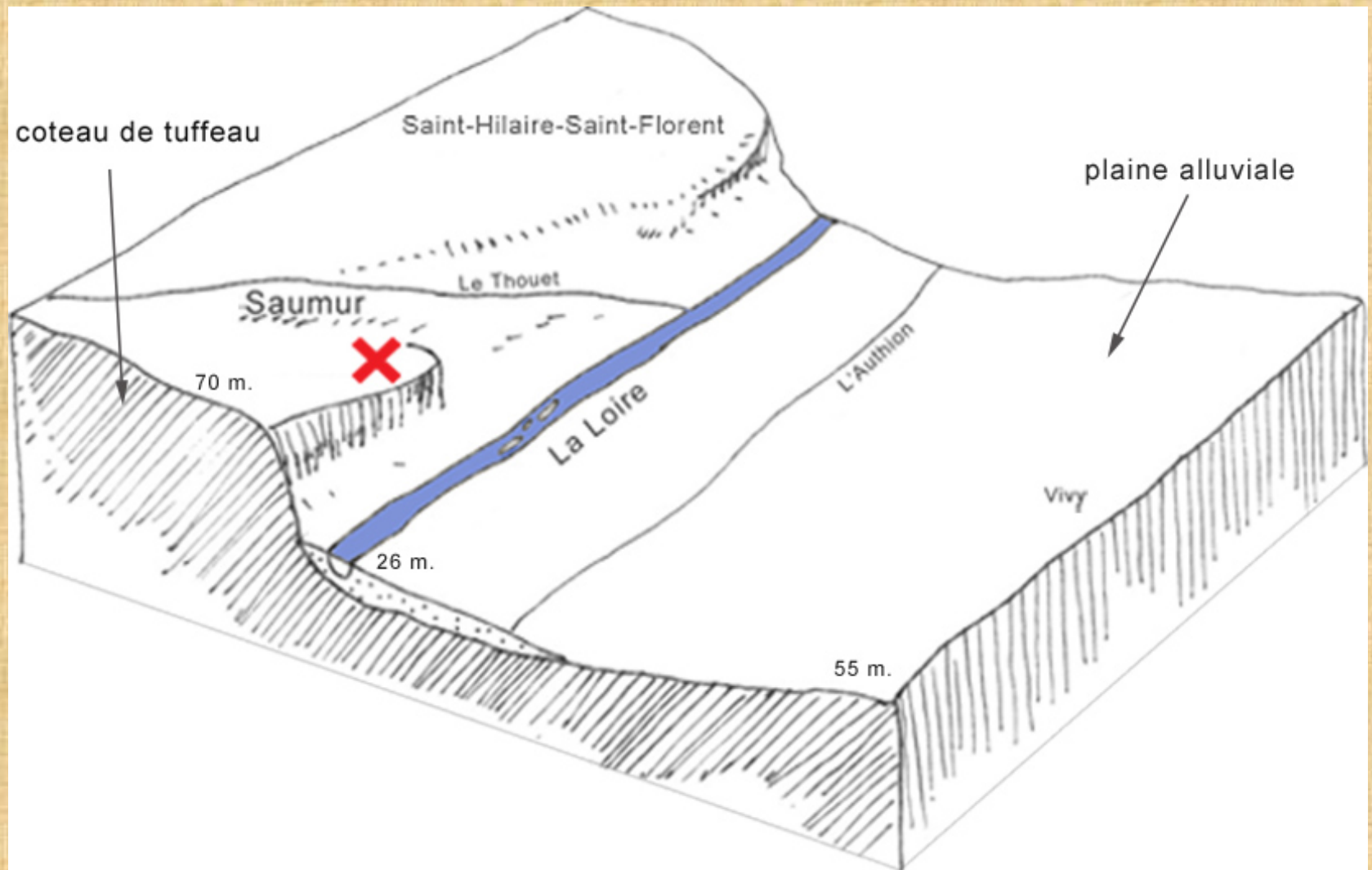


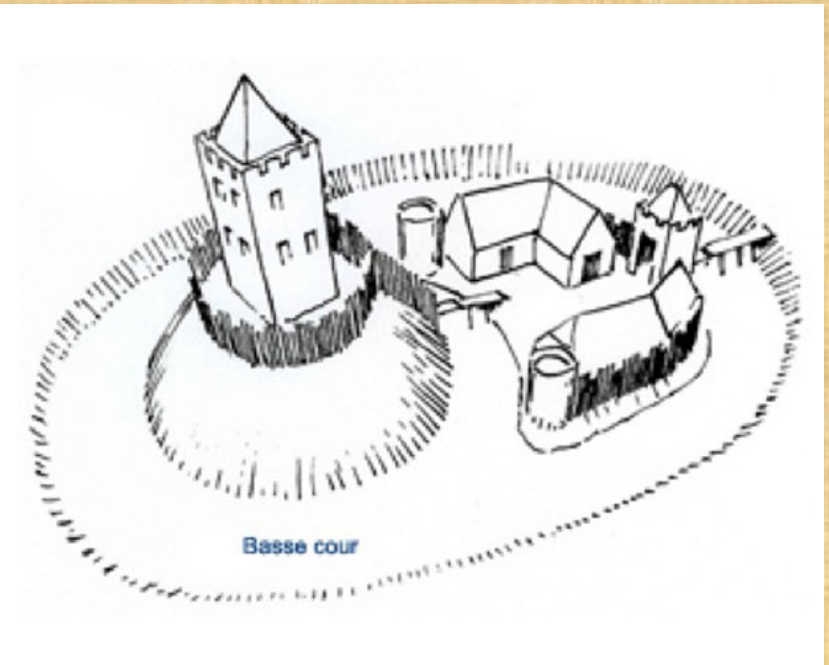
Saumur : castle and town



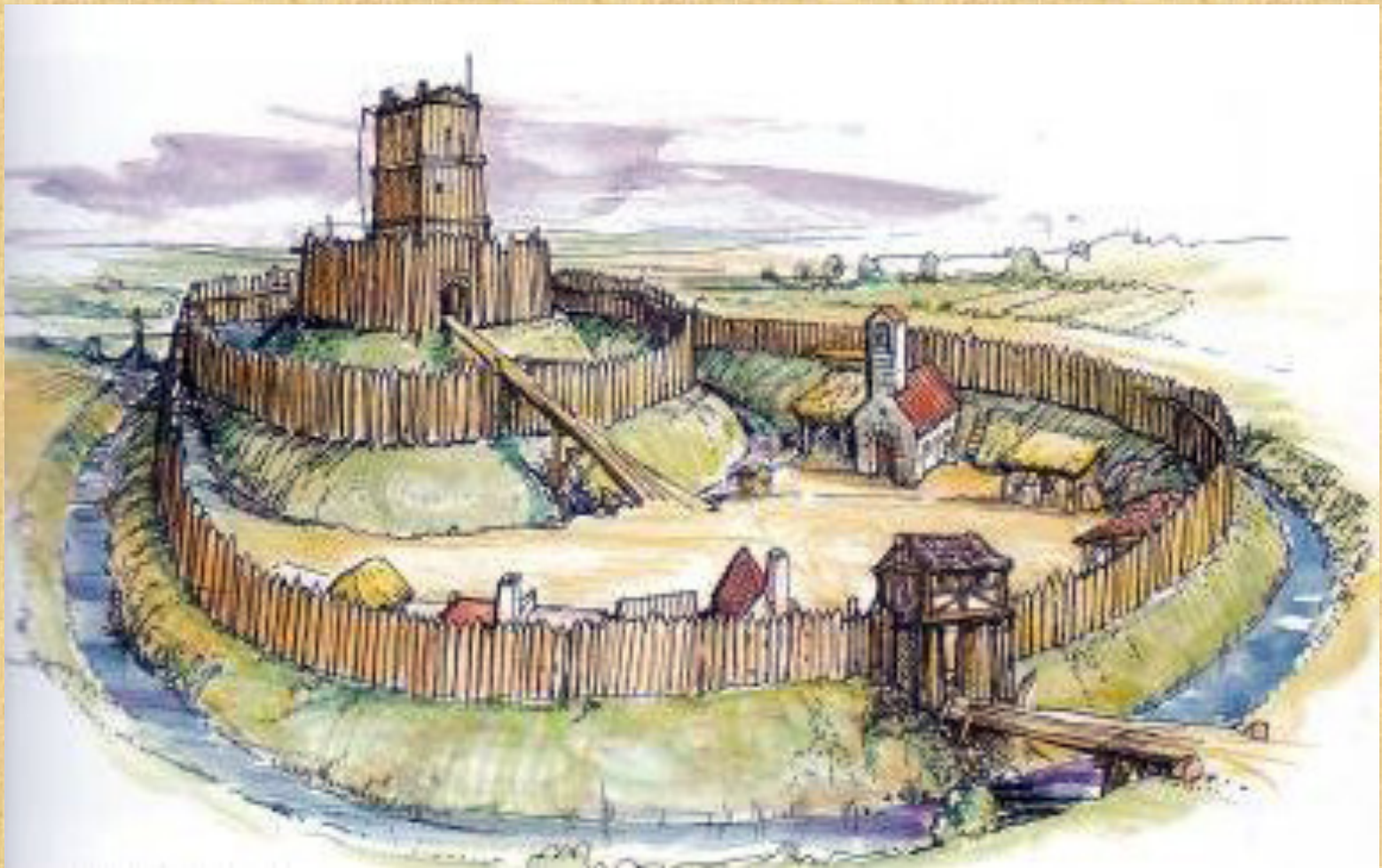




There was nothing on the rocky promontory before the 9th century, no Roman town, no burial place, although it was a particularly strategic and protected place...



