

Conference and Training Centre  
Schloss Marbach GmbH  
78337 Öhningen, Germany  
Telephone +49 7735 8130  
Telefax +49 7735 813100  
E-mail [info@schlossmarbach.de](mailto:info@schlossmarbach.de)  
[www.schlossmarbach.de](http://www.schlossmarbach.de)

## Conference and Training Centre Short History



SCHLOSS MARBACH

**1291**

The Castle, which is more likely to have been a fortress at the time, was first mentioned in 1291, in the Chronicle of Reichenau Monastery. Abbot Albrecht of Ramstein stated: *in castro nostro quod Marbach dicitur* – in our castle, which is called Marbach.

**1365**

From this strategically well placed position, Berne's Barons of Brandis conducted raids, particularly on boats on the Rhine, so that this important trade route from and to Constance collapsed. Marbach Castle was an iniquitous den of robber barons, in which the burgomaster of Constance was kept prisoner for a long time.

**1369**

Constance merchants sailed up to the Castle in 18 boats. 400 men stormed the defences and burnt them down. Nine armed men alone defended the Castle successfully for some days, but then surrendered and were beheaded in Constance.

**1384**

Mangold of Brandis, now Abbot of Reichenau and Bishop of Constance, had Marbach re-erected.

**1387**

One Nikolaus Sattler of Ravensburg purchased Marbach Castle after Mangold of Brandis' death and acquired the Kehlhof estate a year later. Marbach Castle and Wangen were in one man's ownership for the first time.

**1409**

Nikolaus Sattler sold Marbach Castle to Baron Jakob I of Ulm, who came from a noble Constance family.

**1430**

In the course of conflicts between the patricians of Constance and the members of the guilds, Jakob II took the patricians' side and barricaded himself in Marbach Castle. The rebellious burghers of Constance stormed the Castle and laid waste to it.

**1461**

Owing to sheer neglect, Marbach Castle burnt down.

**1558**

As a consequence of the division of the estate, the properties of the Ulm family were split up. Marbach Castle was sold to the Augsburg patrician family, Peutingers.

**1581**

Count Ulrich Fugger, Lord of Kirchberg und Weissenhorn, purchased the Marbach properties from the Peutingers, albeit only on credit as the wealth of this branch of the Fugger family was already badly reduced at that time.

**1587**

Imperial commissioners had to settle Ulrich Fugger's debts. Marbach was returned to the Peutingers' heirs, from whom Count Jakob Fugger, the Dean of Constance Cathedral, repurchased it.

**1598**

Baron Kasper of Ulm contrived to repurchase the former property of his family. His son Ludwig, who held an influential position at the imperial court, obtained an imperial order whereby Marbach Castle had to be sold back to his family. After 1461 and 1570, Marbach Castle burnt down for the third time during the Thirty Years' War. For 300 years, the castle remained in the ownership of countless members of the Ulm family, who either inherited Marbach Castle, sold it to each other or took over its maintenance.

**1829**

The French Count de Grimaudet acquired the estate and had it improved and embellished at great cost. Today's foundations and external walls date back to this time. Ever since, the building has been known as Marbach Castle.

**1839**

Count Grimaudet died in his renovated castle and was buried in Wangen cemetery.

**1859**

Gallus Reglin, a merchant from Überlingen, purchased the Castle, including all the furnishings, at a price of 10,000 guilders.

**1860**

Marbach Castle was thus in the hands of a speculator: Reglin sold the property to Leopold Faller, a glass merchant from Lenzkirch, for 24,000 guilders.

**1863**

Marbach Castle, which had been stripped of its furnishings and generally neglected, was acquired by Johann Kasper Schmid, a chemist from Freiburg.

**1873**

Johann Kasper Schmid's widow sold Marbach Castle to Karl Heinrich Freidrich Kohler from Geneva for 15,320 guilders.

**1874**

Kohler sold the estate back to Elise Reglin, Gallus Reglin's widow, for 24,000 guilders.

**1880**

In a compulsory auction, Marbach Castle was acquired by the Constance Municipal Savings Bank and Orphans' Fund at a price of 10,000 marks. Four weeks later, this bank profitably sold the castle to Dr Arnold Krücke from Jena for 34,500 marks.

**1885**

The Castle was purchased at a price of 40,000 marks by Dr Wieckenbach, Royal Prussian Medical Officer from Stralsund.

**1888**

One Dr August Smith purchased the Castle for 48,000 imperial marks and established a very well attended clinic.

**1898**

The success of the health resort facilities increased the Castle's value. Dr Oskar Hornung paid no less than 250,000 imperial marks for the Castle. The building was extended to four floors. The clinic was transformed into a joint-stock company after additional purchases of property failed to result in the desired increase in value.

**1919**

After the First World War, during which war casualties were treated in the Castle, Dr Karl Lanz, a machine manufacturer from Mannheim, bought the estate as a birthday present for his wife, Gisela. He had the fairy-tale fountain built, remnants of which can still be seen in the park today. The figures represent the Lanz children.

**1924**

Marbach Castle burnt down to its external walls. Dr Lanz had it rebuilt, establishing a more generous layout of the interior.

**1941**

The widow of Dr Lanz, who had died in 1937, sold Marbach Castle to the Reich's tax authorities for 600,000 reichsmark. The Luftwaffe used the Castle as a convalescent home for officers.

**1945**

After the end of the war, the French army occupied Marbach Castle and used it as a convalescent home for soldiers; the park served as a camping site.

**1978**

France returned Marbach Castle to the German Federal Administration. The building and the 25-acre park are jointly used by the rural school hostel situated opposite and the nearby Protestant boarding school, Gaienhofen Castle.

