

THE RURALIA XVI CONFERENCE

Countryside and towns

Rural settlements in the context of urban hinterlands in the Medieval and Modern Periods

Kłodzko (Poland)

8th – 14th September 2025

RURALIA

European Association of Medieval and Post-Medieval Rural Archaeology

RURALIA is an international association for the archaeology of medieval settlement and rural life. It provides a European-wide platform for the scientific exchange on current problems in rural archaeology in order to strengthen comparative and interdisciplinary studies. The conference covers the period from the Early Medieval to the Early Modern periods. The conference language is English.

RURALIA XVI will take place in Kłodzko, a city located in the southwest of Poland. The theme is:

Countryside and towns. Rural settlements in the context of urban hinterlands in the Medieval and Modern Periods

In addition to the papers, there will be one full day and one half-day excursion and an optional two-day field trip to sites in southwest Poland and north Czechia.

The conference is jointly organized by Paweł Duma, Tomáš Klír, Maria Legut-Pintal, Jakub Sawicki, Agnieszka Latocha-Wites, Catarina Tente and Claudia Theune; with the support of Museum of Kłodzko Region in Kłodzko (Muzeum Ziemi Kłodzkiej w Kłodzku), Municipality of Kłodzko, University of Wrocław, Faculty of Historical and Pedagogical Sciences of the University of Wrocław, Institute of Archaeology of the University of Wrocław, the science foundation “Archaeologia Silesiae”, Association „Wieża Książęca w Siedlęcinie”, Yellow Point Publications, Archeologický Ústav AV ČR, Praha, v. v. i., Ústav pro archeologii Filozofická fakulta Univerzita Karlova and Wrocław Municipal Office. We thank Niall Brady for the proof-reading of this booklet.



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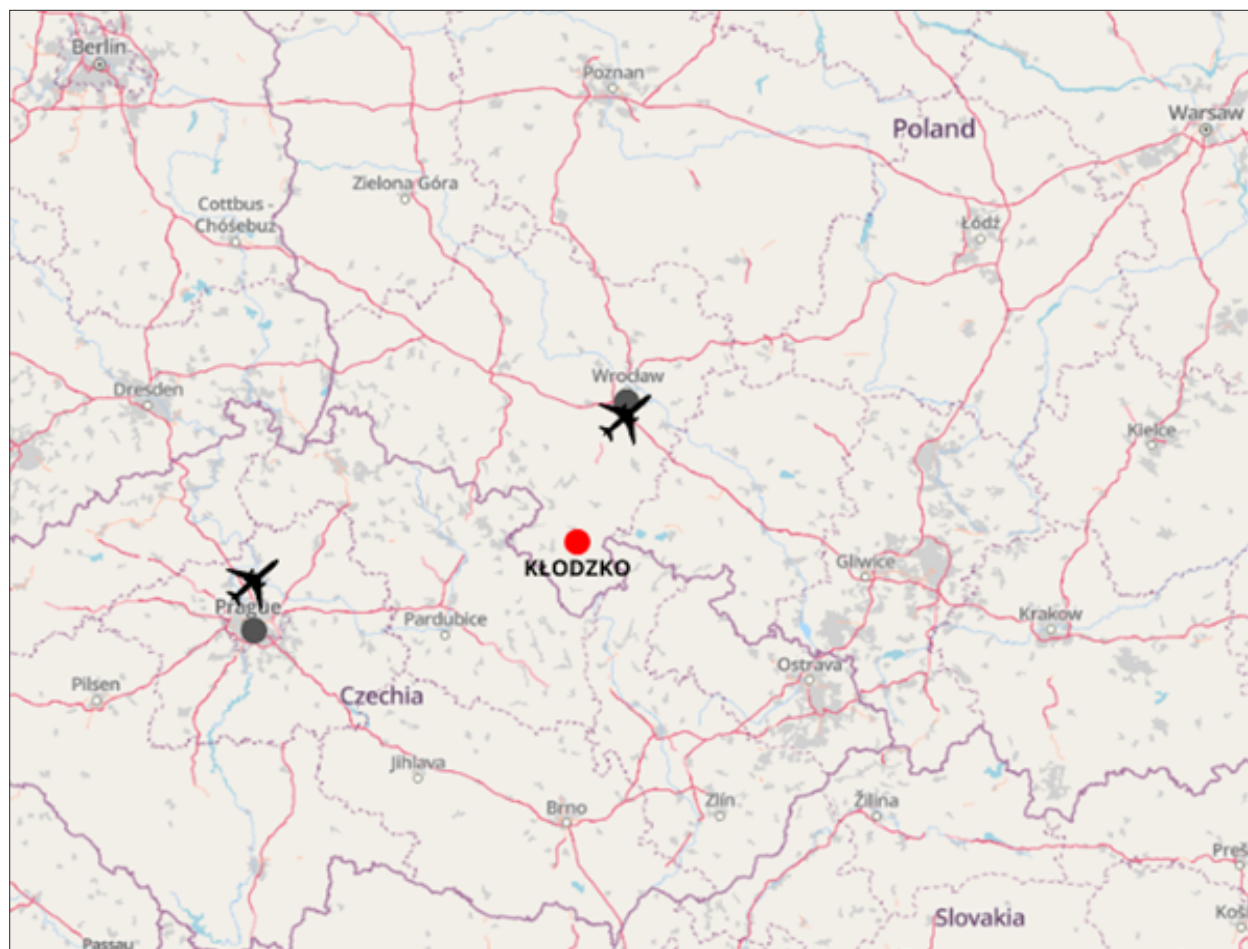
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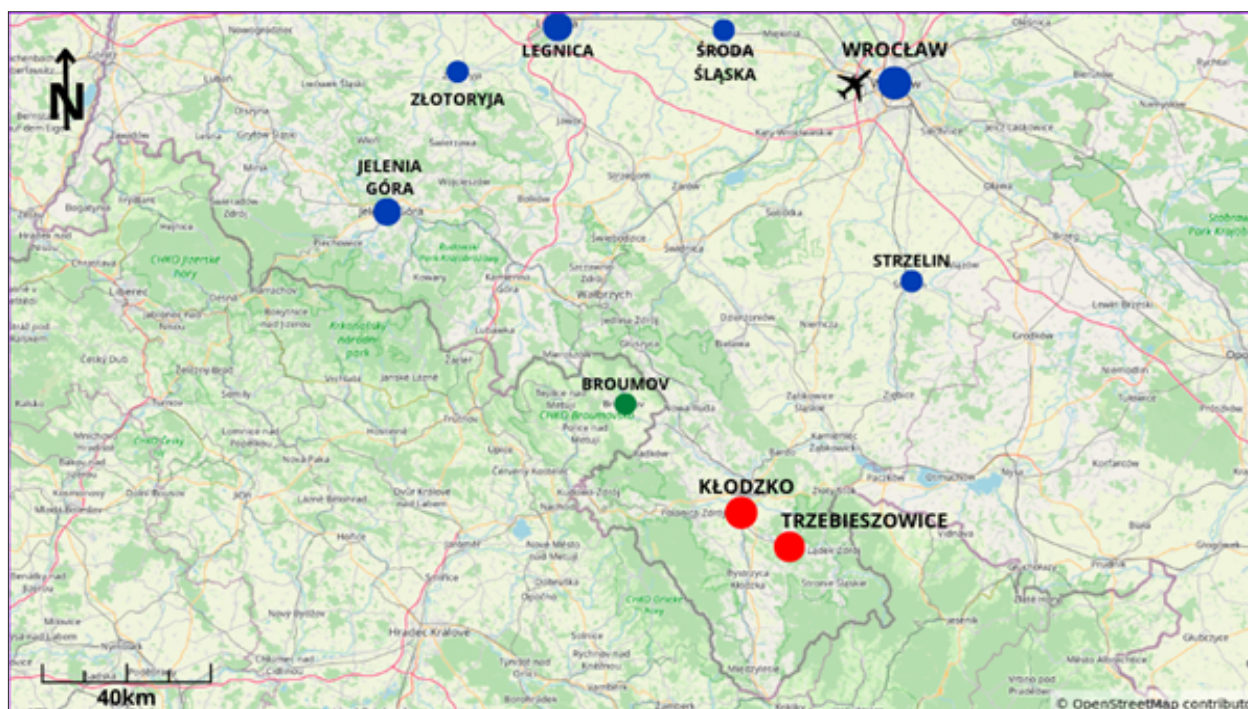
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<http://www.ruralia.cz>

Location of the nearest airports



Location of key towns – red: conference, green: excursion during the conference, blue: weekend trip



Venue



Hotel "Zamek na Skale"

Trzebieiszowice 151, 57-540 Łądek Zdrój

+48 74 865 20 00

zamek@zameknaskale.com.pl; <https://zameknaskale.com.pl>

The „Zamek na Skale“ Hotel in Trzebieiszowice is situated within the historic walls of a former noble residence. The origins of the estate date back to the 15th century, when a fortified knight's seat was erected on the rocky bank of the Biała Łądecka River. Fragments of the original walls have survived and remain visible in the basement of the current structure.

In the 16th century, a Renaissance manor with an internal courtyard was constructed. This building was significantly expanded in the late 17th century, likely at the initiative of Georg Olivier, Baron von Wallis. A notable addition from this period included a new wing comprising stables, a two-storey orangery, and a tower.

During the 18th and 19th centuries, the castle became one of the most prominent tourist attractions in the Kłodzko region, particularly favoured by health resort visitors from nearby Łądek-Zdrój. The residence also hosted royal guests, including Frederick the Great in 1765, as well as King Wilhelm III of Prussia and Tsar Alexander of Russia in 1813.

The architectural form of the palace evolved over several centuries. In the 18th century, a new Baroque-style structure was erected, followed by interior modernisations in the 19th and early 20th centuries in a historicist style. The preserved staircase, adorned with neo-classical panelling and elements in Neo-Renaissance and Neo-Baroque styles, attests to the high artistic quality of the décor. Particularly noteworthy are the Art Nouveau salons, featuring doors designed by Alfons Mucha. An integral part of the estate is the 12.3-hectare landscaped park, established prior to 1720. Its layout reflects the principles of a formal Baroque garden, clearly divided into a flower garden, summer garden, vegetable garden, orchard, and game reserve.

The last major refurbishment of the palace took place between 1903 and 1905, focusing on enhancing visual axes and improving the aesthetic value of the surroundings, which had already been regarded in the 19th century as among the most picturesque in the Kłodzko region.

Today, Zamek na Skale functions as a luxury hotel. The property offers comfortable accommodation and conference facilities, along with access to the historic park. Its location makes it an attractive base for hiking and winter sports tourism.

How to get to Trzebieiszowice?

The closest airports to Kłodzko and Trzebieszowice are located in Wrocław (approx. 120 km) and Prague (approx. 250 km). It is also possible to arrive at other airports in Warsaw, Kraków, Katowice, or Poznań, and then take a train to Wrocław.

From Wrocław

From the Wrocław-Airport to Wrocław Main Railway Station:

- The easiest way to reach the Main Railway Station from Wrocław Airport is by using public transport. The most convenient option is bus line 106, which runs regularly — approximately every 15 minutes — and goes directly to the Wrocław Główny railway station (PKP) and the central coach station (PKS). The journey usually takes around 40 to 50 minutes, depending on city traffic.
- There is also a night service available via bus line 206.
- Alternatively, you can use taxi services or ride-hailing apps such as Uber or Bolt.

Trains from Wrocław to Kłodzko:

- Trains to Kłodzko run regularly, approximately every two hours, and are operated by various providers. It is recommended to use Koleje Dolnośląskie, whose services are coordinated with buses towards Trzebieszowice (direction: Stronie Śląskie). It is better to choose the Kłodzko Miasto station.

Attention! New timetables will be in effect from 31 August. Exact departure times can be found on the following websites:

- <https://kolejedolnoslaskie.pl/wyszukiwarka-polaczen/>
- <https://rozklad-pkp.pl/pl/>



From Prague

Getting from Prague Airport to Prague Main Railway Station:

- The easiest and most affordable way to reach the city centre from Václav Havel Airport is by public transport. Take bus 119 from the airport to Nádraží Veleslavín metro station (about 15–20 minutes), then transfer to metro line A (green) and continue to Muzeum station. From there, switch to line C (red) for one stop to Prague Main Railway Station (Praha hlavní nádraží).
- The total journey takes about 40–45 minutes. A 90-minute ticket costs approximately CZK 40.

Alternatively, the Airport Express (AE) bus offers a direct connection to the Main Railway Station in about 40–50 minutes. Tickets cost around CZK 100.

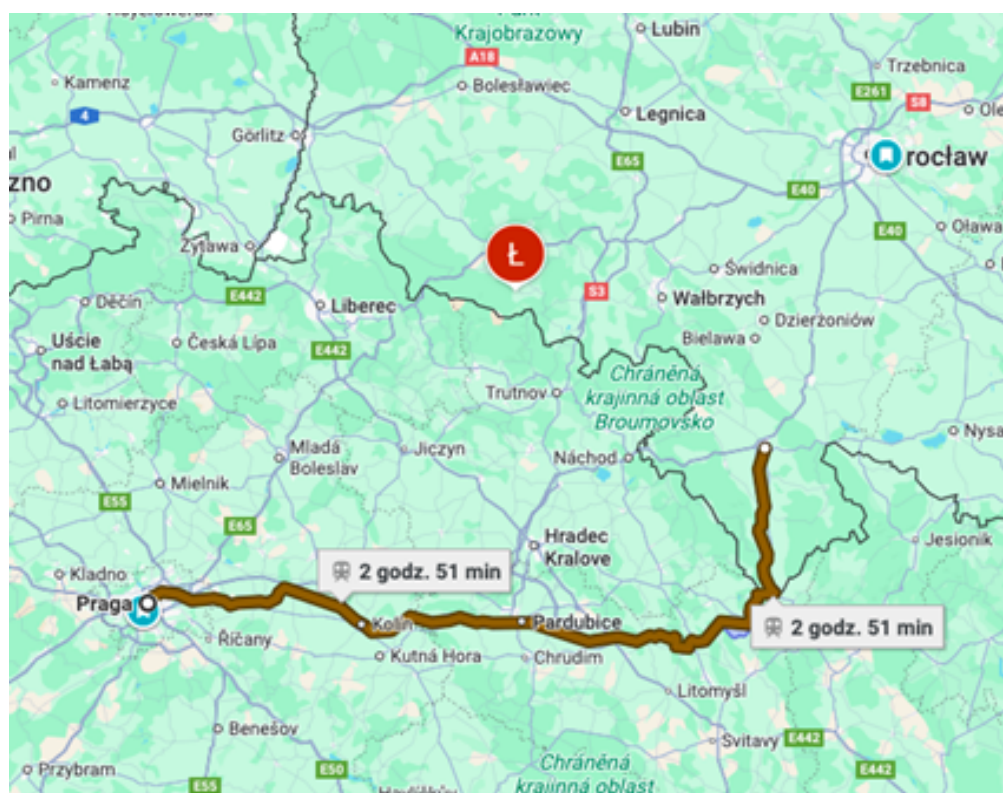
- Taxis, Uber, or Bolt are also available and take around 30–40 minutes.

