



# Welcome to Rotary Club St.Gallen, Switzerland

Information on the Rotary Club of St.Gallen

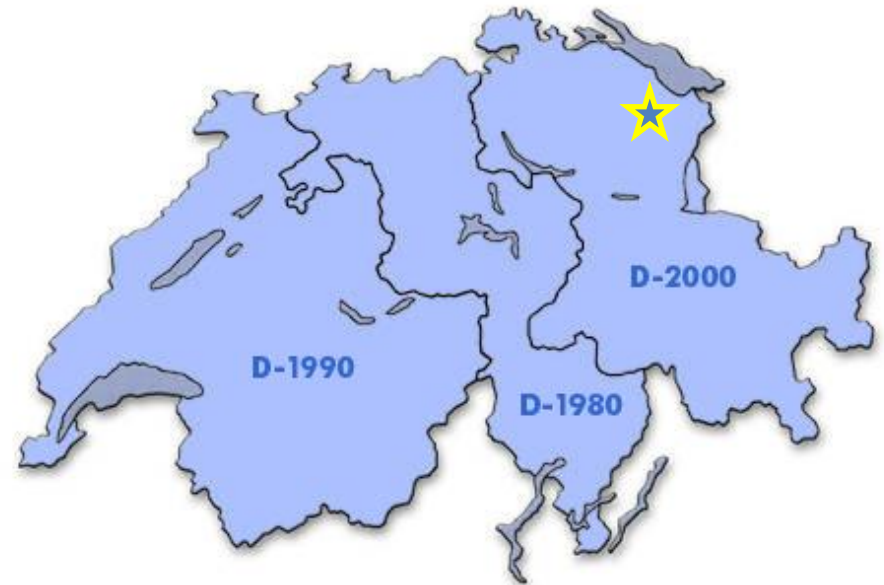
History of the monastery of St.Gallen

History of the town of St.Gallen



# Information on RC St.Gallen

- Rotary Club of St.Gallen belongs to District 2000 and is located in the german speaking part of Switzerland





# Information on RC St.Gallen

- Rotary Club of Zurich was the first Rotary Club in Switzerland (founded in 1924).
- In 1925 Rotary Clubs were founded in Berne, Geneva, Lucerne, Basel and St.Gallen.



