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Community and Individuality: Social Topography in Urban Space (Medieval Butchers' Space)

The main focus of the study behind the presented poster was the urban space of butchers in 15th-century Pressburg (Posonium, today Bratislava). The topic in western European towns was already investigated in the scholarship from the point of view of the determining elements in the urban topography of medieval butchers and several case studies of individual towns were published. However, in this case the pattern elements of the butchers' space in urban context was taken only as a starting point to present how and to what extent they influenced the urban topography of this particular occupational group. Parallel to that – with a selection of German towns - I have tried to draw a circle of comparative examples around my own social topographical analysis concerning Pressburg (and a few other Hungarian towns already analyzed by others, such as Ödenburg and Buda) and I have tried to demonstrate how the character of the town (for example its elite recruitment) influenced a general community pattern for the butchers and what other possibilities are offered by a comparative approach to this particular question. The result of this particular research was already published in the Czech and Slovak Journal of Humanities – Historica 2/2011 (pp. 6-82). Nevertheless, it is part of my larger project on the different aspects of social topography and the usage of urban space in the late medieval Pressburg.