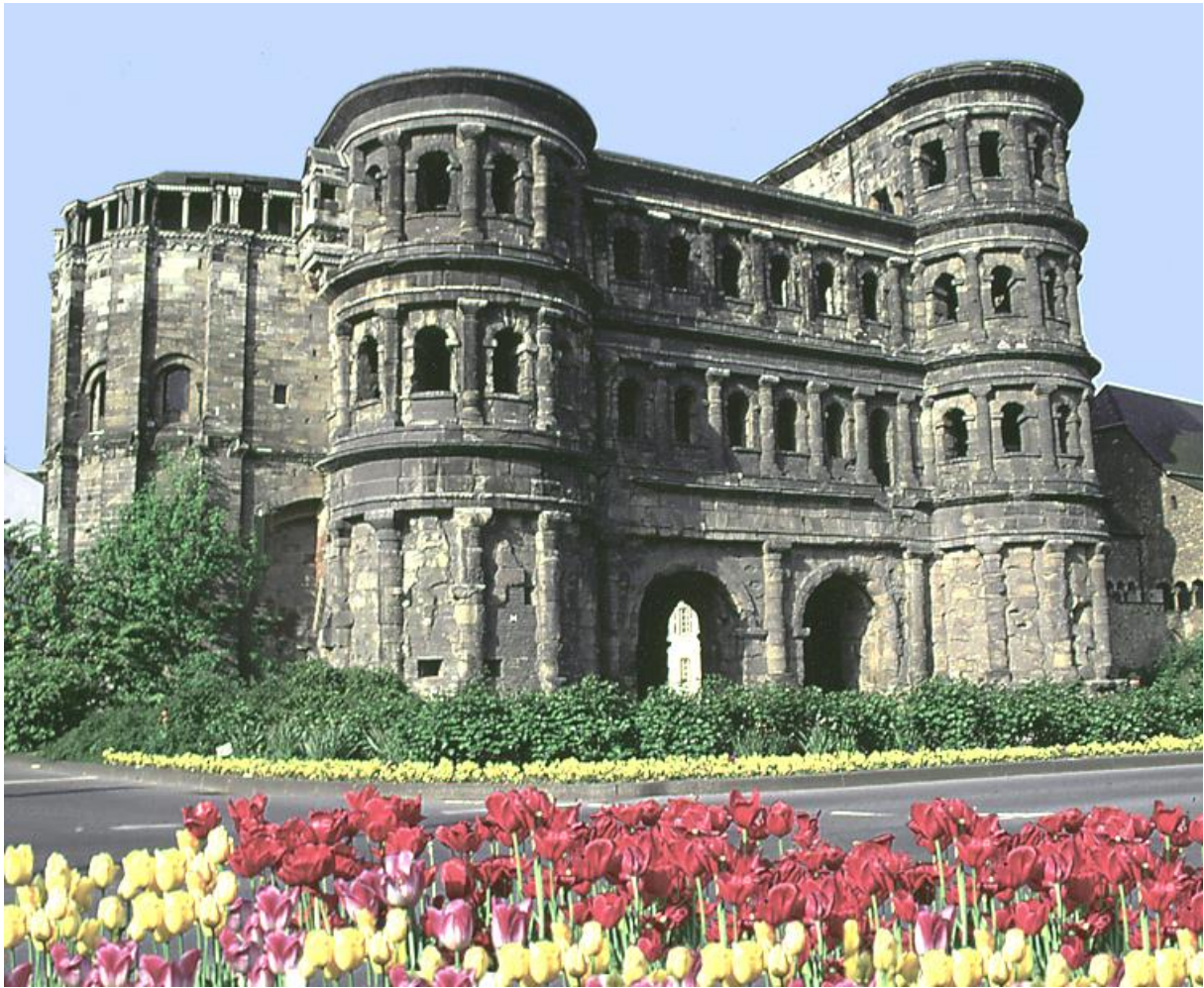


Archaeological Study Tour to Germany



27 May to 2 June 2006

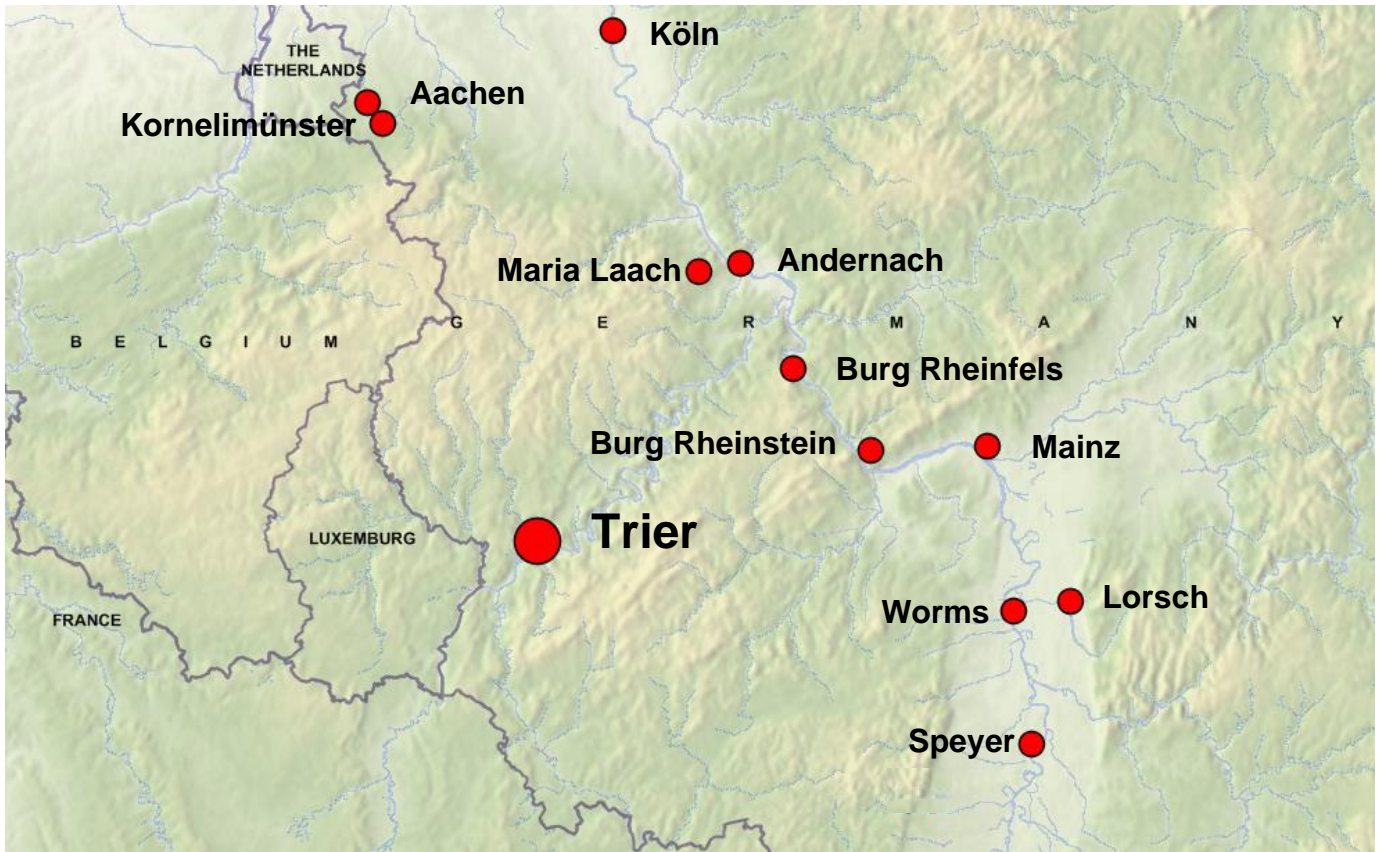
Archaeology in Europe

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www.archaeology.eu.com

Archaeological Study Tour to Germany

27 May to 2 June 2006



Itinerary

Saturday, 27 May	Lorsch
Sunday, 28 May	Trier
Monday, 29 May	Aachen; Kornelimünster
Tuesday, 30 May	Maria Laach; Andernach; Burg Rheinfels; Burg Rheinstein
Wednesday, 31 May	Köln
Thursday, 1 June	Speyer; Worms
Friday, 2 June	Mainz

Lorsch is the site of one of the most interesting Carolingian buildings in Germany – the so-called *Königshalle*, or King's hall. This building (it is in fact a free-standing ceremonial gateway, or *Torhalle*) received World Heritage Status in 1991.