First meeting: 4th of July 1925



# Information on RC St.Gallen



Tradition meets Evolution

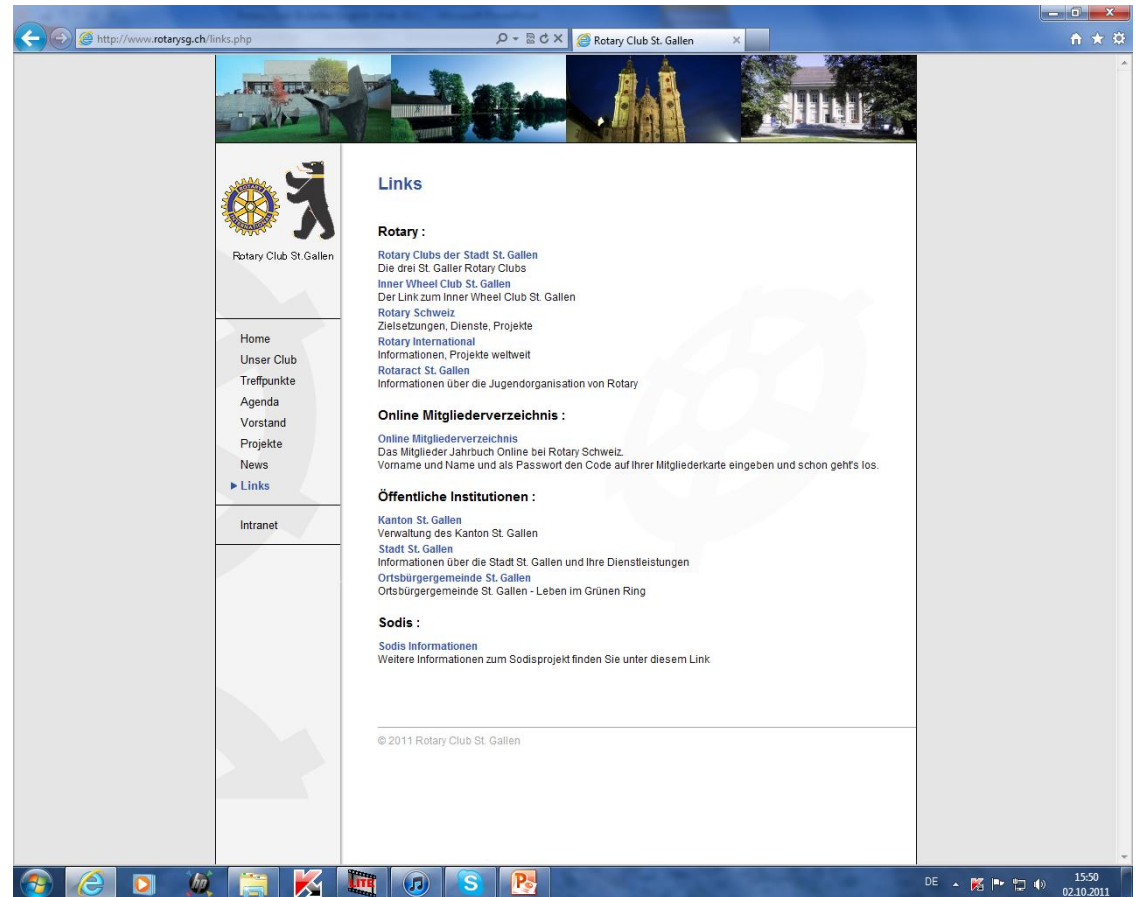


105 Men; 12 Women; Average 62.5 years old



# Information on RC St.Gallen

- Get more information  
@ [www.rotarysg.ch](http://www.rotarysg.ch)





# History of the monastery of St.Gallen

- In about 612, a group of Irish monks, led by Columban, arrived in the region of the lake of Constance.
- In Bregenz (Brigantium) they re-established Christian traditions and fought against pagan customs.
- In Arbon (ancient roman castle Arbor Felix) they found a Christian community.
- Gallus, a member of the group of pilgrims was sick and was left behind, whereas Columban and his friends crossed the Alps and went to Italy. In Bobbio, Columban founded a monastery where he died in 615.

