

AHF Conference 2019, 3.- 6. Oct. in Goslar (Lower Saxony, Germany)

"Mining and Building - The Influence of Mining Activities on Housing and Settlement in Europe from the 15th to the Early 20th Centuries"

Call for papers

The focus of the conference is the question of which mining-related factors are relevant for housing and settlements in regions with pronounced mining activity, and how these are reflected in the building stock. In particular, the medieval and early modern silver ore mining that was promoted and at the same time regulated by the authorities, together with the associated minting of coins, led to the development of economically prospering centers.

Mining settlements or the ore camp was promoted by law ore special privileges – the so called mining freedoms - which properly also influenced the construction of the house to a considerable extent. Often it came to new settlements, which were closely related to mining and mining required craftsmen work and trades. This always resulted in migrations of the miners with appropriate knowledge transfer. Mining, smelting and settlement resulted in a large demand for wood, which required the early establishment of forestry administration. To meet the competing claims, mining and forest managers also exerted influence on the construction of houses.

The major European mining centers for the extraction of ores, coal and salt should be the focus of the conference. The special technological requirements of ore mining made the European mining regions into centers of technological innovation. The invention of twisted wire cable, for example, goes back to the cooperation of the mining engineer *Julius Albert* with the blacksmith *Mummenthey* in Clausthal (Upper Harz) in 1834. The challenge of the water management concerning the construction of water wheels was the task of the mountain carpenters, who also appeared above ground as carpenters engaged in house building. In general, the presentations can focus on questions of **both housing construction and village or town settlement**. Structures related to the mining industry such as "Zechenhäuser" or "Huthäuser" (pithead buildings) should be the exception; underground buildings are only of interest if a reference to regional construction practice is made. The presentations and the subsequent articles should take the following questions into account:

- 1.) How did the **migratory movements** of miners affect building traditions and innovations?
- 2.) To what extent did the interaction of forestry and the authorities lead to the **regulation** of housing and its construction?
- 3.) Did **mining settlements** take particular forms in different epochs?
- 4.) Is it possible to identify **typologies of houses** for miners, carters, forest workers etc. in the mining regions? How did these develop? How significant was the influence of regional conditions (climate, building materials, topography)?

- 5.) Were **innovations** in mining – for example innovations introduced by carpenters – reflected in house construction, in church buildings or other specialized structures (such as pithead buildings)?
- 6.) Which **by-products** of ore mining (including color pigments, slag and cast iron) were used in building construction?

The major European ore mining centers in Germany (for example the Erzgebirge and Goslar / Upper Harz), Austria (Tyrol), the Czech Republic (Bohemia), Scandinavia, Spain and France are the focus of the conference. The influence of characteristics associated with coal mining on the construction of houses and settlements can be included by way of example. The mining extraction of building materials (natural stones) and their use in housing construction should be included only in well-founded individual cases (see points 1-6).

The conference will focus on the late medieval to the modern phases of mining history from the **15th century onwards**, i.e. after the 14th-century decline of mining in Europe due to the plague epidemic. Recent developments from the second half of the 19th century onwards, which are reflected above all in closed settlement structures (for example in the Ruhr area), should be limited to the presentation of an overview with a concrete example.

Presentations on the conference theme of mining and buildings should be of 20 minutes' duration, in German or English. Master's theses or research results by established scholars on topics unrelated to the theme of the conference can be discussed in 15-minute short presentations in the section "New Research Results".

Technical equipment for digital presentations (PowerPoint) will be available to the speakers at the conference.

The publication of the presentations in the proceedings of the AHF is planned.

Proposals with title, an abstract of max. 10 lines and a short CV should be submitted by 31 March 2019 to:

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