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Řídí Václav Ledvinka a Jiří Pešek

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Sestavili Olga Fejtová, Michaela Hrubá, Václav Ledvinka, Jiří Pešek
a Ludmila Sulitková s redakční radou

STÄDTE IM MITTELALTER UND IN DER FRÜHEN NEUZEIT ALS FORSCHUNGSTHEMA IN DEN LETZTEN ZWANZIG JAHREN

Abhandlungen und erweiterte Beiträge der 30. wissenschaftlichen Konferenz des Archivs
der Hauptstadt Prag, veranstaltet am 11. und 12. Oktober 2011
im Palais Clam-Gallas in Prag

Zusammengestellt von Olga Fejtová, Michaela Hrubá, Václav Ledvinka, Jiří Pešek
und Ludmila Sulitková in Zusammenarbeit mit dem Redaktionsrat

TOWNS AND CITIES IN THE MIDDLE AGES AND THE EARLY MODERN PERIOD AS A RESEARCH TOPIC OVER THE PAST TWO DECADES

Papers and expanded works from the 30th Research Conference of the Prague City Archives,
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Compiled by Olga Fejtová, Michaela Hrubá, Václav Ledvinka, Jiří Pešek
and Ludmila Sulitková with the editorial board

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SUMMARY / ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

OLGA FEJTOVÁ

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JAN KLÁPŠTĚ, The archaeology of cities in the Czech lands. A brief review of two decades (pp. 47–65)

Following 1989, an entirely new structure of urban archaeology began to be created in the Czech lands with the involvement of institutions of various type and focus. The archaeology of medieval urban areas in the country found itself in a situation comparable to many other European countries. Field excavations resulting from construction and other activity are conducted at a fast and demanding tempo. These excavations have produced vast assemblages of information that cannot be positively evaluated once and for all. A concept is being promoted in which collections are made available in find reports and are then studied again according to additional systems of questions. Bibliographic surveys of urban archaeology contain long lists of publications from the past two decades. Topics that have been addressed over the long-term include the urbanisation of the Czech lands, the study of the areas surrounding castles and the research of other Early Modern period structures. A primary archaeological topic is original spatial behaviour and early 'urban' construction, be it from wood, earth or stone. Thanks to the reconstruction of public spaces, numerous works on this part of archaeology have also been produced in this country, many on the subject of the everyday life of the medieval town or city. However, it is precisely in this case that closely following the archaeological lines would be particularly misleading. Instead, credit for the unusual increase in learning possibilities goes to fields dealing with 'archaeological ecofacts,' especially archaeobotany, archaeozoology and palynology. Czech archaeology has also finally discovered the subject of relationships between the urban area and its surrounds.

Nevertheless, the future of archaeology requires the systematic development of two communication tasks transcending narrow specialised boundaries. First of all, urban archaeology cannot successfully function without a systematic dialogue with the broader public. The second task is aimed at an interdisciplinary assessment of research and social science and natural science fields contributing to the study of medieval urban areas.

IVAN HLAVÁČEK, On Czech research into Bohemian medieval cities after 1989 (pp. 67–93)

The research of urban history has enjoyed long-term popularity. Due to the fact that amateurs have at times also contributed to such research, the results are varied. Nevertheless, the work of lay historians need not be discounted, since they often had access to sources that no longer exist today. With regard to the manner in which they were published, it is necessary to maintain a certain degree of circumspection.

The period following 1989 was marked in general by dynamic development, especially in the field of historiography. This is particularly true for the study of urban areas, since many (though not all) local and regional authorities act as patriots and ‘cultivate’ their own history. This also concerns the Middle Ages, i.e. a period to which the beginnings of the majority of locations are tied. There is however a certain peril related to oscillations in distinguishing between the actual founding and the first written mention of a specific municipality. Although the auxiliary sciences of history provide key support in this matter, they are not a panacea. Although images of medieval Bohemian and Moravian towns and cities can be found in comprehensive monographs, these works are often conceived in a way that does not present the Middle Ages in a detailed or three-dimensional manner. Often the works do not even critically evaluate the available material to an adequate extent. For this reason, analytical studies are probably more innovatively important from the perspective of methodology and the materials that are used. Although these studies primarily concern legal, institutional and administrative life, readers also consider texts on mundane concerns, which provide an image of the urban micro-world with the concrete names of residents. However, the study of legal life in the broader sense should be of primary interest, naturally in the narrow context of social and economic history. Also published in the period in question were important works that edited sources (M. Flodr, F. Hoffmann, V. Spáčil, etc.) and investigated legal matters (J. Kejř, etc.). Significant progress was also made in the analysis of diplomatic material, especially with regards to testaments and urban church history. Likewise significant is the large city history atlas project, which as yet is lacking an overall medievalist evaluation.

Near-term tasks include the further publication of the earliest town books and collections of documents, regardless of whether they are published in the traditional proven manner or as online editions, naturally with the necessary diplomatic analysis.