*Hl. Gallus und Hl. Columban  
Crossing Lake of Constance*



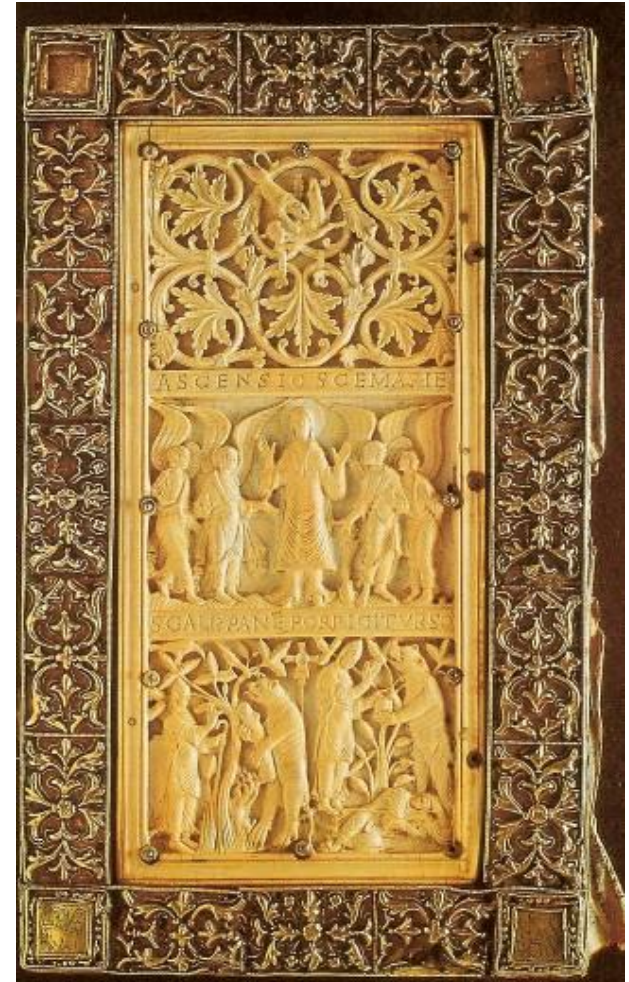


# History of the monastery of St. Gallen

- Gallus wanted to live as a hermit in the loneliness of the forest, praying and serving God.
- In the valley of the Steinach, he stumbled over a stump. He considered this as a sign of God and decided to stay at this place, about 20 km south of the Lake of Constance: „*Haec requies mea, hic habitabo.*“
- As the legend tells, Gallus ran into a wild bear. He told him to fetch wood to light a fire. In exchange, Gallus gave him a piece of bread and ordered that the wild animal should never harm human beings or animals.
- The bear became the heraldic animal of the town.



*Saint Gallus and the bear  
(Ivory Carving).*



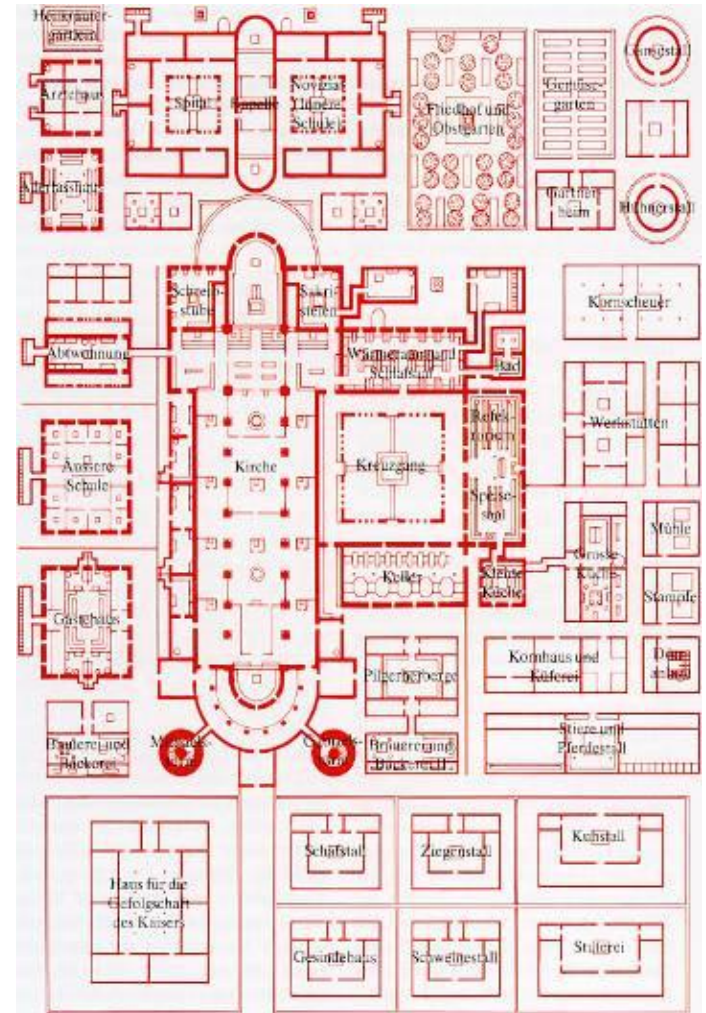


# History of the monastery of St.Gallen

- After the death of Gallus, monks from various regions came to live at this place and founded a monastery.
- Abbot Otmar (689-759) ordered the construction of the monastery and the church. The monastery was active until 1805.



*Schematic presentation of the famous plan of the monastery, created ab. 825*





# History of the monastery of St.Gallen

- In 818 the monastery obtained liberties by being under the direct authority of the king and having the right of free election of the abbot in 833.
- In 926 Hungarian troops invaded St.Gallen. Wiborada had warned the abbot about the imminent danger.
- The monks and the treasures of the monastery had been evacuated, but Wiborada died during the occupation of the town because she had refused to leave the church she lived in.