The Torhalle was part of a Benedictine abbey which was founded in 764 by the Frankish Count Cancor and his widowed mother Williswinda as a proprietary church (*Eigenkirche*) and monastery on their estate called Laurissa. Chrodegang, Archbishop of Metz, was given control of the monastery. He dedicated it to St Peter and became its first abbot, although he resigned in 766 due to pressure of work from his duties as Archbishop of Metz and appointed his brother, Gundeland.

In 765 Chrodegang obtained the relics of Saint Nazarius from Pope Paul I. In 774 the new main church - now dedicated to Sts Peter, Paul, and Nazarius - was consecrated by the Archbishop of Mainz in 774, in the presence of Charlemagne. Lorsch became an important centre of pilgrimage and many miracles were attributed to the intercession of Saint Nazarius at Lorsch. In the 10th and 11th centuries, the library and scriptorium of Lorsch made it one of the cultural centres of Germany.

In 1248 Premonstratensian monks took over the monastery under the sanction of Pope Celestine IV, and they remained there till 1556, when Lorsch and the surrounding country passed into the hands of Lutheran and Calvinist princes.

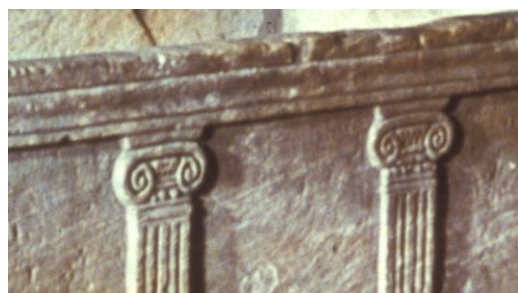


Suggestions as to the date of the Torhalle have varied considerably, from as early as c. 800 to the end of the 9th century.

Recent work has suggested a date shortly after 876, the date of the death of Ludwig der Deutsche, whose supposed sarcophagus bears raised decorative columns which are very similar to the raised columns decorating the front of the Torhalle.

The idea is an attractive one, although it is not absolutely certain that the sarcophagus in question really belonged to Ludwig der Deutsche.

The balance of evidence would suggest a date in the later, rather than the earlier, 9th century.



Trier is one of the oldest towns in Germany and was founded by Augustus in c. 15 BC. In the 1st century AD it became the capital of the Roman province of Belgica and in the 3rd century it became the capital of the prefecture of Gaul. Trier was named after the Treveri, a tribe of Gauls.

Under the Roman Empire Trier attained a population of c.50,000 and became a major commercial centre, with a large wine trade. It was a frequent residence of the Western emperors from c.295 until its capture (early 5th cent.) by the Franks.

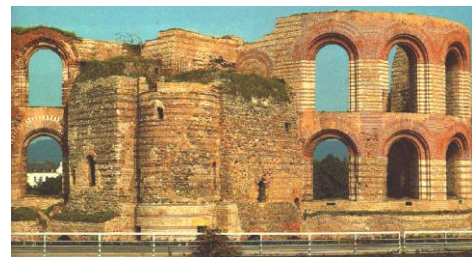


Trier retains many of its Roman monuments, but perhaps the most famous is the **Porta Nigra** – the great gatehouse to the north of the town. The Porta Nigra has been described as the best surviving Roman gatehouse north of the Alps. It was built in the 2nd century AD from large sandstone blocks, fitted together without mortar and just with the occasional iron cramps. In the 11th century, the gateway was turned into a two-storey church dedicated to St Simeon. The gatehouse was restored to its original form under Napoleon in 1804.



The **Aula Palantina** is all that survives from Constantine's imperial palace of c.310. It was altered many times during its history and was finally restored to its original form in the late 19th / early 20th centuries. Today, it is used as a Protestant church.

The **Imperial Roman Baths** are also from the time of Constantine. The Trier baths are among the largest in the whole Roman Empire, but they seem never to have been used. Even before their completion, the whole reconstruction of the new building was well on the way. So far, no clues have been found, pointing to their further use, but it seems fairly probable that their connection with the complex of the Imperial Palace was somehow maintained.



