

## THE STAUFERS AND ITALY



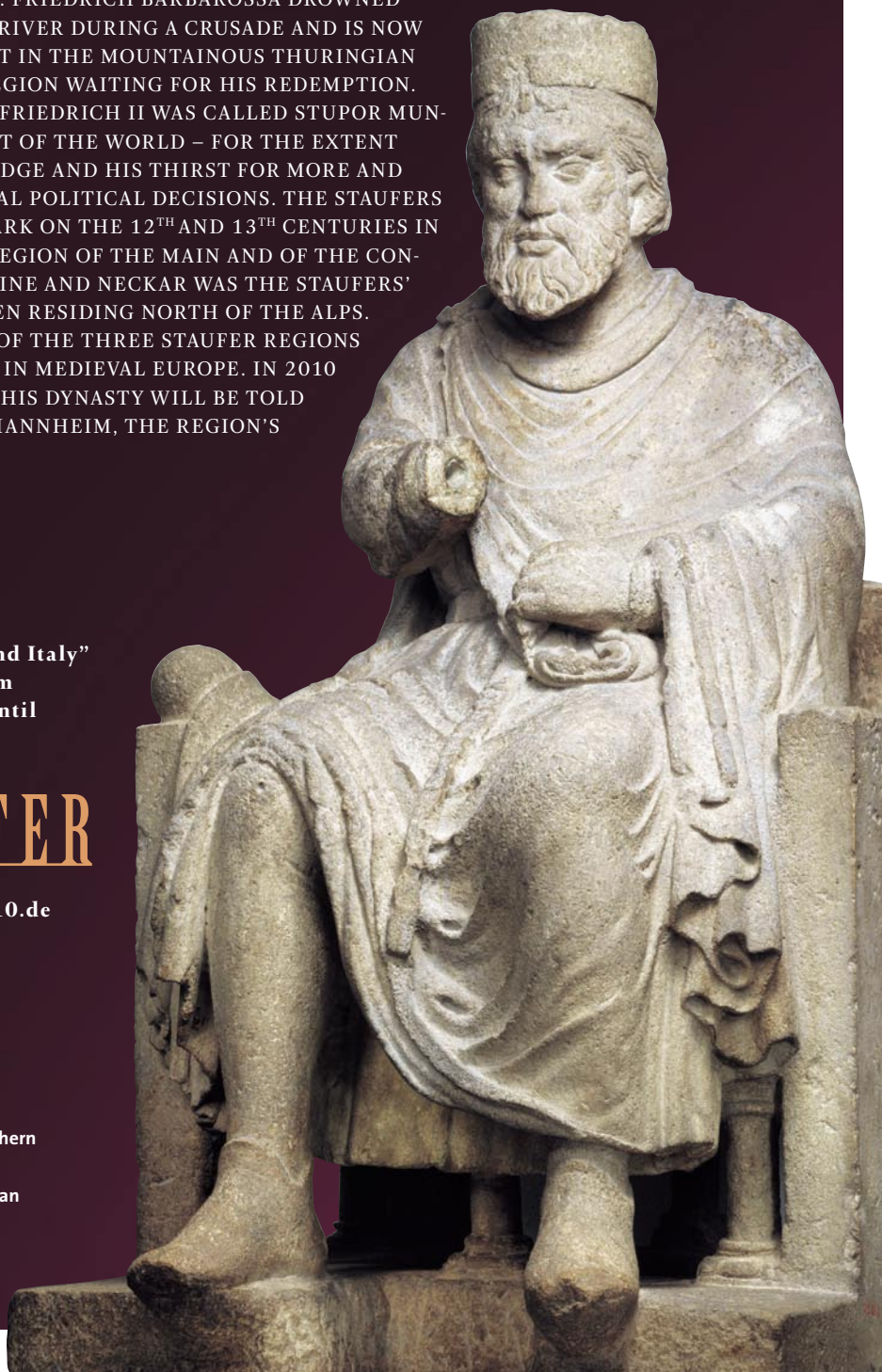
**THE STAUFERS AND ITALY – THREE REGIONS OF INNOVATION IN MEDIEVAL EUROPE.** THEY HAVE BECOME LEGENDS IN THEMSELVES: FRIEDRICH BARBAROSSA DROWNED IN THE SALEPH RIVER DURING A CRUSADE AND IS NOW THOUGHT TO SIT IN THE MOUNTAINOUS THURINGIAN KYFFHÄUSER REGION WAITING FOR HIS REDEMPTION. HIS GRANDSON FRIEDRICH II WAS CALLED STUPOR MUNDI – AMAZEMENT OF THE WORLD – FOR THE EXTENT OF HIS KNOWLEDGE AND HIS THIRST FOR MORE AND FOR HIS UNUSUAL POLITICAL DECISIONS. THE STAUFERS MADE THEIR MARK ON THE 12<sup>TH</sup> AND 13<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES IN EUROPE. THIS REGION OF THE MAIN AND OF THE CONFLUENCE OF RHINE AND NECKAR WAS THE STAUFERS' FAVOURITE WHEN RESIDING NORTH OF THE ALPS. HERE WAS ONE OF THE THREE STAUFER REGIONS OF INNOVATION IN MEDIEVAL EUROPE. IN 2010 THE STORY OF THIS DYNASTY WILL BE TOLD IN BEAUTIFUL MANNHEIM, THE REGION'S CENTRE.

