

AACHEN (AIX-LA-CHAPELLE), DUISBURG-ESSEN 2007

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1. AACHEN (HISTORY)

The city of Aachen (also known as Aix-la-Chapelle) is best known for its association with Charlemagne and subsequent Holy Roman emperors. And thanks to the well-preserved Cathedral with its treasury of relics, the city remains a popular destination for Christian pilgrims and tourists alike.



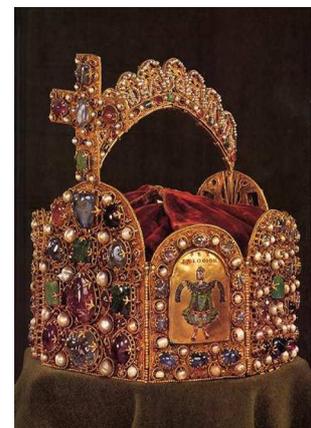
*02.04.747 in Ingelheim
†28.01.814 in Aachen (Aix-la-Chapelle)

The Romans who first settled the site of modern Aachen named the hot springs there *Aquisgranum* the name probably deriving from the Celtic god of water and health. Emperor Charlemagne visited the site in A.D. 768 and was impressed with the springs. He began construction on his imperial palace in 788, and works began on the Aachen Cathedral in 790.

The Cathedral became the coronation site of the Holy Roman emperors from A.D. 936 to 1531; especially after the canonisation of Charlemagne in 1165, Aachen became an important destination for pilgrims. Its importance began to decline in the 16th century, primarily because of its inconvenient location as the capital; the coronation site was later moved to Frankfurt am Main in the 1560s.

The Reformation was also a time of tension between Catholics and Protestants in the city. Protestant ideas were first preached in Aachen in 1524 by Albrecht von Muenster; he was soon forbidden to preach and executed on two counts of murder. A Protestant community was gradually established in the city; however, an uprising in 1581 led to the election of a Protestant governor in defiance of the emperor.

The city fell under imperial ban in 1597 and Catholicism was restored in 1600. Another Protestant uprising in 1611 drove out the Catholic officials, the city was put under imperial ban once again, and many Protestants were exiled. In 1656, Aachen suffered a devastating fire that destroyed over 4000 houses and added to the city's troubles.



Crown of Charlemagne

Despite its decline, Aachen was the site of several important peace conferences, including those ending the War of Devolution (1668) and the War of the Austrian Succession (1748). Both the treaties, negotiated primarily between France and Britain, are known as the "Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle".

Aachen was annexed by France in 1801 and given to Prussia after the Congress of Vienna (1814–15). A papal bull dissolved the bishopric of Aachen in 1821 and transferred most of its territory to the archdiocese of Cologne. A collegiate chapter of one provost and six canons replaced the bishopric in 1825, which is why Aachen's Palatine Chapel is sometimes known as the Collegiate Church.



Golden Reliquary Containing Charlemagne's Collection of Relics

Aachen was briefly occupied by its Belgian neighbors after World War I and it suffered extensive damage in World War II. Aachen became the first large German city to fall to the Allies on October 20, 1944.

Today, Aachen is a major railway junction, an industrial center, and a significant tourist destination. It has a population of about 257,000 people. Aachen is known in French (and to many English speakers) as Aix-la-

Chapelle and in Italian as Aquisgrana (reflecting its earlier Latin name).

Holy Roman Emperor Charlemagne began the construction of the palace chapel (Palatine Chapel), which forms the central part of Aachen Cathedral, in A.D. 786. The Palatine Chapel has been described as a "masterpiece of Carolingian architecture" and it was made a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1978. Called the Pfalzkapelle in German, the Palatine Chapel is also known as the Palace Chapel, Collegiate Church, or Octagon. †

Built on the site of a smaller house of worship dating from the 780s, the Palatine Chapel was designed by Odo of Metz in the late 8th century. He based it on the Byzantine-style church of San Vitale (completed in A.D. 547) in Ravenna, Italy, which accounts for the very eastern feel to the chapel (e.g. striped horseshoe arches, mosaics, and round ambulatory). It was consecrated in 805 to serve as the imperial church.

