COMMUNAUTÉ DE COMMUNES DE LA REGION DE GUEBWILLER
www.cc-guebwiller.fr

VILLES ET PAYS D'ART ET D'HISTOIRE

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Ministère Culture Communication

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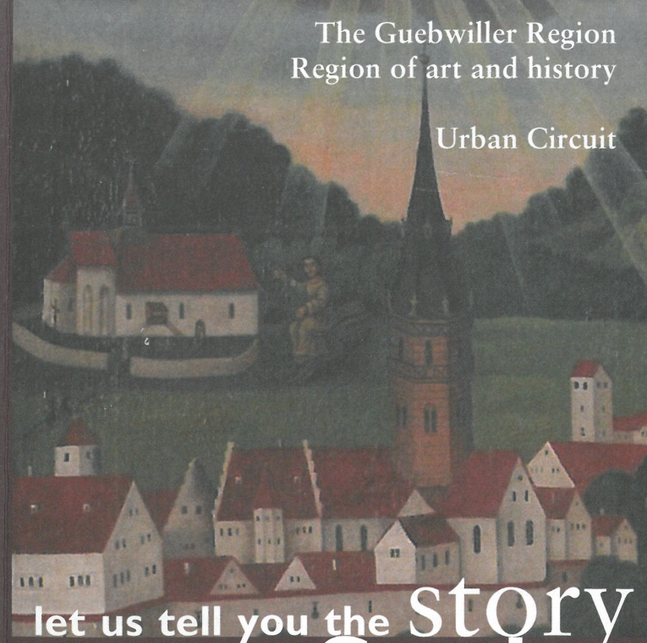
The region of Guebwiller belongs to the national network of Towns and Regions of art and history.

The architecture and heritage department of the Ministry of Culture and Communication awards the "Towns and Regions of art and history" title to local authorities who have made a special effort to enhance and promote their heritage. This title guarantees the skills of the guide-lecturers and heritage officers, in addition to the high quality of their activities. From ancient ruins to 20th century architecture, these towns and villages show the sheer diversity of France's heritage at its best. Today, this network of 163 towns and regions offers you a wealth of knowledge and know-how to be enjoyed right across the country.

Greetings, oh Florival (Florigera vallis), you almost rival paradise, with your bountiful hills and your sloping vineyards canopied by the branches of the grapevines.

FLURANDUS / 11th century monk

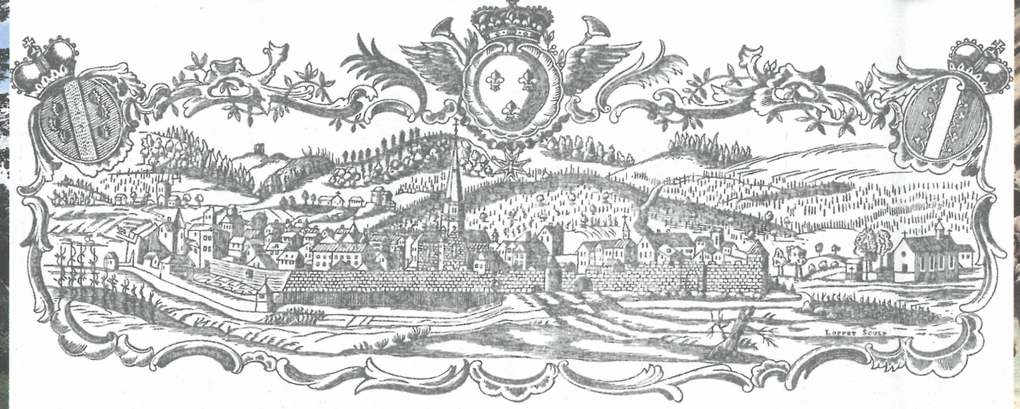


The Guebwiller Region
Region of art and history

Urban Circuit

let us tell you the story of Soultz

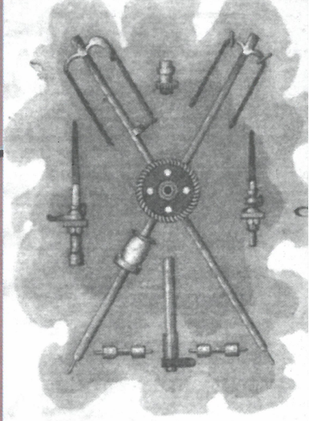
The château of Bucheneck



Soultz protected behind its fortified walls in the XVIIIth century. Engraving wood from the artist Loffet