From Prague Main Railway Station (Praha hlavní nádraží) to Kłodzko Miasto:

- Several direct trains to Kłodzko Miasto station depart daily from Prague Main Railway Station (Praha hlavní nádraží), approximately every 4 hours.
- The journey takes around 2.5 hours.

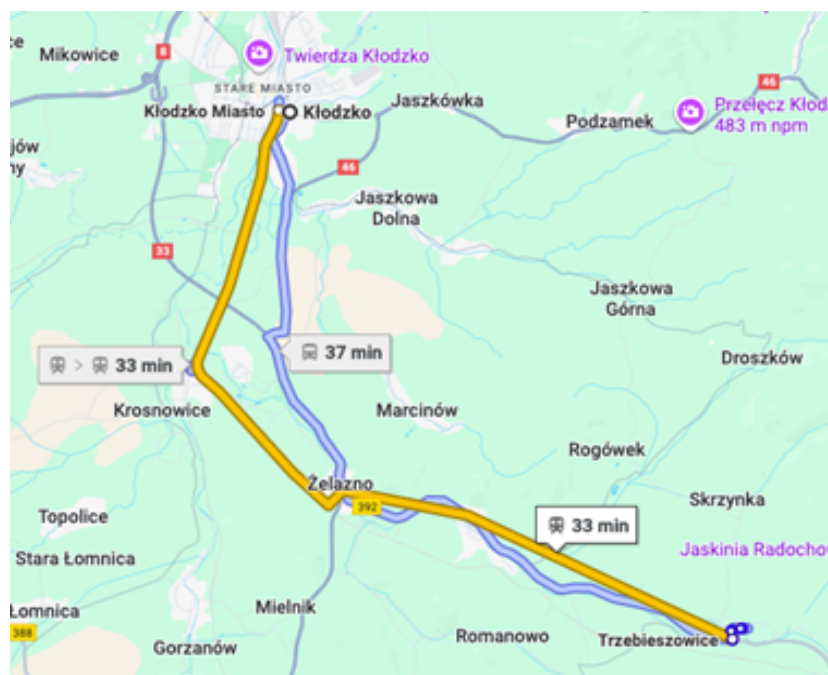
Attention! It is recommended to check the timetable in advance on the following websites:

- <https://ebilet.intercity.pl/>
- <https://www.cd.cz/en/>



From Kłodzko to Trzebieszowice:

You can reach Trzebieszowice from Kłodzko by taking a Koleje Dolnośląskie bus. Stops are located near both Kłodzko Główne and Kłodzko Miasto railway stations.



There are also buses from the private company “Beskid”:

<https://www.beskid-przewozy.pl/rozklad-jazdy/stronie-slaskie-ladek-zdroj-klodzko>

You can also get from **Kłodzko to Trzebieszowice by taxi**; the cost is approximately €20.

	Morning	Lunch	Afternoon	Evening
Monday 8th Sept.	Arrival	Arrival	14.30: Welcome 15.00: Keynote 16.00: Poster presentation	20.00: Open ceremony and Reception at the Museum of Kłodzko Land (Muzeum Ziemi Kłodzkiej)
Tuesday 9th Sept	9.00: Lectures	12.30: Lunch	13.30: Lectures 15.00: City tour	19.00: Dinner at hotel 20.30: Committee Meeting
Wednesday 10th Sept	9.00: Full-day Excursion to Museum of Papermaking in Duszniki Zdrój; Broumov region: Monastic landscape and rural settlement			19.00: Dinner at the hotel
Thursday 11th Sept	9.00: Lectures	12.30: Lunch	13.30: Lectures	20.00: Conference dinner (invitation of the Dean of the Faculty of Historical and Pedagogical Sciences of the University of Wrocław)
Friday 12th Sept	9.00: Lectures	12.00: Lunch	13.00: Main conference close 14.00 Departure to post Conference excursion (Strzelin-Świdnica-Jelenia Góra)	
Saturday 13th Sept	Excursion to Wleń Castle, Jelenia Góra region, Ducal Tower in Siedlęcin	Lunch	Excursion	Integration evening -Ducal Tower in Siedlęcin
Sunday 14th Sept	Excursion to Legnica (Castle in Legnica), Cistercian Abbey in Lubiąż, Środa Śląska (Museum), Wrocław	Lunch	Departure	

PROGRAMME

Monday: 8 September 2025

Until 13.30 Registration of participants

14.30-15.00 Welcome to participants, opening of the conference (Claudia Theune)

15.00-16.00 Keynote: **Rainer Schreg (Germany)**: Rural-urban dynamics from an ecological perspective. Current debates and approaches

Poster Presentation (Alphabetic Sequence)

16.00-17.30 **Konrad Burek (Poland)**, Archaeological records of medieval élite culture on rural and urban sites

Carla Rita De Rosa (Italy), Settlement dynamics and land exploitation in some fortified centers of Campania in the middle ages: the case of Caiazzo castle (Caserta)

Catarina Tente, Gabriel Souza, Tomás Cordero, Catarina Magalhães, João P Tereso, Pedro C Carvalho (Portugal), The early medieval iron workshop of Forja (Idanha-a-Velha, Portugal)

Dóra Csepregi Horváth (Hungary), The socio-economic impact of the suburbs on the 11th-14th century power centres in Hungary

Alicia Hernández Robles, Roque Modrego Fernández (Spain), Exploring rural-urban commercial relations in al-Andalus. A methodological proposal from Landscape Archaeology in the area of Sierra Mágina (Jaén, Spain)

Ágnes Kolláth, Bianca Gina Kovács, Gyöngyi Kovács; Zsófia Nádai (Hungary), The rural hinterland of Székesfehérvár, the coronation town of the medieval Hungarian kings

Valerio Sordillo (Italy), Modern Age dovecotes in southern Italy: topographical distribution and economic function

Thiago Tolfo, Arnaldo Rui Azevedo de Sousa Melo, Maria do Carmo Franco Ribeiro (Portugal), The relationship between the urban periphery and the city in the Middle Ages: the case of the Parish of Maximinos and its importance in the organization of the western peri-urban space of Braga (5th to 15th Centuries)

Csilla Zatykó (Hungary), Between two towns: tracing connectivity in the Körös river floodplain, Hungary

17.30-18.00 *Break*

20.00 Opening ceremony at Kłodzko Museum with participation of municipal authorities and museum management (Muzeum Ziemi Kłodzkiej – Museum of Kłodzko Land)

Tuesday: 9 September 2025

Section 1: General aspects, theory and state of research (Chair Catarina Tente)

9.00-9.30 Carenza Lewis (United Kingdom): Reconstructing relationships and interactions between rural and urban settlements in later medieval England

9.30-10.00 Russell Ó Ríagáin (Ireland): Rethinking hinterlands using medieval Irish urban–rural relations, c. 400–1300 AD

10.00-10.30 Tomáš Klír (Czech Republic): Hinterland of urban centres in Medieval Bohemia (1200–1500) - An Overview

10.30-11.00 *Coffee break*

Section 2: Rural landscape (Chair Paweł Duma)

11.00-11.30 Rowin van Lanen (The Netherlands): Calculating the rural–urban connection: Reflecting on modelling past land use and historical consumption in the Netherlands

11.30-12.00 Laura Moro, Alessandro Panetta, Giulia Bizzarri, Caterina Piu, Raffaele Voccia, Anna Maria Stagno (Italy): The relationship between rural hinterlands and towns through the study of the road system. Case studies from Ligurian Apennines between the 18th and 21st centuries

12.00-12.30 José Abellán Santisteban, Anna María Stagno, Ylenia Paciotti, José María Martín Civantos (Italy): From the mountains to the towns: The role of *cortijos* in the mutual exchange between mountain and urban economies in the Sierra Nevada (Spain), 17th–21st centuries

12.30-13.30 *Lunch break*

Section 3: Expansion and abandonment (Chair Tomáš Klír)**13.30-14.00 Paweł Duma, Mirosław Furmanek, Radosław Zdaniewicz (Poland):**

The hinterland of cities in the era of medieval colonization: the example of the village of Kornice (Poland)

14.00-14.30 Maria Legut-Pintal (Poland): Wood over wheat? Deserted villages in the hinterland of small Silesian towns

15.00-18.30 City tour of Kłodzko

19.00 Dinner at the hotel

Wednesday: 10 September 2025

Full-day bus trip. Highlights of the Czech-Polish border area: Museum of Paper-making in Duszniki Zdrój; Broumov region: Monastic landscape and rural settlement (Hvězda viewpoint, Wooden Church in Broumov, Benedictine Monastery)

Thursday: 11 September 2025**Section 4: The rural hinterland and power structures (Chair Rainer Schreg)****9.00-9.30 Tibor Ákos Rácz, László Ferenczi (Hungary, Czech Republic):**

A multidisciplinary GIS-based investigation into the problem of longterm settlement development in the hinterland of Pest (Pest County, central Hungary)

9.30-10.00 Ladislav Čapek (Czech Republic): The rural hinterland of royal towns in West Bohemia in the medieval and early modern period – a comparative assessment of socio-economic relations between the countryside and towns**10.00-10.30 Roland Filzwieser, Leopold Toriser (Austria):** The rural hinterland of Laa an der Thaya (Lower Austria) and its impact on the medieval town

10.30-11.00 Coffee break

Section 4 continued (Chair Mette Svart Kristiansen)**11.00-11.30 Uglješa Vojvodić, Vesna Bikić (Serbia):** Archaeological perspectives on periphery-centre interactions in medieval Serbia**11.30-12.00 Miklós Takács, Péter Langó (Hungary):** The problems of the periphery and centres, seen from the perspective of medieval rural archaeology in Hungary

12.00-12.30 Michał Starski (Poland): Rural hinterland and small towns: the formation of settlement relations in Gdańsk Pomerania (Poland) in the late middle ages

12.30-13.00 Athanasios Vionis (Cyprus): Power structures, settlement and territorial control in the rural hinterland of late medieval Cyprus (13th-16th centuries)

13.00-14.00 *Lunch break*

Section 5: Economic aspects – Production and exchange I (Chair Athanasios Vionis)

14.00-14.30 Jakub Sawicki (Poland): Village vogue. Production, consumption and material networks of dress accessories in medieval rural Europe and small towns

14.30-15.00 Orsolya Mészáros (Hungary): Background of medieval glass production: rural or urban environment?

15.00-15.30 Radosław Biel (Poland): The role of iron production in the Zgorzelec Forest (Poland) in the medieval and early modern period

15.30-16.00 *Coffee break*

16.00-16.30 Edit Sárosi (Hungary): From deserted “puszta” lands to an intensive network of villages and isolated farmsteads. Land management and socio-economic changes in the Great Hungarian Plain in the post-Ottoman Period (17th-19th century)

20.00 *Conference Dinner*

Friday: 12 September 2025

Section 5: Economic aspects – Production and exchange II (Chair Csilla Zatykó)

9.00-9.30 Marie Ødegaard, Kjetil Loftsgarden (Norway): Rise and fall of urban centres in Viking Age and Middle Ages in Norway – resources and socio-economic dynamics

9.30-10.00 Alf Ericsson (Sweden): Roads and bridges managed by rural people in towns and their nearby countryside – some examples from southern Sweden

10.00-10.30 Yannick Signer (United Kingdom): Potting in town and country: re-evaluating the relationship between rural and urban pottery production in the medieval landscapes of Northern England

10.30-11.00 *Coffee break*

Section 5 II continued (Chair Niall Brady)

11.00-11.30 *Alicia Hernández Robles, José Abellán Santisteban, Jorge Rouco Collazo, José María Martín Civantos (Spain):* The hinterland of Guadix throughout the Middle Ages. An approach to the economic integration of a medium-sized Andalusí town, Spain

11.30-12.00 *Ivana Hirschler Marić, Jelena Boras, Andrej Janeš (Croatia):* The rural surroundings of medieval town of Gorjani (Croatia)

12.00 Main conference close

12.00-13.00 *Lunch break*

Post-conference weekend excursion

14.00 **Departure to post-conference excursion**

15.00-17.00 Visit to the exhibition on the deserted village of Goschwitz in Strzelin, Church of Peace in Świdnica, Transfer to accommodation (near Jelenia Góra)

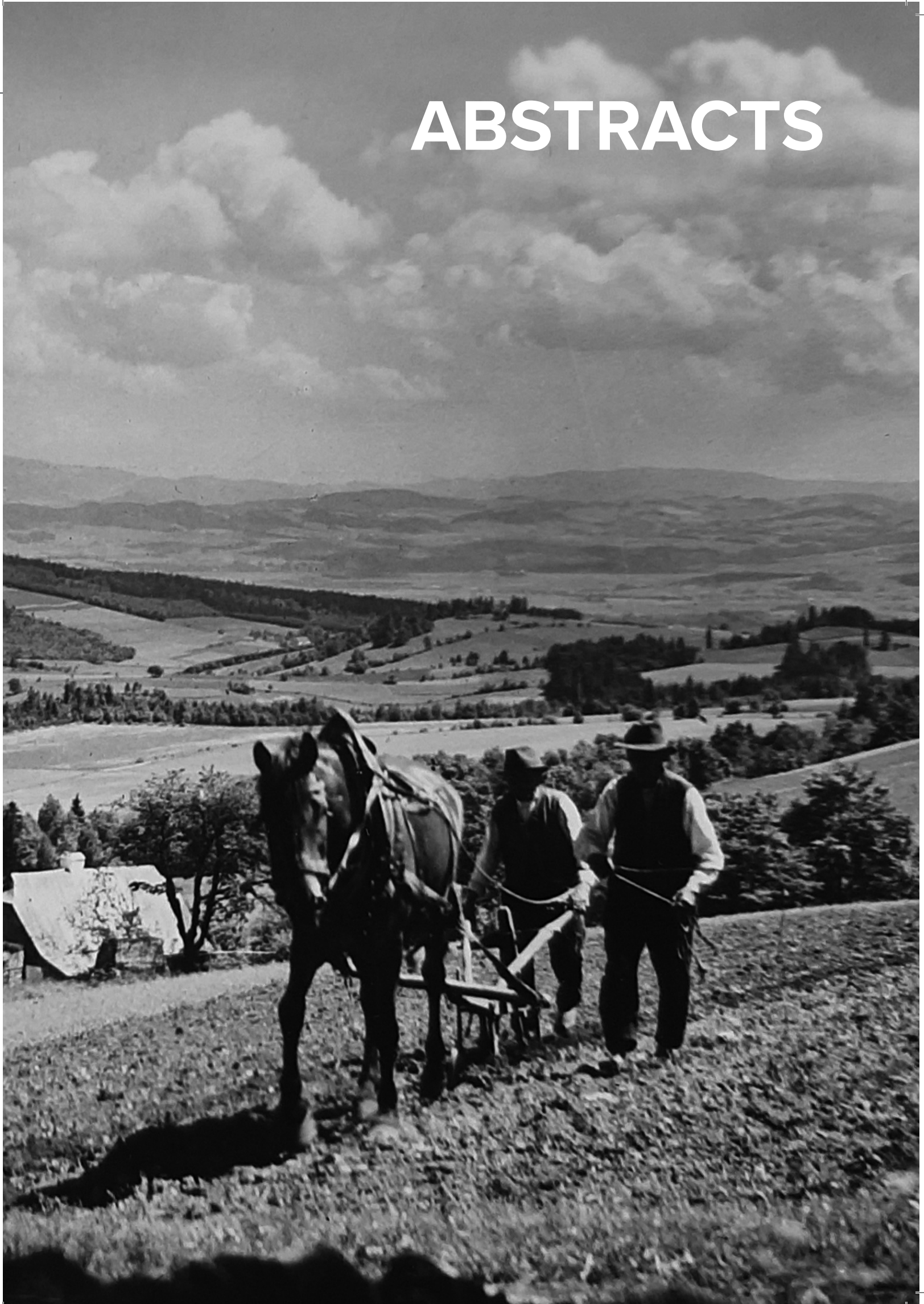
Saturday: 13 September, 2025:

From 9.00 Full day excursion (Wleń Castle, Jelenia Góra region, Ducal Tower in Siedlęcín, selected historical monuments and archaeological sites)

Sunday: 14 September, 2025:

From 9:00 Excursion to Legnica (Castle in Legnica). Cistercian Abbey in Lubiąż and Środa Śląska (Museum), end of excursion in Wrocław

ABSTRACTS



ABSTRACTS

KEYNOTE

Rural-urban dynamics from an ecological perspective. Current debates and approaches

RAINER SCHREG

In Germany ecological approaches have gained significance in medieval archaeology during the last years, particularly through concepts of sustainability and metabolism. However, current discourse often uses these ideas as metaphors without a thorough examination of environmental history and existing evidence. My contribution to Ruralia aims to review current approaches in ecological archaeology, especially in medieval and post-medieval archaeology. A prominent topic within this framework are urban-rural relations and the question of how urban development affected the urban hinterland. However, it is also important to turn this perspective around, and to consider how the rural landscapes also shaped the urban settings. By critically analyzing the current state of ecological approaches in research and archaeological interpretations, this study seeks to highlight the interconnections between urban and rural settings and the implications of these relationships in historical contexts. Therefore, the paper will sketch the ecological consequences of urban development for agrarian landscapes and villages as well as their impact on towns. In fact, villages ecosystems may be understood as subsystems within urban ecology. The paper will provide a comprehensive assessment of how these ecological perspectives can inform our understanding of historical (and current?) rural-urban dynamics.

SECTION 1 – GENERAL ASPECTS, THEORY AND STATE OF RESEARCH

Reconstructing relationships and interactions between rural and urban settlements in later medieval England

CARENZA LEWIS

The profound impact of urbanisation on rural settlements has long been acknowledged and it is an urgent contemporary issue as rural settlements in many parts of the world struggle to adapt to burgeoning urbanisation. Drawing on approaches from psychology, sociology, social psychology and anthropology, this paper will consider what light social network analysis (SNA) can throw on the impact of towns and urbanisation on the development of rural settlements in medieval England. SNA involves examining the relationships and interactions between different nodes within a network: in this paper, the nodes are medieval settlements (rural and urban), and the 'relationships and interactions' between them will be reconstructed by mapping the findspots of medieval pottery found from multiple standardised sampling excavations in rural settlements and towns and identifying their production sites. Discussion will consider what this approach can reveal about the 'relationships and interactions' between rural settlements and towns, between different types of settlement/element such as manorial sites, burgrave plots, regularly planned peasant tofts and informal common-edge colonisation, and how all of these relationships were affected by change over time as later medieval urbanisation experienced both boom and bust.

Rethinking hinterlands using medieval Irish urban–rural relations, c. 400–1300 AD

RUSSELL Ó RÍAGÁIN

With the possible exception of emporia and major monasteries, settlement in Ireland is usually seen as completely rural until the formation of several towns associated with Scandinavian-diasporic settler communities in the ninth and tenth centuries, with further towns growing in the 150 years after Ireland was incorporated into the authority of the kings of England. This paper will attempt a rethink as regards how these towns interacted with their hinterlands. It will begin by re-opening the debates regarding the presence of late antique emporia in Ireland and whether or not major monasteries can be regarded as having had urban characteristics. It will interrogate the concepts of ‘urban(ity)’ and ‘hinterland(s)’, proposing that both must be thought of in terms of concentrations of ideological, military, economic and political power resources, borrowing from Mann’s *Sources of Social Power* (1986). This will hopefully help move beyond simplistic spatial conceptions of towns as tightly linked clusters of these resources, and as having single rather than multiple overlapping hinterlands involving the different ways in which people, objects and ideas move through space. A variety of evidence will be deployed, ranging from texts to distributions of pottery and metalwork, ecofacts, architectural remains and rural settlement patterns.

Hinterland of urban centres in Medieval Bohemia (1200–1500) - An Overview

TOMÁŠ KLÍR

The relationship between rural settlements and urban centres has been a key subject of research within Czech medieval studies, though often with a focus on the influence of towns on their rural hinterlands. However, recent archaeological and interdisciplinary research in Bohemia increasingly highlights the active role of the countryside in shaping urban environments and institutions. Rural communities were not merely passive recipients of urban influence but crucial actors contributing to urban development through the supply of resources, knowledge, labour, and innovations, as well as through the transfer of cultural and institutional patterns. This contribution aims to present an overview of current research on the impact of rural settlements on urban centres in Bohemia, with a particular focus on rural archaeology. It will examine how material culture, land use, environmental data, and written evidence reflect these interactions. The paper will discuss the methodological frameworks applied to understanding this rural-urban dynamic, and identify key research themes such as (i) the role of rural production and resource management in sustaining urban economies, (ii) the transmission of technological and agrarian innovations from countryside to town, (iii) the influence of rural elites and landowners on urban governance and institutions, (iv) the environmental consequences of rural-urban interaction, and (v) the shaping of suburban and peri-urban landscapes by rural practices and interests. Case studies will illustrate these issues, including examples from Prague, one of the largest Central European agglomerations of the Later Middle Ages, and smaller urban centres such as Cheb. By emphasizing the agency of rural settlements, the contribution seeks to place Bohemian evidence within a broader European context of rural-urban interaction and to underline the necessity of integrating rural perspectives into the study of medieval urbanization processes.

SECTION 2 – RURAL LANDSCAPE

Calculating the rural–urban connection: Reflecting on modelling past land use and historical consumption in the Netherlands

ROWIN VAN LANEN

The Rhine-Meuse delta in the Netherlands has been densely populated since the Bronze Age (2000–800 BC). Its fertile soils and strong (long-distance) connectivity offered ample opportunities for transport and land use. Yet the delta's dynamic nature (e.g. flooding, fluvial activity) continuously challenged inhabitants to adapt. Despite this, the region has remained attractive for both rural and urban settlement, making it ideal for studying long-term human–landscape interactions. Over recent decades, various models have been developed to reconstruct potential land use in the delta. Some were archaeologically driven, others focused on digital methods such as agent-based modelling. However, few have systematically explored functional ties between rural and urban zones or addressed long-term trends. In this paper, I reflect on the potential of (land-use) modelling for reconstructing and calculating the rural–urban connection. Building on a previously published simulation model of the first millennium AD, I demonstrate how traditional archaeological hypotheses can be tested and relative urbanisation levels quantified. I also explore how historical research on medieval consumption patterns can enhance such models and extend their chronological reach. The results highlight the value of integrating archaeological and historical data to better understand rural–urban connections over the long term.

The relationship between rural hinterlands and towns through the study of the road system. Case studies from Ligurian Apennines between the 18th and 21st centuries

LAURA MORO, ALESSANDRO PANETTA, GIULIA BIZZARRI, CATERINA PIU, RAFFAELE VOCCIA, ANNA MARIA STAGNO

This paper aims to investigate the relationship between the rural hinterland and the coastal towns of Liguria between 17th and the 21st centuries, starting with the analysis of the changes in the complex road networks between the Po Valley and Genoa which, during the Early Modern Period, was the most important port in the Mediterranean and one of the richest towns in Europe. Roads are the material evidence of the constant flow of people, animals and products between urban and rural areas, thus of the connection between places of production, of consumption and of exchange. The study area comprises the imperial fiefs that were located in Trebbia, Aveto and Borbera valleys (Western Ligurian Apennines), owned by nobles Genoese families. Starting from the analysis of historical cartography, building archaeology in hamlets and villages and archaeological surveys in places historically related to agro-sylvi-pastoral practices, the research aims to verify to which extent roads and their infrastructures can reflect the relationships between the social groups involved (consumers, traders, producers, transporters, etc.), as well as the dependences and the connections between the changes in urban and rural areas (not exclusively in term of changes in consumption in town and in production in mountain areas).

From the mountains to the towns: The role of *cortijos* in the mutual exchange between mountain and urban economies in the Sierra Nevada (Spain), 17th–21st centuries

JOSÉ ABELLÁN SANTISTEBAN, ANNA MARÍA STAGNO, YLENIA PACIOTTI, JOSÉ MARÍA MARTÍN CIVANTOS

This study analyses the cultural landscape of Sierra Nevada through the lens of landscape archaeology, focusing on the relationship between rural settlements and urban centres from 17th century onwards. Central to this analysis are the *cortijos*, distinctive agricultural structures that are still scattered across the Sierra Nevada mountains. These rural units were key elements in the high-mountain agriculture, establishing grazing areas, and providing seasonal shelters for livestock. The paper aims to demonstrate that the management of these spaces also materialises the deep connection between rural and urban economies, and the constant exchange of goods (not only dairy products and agricultural goods, etc.) through well-established transhumance routes linking rural pastures, and markets to the urban ones (Guadix, Granada and Almería). By reconstructing the organisation and the transformation in the environmental resources management (in particular, irrigation systems, terraced fields, and pastoral activities), this research explores the complementarity and mutual dependence between rural and urban environments (also thanks to the reconstruction of the coincidence between animal and trade roads). Through the integration of archaeological, cartographic, and ethnographic data, this study aims to deepen our understanding of settlement dynamics and the interdependence between high-mountain environments and urban centres in the Mediterranean context, and to reflect on the recent changes related to the relatively recent so-called “extractivist” approach to rural and mountain areas, which is finally materialised by tourism.

SECTION 3 – EXPANSION AND ABANDONMENT

The hinterland of cities in the era of medieval colonization: the example of the village of Kornice (Poland)

PAWEŁ DUMA, MIROSŁAW FURMANEK, RADOSŁAW ZDANIEWICZ

Among many issues analyzed by Polish archaeologists, undoubtedly the most considered was the changes associated with German colonization intensively carried out in the 13th century. The changes were not only associated with a complete transformation in the urban shape and appearance of cities and towns but also became an important factor in the economy of the region. Particularly in Silesia, these changes were pronounced and involved the physical arrival of numerous settlers from the West. Often forgotten with this topic is the fact that such a pronounced development of urban centers would not have been possible without an adequate rural base providing resources and conditions for the economic development of the region. However, we know little about the origins of these early villages. To date, few of them have been studied in Poland. Significant discoveries include relics of a settlement in Kornice, where the remains of buildings (including dugouts) and other features (dating back to the 13th century) have been excavated. Presumably, this settlement was not inhabited for a long time and may have been a temporary settlement established by settlers from the West. This discovery shows how dynamic changes took place during the medieval period and how significant an impact they had on the emerging urban centers. Archaeological research has shown a disproportionate level of interest in

of research between urban areas and villages in Poland. From the perspective of the development of medieval villages in Silesia, these structures were extremely important and supportive in the process of medieval urbanization.

Wood over wheat? Deserted villages in the hinterland of small Silesian towns

MARIA LEGUT-PINTAL

Several medieval villages located in the hinterland of small towns in historical Silesia were abandoned and repurposed rather than repopulated and cultivated. Many of these areas were reforested or transformed into fishponds, reflecting a shift in land-use priorities. The reasons behind this process remain complex - were these changes driven by economic strategies, environmental constraints, or broader socio-political factors? A multi-source approach, combining historical records, preliminary archaeological investigations, and landscape analysis, sheds light on the dynamics of rural abandonment. Written sources reveal patterns of landownership and economic policies, while material culture - including pottery, clothing accessories, and weaponry - demonstrates strong links to nearby towns and castles. Environmental issues may have hindered long-term agricultural success, making alternative land-use strategies more viable. The selected case studies illustrate how shifting economic strategies, environmental conditions, and land management policies influenced the transformation of rural landscapes in the medieval and early modern period. Examining these processes provides a deeper understanding of the evolving relationship between towns and their hinterlands, highlighting the changing role of rural settlements within the economic sphere of small towns.

SECTION 4 – THE RURAL HINTERLAND AND POWER STRUCTURES

A multidisciplinary GIS-based investigation into the problem of longterm settlement development in the hinterland of Pest (Pest County, central Hungary)

TIBOR ÁKOS RÁCZ, LÁSZLÓ FERENCZI

Our case study presents a multiscale and long-durée approach, synthesizing historical data (a digital topographic database of late medieval settlements), archaeological data (a collection of small finds from systematic field-surveys and metal detecting surveys) and environmental data (a comprehensive evaluation of pollen sites) to illustrate the divergent development of settlements within the hinterland of Buda and Pest, in County Pest, in Central Hungary. We integrate the quantitative and qualitative assessment of archaeological finds with GIS-based topologic and distance-based parametric modelling to understand historical settlement hierarchies and to highlight the role of internal and long-term factors (socio-economic changes in the 14th-15th centuries, and the impact of the Ottoman conquest in the early 16th century) on settlement desertion. We specifically address the diverging historical trajectories of settlement development in peri-urban settings, the emerging hierarchies due to settlement desertion, relocation, internal migration – influenced/catalysed by the socio-economic context, climate change and by the Ottoman war. More generally, we intend to reflect on the concepts of marginality and frontier and on the theory of the so-called “Alföld (Great Hungarian Plain)-syndrome”, i.e. the long-lasting ecological and socio-economic historical impact of the Ottoman frontier zone, one characteristic of which

was the lack of traditional urban centres, and the belated development of rural market towns.