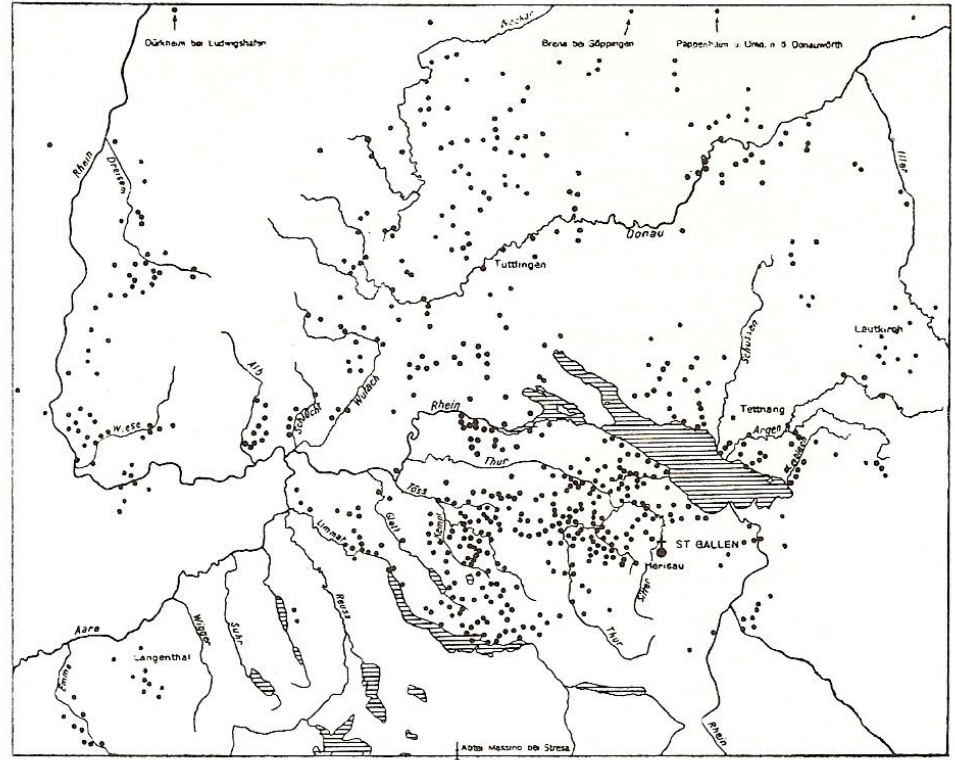
*Representation of the attack against the retreat of Wiborada*





# History of the monastery of St.Gallen

- The Heyday of the monastery extended from 9th to 11th century.
- The monastery had extended land property in Switzerland and Germany.





# History of the monastery of St.Gallen

- The buildings of the ancient monastery and the Cathedral itself are classified "UNESCO World Heritage"





# History of the town of St.Gallen

- Settlements near the monastery began soon after it's foundation. The buildings were protected by a wall since the second half of the 10th century.
- Mention of a CIVITAS at the end of 11th century
- 1170 Right to open a market
- 1228 Charitable foundation of the first hospital
- 1281 Liberty granted to the town by King Rudolf I. of Habsburg
- 1312 Treaty with the towns of Zurich, Schaffhausen and Konstanz
- 1451 Free town and ally of the Confederation





# History of the town of St.Gallen

- The development of the production of linen was responsible for the economic growth of St.Gallen. The farmers produced the raw-material (flax and hemp) and did the spinning and the weaving. The town itself prepared the linen for the market (fulling, bleaching, colouring).
- Exportation extended from Valencia in Spain to Warsaw in Poland. (peak in the 15th century, decline in the 18th century)
- The cotton industry, especially the production of embroideries, replaced the linen industry and reached it's peak in the 19th century.