The exhibition  
 "The Staufers and Italy"  
 will be held from  
 Sep 19<sup>th</sup> 2010 until  
 Feb 20<sup>th</sup> 2011.

DIE  
**STAUFER**  
 UND ITALIEN

[www.staufer2010.de](http://www.staufer2010.de)

Enthroned King, Northern  
 Italy, ca. 1230–1235,  
 New York, Metropolitan  
 Museum of Art



Left to right: Gold coin (Augustalis) Emperor Friedrich II, Brindisi, Italy, after 1231, Berlin, numismatic collection, Berlin Staatliche Museen  
Ivory case, Paris, 2<sup>nd</sup> third of 14<sup>th</sup> century, Vienna, Art-historical Museum  
Jupiter of the Capua Bridge Gate, 1234–1239, Capua, Museo Provinciale Campano



## “The greatest power of the Empire”

The Reiss-Engelhorn-Museums are by tradition the organisers of large exhibitions of the Middle Ages. “Europe’s Centre around 1000 A.D.” and “Saladin and the Crusaders” have been successful presentations in Mannheim. Now the museums turn to a different aspect of these eventful times, the Staufers and Italy.

In his description of Emperor Friedrich Barbarossa, Otto von Freising attributes a superlative to this Rhine-Main-Neckar region which explains why the Staufer emperors came here when they took up quarters north of the Alps: “Here,” the historian says, “is where the Empire’s greatest power is concentrated.” The rich flourishing cities of Northern Italy, such as Bologna and Milan, and the Kingdom of Sicily in Italy’s south were two important regions, the Rhine-Main-Neckar region was the third. Here many

important political, economic and cultural ideas originated. One can understand Otto von Freising associating the Rhine-Main-Neckar region with this influential area of Europe. Under Friedrich II’s rule, Sicily’s sciences and arts flourished immensely. The exhibition will highlight three regions that are comparable in their appeal, linked by a network of culture and the arts: A challenge for the Staufers in many different ways.

From 1138 to 1268 the rulers were: Konrad III, Friedrich Barbarossa, Philipp von Schwaben, Friedrich II, Heinrich VI, Heinrich (VII), Konrad IV, Konradin and Manfred. More than 100 years of the Staufer dynasty left traces of art and culture that are still visible today: Wimpfen palace, the reliefs of Porta Romana in Milan, Castel del Monte in Apulia. The reintroduction of a dynastic cult such as was found in antiquity resulted in many monuments of the Staufer rulers. The art of book writing produced not only magnificent volumes for church services, but also secular works, such as the book on falconry by Friedrich II. This was the era when a new architectural style was developed in France – later to be called the Gothic style. Europe entered a new era.

### INFORMATION MUSEUM

#### Reiss-Engelhorn-Museen (rem)

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**Opening times:** 19 Sep 2010  
– 20 Feb 2011: daily 11.00 –  
18.00 hrs (schools from 09.00  
hrs), special tours for groups  
after 18.00 hrs available on  
request

**Entrance fees:** Adults 12.00 –  
8.00 EUR, children (6–18) and  
students 8.00 EUR, families  
with children (2 adults +  
children (6–18) 18.00 EUR,  
schools and Kindergarten  
groups 3.00 EUR p. p.

**Guided tours:** Sundays 15.00  
hrs: 5.00 EUR/children 2.00  
EUR (in addition to normal  
entrance fee). School classes  
total of 30.00 EUR plus  
normal fee.

**Tours during normal opening  
hours** (20 pers. Max) 55.00 EUR  
plus normal fees;

**outside of opening hours**  
(20 pers. Max) 155.00 EUR  
plus normal fees. Schools and  
groups are requested to call  
ahead.