The rural hinterland of royal towns in West Bohemia in the medieval and early modern period – a comparative assessment of socio-economic relations between the countryside and towns

LADISLAV ČAPEK

The paper presents a comparative analysis of the rural hinterlands of several royal towns in West Bohemia (Plzeň, Stříbro, Tachov, Klatovy and Sušice) during the late medieval and early modern periods, employing geographic information systems. Each of these towns underwent a distinct process of settlement and property law development in the formation of land ownership, leading to a unique structure of town (borough = *šosovní*) villages, which differed more or less from typical serf villages. A special position in the structure of the towns' hinterlands (Domažlice, Tachov) was occupied by the Chod villages. In the 15th and 16th centuries, significant activity by wealthy burgesses can be observed, particularly in the acquisition of village farmsteads and manors. Czech historiography has predominantly emphasised the economic (agrarian) potential of the town hinterland, with less focus on the social ties between the urban population (burghers) and the rural inhabitants (peasants) living within the administrative jurisdiction. The town hinterland can, therefore, be understood not only as an economic but also as a social space, inviting a multi-layered, interdisciplinary examination of the socio-economic relations between town and countryside. The examples of towns in West Bohemia, considered on both macro and micro scales, provide a rich context for exploring these reciprocal relations.

The rural hinterland of Laa an der Thaya (Lower Austria) and its impact on the medieval town

ROLAND FILZWIESER, LEOPOLD TORISER

This paper examines the landscape evolution and rural-urban interaction between hinterland and the town of Laa an der Thaya in Lower Austria during the medieval and early modern periods. It integrates historical cadastral maps, GIS, and archaeological prospection methods to analyse spatial and structural developments. The fertile plain surrounding Laa, situated on the Czech border, was originally characterised by periodical floods. However, following major river regulations and drainage schemes, the plain became prone to droughts and saline patches. The rural hinterland with its significant agricultural output, played a crucial role in sustaining and shaping the urban centre. Initially a marshy village itself, Laa was deliberately developed into a fortified town by the Babenbergs in the 13th century, featuring a central market square and a planned rectangular layout, still preserving the village outlines within. Rural features such as field boundaries, road networks, and deserted villages reveal the entanglements between rural and urban spheres. By applying stratigraphic principles to historical maps and analysing archaeological prospection data, this study traces changes in settlement patterns and land use. The results highlight the physical and environmental transformation of Laa's hinterland as well as its resilience to challenges such as conflicts and environmental pressure. This study underscores the importance of integrating historical and archaeological data to understand the interplay between rural landscape and medieval town.

Archaeological perspectives on periphery-centre interactions in medieval Serbia*UGLJEŠA VOJVODIĆ, VESNA BIKIĆ*

As previous research has shown, urbanization in the territory of medieval Serbia was a regionally specific process that underwent significant changes following the Ottoman conquests. With the exception of the Adriatic coastline and newly conquered Byzantine territories, cities, as they were known across broader Europe, began to emerge in medieval Serbia only during the late Middle Ages (starting in the early 14th century), while the role of central places was often fulfilled by military fortifications, unfortified markets, and royal monasteries. In contrast to these central places, their rural hinterlands, despite their significance, remain insufficiently explored and have predominantly been viewed as areas managed by social elites for the purpose of resource and labour exploitation rather than as dynamic spaces that actively influenced the development, organization, and transformation of central places. This paper aims to present multidimensional relationships between rural and urban environments, focusing on the exchange of goods, technology, knowledge, people, power, and religious practices, with particular emphasis on the ways in which rural communities and landscapes contributed to the formation and functioning of these centres.

The problems of the periphery and centres, seen from the perspective of medieval rural archaeology in Hungary*MIKLÓS TAKÁCS, PÉTER LANGÓ*

Concerning the archaeology of the middle ages in Hungary there are two basic and apparently opposite conclusions to be formulated from the literature dealing with the given issue. One can find a lot of different conclusions about the problems of the center and periphery, especially when the analyses of the spread of the trends of the material culture from the center to the periphery are considered. On the other hand, the conclusions of most of these analyses are almost unknown due in part to the fact that they were mostly published in Hungarian.

Our presentation aims to fulfill two major tasks: to present the main conclusions of this almost forgotten literature, but also to give a new approach to the analysis of the questions of the center and periphery. The usual viewpoint of the analyses is the treatment of usage of imported artefacts in the rural settlements as some kind of “end users”. This viewpoint is also reflected in the mapping of the single types of artefacts. We will try to make a turn in this approach by putting forward the question of whether the imported artefact forms a kind of network suitable for establishing the virtual vicinity or the distance of a rural site from its center in the field of material culture. Concerning the question, how had agrarian settlements of the Árpáadian Period (11th – 13th c AD) provided food and other goods for the supplies of centres, we are going to present the examples of county-forts of Győr and Moson, to emphasize the importance of village-like settlements in the supply of cattle or grain. The artefacts to be used for these analyses came from the settlement sites, as well as from graveyard excavations of the Árpáadian Period (11th – 13th c AD) in Western Hungary. The medieval Hungarian Kingdom - according to Jenő Szűcs’ interpretation - represented a kind of transitional zone between East and West as early as the Árpáadian period. In our research, we also aim to explore how this relates to the issue of center and periphery. To what extent do objects considered to have Western, or opposite to this: Eastern, Byzantine backgrounds, appearing also in the western Hungarian region and how can their appear-

ance be explained from the perspective of the rural archaeology.

Rural hinterland and small towns: the formation of settlement relations in Gdańsk Pomerania (Poland) in the late middle ages

MICHAŁ STARSKI

The paper's topic will be the characteristics of the formation of smaller urban centres and their rural hinterland in Gdansk Pomerania in the late Middle Ages. The presentation will focus on the three historically and archaeologically most fully recognised settlement centres, i.e. Chojnice, Lębork and Puck, together with their rural hinterland. The region under discussion is a unique example of a province where these two types of settlements were formed simultaneously during the reconstruction of the settlement network after the Teutonic conquest. The paper will address the spatial transformations of towns and villages during the formation period, the development of the surroundings of towns, i.e. the functioning of suburbs and nearby villages, and rural settlements remaining at a greater distance from urban centres. The influence of the rural environment on the economy and functioning of the discussed urban centres will also be characterised while maintaining connections and contrasts across diverse spatial and historical contexts with the diverse specificity of the discussed towns. The discussion will be based on written, cartographic and archaeological sources.

Power structures, settlement and territorial control in the rural hinterland of late medieval Cyprus (13th-16th centuries)

ATHANASIOS VIONIS

The firm establishment of Western/Frankish rule in Cyprus since the late 12th and early 13th centuries resulted in profound transformations in rural settlement. This shift was driven by the establishment of feudal power structures, leading to the creation of new settlements and a reorganisation of rural communities around these new centres of authority, even though the Latin nobility chose to reside in the existing towns of the island. This contribution will delve into several critical investigations: (a) the spatial distribution of tower-houses in the rural hinterland along the southern coast of Cyprus, (b) the intricate relationship between this phenomenon and the evolving political and economic landscapes, (c) the pivotal role these structures played as symbols of authority that determined the formation of dependent villages and communities, and (d) the means by which these rural/local hubs controlled agricultural lands and supervised road networks of communication. Ultimately, spatial analyses will facilitate reconstructing and visualising the territorial control of neighbouring towns (i.e. the closest markets and administrative centres), suggesting that tower-houses were integrated within a broader settlement hierarchy that connected them to urban centres and contributed to the reorganisation of the countryside and the intensification of agricultural practices throughout the Late Middle Ages.

SECTION 5 – ECONOMIC ASPECTS – PRODUCTION AND EXCHANGE I

Village vogue. Production, consumption and material networks of dress accessories in medieval rural Europe and small towns*JAKUB SAWICKI*

While studies of medieval dress accessories—key archaeological witnesses to fashion—have traditionally focused on major urban centres, recent investigations in smaller towns (e.g. Cieszyn) and rural settlements across Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia reveal striking typological similarities in these objects. This homogeneity likely stems from the rise of mass production in the 13th century, with workshops potentially producing up to 10,000 items monthly. Crucially, this industrial-scale output was not confined to large cities but extended to peripheral craft hubs. This presentation explores the interconnected dynamics of production, consumption, and distribution between smaller urban and rural centres, and their role in shaping identities across medieval society. By analysing assemblages from understudied regions, it challenges urban-centric narratives of material culture. How did these mass-produced yet socially charged items—from belt buckles to brooches—mediate belonging and status among non-elites? What networks linked rural blacksmiths to small-town markets, and how did stylistic trends infuse diverse communities? The findings underscore dress accessories as agents of cultural cohesion, transcending settlement hierarchies and invite us to rethink relations between large urban centres, lesser towns and rural areas.

Background of medieval glass production: rural or urban environment?*ORSOLYA MÉSZÁROS*

Medieval glass production is one of the crafts that can be found both in and outside medieval cities. The localisation of ateliers is partly due to the method of technology (e.g. needs large amounts of wood, special imported components) and partly to the needs of customers or the market. The need to use (and appreciate) glass objects in the Middle Ages is linked to the urban noble, ecclesiastical or civil population who owned property in the city, but the craftsmen who made these objects were not members of high society. The products of glassmaking were not only used in cities or castles, but also in rural settings, however. This presentation will focus on the archaeological remains of glassmaking workshops in Hungary, analysing the finds in terms of their typology and material composition, in order to show the urban or rural status of the customers, the makers and the buyers, the links and movements between them, the localisation of the work processes, the distribution of the finished glass objects, and ultimately the movement of glass objects and their makers between the countryside and the city.

The role of iron production in the Zgorzelec Forest (Poland) in the medieval and early modern period*RADOSŁAW BIEL*

The Zgorzelec Forest in southwestern Poland was a crucial hub for iron production from the 14th to 18th centuries, serving as a resource hinterland for Görlitz, a key member of the Union of Six Cities (Sechsstädtebund). This study examines the forest's role in supplying resources and shaping the city's economic and technological development, focusing

primarily on the now non-existent village of Nowoszów. Using airborne laser scanning, geophysical surveys, and anthracological analyses, the research reveals a structured iron production system, including hydrotechnical infrastructure, forges, roasting pits, and extensive charcoal piles. Archival sources place these activities within Görlitz's centralized governance, which enabled efficient resource management, technological innovation, and integration into regional trade networks. The study highlights how urban demand influenced rural production and how Nowoszów's industries contributed to economic growth, labour organization, and technological progress. It also contrasts sustainable resource management in the Zgorzelec Forest with less regulated practices elsewhere in Europe. By examining Nowoszów within broader urban-rural dynamics, this research deepens our understanding of how rural landscapes not only supported but actively shaped urban development in the Medieval and Early Modern periods.

From deserted “puszta” lands to an intensive network of villages and isolated farmsteads. Land management and socio-economic changes in the Great Hungarian Plain in the post-Ottoman Period (17th-19th century)

EDIT SÁROSI

In 2007, I summarized how the deserted „puszta” lands in the central part of the Carpathian Basin emerged in the 14th-15th century, and in what ways these were managed in the 16th-17th centuries as part of an economic system based on mainly large-scale animal husbandry (Ruralia conference VII). In my forthcoming paper, I would like to present the further profound transformation of these deserted lands between the 17th and 19th centuries: how a large part of the previously uninhabited land became slowly repopulated with villages and a dense network of farms by the mid-19th century. The presentation will focus on the various perspectives of the repopulating deserted lands themselves by presenting some case studies from the region and will highlight how different circumstances (e.g. ownership, location, environmental factors) affected their development in terms of economic production (appearance of specialized local products) and how the formation of new villages and the dense network of isolated farmsteads re-structured the general settlement system. The paper will also show some recently discovered archaeological evidence on the research of the isolated farmsteads. The re-colonization of the countryside created new economic and social links between the permanently inhabited towns and the isolated farmsteads, especially in the peri-urban contact zones by the 19th century, these interfaces will also be analysed and included in the discussion.

SECTION 5 – ECONOMIC ASPECTS – PRODUCTION AND EXCHANGE II

Rise and fall of urban centres in Viking Age and Middle Ages in Norway – resources and socio-economic dynamics

MARIE ØDEGAARD, KJETIL LOFTSGARDEN

This paper explores the relationship and the socio-economic dynamics between rural hinterlands and early Norwegian towns, c. 900-1400, – to uncover why some towns failed while others succeeded. Resources from the sea, mountains and forests were crucial commodities in late Viking Age and early medieval Norway, more so than in most other regions.

These products, such iron, fish, hunting (fur, skin, antlers) and stone products, were vital for inter-regional and international trade and export, and significantly shaped the development of complex economic networks and facilitated the emergence of medieval towns. However, by the late Middle Ages several of these towns had been abandoned. Can the difference between them be found in the socio-economic resources from the hinterland or were there external factors involved, or both? Using archaeological structures and findings, we will analyse the hinterlands and resource bases of the towns in relation to natural topography and socio-political developments, seeking to understand why some towns thrived and others declined.

Roads and bridges managed by rural people in towns and their nearby countryside – some examples from southern Sweden

ALF ERICSSON

Medieval towns were nodes of communication dependent on external economic and population resources provided by its hinterland to manage the infrastructure. This paper deals with how rural communities in southern Sweden called hundreds (Sw. *härads*) were responsible not only for the construction and maintenance of roads and bridges leading to towns but also in some cases bridges situated in towns or their nearby countryside. The bridges were vital parts of the road network, usually made of wood and could be up to a hundred meters long. From the perspective of the rural settlement this was not always considered fair. There are examples of controversy. Disputes could also arise between hundreds over which parts of a bridge they should maintain. It is argued that the reason for this seemingly asymmetrical relationship lies in the fact that the maintenance obligation was laid down by law before the towns were founded or when they still were small and not so populated as later in the Middle Ages. For well-known reasons, towns were often built at already existing road meetings, often next to rivers, needed to be bridged.

Potting in town and country: re-evaluating the relationship between rural and urban pottery production in the medieval landscapes of Northern England

YANNICK SIGNER

The development of pottery production in Northern England accelerated significantly from the late 11th century onwards, with numerous production sites emerging in both urban centres and their rural hinterlands. These production sites have usually been studied in isolation and have rarely been compared intra- and inter-regionally, and as such, little is known about how the craft developed in its wider landscape. In addition, relationships between urban and rural production sites have seldom been investigated, and it is therefore unclear whether techniques and ideas spread from urban workshops to the countryside or vice-versa. This paper considers how this spread of ideas and techniques in craft production can be investigated and contextualised in the wider town and country relationship. In particular, the paper introduces a number of landscape-scale case studies where the connection between production sites located in urban and rural spaces is investigated through their production techniques and the distribution of their products. The commonalities and differences highlighted through this approach provide new insights into the influential and, at times, pioneering role of countryside production sites, suggesting that innovation in pottery production may be occasionally found outside of the major towns.

