

Welcoming words

As Director of the State Palaces and Gardens of Hesse, it is a great pleasure for me to present this conference proceedings to a wider public and the scientific community. As the first enlisted World Heritage Site in Hesse, the former Lorsch Monastery has been generating a great deal of interest for decades and attracts tens of thousands of visitors every year. For more than ten years, the Lauresham Open-Air Laboratory has uniquely complemented the overall concept of the World Heritage Site and is both a place of education and research. The fact that in March 2024 we were able to welcome more than 126 people from 20 countries to the World Draft Cattle Symposium, underlines the importance that the Open-Air Laboratory has developed in the field of draft cattle. As a direct outcome, the State Palaces and Gardens and Lauresham Open-Air Laboratory established a Center for Draft Cattle Research and Education on site in Lorsch. Just as the Open-Air Laboratory itself, we expect that this conference proceedings will continue to stimulate international efforts and actively contribute to this important field.



Kirsten Worms

Director of the State Palaces and Gardens of Hesse