(Author's summary)

JOSEF HRDLIČKA, Early Modern Bohemian cities as a subject of research over the past two decades (pp. 95–123)

The study attempts to present the development of Early Modern period Bohemian urban historiography following 1989. The introduction describes the basic characteristics of the subject, including the fragmentation of research, the predominance of analytical works, the concentration on the history of the sixteenth century and the first half of the seventeenth century, the prevailing closed nature of Czech research and the lack of a research centre that would focus mainly on the study of urban areas. The beginning of research following the regime change in the country was in fact characterised by significant personnel, thematic and methodological continuity with research that had begun to appear primarily in the 1980s and was not encumbered by Marxist ideology. Subjects included the history of capital justice, everyday and material culture, burgher cultures and education, and the history of urban administration. On the other hand, other research trends that had gained popularity in previous years were gradually relegated to the margins of academic interest. These subjects mainly included urban economic history, the role of cities in the contemporary political system, and the history of urban law, which only now is beginning to attract renewed interest. In the intervening years, only a few of the research projects that continued from the period prior to 1989 have been the beneficiaries of methodological innovations that have transformed the aforementioned traditional topics of Czech historiography into new challenges. Impulses from foreign historiography have often contributed to this process. This is true, for example, in the case of the history of the urban political, economic and cultural elite and the issue of residential cities. In addition to these, entirely new subjects and methodological approaches also appeared, including the

history of women, social conflicts and the religiosity of townspeople. In contrast, the new methodologies could not significantly transform other topics. The work also briefly touches upon publications of urban sources that have come out over the past two decades, while also evaluating three attempts at a synthesising view of the development of Bohemian cities in the Early Modern period. Brief attention is likewise paid to syntheses of individual Bohemian towns and cities, encyclopaedias and projects involving historical atlases of towns and cities in the Czech Republic. In connection with the observed closed nature of Czech urban historiography, the work subsequently attempts to suggest a path for closer links between domestic research and the foreign environment, a pursuit with which certain Czech historians have enjoyed success.

(Author's summary)

RUDOLF PROCHÁZKA, Using history and archaeology to obtain knowledge on Moravian and Silesian royal cities from the 13th century (pp. 125–164)

Studying the transformation of early medieval agglomerations and market villages into institutional towns and cities, the founding and the earliest establishment and appearance of new cities is an important part of the process of understanding the early urbanisation of the Czech lands. Compared to later centuries, the study of the thirteenth century features some specific characteristics. On one hand, the absence of sources of an accounting nature limits the possibilities of studying the social, property and labour structures of urban society. However, archaeology and the natural sciences make it possible to learn a great deal about the transformation of settlement structures, diet, household furnishings, various areas of life such as entertainment and burial customs, and even about the natural environment of late pre- and post-location settlements.

The last twenty years have witnessed the publication of many multidisciplinary studies of certain aspects of urban development in the Czech lands as well as several comprehensive monographs, especially works by Josef Žemlička and František Hoffmann and, from the field of archaeology, Jiří Doležel and the author of this

article. A number of studies on the urban beginnings in south and east Moravia have also been published. Noteworthy in this regard is Jiří Doležel's work on the urbanisation of the Brno area, which emphasises the development of market relations and spheres, and Martin Wihoda's work on urban beginnings in Silesia. The importance of archaeological research increases in general for the period in which urban areas were established, and the role of Margrave Vladislav Jindřich has been clarified. Among purely historical topics, research on urban law has made considerable progress (Jiří Kejíř, Miroslav Flodr, Vladimír Spáčil, Dalibor Janiš). In the area of social structures it is necessary to mention studies mapping the Brno urban elite (Ludmila Sulitková, Jiří Doležel); the issue of nationality was also addressed, even though the focus in this field is on later centuries. Relevant passages in monographs on urban history also addressed the thirteenth century. Noteworthy among works on royal cities include those on the history of Jihlava, Opava and Ivančice, in which archaeological information was used to a greater extent to form a more three-dimensional description compared to traditional works based purely on written sources.

Archaeological research has advanced over the past two decades thanks to the emphasis on rescuing archaeological monuments threatened by construction in historical towns and cities. In the most prominent royal cities, archaeology has been successful in clarifying spatial relations with respect to pre-location settlement and the basic features of urban transformation. Good results in the field of the creation of the urban character, the ground plan and the development of construction with an emphasis on clarifying the transition from wood to stone houses were achieved in particular in Brno, Jihlava and Opava (David Merta, Marek Peška, Michal Zezula and others); the building of cellars proved to be an important civilisation phenomenon. Less attention has been paid thus far to the other components of urban construction, especially wells and various production structures and relics. Remarkable results have also been achieved recently in the research of the character of town squares and streets (Michal Zezula, František Kolář), and the history of fortifications has been clarified at least in Brno and Opava (Václav Kolařík, Michal Zezula, et al.). The study of silver mining in the Jihlava region has experienced a great boom (Petr Hrubý). A number of separate studies addressed the issue of trade and commerce, including the material relics of this activity

such as coins, scales and weights. This issue is naturally not only one of an urban nature (Roman Zaoral, Jiří Doležel).

Also noteworthy is the study of church buildings, mendicant monasteries and churches, especially those in Brno and Opava. In the realm of material culture, impressive results were achieved in the study of glass (Hedvika Sedláčková), which represents a certain social indicator for the relevant period, and pottery (Rudolf Procházka), as well as specific artefacts connected to spiritual life (Josef Bláha).

