



Petershausen

Der Rhein

Der Bodensee



Aeroview; Constance's location at the lake.



The head office of the publisher Stadler in the Zollernstraße is nowadays a high-class furniture store. The publisher is now located in the industrial area.

DISCOVERING CONSTANCE



Verlag Stadler



The Stadtpark with view to the „Imperia“ and the first car ferry „Konstanz“.

Contents

Constance’s Highlights	10-11
The history of the town	12-17
Council and Marina	18-21
Station and Surroundings	22-23
Bodanplatz and Rosgartenstrasse	24-25
Marktstaette	26-27
From Town-Hall to Schnetztor	28-31
Upper Market	32-33
Stephansplatz	34-35
Fish Market	36-37
Cathedral and Arts Centre	38-41
Alleys at the “Niederburg”	42-45
Islandhotel, Theatre	46-47
Upper and lower “Laube”	48-49

Paradise Life	50-55
The Other Side of the Rhine	56-59
Petershausen	60-67
Seestrasse and Hoernle	68-71
Staad and Allmannsdorf	72-75
Mainau, Egg, Litzelstetten	76-79
Dingelsdorf and Oberdorf	80-81
Dettingen and Wallhausen	82-83
Wollmatingen and the Reed	84-85
Industry	86-89
Culture and Concerts	90-91
Festivals and Parties	92-93
Sports for Young and Old	94-95
Imprint	96-97



Constance's Highlights at a Glance



Council – Page 18-21
The Council of Constance lasted four years. In the historical warehouse near the harbour a new pope was elected in 1417.



Cathedral – Page 38-41
Consecrated as an Episcopal church in 1089. Highly recommended is the ascending of the cathedral's steeple as well as visiting Constance's oldest residing quater Niederburg that extends from the cathedral to the river Rhine. Some of Constance's most rustic wine taverns can be found in these medieval alleys.



Archaeological State Museum – Page 60-61
The only Archaeological State Museum in Baden-Wuerttemberg exhibits archaeological finds of the pile dwelling times up to the 19th century. In the building's extension the oldest ship of Lake Constance is exhibited.



Lakeside Promenade and Lido Horn – Page 68-71
In Constance's dialect the lido situated at the promontory is called "Hörnle". Everyone who is light on his feet can walk from the city center along the lake to the lido.



Town twinnings:
1960 Fontainebleau, France
1983 Richmond, Great Britain
1984 Tabor, Czechia
1986 Lodi, Italy
2007 Suzhou, China



Zeppelin monument at the Stadtgarten.

The Council of Constance. Photo taken around 1860.

The history of the town of Constance

by registrar Jürgen Klöckler

“During the time when the Coucil of Constance took place, a rumour was circulating among creditable people that the town of Constance was accommodating an incredible number of whores. It is understood that during these times in this diocese near the town of Winterthur a resting messenger met a most beautiful woman measured by the beauty of her body. When she summoned the God-fearing man to have sexual intercourse with her, he shied away from this deed with the help of God. When this simple minded messenger asked the woman where she was coming from, she answered ‘I’m coming from the Council of Constance’, and continued while opening her purse that she was carrying at her side ‘All this money I’ve earned there by selling my body’, “ this is a belated description of the theologian Johannes Nider about a presumable occurrence during the Council of Constance.

The Council of Constance

Ulrich Richental, contemporary witness and annalist of the church congress that was taking place in Constance from 1414 to 1418, counted among the 30.000 participants and the almost 6.000 inhabitants of the town approximately 700 prostitutes. The controversial statue of the Imperia at Constance’s harbour is reminiscent thereof. The literary creation of Honoré de Balzac was the inspiration for artist Peter Lenk to shape “his” Imperia and have her erected at the harbour’s entrance from where she glances to the oldtown and the historical warehouse of 1388. It was here, in the so-called Council building, that the Papal Schism was ended and Pope Martin V. was elected on November 11, 1417. However, in the very same year the Czech reformers Jan Hus and



Hieronymus von Prag met their deaths at the stakes. Unquestionably was the council the late medieval heyday of a town whose charter, that had been carved out of stone, allegorizes the only recently discovered late Roman fort. At the Münsterplatz underneath a glass pyramide the fundaments of an impressive tower of the fortifications can be lionised. For many centuries the mighty cathedral itself was the centre of the diocese that existed since the 6th century.

Bishopric of Constance

The Alemanic Bishopric of Constance was extending from the Alsace to the river Iller and from Cannstatt to the Gotthard. The bishops Konrad I. and Gebhard II., who were canonized later, changed the diocesan town into an episcopal city aligned with the Roman churches. For example, as St. Peter’s Basilica is situated on the other side of the Tiber, the monastery Petershausen has also been founded on the right shore of the river Rhine and has been named accordingly. Thus, it has almost been bound to occur that the entire town gained in importance. Emperor Friedrich Barbarossa held a general Imperial Diet in Constance in 1153, and thirty years later he made peace with the Lombardic towns. The privilege issued by emperor Heny VI. of 1192 was full of consequences as the citizens were exempted from taxation on account of clerical rights.