The **Amphitheatre** was constructed c. 100 on the outskirts of the Roman town, built into the slope of the Petrisburg. Its western half held the imperial box and seats reserved for high-ranking civil servants. Its main entrances, to the north and south, were originally provided with magnificent facades with ample space for three passages and vaulted entrances. On its western side, two smaller doors led upwards and to the tiers.

The arena had room for roughly 20,000 spectators. In the 4th and 5th centuries the Amphitheatre was at the same time a town gateway, so that the north entrance lay inside and the south entrance outside the town walls. The gate structures and the remaining walls were used for quarrying in the Middle Ages and also later on.

Other important Roman features include the “**Barbara**” **Baths** (the name derives from the suburb of St. Barbara, later on built on part of the old site), which were built c. 150 AD. They were originally probably of equally impressive size to the Imperial Baths, although they later served as a stone quarry and are therefore now not so impressive.

The **Old Roman Bridge** played an important part in the town's development. Its square pillars of black Eifel basalt, supporting a wooden bridge structure in Roman days, were built as long ago as the 1st century. The city wall was put in the eastern bridgehead and had in its inner angle the magnificent western town gate.

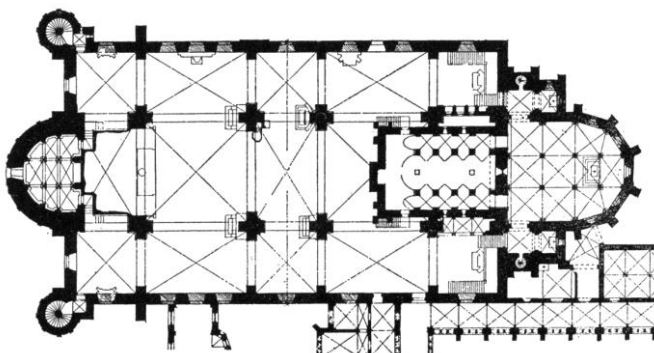
The bridge was discovered during research in connection with work carried out to turn the Moselle into a navigable waterway. The old, simple woodpiles dating back to the days when Trier was founded, were replaced and apart from two piers of a more recent date, these pillars still support the arches of a bridge built in 1717, although it has been widened twice since, in 1931 and 1957.

The Cathedral precincts still enclose a large and well-preserved part of the ancient Roman building, dating from the 4th century. Even at this early date - building had begun in 326 - the enormous and impressive structure was built as a full-scale Cathedral with its foundations on the site of a former palace of the Constantine period.



Towards the end of the 4th century, gates led into a cloistered courtyard and further on, into a three-apsed Basilica roughly the size of the present-day Romanesque west-facade, and finally into the rectangular central building, dating from about 380 A.D. Its ancient masonry of red sandstone, interspersed with layers of bricks is still clearly identifiable in the Cathedral's north and south walls.

To the west of this central block is an 11th century Romanesque addition. This includes a majestic west front with a western apse. The whole structure was extended to the east in the 12th century by the addition of a polygonal apse with a dwarf gallery. Unfortunately, a Baroque chapel complete with dome was added to this in the 18th century.



Plan of the 12th – 13th cathedral

The Cathedral was repaired and secured from 1964 to 1974 following the destructions of World War II.

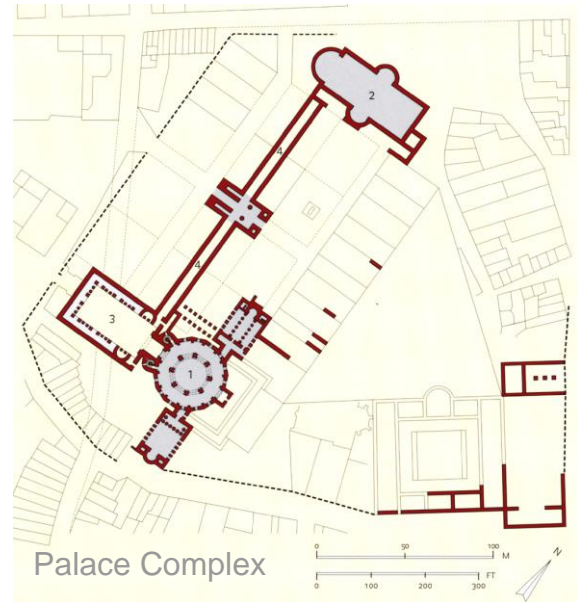
Aachen's hot sulphur springs were already well known by the Celts, but it was the Romans who turned it into a military spa town with the name "Aquaes Grani". This name probably derives from the name of a Celtic healing water god.

