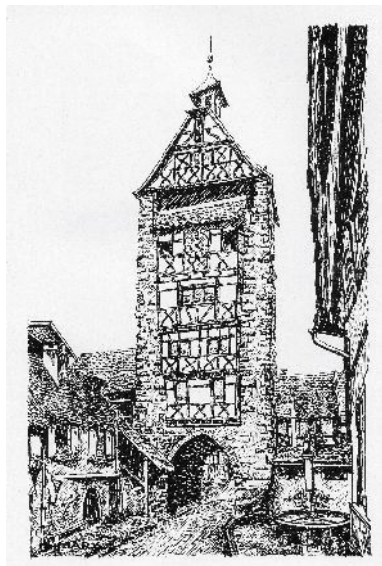


The Dolder museum

Labeled « Musée de France »



Symbolic of the city of Riquewihr, located at the top of the main street, the 25-meter tall **Dolder** was used as a watch tower ; it was built over the west gate of the medieval city, fortified in 1291. It looked forbidding on the enemy's side. It was converted into a dwelling place in the 16th century and its facade overlooking the city was decorated with timber enhancing the corbels.

Fifteen meters uphill, the outer gateway or **Barbican** was strengthened circa 1500, when the second wall was constructed in order to protect the city from firearms.

Classified Museum of France, the Dolder museum occupies the four levels accessible to the public. Very steep stone steps lead to the entrance. The staircase also leads to the walkway on top of the curtain walls. On

the first landing, the visitors are greeted by a lion bearing the arms of Riquewihr and of Horbourg since the earls of Horbourg owned the seignory before it was handed over to the counts of Württemberg.

The four levels are devoted to the wine-producing city of Riquewihr, fortified in the Middle Ages, and to its evolution from the 13th to the 17th century.

- ◆ Level 1: models and layouts show the city walls and their evolution (1291, 1500 and 1621); a few weapons (culverins or medium cannon defend the city; the walkway used to go through this room.
- ◆ Level 2: the weapons on exhibit (spears, halberds, pikes as well as harquebuses and culverins), recovered in 1888 from a barn, were used from the 15th to the 17th century... In the corridor, portraits of the counts and dukes of Württemberg.
- ◆ Level 3: part of the tower inhabited by the night watchman or the gate keeper from the end of the 16th century. Kitchen, usual utensils or appliances such as oil lamps, plate-warmers, Alsatian headdress, waffle irons ou Kugelhopf molds, coins, Renaissance locks, stove tiles...
- ◆ Level 4: dedicated to the watch over the city: the job of the night watchman, the fight against fires, the gate-keepers...

Together with the watchman, enjoy the outstanding view over the roofs of the city and toward the Alsatian plain... and afterwards, go and discover ancient Riquewihr.

Société d'Histoire et d'Archéologie de Riquewihr (F-68340)

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