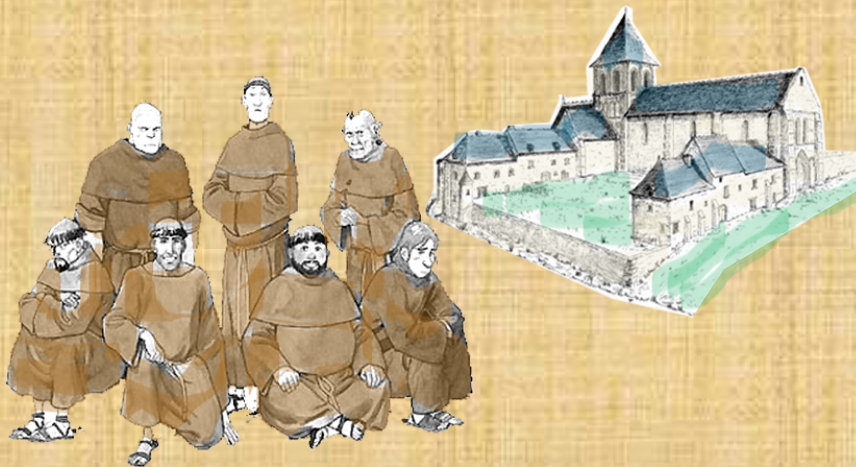
10th century : the count of Blois had a wooden castle built to protect his rocky promontory from the attacks of his neighbour and enemy, the count of Anjou. This place was the limit between both counties.



This is what the castle looked like at the end of the 10th century



When Vikings sailed inland on the Loire river...



...monks coming from a monastery near Nantes (closer to the Atlantic Ocean) asked the count of Blois for a shelter.

They built a new monastery near the castle (a small part of it still remains today).



Early 11th century : the count of Anjou (who was the count of Blois' neighbour and enemy) eventually took the place, burnt the wooden castle and built a square stone tower instead. This count of Anjou, Fulk III, was an ancestor to King Henry II Plantagenet...

11e siècle



12e siècle



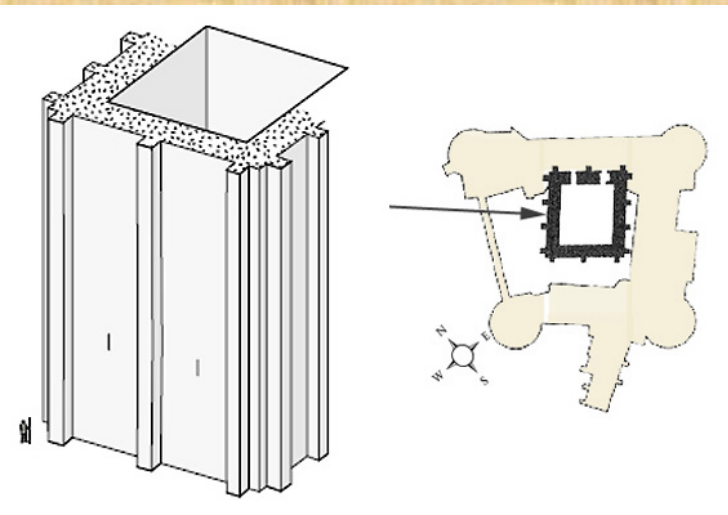
13e siècle



13e siècle



0 50m



13th century : a fortress was built around the square tower, then the fortress was turned into a beautiful castle and the tower was destroyed, because it took too much space in the middle of the courtyard.

The 13th century was built by French king Philip Augustus.

