



# *WORKS OF ART FROM THE BERNE CATHEDRAL CURRENTLY IN THE HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF BERNE*

**The Historical Museum of Berne, Helvetiaplatz 5, 3005 Bern**

Some of the Berne Cathedral's important furnishings and fittings are no longer in their original location. They were removed during the Reformation in 1528 or taken to safer places during recent restoration work. They are well worth a visit, particularly since their new settings in museums makes it possible to study them at close range.



Original figures from the main door

## **Original figures from the main door**

The life-size original standing figures on the main door were replaced by copies during major restoration work between 1964 and 1991. The well-presented originals make it possible to study not only the details of the surface treatment, the innumerable colour nuances and the patina, but also the high quality and the aura of some of the most important existing examples of 15<sup>th</sup> century sculpture.



A sculpture found in the Cathedral Platform, the head of a bishop with his mitre

## **Finds from the Cathedral Platform**

Sculptures found by chance during drilling operations in the Cathedral Platform in 1986 include some very interesting documents of late medieval sculpture. The intact surfaces of some of the extremely fine, and in part very expressive, individual examples provide valuable information about masonry and painting in late medieval sculpture, and they show that the Berne Münsterbauhütte carried on a lively cultural dialogue with leading European masons' centres before the Reformation. The exhibition was opened on 21.10.1999.



Detail from the third St. Vincent tapestry  
First picture: the body of St. Vincent  
abandoned to the wild animals (3)

## **Furnishings and documents from the Cathedral**

The Historical Museum of Berne accommodates a comprehensive collection of documents from the immediate vicinity of the Cathedral. The following are some of the most important exhibits:

- A 4.5 metre-high parchment sketch of the north tower of the Strasbourg Cathedral dating from before the laying of the foundation stone. It is one of the few examples of late medieval architectural drawing to have been preserved, and it originates from the scene of the first Bernese master mason's apprenticeship.
- The sketch by Niklaus Manuel Deutsch, known as the "screen sketch", is probably about a hundred years younger. It documents the first screen, which was constructed around 1500 and demolished in 1574.
- Four magnificent hangings, donated in 1515, depict the legend of St. Vincent, the Cathedral's patron saint. They are representative of the pre-Reformation church fittings.

Text: Christoph Schläppi, photos: from Machs na, Ein Führer zum Berner Münster, Christoph Schläppi, Bernhard Schlup, Berne 1993

**Further information:** Gesamtkirchgemeinde Bern / Münsterkirchgemeinde /  
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