of each lecture is noted down in the Children-University- Study- ID card. After having visited at least five of the free events the child receives a certificate at the end of the semester. In addition to this, seminars are also offered, in which interested pupils can become little experts through an intense examination of an issue.

Source: www.uni-goettingen.de

June - House of Michaelis

Located on the corner Prinzenstraße/ canal of the river Leine, stands the House of Michaelis with its turbulent history. Originally conceived as a guesthouse for the newly founded university in 1737, its walls saw such famous personalities as Lessing and Goethe, lived through duels with deadly endings, wrote history through the first woman gaining a PhD in 1787, the 17 year old daughter of a professor Dorothea Schlözer, witnessed a spectacular robbery of art and much more. It received its current name in 1946 in appreciation of a former owner Johann David Michaelis, Professor of Orient Studies. He used the domicile as his living quarters from 1764 until his death in 1791, while renting out the side wings to students. The House of Michaelis gave shelter to several institutes of the university from 1842 until 2003: At first to branches of the departments of math and physics, later to language studies and orient studies, for example the institute for cuneiform inscription. The Göttinger Architect Jürgen Schenk bought the mansion in 2005 and renovated the listed building appropriately.

Source: Borcherding, Marit/ Wiebel, Marion, Das Michaelishaus in Göttingen, Göttingen 2007.



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July - Night of Culture

Since its successful introduction in 2001 the Night of Culture that quickly advanced to be a synonym for music, fine art, and theatre, enthuses old and young. The whole of Göttingen were out and about when, as happened in 2008, 280 artists- professionals as well as amateurs- present their works at 21 places on the streets of the town centre. The artists were predominantly from Göttingen and the surrounding region and invited to party along to their Blues-, Soul-, Rock-, and Jazz- concerts. A manifold programme for children makes sure the little ones are entertained, too. The peak is reached when the Göttinger Symphonic Orchestra performs open-air in front of the old town hall in the heart of the town. But its not only music that plays to the gallery. The colourful cultural landscape of Göttingen features a diverse programme for the interested audience. Stage Plays lure to theatres, exhibitions to the town museum, the ethnological collection, the House of Artists or the gallery Ahlers. The Night of Culture- a true artistic and cultural pleasure for everybody.

Source: www.pro-city.de; www.gso-online.de

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Foto: Anne Simon



August - Town Hall Open

The Göttinger skateboarding scene has held the "Town Hall Open" unsalaried for ten years running. Skaters from all over Germany meet at the Hiroshima Square in front of the new town hall. In the past the entire town hall forecourt was open for practicing all year round. Since the compromise in 2007 (residents and visitors felt disturbed) skating is only allowed in a very restricted manner. However, on the occasion of the "Town Hall Open" the square is closed to pedestrians in large parts.

There are two groups: The A- group for sponsored skaters, that contest for awards and prize money, and the B- group, in which everybody else independent of age or ability contest against each other. The performed flip-tricks, slides, manuals, and crabs are accompanied by music. In 2005 the "Town Hall Open" had almost been cancelled by the mayor at the time without giving reason, but took place following protests. By now the "Town Hall Open" has become a firm part of the youth culture of Göttingen and the German skateboarding year.

Source: Göttinger Tageblatt, Coole Drehungen und spektakuläre Sprünge, 4.8.2008.

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Foto: Ferhat Kahya



September - Green Centre

Three and a half kilometres away and 150 metres above the old town centre of Göttingen lie the former army barracks of the Federal Army, the so called Zienterrassen. A new district of town has opened up on the round about 50 hectares large locale since the purchase of the area by the town of Göttingen in 1996. In 1999 the first realties with a mile wide view of the valley of the river Leine were sold. In the centre of the quarter lies a green belt of 400 metres. Ernst Wolfgang Wette designed the so-called "Green Centre" for the town of Göttingen. Characteristic of the green belt are the bright red playground equipments. The children's playground was developed in close communication with the residents. They were able to voice their wishes in advance. A water-mud area, in which children can play with a beam-pump and lot's of sand and water, was developed in the northern part of the complex for that reason. The project was finished in 2007 and it is located between the Julius-Leber and the Ehrengard-Schramm-Weg.

Source: www.terrassen-goettingen.de



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Oktober - SUB (Library of the University and the State)

Opened in 1993, the Lower- Saxon State and University Library in Göttingen now houses around 4 million books, 1,5 million microforms, 306 maps and plans, 13,000 print-magazines, 19,000 electronic stocks, 13,400 manuscripts, 3,100 incunabula and much more. The stock largely conserved without damages by war award it a special place. The new building on the campus is used by almost 2,2 million visitors annually. Approximately 36,500 users lent roughly one million media per year. 1,000 work- stations stand at their disposal. Originally the library, founded in 1734, and in which the concept of a modern research library was realised for the first time, was located in the former abbey of the Pauline at the Papendiek. The first scientific university library of European ranking developed. Today the SUB is one of the largest libraries in Germany. For the fifth time it reached the first place in the category of scientific libraries in Germany in the BIX ranking 2008.

Source: www.sub.uni-goettingen.de; www.uni-goettingen.de;

November - The flooding of the Leine

The river running through Göttingen, the Leine - 281 kilometre long in total has traditional high-tide times, turning the southern part of Lower-Saxony into a lake landscape. Time and again the Sandweg in Göttingen is closed off for traffic, because the Leine has left the riverbed temporarily. In September 2007 the usually tame Leine transported such masses of water, due to continuous rain, that within the city boundaries the waves reached close to the high-tide-causeys and the Leine turned into a torrential river. Cellars located close-by were flooded. This is a bagatelle compared to earlier floods. In 1909 the water of the Leine had flooded the South-, the West-, and the Centre of the town so badly that the people had to travel down streets in rowing boats. Neither the train station nor the post office could be reached on foot. Temporarily the water stood three foot high in the Bürgerstraße, Wiesenstraße, Geiststraße, Neustadt, Untere- and Obere Masch. Houses threatened to collapse, people were enclosed by water. Still today high-tide markers remind of this catastrophe.

Source: www.goest.de/hochwasser.htm; Göttinger Monatsblätter, Ausgabe 13

December - Museum of Ethnology (Ethnological Collection)

One of the oldest research collections in the area of ethnology in the German-speaking context is located in Göttingen. Due to the wide reaching network of the biologist and anthropologist Johann Friedrich Blumenbach the university disposes of two unique collections since the 18th century. The Cook/Forster collection composed of 500 ethnographic items of the Southern Sea by the world travellers James Cook and George Forster and Reinhold Forster as well as the Baron-von-Asch- Collection that comprises of cultural documents of the arctic regions of Siberia and Alaska. Both collections justify the international reputation of the ethnological collection of Göttingen. In 1779 Georg Christoph Lichtenberg wrote about the "Royal Academic Museum" founded in 1773 and described it as the first proper museum of Germany if not the whole of Europe. By now the Institute of Ethnology rebuilt in 1935 at the Theaterplatz houses 17.000 objects. Alongside exotic exhibits every day miscellanea from all over the world are on show.

Source: www.uni-goettingen.de; <http://publicus.culture.hu-berlin.de/sammlungen>