



Nicolaes Wieling,
Gods on Olympus, ca. 1670



View of the section "Splendid
courts and a royal exile"



Exhibition view:
Rulership and Regional Representation –
Power and Participation



AudioStory
"Take your Chances!"



View of the FORUM

Outstanding Silver Objects

The silver inventory of the dukes of Celle was once extensive and magnificent. Impressive baroque homage cups as well as two fascinating sconces of the 17th century are still existing symbols demonstrating the rank and importance of the ruling house. A special cabinet is dedicated to the silver objects made by Celle gold- and silversmiths in the 18th and 19th centuries.



Three early baroque homage cups,
gifts for the Dukes of Celle,
17th century

Discover the Castle – Hands-on Activities for Children

What does it feel like to wear a crown and a royal cloak? How is really thin gold made? How can you send secret messages using a fan? And why would you have flour on your head? Our items of "hands-on-furniture" give children the opportunity to find out about the topics in the Residenzmuseum. They can trace the steps of important people, learn about their everyday lives, and discover exciting things about cultural history. We have lots of things not only to look at, but also things to listen to and to smell – come and try them out!



The Path towards Political Participation

The exhibition area "Rulership and Regional Representation – Power and Participation" provides a contrasting viewpoint to that on "ducal splendour". It shows how rulership has changed over the course of centuries and tells the history of political and social participation – from the medieval estate-based society to today's democracy. In themed islands of information, six topics are displayed: Law, Finance, and Knowledge illustrate the foundations of rulership, while Media, Criticism, and Identity present forces of change. These topics are linked by the golden thread of the Historical Regional Representation, an institution which originated from the medieval assembly of the estates. This coalition of clergy, nobility, and the cities, as a power bloc, challenged the autocracy of the sovereign and contributed to the formation of parliamentarianism. Today, they continue to exist only in the state of Lower Saxony. In the exhibition, regional history unfolds as part of the larger societal development towards democracy.

Experience the Exhibition through Multimedia Spaces

The exhibition aims to provoke thought about participation and about individual possibilities for social and political co-creation. Different audio-visual media stations enable an immersive exploration of historic developments towards democracy. In the FORUM next to the exhibition, visitors find a modern learning location that offers media workspaces with further information and chances to exchange opinions. Part of the room is modelled on a plenary hall and serves as a place for discussion or project work – in groups, for schools and the urban community. With this new exhibition area, Celle Castle represents a space for the exploration of Lower Saxon regional history and – simultaneously – itself becomes a forum for discussion and exchange rooted in the principles of parliamentary democracy.



Silver horse statue
with the Royal Hanoverian
coat of arms,
ca. 1845





Attributed to Jacques Vaillant,
Sophie Dorothea with her children;
ca. 1690



Royal staircase,
built in 1839/40 by G.L.F. Laves



Attributed to Alan Ramsey,
King George III, ca. 1760



From Fort to Residence

Celle is a good example demonstrating the typical development of a residence. The different sections of the exhibition take visitors on a journey through time – filling a late medieval banqueting hall with life, for example. The baroque state apartments of the last duke of Celle, Duke George William, contain some magnificent plasterwork illustrating a zenith in architectural development. Discover more through the numerous information points (including interactive media stations and films). Alternatively, simply enjoy the beauty and elegance of the rooms in the castle and the charm of the many and varied exhibits on display here. Wonderful paintings and costly furnishings lend the rooms an authentic atmosphere and give visitors a taste of court life. The “Königssaal” (“King’s Hall”) presents impressive pictures and a selection of valuable items from the period of personal union between Britain and Hanover, and the kingdom of Hanover in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Baroque state apartments,
audience chamber



Jacob Jordaens, *The Bean Feast*,
ca. 1650



Attributed to Cornelis Brouwer,
Still life with flowers,
2nd half of 17th century



Baroque state apartments,
state bedchamber

Moving Stories of Women’s Fates

Did you know ...? The last duchess of Celle, the Huguenot Eléonore d’Olbreuse, was the “ancestral mother” of several European royal families. In the 17th century she brought French esprit to northern Germany and thus influenced life both at court and in the town of Celle. Her daughter Sophie Dorothea had a tragic fate: after her divorce from George Louis, who later became the British king George I, she had to spend the rest of her life at Ahlden Castle. She never met her grandson Frederick the Great. A similar fate befell the Danish queen Caroline Matilda, great granddaughter of Sophie Dorothea. After the Struensee affair, the divorced sister of King George III spent the last three years of her life at Celle Castle, where she died in 1775.

Caroline Matilda,
Queen of Denmark
and Norway



Proclamation and pen
of King George V, 1866

The Residence at Celle

Celle is one of the most important residence cities in the state of Lower Saxony. For almost three centuries it was the permanent residence of the dukes of Brunswick-Lüneburg and therefore the seat of government in the most significant Welf principality. The castle, surrounded by idyllic half-timbered houses, still bears traces of its time as a medieval seat of power, as a baroque residence until 1705, and as a summer residence for the kings of Hanover in the 19th century.



Duke George William and
his wife Eléonore d’Olbreuse

A Welf Power Base

Come to the Residenzmuseum and experience history through our modern displays about the castle and those who lived here, and get to know the oldest surviving European royal family, the Welfs. Over the centuries this powerful dynasty had a hand in the chequered developments of the territory between the rivers Elbe and Weser. From 1714 to 1837 the House of Hanover simultaneously ruled the British Empire from its seat in London.

King George II of Great
Britain and Ireland,
Elector of Hanover



Kulturpartner



Awarded in 2009

museumspreis 2009
der Niedersächsischen
Sparkassenstiftung

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Celler Museen

Residenzmuseum im Celler Schloss

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(Tuesday–Sunday: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.)
www.residenzmuseum.de



Opening hours

Tuesday–Sunday:
May–October / 1st–3rd Weekend in Advent
Season: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
November–April: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
(Hours may be different on
public holidays)

Admission fees

Adults: € 8.00
Reduced: € 5.00
(Concessions available to groups
of 5 or more and one hour before
closing. For additional concessions,
please visit our website)
Free admission for schoolchildren

Guided tours

Public guided tours of the castle rooms
take place regularly. Upon request
we can offer general tours, tours on
specific topics, and guides in costume.
Information and bookings:
Telephone: +49 (0) 5141 124515
Tuesday–Sunday: 11.00 a.m. – 4 p.m.
or fuehrungen@celle.de

Photos:
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