The municipality of Constance

Approximately in 1215, Constance was granted full autonomy in the form of a council and started to change into an imperial town that was subordinated to the Emperor. This provoked a long-lasting, permanent conflict between the citizens and the bishop. But the city itself was in a state of ferment. Craftspeople organized themselves in guilds and were demanding their fair share of the power from the patrician upper class. This entailed riots in which the guilds vented their tension. Still existing historic buildings of these centuries are evidence of the city’s wealth that was due to its foreign trade and linen production. In terms of foreign-policy the city had to suffer severe defeats at the turn from the late medieval age to the modern age. Especially in 1499 the town met its Waterloo during the Swabian War when the town was defeated by the Confederates during the battle right in front of the town’s gates and had to abandon its privileges over Thurgau to the Confederation. As a matter of fact, Constance intended to join the Swiss Confederation which however could be forestalled by Emperor Maximilian I. from the Habsburg empire, who held an ostentatious Imperial Diet in 1507 in Constance.

The reformation in Constance

It was not until the reformation finally gained the upper hand in Constance that the conflict with the bishop came to an end: in 1526/27 he left the town, and moved his See across the lake to Meersburg. The entire diocesan chapter did not return to Constance until the dissolution of the diocese in the 19th century. Constance joined the Protestant towns and counts and lost its status as imperial city in the following Schmalkaldic War during the onslaught of the Spanish troops of Emperor Charles V. in summer 1548.



The Swabian War of 1499. Many casualties were recovered at the town gates.

The Schottenplatz, in the background the Factory Herosé at the Rhine basin.

Constance being an Austrian town

Constance became a country town of the Austrian Forelands, was recatholicized and unsuccessfully besieged by Swedish troops during the Thirty Years’ War. The obvious general decline was not caused by the Austrian governance – as being assumed for a long time – but fundamentally due to the dislocation of the trade routes to the oceans. The travelling historian Philipp Wilhelm Gercken recorded unemotionally his impressions of Constance in 1783: “Here is no mercantile community, no factory nor any kind of commerce, hence a poor town”.

Constance associates with Baden

The overthrow during the revolutionary wars, when Constance was occupied by French troops in 1796 and 1799, has set the entire region of Lake Constance on fire. Within the scope of Napoleon’s reallocation Constance has been passed to the Grand Duchy of Baden which did not arouse any enthusiasm. Evidence might be June 29, 1809 when Austrian soldiers were attacking the Baden town from the lakeside and were hailed by Constance’s citizens. The territory forces of Austrian Vorarlberg confiscated the city treasury as well as any cannons and gunpowder and were sailing back with 38 prisoners of war from Baden. Soon afterwards many citizens of Constance were paying high monetary penalties or custodial sentences for their “treacherous” behaviour. Even the restoration that was decided during the congress

in Vienna after 1815 did not change anything: Constance remained part of the Grand Duchy of Baden and did not revert to Austria again. The peripheral position of the town literally at the “last corner” of Baden should prove being unhelpful in its further development.

Constance in the Modern Age

The 19th century at Lake Constance is characterized as an interim period in many regards. Little by little did Constance get connected to the modern age. First the steam navigation and then the railway ensured the town's connection to the Central European traffic flow starting from the 1860s. Only now began the growing and developing of Constance. However, the price was high: major parts of the medieval fortification as well as almost all gates and towers were demolished. During the following decades did the sedate administration town open up to tourism and the prevailing textile industry, dominated by the enterprises of Stromeier and Herosé, were providing new jobs. The population was increasing rapidly. Whereas the town counted approximately 7.000 citizens in the middle of the 19th century, only insignificantly more inhabitants than during the Late Middle Ages, the number has doubled until 1880 and has quadrupled until 1910 – notabene within two generations – to more than 30.000 inhabitants.



Constance during the World War

Due to World War I and the closure of the Swiss border this development came to an abrupt standstill. Constance became an exchange and military hospital town that had been completely separated and isolated from the economically important Swiss hinterland – it was known as the “secret capital of the Thurgau”. The annexation of Allmannsdorf in 1915

and the introduction of public bus routes or the ferry service respectively in the 1920s gave an impetus for the spatial development on the east side of the river Rhine. After the annexation of Wollmatingen, the town was stretching out to the West and the population mounted up to almost 40.000 in autumn 1939. During World War II the garrison town, in which the "Seehasen"-infantry regiment No. 14 (former 114) possessed three big caserns, was not attact by air and the in-vasion of the French troops in April 1945 did not cause any war damages. Thus the prerequisite for further growth were advantageous even though the direct postwar period under the French occupying forces were affected by poverty and hunger.

Constance becomes a University Town

Contrary to the trend in Southern Baden did the large majority of Constance's population support the foundation of the new federal state Baden-Wuerttemberg which had been benevolently recorded in the new state capital Stuttgart. Since the end of the 1950s prime minister Kurt Georg Kiesinger endeavoured the establishment of a university at the biggest town at Lake Constance. In 1966 the foundation for "Little Harvard" was being laid, a universal startup that can claim being an elite university since autumn 2007. Since the late 1960s the average age of the population has rejuvenated due to the arrival of numerous students and the initial difficulties between the catholic-bourgeois town and the "left" university are long since gone. In the course of a general administrative reform the villages Litzelstetten, Dingelsdorf and Dettingen-Wallhausen, that are situated on the hills of the Bodanrück, had been suburbanised. Thus the population of Constance has increased from 67.000 in 1970 to approximately 82.000 citizens today.



Ferry service in the 1920s.
University of Constance.



<h1>Council and Marina</h1>	
	<p>When approaching from the lakeside, visitors get a spacious and mediterranean impression of Constance. Mooring in the harbour are many majestic commercial passenger boats from Bregenz, Überlingen, or Schaffhausen, and alongside these imposing ships private motoryachts and sailboats are anchoring. Sparetime skippers can rent pedalos or rowing boats at the “Gondelhafen”.</p>
	<p>Somewhere here must be the border to Switzerland, but Constance and the neighbouring Swiss town Kreuzlingen are so close together that even locals have to look twice to tell where one town begins and the other ends.</p> <p>However, a small detour to the border is worth a while. In 2006 both towns have decided to tear up the border fence and replace it with 22 sculpsures of Constance’s artist Johannes Dörflinger. The “sculpture border” is supposed to unite instead of separate and allows an undisturbed trans-national strolling in the marina. However, “border crossers” have to have valid identiy papers at hand.</p> <p>Within close proximity of the border is another tourist attraction. In more than 35 basins the Aquarium Sea Life Center displays at least 3500 fresh and salt water fish. Visitors can travel “underwater” from the headstreams of the river Rhine to the North Sea. The same building integrates the Civic Museum of Natural History of Lake Constance with a vast geological, botanical, and zoological collection.</p> <p>The promenade with numerous restaurants, cafés, ice cream parlours, and beer gardens invites to sweet idleness at the marina. And whoever just likes to sit in the sun and enjoy the view onto the lake will find a comfortable bench in the urban park or a nice spot on the shoreline stabilization.</p>



	<p>Particularly striking is the impressive council building. It was built from 1388 to 1391 with the purpose of being a granary and warehouse. Pope Martin V was elected here during the church council of 1414 -1418. However, it was a long and stony road to reunite the estranged church. The journey of the Czech religious thinker Jan Hus, who was coming from Prague and was granted a safe conduct, came to a bad end. He was captured and finally burnt at the stake at the city wall. Jan Hus did not live at the present “Hus-Haus” which accommodates a small museum nowadays, but some houses further down the street at Hussenstrasse 22.</p> <p>This council caused a true stampede of visitors. With a population of 6000 inhabitants at that time, the town had to accommodate approximately 30.000 visitors during this major event. The contemporary Richtenal-chronicle, that is exhibited at the Rosgartenmuseum, testifies that among these visitors were approximately 700 prostitutes. Artist Peter Lenk erected a mermorial at the harbour’s entrance in honour of one of them, i.e. the amorous Imperia. This beauty is pivoting slowly around herself holding a miniature pope and king in her hands. By the way: As the Curia more or less paid their bills, King Sigismund departed without paying for board and lodging.</p> <p>The huge green oasis next to the council, the city park with a small gazebo, was created at a much later stage within the course of modernization measurements of 1866-1877. Bearing cost-efficiency in mind, the excavated material from the extension of the dock was used.</p> <p>A memorial reminds of Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin who was born in Constance and who had later built his “silver cigars” at the facing lake shore, in Friedrichshafen.</p>	<p>The council building at the marina accommodates a restaurant and function rooms.</p> <p>Winter in the Stadtgarten.</p> <p>Constance’s landmark: the Imperia at the harbour.</p>	



The Bahnhofstraße beckons to stroll and dwell after business hours.

The Lago-Shopping-Center tempts with 65 shops, restaurants, and a cinema.

Southern flair around the Trinity Church.

Station and Surroundings

Constance’s railway station with its Italian style tower has a Latin appearance. Adjacent to the station of the German Railway is the “Swiss Station”. In the mobility center, employees of the Swiss Railway SBB work next to their German colleagues of the Deutsche Bahn. Passengers can board Swiss trains and travel directly, for instance, to the airport in Zurich Kloten. Facing the railway station is the pedestrian zone with numerous little shops, pubs, and restaurants. In this hustle and bustle, the Trinity Church symbolizes a heaven of peace and is definitely worth visiting. The frescos were donated by King Sigismund in 1417 and are part of the town’s art treasures. In 18 scenes are the friezes showing the history of the Augustinian Order. At the crossroads of Bahnhof- and Sigismundstrasse a plain black granite column reminds of a dark chapter of Constance’s history. It lists the names of all Jewish men, women, and children who had been deported to the concentration camp Gurs in South-France in October 1940. Until the “Kristallnacht” in 1938 the Jewish synagogue was located at the Sigismundstrasse. Within eyeshot of the station is the “Lago-Shopping-Center”, a shopping mall with approximately 65 different shops on 22.000 square metres that is also visited by many Swiss customers. Shopping on on both sides of the Swiss border is a normal course of life. Most inhabitants of this region usually have two purses: one for the Euros and one for the Swiss Francs.