The historian Einhard tells us that in 765-66 Pippin spent both Christmas and Easter in Aquis villa (*Et celebravit natalem Domini in Aquis villa et pascha similiter*), which indicates that the place must have retained some degree of importance.

In 768, the year of his coronation, Charlemagne came to spend Christmas at Aachen for the first time. He liked the place and twenty years later he started to build a palace. The main surviving remnant of the palace is the magnificent chapel (*Pfalzkapelle*) whose construction began between 790 and 800 - this later became Aachen Cathedral. Charlemagne spent most winters between 800 and his death in 814 in Aachen in order to enjoy the hot springs. He was buried in the chapel and his tomb became a focus of pilgrimage.

In 936 Otto I was crowned emperor in Aachen Cathedral. From then on the emperors of the Holy Roman Empire were crowned "King of the Germans" in Aachen, for the next 600 years. The last king to be crowned here was Ferdinand I in 1531.

During the medieval period Aachen was one of the largest cities of the Empire.



Aachen Cathedral began in c. 790–800 with the construction of Charlemagne's palatine chapel (*Pfalzkapelle*), with its octagonal basilica and cupola. The design was inspired by the churches of the eastern part of the Holy Roman Empire. The octagon originally had rectangular structures to the north and south and an atrium to the west. This structure was linked to the royal palace by a long corridor.

The magnificent 12th century chandelier which hangs inside the octagon was a gift from Frederick Barbarossa.

In the 14th century a Gothic chancel, rather along the lines of Sainte Chapelle in Paris, was added. Construction began in 1355 and it was consecrated in 1414, on the 600th anniversary of Charlemagne's death.

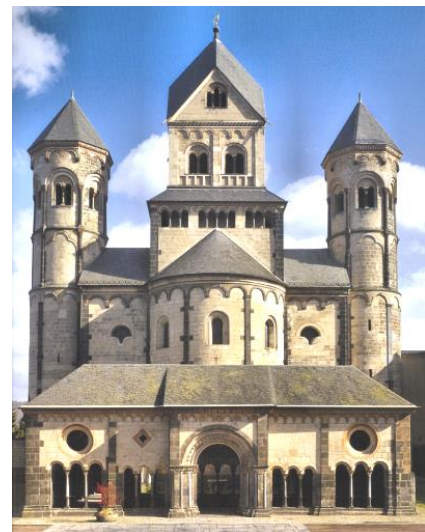
The 16-sided cupola, which now adorns the octagon, dates from the 17th century.

Kornelimünster Abbey was founded in 814 by Benedict of Aniane and Louis the Pious, son of Charlemagne. The church that survives today dates mainly to the 14th – 16th centuries, although the galleries above the chancel were added in the 17th century and the octagonal Kornelius chapel dates to the early 18th century.



Because of its relics, including a 1360 bust of St Kornelius, the church became a place of pilgrimage and still attracts a large number of pilgrims each September.

Maria Laach has been described as the very essence of a fully formed German Romanesque church. The abbey was founded in 1093 and the west choir, nave and crypt were completed in 1156, although the east choir was not finished until 1177. The atrium in front of the west choir is a 13th century addition.



The basilica has a nave with 5 transverse rectangular bays, side aisles with five rectangular bays and two transepts. The church was designed from the beginning to have vaulting, although the vaulting of the non-square bays did cause problems. The exterior is typical with its grouping of towers above the east and west choirs, each balancing the other. An octagonal tower is placed above the eastern crossing and a square tower stands over the western crossing. The exterior surface is subdivided by a series of narrow, flat pilasters terminated at the top by round arches.

Andernach is a small town on the west bank of the Rhine which still preserves a strong medieval atmosphere. The old town is entered through the **Rheintor** – a fortified double gateway the earliest part of which dates to the 12th century.



The archiepiscopal **Andernach Castle** was a moated castle and formed an integrated part of the city wall. It was built after 1167 and belonged to the archbishops of Cologne. It was constructed to protect the territory of the electorate of Cologne against the electorate of Trier. Much of the surviving ruins date to the 14th and 15th centuries.

