

Summary

Lutzeren – Lucerna. The two Transmitted Forms of the Name Luzern

Within the research project „Luzerner Namenbuch“ (Lucerne Place Name Dictionary) the basic evidences of the name of *Luzern* have been re-examined and extended. Two different forms of traditions can clearly be traced: It is in a Carolingian charter of 840, the so-called „Lotharurkunde“ that the name *Luzern* is mentioned for the first time, namely *monasterium Luciaria*. In the „Luzerner Traditionsrodel“ (book of traditions), dated today to the 12th century and originating from the conventual chancellery, the name of the place appears as *Lucerna*. The content of this list, however, refers to events going back to the 9th century.

The older and probably more original form *Luciaria* leads first to *Lucerra* and then to *Lützeren*. The latter seems to be the basis for compounds of place names and water names like *Luttermatt*, *Lutzerweg*, *Lutzersee* and *Lutzerbach*. For this name Celtic, Romanic as well as German-alemannic explanations were brought forward. The younger form *Lucérna* > *Lucérne* > *Luzérn* has its roots in the Latin-monastic tradition. In this context the name *Luciaria* > *Lucerra* was re-interpreted as coming from Latin *lucerna* ‚lantern‘ and thus connected to a light-miracle near the actual conventual church. Both forms co-existed for centuries before the Latin-monastic form prevailed in the name of the town *Luzern*.