

Seniorenkolleg an der TU-Chemnitz Projektgruppe "Morethan Neighbours"



Excursion along the river Zschopau at 2011 November 05

(Written by Harry Weiner, December, 23, 2011)

For our report "Hydropower along the river Zschopau through the Ages" members of the project group visited during sunny weather some different locations from the community Waldkirchen to the town Flöha. We started in Flöha and went by train "Erzgebirgsbahn" to Waldkirchen



We started in the "community Waldkirchen" with the "Rolle-Mill" The first documentary mention the mill occurs around 1563 in neighborhood of a blue dye factory. There has always been a mill for grain bread. At the beginning of the operation it was driven by hydro water power. Two existing water power station drive the mill presently – one is situated on the weir directly and the other one is inbuilt in the mill.



After a distance of 1,5 km we came to the village Witzschdorf. This community has stamped by a middle large textile factory, at first a spinning mill for cotton and later producer of sewing cotton. All the total period a hydro water power station was integrated. The company for sewing cotton was canceled in 1992. The existing fabric has been changed to a commercial center, some several find of companies have been located. The modernized hydropower station is again in operation



We hiked down the river toward in the direction to the community Hennersdorf. To our surprise along our way we found further places for using of hydro water energy. At one place we saw remnants of a possible former water power station, but all things were rotted. Next to the lane we discovered a small factory hidden in the forest. It is a producer for parts of water power stations and has been running an own small hydro water power station.

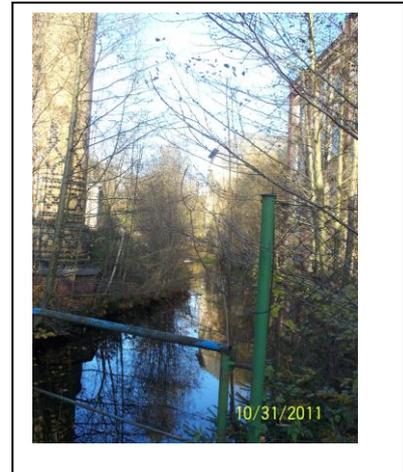


Our next station was the village Hennersdorf. More than 200 years this village has been stamped by a cotton mill. There has been one of the two Remark in Saxony, namely a covered wooden bridge. The cotton mill is out of work, the main building was changed to a residential- and office building. In the former production buildings is settled a company for wood processing. The modernized hydropower station is again in operation and supply the wooden company with electro energy.



In vain we were looking for a restaurant for lunch, then we were a little bit hungry and thirsty yet. But nothing!

In this village there was no restaurant.
Therefore we continued our way through the village Kunnersdorf.
Where we didn't discovered any former places for the using
of water power.
Along the river we attained the community Erdmannsdorf,
Once a thriving and wealthy town on the foot of the well known
hunting chateau Augustusburg.
Three large textile companies existed, a large cotton mill,
a company for producing of imitation leather and
a twisting mill
Today a totally sad sight, only ruins are still visible.
The former water power equipment's were rebuilt during the
time of the GDR. Weir and inlet and outlet channels, vans are rotted



After the lunch in the restaurant "Erbgericht" we started to

our last stage on the right side of Zschopau to the town Flöha,
by the way, the longest stage.
We came over to the rebuilt hydro power station in "Plaue/Flöha"



On way to the car park at the railway station in Flöha, we passed
the "Alte Baumwollspinnerei" former named "Spinning mill Plaue".
Once the largest and leading cotton spinning mill in Saxony
It is a ruin today, apart from the former administration building,
which has been reconstructed for the purposes of the
municipality.



Resume: We discovered five hydro water power station in operation.
But more than 90% of previous production capacity were
totally destroyed.

(Foto by Weinert)