



Göttinger Terminkalender 2011



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January - Albani Cemetery

The university town Göttingen not only brought forth famous scientists but also its historical cemeteries are the last resting place for some meaningful personalities, like Carl Friedrich Gauß and Johann Friedrich Blumbach who lay in the Albani cemetery, which today is part of the Cheltenhampark.

Until the 18th century the cemetery was located inside the city wall but in the course of the population growth and the general improvement of the city's appearance in 1783, the burial site had to be moved outside the city wall.

Bit by bit the cemetery for the communities of St.Albani, St.Nikolai and the St.Crucius Hospital was replaced by the cemetery in the Groner Landstraße, which was inaugurated in 1881. The last burial on the Albani Cemetery was in 1902.

Today the main attention is not paid to the erudite but more to the teenagers, who use the park-like place as a placid get-together and so turn it into a lively spot. Unfortunately the young people often leave a lot of mess behind, which annoys the local residents and the city.

Source: Göttingen-Geschichte einer Universitätsstadt, Bd. 2; Bambynek u.a.: Stadtführer Göttingen; Denkmaltopographie Bundesrepublik Deutschland-Baudenkmale in Niedersachsen-Stadt Göttingen; Das Reiselexikon-Historische Friedhöfe in Deutschland und der Schweiz; www.wikipedia.de

February - DLR Göttingen

Being an Astronaut and flying to space – which little kid does not dream of this? The about 6500 employees of the Deutsches Zentrum für Luft-und Raumfahrt (German Aerospace Center) shortened DLR, are close to this dream. At 13 different locations in Germany they gain new insights in the areas aerospace as well as transport and energy through their research work. The DLR Göttingen employs over 400 experts in basis and practice orientated aeronautical research alongside the main point transport which is the principal topic in this Lower Saxony institute. This is also the place where the over one hundred years old story of the DLR began. In 1907, established under the direction of "the father of aerodynamics" Ludwig Prandtl, as a model experimental station it developed itself, especially from 1950 until 1997 to the modern research institution it is today. The location in Göttingen does not just improve the operation safety of air road and rail traffic but also maintains a DLR school lab where children and teenagers can become acquainted with natural science research in an experimental way under professional guidance.

Source: www.dlr.de

March - Town Hall

The in the 60s known as „trendsetting local political act“, that paved the way for Göttingen to become a major city is, from today's point of view, a sad chapter in German architecture history. As the in 1964 inaugurated town hall to the east of the Albani church hardly blends in to its environment it caused, already while building it under the architect Rainer Scheller, a lot of discussions. Because of its architectural style, material and colouring it was nicknamed cockle stove.

As the relief "Die Stadt" (The City) by the artist Jürgen Weber was placed at the staircase to the town hall terrace it seemed to look bad for the town morality: the assumed obscene artwork shows naked humans in different progress stages of the creation of society beyond any kind of civilisation, they communicate naked, they are naked during mental activities and naked while making love. Meanwhile the fuss has calmed down so the city hall with its space of 2.600 m² next to the Lokhalle is a central venue for concerts, exhibitions and small trade fairs.

Source: Göttingen-Geschichte einer Universitätsstadt, Bd. 3; Bambynek: Stadtführer Göttingen; www.stadthalle-goettingen.de



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April - Pauliner Church

At first sight the Pauliner Church, outlying the main axle of the old town attracts no attention at all. But despite its unimpressiveness it has an interesting history: In the late middle ages it was the first gothic hall church built by the Dominican order and in 1331 the church was dedicated to the apostles Paul and Peter.

Due to the reformation in 1529 the monks had to leave the building in favour of the first Lutheran church services. After this the building was used for more than just Lords house, at first it was converted to a boarding school for academic purposes. After the formation of the university in 1737 it was used as the university church, then it became more and more used as a library-, lecture hall and as a administration building. But despite the massive reconstructions the basic architecture of the church maintained. Possibly because most parts of the library inventory were relocated to the new state and university library which was built in 1992 on campus.

Since then this historical building offers a unique environment primarily for exhibitions and academic events.