This selected overview has not covered all the subjects related to the thirteenth-century urban areas; for example, the issue of town castles, church and monastery architecture, the anthropology of the population and others have been omitted. Nevertheless, it is clear that the study of Moravian urban areas of the thirteenth century is not a stagnating field, despite its uneven development. Particularly promising is the boom in the research of urban law related to the rehabilitation of the importance of legal history. Greater attention should be paid to the relationship between ruling power and the urban areas, including additional studies of feudal privileges from various perspectives, especially in south Moravia. Significant progress has been made in research on the beginnings of royal cities; scholars have managed to a great extent to explain the spatial development of settlement from the pre-location period and to clarify many details of urbanisation in the High Middle Ages. This field in particular requires close cooperation between history and archaeology; a great deal of work remains to be done, including the publication of important information obtained from the incalculable number of rescue excavations. A related matter is the inadequately processed and published chronology of material culture, in particular pottery, from many urban areas. A more refined chronology would help better verify the conclusions reached by the authors of archaeological studies. Lacking from the field of social structures is a comparative study of the group of burghers that appears in written sources from the thirteenth century in individual, mostly royal, cities. It will also be necessary to study the transformation of the surroundings of urban areas, and greater attention should be paid to towns and various transitional units to get a better understanding of the dynamic and structured nature of the urbanisation process.

From an organisational perspective, the expansion of urban research would help strengthen its academic standing, i.e. its presence

at institutions that would develop multidisciplinary cooperation on a level corresponding to modern trends.

(Author's summary)

HANA JORDÁNKOVÁ – LUDMILA SULITKOVÁ, Historiography in relation to Moravian royal cities in the Middle Ages and Early Modern era, and editions of urban records (pp. 165–249)

The authors provide a complete overview of historiographical works on Moravian royal cities in the Middle Ages (with the exception of the founding period) and the Early Modern period (up until the 1620s) from the last twenty years, along with an evaluation of the status and release of sources of town provenance in publications. Although special emphasis is placed on an entirely new conceptual sphere of research interest, the overview naturally includes fundamental research subjects which, despite being based on earlier studies, implement innovative methodological approaches.

In addition to numerous individual studies, knowledge of the development stages of Moravian royal cities was advanced considerably by new monographs on individual towns and cities (Jihlava, Olomouc, Uherské Hradiště, Znojmo and Brno – for the last two this involves the first volume of general history – and, of the cities that were royal only in the Middle Ages, Hodonín, Jemnice and Ivančice). Of equal importance were publications of selected sources of town provenance; publication activity was concentrated mainly in Brno, Olomouc and Jihlava, for both the Middle Ages and Early Modern period.

From the perspective of the intensity of interest in individual locations, the results of historiography from the past two decades are somewhat unbalanced; this applies for the evaluated period relating to towns that used the status of royal city for a long period of time, especially Uničov and, to a lesser extent, Uherské Hradiště and Znojmo, while for the other three cities – Brno, Olomouc and Jihlava – historiographical production was extraordinarily rich in terms of quality and quantity. Overall, it can be stated that historiography in the field of the concentrated study of the history of royal cities in Moravia has made great advances over the past twenty years.

(Authors' summary)

BRONISLAV CHOCHOLÁČ, Feudal cities in Moravia during the Early Modern era in the light of research over the last two decades (pp. 251–277)

Feudal (seignorial) cities and towns in Moravia in the Early Modern period included urban sites with hereditary lords, royal cities, feudal towns as legal subjects, aristocratic and church institutions and earlier royal cities under long-term pledge (which was never paid off). Their numbers increased during the Early Modern period. Around the year 1500, the margraviate consisted of forty-seven towns and one-hundred and fifty-two small towns; in the 1670s there were fifty-seven towns and one-hundred and ninety-two small towns; approximately one-hundred years later there were seventy-six towns and one-hundred and eighty-eight small towns. The density of the urban network in Moravia in the Early Modern period was lower than in the Kingdom of Bohemia, mainly due to the small number of royal cities; on the other hand, towns in the Moravian margraviate played the greatest role in the urbanisation of the land (towns made up 75% of the Second Moravian Land Register). Nevertheless, individual urban locations differed greatly not in the number of residents and houses but also in their cultural and economic potential.

The presented study analyzes the level and status of research of these urban sites and their populations over the past two decades. On one hand, the work notes the persistent absence of modern syntheses; on the other hand, it finds a large number of wide-ranging studies providing results from a vast spectrum of research subjects, some of which have maintained continuity with projects from the 1970s and 1980s (documentary editions, the study of capital justice and the social-economic circumstances of burghers). The topics more systematically studied in the relevant period included the history of the Jewish population, church history, in particular research on religious brotherhoods, and the investigation of the economic conditions of feudal urban areas and their residents, primarily the study of financial circumstances and loans to the subordinate population in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

With varying degrees of intensity, the new topics inspired by modern European urban study were reflected in research (the study of the reverence of burghers, subjects of broadly conceived cultural history, etc.), much of which, unfortunately, involved only

individual analytical studies. Nevertheless, the situation described above represents a future base for successful systematic study (at the regional level) on a range of research topics, which should then be culminated by a modern synthesis of Early Modern period urban areas in Moravia and Bohemia.

(Author's summary)

IRENA KORBELÁŘOVÁ, Early Modern Silesian cities as a subject of research over the past two decades (pp. 279–299)

The relatively extensive network of urban areas that existed in Silesia in the Early Modern period was rather differentiated from the perspective of legal standing and political importance, size, economic focus, the degree of development and culturally social character. Of the total number of 165 urban locations (in the 1720s), less than twenty were of principalities or free aristocratic domains; around sixty were regional centres and the seats of the relevant administrative offices (formally royal/princely, and feudal towns), and the remaining were primarily administrative, religious and trade centres of the respective region, either small or medium-sized. Essentially only Wrocław (Breslau) was similar to large western European cities with respect to size (an estimated population of 30,000), exterior appearance and functions. Although the historiography of the past two decades, both Czech and foreign (especially German and Polish), has addressed the issue of Silesian urban areas in the Early Modern period, they have not been studied to the extent that the mentioned locations individually or as a group deserve. Compared to the earlier period, a definite decline in interest can be observed in German historiography. Despite the fact that Polish historians have addressed selected questions concerning the development of Silesian urban areas, they have primarily focused on producing monographs of individual towns and cities, not on the synthetic treatment of chosen spheres of issues. In contrast to the earlier period, there has been increased interest in Silesian urban areas of the Early Modern period among Czech historians, not only in connection with 'Austrian Silesia', but the entire historical Silesia as a whole. The results of activities of professional institutions in Opava have been of

particular benefit (The Silesian Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, the Silesian Museum, the Department of Historical Sciences in the Faculty of Philosophy and Science at the Silesian University).

(Author's summary)

PETER JOHANEK, The state of German research into cities of the Middle Ages and Early Modern era over the past twenty years (pp. 301–340)

The article recalls the difficulties in summarising German research on the history of medieval and Early Modern period urban areas over the last two decades; the bibliography of these works for the years 1987–2000 alone contains 7,872 titles, thus reflecting the enormous interest in the given subject. Another problem in defining German research is its connection with foreign (primarily Austrian and Swiss) projects and the fact that a national division of European historiographical studies – especially in German-speaking lands – is essentially impossible.

The author raises the question of whether the past two decades have brought about any significant changes to the research of medieval and Early Modern period urban areas. His response is affirmative: many new areas of research also appeared in German historiography after 1990.

The overview of the state of German historiography dedicated to the history of medieval and Early Modern urban areas first outlines the organisation of this research. The work notes the lack of specialised departments at German universities that would be devoted exclusively to the relevant subject. Five organisations that concentrate on the history of urban areas and are involved in the research and promotion of activities in this field are named. Over the past two decades, new impulses that have contributed to the intensification of research activity came in the form of special new state subsidies supporting specific research projects for a limited period of time. Research into the history of medieval and Early Modern period urban areas has also developed with international cooperation at the universities in Bielefeld, Trier and currently in Dresden.

The following overview of the research results of German historiography in the field of medieval and Early Modern urban areas over the past twenty years emphasises the fundamental influence of new cultural history. The work notes basic manuals on the topic, the basis of which, in the case of the Middle Ages, was formed by topics respecting the classic canon of German historiography – questions concerning the appearance of urban areas and their types, the history of government and economic and social history. In addition to the issues of historical demography and urbanism, the major influence of new cultural history is also evident in summarising manuals for the Early Modern period.

The stagnation in the publication of documents on the history of urban areas after 1990 has been partially offset in recent years by new interest in the publication of town records. Playing an important role in this process has been German archives and the use of new methods for releasing archive materials in digital form. Cartographic and iconographic sources have become key materials for the history of medieval and Early Modern urban areas. In addition to their prominent role in the release of sources on the history of urban areas, archives were also valuable in the actual reconstruction of their history.

Monographs and anthologies, which became an important means of research communication for contemporary scholars, addressed the history of urban and state government and law (council elections, the role of conflict and consensus, town republicanism, villages, town and burgher law, written culture, symbolic communication), as well as legal (the history of criminality), economic, church (brotherhoods, parishes, religiosity, foundations) and social history. The application of prosopographical research increased dramatically and, influenced by cultural history and the study of everyday life, questions of urbanisation were also investigated (outputs include a large number of atlases of individual towns and cities). Discussion of the significance of the term ‘city or town’ continued even after 1990. The connection of historiography and archaeology contributed to the research of urban topography, and new attention has also been focused on the study of urban iconography. The study of the history of urbanisation was often combined with demographic research. At the same time, more attention was also paid to smaller locations and, on the other hand, residential cities. The subject of the city, its

landscape, the surrounding area and the network of internal and external relations also became a focus of research interest. Interest in urban historiography should also be mentioned.

The article points out the future need to develop international collaboration in German historiography aimed at the history of medieval and Early Modern urban areas, including translations of the most important professional texts from Central European languages.

FERDINAND OPLL, Medieval and Early Modern Austrian cities as a research topic in the past twenty years (pp. 341–373)

In connection with studies published in 2000 and 2005, the article provides an overall view of the development over the past two decades. From a geographical perspective, the area was demarcated by the borders of today's Austria and hence does not offer a view of the 'Old Austria' within the borders of the Habsburg Empire. The article focuses on works on urban history in this territory by Austrian scholars, the majority of which were also published in Austria. The chronological focus of the work is on the High and Late Middle Ages and the Early Modern era (sixteenth to eighteenth centuries). Special attention is paid to monographs on urban history conceived as historical syntheses (from their founding up to the present day).

The overview is essentially divided into:

1. a sketch of the overall conditions for research into urban history in Austria in the given period; the conditions are shown as the foundation for initiatives, their success/failure, and the realisation of larger projects;
2. an attempt at an exemplary statistical evaluation of works on the history of medieval and Early Modern urban areas in Austria, with special attention being paid to the value and significance of these studies in the body of work on urban history;
3. an analysis of apparent trends in the relevant research work, including a look at the manner in which Austria reacted to international research trends, i.e. whether they were acknowledged and utilised, or whether they were mostly overlooked.
4. an outline of possible perspectives for the future.

‘Tour d’horizon’ revealed that, between 1990 and 2010, a number of significant achievements in works on urban history that can be documented both quantitatively and qualitatively faced a serious deterioration in conditions for institutional research. Noteworthy in this regard is not only the publication of numerous monographs on individual towns and cities, including works on the main regional city and Vienna, but also large projects with the nature of manuals and series. Examples include the *Österreichisches Städtebuch* series, lexica on urban history and the *Österreichischer Städteatlas* series. It is also apparent that scholars dealt with research trends, even if this was more of a response to international currents and did not involve a great deal of innovation directly from Austria itself. Despite evident threats that even urban history faces due to the financial crisis, the final summary pointed out the continuing attractive nature of the topic, including the creation of two awards for publications on the topic.

(Author’s summary)

THOMAS MANETSCH, The research of urban history in Switzerland since 1990. Conditions, trends and perspectives for the medieval and Early Modern period city (pp. 375–409)

The submitted summary of research results in the field of Swiss urban history over the past twenty years is reason to draw attention to the growing interest in the subject of the medieval and Early Modern period city from a modern perspective. It is therefore possible to formulate a hypothesis which, due to the threatening desperation over today’s urban development, the unstructured phenomenon known as ‘urban sprawl’ effecting the entire Swiss ‘Mittelland’ with all its negative consequences (the destruction of the environment, the vanishing identity of areas as a result of architectural homogeneity, the collapse of transport infrastructure and the unravelling of social relations in an urban agglomeration dubbed the ‘Megacity’), can encourage and legitimise the expansion of research on the early city.

However, an evaluation of the results of research on urban history over the past two decades must include reflections on the historical development of cities in Switzerland, as the characteristics of the urban networks, their space between them and their gravitational

centres determine the results of research in terms of content: the dominance of larger city-states with substantial territory (Bern, Luzern, Zürich) to which many smaller rural towns are linked politically and economically. Besides this, centres known as 'Länderorte', medium-large settlements lacking the quality of cities, however held within the confederation and from a legal perspective a position equal to large cities. Likewise, various quantitative assessments of individual cities can – on the second level of institutional conditions for the study of urban history – be addressed as a consequence of the specific form of the Swiss network of cities. The power superiority of former city-states over smaller cities and towns can be explained in historiography on the basis of the fact that important archives and all of the universities are found in the former mentioned.

Although there is no formal facility at the academic level in Switzerland (with the exception of the Swiss Association for the Study of Urban History (Schweizerischer Arbeitskreis für Stadtgeschichtsforschung) where research is conducted on the medieval and Early Modern period city from a historical perspective, many publications do address urban history. The political relaxation in Central and Eastern Europe that occurred in 1989/1990 had no significant impact on this development, neither in the area of research work nor from the perspective of its conceptual focus. The same is true for the numerous individual publications on urban history; the idea that the apparent triumph of capitalism and the end of the Cold War have an impact the interpretation of facts and the choice of subjects should however not be hastily rejected. Perhaps the declining interest in quantitative economic research can be explained by the fact that scholars at the end of the twentieth century were confident that they had found the definitive answer to the question of the most successful economic model.

From the perspective of classic legal, economic and social aspects of urban history, four areas of research that appeared in recent years have been profoundly influenced by the concept of 'linguistic turn' and other 'turns' that returned historiography to its linguistic-logical roots and subsequently increased its sensitivity to the historicization of language and verbal communication, space and image. This indicates the rather significant international engagement of Swiss historiography, within which, however, it is not possible to speak of the specific creation of these historical theories. In any case, in addition

to the way the city was considered in the past and the legal and symbolic contexts it was grounded in, equally interesting information was also obtained on the everyday conditions in which communication occurred within the city or between cities. The research of symbolic behaviour occasionally showed a substantial overlap of discourse with the spatial category, at the very least in studies on the issue of borders and relations across borders, or in cases involving affronts to honour and the defence of honour.

JÁN LUKAČKA – MARTIN ŠTEFÁNIK, The past two decades of Slovak research into the history of Slovak medieval cities (pp. 411–428)

The issue of the history of medieval towns and cities has enjoyed long-term interest in Slovak historiography thanks to the fact that the network of urban areas in Slovak territory was nearly three times as dense as in other Hungarian lands. In the absence of specific Slovak political history of the Middle Ages, urban areas therefore represent a valuable research subject. Research is conducted along two basic lines: theoretical works focus on individual and general questions regarding the founding and development of medieval urban areas, while practical and concrete works are mostly monographs or anthologies devoted to specific sites. The Section for the History of Cities at the Slovak Historical Society has been the supervisor and organiser of theoretical research since the beginning. Systematic and methodological research problems were discussed during thematically organised scientific events. Those with the participation of foreign historians were especially beneficial (Hungary, Czech Republic, Austria and Poland). Despite serious financial constraints, organisers have always made efforts to publish articles from the activities in the form of anthologies, most recently as a collective monograph. Thematically or regionally focused collections were produced (Mining Towns in Slovakia, Towns in the Danube Region, Towns in the Spiš Region, Town Administration, National Development in Towns, Communication in the Medieval Town, Criminality and Justice in Urban History); these works were accompanied by numerous studies in periodicals and in collections devoted to other topics partially related to urban studies.

