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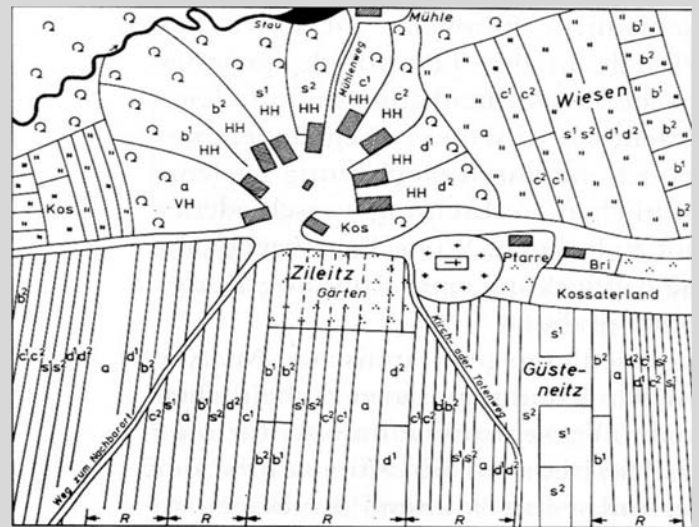
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**CIAV
NEWSLETTER**

International Scientific Committee on Vernacular Architecture



The cultural diversity from the towns with circular shape it is typical of the Wendland cultural landscape

CIAV INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2016 IN RUNDLINGSMUSEUM, LÜBELN, WENDLAND, GERMANY

The cultural landscape of the Wendland circular villages: conservation and rehabilitation of the vernacular heritage

This 37th Newsletter is dedicated to the latest CIAV Conference which took place in Lübeln, Wendland, Germany, last year, from September 28 to October 2 2016. There were 48 participants.

It was a very productive conference, with many interesting presentations, as you may study in the short report below.

It was also very well organized with the collaboration of ICOMOS Germany, The State Conservation Office of Lower Saxony together with the community of Lüchow (Wendland), the Mayor's Office of Lower Saxony and the Technical University of Cottbus, Hannover.

We had the opportunity to know and understand many important characteristics of this so unique kind of circular shaped settlements whose history goes far back to the Medieval times.

I hope this short overview may give the readers, the taste of what we had the privilege to see and experience during those days.

We want to thank all the organizations and people that collaborate to make this meeting a very successful CIAV Conference. A special appreciation to our colleague Maria Ines Subercaseaux for her participation with several photographs for this issue of the Newsletter.

Valeria Prie



September 28 – October 2, 2016
Lübeln, Wendland, Germany

ClAV in collaboration with The State Conservation Office of Lower Saxony Samtgemeinde Lüchow (Wendland), Samtgemeindebürgermeister Niedersächsisches Landesamt für Denkmalpflege, Hannover, Cottbus Technical University and ICOMOS Germany, organized this conference.

The location of the conference was the circular village of Lübeln at the *Rundlingmuseum*, the most well known and visited in Wendland. Within the *Rundlingmuseum* there is an open air museum within a wonderful garden.



Mammoisel



Lübeln

***Circular Villages in the
Hanovrian Wendland***

The Conference theme was: The cultural landscape of the Wendland circular villages – conservation and rehabilitation of the vernacular heritage.



The subthemes:

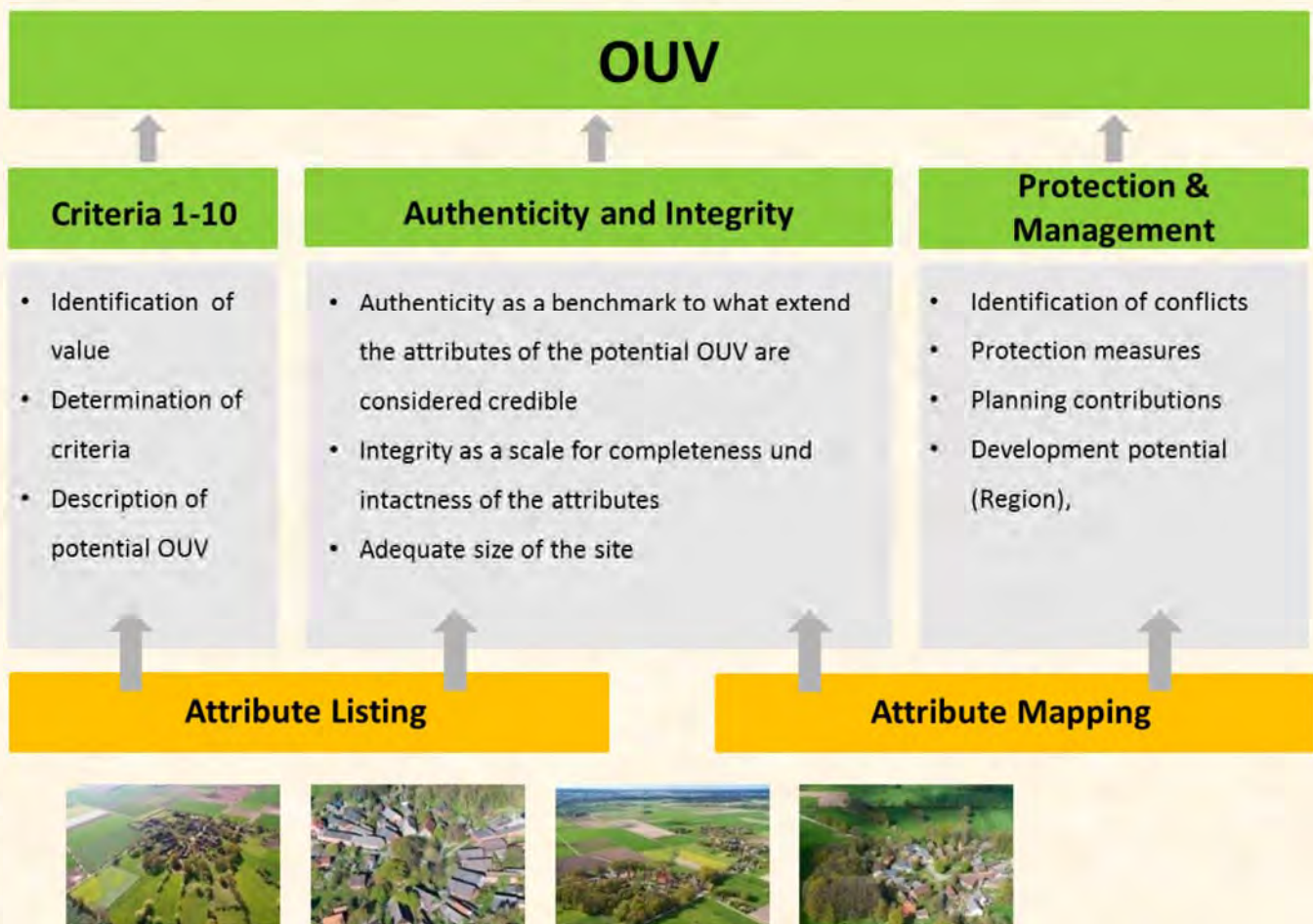
1. Types of settlement related to the surrounding cultural landscape (there will be presentations about the variety of German cultural landscapes and their vernacular heritage, especially half-timber) - and problems related to the protection and preservation of cultural landscapes...- worldwide.



Rundwarftendörfer (circular villages on terp mounds) – **Rysum** (Germany)

2. Problems related to the conservation / rehabilitation of the built vernacular heritage, facing migration, change of use – and possibilities for cultural tourism.

Listing of attributes and attribute mapping as information source for the assessment of criteria, authenticity and integrity, as well as protection and management



Aerial photos:
Samtgemeinde Lüchow

3. Energy related topics – alternative energies – wind turbines, solar plants – and their installations on the vernacular built heritage.



Photographs: Marwa Dabaieh

4. Reconstructions, with special focus on timber architecture. (ICOMOS' general theme for scientific discussions in 2016).



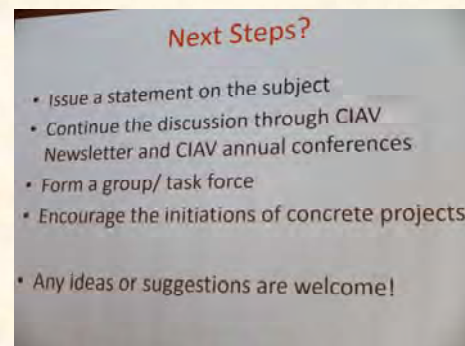
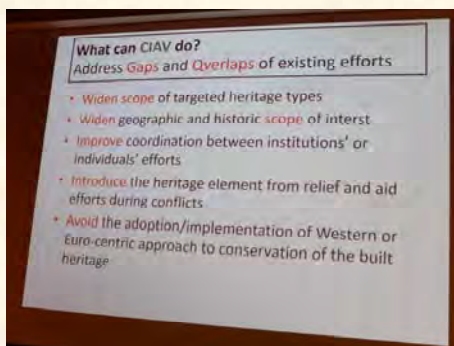
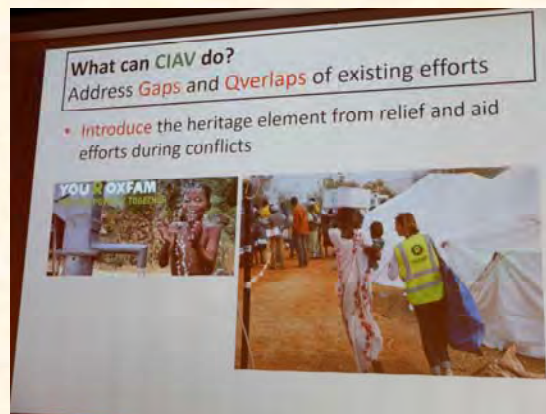
Stave church without internal raised room
Haltdalen 1150 – 1200 AD

Photograph: Gisle Jakhelln

5. Round table discussion in the afternoon of the second conference day on “Vernacular architecture threatened by war”.



Hossam Mahdy



The program developed as follow:

Wednesday, September 28

Most of the participants arrived via the airports of Hamburg, Berlin or Hannover. With train connections, we arrived to the small cities of Salzwedel and Uelzen, and then transferred by shuttle buses to Lübeln, Wendland.



