



Römerdenkmal

on the Rhine embankment in front of Gensem-Schwarzrheindorf
Erected in 1989 to commemorate the 2000-year history of Bonn, which began with the Roman conquest of both sides of the Rhine by Gaius Julius Caesar since 58 BC.

The statue shows Caesar, looking to the east towards Germania, which is yet to be conquered, as a general who is busy with construction plans for a bridge. He is said to have been the first to ever build a solid bridge over the Rhine. This is also written in Latin on the reverse, chiseled into the back of the military chair:

C . . IVL . . CAESAR FLVMINI . PONTEM . PRIMVS
IMPOSVIT

A . A . CHR . N . LV.

G. Iul. Caesar / was the first / to build a bridge over the river / in the year before
Chr. Geb. 55.

According to today's knowledge, this probably took place in the Neuwied area. However, in 1898, during the construction of the first modern Bonn- Beuel bridge, it was still believed that it had happened here with us. Therefore, this statue of Caesar was at first used to bridge (predecessor of the Kennedy Bridge) at the Bonn staircase (today the Opera). It was created according to a design by the Berlin sculptor Gotthold Riegelmann, who was responsible for the artistic design of the bridge structure as a whole.

After the bridge was blown up on March 8, 1945, the statue was considered lost. Until the Denkmal- und Geschichtsverein Bonn-Rechtsrheinisch e. V. rediscovered it in 1979, arranged for its restoration and gave it a new meaningful location here in 1989 - after an interim stay at the Mehlemschen Haus (next to the Kennedy Bridge). The Bonn stonemasons' guild created the pedestal for it.

For a crossing of the Rhine by Caesar close to the mouth of the Sieg, no other place between the Sieg and the Siebengebirge would have been topographically more suitable than the place where we are now.

Also the Roman commander Drusus must have built his Rhine bridge here around 11 B.C., if the interpretation of a text by the ancient writer Florus is to be valid, which is highly disputed among historians:
BONNAM ET GESONIAM CUM PONTIBUS IUNXIT CLASSIBUSQUE FIRMAVIT.

Bonn and Gensem connected by bridge and secured with naval station.

This text is at least the basis for the date of the 2000th anniversary of Bonn in 1989.

The Rhine dike (from 1924/26, raised in 2010/11) runs here on a former island, which is followed by further elevations up to the river channel, which in turn was so interspersed with cliffs and shoals that the terrain offered the best conditions for a crossing exactly here.



Therefore, already in prehistoric times, a traffic route leading from the Siegerland through the Siegtal to the Maas found its Rhine ford here.

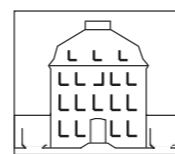
The Romans also maintained a regular ferry service here during their more than 400-year presence, which guaranteed the constant connection of the legionary camp - exactly opposite - with its outpost on the right bank of the Rhine (today the site of the double church) and the military and economic territory of the Beuel hinterland.

After the departure of the Romans, a fixed ferry connection remained right here - on the route Arnoldstraße-Augustusring - for which, for example, a tariff regulation was issued by the Schwarzrheindorf monastery as late as 1314. One of the reasons why the cemetery of

Bonn's Jewish community was built not far from here at the end of the 16th century is probably to be found in this ferry station. Later the ferry service was moved to the south to the present place. For a long time, however, the streets on both sides of the Rhine were called "Fährgasse".

The modern shipping traffic on the Rhine, for which the cliffs and shallows of the riverbed represented a dangerous obstacle, was regulated in the 19th century by a signal station ("Wahrschau"), which had its location north of here, at the river bend at the height of today's sewage plant (shortly before the Jewish cemetery). Only after technical blasting, which lasted from 1880 to 1915, was the prehistoric, then Roman Rhine ford smoothed in favor of today's navigation channel.

As a landmark visible from afar, the RÖMERDENKMAL points out that Bonn, on both sides of the Rhine, entered documentary history 2000 years ago. For over 400 years, the beginnings of our culture developed here, influenced by the Romans.



Denkmal- und Geschichtsverein Bonn-Rechtsrheinisch e. V.
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