Charlemagne collected an array of relics during his lifetime, which are still kept in the Aachen Cathedral. The four most important being the:

- Cloak of the Blessed Virgin;
- Swaddling-clothes of the Infant Jesus;
- Loin-cloth worn by Christ on the Cross; and
- Cloth on which the bleeding head of St. John the Baptist lay after beheading.

In the middle Ages, these relics attracted swarms of pilgrims from Germany, Austria, Hungary, England, Sweden, and other countries. In the mid-14th century, it became customary to show the four "Great Relics" only once every seven years, a custom which continues even today (the last was in 2007).

When Charlemagne died in 814, he was buried in the chapel's choir. Emperor Otto III (also buried here) had Charlemagne's vault opened in A.D. 1000. It is said the body was found in a remarkable state of preservation, seated on a marble throne, dressed in imperial robes, with his crown on his head, the Gospels lying open in his lap, and his sceptre in his hand. A large mural representing Otto and his nobles gazing on the dead Emperor was



Throne of Charlemagne at the Cathedral

painted on the wall of the great room in the Town Hall. One of the grandest and most important thrones was the Throne of Charlemagne in the "Imperial Cathedral" at Aachen, the site of the coronation of 30 German Kings and Emperors of the Holy Roman Empire.

1.1. Barbarossa's Chandelier

Emperor Frederick Barbarossa again opened the vault in 1165 and placed the remains in a sculptured sarcophagus made of Parian marble, said to have been the one in which Augustus Caesar was buried. At Barbarossa's request, Charlemagne was canonized that same year. In 1168, Barbarossa provided a bronze chandelier to hang over the shrine, which remains today. In 1215, Frederick II had Charlemagne's bones put in a casket of gold and silver, where they have lain in relative peace beneath a stone slab to the present day.

Beginning in the mid-14th century, the chapel's choir hall was reconstructed in the Gothic style. The two-part *Capella vitrea* (Glass Chapel) was consecrated in 1414, the 600th anniversary of Charlemagne's death. The 13 windows are each 100 feet high and on the pillars between them stand fourteen statues (the Mother of God, the Twelve Apostles, and Charlemagne) that date from the 15th century.

Also in the 15th century, several smaller chapels and a vestibule were added to the Palatine Chapel to manage the increasing crowds of pilgrims, and the resulting enlarged building was designated the Aachen Cathedral.

Aachen Cathedral suffered very little damage in the World Wars and in 1978 it was one of the first 12 sites to make the entry into the UNESCO list of world heritage sites. It was the first German and one of the first three European historical ensembles to be admitted.

1.2. Charlemagne and the Title "Emperor of the Romans"

One of the indirect consequences of the Byzantine losses in Northern Italy during the iconoclastic period was the meteoric rise of Charlemagne (768-814) to a dominant position in Western Europe. His coronation as Emperor of the Romans (*Imperator Romanorum*) by Pope Leo III on Christmas Day in the year 800, which in many ways marks a climax in his career, solemnized the division between the Latin and Greek halves of the Empire that had taken place in the latter part of the eighth century, and formally brought into being the political counterpart of the Roman Church. Charlemagne did not describe himself as *Imperator Romanorum*, but rather as *Imperator Romanum gubernans Imperium* (Emperor ruling the Roman Empire). There is some uncertainty about the significance of this distinction. Charlemagne may have thought that the latter title was more modest than the former and therefore more suitable for him until he secured Byzantine recognition as emperor, i.e., as co-emperor or colleague of the ruler of Byzantium. Nevertheless, there can be little doubt that he looked upon himself and was often regarded in the West, as in some sense the successor of the legitimate emperors of Constantinople.



