

Granary Office Dachau District Museum

History...

As early as the 13th century, reference was made to the “*Kastner*” (granary officer) in Bavaria. This term for the ducal tax officer comes from the days when the subjects’ taxes were mostly paid in kind, i.e., in produce, which was stored in the ducal “*Kasten*” (granary) at the castle.

In 1556 and 1562, Duke Albrecht V purchased two properties “*in the waste*” below Dachau Palace. There, he had a residence and office building built for his *Kastner*, Johann Schwankler.

After two centuries of wartime chaos (Thirty Years’ War, Wars of the Spanish and Austrian Succession), the dilapidated roof made from oak tiles was not the only concern. The whole office building had become derelict. Thus, in 1790, the Prince-Elector’s Court in Munich decided on a new building: a representative office building in the classicist style according to plans by Dachau’s palace architect, Anton Hergl (c. 1765–1819). On the façade facing the town, two oval stucco medallions commemorate the first owner of the building: Prince-Elector Karl Theodor and his consort, Elisabeth Auguste.

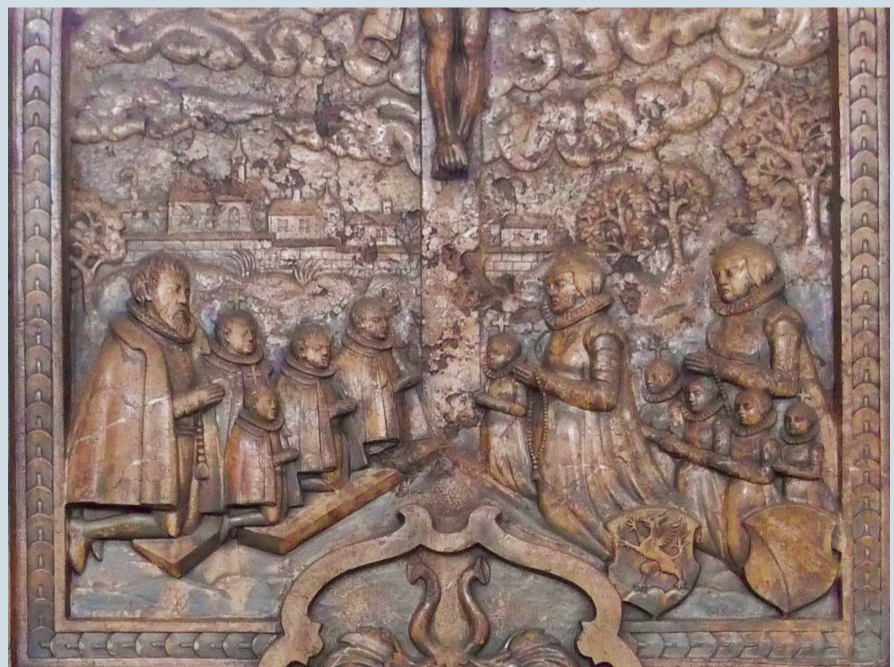
In 1803, as part of the administrative reforms of the Bavarian minister Maximilian von Montgelas (1759–1838), new tax districts were created, and the “*Kastenamt*” (granary office) became the “*Rentamt*” (revenue office).

The *pretty summer house* in the garden vanished in 1904/1905. In its place, the present rear building and connecting wing were put up.

Finally, in 1919, the “*Rentamt*” became the “*Finanzamt*” (tax office). When in 1985 the office moved to a new administrative block on Bürgermeister-Zauner-Ring, the “Dachau Galleries and Museums” association purchased the historic building and made it the site of the “Dachau District Museum” which re-opened in 1987.

... and a story

In St James’s parish church opposite there is a splendid epitaph in red marble commemorating the *Kastner* and palace administrator Georg Schwankler, who died in 1606, and his family. It shows a view of the town cut in stone, which may be the earliest depiction of Dachau.



Detail of the epitaph for Georg Schwankler in St James’s parish church, red marble, 1606 – The monument shows the *Kastner*, his wife Ursula and their descendants in front of what is probably the earliest depiction of the market town of Dachau.

The picturesque old town of Dachau with its 1200-year history features many sites of historical interest. Special buildings of prominence in the townscape are marked by these historical plaques.

Dachau historical plaques are a joint project by the town of Dachau and the Dachau District Museum.