*Bleaching of linen on open fields outside of the town.  
(„Bleichen“)*



# History of the town of St.Gallen

- 1354 first mention of a Mayor of the town of St.Gallen
- The political organisation of the town changed during the centuries. The „small council“ was composed of the acting Mayor, the past Mayor, the representative of the king and the representatives of the 6 guilds.
- The 6 guilds were the guild of the weaver, the blacksmiths, the millers, the tailors, the shoemakers and the butchers. They were completed by the union of the merchants (Gesellschaft vom Nothenstein).



*Double coat of arms of the town, eagle of the german empire, imperial crown.*



# History of the town of St.Gallen



*The town grants liberty.*



*Oriel „Zum Bären“*



# History of the town of St.Gallen

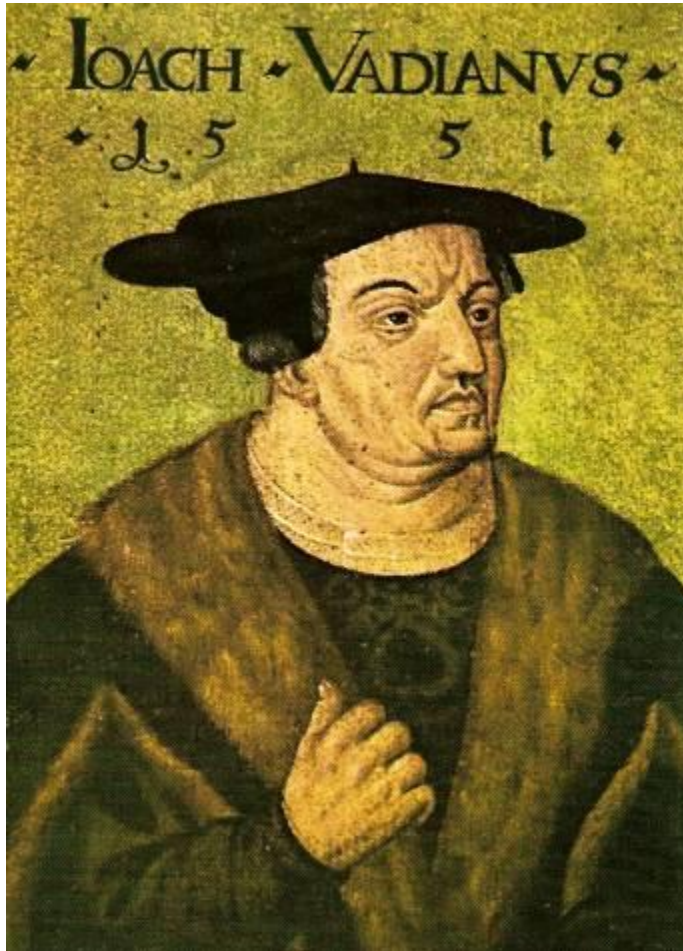


- The church of St.Laurenzen was (and still is in a certain manner) the place or worship for the inhabitants of the town and it's surroundings.
- The assembly of the citizens of St.Gallen was always held in this building. The Citizen's community still maintains this tradition by gathering the citizens together once a year in St. Laurenzen.
- In the Middle Ages the original measure for the linen production was shown in the church. The tower was the place where a guard was on duty.