Statue of Charlemagne

So powerful, however, was the mediaeval conception of the unity of the Roman Empire and of the legitimacy of the claims of the Byzantine emperors to be its sole heirs and custodians, that Charlemagne went to great lengths, and was prepared to pay a high price, to obtain Byzantine endorsement of his right to succession. At first, he conceived the brilliant scheme of cementing the unity of the eastern and western portions of the Empire by marrying the Byzantine Empress Irene (797-802). Unfortunately this ingenious project, which might well have had a profound effect upon the subsequent history of Europe failed when Irene was forced to abdicate by the Emperor Nicephorus I (802-11).

Charlemagne then attempted to secure the desired confirmation from the Emperor Nicephorus I, but was rebuffed. For the Byzantines were both scornful of Charlemagne as an upstart and bitter about what they took to be an intolerable usurpation on his part of authority and nomenclature that were reserved exclusively to their own emperors. In the early years of his reign, Nicephorus was so unalterably opposed to granting any recognition

whatsoever that he would not permit the Patriarch Nicephorus (806-15) to dispatch the traditional synodical letter to the Roman see announcing his elevation to the patriarchate. This breach lasted until 812, when the Emperor Michael I Rhangabe (811-13) again permitted Nicephorus to resume relations with Rome. When he died in 814, he was buried in a vault in the cathedral.

In 1000, Otto III had Charlemagne's vault opened. It is said that the body was found in a remarkable state of preservation, seated on a marble throne, dressed in his imperial robes, with his crown on his head, the Gospels lying open in his lap, and his sceptre in his hand. A large picture representing Otto and his nobles gazing on the dead Emperor was painted on the wall of the great room in the Town Hall.

In 1165, Emperor Frederick Barbarossa again opened the vault and placed the remains in a sculptured sarcophagus made of Parian marble, said to have been the one in which Augustus Caesar was buried. The bones lay in this until 1215, when Frederick II had them put in a casket of gold and silver.

Simultaneously, Byzantine opposition to granting Charlemagne's request melted when he offered to hand back Venice and Liburnia, together with the coastal cities of Dalmatia and Istria, which he had conquered, if the Byzantines would extend him the right to use the single word emperor (basileus) on his official stationery. At the end of his life, the Emperor Nicephorus I was prepared to capitulate on these terms, and the bargain was finally consummated by Michael I in 812, who had no alternative after the massacre of the Byzantine army in Bulgaria by Krum in 811. He was not in a position to contemplate any kind of military or naval offensive against the Franks, and he rejoiced at the prospect of regaining the last provinces, which Charlemagne held out as bait. Accordingly, Michael's envoys acclaimed Charlemagne as Emperor (but not Emperor of the Romans) in both Greek and Latin at Aachen in 812, although the exchange of treaties was not completed until 814, when these two monarchs had been succeeded by Leo V (813-20) in the East and Louis the Pious in the West.

Thus the fiction of the unity of the Empire was outwardly preserved, although in point of fact, East and West now formed two separate, dissimilar empires. Charlemagne was undisputed monarch of all of continental Western Europe, except for the Iberian Peninsula (modern Spain and Portugal) and a few Byzantine outposts in Italy. Nevertheless, the Byzantines never regarded him or his successors as the peer of the Byzantine emperors. Nor did they accord to Charlemagne's successors any hereditary claim upon the title, which they had reluctantly granted him personally. Despite the agreement of 814 the Emperor Michael II (820-29) in 824 addressed Louis I (the Pious) somewhat insultingly as "glorious king of the Franks and Lombards, who is called their emperor" (*glorioso regi Francorum et Langobardorum, et vocato eorum imperatori*).



Bust of Charlemagne

In 867, however, the Council of Constantinople, in the presence of Emperors Michael III (842-67) and Basil I (867-86), seems to have acclaimed Louis II and his queen, Engilberta, as emperors (basileis), although the source from which this information is derived is notoriously unreliable. But this concession, if it ever was made, was the last of its kind in Byzantine history, and was nullified in 871 by Basil I, who maintained in a letter to Louis II that neither he nor his grandfather, Louis I, had been authorized to refer to himself as emperor.

