INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

Interview with Historian an Local Guide Robert Seegert

by Lara Regenspurger & Sarah Schürer
conducted in German and later translated into English

Q:
What were the local citizens' opinions on the building of the fortress?

A:
In general, it can be said that there have always been conflicts between the citizens and the prince bishop in the Early Modern Age and, thus, also at the building of the fortress. The citizens wanted to live independently in a city like the many imperial towns at the time. This led to multiple debates between the two parties. A good example is the Peasants' War of 1525, when citizens and farmers joined together to try and conquer the fortress.
Even though people were not really banished from the Marienberg when the original part of the fortress – the Marienkirche (Mary's Church) – was built, surely not all peasants that used to live in the space were allowed on castle grounds once the church was turned into a fortress. As a result, these people had to move to make space for the growing castle structures but could not move too far either, as they were dependent on the prince bishop's protection and someone to pay wages for their work.

Q:
There are many underground corridors underneath the fortress that most visitors do not know about. When were they built and what were they used for?

A:
Most of the corridors which are still existent today were only built in the 17th and 18th centuries. They were used to attack possible conquerors of the fortress without them realizing or seeing their attackers. Depending on their age, the corridors either have crenels for crossbows or bigger openings for rifles and cannons.
The oldest corridors were actually already built by 1525 and used to defend the fortress in the Peasants' War.

Q:
Were there any problems with people of other religions in the area? Especially Jewish people?

A:
Close to the fortress on the so-called Nikolausberg is a street named 'Judenbühlweg' (Jews-Hill-Road). Jewish people from outside Würzburg were not allowed to sleep inside the city's walls and were therefore forced to take a walk back home in the evenings – this road is named after them.