The hinterland of Guadix throughout the Middle Ages. An approach to the economic integration of a medium-sized Andalusí town, Spain

ALICIA HERNÁNDEZ ROBLES, JOSÉ ABELLÁN SANTISTEBAN, JORGE ROUCO, COLLAZO, JOSÉ MARÍA MARTÍN CIVANTOS

This study explores the influence of rural agricultural, manufacturing, and metal production in the Marquesado del Zenete region (Granada, Spain) on the development of Guadix throughout the Middle Ages, focusing on changes from the 11th century onwards, particularly during the Nasrid period (13th-15th centuries), when Guadix became a medium-sized city within the southeast al-Andalus network. Through the analysis of historical records and archaeological evidence from Landscape Archaeology and historical irrigation studies—such as findings from the Alquife fortress, excavations at Pago del Jarafí, urban excavations in Guadix, and recent geoarchaeological analyses—this research reveals how rural communities played a pivotal role in shaping urban dynamics. The data suggest that mining and metal production were initially supplementary activities to agriculture, autonomously managed by rural families. The silk production from mulberry trees, which supplied the city's *souk* and the *alcaicería*, highlights the significance of historical industries in the rural surroundings. Additionally, the rural irrigation system was fundamental in providing water to the city and its orchards through the “Channel of the City”, as frequently mentioned in historical sources. The working hypothesis states that, from the 11th century onwards, as Guadix consolidated as an urban centre, production and consumption patterns in Zenete villages changed, becoming more connected with the city, as evidenced by the standardised ceramic production in several sites in the area.

The rural surroundings of medieval town of Gorjani (Croatia)

IVANA HIRSCHLER MARIĆ, JELENA BORAS, ANDREJ JANEŠ

A rural settlement existed in Gorjani, Eastern Slavonia, during the Middle Ages. The earliest burials date to the turn of the 11th/12th century, but the remains of the contemporary settlement have not yet been found. Written historical sources in the middle of the 13th century mention Gora/Gara as *possessio*, villa. A turning point in development is marked by 1269, when Gorjani becomes the central property of the Garai family. In the second half of the 14th century, the settlement received the status of *civitas* and experienced the peak of its growth. Around 1400, it ceases to be the main family residence, but it is still one of the most important centres of the medieval Valkó County. In the 15th century, the ownership was divided between two family branches. The most important institution was the Dominican friary of St. Margarete founded in 1323. The main source for this work is the estate list, the Garai-Szécsi agreement from 1478 with data on settlements, economy, demography, etc. Analysis of data from the agreement of 1478, comparison of written and cartographic sources will be considered in relation to historical topography of the rural surroundings of the medieval city. Despite the lack of archaeological evidence and settlement archaeology, we think it is necessary to identify the settlements, the communication network and examine their relationship with the urban centre.

POSTERS

Archaeological records of medieval élite culture on rural and urban sites*KONRAD BUREK*

Archaeological surveys and excavations in medieval rural areas reveal the frequent presence of material culture traditionally associated with the elites. Recent studies, however, demonstrate that similar artefacts are commonly found in assemblages from major cities, lesser towns, and even castles. The evidence indicates a need to reassess the status of some of these objects, the potential locations of their production, and the supply routes of such goods. This study examines trade relations between the lesser town of Strzelin (Lower Silesia, Poland) and its surrounding rural hinterland. It is based on the archaeological finds from three deserted villages in the area, which reflect the purchasing power of rural dwellers and the market dynamics of supply. It aims to discuss the extent to which the rural inhabitants produced tools independently and what opportunities they had to acquire elite items. The question is, to what degree could they also influence the provisioning of such objects to local burghers?

Settlement dynamics and land exploitation in some fortified centers of Campania in the middle ages: the case of Caiazzo castle (Caserta)*CARLA RITA DE ROSA*

In the territory of internal Campania, the first hilltop settlements appeared already in the early Middle Ages, which managed the territory both from an administrative and economic point of view under the central authority. In many cases, exploiting the productive capacity of the land, terraces were built along the slopes of the hill. Some Irpinia castles, thanks to long-standing studies in that area, have become models of interpretation (Montella, Rocca San Felice, Sant'Angelo dei Lombardi, Ariano Irpino), already presenting in their layout terraces intended for cultivation and livestock farming, which had the function of providing for the subsistence of the settlement itself and of the nearby town. The survey from 2020 to 2023, in the area of the castle of Caiazzo, highlighted the presence of such agricultural terraces, some of which were built inside an older wall, in polygonal fitting of 4th - 3rd century BC and ceramic fragments that attest to the relationships with the nearby production centers of Campania. The parchments of the Episcopal Archive of Caiazzo confirm that between the 11th and 12th centuries the terraces to the south of the castle hosted many olive groves. What we intend to present is the analysis of the first data that would seem to clarify what the synchronic and diachronic relationship could be between the hilltop settlement and the areas annexed to the city in late antiquity and throughout the Middle Ages.

The early medieval iron workshop of Forja (Idanha-a-Velha, Portugal)*CATARINA TENTE, GABRIEL SOUZA, TOMÁS CORDERO, CATARINA MAGALHÃES, JOÃO P TERESO, PEDRO C CARVALHO*

As part of the IGAEDIS project research, several sites were identified in the countryside surrounding the ancient city of Egitânia. In 2022, archaeological excavations were carried out at one of these sites, Forja, where evidence of ironworking was uncovered. The site contained a forge that was in use during two distinct phases: the 6th–7th centuries and the 8th–early 9th centuries. Located less than 1.5 km from the city's northern gate, Forja

appears to have been strategically positioned in relation to the available natural resources, such as wood and minerals. Its proximity to Egitânia suggests a possible connection between with the urban centre but also related to hamlets that were identified nearby. Archaeological findings, supported by radiocarbon dating, anthracological studies, and ethnographic parallels, provide valuable insights into the relations of the countryside landscape but also to the city's hinterland. They highlight the significance of this artisanal site and the use of peri-urban spaces for specialized production. This poster will present the available data and explore key questions: To what extent did local resources influence the selection of sites for iron production? Was proximity to the city a decisive factor?

The socio-economic impact of the suburbs on the 11th-14th century power centres in Hungary

DÓRA CSEPREGI HORVÁTH

Power centres of the 11th–14th century located at the seats of the counties are often considered early towns in scholarly literature. Although research usually focuses on the power centres, a considerable amount of archaeological data has also been accumulated on the rural settlements surrounding them. This paper aims to examine the relationship between the Visegrád-Várkert settlement and the power centre, Visegrád-Sibrik-domb, with an outlook on the suburbs of further power centres, like Esztergom and Vác, based on the available publications. The investigation focuses on two main questions. Is it possible to define suburbs as a distinct category of settlements compared to other rural settlements of the period? How did these settlements influence the centre, and what archaeological evidence can demonstrate this impact? To draw more general conclusions, three different aspects of suburbs must be analysed: the settlement structure and its archaeological traces, the architectural characteristics of buildings, and the features of material culture. Preliminary findings suggest that the relationship was primarily economic and social. Archaeological evidence for this includes large storage pits, a higher number of different workshops of varied types, ceramic materials highly similar to those found in the centre, and a settlement structure concentrated around the power centre.

Exploring rural-urban commercial relations in al-Andalus. A methodological proposal from Landscape Archaeology in the area of Sierra Mágina (Jaén, Spain)

ALICIA HERNÁNDEZ ROBLES, ROQUE MODREGO FERNÁNDEZ

Andalusi market spaces in urban contexts are well-known thanks to historical and archaeological sources. However, identifying markets in peri-urban and rural areas presents greater challenges, as these periodic meeting spaces have left few traces in the material record. The limited information available about these markets comes mainly from historical sources. This poster takes the northern Sierra Mágina area (Jaén, Spain) as a case study to propose locations for rural *souks* in the hinterland of Jaén between the 12th and 13th centuries, illustrating the complementarity of urban and rural economic spheres. This work provides an overview of current issues in archaeological research on rural commercial spaces in al-Andalus and proposes an integrated methodology from the perspective of landscape and computational archaeology to study potential rural market sites. The proposal uses GIS to map rural settlements, productive spaces (irrigated and dry farming areas, mining zones, etc.), and communication routes, based on data from historical sources, toponymy, and archaeological surveys. Several spatial analyses (communication routes and distance

analyses) are proposed to visualize the commercial articulation in the Andalusí rural landscape and its connection with the nearest urban centres, as well as to compare the data provided by historical sources.

The rural hinterland of Székesfehérvár, the coronation town of the medieval Hungarian kings

ÁGNES KOLLÁTH, BIANCA GINA KOVÁCS, GYÖNGYI KOVÁCS, ZSÓFIA NÁDAI

Due to its geographic position between the Danube and Lake Balaton, the northern part of County Fejér has always been an important element in the political and economic structure of medieval Hungary. A dense network of rural settlements had formed here in the Árpád Age (11th-13th century), with Székesfehérvár, the coronation town and royal burial site of the Kingdom, in its focal point. The area is relatively rich in both historical and archaeological sources and is part of two ongoing research projects. We examine the transformation of these early communities into the more centralised Late Medieval villages and then their struggle for survival in the borderland of the Ottoman Empire through the lens of their connections to Székesfehérvár. We also investigate in a complex manner to what extent the city's supply depended on this hinterland, what raw materials (e.g., wood, stone, provisions) and artisanal products (e.g., ceramics) originated from here, and how their proximity and demands influenced labour mobility.

Modern Age dovecotes in southern Italy: topographical distribution and economic function

VALERIO SORDILLO

Modern age dovecotes represent a distinctive element of the agrarian and architectural landscape of Southern Italy. These structures, designed for the breeding of pigeons and doves, were primarily located in rural areas, yet they played a crucial role in sustaining urban markets. Their distribution in the South appears to be influenced by environmental and socio-economic factors, with a higher concentration in the hilly and coastal areas of Campania, Puglia, Calabria, and Sicily, where climate and resources favored poultry farming. Beyond their role in the rural economy, dovecotes had a direct impact on nearby towns. They provided a steady supply of pigeon meat to urban markets and contributed guano, a valuable resource used in cosmetics, gunpowder production, and agriculture. Their management was often regulated by landowners in coordination with urban authorities to ensure controlled production and prevent overpopulation. This study examines the geographical distribution of dovecotes in Southern Italy, with a particular focus on Campania, assessing their economic and environmental impact on urban centres. By analyzing trade networks and regulatory frameworks, it aims to highlight the connections between these rural structures and the urban economies they supported in the early modern age.

The relationship between the urban periphery and the city in the Middle Ages: the case of the Parish of Maximinos and its importance in the organization of the western peri-urban space of Braga (5th to 15th Centuries)

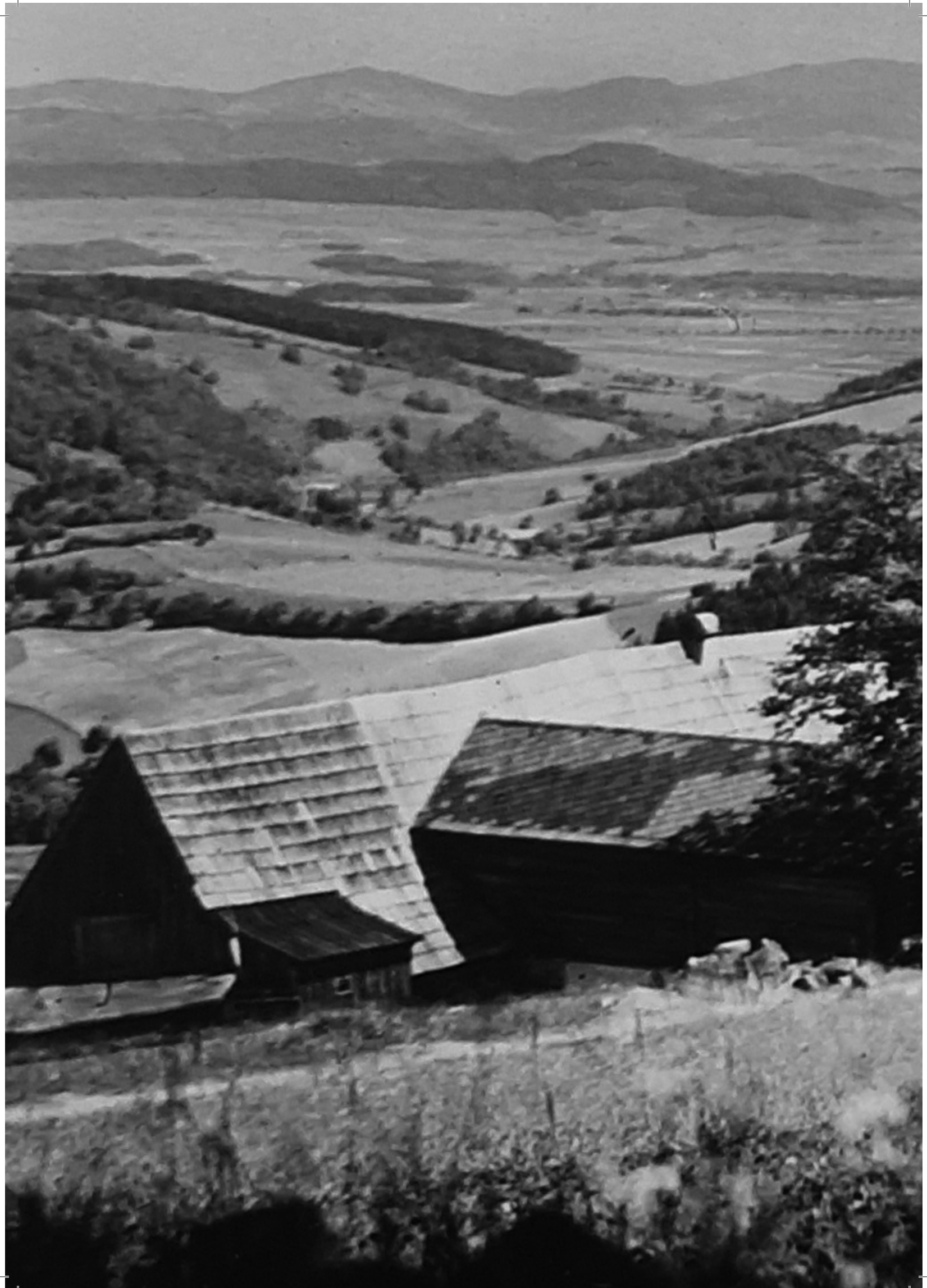
THIAGO TOLFO, ARNALDO RUI AZEVEDO DE SOUSA MELO, MARIA DO CARMO FRANCO RIBEIRO

With the dismantling of the Western Roman Empire, cities and urban settlements underwent a gradual population decline, leading to the contraction of urban areas – a phenomenon referred to by historiography as the “Christianization of space”. This phenomenon translated into the dispersal of populations beyond the walls, settling in clusters around Paleochristian cemetery basilicas situated along ancient roads connecting the city to the rest of Hispania. In the peri-urban area, along Via XX, which extended from the western gate of the medieval city of Braga – consolidated in the northwestern quadrant of the former Roman town – the rural parish of Maximinos developed, centered on the church of São Pedro de Maximinos. In the fifteenth century, Maximinos consolidated as an “arrabalde,” with a distinctly rural character and significant agricultural activity that supplied part of the urban core. Supported by archaeological findings and cross-referencing documentary, iconographic, and cartographic sources, we aim to highlight the agricultural potential of this peri-urban area and its evolution as an “arrabalde,” a relevance reflected in the city’s toponymy. Thus, one of Braga’s streets and gates would be documented in the late fifteenth century under the name Maximinos, symbolizing this space’s importance in the medieval urban configuration.

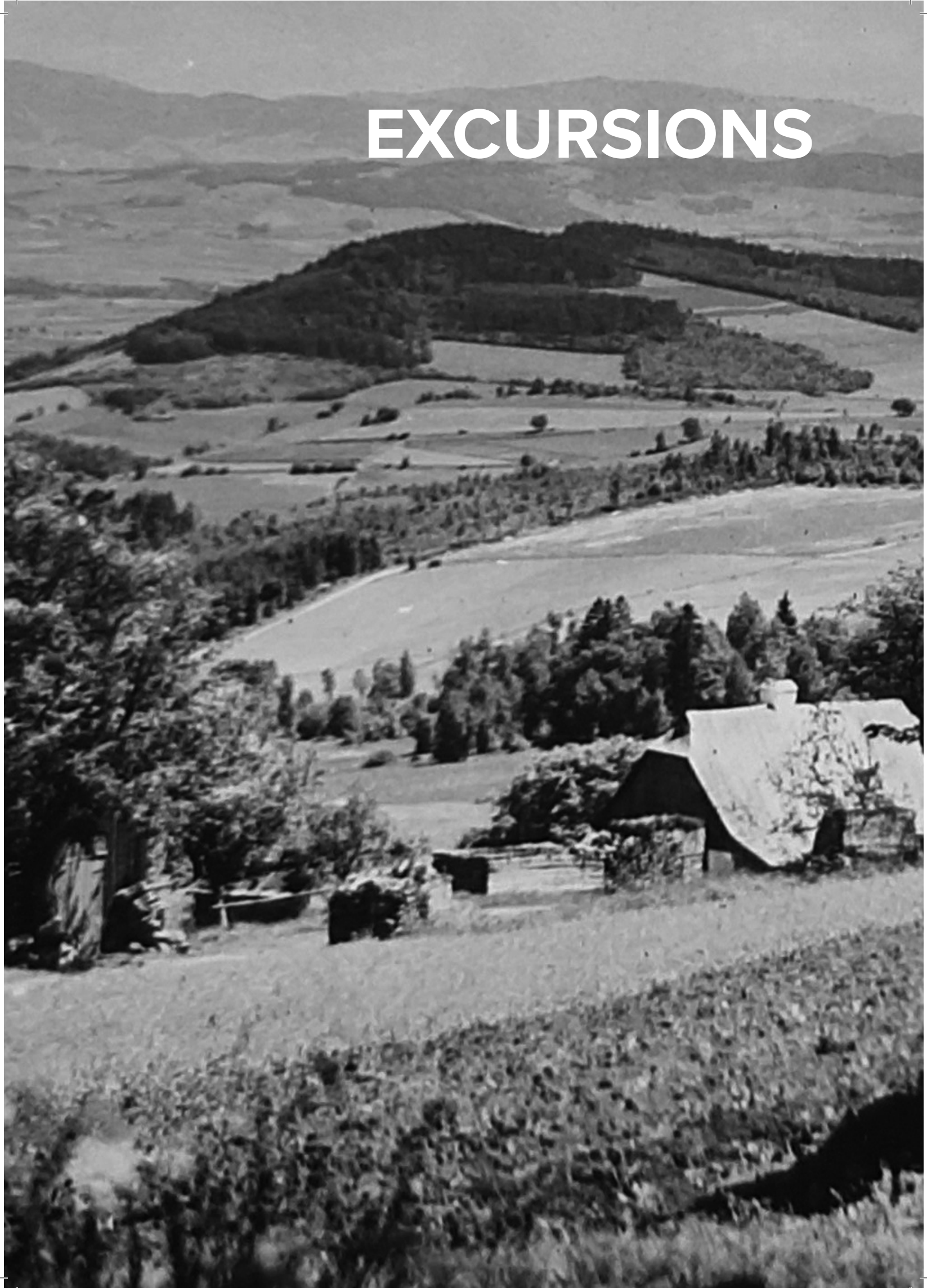
Between two towns: tracing connectivity in the Körös river floodplain, Hungary

CSILLA ZATYKÓ

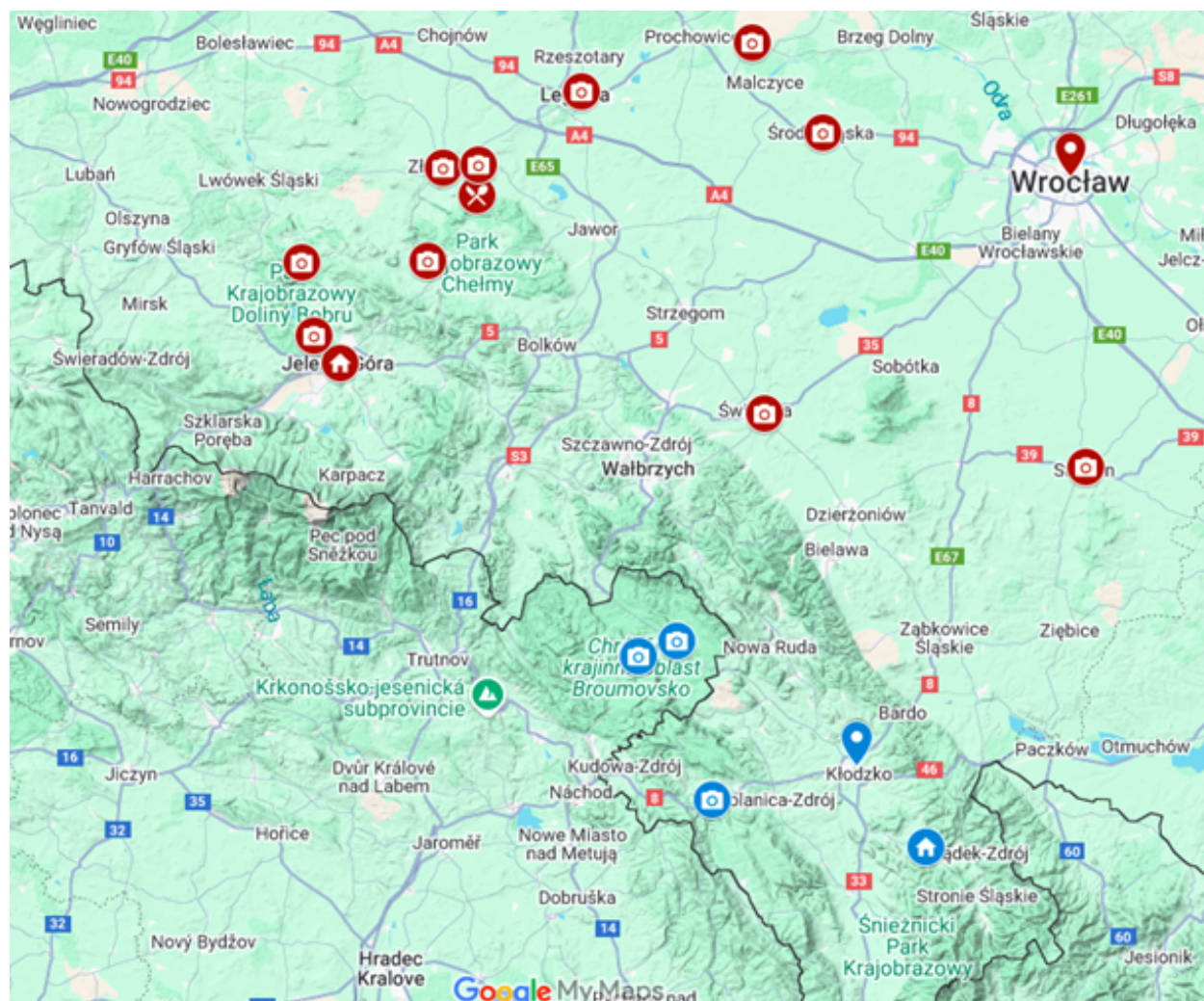
The poster focuses on the investigation of the medieval village of Vátyon, located within the floodplain landscape along the Körös River on the Great Hungarian Plain, and positioned midway between the episcopal city of Várad and the market town of Gyula. In 1552, the parish priest of the village - along with those of several neighbouring rural settlements - contributed a portion of the tithe to support the Council of Trent. This act symbolically demonstrates that, despite its seemingly isolated geographical location, the village was well integrated into the events and informational networks of a broader world. The poster aims to highlight key characteristics of economic and social dynamics, as well as the transfer of knowledge and people between towns and surrounding villages, drawing on research findings from settlements in the region. It explores how archaeological and historical data can be used to trace these interactions and their transformations over time. By examining the spatial structures of the area, transportation routes, settlement networks, exchange of goods, craft production and potential defensive functions, the study seeks to analyze patterns of interaction between the countryside and central places in the Körös River floodplain area.



EXCURSIONS



Map showing the locations visited during the excursions



TUESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER

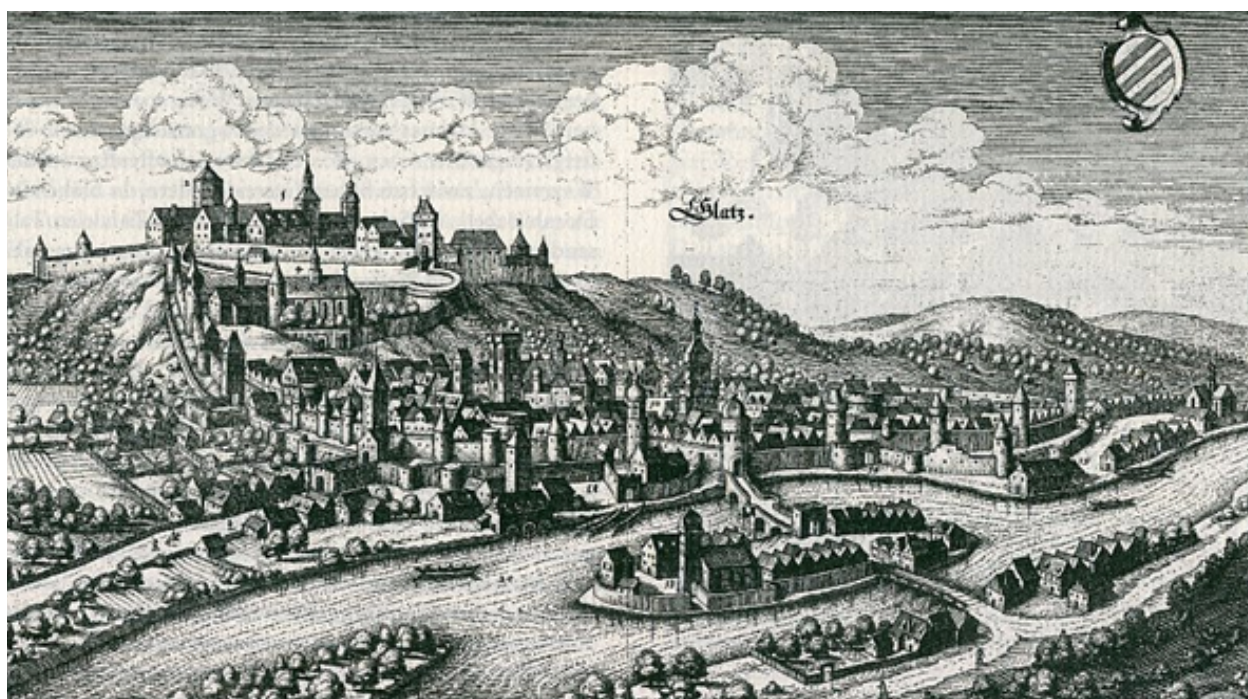
15.00 - Departure for the City Tour of Kłodzko

19.00 - Arrival to the hotel in Trzebieszowice

Kłodzko

Kłodzko, situated in south-western Poland within the Kłodzko Basin on the Nysa Kłodzka River, played a significant role in the medieval history of Silesia. The earliest references to Kłodzko date back to the 10th century. In the *Chronicon of Thietmar of Merseburg*, the town (then referred to as Cladzco) is mentioned as early as 981. At that time, it functioned as a key fortified settlement along a major trade route linking Bohemia with Poland. From the 11th century onwards, Kłodzko repeatedly shifted between Polish and Bohemian control. In 1327, the Kłodzko Land became a fiefdom of the Kingdom of Bohemia, and in 1348 it was formally incorporated into the Crown of Saint Wenceslas by Emperor Charles IV of the Luxembourg dynasty.

During the early modern period, Kłodzko remained part of the Kingdom of Bohemia, which in 1526 came under the rule of the Habsburg dynasty. Consequently, the region became integrated into the Habsburg Monarchy. In 1622, during the Thirty Years' War, the Habsburgs transformed Kłodzko into a key military fortress. From 1742, under the terms of the Treaty of Breslau that ended the First Silesian War, Kłodzko, along with the majority of Silesia, was annexed by the Kingdom of Prussia. The town remained within Prussia, and subsequently within the German Empire from 1871, until the end of the Second World War. This long period of political affiliation reinforced the German character of the town, which persisted until 1945, when Kłodzko was incorporated into Poland.

