

## The Headquarters of CIVVIH

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The one-time Minor Provost's Palace, which now serves as the centre of CIVVIH is to be found in Eger, a historic town in the north-eastern part of Hungary. The town itself is a county seat, with about 60,000 inhabitants, and with a city centre built mostly in the Baroque style. Besides its wines, known in almost all parts of the world, and its fortress, which played an important role in Hungarian history, its medicinal baths and historic monuments are also famous.

The small palace, in which the headquarters of CIVVIH is to be found, is right in the centre of the town, next to the Basilica, which is the second biggest church of Hungary, and the main building of the Teachers' Training College, built in the 18th century, originally intended for a university.

Matthias Gerl is said to have been the designer of the building, and it was finished in 1758. The wall-paintings were completed in 1777. Those on the ceiling were executed by Johann Lucas Cracker. The Victory of Virtue over Sin; and by Jacob Huetter, The Allegories of the Four Continents, known at that time, and hunting scenes. One of the interesting features about the latter is that they are painted in oil, which is an

unusual technique in wall-paintings.

Unfortunately, after 1945 the building was misused, and grave damage had been caused so that it took five years in the end to restore the palace. Restoration Work was finished in 1989.

The whole palace is furnished with 18th-19th century furniture, part of which has been lent by museums, and the rest bought by the Hungarian National Board for the Protection of Historic Monuments. Upstairs, one of the rooms has been taken by the office of CIVVIH and the Amenity Society of Eger town, and another one will be used as a library. In the three halls on the street front, conferences, and meetings can be held and, at the same time, they can be used by the public. They are also used by the Local Authorities of the town for ceremonial occasions (for example the contract of becoming twin-towns with Arezzo (Italy) was signed here), and for receptions.

The cellar, houses the Association of the artists of Eger, which means that besides informal meetings, exhibitions by local painters, sculptors, architects and others are held there. Several exhibitions of the art students of the Teachers' Training college have been organized in the

rooms of the cellar.

On the ground floor, one room houses the permanent exhibition of the pottery artist Ms Ilona Kiss Rooz, and there are guest-rooms there as well. A dining-room serves the two double bedrooms, all of which are furnished with historic furniture. ICOMOS members visiting the town are welcome in our guest-rooms, the charge being one book for the library and 10 USD per room per night.