Upon our arrival, we were served a barbecue dinner in a traditional house by the Municipality of Lüchow. We enjoyed vegetarian and traditional dishes with meat roasted on the fire accompany with a delicious potato salad.

I should mention that this entire region is a big producer of potatoes.



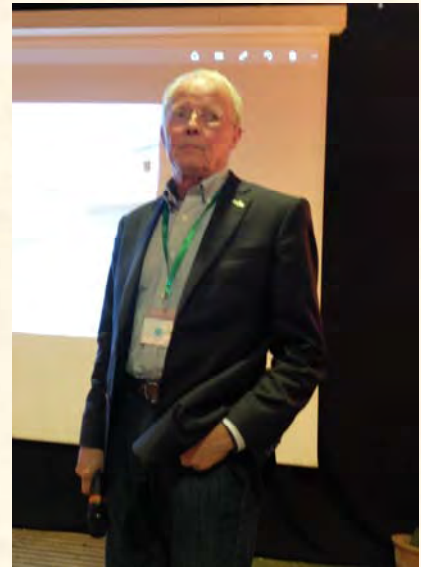
The Mayor of Lower Saxony

Program activities

Thursday, September 29

The conference presentations

The first day of the Conference our colleague and CIAV Honorary Member **Christoph Machat** as the general coordinator of the Conference and Vice-President of ICOMOS Germany welcomed all the participants and introduced the themes theme related to Wendland and its cultural heritage, landscape and ancient circular villages. One of the purposes of the conference was to make recommendations and resolutions from CIAV members for the benefit of the preservation of this important historical and cultural heritage.



Gisle Jakhelln explained that CIAV is an ICOMOS Scientific Committee dedicated to the vernacular architectural heritage.

VERNADOC is one of the field activities which were the subject of a presentation in Turkey. He also mentioned that this conference is focusing on wooden architecture, of which Germany has a rich heritage.

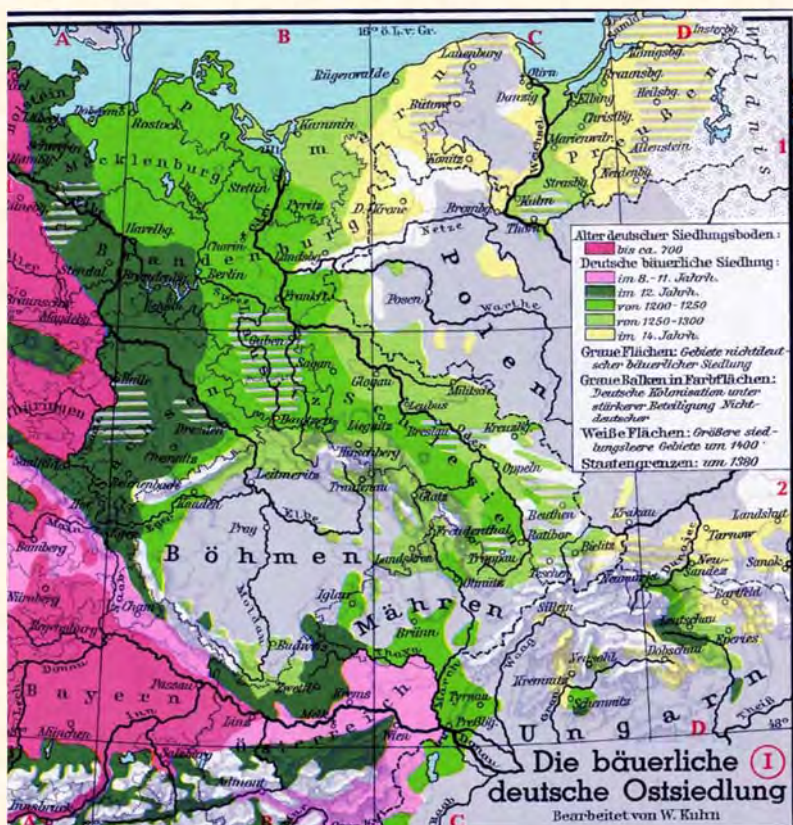


The first paper was presented by **Matthias Hardt**.

He presented the history of the settlements and landscape of the region from the beginning of the VIII Century to the development of the circular villages during the XII Century and the continuing constructions until Lübeln in 1832.