At this stage of research and with the progressive addition of sources on the history of urban areas, the inventory of town archives, research in archaeology, art history and the auxiliary historical sciences as well as new possibilities for releasing medieval sources thanks to digitalisation and the Internet, it became increasingly necessary to compile a comprehensive research work, encyclopaedic in nature, that would provide clear and systematic information on the history of individual towns and cities. A large project born at the Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences entitled *Lexicon of Medieval Towns in Slovakia*, with the participation of twenty experts from the rank of historians and archivists, was realised in 2007–2010. The output of the project is a representative publication of the same name that not only provides a synoptic presentation and review of current knowledge but also introduces a great deal of information on the latest important excavations from recent years conducted at forty-seven sites in Slovakia, including excavations executed directly in connection with the project. Each entry (town or city) in the *Lexicon* has a fixed structure of eleven chapters. The publication is supplemented by a vast scientific apparatus (7,059 annotations with tens of thousands of references to sources and literature) and therefore represents the largest synthesising work from the past two decades connected with the history of medieval urban areas in Slovakia.

(Authors' summary)

EVA KOWALSKÁ, Early Modern cities as a research topic in Slovak historiography over the past two decades (pp. 429–437)

Over the past two decades, Slovak historiography has devoted significant attention to the history of Early Modern urban areas. However, a synthesising work on the urban phenomenon, which is typical for modern urban history, is still lacking. Monographs on individual locations and thematically focused anthologies are the main sources for studying the history of Slovak towns and cities. Slovak historiography has made a significant advance in the area of methodology, as is evident in the choice of topics and in the application of new methodological procedures. Subjects include the issue

of the burgher elite and, in the field of methodology, the procedures of new cultural history (e.g. microhistory). Advances have also been made in the publication of sources on the history of Early Modern Slovak urban areas.

A current goal of Slovak research is a structured and methodologically innovative study in the realm of urban history.

KATALIN SZENDE, *Research on the towns of medieval Hungary since 1989* (pp. 439–469)

Research on the towns of the medieval Kingdom of Hungary is a challenging but very rewarding task. In this context, universities, town museums and town archives have been the most important institutions of focus in the last few decades, not only as repositories and even as publishers of pertinent source materials, but also for conducting research themselves. A further driving force behind the architectural and topographical investigation of medieval town centres was the boom of modern building projects. In the framework of such research, a significant factor is that the towns of medieval Hungary are located today on the territory of no less than eight different countries: Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, Croatia, Austria, Ukraine, Serbia and Slovenia. In seeking to compile a general overview of results, one therefore needs to draw on the results of the work of colleagues from all these different countries.

In recent times urban historical research on the towns of Hungary has followed three different but nevertheless complementary directions, based on their respective foci. Work on written materials has dealt mainly with issues relating to social and economic history. In investigating the topography and material culture of the given settlement, archaeological evidence has been indispensable because of the lack or destruction of written sources relating to many towns. Finally, maps and other visual representations have provided an alternative starting point for tackling questions relating to the physical layout and morphology of settlements as well as offering insights into the image and perception of towns.

Concerning the period between the eleventh and the first half of the thirteenth century, a clearer image has emerged of early urban development which characterized settlements with central functions

before the time kings began issuing town privileges. Traces of proto-urban development in the form of several spatially dispersed settlement nuclei have been identified in a number of royal and episcopal centres of the eleventh-twelfth centuries as well as in smaller centres of local significance. In this context the fortified seats of royal counties which served as administrative centres have been the subject of intensive investigations, initially as strongholds but also as settlements. Attention has also been directed to the question of how long and in which way these fortified county seats and their *suburbia* retained, expanded or lost their central functions during the extensive social transformations of the thirteenth century. These investigations reveal that very few of these early centres became important towns; a significant number of them developed into market towns (small towns) and thus became second-rate elements in the settlement hierarchy, while others failed to reach even this level and were reduced to simple villages or were abandoned over time.

From the 1230s onwards, Hungary's urban development followed a pattern similar to that of Western Europe, both in terms of the towns' outward appearance as well as their legal status and administration. Research into this process has awakened a renewed interest in privilege charters as sources not only on the legal position of towns but also on royal urban policy and on issues like domination and identity. These charters introduced the use of the written word into urban life, making literacy (alongside with orality) one of the favourite topics of comparative research. The investigation of serial sources such as wills, property registers and town council protocols has yielded new insights into medieval and Early Modern urban society (particularly the elite), including the issues of governance and religiosity. Analysis of the leading social strata also revealed significant information on the different ethnic groups present in the towns. Several studies have looked at how this coexistence functioned in practice in various aspects of daily life such as administration, the economy, religion and the use of languages.

For the Late Middle Ages it is especially important that well-established criteria are available to help distinguish between settlements with urban functions and mere villages. To provide a more objective way to settle this question, András Kubinyi devised a quantitative method for defining the degree of centrality, which he applied to an

analysis of settlements over practically the whole territory of medieval Hungary. This was a decisive advance, for it offered a means to present a hierarchically structured settlement network in a quantitative way. Kubinyi estimated the number of towns in medieval Hungary (omitting Croatia and Dalmatia), including those market towns that fulfilled proper urban functions, to be around 150.