St. Maurice in his knight armor, represented on the south lateral door of the church. XVIth century

Inn with the crown or "Auberge à la Couronne", built in 1575 for a wealthy winemaker



Brooch Manufactory production. Detail of the company business paper

Soultz was mentioned for the first time in 667 and its name originated from a spring of water with a high salt content. A place of worship was to be found where the current church stands (9), and it was probably replaced in the 11th century by a new building, which was demolished one way or another in the late 13th century.The area was taken over by Bishop Wernher of Strasbourg in 1015 and Soultz became a fief of the bishopric, whose administrators were housed in the château of Bucheneck(3). Soultz was awarded the rank of town in 1249, which meant it could have its own constitution, elect its own mayor and councillors and have a court of justice. Shortly afterwards, the first town wall was built (15-19), shortly followed by a second wall in 1328 (6-17). In the late 16th and early 17th centuries, during the Renaissance period, the town prospered on the back of its wine industry, and the sumptuous houses built by the wine-producers can be seen today, with their turret staircases, oriel windows and buttresses (12-13-14-16-18). The town changed little until the industrial revolution, when its urban fabric underwent significant change, with new houses and factories springing up (7-8).

1. 16th century dwelling now housing part of the Tourist Office. The two-storey oriel window testifies to the prosperity enjoyed in Soultz during the Renaissance period.

2. Individual wash-houses built along a diversion of the Rimbach.

3. Noted as early as 1251 as being the property of the Bishop of Strasbourg, the château du Bucheneck has undergone many changes over the centuries. Built along the meanders of the Rimbach, the chaeau was used as a residence by the Bishop's bailiff. Since 1990, it has housed the museum of Bucheneck.

4. Former Commandery of the Knights of the Order of Malta, first mentioned in the archives in 1263. The foundations of the original church, discovered during excavations on 1983, can be seen from the outside of the building.

5. The château of Anthès comprises a dwelling dating back to 1605, to which was added a wing in the 18th century and the oriel window in the 19th century. The chateau is best known for being the home of Georges Heeckeren d'Anthès, who killed the Russian poet Pushkin in a duel in 1837.

6. A tower belonging to the second town wall , built in 1317. The wall took in the Commandery.

7. Former Alsatian spindle manufacturer, the building is now a sports and leisure centre.

8. The Baumann silkworks, closed since 1951, used to produce luxury goods for famous fashion houses such as Dior.

9. The Gothic-style St. Maurice church was built between 1270 and 1489. Its octagonal belltower was raised a level in 1610. The southern side door of he nave has a carved tympanum dating back to the original building and which represents the Adoration of the Magi and St. Maurice on horseback. The church also houses a Silbermann organ built in 1750 and a carved and inlaid Renaissance pulpit.

10. Town Hall built in 1856 on the site of the old Corn Hall.

11. Half-timbered houses (10 rue des Soeurs) are rare in Soultz, whose rich wine-producers preferred to use stone.

12. No.15, St. Michael's house, has a remarkable turret staircase and a triangular oriel window, with the date it was built (1622) carved at the entrance.

13. No.8 rue des Ouvriers is a typical wine-producer's house, with an inner courtyard featuring a spiral staircase within a turret, a wooden gallery and a large vaulted entrance.

14. The Auberge à la Couronne comprises several buildings. The sign «A la couronne» was first mentioned in archives in 1677, but the building was actually constructed for a winemaker, as can be seen from the carvings above the turret staircase door.

15. Passageway along the ramparts, used by sentries to watch over the moat and its surrounding area.

16. At no.2, the entrance to this old wine-producer's house is specially designed to allow carts to enter.

17. The witches' tower, the top of which has disappeared, was built at the south-east angle of the rampart. It is so called as it used to be a prison for suspected watches. Along the Promenade de la Citadelle, the houses are built up against the rampart.

18. Château Waldner de Freundstein, the town residence of the eponymous nobles, was built in the 16th century. The flagstone above the door is dated 1702 and features a carving of the shield bearing the arms of the Waldner family, held by two greyhounds, showing that the family was at the service of the abbeys of Murbach.

19. Built up against the town wall in 1575, the house is also called «on Hell» as the passageway along the wall is so dark.