



This stone commemorates Bühne's 1,100 year anniversary celebration, which took place in 1990.



History of Bühne

Established 890 A.D.

TIME LINE

- 475 A.D.** Fall of the Roman Empire
- 768** Charlemagne becomes King of the Franks
- 795** Bishopric of Paderborn established by Charlemagne
- 800** Charlemagne conquers the Saxons, bans pagan worship in Germany, and is crowned Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire
- 890** Bühne (Piun) first mentioned
- 1570-1622**
Bühne was Lutheran for 50 years
- 1802** Rule by Bishop Princes ends when the Bishopric of Paderborn passes to Prussian Rule

Bühne is the German word for stage, theater. However, the village has nothing to do with the theater. It's name evolved from the Germanic place name Piun, which is first mentioned 890 A.D. in the record of a donation by King Arnulf to his faithful vassal Duke Cobbo. The King's possessions in and around Piun, located in the Dukedom of Cobbo, were presented to Cobbo out of gratitude for Cobbo's fidelity and services rendered.



King Arnulf's imperial seal

Arnulf's father, Prince Carloman, was the son of Louis the German, King of the Eastern Franks, a grandson of Charlemagne. Arnulf's kingdom was a medieval confederation of the following duchies: Bavaria, Swabia, Francony, Saxony, and Carantania (Slovenia).

Twenty years later, in 910, there's the first mention of a Christian parish or church in Bühne, again in connection with Cobbo. The parish was established as a ducal institution, for example, the duke had the right to nominate a priest to administer the parish, and the local bishop would approve/disapprove, depending on how well the duke and bishop were getting along. Not until 1262 is there a record for the name of a parish priest – Fr. Hildemarus.

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In 910, when Bühne's Catholic parish was first mentioned, Christianity was a mere 110 years old in Germany. Prior to this time, Germany was an impenetrable pagan tribal land of forests and marshes, lacking in cities and civilization as we know them today. The far western cities of Aachen and Cologne were the exceptions, having been occupied by the Romans from 39 BC.

For several centuries the Romans tried to conquer German tribal lands without success. When the Roman Empire fell in 476, the dark ages descended upon Germany and all of Europe. Barbarians, generally non-literate tribes, took over everything. The lack of written history during this period, combined with political and social instability, meant that relatively little was known about it. Though modern archaeological finds have changed this situation to some extent, much of the darkness remains.

CHARLEMAGNE CONQUERS TRIBAL GERMANY

Charlemagne began his rise to power when he became king of the Franks in 768. Through numerous military campaigns, he increased the size of his



Charlemagne



kingdom so that it included a large part of Western Europe. Charlemagne was known as 'Charles the Great' in German-speaking lands.

Charlemagne forced those whom he conquered to become Christians. Charlemagne waged war with the Saxons from 774-804. At one point, he threatened to kill all Saxons unless they became Christians. He issued a decree banning the rites of the heathen gods, and ordered the Saxons to be baptized and to pay tithes.

The only result was another large raid on the Franks, after which the emperor beheaded 4,000 Saxons. The war went on, with Saxons burning new churches, killing Christian priests, and rebuilding the shrines to their gods. In the end, Charlemagne accomplished his goals. Missionaries were sent to the conquered Saxons to instruct them their new faith.

Franks

One of several west Germanic tribes who conquered most of central Europe and established the Holy Roman Empire. The word frank meant "free" in their language.

Saxons

Conquered by the Franks, the Saxons were a large and powerful Germanic people located in what is now northwestern Germany and the eastern Netherlands, who expanded to the south and west. A majority of the Saxons remained in continental Europe and long avoided becoming Christians and being incorporated into the orbit of the Frankish kingdom. The Saxons were conquered by Charlemagne in a long series of annual campaigns (772-804). Modern Saxony lays beyond the traditional lands of the Saxon people.

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Pope Leo III

THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE

The Holy Roman Empire began on Christmas Day in 800 when Charlemagne was crowned Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire in Rome by Pope Leo III. A year earlier Pope Leo sought Charlemagne's protection from enemies who sought render Leo unfit to hold papal office.

Pope Leo's attackers were thugs related to the previous pope. In the attack, Leo was dashed to the ground, and an attempt was made to root out his tongue and tear out his eyes.

After the attack, Leo was taken to a monastery where he recovered the full use of his eyes and tongue. Escaping from the monastery, he crossed the Alps to Germany, accompanied by many



Martin Luther the Protestant reformer



Medieval depiction of the coronation of Charlemagne.

Romans, and was received by Charlemagne at his magnificent castle in Paderborn, Germany (currently being excavated and one of Charlemagne's 14 castles). After a few months' stay, Charlemagne had Pope Leo escorted back to Rome. The Pope's enemies were then tried by Charlemagne's envoys, and imprisoned.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN BÜHNE

Martin Luther nailed his protest note to the door in 1517, but it took a while before the faithful in the Bishopric of Paderborn got aroused.

In 1528 mobs stormed the Cathedral in Paderborn during traditional May Day festivities; those responsible were severely punished in August, and the new Lutheran teachings were banned. This was in Paderborn – at the fringes of the diocese the new movement gained ground more slowly. This period of German history is so interesting and complex, because many of the local rulers were simultaneously temporal and spiritual (prince-bishops Fürstbischöfe), but their temporal and

Medieval

The period of European history from about 500 A.D. to about 1500, lasting from the fall of the Western Roman Empire to the rise of the Renaissance. Also known as the Middle Ages.

Tithes

A tenth part of income paid as a voluntary contribution or as a tax, especially for the support of a church.

Diet

Various national or provincial legislatures.

Vassal

A person under the protection of a feudal lord to whom he has vowed homage and loyalty.

Temporal

Lay or secular rather than clerical or sacred.

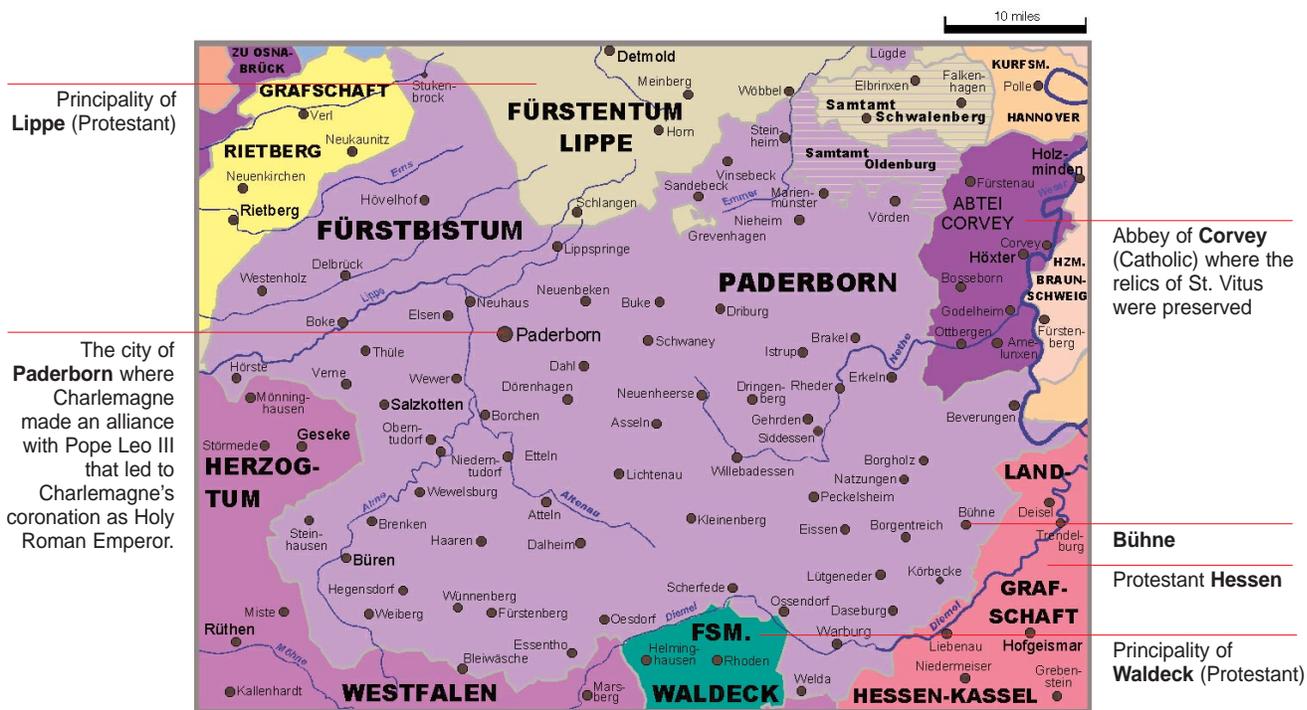


German stamp: 1200 Jahre Bistum Paderborn (1,200 Years Paderborn Bishopric)



The crown of the Holy Roman Empire was made in 962 when King Otto I the Great was crowned Emperor. The crown is now kept in the Schatzkammer of the Hofburg in Vienna.

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This 1789 map shows the area of Germany formerly the Prince-Bishopric of Paderborn (today the Catholic diocese of Paderborn), which was one of 300 sovereign political bodies that formed a patchwork within what is modern Germany.

religious territories were not necessarily congruent. Particular villages or towns might be in the prince-bishop’s diocese, but not in his principality – or vice-versa. Parts of Hessen, for example, belonged to the diocese of Paderborn, but were ruled temporally by the Prince in Waldeck.

To further complicate matters, the compromise reached in 1555 between Lutherans and Roman Catholics at the Diet of Augsburg stated “in each territory of the empire, only one denomination was to be recognized, the religion of the prince’s choice being thus made obligatory for his subjects.”

Because the religious and temporal territories of the prince-bishops were not congruent, conflicts were unavoidable. And if a prince-bishop of one denomination succeeded a prince-bishop of another,

the subjects were forced to flipflop. For about 50 years, from 1570 when Pastor Friedrich Hundertmark adopted the Lutheran doctrines, until 1622 when Pastor Heinrich Hubert Schröder reinstated the Catholic tenets, Bühne was Lutheran.

Bühne is located on the fringe of the diocese of Paderborn; just three miles to the south was Protestant Hessen; Bühne was ripe for the Reformation.

But just in the nick of time, reinforcements arrived from Bavaria, so to speak. Bishop Ferdinand von Bayern, a strict Counter-Reformist (Catholic), was installed as Bishop of Paderborn in 1618, and saw to it that all the parishes whose religious and temporal ruler he was remained Catholic. But he couldn’t prevent his parishes in Hessian territory from adhering to Lutheranism.



The Patron Saint of the Bühne parish is St. Vitus, a saint whose relics were honored and preserved in the Abbey of Corvey, not far from Bühne. This Abbey had extensive landholdings in the vicinity of Bühne, as well as family connections with the ducal family Cobbo, which probably prompted the parish’s name, St. Vitus.