Moreover, from 812 on, the Byzantine sovereign was no longer called merely "emperor" (basileus), as he had been since 629, but "emperor of the Romans," a designation, which was intended to minimize the dignity vouchsafed for a brief period to the Carolingian kings, and to indicate the superiority of the Byzantine monarchs to all others. To the very end, the Byzantines regarded themselves as the sole

legitimate masters of the Roman Empire, and even of the entire inhabited world. For this reason they refused to recognize anyone but their own ruler as "emperor of the Romans" or

autokrator (a term which designates the wielder of sole and absolute power in the state, and was used in Byzantium ca. 681-1272 exclusively for the senior emperor, to whom the co-emperors, if any, were subordinate).

Notwithstanding the attempts of Charlemagne and his heirs to obtain confirmation of the imperial title from their Byzantine "brothers" and thus to preserve the fiction that the Empire was still one and inseparable, the coronation in the year 800 made the political cleavage between East and West complete and irremediable. Charlemagne himself realized this, and made reference to the eastern and western empires. Nevertheless, the final break in ecclesiastical relations, though imminent, was deferred until 1054, as some would have it, or, as others say, until 1204.

1.3. Imperial Cathedral (Kaiserdom)

The Aachen Cathedral, frequently referred to as the "Imperial Cathedral" (in German: Kaiser Dom) is a Roman catholic church in Aachen, Germany. The church is the oldest cathedral in



northern Europe and was known as the "Royal Church of St. Mary at Aachen" during the middle ages. For 600 years, from 936 to 1531, the Aachen cathedral was the church of coronation for 30 German kings and 12 queens.

The church became an Episcopal seat in 1802 and remained so until 1825. In 1930 the diocese was re-established.

The cathedral obtained its present shape in the course of more than a millennium. The core of the Aachen cathedral is the Palatine Chapel; being surprisingly small in comparison to the later additions, at the time of its construction it was the largest

dome north of the Alps. Its fascinating architecture with Classical, Byzantine and Germanic-Franconian elements is the essence of a monumental building of great importance.

In order to bear the enormous flow of pilgrims in the Gothic period a choir hall was built: a two-part *Capella vitrea* (glass chapel) which was consecrated on the 600th anniversary of Charlemagne's death. Ever since, the magnificent architecture of the "glass house" of Aachen has never stopped being admired. In 1978, it was one of the first 12 items to make the entry into the UNESCO list of world heritage sites, as the first German and one of the first three European historical ensembles.

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Sarcophagi were usually made by being carved, decorated or built ornately. Some were built to be freestanding above ground, as a part of an elaborate tomb or tombs. Others were made for burial, or were placed in crypts. In Ancient Egypt, a sarcophagus was usually the external layer of protection for a royal mummy, with several layers of coffins nested within.

¹ A sarcophagus is a stone container for a coffin or body; the word comes from Greek "sarx" meaning "flesh", and "phagein" meaning "to eat", so sarcophagus means "eater of flesh". The 5th century BC Greek historian Herodotus noted that early sarcophagi (the plural) were carved from a special kind of rock that consumed the flesh of the corpse inside.

2. DUISBURG: AN INTRODUCTION

A kaleidoscope of contrasts, diversity and change: Duisburg-on-the-Rhine is a blend of heavy industry and green woodland, parks and lakes, a wide range of educational opportunities and a host of cultural attractions. All this is complemented by varied large-scale sporting events and a wide range of shopping facilities.

With more than half a million inhabitants, Duisburg is number twelve in the ranking of the



Duisport

German cities and the third largest city in the metropolitan region of the Ruhr. Duisburg is steel location number one in Europe. Here, for example, ThyssenKrupp produces tailored blanks, laser-welded body parts for the automotive industry.

A decisive factor in the city's development has been its situation at the confluence of the Ruhr and the Rhine, which is one of Europe's busiest rivers, meandering through Duisburg for some 37½ kilometres. European integration is making progress and Duisburg, with the largest inland port in Europe – Duisport – is located right in the heart of Europe.

Structural change in Europe's number one steel city, once both a coal and steel city, has determined its economic image. 21st century Duisburg is a modern business location with international companies and an important European logistics centre for all kinds of transit goods. Research is underway in new areas such as microelectronics, fuel cell technology, logistics and environmental technology.

2.1. CityPalais

CityPalais is a new centre for the whole region, which is situated in the centre of Duisburg, in a superlative location on König-Heinrich-Platz, just across from the Theatre's classical columned entrance and the time-honoured Regional Court, directly on the Königstrasse promenade, and a few minutes away from other highlights.



2.2. History

Beginning of the 5th century Romans stationed in the Old Town of Duisburg to protect the passage over the Rhine and mouth of the Ruhr. Around the year 420, new settlers in the



Old Town of Duisburg, Franconians from central Germany replaced the Romans. They establish a royal court on Burgplatz. Normans conquered Duisburg in the year 883 and spent the winter here. Records mention Duisburg for the first time.

Around 10th century Duisburg's royal court became a royal palace. City fortifications were built around 1120. King Lothar III allowed Duisburgers to break stones in the woods in 1129. The oldest deed in the city archives dates back to this year.

Following is the chronological development of the city:

1136: Foundation of the Abbey of Hamborn.

1145: King Conrad III approved the building of the residences which had already sprung up around the palace.

About 1145: The Knights of St. John of Jerusalem found their first settlement on German ground. The Hohenstaufen predecessor of Salvator Church is built.

- 1200: The course of the Rhine flows away from Duisburg.
- 1234: A citizen of Duisburg founds a Cistercian convent in Duissern.
- 1274 – 1275: The constitution of the council is established with two mayors.
- 1290: King Rudolph of Habsburg pledged the city to the Duke of Cleves.
- 13th century: City walls were built, remains of which can still be seen today.
- 1316: Work on the gothic Salvator Church is underway.
- 1350: Pogrom against the Jews in Duisburg.
- 1371: Ruhrort is founded as customs post on "Homberger Werth".
- 1392: Ruhrort's harbour is mentioned in records for the first time.
- 1407: Duisburg is incorporated again in the Hanseatic League.
- 1445: Duisburgers ward off an attack by the Archbishop of Cologne.
- 1479: The foundation stone of the Salvator Church's present tower is laid.
- 1513: The guilds rise up in vain against the leading families.
- 1549: "Beecker" Fair is mentioned for the first time.
- 1552: Gerhard Mercator (1512 - 1594) settled in Duisburg.
- 1555: The miraculous Salvator statue is removed from the church; the Reformation finally prevails.
- 1566: Johannes Corputius completes his coloured plan of the city.
- 1579: The first printed city chronicle appeared.
- 1608: The Duissern nuns acquire the three-gabled house.
- 1613: Iconoclasm in Duisburg churches.
- 1655: Inauguration of the University of Duisburg (to 1818).
- 1665: A bargemen's guild is established in Ruhrort.
- 1666: Duisburg and the Duchy of Cleves finally fell to Brandenburg.
- 1674: Regular shipping traffic (market boat service) links Duisburg to Nimwegen.
- 1712: First shipyard in Ruhrort.
- 1716: Ruhrort Municipality decides to build an appropriate harbour.
- 1756: The first house built outside the Ruhrort city walls: the so-called Hanielsche Pack-/Gründerhaus as it is known today.
- 1770: Twelve colonist families from Hessen-Darmstadt found the present day Neudorf district.
- 1824: Development of large-scale chemical industry begins with Fr. W. Curtius' sulphuric acid factory.
- 1829: Franz Haniel established a shipyard in Ruhrort to build steamships.
- 1833: Demolition of the last mediaeval city gate.
- 1856: "Ruhrort-Homberger Rhein Trajektanstalt" railway ferry starts operations.
- 1865: Friedrich Albert Lange published the "Bote vom Niederrhein" newspaper in Duisburg.
- 1867: Coal mining began in Hamborn.
- 1873: Duisburg becomes a self-governing city.
- 1894: Meiderich is given the status of a city.
- 1902: Inauguration of the new city hall.
- 1905: The cities of Duisburg, Ruhrort and Meiderich merge.
- 1910: Brothers Karl and Peter Strack take off in Duisburg on the first engine powered flight.
- 1911: Hamborn is given the status of a city.
- 1912: Opening of Duisburg City Theatre.
- 1921: Homberg is given the status of a city.