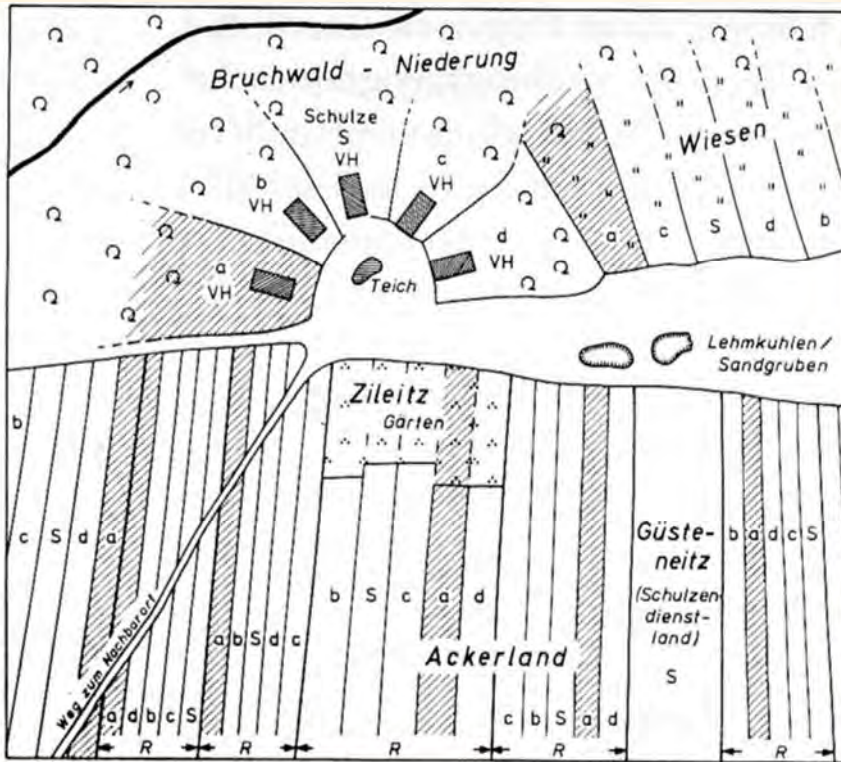
High Medieval Colonisation in East Central Europe



12th-14th Centuries

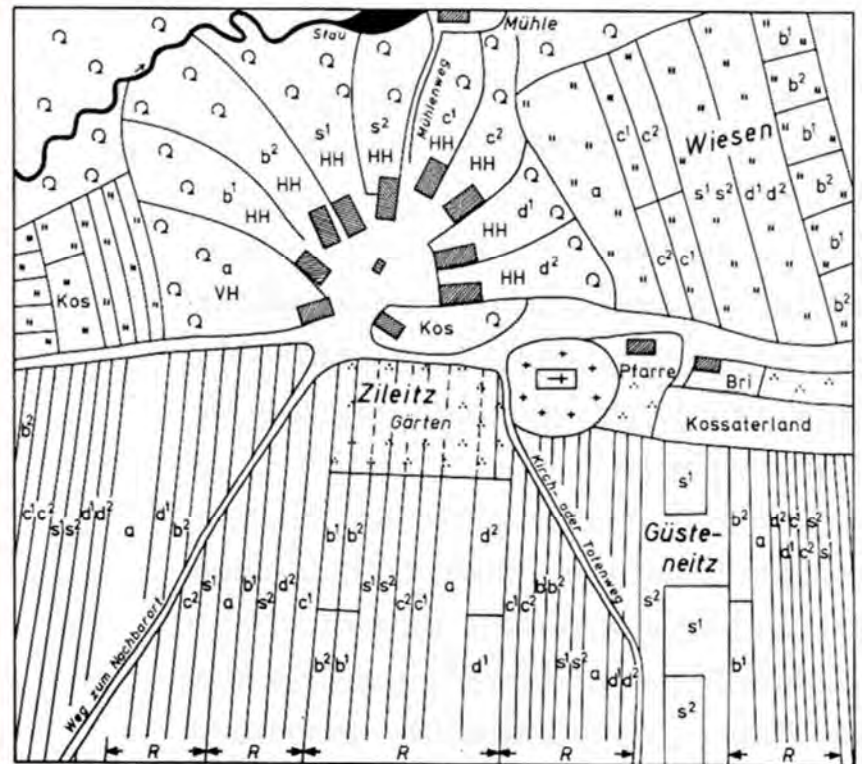
- German Terminology:
 - Deutsche Ostsiedlung
 - Ostkolonisation
 - Ostbewegung
 - Feudale deutsche Ostexpansion
 - Landesausbau

(after H.-E. Stier u.a. (Hrsg.), Großer Atlas zur Weltgeschichte (Braunschweig 1956) 74)