*Church St.Laurenzen*



# History of the town of St.Gallen

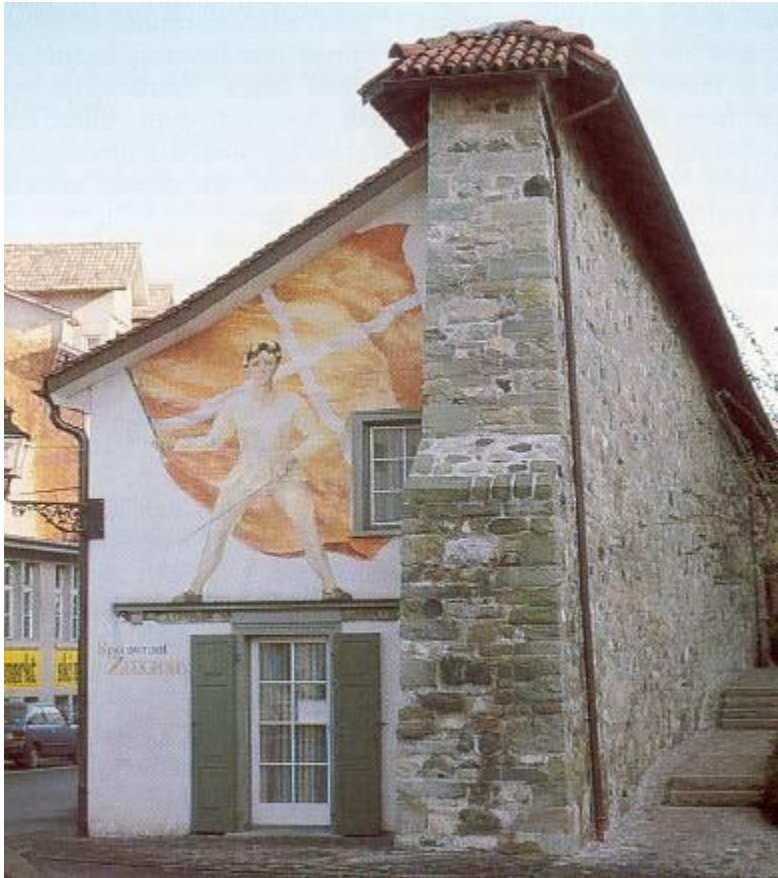


- Joachim von Watt (VADIANUS), was the son of a rich merchants family. After studies in foreign universities, he came back as medical doctor. He was also philologist and historian. In 1526 he was elected Mayor (for the first time of a total of 9 periods).
- In 1524, the „great council“ decided, that the sermons should be delivered strictly according to the Bible.
- In 1527, the „great council“ declared the „Reformation“. Citizens of the town were no longer permitted to attend catholic masses.

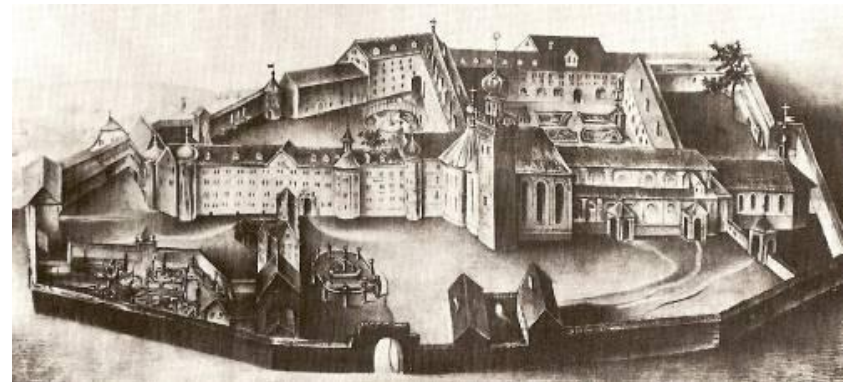
*Vadian, reformer of St.Gallen.*



# History of the town of St.Gallen



- In 1566 it was decided to build a wall separating the catholic monastery and the protestant town. It divided the perimeter until 1798.