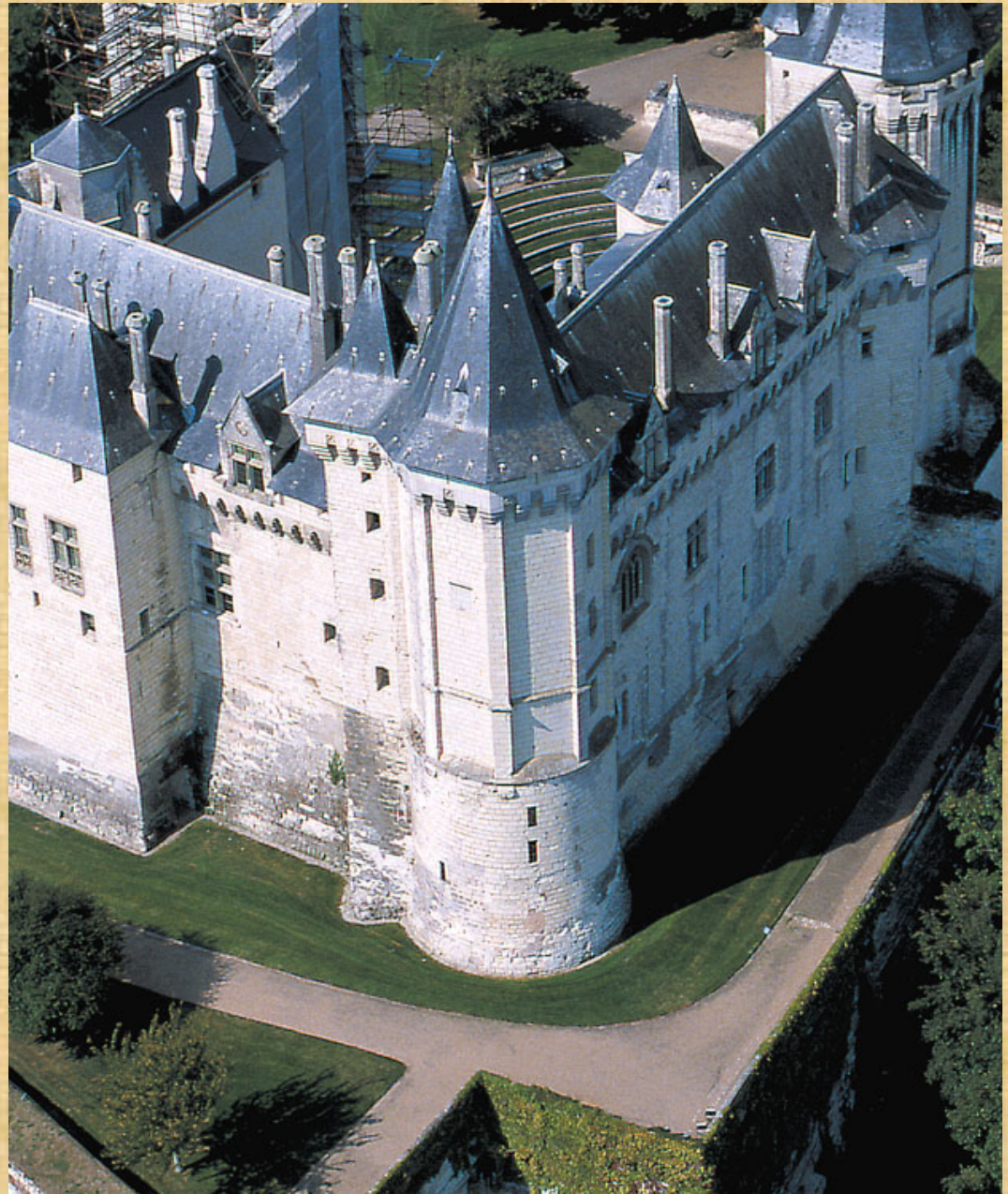
The beautiful castle was built by Dukes of Anjou.

The last one was René of Anjou, whose daughter Margaret married king Henry VI of England in the 15th century...

This is what the castle looked like in the 15th century

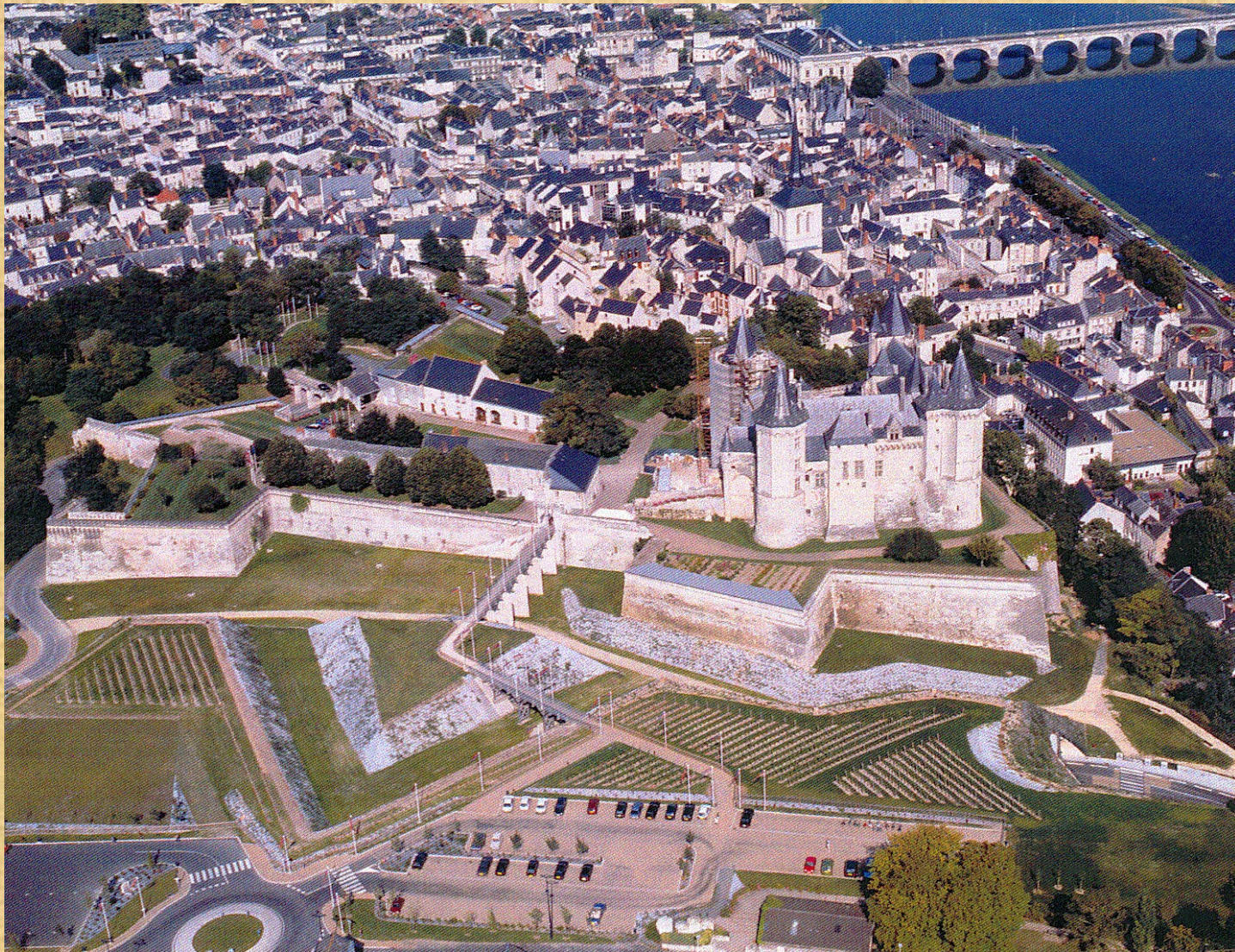


The round base of the towers
is what remains of the fortress

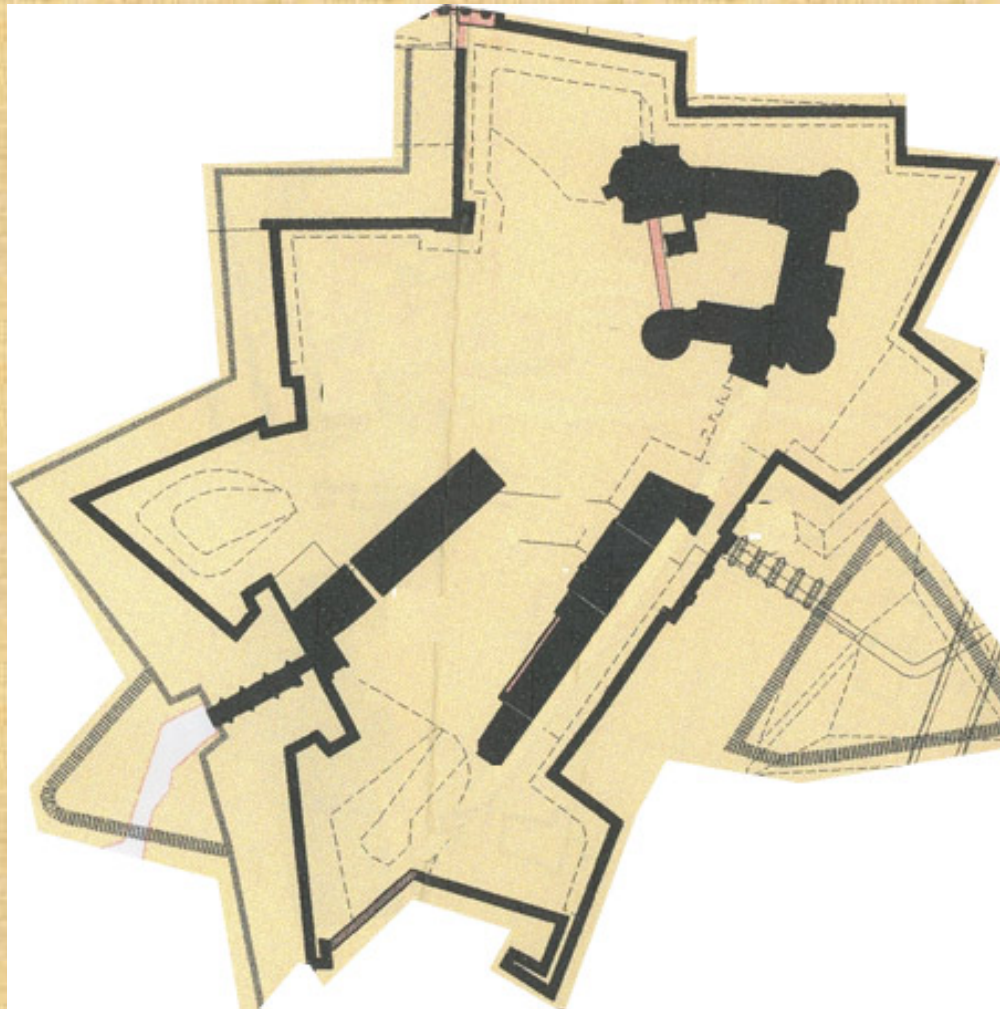






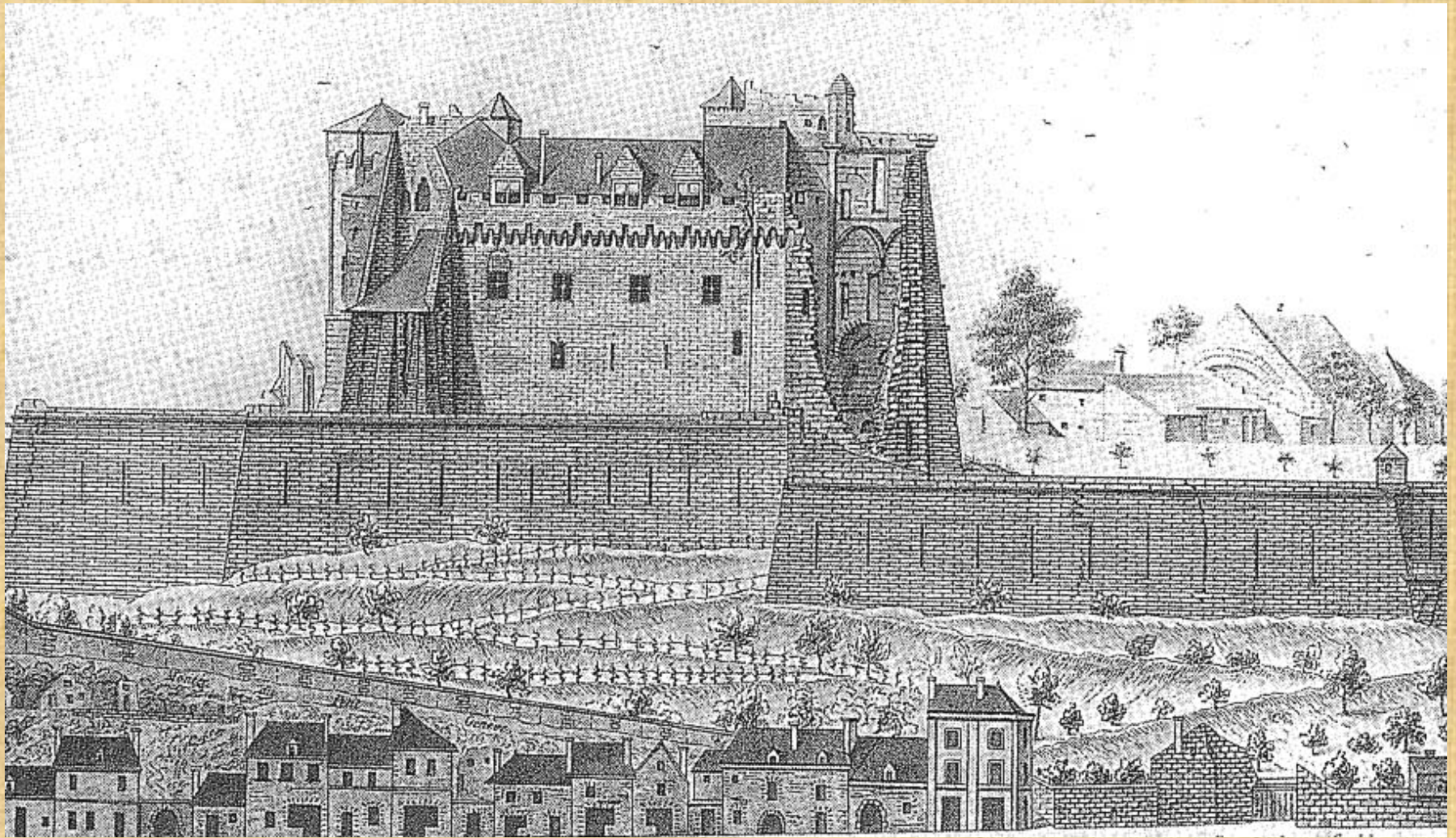


16th century : a wall was built to protect the castle (religious wars)

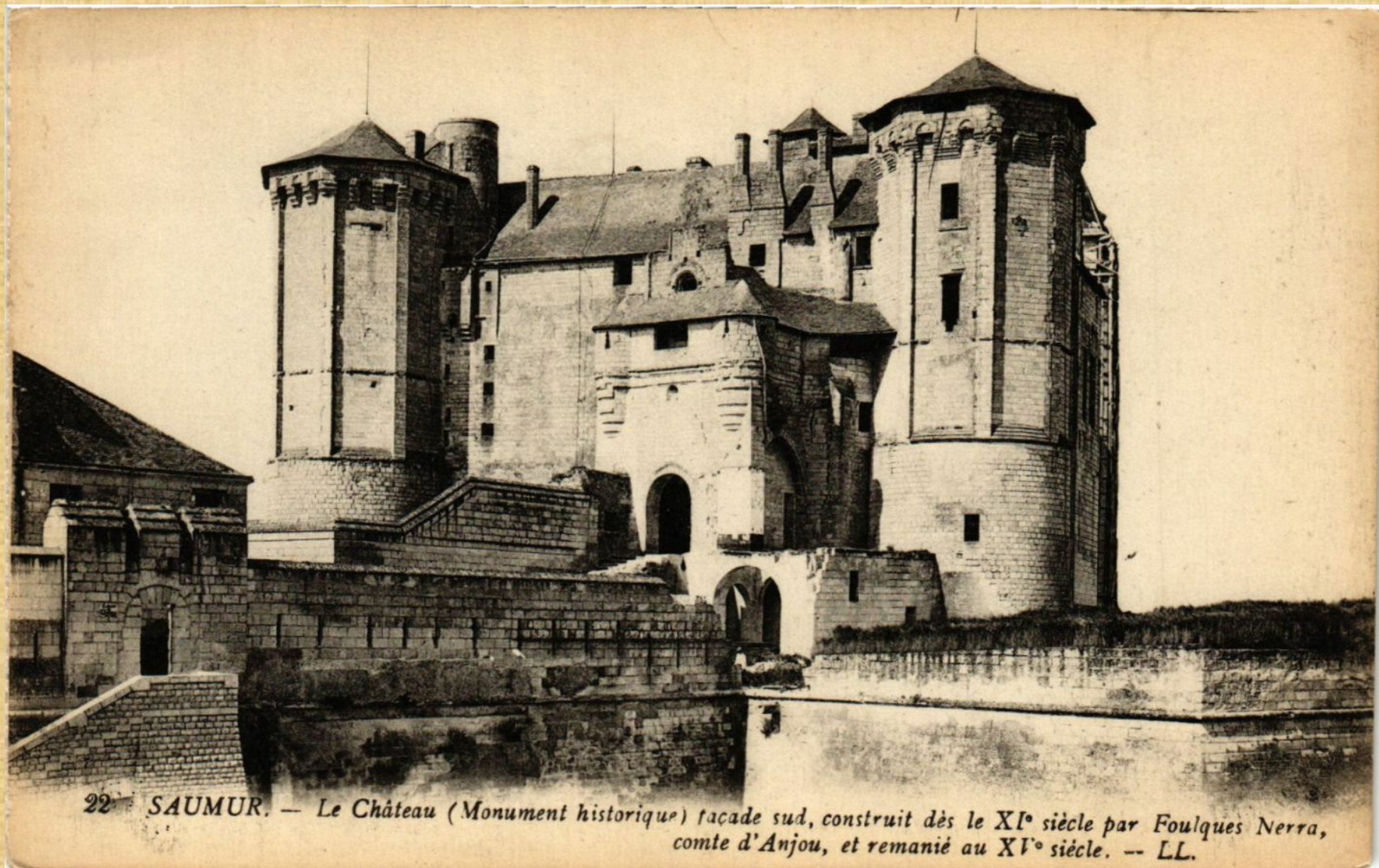


16th and 17th centuries : the castle was a military place with a permanent garrison





18th century : the castle was still a military place and became a prison for a short time



22 SAUMUR. — Le Château (Monument historique) façade sud, construit dès le XI^e siècle par Foulques Nerra, comte d'Anjou, et remanié au XV^e siècle. — LL.

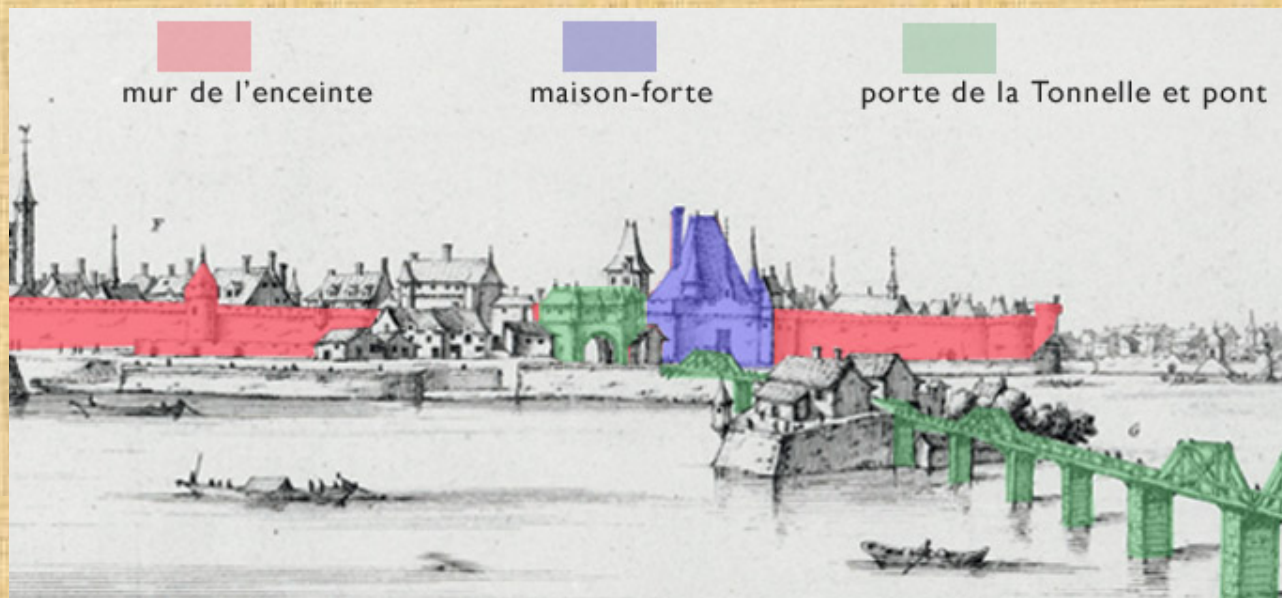
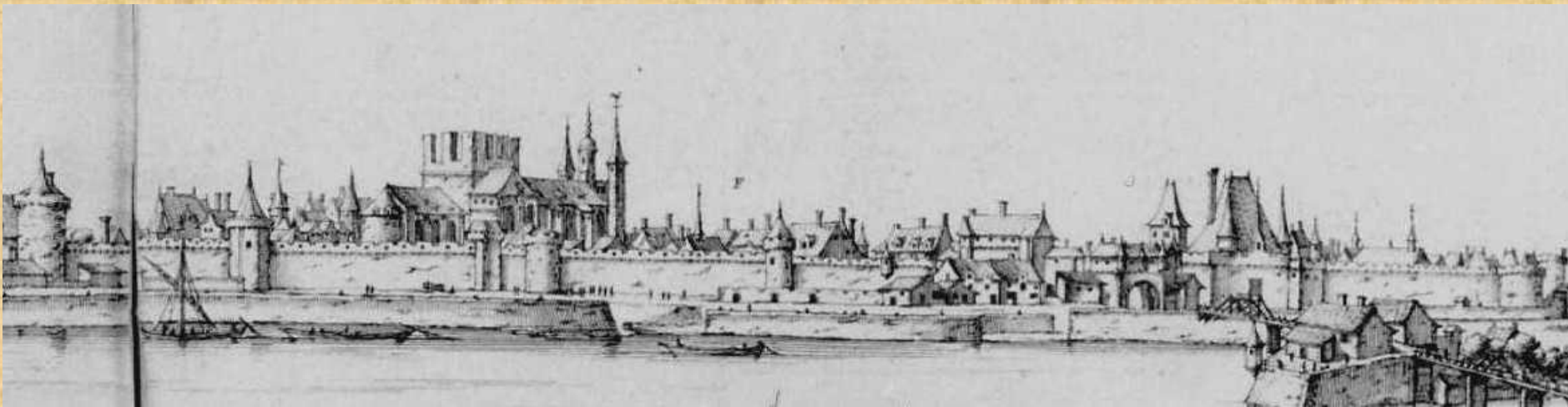
In the early 20th century it became a museum. Restoration works started.



