

The outstanding significance of the Naumburg Cathedral and the cultural landscape on the rivers Saale and Unstrut

Naumburg Cathedral and the cultural landscape along the rivers Saale and Unstrut are an outstanding and representative example of a significant stage in human history, particularly of the High Middle Ages (1000-1300). This region represents a primordial example for a crucial development of European history at that time.

Nowhere else in the world such a high density of monuments and cultural landscape elements from the High Middle Ages has been preserved in such a small space in such a level of authenticity in its original spatial setting. The spirit of the High Middle Ages is perceptible here to an extent hardly found elsewhere.

The area along the rivers Saale and Unstrut developed into a melting pot of populations of different origins, Frankish, Thuringian, Saxon, Flemish, and Slavonic. This leads to a long lasting shaping of the landscape with ecclesiastical and secular powers seeking the rights of possession and representation. The characteristics of this high medieval colonization process are still perfectly recognizable: the foundation of churches, monasteries, castles and fortifications, the creation of cities, markets and villages along a widely ramified transport infrastructure, the repartition of woods, fields and meadows and technological facilities including hydraulic systems, mills and wine terraces.

The cultural landscape acquires special weight by the extraordinary quality of numerous individual monuments with unique characteristics in addition to a unique density. Three of the characteristics will be named here:

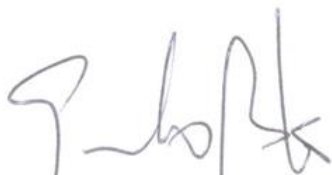
Naumburg Cathedral is the heart of the entire cultural landscape, as a unique testimony to medieval art and liturgy. The harmonic connection between architecture, sculpture and stained glass windows in the west choir of the cathedral counts among the most impressive creations of human creativity in the Middle Ages at large.

A similar high quality is found in the Cistercian monastery of Schulpforte which has preserved its entire cloister settlement, and unique church furnishings.

Of the highest significance for the chivalric and courtly cultures of this time is Neuenburg Castle established by the landgraves of Thuringia. It counts among the greatest Romanesque Castle complexes worldwide and preserves one of the most

impressive spiritual testimonies to the life of Saint Elisabeth of Thuringia with its exceptional two-storey chapel.

Therefore, and based on a detailed scientific analysis we emphatically support the high medieval cultural landscape of the rivers Saale and Unstrut to be inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.



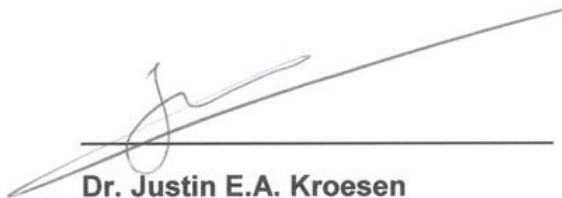
Prof. Dr. Gerardo Boto Varela
Institut de Recerca Històrica
Universitat de Girona



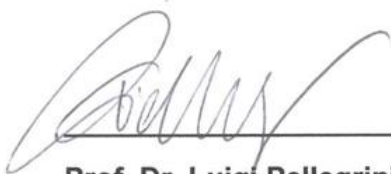
Prof. Dr. Jeffrey Hamburger
Department of History of Art and
Architecture
Harvard University



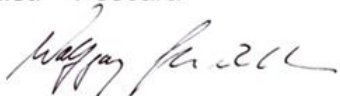
Prof. Dr. Jarosław Jarzewicz
Instytut Historii Sztuki
Uniwersytet Adama Mickiewicza
Poznań



Dr. Justin E.A. Kroesen
Universitair docent Kunstgeschiedenis
van het Christendom
Rijksuniversiteit Groningen



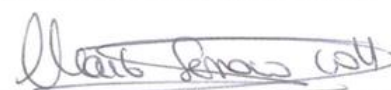
Prof. Dr. Luigi Pellegrini
Professore di Storia medievale
Università degli Studi "G. d'Annunzio"
Chieti – Pescara



Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Schenkluhn
Institut für Kunstgeschichte und
Archäologie Europas
Martin-Luther-Universität Halle- Wittenberg



Prof. Dr. Dany Sandron
Institut d'Art et d'Archéologie
Centre André Chastel
Université de Paris-Sorbonne



Prof. Dr. Marta Serrano Coll
Universitat Rovira i Virgili
Campus Catalunya, Facultat de Lletres
Departament d'Història i Història de l'Art
Tarragona



Prof. Dr. Stefan Tebruck
Historisches Institut
Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen