

## The Monument

The group of figures to the left comprises two train-bearing princes, Margrave Rüdiger, and Kriemhild; the one to the right consists of King Etzel, his brother Bleda and the kings Dietrich von Bern and Gibich. The child is a reference to the progeny of Etzel and Kriemhild.



The interlacing water jets in the fountain are meant to symbolize the connection between East and West. The opened book refers to the fact that this epic is handed down in written form. The right-hand page is empty – the future is still an unwritten page. The bronze figures were produced using a hollow casting technique. They are the work of the sculptor Michail Nogin; the fountain was designed by Hans Muhr. The monument was unveiled in the summer of 2005.

It is situated just 250 meters from Hauptplatz (the main square) directly on Donaulände (the Danube promenade) at the north end of Nibelungenplatz. Two other monuments worth noting along the promenade are the ones commemorating Egon Schiele and Marcus Aurelius.

## Tulln – A Town of Gardens and Art

Tulln is a district seat in Lower Austria and a center of commerce, culture and recreation with so much to offer. It is known far and wide for its trade fairs and its biotech university. GARTEN TULLN, Europe's first ecological garden show, features more than 65 show gardens. The sidewalks, bike paths and waterways running next to the fairgrounds take visitors in just minutes to the Danube, the lovely Donaulände (Danube promenade) and the historical Hauptplatz (main square). The Egon Schiele Museum Tulln is devoted to the childhood years and works of the internationally famous painter, who was born in Tulln in 1890. The Roman Museum is a silent witness to the origins of Tulln 1,900 years ago as a fort for the Roman cavalry. Visitors will not want to miss the following sights: Roman Tower (one of the oldest structures in Austria), Romanesque charnel, St. Stephen's parish church, Baroque Church of the Friars Minor.

### Information



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# TULLN/DONAU

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## Monument to the Nibelungs



Tulln is lovelier!

## The Lay of the Nibelungs

King Gunther of Burgundy had defeated mighty Queen Brunhild with the help of the fearless Prince Siegfried and his cloak of invisibility. In exchange, Siegfried was allowed to wed his beloved Kriemhild, Gunther's beautiful sister. But Siegfried's conduct in bringing about Brunhild's submission remained obscure. Later, the two women, now both queens, got into a quarrel. Kriemhild publicly revealed that an invisible Siegfried had taken Brunhild's virginity. Furious, Brunhild turned to her husband's most loyal vassal Hagen, who then treacherously murdered Siegfried. King Gunther failed to avenge this murder and Hagen seized Siegfried's immense horde of gems and gold.

Kriemhild was bent on revenge. When great



King Etzel (aka Attila the Hun) wooed her, she married him in the hope his power would enable her to carry out her plans for revenge. She invited her brothers to come to the Land of the Huns with their courtly entourage,

luring them to their own destruction. Hagen was the only one to see through Kriemhild's real intent. Unable to do an end to him, her mortal enemy, by herself, she had all Burgundians and her royal brothers killed in a bloody massacre. Many Hunnish and German vassals



of King Etzel also died in this battle, however. In the end, Hagen died, too, at the hand of Kriemhild after refusing to reveal where he had hidden the treasure.

But Kriemhild did not survive her bloody victory. Old Master Hildebrand could not bear to watch heroic Hagen slain by a woman and dealt Kriemhild a deadly blow with his sword.



The author of this most famous heroic epic may have been a contemporary of Walther von der Vogelweide, a poet who lived in the Danube Valley between Passau and Vienna. The Lay of the Nibelungs was set in Worms, Germany, in Pöchlarn, Traismauer, Tulln and Vienna, Austria, and lastly in Etzel's castle, based on the historical Arpad

Castle in Estergom, Hungary. The work was written around 1200.

## Setting

Traveling from Traismauer in the latest leg of her bridal journey to the Land of the Huns, Kriemhild met up with King Etzel and his retinue in Tulln. The meeting was replete with the poetic details of royal life around 1200. Kriemhild dismounted her horse. Two princes picked up her train, and Margrave Rüdiger, the old friend who had accompanied her, introduced her to King Etzel and his liegemen, both Hunnish and Germanic. In honor of the future queen, Etzel had a tournament staged in the Tulln Basin with thousands of men-in-arms from far and wide. The poet devoted a hundred verses to this event. From Tulln, the party moved on to Vienna, the site of the wedding celebrations.

The poet's decision to have Kriemhild and Etzel meet in Tulln shows the significance of the town around 1200. Another factor in the poet's mind may have been that the border between the East (Hungary) and West (the German lands) had run through this town 250 years earlier.