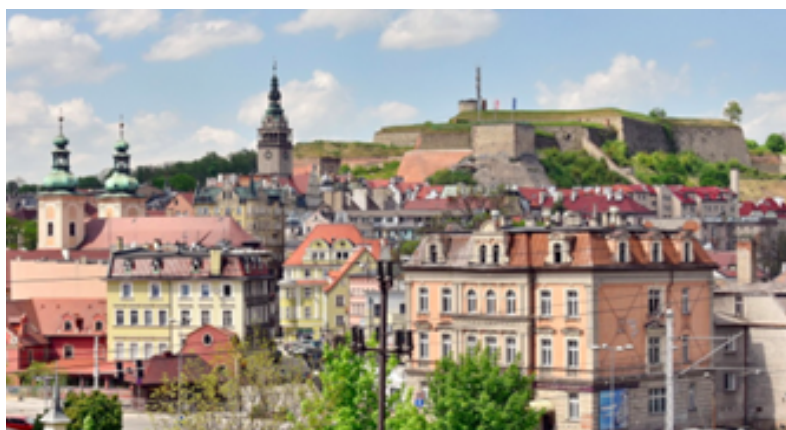


Panorama of Kłodzko; Copperplate engraving by Matthäus Merian, mid-17th century.

Kłodzko preserves several valuable examples of medieval architecture. The medieval urban layout has been retained, with a characteristic grid of streets and squares. The town's built environment is concentrated around the historic Market Square (Rynek), which forms the core of its medieval spatial organisation.

The most important ecclesiastical monument in Kłodzko is the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, constructed in the Gothic style between the late 14th and 15th centuries. It is a monumental, three-aisled basilica with a richly decorated interior, representing the Silesian Gothic tradition with distinct Bohemian influences.

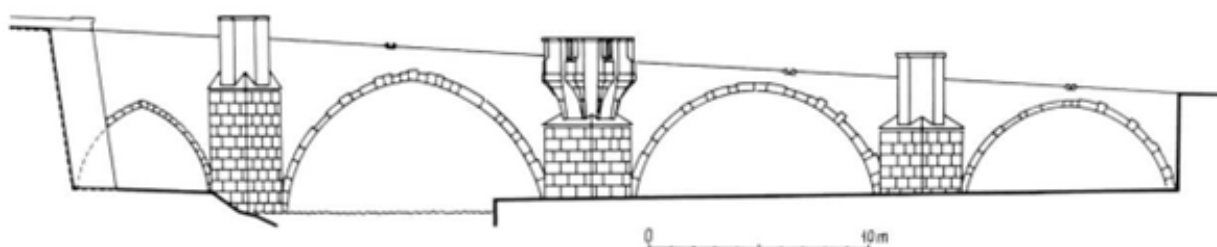
Among the oldest surviving structures is the Gothic bridge over the Młynówka Canal, often referred to as the "Little Charles Bridge" due to its resemblance to the famous Charles Bridge in Prague. Built in the 14th century, it served both communicative and defensive functions. To this day, its balustrades are adorned with Baroque statues of saints.



Contemporary view of Kłodzko from the south, with the town hall tower and the fortress in the background.



Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (after wikipedia.org).



Medieval bridge on Młynówka (after medievalheritage.eu).

Kłodzko Fortress

Kłodzko also held strategic military importance. Remnants of its medieval fortifications include sections of the former town walls and the foundations of the later Kłodzko Fortress. Although significantly expanded in the early modern period, the fortress originated as a ducal castle, documented as early as the 12th century. The construction of the fortress in its early modern form began in the 17th century, following the incorporation of the Kłodzko region into the Habsburg Monarchy. Between 1622 and 1670, the stronghold underwent substantial reconstruction in accordance with the principles of bastion fortification. After Kłodzko was taken over by Prussia in 1742, the fortress was extensively expanded by Prussian military engineers, notably under the supervision of General Gerhard Cornelius de Wallrawe. A vast star-shaped fortification complex was established, incorporating a system of bastions, ravelins, moats, and subterranean mining tunnels.

The fortress played a significant military role during the 18th and 19th centuries, particularly during the Silesian Wars and the Napoleonic Wars. In the 19th century, it served as a military prison. After 1945, it was taken over by the Polish authorities and, for a time, remained in use by the army before being opened to the public as a historical monument.



Plan of the Kłodzko Fortress in 1786 (after M. Wojciechowski).

WEDNESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER**Excursion: Highlights of the Czech-Polish Border Area - Broumov region**

9.00 - Departure for the full-day excursion in Poland and Czechia borderland - Duszniki Zdrój - Broumov Walls - Broumov

19.00 - Arrival to the hotel in Trzebieszowice

Museum of Papermaking

The paper mill in Duszniki-Zdrój in Poland is one of the oldest surviving paper mills in Central Europe. The tradition of papermaking in Duszniki dates back to the 16th century. The current building was reconstructed after a flood in 1601. The mill was built using traditional timber-frame techniques and positioned along the Bystrzyca River, utilizing its flow for mechanical power. Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, the mill operated as a centre of handcrafted paper production, supplying high-quality sheets for writing, printing, and artistic purposes.

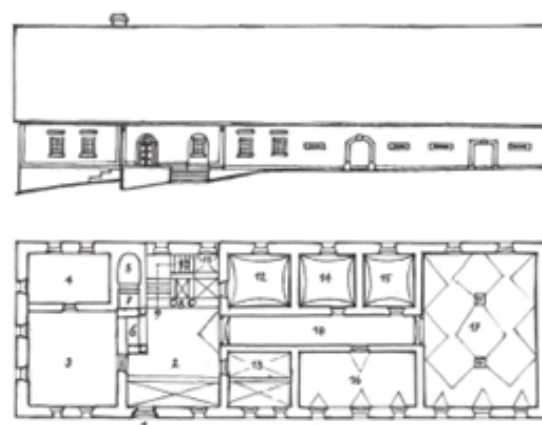
The mill ceased industrial production in the 20th century and was transformed into the Museum of Papermaking in 1968. In 2023, it was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List as part of the transnational series “European Paper Mills Producing Handmade Paper”. The museum preserves original machinery, exhibitions on manual papermaking techniques, watermarks, and paper art. The building retains its authentic historical character and remains a rare example of industrial heritage in working condition. <https://muzeumpapiernictwa.pl/>



Paper Mill in Duszniki Zdrój (after wikipedia.pl).

Broumov region: Monastic landscape and rural settlement

The Broumov region is surrounded by a natural barrier of mountains, hills, and rocky ridges, including the Javoří Mountains, Table Mountains (Góry Stołowe), Broumov Walls, and the massif of the Adršpach-Teplice Rocks. This natural enclosure shaped the region's development over many centuries, leading to unique local characteristics and distinct features. The region remained under continuous ecclesiastical administration into the modern period (with a few interruptions), governed by the Benedictine Order. The settlement network of the Broumov region was established in the 13th century and has remained largely intact since then. The most typical settlement form is the forest linear village (*Waldhufendorf*). Medieval colonists, primarily from Thuringia, introduced and established courtyard farms of the so-called Franconian type throughout the region. During the 19th century, due to a ban on the construction of all-wooden houses and significant economic growth, most wooden buildings were replaced with brick ones. It was during this period that the phenomenon of the so-called "Classicist Broumov-type farmhouse" emerged, becoming a distinctive feature of the region's architectural heritage



Panoramic view of the village of Křínice in Hesselius's Urbarium and ground plan of a Broumov-type farmhouse (source: National Heritage Institute, Village heritage zone of Křínice).

The layout of the original wooden village buildings, including a detailed inventory of village properties and their field systems, can be found in a unique regional account from 1676–77 preserved in Hesselius's *Urbarium* (the inventory of the Broumov Monastery estates), which will guide us through the tour.

Vižňov

One of the last two preserved half-timbered buildings in the Broumov region (Gasthaus zum Goldenen Anker)



Hostiniec Goldener Anker
(after facebook.com).

Wooden Church in Broumov

The Cemetery Church of Our Lady is one of the oldest all-wooden sacred monuments in Central Europe and is also exceptional for its construction technique. Its history dates back to the second half of the 13th or early 14th century, when it was founded. The church's current appearance dates to around 1450, when it was rebuilt after the original structure was destroyed during the siege of the town by Hussite forces in 1421. Also unique is the exceptionally decorative late Gothic interior decoration, ex-

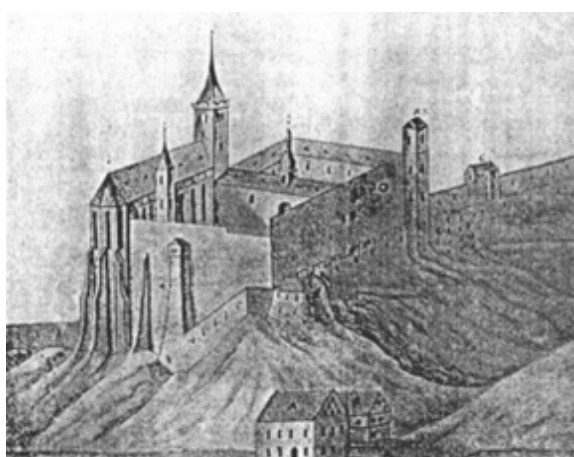


Wooden church in Broumov (after wikipedia.org).

ecuted using a stencil coloring technique featuring zoomorphic, vegetal, heraldic, and textual motifs. Wooden panels displaying chronicle records of significant historical events are exhibited along the church gallery.

Benedictine Monastery in Broumov

The former medieval fortress was rebuilt by Benedictine monks in the 13th century. The monastery gradually became the cultural and religious centre of the region. After a conflagration in the 17th century, it was reconstructed in the Baroque style by Christoph and K. I. Dientzenhofer. Following a difficult period in the second half of the 20th century, when the monastery was used as an internment camp for monks and nuns, parts of the monastery and its monastic garden underwent extensive reconstruction in 2014 and once again became a vibrant cultural centre of the region. The tour includes the refectory with a replica of the Shroud of Turin, St. Vojtěch Church, and the Abbot's Gallery. We will conclude the tour at the Benedictine Cellars and Wine Gallery, with the opportunity to taste Czech and Moravian wines. <https://www.klasterbroumov.cz/>



The monastery before the 1660 fire and its present-day appearance. (after: https://www.hrady-zrceniny.cz/s_broumov.htm; <https://www.viasacra.cz/broumov/>).



Aerial view of Broumov monastery (after visitczechia.com).

WEEKEND EXCURSION THROUGH THE SUDETEN FOOTHILLS

FRIDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

14:00 - Departure from Trzebieszowice

15.30 - Strzelin and medieval village Goschwitz

20.00 - Accommodation in Jelenia Góra (Hotel Baron)

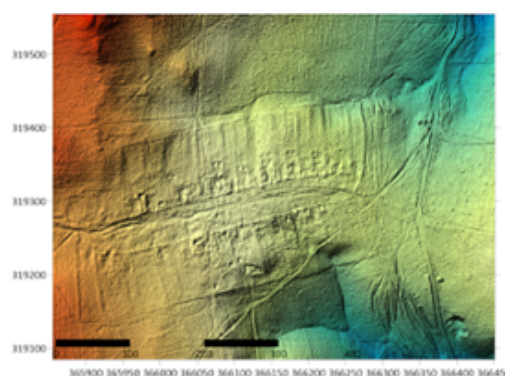
Strzelin

The first written reference to Strzelin dates to the year 1228, mentioning a knight named Razlaus „de Strelyn“. By the first half of the 13th century, a small settlement already existed here, alongside a rival market village known as Stare Przeworno. In 1292, Duke Bolko I of Świdnica, also known as „the Strict“, granted the settlement town rights under German (Magdeburg) law. As part of this process, he merged the noble estate on the left bank of the Oława River with the settlement surrounding the Church of St Gotthard. He granted the newly chartered town the office of Vogt (hereditary mayor), assigning this role to a man named Siegfried. A key historical monument in the town is the Church of St Gotthard, originally built as a rotunda in the first half of the 12th century. It is mentioned in documents from 1264 and 1300, the latter noting that the structure was already in poor condition and undergoing expansion. The church was enlarged with a Gothic nave in the 14th century, and a further extension followed in the 15th century. Today, Strzelin is best known for its granite quarries, which are among the largest in Central Europe.

To the south of Strzelin lies a forest complex where traces of four abandoned medieval settlements have been discovered. In the Strzelin's town hall, there is an exhibition of artefacts from the deserted village of Goschwitz, which was investigated in 2022–2023. The excavations yielded a collection of metal objects, including numerous tools, household items, and pieces of weaponry.

References:

- Adamska, D. (Ed.). (2017). *Strzelin, The historical atlas of Polish towns* (Book 10). Wrocław: Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences.
- Krzysztof Fokt, Maria Legut-Pintal, (2018), The quest for medieval deserted villages in the Strzelin Heights region (Wzgórza Strzelińskie) in Silesia. Preliminary results, *Praehistorica* 34, 33-44.



Exhibition inside the Strzelin town hall (after polska.org) and DTM of the deserted village of Goschwitz.

SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER

9.30 - Tour on medieval towns, villages and castles of Kaczawa river and Bóbr river valleys: Świerzawa - Sędziszowa, Złotoryja, Leszczyna, Rokitnica

13.00 - Lunch in Leszczyna

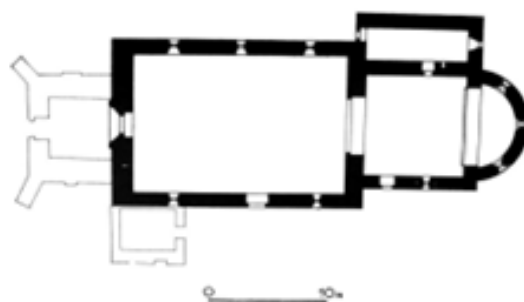
15.00 - Castle and palace Wleń

17.30 - Siedlęcín - Integration evening (bonfire, sausages, refreshments)

22.00 - Transfer to accommodation in Jelenia Góra (Hotel Baron)

Church of St. John the Baptist and St. Catherine

The church dates from the second quarter of the 13th century and was erected on the initiative of Duke Henry the Bearded, his wife St. Hedwig of Silesia, or their son Henry II the Pious, as part of a colonization campaign along the Kaczawa River. It is a hall-type building, ending in a chancel with an apse, later extended westward with a tower. The stonework, including a stepped portal with vegetal ornamentation, dates to around the mid-13th century. The interior preserves late Romanesque and Gothic wall paintings.



Exterior and Interior St. John the Baptist and St. Catherine (after: dawnakraina.pl).



Złotoryja

Złotoryja (Ger. Goldberg) is one of the oldest towns in Poland, historically significant as the center of early gold mining in Lower Silesia. The town received municipal rights based on Magdeburg Law around 1211, during the reign of Duke Henry I the Bearded, making it one of the earliest officially chartered towns in the Polish lands. Its name derives from the Polish word złoto (gold), reflecting its origins as a settlement for miners exploiting gold-bearing sands in the Kaczawa River valley. Throughout the Middle Ages, Złotoryja developed as a regional trade and craft center, benefitting from its strategic location along the trade

routes crossing the Sudetes. Remnants of the medieval urban layout, defensive walls, and religious architecture such as the Gothic Church of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary testify to the town's historical significance.



