

The dugouts of Durmersheim - medieval finds from the Federbach stream

The special features of the Hardtmuseum include medieval canoes on the border wall under the roofed outdoor area. They point to the way of life of our ancestors 1000 years ago and more and explain how the people of that time mastered their lives in the river and marsh landscape of the deepest stad.

This interesting find originates from the eventful period of the 10th/11th century, when a real village developed from the individual manor houses in Durmersheim:

In March 1932 the bed of the Federbach was cleaned and lowered by 1.50 m in the course of job creation measures. Below the pilgrimage church of Bickesheim, several medieval barges, called dugouts, were found. The name goes back to the construction method, because they were cut out of a tree trunk. Considering the technical possibilities of that time, one can well imagine the efforts that had to be made in the production of a dugout canoe from felling to launching.

The value of such a barge was probably correspondingly high at the time.

The first dugout lay across the bed of the brook and its front tip protruded just above the water level. The rear end, on the other hand, was 2 m in the eastern bank, about 1.50 m below the bottom of the stream. When the barge was recovered without expert advice, it broke.

During further work, a second dugout was discovered north of it in the western bank of the stream. After additional checks, a third dugout was found in the middle between the two. All three were 1 - 1.20 m below the bottom of the stream.

High school professor Dr. Karl Gutmann from Rastatt scientifically examined the dugouts and informed the public of his results in an expert opinion.

According to this report, the Durmersheim canoes belong to two different types:

Kahn (boat-dugout) 1 and 3 are very similar to each other, Kahn 2 shows another, namely better processing. It is hewn from a long trunk of 1.12 m in diameter, but only the front half of about 4 m in length has survived.