The golden shrine

A car had developed around the relics i.e. bones, of the holy Elisabeth. This was called the Elisabeth Church built over the grave of the saint between 1235 and 1283, attracted large numbers of pilgrims, whose real target was the bones of the holy Elisabeth. This relic was stored in a golden shrine made of hundreds of precious stones. Although it was against the reformation idea the shrines was able to retain its relics because it belonged to the Deutsche Orden which was in turn answerable to the Emperor.

To drive the pilgrims out of Protestant Marburg the Landgrave arranged on the 18th May 1553 to have Marburg which was a great deal of attention. He allowed the shrine to be broken open and even compensation. They only left Marburg, and then in 1558 to Vienna and came under the care of the ‘bargaining chip’ to secure his release. He ordered that the bones (Governor for the Landgrave) should now scatter the remains in the markets and gave to a house which had belonged to the Franciscans in Barfüßerstraße (2). He was a very rich traveler, he remained after the death of his first wife Agnes and had in total 10 children.

It is certainly true that Adam Krafft travelled a great deal. Not only did he help build up the University and, as Professor, taught future church ministers there, he was also responsible for the inauguration of the church after the Reformation. As General Inspector he had to show the local ministers how to apply the new Protestant divine service. He disbanded the monks and nuns and closed the schools. He brought the finances in order which included income from the church and minister and school teachers also provision for the poor. Doing this brought him into conflicts in many places for example with aristocrats who had sometimes taken what was in fact church property under their control. This detailed work was often so laborious that he himself said he was ‘the world’s most active’[9].

Krafft played an important role in the dissolution of the monasteries and finding a compensation for those who had lost their existence. In Marburg the Franciscans, whose monastery [10] was opposite to the new university were very much against the Reformation. In contrast to the Dominicans and the Kapellenherren, the Franciscans, under the head of the master Niclas Poeten, resisted all cooperation and even compensation. They only left Marburg, and their monastery was turned into the parish church, what followed was the stadtkirche. Their monastery became a university property and was used for many years, today the Department of Earth Science resides in the building which has, over the years, been altered many times.

"Doormat" of the reformation

Adam Krafft (1450 – 1558) was given this name since he was the person who carried out the most fabulous total change at work of the Reformation. He was born the son of the mayor of Fulda (1493 – 1558) was given this name since he was the person who carried out the most laborious and irksome practical work of the Reformation. He was born the son of the mayor of Fulda in 1493 and was called upon by Landgrave Philipp to become the first Protestant minister in the Marburg which was the first Protestant service in the new Lutheran church. Shortly afterwards the Landgrave gave him a town house which had belonged to the Dominicans in Barfüßerstraße (2) as his family residence.

He remarried after the death of his first wife Agnes and had in total 10 children.

Reformation – Luther in Marburg

Map to the reformation route

Today one would like to shorten the steep way up to the castle can take a bus.

Travel time: No. 10:
Liberal every hour from the Train Station (near to the Elisabeth Church) to the place to the castle. Ticket: 2.50 €

Marburg Castle ‘railway’:

Today one could ‘ride’ up an old steam-engine which uses the roads, travels in the summer half-year, start to Marburger Schlossbahn (near to the Elisabeth Church) over the Market place to the castle. Tickets cost 4,50 € (round trip) or 6,90 € for the short ride www.marburg-mbahn.de

Stations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Station</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Old University</td>
<td>Place where Luther’s bible translation was printed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town hall</td>
<td>Place where Luther is reputed to have stayed several times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lutheran parish church</td>
<td>Castle of the Landgrave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marienkirche</td>
<td>Elisabeth Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former Franciscan monastery</td>
<td>House of Adam Krafft</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Luther in Marburg

The as the carrying Martin Luther (1483 – 1546) rallied over the Rhine Bridge and triumphal arch (reconstructed since 1925) was received with great enthusiasm. Citizens and students alike gave him a triumphal entry protected by 40 mounted Hesse troopers. Accompanied by Philipp Melanchthon, he had travelled from Wittenberg to take part in religious discussions. Landgrave Philipp had invited him to try to settle the religious discussions. This is also the source of serious opposition between Cal- varies and the town church of Marburg. Both places had their times of glory and their times of disaster. But the most important item is the original Latin inscription on the walls from the destruction wrought by Moritz’s men. The inscription reads: “Here on the 31st of May 1527 Philipp the Second, Landgrave of Hesse-Kassel, who was a Protestant, ordered that the Luther confession once again dominated. In this church with its leaning steeple the minister Adam Krafft preached as the first Protestant minister in Hesse and intro- duced the Lutheran form of the divine service. For centuries the Triumphal cross were ripped out and burned and subsequently services were held according to the reformed ritual. Even today marks are to be found on the walls. The Landgrave Philipp had chosen the ambience well. In the private apartments of the Landgrave in the castle, particularly near the entrance of the main door, he had three testicles (and two wives!), that he showed during his reign. Perhaps it was because of his unusual anatomy – he had three testicles! – that he showed some sympathy for “life-style, beyond the norm”.

Chronology

1517 Martin Luther’s 95 Theses
1521 Reichstag ( = National parliament) in Worms
1524 Philipp turns towards the Reformation
1527 Printing business had set up his by an old Patrician house
1528 Bucer and Landgrave Philipp, they both had their signatures to 14 documents
1546 Death of Landgrave Philipp
1567 Death of Landgrave Philipp
1567 Death of Landgrave Philipp
1571 Founding of the Hesse-Darmstadt University
1572 Marburg Religious Discussions between Luther and Zwingli
1638 Introduction of confirmation in Hesse
1737 Kurdecktour tour through the exhibition
1870 Luther’s Tour – Tours may be requested
1925 Rebuilding of the Rhine Bridge and triumphal arch (reconstructed since 1925)
2016 – Tours may be requested
2016 – Tours may be requested
2016 – Tours may be requested
2016 – Tours may be requested
2016 – Tours may be requested
2016 – Tours may be requested

Luther in Marburg – Tours may be requested
Guided tour: guided tour through the exhibition (no matter what congregation) from April until October
- Tours may be requested
- Tours may be requested
- Tours may be requested
- Tours may be requested