1929: The cities of Duisburg, Hamborn and "South Duisburg" merge. Rheinhausen is given the status of a city in 1934.

1934: Opening of Duisburg Zoo.



1945: 80 per cent of the residential buildings have been destroyed or severely damaged in the war.

1950: After its destruction and partial rebuilding, the City Theatre is reopened.

1958: Walsum is given the status of a city.

1962: Last coal extracted from the Neumühl pit.

1964: Wilhelm-Lehmbruck Museum is opened.

1968: Teaching commences at the Duisburg Division of the Ruhr College of Education.

1972: University of Duisburg (amalgamated university) founded.

1975: Duisburg, Walsum, Homberg, Rheinhausen, Rumeln-Kaldenhausen and Baerl are combined to form the new city of Duisburg.

1976: The newly restored three-gabled house is given a new function as an atelier for artists.

1979: The Museum of German Inland Waterways is opened in Duisburg-Ruhrort.

1983: City Jubilee - 1100 Years Duisburg.

1986: 6th Conference of the Hanseatic Cities in modern times.

1989: XV All University Games Duisburg 1989.

1990: Opening of the free harbour.

1991: 275th anniversary of Duisburg's Rhine/Ruhr Harbour.

1992: Opening of the city railway; work started on transforming the inland harbour.

1993: Krupp-Hoesch-Hüttenwerk mill is closed.

1994: Gerhard Mercator Year to celebrate the 400 anniversary of his death. The University is renamed Gerhard Mercator University.

1997: Election of first full time lady Mayor.

1999: Inauguration of the Jewish Community Centre.

1999: The mayor is elected directly for the first time.

2000: Logport Project begins (general reorganisation plan for Krupp/Rheinhausen), Lehmbruck Foundation established, 50 years twinning with Portsmouth.

2001: 1st marina in the inland harbour opened, foundation stone for a mosque is laid in Bruckhausen.

2002: Opening of the Westspiel Casino in the Alte Post building, inauguration of the new Police Services Centre at the Inland Harbour.

2003: Universities of Duisburg and Essen merge, foundation stone for the MSV Arena is laid, inauguration of the Fatih Mosque in Bruckhausen.

2004: Opening of the "Atlantis" Children's' Museum, CDU majority in local elections for the first time since 1946, first CDU mayor since 1948.

2005: Demolition of the Mercator Hall, foundation stone laid for the City Palais.

3. ESSEN: HISTORY

Essen is a city in the centre of the Ruhr Area in North Rhine-Westphalia. Located on the Ruhr River, its population of approximately 582,000 makes it the seventh largest city in Germany. The city was recently chosen the European Capital of Culture for 2010, representing the whole Ruhr Area.

Formerly one of Germany's most important coal and steel centres, Essen has developed a strong tertiary sector of industry and is home to 13 of the 100 largest German corporations. Due to its industrial history, Essen became the seat of a Roman-Catholic diocese (Diocese of



Baldeneysee (Lake Baldeney)

Essen - Ruhrbistum) in 1958. In early 2003, the universities of Essen and its neighbouring city of Duisburg, both established in 1972, were merged to form the University of Duisburg-Essen with campuses in both cities and a university hospital in Essen.

From 1931 to 1933, the Baldeney Lake in Essen was completed as a settling basin for suspended matter to keep the River Ruhr clean. Some 100,000 unemployed coal miners dredged it in exchange for bread and beer. The

Lake lies in the boroughs of Kupferdreh, Heisingen and Werden. On 27th March 1936 Adolf Hitler visited, calling for an increased production of arms.

Lake Baldeney today is a paradise for water sports and recreational area for day trippers from the entire region.