Urban topography has also been a frequent focus in the research on medieval Hungarian towns. The excavations of medieval sites as well as the analysis of the early cartographic material make it possible not only to identify individual buildings, but also to assess the spatial relationships between them and to determine the place of larger units in the context of an entire settlement. As significant individual features of the town layout, parts of the town defences were excavated or identified in Pest, Vác, Kőszeg, Sopron, Trnava, Košice and elsewhere. Of interest in the ecclesiastical context is research on several bishop's seats such as Pécs, Győr, Vác, Alba Iulia and Oradea. The investigation of mendicant monasteries, which were built at exceptionally central locations such as the main square in Sopron (or in the vicinity of royal palaces, as was the case with the Franciscans in Buda and Visegrád), calls attention to the issue of site selection. A growing body of data has emerged from the research and mapping of medieval cellars and other architectural elements which refer to the fixing of plot boundaries, a key indicator of organized spatial structures, which has been carried out for instance in Buda, Vác and Győr. In the context of topography one should not omit mentioning Hungary's contribution to the Historic Atlases of European Towns project.

Considering the results achieved so far, the time seems ripe to undertake a new comprehensive monograph on the history of towns in medieval Hungary. Importantly, comparative overviews should not be restricted to national frameworks. One must also be able to come forth with comprehensive works on a larger, East-Central European scale, which can complement the previously published monographs with a strong Western European focus. Such a work could ensure that this region does not lose its attractiveness and relevance for general historiography which it has gained in the years around 1989.

(Author's summary)

ISTVÁN H. NÉMETH, *New paths in Hungarian historiography focusing on Early Modern cities at the turn of the 21st century* (pp. 471–493)

The decline during the final quarter of the twentieth century in historiography devoted to the urban history of the Early Modern period was evident and can be partially explained by the loss of interest in Marxist-oriented economic and social history. The majority of scholars focused instead on political history. This trend continued even in the 1990s, when economic and social history or the study of urban history were not strongly represented in the individual research spheres of Hungarian historiography. Nevertheless, the past twenty-five years have produced results that helped Hungarian historiography in the field of urban studies make significant progress in the second half of the twentieth century. The ‘Estates approach’ was replaced by an economic and geographic foundation, thanks to which the attention of scholars turned to the heretofore neglected subject of urban areas, their economic and social situation and their role in the urban network. Likewise continuing are studies of royal free cities located in today’s Hungary and in neighbouring states that historically belonged to the Kingdom of Hungary.

In addition to releasing and publishing sources, the creation of thematic databases has also expanded. However, standing at the forefront of research is a grandly conceived monograph on urban history created mostly using modern historiographical methods. Moreover, individual research trends are influenced by interest in the history of trade, with most information provided being on the internal and foreign connections of locations in Hungary perceived from an economic perspective as towns or cities. Related to this is research devoted to the various social classes of the urban population. These studies are not aimed at a general description of the urban population; to a far greater extent they concern individual groups and classes of urban society, most frequently the urban elite. The latest research trends of the past two decades are concentrated on the political role of Early Modern period urban areas, the representation of their interests and manifestations of this circumstance, as well as the relationship between urban areas and the state. Individual social classes are studied using microhistorical and statistical methods, and scholars are addressing the issue of the historical use of space.

Characteristic of wide-ranging Hungarian historiography devoted to the urban history is the use of results from ethnographic, art history and monument studies. The work presents new spheres of research interest in Hungarian historiography devoted to the urban history using specific examples: what trends were decisive in the research topics of urban history, what influenced research perspectives, what new questions are reflected in studies, and even a related problem – what new groups of sources have appeared in the centre of research interest.

(Author's summary)

URSZULA SOWINA, Mittelalterliche Städte als Forschungsproblem in der polnischen Geschichtsschreibung der letzten zwei Jahrzehnte (S. 495–511)

Für die polnische Historiographie, die sich mit der Geschichte der mittelalterlichen Städte beschäftigt, war das Jahr 1990 kein Wendepunkt, denn viele wichtige Themen wurden bereits vor dem Fall des Kommunismus wissenschaftlich erforscht, und in zahlreichen Fällen war diese Forschung bereits von den methodischen Ansätzen der westeuropäischen Geschichtsschreibung geprägt.

Der Beitrag bietet eine kommentierte Auswahlbibliographie der bedeutendsten Arbeiten der polnischen Historiographie in den letzten zwei Jahrzehnten und konzentriert sich dabei vorrangig auf den methodischen Wert der Publikationen. In der Einleitung werden synthetisierende Monographien zur Geschichte der größten Städte auf dem Gebiet des heutigen polnischen Staates (Krakau, Elbing, Breslau) vorgestellt, die in den letzten zwanzig Jahren publiziert worden sind; ein wesentlicher positiver Aspekt dieser Arbeiten ist der interdisziplinäre Ansatz der für die Darstellung des Mittelalters in der entsprechenden Stadtgeschichte verantwortlichen Autorenteamen. In diesem Zusammenhang werden auch die weniger zahlreichen Studien zu kleineren polnischen Städten erwähnt, deren Ergebnisse die Autorin besonders wegen des Quellenmangels für stark diskussionswürdig hält; sie empfiehlt zur Überwindung dieses Forschungsproblems die Einordnung in den Kontext der Geschichte der großen städtischen Zentren (entweder unter dem Aspekt der Komparation oder im Hinblick auf direkte zeitgenössische Kontakte).