Source: Elmar Mittler: 700 Jahre Pauliner Kirche-vom Kloster zur Bibliothek; Göttinger Universitätsbauten-Die Baugeschichte der Georg-August-Universität; Göttingen-Geschichte einer Universitätsstadt, Bd. 2; www.paulinerkirche-göttingen.de



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May - Small World

Most citizens and visitors in Göttingen know the bronze sculpture "Der Tanz" (the dance) of the sculptor Prof. Bernd Altenstein from Bremen. In 1993 the East Prussia born artist placed another artwork, hidden in the passage way of the Düstere Straße towards the Gartenstraße, which rarely attracts attention. The also cast in bronze sculpture "Kleine Welt" (small world).

Here Altenstein shows a miniature image of the world affected by different incidents in both positive and negative ways. Essential is the murder of Abel through his brother Cain, what threw our world out of joint, pictured at the foot of the sculpture - therefore the tilted globe.

A group of refugees, holding their children in their arms, tries to escape all badness of this world.

The goodness in this world – pictured as oversized kissing lovers – is love, overriding misery and violence.

The Wealthy, highlighted in gold, bask on top of the world, not interested in the things happening underneath them.

Source: www.denkmale.goettingen.de; www.wikipedia.de



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Foto: Sandra Kroll

June - Waageplatz and Old Mill

While passersby enjoy their shopping in the Weender Straße the fountain/spring located a few metres away at the Waageplatz just ripples away to itself. The water installation, which was put into operation in 1979, cannot hide the fact that there were times when it was a lot livelier at this spot. Once this area, on which the city scale was relocated from the Wilhelmplatz in 1834, with its district court and the old correctional facility has been a distinctive eye catcher.

At the Leinekanal not just the third brewery in Göttingen was built also the barracks in 1822 and the public bath house in 1780. Since the 14th century the Alte Mühle (old mill), also called the Stockeleff-mill, was also put into operation. Equipped with eight mill works after its close down in 1882 it was used as storage and since 1924 as an apartment building. To revive the deserted location the city council is planning a new museums concept in which the former correctional facility will presumably function as a house of knowledge and the Old Mill will be remodeled to a cafe.

Source: Bambynek u.a.: Stadtführer Göttingen; Barsky u.a.: Göttingen-Gestern und heute. Eine Gegenüberstellung; Göttingen-Geschichte einer Universitätsstadt, Bd. 1.



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Foto: Anne Simon



July - South City Quarters

This is how we can imagine growing old. "Architecture must live" – under this guiding theme the architects Alexandra Czerner and Jürgen Götsch from Hamburg designed the senior housing estate, called Südstadtquartier (south city quarters) in the Danziger Straße. They won the architecture competition arranged by Göttingen's housing corporation in 2004. One year later they began with the realization of their life-affirming construction concept.

Within two years they built on over 14.200 qm a colourful and Mediterranean- styled housing area with an activity and therapy centre. Apart from the 85 two- to three-and-a-half-apartments the estate offers light-flooded community rooms like kitchen, music room, library and a wellness area. This gives the senior citizens the opportunity to organize their daily routine in a creative and social way. Even on rainy days the inhabitants can find a dry spot under the transparent roofed courtyards as well as in the small alleyways which also invite to linger for a while.

Source: www.czernergoettsch.de; www.becker-nelson.de



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August - St. Marien

Some passers-by may ask what time it really is while they try to read the time of the mechanical clock of the St. Marien church in the Groner-Tor-Straße. As the clock regularly needs to be wound, set and maintained it can happen that the over 120 years old clockwork may not always work precise. But for all that the clock decorates one of the altogether four parish churches in Göttingen that was mentioned in the documents for the first time in 1295.

Outlaying the city walls at the Leinekanal the former plain building with one nave was assigned to the knights order in 1318. In 1320 the knights order enlarged the building to the gothic hall-church with three naves that it is today.

In the late 19th century the gate tower that was already used as the bell tower in the 14th century was integrated in the church. The remains of the Marienaltar made by the artists Kastrop and Heisen in the year 1524 and Göttingen's oldest bell dated in the year 1359 survived until today. The church also made a name for itself with its Mahrenholz-Furtwängler-organ built in 1926 which set new national standards in organ building.