Scheme of Circular Village after Foundation

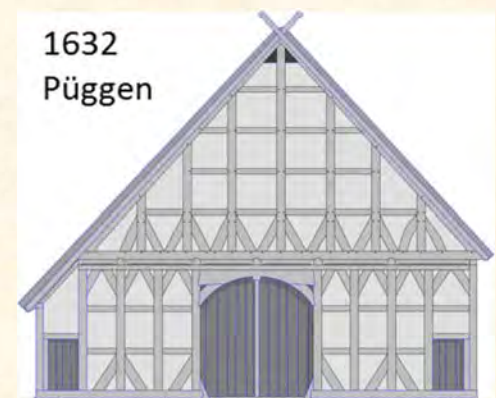
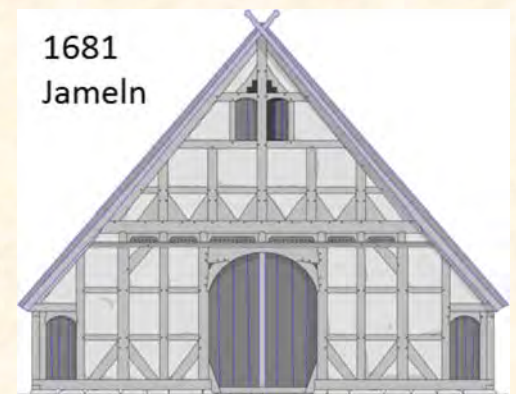
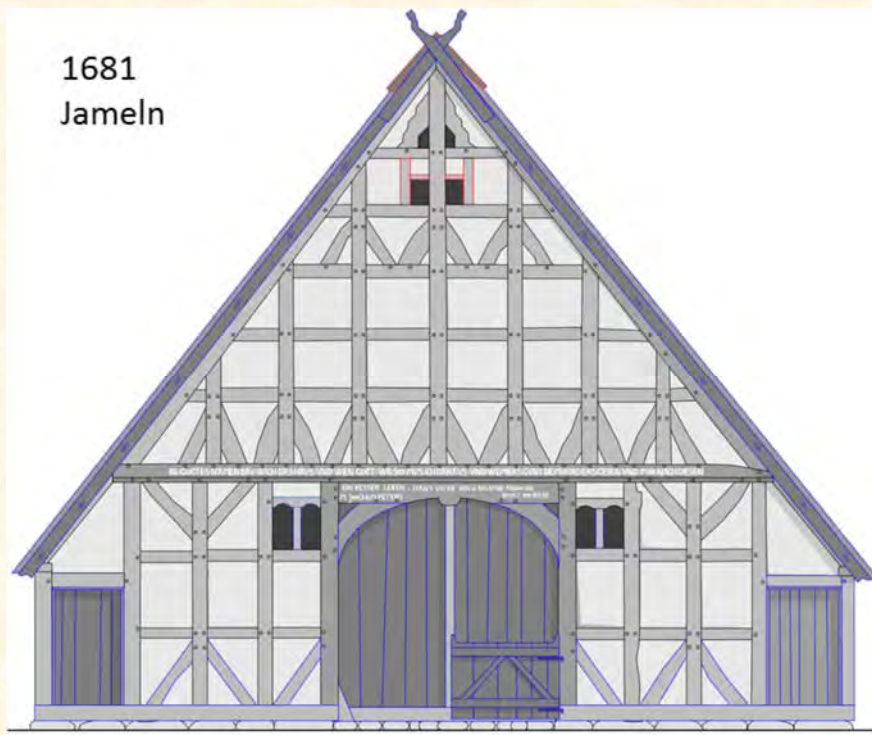
The same Village in the 19th Century



(B. Wachter, Hannoversches Wend-Land (Stuttgart 1986) 164, Abb. 65)

This introduction was essential to understanding these unique settlements, their landscape and peculiar circular shape. (Note from V. Prieto.)

Dirk Wübbenhorst presented the paper: “Regional Variation of the Lower German Hall House” was dedicated to the variations relating to their function in the homes in ancient times, when the main hall was dedicated to the livestock in the stables and the harvest was brought in to be stored under the roof. At the same time the construction system of wooden elements was shown.





The examples show constructions from 1681, 1734 and 1833 in different areas.

Wendland still retains a huge number of the traditional half-timbered farm buildings from earlier centuries.

1. Wendland still has a huge number of traditional half-timbered farm buildings from earlier centuries.
2. The hall houses show a wealth of decoration reflecting a relative prosperity.
3. The dominant architecture is the four pillar house from the 19th century.



Then, **Wolfgang Meibeyer** talked about the settlement geography of the Wendland, and about the different types of medieval villages.



Marschhufendorf
Holtorf

Marschhufendorf
Holtorf



Rundling Lübeln

Mainly focusing on development and the distribution of the land in the villages established at the southwest of the Elbe River.



Martin Cernansky, explained that in the Czech Republic still has a large number of rural settlements, which are characterized by different sizes and types of circular villages. In his conclusion of this presentation.