The parish church of **Maria Himmelfahrt** is an imposing example of the early 13th century Rhineland style – a transitional style between Romanesque and early Gothic.

Burg Rheinfels, the mightiest fortress ever constructed on the banks of the Rhine, was built by Count Dieter V. von Katzenelnbogen in 1245 to protect the Rhine toll at St. Goar and St. Goarshausen. After the Katzenelnbogen family died out in 1479 the castle came into the hands of the Hessen family. The Hessens continued expansion work including underground tunnels from where advancing enemies could be surprised.



The French failed to conquer the castle in 1692 when a force of 18,000 with 10,000 backups faced a garrison of 3,000. Despite ten days of artillery bombardments the French had to retreat with 4,000 dead and 6,500 wounded - eight times more than the Germans.

A century later, in 1794, the commander fled before the advancing French army and the castle fell without a shot being fired. However, it was later systematically blown up. Reconstruction started during the nineteenth century.

Burg Rheinstein was built around 900AD as a customs post for the German Empire. It was originally called the Vogtsburg or Feitsburg.

From 1282-1286, the castle was home to the Holy Roman Emperor Rudolph von Habsburg. It was from this castle that he passed judgment on the unruly Robber Knight's of Burg Reichenstein, Burg Sooneck and Burg Ehrenfels, and founded the Noble Knighthood. He renamed the castle, calling it Konigstein. From the fourteenth to the seventeenth century the castle was leased to the Archbishops of Mainz.



The castle began to fall into ruin after 1572 when it became unprofitable to upkeep for Anton von Wiltberg, Chamberlain in Mainz. In 1823, the castle-ruin and its foundation stone were purchased by Friedrich Wilhelm Ludwig, Royal Prince of Prussia and Nephew of King Friedrich Wilhelm III. From 1825-1829, the castle was considerably rebuilt under the guidance of the famous castle architect, Claudius von Lassaulx. The castle was then renamed Burg Rheinstein because of its imposing location on the cliffs above the Rhine River.

Although it has been much rebuilt, the location of this castle makes it a site well worth visiting.

Köln is the capital of the Rhineland and one of the largest cities in Germany. In 38 BC Agrippa allowed the Ubil (a Germanic tribe) to occupy the west bank of the River Rhine. The settlement was called *Oppidum Ubiorum*. In AD 50, Agrippina (the third wife of Claudius and mother of Nero) obtained the title of colonia for her birthplace – *Colonia Claudia Ara Agrippinensium*.



During the medieval period, much of Köln's political power came from the church. The bishopric was founded in the 4th century by the Emperor Constantine and was elevated to an archbishopric by Charlemagne. In the late 12th century there were 150 churches in Köln.

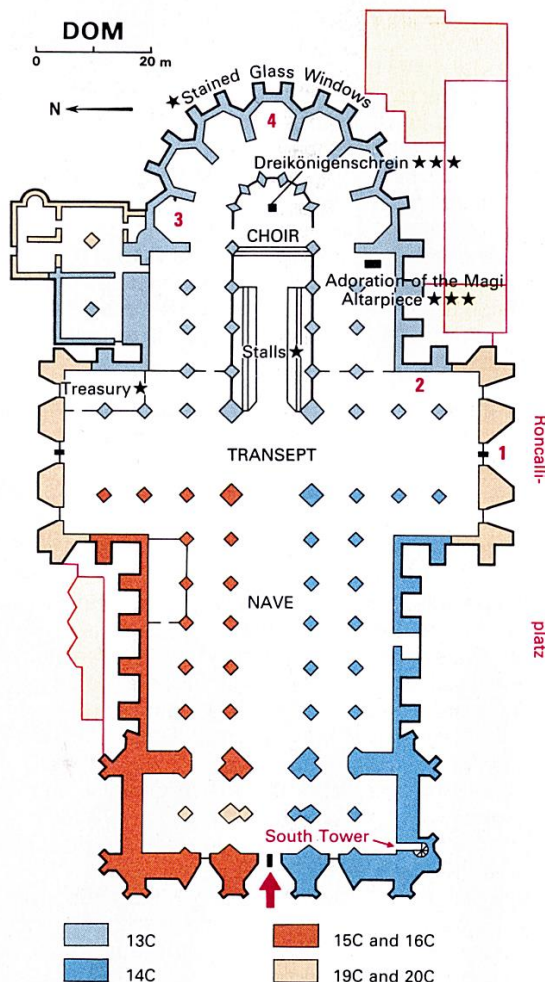
Köln Cathedral took more than 600 years to reach completion. In 1164 Frederick Barbarossa gave the relics of the Magi to the town. This resulted in a huge influx of pilgrims and by 1248 it was decided that a new, larger cathedral was needed.