Source: Göttingen-Geschichte einer Universitätsstadt Bd. 1, kirchenkreis-goettingen.de; Bambynek u.a.: Stadtführer Göttingen; Göttinger Tageblatt vom 17.3.2008; www.wikipedia.de

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September - ThOP

ThOP – a term known to most of Göttingen's citizens must be explained to outsiders. It stands for Theatre in the operating room therewith for Germany's biggest student stage, which in its over 25 years of existence developed itself to a central constitution in Göttingen's cultural scene.

Since 1984 wannabe theatre professionals practise their acting skills, stage design and stage direction in the historical operating theatre of the surgical clinic in Käte-Hamburger-Weg.

At the same spot where once busy medical students explored the human anatomy.

The theatre's structure is with its theatre-in-the-round design (the tiers are U-shaped and positioned above the stage area) a very characteristic place for the over 40 changing, mostly student amateur actors who perform up to 12 plays a year in front of an audience of about 8000 people. Since the introduction of a new financing model in 2009, the theatre management, in spite of the big popularity, has to deal with financial problems because the ThOP has to finance itself through entrance fees and contributions. Should it close down Göttingen would lose an establishment that combined university teaching and cultural offerings like no other.

Source: Bambynek u.a.: Stadtführer Göttingen; Göttingen-Geschichte einer Universitätsstadt, Bd. 3; www.thop.uni-goettingen.de; www.kulturbuero-goettingen.de



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October - The old city hall

The old city hall located by the Gänseliesel is a historical building with a lengthy building history.

Even if not every construction stage could be reconstructed it is relatively sure that the south end of the building was built in 1270. The northern part of the city hall was added until the 15th century. Back then the city hall already was used in various ways: Not only as the city council, but also the corporation of traders benefitted from the accommodation. It was used, among other things as a corn storage, an archive and a wine-cellar.

Due to the rapidly growing city in the middle of the 19th century the main hall was rearranged in an enormously way by the use of romantic canvas by the artist Prof. Hermann Schaper who a few years later also designed the "Dorntze" (Low German for "heatable room"). Since the City council moved to the new city hall at Hiroshimaplatz in the year 1978 the rooms of the historical building are used for representative purposes e.g. for exhibitions, civil wedding ceremonies or as offices for the tourist information.

Source: Bambynek u.a.: Stadtführer Göttingen; Göttingen- Geschichte einer Universitätsstadt, Bd. 3.

November - City Pigeons

For one they may be a symbol for peace but others demonise them as flying rats. The mainly in the inner city settled pigeon may not be as widespread here as in Venice but they are definitely there as soon as something eatable falls to the ground. Through this kind of waste and through deliberate feeding by animal lovers the population grew in the past years to over 500 Mio animals worldwide. Urban development worsens the case and encourages the pigeon to scrimmage at the rare nesting sites. The consequences are not just bad hygienic circumstances and the risk of an affection by vermin but also a high risk of injuries for the animals, which because of the shortage of space settle on bird control apparatuses.

After the attempt to give the pigeons oral contraceptives failed in the 90s the city created the successful campaign "Taubenwagen" (Pigeon carriage): The pigeons are bribed to the carriage and there they can nest. By taking away one egg at a time it is possible to decrease the population bit by bit.

Source: Dissertation von Michael Müller: „Tierärztliche Begleitung bei der Umsetzung der tierschutzgerechten Bestandskontrolle von Stadtaubenpopulationen nach der Loseblattsammlung des Tier-schutzbeirates des Landes Niedersachsen“

December - The Christmas Market and Lichtenberg

It is an old tradition that the new PhDs kiss the Gänseliesel. While this, the bronze sculpture of Georg Christoph Lichtenberg a few metres away may only look dumbfounded. This sculpture made by the Albanian artist Fuat Dushku was placed in 1992 in front of the register office due to the 250th birthday of Göttingen's most brilliant academic to honour his life and achievements. Born in 1742 as the 17th child of a protestant priest Lichtenberg studied mathematics, physics, the English language and literature at the Georg- -August-University from 1763 to 1767. The later professor in experimental physics did not just name the commonly used term +E and -E for positive and negative electric charge he also installed the first lightning arrester in Göttingen. Beyond that he was a well known author. Until his death in 1799 he filled several of his so-called Sudelbücher with his keen witted sudden inspirations and aphorisms.

Source: Nissen u.a.: Göttinger Gedenktafeln; www.lichtenberg-gesellschaft.de; www.goettingen-stadtgeschichte.de; www.goest.de