

## Aspects of Nuremberg (Part Two of the “Bridges of Nuremberg”)

The day we went on the “Bridges” walk was gloriously sunny. There were only twelve of us, but for a walk, especially one in the middle of the city, that’s a goodly number. And here we are with the **Kettensteg** directly behind us.



As I explained in the last Newsletter, our aim was to move along the river from the **Maxbrücke** to the **Henkesteg**, and from there to the **Karlsbrücke** and beyond. The names are fascinating. The first bridge we encountered, the very old Max Bridge (formerly known as the “Stone Bridge”), was constructed in 1457. The bridge was renamed in 1810 in honour of the Bavarian king, Maximilian 1, but was largely rebuilt in 1852 after damage caused by a fire in the wooden water tower at the adjacent Nägeleinsmühle. Close to it are several historic buildings such as the Weinstadel and the corn granary known as the Unschlitt House. The word Unschlitt might be translated as “tallow”, an important substance made of animal fats and having a variety of uses (candles, soaps, lubricants).

Our next site of interest was the covered Henkersteg leading, as the name suggests, directly to the Executioner’s House. It was once part of the penultimate city wall surrounding the city, explaining why it was precisely here that the executioner had his abode, as far away from the town centre as possible!

The next two bridges, the “**Untere Karlsbrücke**” and the “**Obere Karlsbrücke**”, refer to the emperor Charles VI who was much involved in the struggle against the Ottoman Empire. Two obelisks were erected on the “Obere Karlsbrücke”, one with the Eagle of War, the other, seen here, with the Dove of Peace.



The “**Fleischbrücke**”, close to where butchers had their “shambles”, was built between 1596 and 1598 and took people directly to the market square and the castle beyond. It was, for its age, a great technical accomplishment. For its foundations, some 2000 wooden posts had to be hammered into the riverbed below.

In February of 1599 a stone ox was unveiled, reminding passers-by that they were about to walk past the city’s slaughterhouse.

The next bridge we see is the “**Museum Bridge**”. It stands on the site of the oldest bridge over the Pegnitz, a wooden structure dating back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Since it linked the Franciscan Monastery with the rest of the city it was formerly known as the Barfüßerbrücke, a common name for the Franciscans (the barefoot friars). Its present name refers only to the fact that a “society”, called “Museum” (that organised social events and other gatherings) had once stood close by.

Frank Gillard