CZECH VILLAGES

> Settlements and land

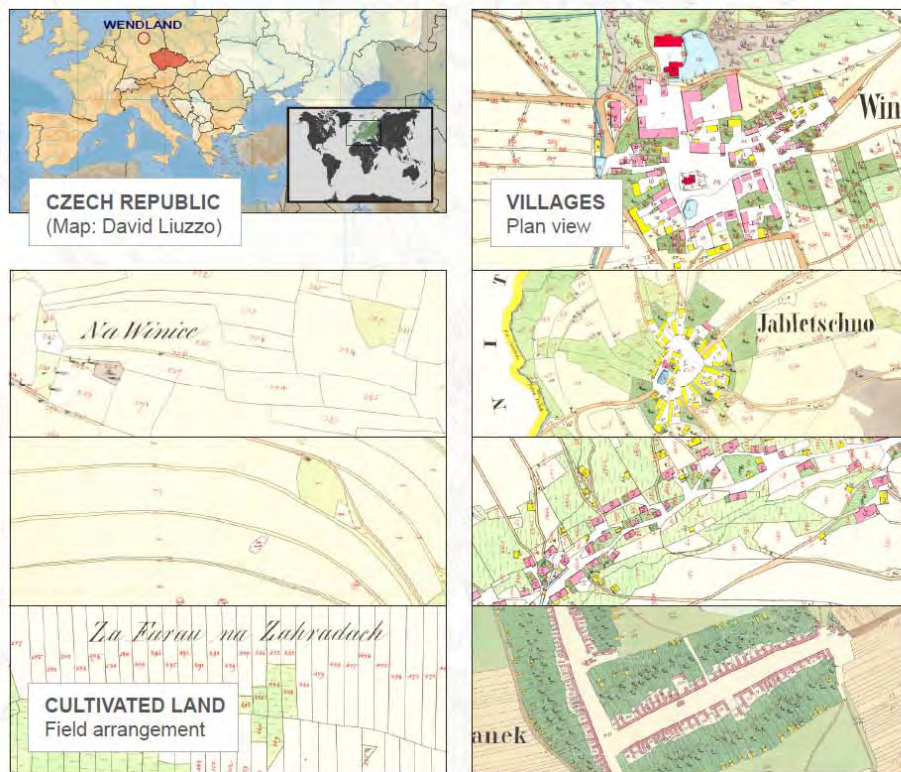
In Czech there are large numbers of rural settlements which are characterized by the different **size** and type of the **plan view**.

These diverse homesteads, hamlets or villages also have a different **plot arrangement**, i.e. the division of cultivate land.

There was a close connection between the settlement layout and land use. It depended and still depends on a lot of conditions:

- :: **natural** / landform, water, climate
- :: **historical** / time of origin
- :: **social** / status, property etc.

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He describes the legal protection of vernacular architecture monuments as well as the spatial planning and building regulations.

EARLY MIDDLE AGE

> Fortified settlements

There are a lot of evidences about **fortified settlements** in prehistoric period up to Early Middle Ages. It is important to mention mainly **the gord**, a medieval settlement known as a Slavic burgwall.

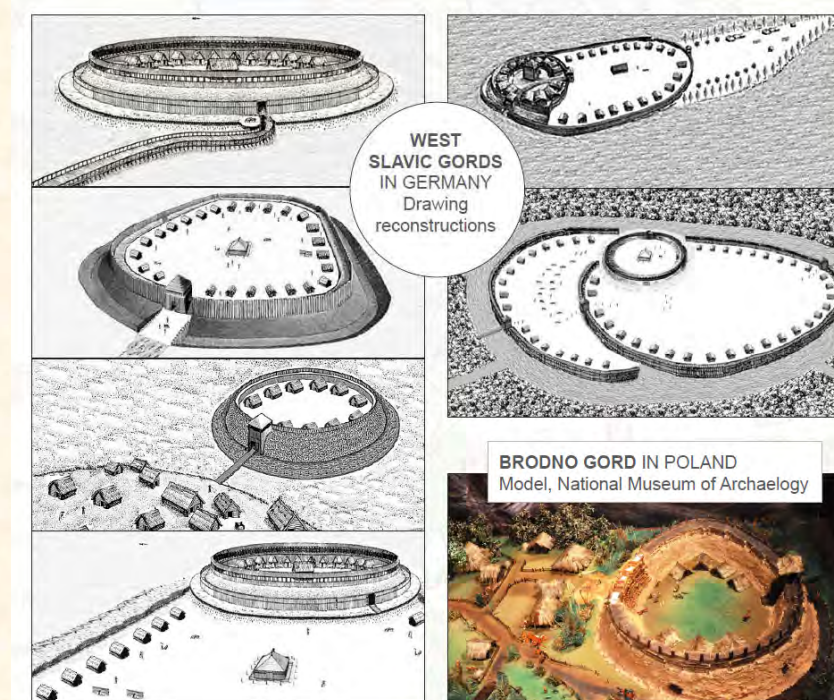
> Ring-shape settlements

Although there is no connection with the later villages they were **ring-shaped** because of

- :: a hill or man-made mound
- :: a promontory and watercourse

Their **fortification** also had the round shape. Wooden houses were built in row or **in circle**.

National Heritage Institute, Headquarters
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Also of great interest were the patterns of farms and villages in Romania, presented by **Christoph Machat**.



Gerardo Torres from Mexico talked about the vernacular houses in a little village of the Puebla mountains, a rural Mexican region.



Ayten Erdem from Turkey made a presentation on wood and brick construction in Anatolia and problems of protection of these structures in the Black Sea Boyabat.