Now, this is what the castle looks like



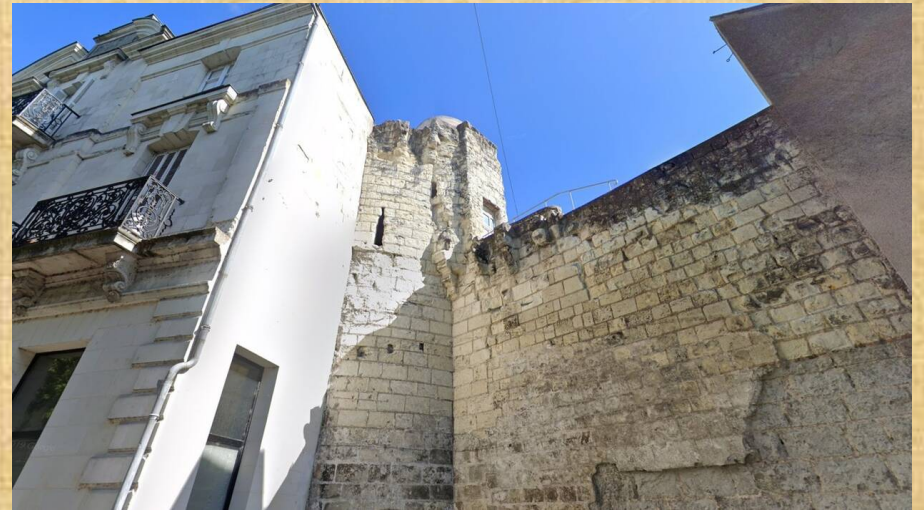
The town developed at the foot of the protective fortress, and extended westwards in later centuries



In the 15th century, the town was surrounded by city walls with 20 towers and 5 gates



Parts of the
medieval
fortifications are
still visible today





The town hall : the neogothic building on the right is a 19th century addition – the massive tower on the left is a 15th century tower protecting the entrance to the town. Nowadays, it is still used ; it is the council hall...



Place saint Pierre, centre of the Medieval town





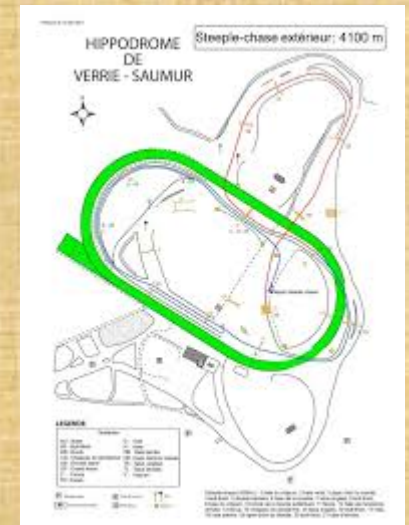
The modern town developed in the 18th and 19th centuries, after the destruction of the medieval city walls





The Cavalry school was created in the 18th century





Saumur is also famous for its racecourse. The first races started in 1850 near Saumur, and the land for the racecourse was bought in 1877. The first races were only for military horsemen. Then after 1947, non military horsemen would participate. The racecourse was renovated in 1973.





Balloons over the Loire river and bike festivals are quite popular





Thank you for your attention ☺