

Mozart and the City of Salt

The Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg

Salzburg **has been described as** the “Rome of the Northern Alps”. Its **array** of baroque architecture in the historic center **is inscribed as** “World Heritage”.

The Salzburg Residence was home to **successive archbishops** of the city. They were also **lords**, and had religious and political authority. These are the **portraits** of the successive archbishops. Their church politics began in the 8th century and continued for one thousand years.

Hohensalzburg castle was used as a **fortress** when the town was under attack. The castle was built during the 11th century by the archbishop **of the time**. It's been extended many times since then. The archbishops used the Golden Room here to **accommodate** their visitors. The walls and ceiling **were gilded** to **demonstrate** their wealth and power.

This is the first archbishop, Archbishop Rupert. He's holding a pot of salt. It was the main source of their power.

Rock salt, **mined** from the area, had 95% **purity** and **was regarded as** “white gold”. Salt was shaped into **conical lumps** known as *Fuder*, for trading purposes. One *Fuder* **weighed** about 60 kilograms. The salt **was transported** along the city's river for sale across Europe. The word *salz* means salt, and Salzburg means “salt castle”.

This is a Salzburg account record from the 18th century. It shows that the archbishop of the time gave Mozart one *Fuder* of salt as a Christmas bonus.

Mozart was born in Salzburg in 1756. He composed several **works** for the city's **cathedral**. It **was modeled on** St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome. There is an organ beside the **altar** here once played by the composer.

This is Archbishop Sigismund von Schrattenbach. He discovered Mozart's remarkable musical talent and **appointed** him his concert master when the composer was just 13 years of age.

Salzburg is known worldwide as Mozart's birthplace. There is a music festival **in his honor** each summer. A city which **found its fortune** in salt now **thrives on** Mozart's genius.

useful words & phrases

be described as ~ : be called ~

He **has been described as** the best blues guitarist of the 20th century.

an array : a range, an assortment, a variety

Our menu has **an array** of delicious salads to choose from.

be inscribed : be registered; be engraved

Mary's initials **are inscribed** in her ring.

successive : consecutive

The team has enjoyed a series of **successive** victories.

~ **of the time** : of those days, of that period in history

His many published stories reveal people's thinking **of the time**.

accommodate someone : have someone stay, provide lodging or service to someone

This hotel can **accommodate** up to 200 guests.

work : a piece of art, music, literature, etc.

In Japan, one can see many beautiful fire**works** exhibitions in July, August, and even into autumn.

be modeled on ~ : be made using ~ as a model

The [State Capitol building in Madison, Wisconsin](#) **was modeled on** the [United States Capitol building](#) in Washington, D.C.

find one's fortune : attain one's wealth

After much hard work and frequent disappointments, Walt Disney and his brother were finally able to **find their fortune** in feature-length animated movies, and later in their first-of-its-kind amusement resort, Disneyland.

other terms...

archbishop : 大司教

lord : 高位の貴族

portrait : 肖像

fortress : 砦

be gilded : 金メッキされる

demonstrate : 見せる

rock salt : 岩塩

(be) mined : 採掘される

purity : 純度

be regarded as ~ : ~として思われる

conical lumps : 円錐形の塊

weigh : 重さがある

transport : 輸送する

cathedral : 大聖堂

altar : 祭壇

appoint : 任命する

in (one)'s honor : (誰々)の記念に

thrive on ~ : ~を生きがいとする、~によって繁栄する

questions about the narration

1. What has Salzburg been called?
2. Who was the Salzburg Residence home to, and what kind of authority did he, she or they have?
3. When was Hohensalzburg castle used as a fortress?
4. When and by whom was it built?
5. What was the main source of power of the archbishops in Salzburg?
6. How pure was the rock salt that was mined around Salzburg, and where was it sold?
7. What does the word "Salzburg" mean in English?
8. What was modeled on Saint Peter's Cathedral in Rome?
9. What special item is inside the cathedral, and why is it special? Where is it located?
10. How is Salzburg known by people around the world today?

exercises

A. Write “true” or “false” for each of the following. If false, correct the statement.

1. Salzburg has been registered as the “Rome of the Northern Alps”. _____
2. The many archbishops who lived in Salzburg were among the city’s most powerful leaders. _____
3. The archbishops reigned for an entire millennium. _____
4. The walls and ceiling of the Golden Room were gilded to give the archbishops more wealth and power. _____
5. Rock salt from around Salzburg was of low quality and was thought of as “white mold”. _____
6. One *Fuder* of salt had about the same weight as ten men. _____
7. Mozart asked for a barrel of pepper on his birthday, but his wife gave him a *Fuder* of salt instead. _____
8. The cathedral in Salzburg houses an instrument that Mozart actually touched and played. _____
9. Salzburg is known around the world as the birthplace of modern music and chocolate. _____
10. Every summer, Mozart plays his music at a special music festival in Salzburg. _____
11. The city of Salzburg found its fortune in salt but currently thrives on pepper. _____