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Rocky sights of Graz: Paleozoic guard-stones



Guard-stones are located at the foot of gateways or at corners of houses to prevent vehicle wheels from damaging the wall. They date back to the time of horse powered vehicles with wheels and the hubs protruding beyond the bodies of the carriages thus complicating to steer them accurately. To protect the walls guard-stones often are made of hard rocks featuring a sloping back to guide the wheels.



Graz has a lot of guard-stones, especially in the inner-city area. Most of them originate from the 19th century when the number of inhabitants increased rapidly causing great building activities. The oldest guard stones made of Paleozoic rocks date back to Renaissance period when Graz was the capital city of the Inner Austrian Countries (Styria, Carinthia, Krain, Görz, and Istria).

- Fig. 1: Sporgasse/Hofgasse; oldest Paleozoic guard-stone of Graz dated 1587; Kollerkogel Formation; Middle Devonian (Givetian)
- Fig. 2: Gateway in front of "Palais Brandhof", Brandhofgasse 5; mid-19th century; Steinberg Formation; Upper Devonian (Frasnian-Famennian)
- Fig. 3: Glockenspielplatz (Abraham-a-Santa-Clara Gasse/Enge Gasse); 18/19th century; Sanzenkogel Formation; Mississippium (?Tournaisium)
- Fig. 4: Schmiedgasse/Landhausgasse; last decade of the 19th century; Kollerkogel Formation; Middle/Upper Devonian (Givetian-Frasnian)
- Fig. 5: Heinrichstraße/Rosenberggürtel; Mid-18th century; Steinberg Formation; Upper Devonian (Frasnian-Famennian)
- Fig. 6: Paulustorgasse/Karmeliterplatz; second half 17th century; Kollerkogel Formation; Middle/Upper Devonian (Givetian-Frasnian)
- Fig. 7: Elisabethstraße/Brandhofgasse; presumably 18th century; Steinberg Formation; Upper Devonian (Frasnian-Famennian)
- Fig. 8: "Palais Thinnfeld", Mariahilferstraße 2; about 1740; Kollerkogel Formation; Middle/Upper Devonian (Givetian-Frasnian)
- Fig. 9: Brandhofgasse/Zinsendorfgasse; second half of the 19th century; Plabutsch Formation; Middle Devonian (Eifelian)
- Fig. 10: Gateway to house Heinrichstraße 41; end of the 19th century; Kollerkogel Formation; Middle/Upper Devonian (Givetian-Frasnian)
- Fig. 11: Gateway of house Halbärthgasse 2; second half 19th century; ?Plabutsch Formation; Middle Devonian (Eifelian)
- Fig. 12: Sonnenfelsplatz/Beethovenstraße; due to bad preservation date of fabrication unknown; ?Plabutsch Formation; Middle Devonian (Eifelian)

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