The new Köln Cathedral was the first Gothic building in the Rhineland – the inspiration for the building naturally came from France, from the cathedrals in Paris, Amiens and Reims.

The chancel was completed by 1320. But work on the south western tower stopped in 1437 and even work on the nave and transepts ceased in 1437.

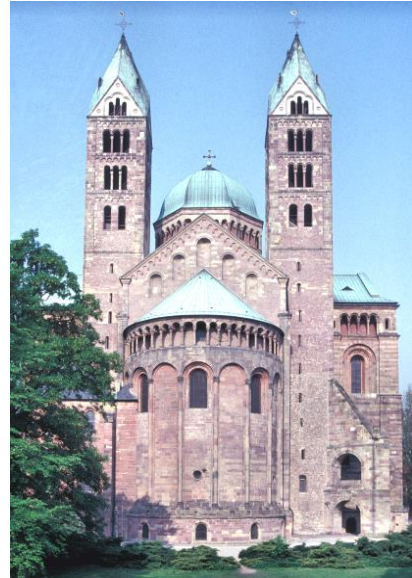
It was only in 1842 that work started again. This was the high period of neo-Gothic in Germany, and work based on the original plans was resumed. The Cathedral was finally consecrated in the presence of Emperor Wilhelm I in 1880.

Despite the time it took to build, the cathedral is a superb example of Gothic architecture and the twin towered western front is seen as the epitome of German Flamboyant Gothic.



The Shrine of the Magi (behind the high altar) is a magnificent piece of medieval metalwork. It was begun in 1181 by the master goldsmith Nicolas of Verdun and was completed c. 1220 by the master craftsmen of Köln.

Speyer's Kaiserdom, or imperial cathedral, was begun sometime between 1027 and 1030 under the Emperor Conrad II (c. 990 – 1039) and completed under Heinrich IV (1050 – 1106). After severe damage in the 17th century, the building remained a ruin until the end of the 18th century, when the west block was rebuilt in Classical-Romanesque style. In 1794 the cathedral was devastated again and was earmarked for destruction in the early 19th century, only being saved by a decree from Napoleon. In the 19th century, Heinrich Hübsch carried out a new restoration and rebuilt the western end with a faithful reproduction of the original.



Recent research has revealed an interesting history of the building. The oldest part of the church, begun between 1027 and 1030 is the east crypt, to which the towers flanking the choir and foundations for a transept were added. Then between 1035 and 1040 the piers of the nave (which was originally designed to be short) were constructed. The outer walls of the aisles and the tunnel vault of the chancel were also built at this time.

It was only after c. 1045 that the nave was extended to its present length under Heinrich III. It appears that at its consecration in 1061 the nave section, the west front and the towers were already complete.

At one time it was thought that the original building was designed to only have vaulting in the aisles, but the latest research has shown that the building designed under Conrad II was intended to have transverse tunnel vaulting with a span of c. 13.5 m (c. 45 ft). The vaulting was modelled on the vaults at St Philibert, Tournus but the width of the vaults proved too much for the building technology of the time and the scheme was not carried out.

It is also likely that the unstable ground near to the Rhine caused damage to the building, for Heinrich IV had to undertake extensive renovation of the cathedral soon after it was consecrated. In this second phase of building the choir and transept were rebuilt, although the original dimensions were preserved. This phase also saw the successful vaulting of the nave after alternate piers had been strengthened with strong pilasters covered with semicircular columns with Corinthian capitals. The nave was therefore divided into six bays, each nave bay being equal to two aisle bays – the so-called “gebundenes System”.

In spite of the small alterations that have taken place, the eastern parts of Speyer Cathedral still offer some of the most impressive examples of medieval architecture surviving today. The responds that articulate the apse rise from a high plinth and support semi-circular arches. Above these arches is a dwarf gallery – an uninterrupted row of arches set on small columns which run in front of a passageway just below the edge of the roof. This gallery continues above the transepts and the nave's walls, although here it is divided by sections of wall marking the bay separations. These responds,plinths and arches all help to disguise the heaviness of the upper parts of the building.



