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An illustrated guide-book to Heidelberg its castle and environs

Schmieder, Ludwig Heidelberg, 1948

The Castle Garden

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THE CASTLE GARDEN

fter seeing the interior, we must go back trough the courtyard to the Castle Garden. From the drawbridge we see the ruins of the Powder Magazine, which was blown up by the French; one half of the tower split off and sank down into the moat where it still lies. In the moat, at the foot of the tower one can reach the lower "Fürstenbrunnen" (Prince's Spring). Climbing the steps to the left, one comes to the east side of the castle where one sees the exterior walls of the kitchens; the so-called Chemist's Tower; the east facade, almost devoid of decoration; of the Oft-Heinrich Building as well as that of the Hall of Mirrors adorned whit an oriel window; and finally the ration Bell Tower. We pass the Upper Furstenbrunnen (The No. 7 Prince's Spring) and come to the site of the Hortus Palatinus, the once famous Palace Garden.

It extended over five artificially constructed terraces which still exist and was adorned with statues, fountains, elaborate grottoes and caves. Frederick V hat it laid out by Salomon de Caus, an unusually gifted garden architect and engineer. Hed had held a position in the household of the Prince of Wales and had been the drawing master of Elizabeth Stuart, the consort of Frederick V, until he took up his work in Heidelberg in 1616. The two upper terraces rise before us on the right. The so-called "Botanical Terrace" contains the remains of a botanical garden of the past century and among the many rare evergreen trees and shrubs there are speciments to be seen which do not grow elsewhere in our climate. Across it we recognise the high arches of the ruins of the biggest building of the Hortus Palatinus. In the semi-circular niches of the uppermost terrace there used to stand tanks with

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various kinds of fish. Towards the west are the ruins of the princely bathhouse and the former Orangery.

We now return to the Botanical Garden and come to a big grotto of stones, shells and marble in which the health-giving water of the Heidelberg Radium Spring used to be distributed. A number of animals, some of whose bodies are still preserved, adorn the outside. Close by, in a little pond, lies a very much damaged figure of the Rhine. A seat has been placed in the niche here in memory of Goethe's stay here with Marianne v. Willemer.

The most beautiful part of the garden is undoubtedly the huge terrace thrown out on grat arches over the valley where a monument to Scheffel used to stand. The lowest terrace is a division of the botanical garden reserved for forestry, and has a rare collection of conifers. Opposite is the Schloss Park Casino. It contains a picture of the Castle Gardens as they were originally laid out.

On our way back to the station we must not overlook the Klingentor (Klingen Gate) standing at the lower end of the Castle, built about 1650. The Breitwieser house adjoining was built at the beginning of the 18th century by the body physician of the Elector. It is a stately and well-molded baroque building. Near it are the old electoral barracks, a simple but well-proportioned building.

In the Anlage we pass the Memorial to Bunsen, the discoverer of spectrum analysis, at whose feet two allegoric figures are lying, representing the unknown, awakening forces of Nature.

SUBURBS AND OUTLYING DISTRICTS

Neuenheim

On the northern side of Neckar River lies Neuenheim. Part of the old village church still stands in Ladenburger Street. Where Moenchhof Street branches off from Bruecken

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