VILLAGES OF BOYABAT



Arıoğlu Village



Akyörük, Aluç Plateau, the house and granary



Depot buildings of Günpınar Village



Gündüzlü Village, massive block log granary

Enev Ivan, architect from Bulgaria, discussed the significance of vernacular architecture for the World Heritage System, explaining the values of vernacular architectural heritage and its unfortunate lack of recognition. The significance of the vernacular structures is often perceived to be inferior to the rest of the built heritage.



*In my old home
that I forsook,
the cherries are in bloom.*

Yoshi Mikami Issa

CONTENTS

Working Definitions
Vernacular & World Heritage
Case Studies — Bulgaria & Albania

Hossam Mahdy and **Samir Abdulac** referred to the vernacular built heritage threatened by war. He presented three steps: 1.– What is the problem?; 2.– What can we do? and 3.– What are the characteristics of vernacular architecture?, emphasizing with specific details the need to protect and conserve it before, during and after wars.

What can **CIAV** do?

Address **Gaps** and **Qverlaps** of existing efforts

- **Widen scope** of targeted heritage types



- **Introduce** the heritage element from relief and aid efforts during conflicts



Friday, September 30

All day excursion by horse drawn coaches through the cultural landscape of Wendland circular villages.



We visited many circular settlements and several houses inhabited by local people which had been beautifully adapted as family homes. The whole trip crosses through small villages and a beautiful landscape. All of us learn many interesting aspects of the circular organization use of the land, as well as the construction system of the vernacular houses.



Saturday. October 1

On the third day of the conference, **Elo Lutsepp** from Estonia, explained that she is part of a network to support the owners of rural architecture heritage in Estonia and how they help people by providing education and training.



Topics:

- Timberworks (renovation and building log walls and different kind of timber constructions)
- Traditional paints and plasters and interior design
- Renovation of historical windows and doors
- Renovation of traditional heating systems (mostly old type of kiln ovens)
- Renovation of limestone and granite (natural stone) walls
- Renovation and building of different kind of roofs (straw and wooden roofs)
- Traditional insulation methods, etc.

Marwa Dabaieh talked about renewable energy optimization in earthen architecture, with the examples of two oases in Egypt.



Marwa Dabaieh and Valeria Prieto are presenting the CIAV book, under the name: Vernacular Architecture Reflections. Challenges and Future.

Restoration and transformation of timber buildings in Denmark, were the subjects described and discussed by **Sören Vadstrup**, who explained how it is possible to create healthier, more sustainable living spaces.

Torpology (thorpology, dörferlogie)

Topology = how to live and build vernacular in the village
Opposite in a residential neighborhood in the city

Analysis: Characteristics of the Danish village

- The hurred roads
- The closed villagescape
- The village's farms – close to the village road
- The village houses – close to the village road
- Drystone walls
- Stylish stillness
- Pollarded trees and shrubs
- No front gardens with hedges

Guidelines for your house

- The roof and chimney pots
- The facades
- The windows
- Exterior doors
- Fences and hedges
- Garages and carports
- Garden trees and shrubs



Gisle Jakhelln, CIAV President, presented the case of interpretation and reconstruction of the stave churches in Northern Norway, using the example of a stave church at the Trondenes Museum, Harstad.



Urnes 1150 AD - Drawing 1837
World Heritage Site 1979

Borgund 1150 – 1200 AD.
Photo around 1900





Rødven



Borg chieftain's farm AD 800 - Reconstruction 1995 Gisle Jakhelln. Photo 2004

Beautiful images of Nordic landscapes and the reconstruction of the chieftain's longhouse (AD 800) at Borg in the Lofoten Islands. He showed the sites of the 28 existing churches in Norway, as well as some magnificent drawings and photographs of them around 1900. (Note from V. Prieto)

The fire resistance improvement in wood construction was developed by **Du Fei** from China, with regard to Dong villages in Japan which are at risk of fires.

Reconstruction of vernacular heritage in India by **Nithya Rajendran**, who presented several examples of the rebuilding and the adaptive reuse of several houses in the historical region of Kerala.

Reconstruction of Vernacular Heritage in the Indian Context



Case Study- Restoration and Reconstruction work in Swamimalai -
A village in Tamil Nadu, South India

Michel Schmidt, Kerstin Dunker and Reiner Zittlau from Germany discussed the historical values of “The Wendland Circular villages (Rundlinge)” area. They also explained that they are preparing documents to request the inclusion of the Wendland Rundlinge on the National Tentative List for a World Heritage Site.