Anschließend werden diejenigen Bereiche der Forschung zu den polnischen Städten im Mittelalter vorgestellt, die bei den Wissenschaftlern auf ein besonders starkes Interesse stießen: die Sozialtopographie, die Publikation historischer Atlanten (als Ergebnis interdisziplinärer Forschungen, die sich bevorzugt auf eine Zusammenarbeit von Archäologie und Geschichtswissenschaft stützen), die städtischen Eliten (in prosopographischen Untersuchungen), das religiöse Leben in den Städten, der Einfluss der Wirtschaft auf die Formierung der polnischen Städte, Fragen der Städtegründung.

Zu den größten Erfolgen der polnischen Geschichtsschreibung im Bereich der mittelalterlichen Stadtgeschichte zählen zweifellos die Stärkung des interdisziplinären Ansatzes, der in erster Linie die historischen und die archäologischen Untersuchungen zusammenführt, und die zunehmende Effektivität bei der Quellenanalyse, die in den beiden genannten Disziplinen auf der Nutzung moderner Methoden der exakten Wissenschaften beruht.

ZDZISŁAW NOGA, Early Modern cities as a research topic in Polish historiography over the past twenty years (pp. 513–527)

Although the history of Polish urban areas in the period between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries does not rank among important research topics in Polish historiography, it is studied at virtually all Polish universities and research institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The political changes after 1989 do not represent a true turning point in scientific research, which had already expanded freely before this date. However, the development of local government became an impulse for the creation of hundreds of monographs on individual towns and cities. These were mostly collective works compiled on the basis of chronological and issue-related criteria.

The last twenty years have seen the continued publication of sources, and numerous town books, including those of small towns, books of burgher rights, testaments and inventories and hospital books have been published. Studies on the offices of towns have appeared, and subjects from the sphere of economic history and the history of trade, the genealogy of aristocratic families, biographies and even epidemic diseases continue to be popular. Works devoted

to the military function of urban areas have appeared. During the research of guilds attention has turned to social problems, and the prosopographical method is being used with greater frequency. In other areas it will be beneficial to pay attention to growing interest in the following issues: 1. City space; 2. Social topography; 3. The social elite and groups at the edge of society; 4. The history of family, women and children; 5. Town celebrations and ceremonies; 6. Ethnic and national minorities.

Research into the history of Early Modern period urban areas is dominated by subjects from the field of socioeconomic and cultural history; political issues, on the other hand, appear only rarely. Topics gaining in popularity include urban communication in a broad sense, the role of writing and urban literacy, brotherhoods and city corporations as well as comparative studies. Thanks to many contacts made in recent years, Polish historiography is developing in cooperation with European historiography.

(Author's summary)

ANDRZEJ KLONDER, Medieval and Early Modern cities in the context of research into material culture in Polish historiography over the past twenty years (pp. 529–555)

In the introduction to the work, the author describes changes in the definition of the history of material culture from the 1950s until the present day. He then focuses on a presentation of the successes Polish scholars have achieved in this field. He regards the results of archaeological excavations as particularly important. Archaeological finds and discoveries are of fundamental significance, especially those for the medieval period, from which only limited written sources have been preserved. The collected information captures the spatial development of towns and cities, their networks of streets and squares, and even the history of their buildings. Archaeological excavations provide a great deal of information on the world of artefacts used by urban residents. The importance of historians increases for the study of the history of material culture in the Early Modern period (between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries) due to the availability of a great number of sources (iconography, cartographic materials, town court and accounting books, etc.).

Special attention has been devoted to townhouses during research in recent decades. The use of sources such as inventories and testaments has provided an image of townhouses, their interiors and furnishings, and the period standard of living of the burgher society. Although the majority of research projects have concentrated on the situation of cities (Gdansk, Wrocław), in recent years there have been a growing number of studies on towns.

(Author's summary)

RAIMO PULLAT – TÖNIS LIIBEK, A comparative overview of research into the Early Modern history of cities in Estonia (pp. 557–565)

The very difficult circumstances of Estonian historiography following the Second World War were the result of the emigration of many leading historians. The attitude of Soviet historiography likewise had a negative impact on the historical research of Early Modern urban areas. Urban history was not a priority. Due to the closed borders, new scientific theories and methods spread slowly, severely limiting theoretical advancement in the study of urban history.

The situation in Estonia has improved over the course of the recent decades since the country gained its independence. A new generation of medievalists and Early Modern period historians has come of age, and for decades Raimo Pullat has intensively and fruitfully studied the history of Estonian towns and cities of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. In 1991 the historian resurrected the publication of the important anthology entitled *Vana Tallinn* (Old Tallinn), of which twenty-two volumes are now available. Pullat has also published a seven-volume series on the estates left by burghers from Tallinn and Pärnu. As part of the study of the history of Estonian towns and cities, many scholars in recent decades have researched a broad spectrum of issues in urban history – from the history of medicine up to the history of architecture. Many German and Finnish historians have also written on the history of cities in Estonia, especially on Tallinn. The article provides a comprehensive overview of the most important studies and source publications as well as the most significant research directions.

In neighbouring Latvia, especially in Riga, urban archaeology has been the focus of urban studies over the past two decades. Numerous notable historical-iconographic source publications have also been published in the country.

In addition to the situation in Latvia, the article also provides an overview of research on the history of medieval and Early Modern urban areas over the past two decades in Finland. This area of research offers contemporary Estonian, Latvian and Finnish historians working in the field of urban history broad research possibilities, and systematic research work can in the future be an important contribution to the image of humanistic culture in Europe.

(Authors' summary)

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