The Jewish ritual bath, or Mikvah, in Speyer was built in the early 12th century. It is located in the "Jewish Courtyard", only a few meters east of the synagogue with its women's gallery.

Because the natural water sources in medieval towns were not clean enough to fulfil the requirements of a ritual bath, deep wells were dug to reach the water table. The ground water collected in a

reservoir, which not being completely watertight, allowed the water to be constantly refreshed.

The ritual Jewish bath of Speyer is the oldest remaining Jewish ritual bath in Central Europe. It consists of a ca.10 meter deep bath shaft with a bathing pool. The bath chamber is reached by an upper staircase that descends in two sections from the entrance down to the pool's antechamber.

Worms Cathedral, together with those of Speyer and Mainz, ranks among the finest Romanesque churches of the Rhine. It was the smallest and the last of the three imperial cathedrals to be built.

This magnificent basilica, with four round towers, two large domes, and a choir at each end, has an extremely imposing exterior, and the impression produced by the interior is also one of great dignity and simplicity, heightened by the natural colour of the red sandstone.



Only the ground plan and the lower part of the western towers belong to the original building consecrated in 1110. The remainder was mostly finished by 1181, but the west choir and the vaulting were built in the 13th century, the elaborate south portal was added in the 14th century, and the central dome has been rebuilt.

The ornamentation of the older parts is extremely simple; and even the more elaborate later forms show no high development of workmanship. The baptistery contains five remarkable stone reliefs of the late 15th century.

The history of **medieval Jewish settlement** is better preserved in Worms than in any other European city. The “Heiliger Sand” cemetery preserves gravestones from as early as 1076 and has a number of Gothic and Renaissance gravestones.



The first synagogue in Worms was built in 1034. A rebuilding took place 1174/5 when the Men’s Synagogue was constructed. In 1212/13 a Women’s Synagogue was built and in 1185/86 a ritual bath, or mikvah, was added to the complex.

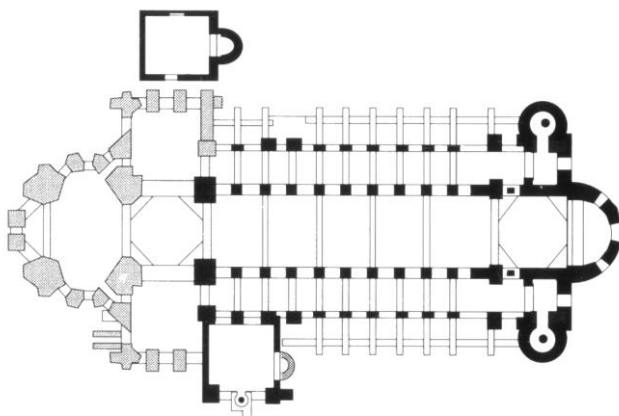
Unfortunately, much of the above ground structure was destroyed in the war, but in 1961 the reconstruction of the complex began.

Mainz Cathedral was started under Emperor Heinrich IV (1050 – 1106). The old cathedral, built by Bishop Willigis (975 – 1010) and Bishop Bardo (1031 – 1051), had burnt in 1081 and rebuilding began almost immediately.



The new cathedral, which was consecrated in 1137, was a basilica with nave aisles and groin vaults. At the east end was a semi-circular apse, although it is not known if there was a similar construction at the west on the site of the later west choir.

In front of the eastern apse is a square bay with a sail vault, which appears as a tower on the exterior of the building. This arrangement, similar to a crossing, suggests a transept, but the two aisles are continued on both sides. Each of the five bays of the nave corresponds to two bays in the aisles. Groin vaults span the aisles and the nave was originally also groin vaulted (this is apparent from the clerestory windows which are not aligned with the arcades, but cluster in pairs to make room for the vaulting). The original groin vaults have been replaced with Gothic rib vaults.



The nave walls are articulated by shallow round-headed arched recesses that rise above the nave piers and extend to just below the clerestory windows. On every other pier is a semi-circular pilaster supporting one of the transverse arches of the nave vault. Compared to Speyer, the impression is much flatter, and as a result there is none of the feeling of liveliness that one experiences in Speyer.