

Presseinformation

A little-known town house mirroring early global commerce in Basel

The Baroque summer residence called «Sandgrube» owned by the Leisler family, who were Basel silk-manufacturers, is one of the countless prestigious buildings with splendid interiors dating from the mid-18th century and built with revenue from global trading. And to this very day the «Sandgrube» harbours a spectacular treasure: the precious Chinese wallpaper in the lady of the house's boudoir, made from the paper mulberry tree and completely preserved. The book *Building Paradise. A Basel Manor House and its Residents in a Global Perspective* (Christoph Merian Verlag) explores the micro-global history of the house and its cosmopolitan residents. The richly illustrated publication also throws light on the beginnings of international networking in Basel in the 18th century.

The «China Room» is said to have been radiant, due no doubt to the exotic blossoms, fruits and birds on its covered wall panelling. The wallpaper, which today is somewhat faded, created a link to the Baroque garden, underscoring the character of the house as a summer residence. It is almost a miracle that the fragile and valuable material and colours survived the ship's page from Guangzhou, the French Revolution, local wars, two world wars, and even the constant process of concentration in the city itself.

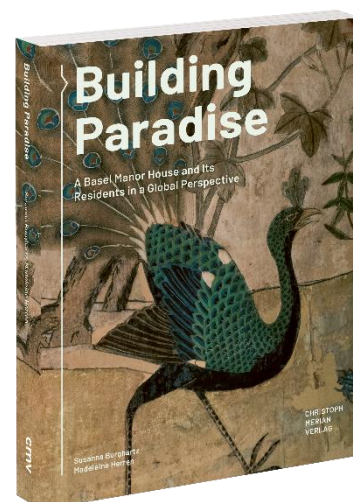
From the internationally networked owner of the «Sandgrube» villa in the 18th century, to today's use of the building as the headquarters of the Institute of European Global Studies of Basel University, the book accompanies the Leisler family over several generations. In six chapters, it illustrates the changing urban structures in business and society between 1670 and 1800, identifying them as the breeding ground for the entrepreneurial, social and transcultural self-understanding of the commercial elite in Basel at the time. The last chapter is devoted to the most recent transformation of the house, between the 1930s and today.

This book about the history of the Leisler summer residence thus mirrors Basel's early involvement in global trade, while at the same time tying it in with the present by showing the influence of that development on Basel today.

About the authors:

Susanna Burghartz (*1956) is Professor of Early Modern History at the Department of History and the Europainstitut of the University of Basel.

Madeleine Herren (*1956) is Director of the Europainstitut at the University of Basel and Professor of Modern History.



Susanna Burghartz,
Madeleine Herren

Building Paradise

A Basel Manor House and its Residents in a Global Perspective

240 Seiten, 122 meist farbige
Abbildungen, Klappenbroschur
16,5 x 22,5 cm, Deutsch/Englisch

© 2021 Christoph Merian Verlag

CHF 29.- / EUR 28,-
ISBN 978-3-85616-948-0

Eine drucktaugliche Datei des
Buchcovers und weitere Abbildungen
finden Sie bei der Medienmitteilung zu
dieser Neuerscheinung unter:
www.merianverlag.ch/infos/presse

Für weitere Fragen wenden Sie sich an:
Andrea Bikle
Presse- und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit
Christoph Merian Verlag
St. Alban-Vorstadt 12
Postfach
CH-4002 Basel
Tel. +41 61 226 33 50
a.bikle@merianverlag.ch

Für die Zustellung eines Beleges Ihrer
Besprechung danken wir Ihnen!