Aerial view of the spatial layout of Złotoryja (after gorykaczawskie.pl).

References:

- Cembrzyński P., Legut-Pintal M. (2014), Airborne laser scanning as a method of localisation and documentation of mining sites remains. Examples from Silesia, *Acta Rerum Naturalium* 16, 187-202.

Mining Open-Air Museum in Leszczyna

An educational and heritage site documenting the history of early mining in the Kaczawa Foothills, particularly the extraction of copper and cobalt ores. Located near Złotoryja, the museum is situated in a historically rich mining region, where small-scale underground exploitation was practiced from the Middle Ages through the early modern period. The site includes reconstructed mining shafts, adits, and tools, as well as original remnants of mining infrastructure. It offers insights into pre-industrial mining techniques, miners' working conditions, and ore processing methods. The museum is dedicated to preserving the intangible cultural heritage of the mining communities that shaped the economic and social landscape of this part of Lower Silesia.



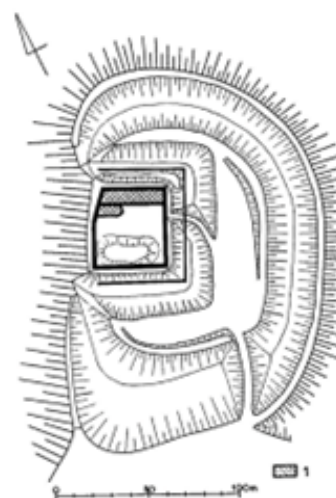
Aerial view of the open-air museum in Leszczyna (after: gorykaczawskie.pl).

Medieval stronghold and castle in Rokitnica

The origins of the castle in Rokitnica (Ger. Rochlitz) date back to the early 13th century and are associated with Duke Henry the Bearded. The stronghold was most likely constructed as a timber-and-stone structure, serving to protect the nearby gold mines in the region of Złotoryja. It may have also played a significant role in the colonisation of the Kaczawa

Foothills. While the settlement of Rochitnica was mentioned as early as 1204, the castle itself does not appear in written sources until 1294. During the late Middle Ages, a customs chamber operated on the site, and by 1318 the existence of a castle chapel is recorded. The castle was abandoned after 1451.

The stronghold was erected on the edge of a terrace above the Kaczawa River, following a regular quadrilateral plan (approximately 33 × 40 metres). It featured a double ring of defensive walls and two dry moats. The principal residential buildings were located on the southern and northern sides of the courtyard. At the turn of the 13th and 14th centuries, a chapel with a polygonal apse and an upper gallery (empora) was added. The building exhibited rich Early Gothic detailing, including a decorated portal and cross-ribbed vaulting.



Plan of the castle remains in Rokitnica (after Chorowska 2003).

Wleń Castle

The castle was built in the second half of the 12th century on the initiative of Duke Bolesław I and is considered one of the oldest castles in Poland. Erected on a basalt hill in the Kaczawa Foothills, above the town of Wleń, it occupies the site of an early medieval stronghold. Originally, it was a Romanesque stone structure in the form of a donjon, enclosed by dry-stone fortifications. In the 13th century, the castle was expanded to include a chapel and a bergfried tower with a hexagonal base. Over the following centuries, it underwent successive enlargements and alterations, eventually acquiring a layout featuring surrounding residential and service buildings. After the collapse of the original tower, a new cylindrical bergfried was constructed. In the 17th century, the castle suffered significant damage during the Thirty Years' War and gradually fell into ruin. Adjacent to the ruins stand a Neoclassical palace and the Chapel of the Virgin Mary. From the castle tower, visitors can enjoy panoramic views of the Karkonosze Mountains, the Kaczawa and Izera Foothills, and the Bóbr River valley. Below lies the town of Wleń — one of the oldest, and also one of the smallest, historic urban centres in Silesia.



Aerial views on the castle Wleń (after gorykaczawskie.pl).



Reconstruction of the castle as it appeared in the early 13th century (by Paweł Rajski).

St. Hedwig's Chapel and Lenno Palace

The church and the palace were built within the area of the former outer bailey adjacent to Wleń Castle. The Baroque chapel stands on the site of a Romanesque church from the 12th century. The palace, originally constructed in the 17th century in the Baroque style, was later remodeled in the Neoclassical style. The palace complex is surrounded by a former manor farm (folwark) and a garden. Archaeological excavations conducted in the garden area have documented the existence of a settlement adjacent to a stronghold dating from the 10th–11th century, located on the site later occupied by the manor farm.

References:

- Chorowska, M., Duma, P., Furmanek, M., Legut-Pintal, M., Łuczak, A., & Piekalski, J. (2017). Wleń/Lähn District in the Sudetes Foothills, Poland: A Case Study of Cultural Landscape Evolution of an East Central European Settlement Microregion From the Tenth to the Eighteenth Centuries. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology*, 21, 66-106.



II. St. Hedwig's Chapel and palace Lenno (after polska.org).

Ducal Tower in Siedlęcin

Erected between 1313 and 1315 on the initiative of Duke Henry of Jawor as a rural residence near the hunting grounds of the Jelenia Góra Valley. Of exceptional scientific and artistic value are the unique wall paintings from the 1330s depicting the legend of Sir Lancelot - one of the few preserved in-situ cycles of Arthurian-themed wall paintings in Europe. The tower is among the best-preserved and most thoroughly archaeologically studied examples of rural residential towers in Poland.

References:

- Nocuń P., 2019, Wieża mieszkalna Henryka I jaworskiego w Siedlęcinie w czasach ostatnich Piastów świdnicko-jaworskich, [in:] *Wielkie murowanie. Zamki w Polsce za Kazimierza Wielkiego*, eds. A. Bocheńska, P. Mrozowski, *Colloquia Cas-trensia*, 2, Warszawa, pp. 231–251.
- Nocuń P. (ed.), 2016, Wieża książęca w Siedlęcinie w świetle dotychczasowych badań. Podsumowanie na 700-lecie budowy obiektu, Siedlęcin–Pętkowice–Kraków.

Reconstruction of the tower's appearance in the 15th century (by P. Rajski and P. Nocuń). ►



Siedlęcin. Chronological stratification of a tower, manor house, and objects discovered in the course of archaeological research with marked archaeological reserve (development by P. Nocuń).



The surroundings of the tower and the interior of the hall featuring medieval frescoes (after: gorykaczawski.pl).

SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER

7:45 – Departure from the hotel

9:30 – Piast Castle in Legnica

12.00 – Cistercian Abbey in Lubiąż, lunch

15.30 – Środa Śląska

16:30 – End of excursion, transfer to Wrocław

Piast Castle in Legnica

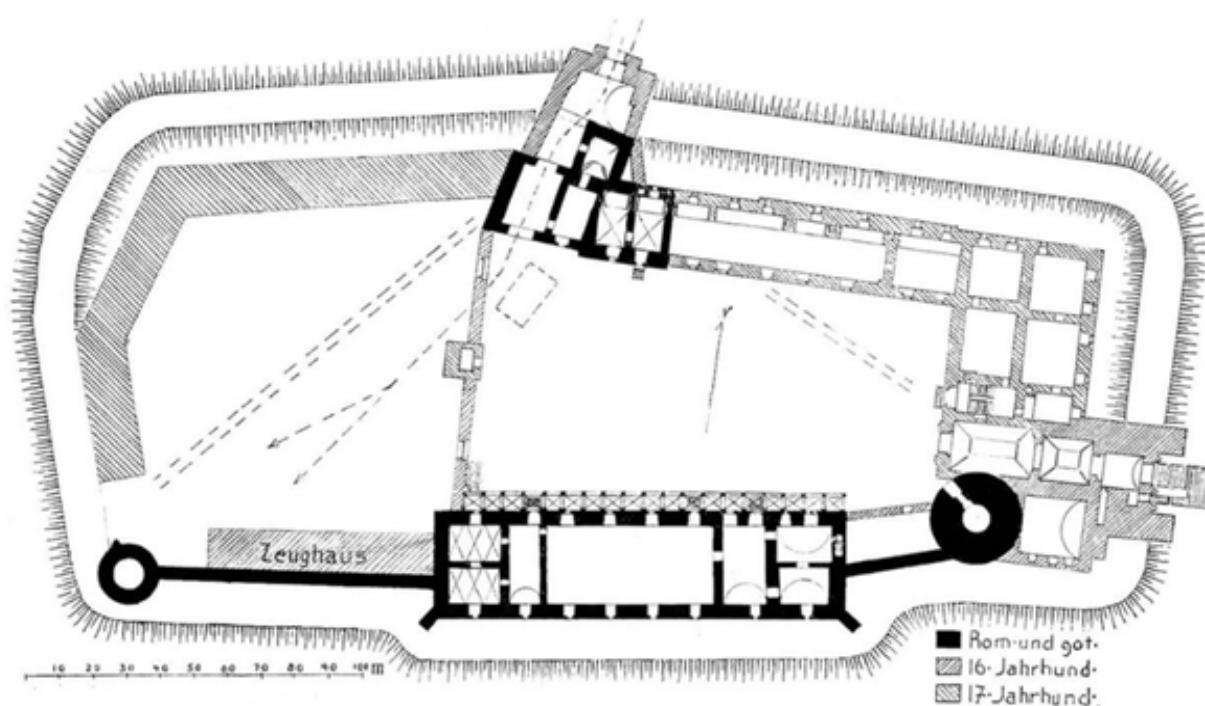
Legnica Castle is one of the oldest princely residences in Poland, originating from a fortified stronghold that existed as early as the 10th century. The stone castle was constructed in the first half of the 13th century by Duke Henry I the Bearded and his son Henry II the Pious. For centuries, it served as the main seat of the Legnica line of the Piast dynasty. The castle was initially built as a Romanesque castle, later expanded in the Gothic style, and further transformed during the Renaissance and Baroque periods. The palatium uncovered during excavations in Legnica was one of the largest in Europe, measuring up to 60 metres in length. Two distinctive bergfried towers have survived from the original complex: the Tower of St. Peter and the Tower of St. Hedwig. Of particular historical and artistic value is the Romanesque castle chapel, dated to around 1230. It is a two-story chapel with a gallery (empora), dedicated to St. Benedict and St. Lawrence, notable for its unique spatial structure reminiscent of imperial architecture. The chapel features finely executed stonework, including capitals and portals, as well as preserved elements of its original interior décor. It is considered one of the most valuable examples of Romanesque architecture in Silesia.

References:

- Chorowska M. (2017), Początki zamków na Dolnym Śląsku - Wleń, Wrocław, Legnica [w:] Początki murowanych zamków w Polsce do połowy XIV w., Zamek Królewski w Warszawie - Muzeum, Warszawa, 93-112.



Exterior view of the castle in Legnica and the interior of the chapel uncovered during archaeological excavations (after polska.org).



Layout of the Legnica castle (after Bimler).



Reconstruction on medieval phase of Legnica Castle.

Cistercian Abbey in Lubiąż

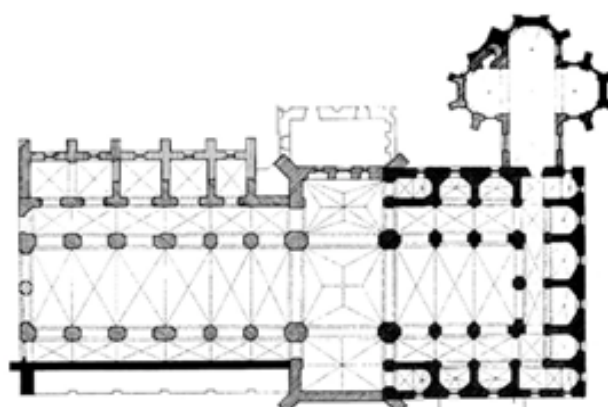
Lubiąż (Ger. Leubus) is one of the largest and most significant monastic complexes in Central Europe, situated on the Oder River, approximately 50 km northwest of Wrocław. Founded in 1163 by Duke Bolesław the Tall of Silesia for Cistercian monks arriving from Pforta, the abbey played a crucial role in the colonization, economy, and culture of medieval Silesia during the 13th century. The abbey church, built in 1173, was the first building in Poland to be constructed using brick as the primary building material. The abbey also served as one of the necropolises of the Silesian Piasts. Today, the monastic complex includes, among other structures, a monumental Baroque monastery (17th–18th century), the Gothic Basilica of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, the Abbot's Palace, and numerous economic buildings. The built-up area exceeds 2.5 hectares, making it one of the largest monastic complexes in the world. Architecturally, the most distinguished feature is the abbot's wing, decorated with illusionistic frescoes by Michael Willmann and sculptures by Georg Schrötter, representing the pinnacle of Silesian Baroque art.

References:

- Łużyniecka E. (1988), Średniowieczny kościół i klasztor cysterski w Lubiążu, *Kwartalnik Architektury i Urbanistyki* 33/2, 83–112.



Aerial view of the abbey in Lubiąż.



The interior of the abbey church, and a reconstruction of the Gothic church floor plan based on architectural research (after E. Łużyniecka).

Środa Śląska

Środa Śląska (Ger. Neumarkt) is considered the oldest town chartered under German law on Polish territory. The town was granted municipal rights around 1214, on the initiative of Duke Henry I the Bearded, making it a key reference point for the processes of urbanization in medieval Silesia. The legal model applied here, based on Magdeburg Law, was transformed into a specific variant known as Środa Law (*ius Sredense*), which later spread to other parts of Poland. The town features a distinctive spindle-shaped market square layout and is enclosed by a rectangular defensive perimeter covering an area of approximately one Flemish lan (a medieval land unit).

Środa Śląska is also known for the discovery of the so-called Środa Treasure – a hoard of medieval jewels and coins, dated to the 14th century, regarded as one of the most important archaeological finds in Central Europe. The Środa Treasure is a hoard of silver and gold coinage, gold jewellery, royal regalia and precious stones found in years 1985–1988 during renovation works in the town of Środa Śląska.



Aerial view of the town, the town plan with defensive walls (after Bimler).

The treasure belonged to the King (later Emperor) Charles IV of the House of Luxembourg. Around 1348, needing funds to support his claim to the title King of the Romans, Charles pawned various items to the Jewish banker Muscho (Moshe, Mojżesz) in Środa. What is certain is that no one ever reclaimed the treasure, which was left hidden somewhere in the town for hundreds of years.

References:

- Noy, I. (2016). The Fleuron Crown from Neumarkt in Silesia (Środa Śląska): Christian Material Culture in a Jewish Context. *Ars Judaica*, (12), 23-38.



Środa Śląska treasure.

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