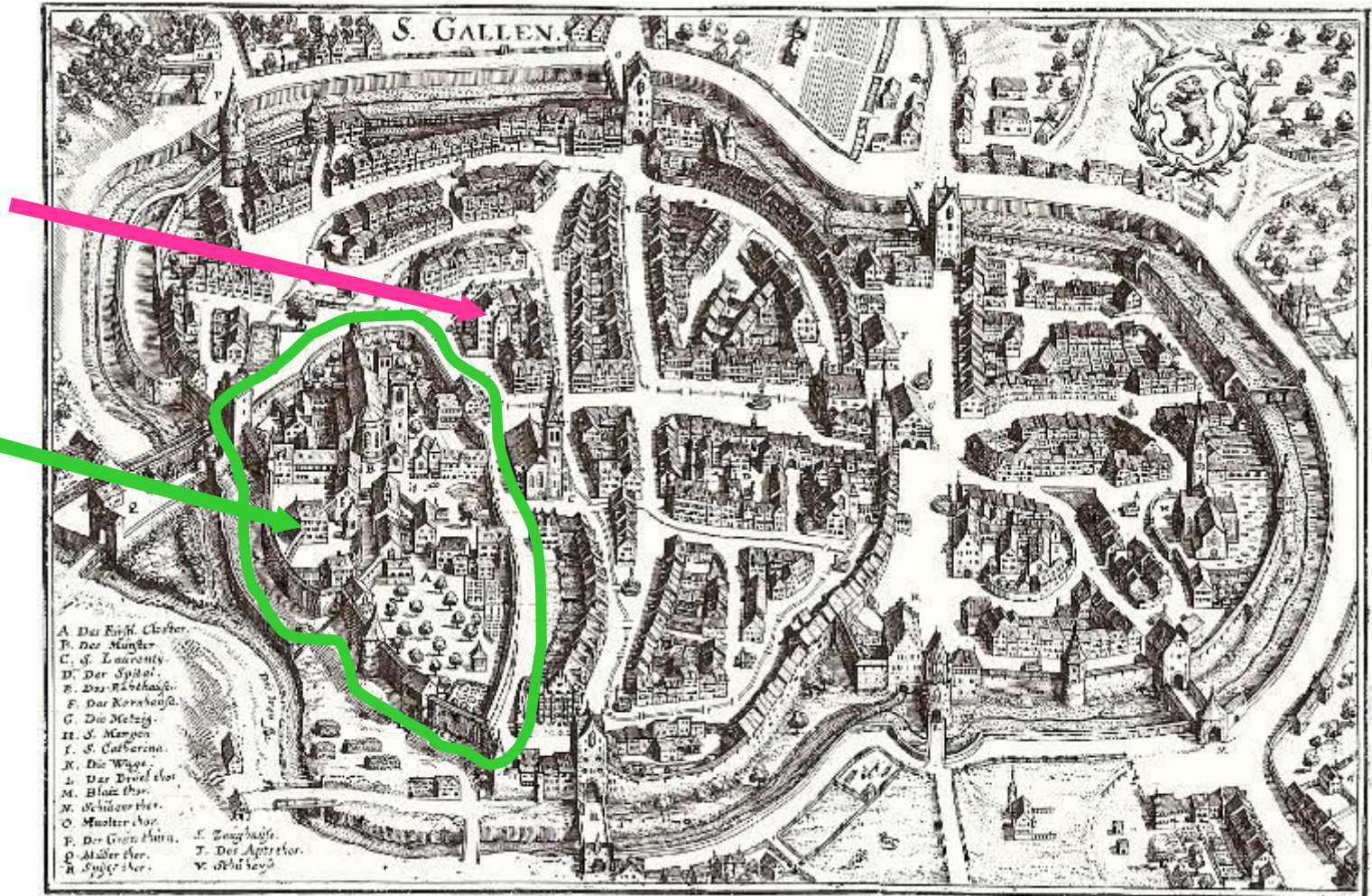




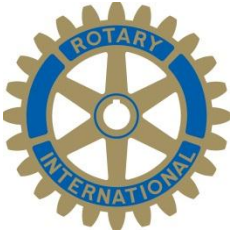
# History of the town of St.Gallen

Town House  
(Headquarter of  
the local Citizen's  
Community)

Monastery



St.Gallen 1642  
(Merian-Plan)



# History of the town of St.Gallen



- The fortifications of the medieval town were destroyed during the 19th century. The development of the town needed more space. The open fields were covered with new buildings. The surrounding villages also profited of the development of St.Gallen as the industrial centre of the region.



# History of the town of St.Gallen



- During several centuries, a clear distinction between citizens and other inhabitants of the town was made.
- The citizens participated in the common goods of the community and enjoyed political rights.
- Only after the French Revolution, („Liberté, Fraternité, Egalité“) the political rights became available for all inhabitants of the new born community of the town.



# Links...

- <http://www.ortsbuenger.ch/>
  - Website of the Citizen's Community of St.Gallen
- <http://www.stadt.sg.ch>
  - Website of the Administration of the Town of St.Gallen
- <http://www.rotarysg.ch>
  - Website of the Rotary Club of St.Gallen