



# KEHL TOWER

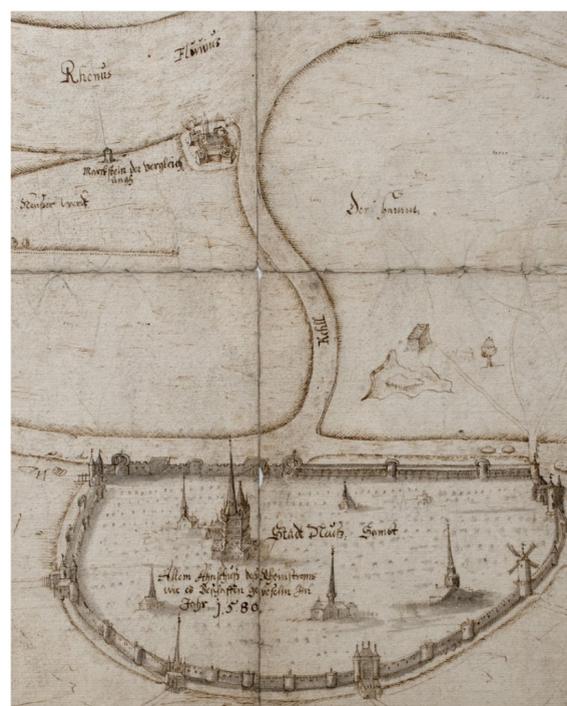
The Kehl Tower, built in the early 14<sup>th</sup> century together with the outer wall ring is the last surviving circular tower of the **medieval town fortifications**. Its name is derived from the 'Kehl' or 'Kalle', a branch of the Rhine that originates from the river's course change from the 12<sup>th</sup> century onwards. Coming from the direction of Hamm, it met here with the old river course, fed from the Obererft and known as Erft river or Erft canal. With its mighty 2-metre-thick walls and its 12-metre diameter, the tower was a strong **bulwark**. Later the massive towers was equipped with artillery pieces. At the outer town wall, it serves as a bastion to protect the **mooring site** below and the Kehl.



View to Brückstrasse with the Kehl Tower in the background; drawing, 17th century



View of the City of Neuss with the Basilica of St. Quirinus, the Zeughaus (*armoury*) and the Hessentor Bridge (looking from the Erft canal), the Kehl Tower to the left above the Erft canal, picture postcard, around 1920



Fortifications of the city of Neuss with the Kehl tributary flowing into the Rhine; hand-drawn map, 17th century

In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the tower passed into the possession of the neighbouring monastery of the Alexian Brothers on Brückstrasse. Following the area's destruction in World War Two, only the upper section of the buried Kehl Tower was uncovered again. In conjunction with the new **Romaneum** building and the uncovering of part of the town walls, it was restored in 2017 and opened to the public as part of guided tours. It houses a reconstruction of a medieval torture chair as well as the installations "Aleppo" and "Guantanamo" by the Neuss artist Wilfried Werbitzky.



The uncovered Kehl Tower with the Customs Office at Harbour Basin 1 (now: Haus am Pegel), around 1965

*(Sources and texts: Neuss municipal archives)*



View of the City of Neuss from the east, on the left edge the Kehl Tower prior to buildings erected on Brückstrasse; lithograph, around 1850