ICOMOS CIAV International Conference 2016 “Conservation and Rehabilitation of Vernacular Heritage: The Cultural Landscape of Wendland circular villages” September 28 - October 2, 2016

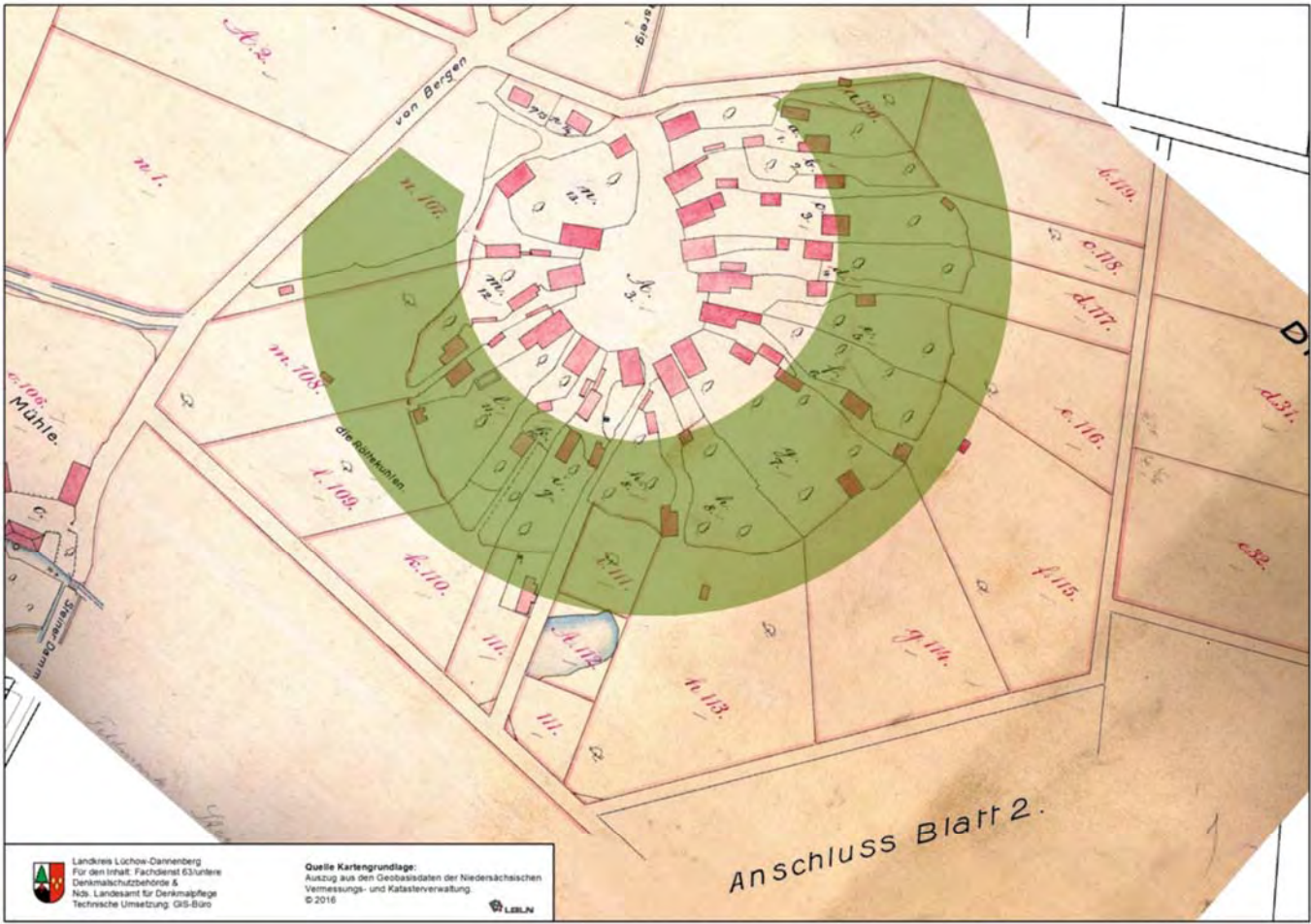
In Search of OUV: A Methodology for Attribute Mapping of the Circular Villages in Wendland

Michael Schmidt, Kerstin Duncker & Reiner Zittlau



Lübeln
01. October 2016

To support this request they have mentioned many examples of this kind of ancient settlements.



VERKOPPLUNGSKARTE KÖHLEN

At the closing of the conference sessions **Britta Rudolf** and **Eva Battis** spoke about Wendland circular villages: a global comparative analysis.

WENDLAND CIRCULAR VILLAGES:

First results of a
Global Comparative Analysis

Britta Rudolff
Eva Battis



Lübeln, CIAV Annual Conference
1 October 2016

They enclosed three frameworks of comparative analyses: regional-chronological, typological and thematic for circular settlements, from the prehistoric settlements, to pre-industrial civilizations, medieval and early modern ages, planned baroque villages and modern circular villages.

SETTLEMENTS OF NON-INDUSTRIALISED PEOPLES



Village of the Massai (African kraal)

<http://derstandard.at/1381370216176/Unterwegs-in-der-Masai-Mara>

CIRCULAR SETTLEMENTS OF THE MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN ERA



Les Circulades - Aigne

http://cahiers.de.minerve.pagesperso-orange.fr/HTML/cdm_cdfheraultligne2_aignepanorama.jpg

End of the Conference.

On the last day, the participants were invited to have dinner with the owners of some of the wonderful traditional ancient houses.



ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday 2nd October

CIAV held its Annual Meeting during the morning chaired by CIAV President Gisle Jakhelln.

13 members and 13 visitors took part in the proceedings.