

SUMMARIES

THE CASTLE OF EMPEROR CHARLES IV IN LAUF: RESIDENCY FOR A PROJECTED NEW TERRITORY?

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The pretentious castle which Emperor Charles IV had built in the Bavarian town of Lauf (also called "The Emperor's pleasure chambers") is well-known, in the first place, because of its so-called arms hall: a room on the first floor which is entirely decorated with coats of arms of Bohemian families. The history of the castle is – presumably because of this arms hall – well researched, but a detailed history of the construction process and an attempt at assigning it a proper place in the architecture of the period, are still missing. This is what the author attempts to fill in, one of her principal findings being far-reaching similarities with the architecture of the Parler family. This in turn sheds new light on the question what may have been the motivation for building such an ambitious complex. More than just a kind of road house on the way between Prague and Nuremberg – which is what it was hitherto understood to represent – the castle seems to be intended as a representative residency for the Emperor who, just as the castle was being built, was seeking to acquire and incorporate into his own lands the territory of the Zollern burgraves by way of carefully arranged marriages. Had he been successful, the Wenzel castle in Lauf would have been, according to the author, the residential castle for administering the new territory.