

The material culture of Prague Castle in the Early Modern period in light of archaeological finds

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Abstract

The main goal of this work was to introduce Early Modern finds of material culture from Prague Castle. Preliminary is presented definition of post-medieval – Early Modern period and Early Modern pottery. An overview of the studies published on the Early Modern period with an emphasis on finds of material culture, especially pottery and glass from Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia is following.

Prague Castle in the Early Modern Period chapter provides a summary of the historical and building development of Prague Castle during the 16th and 17th centuries. The emphasis is placed on introducing the social composition of Prague Castle residents in the Early Modern period in the chapters *Historical Images of Prague Castle* and *Historical Plan Documentation* are presented the oldest images of Prague Castle and plan documentation of the castle.

Crux of dissertation work is in the analysis of material culture. Step by step I analyzed seven cesspits and one waste feature from Prague Castle. Maximum attention was paid to the pottery component of find assemblages. A unified scheme was maintained for the analyses of individual cesspits. Ceramics finds were evaluated from morphological, technological and decoration aspects. In addition to a textual analysis of individual cesspits, this work also includes annexes and a catalogue of all analysed finds.

On the basis of analysis of find assemblages efforts to track the basic proportional changes in pottery forms from the end of the 15th century to the middle of the 17th century in segments of 50 to 80 years were successful. A second result of the study is the recording of ties between pottery forms and specific production materials. This work provides general comparative material for additional Early Modern period assemblages. Yet another concrete result is the positive verification of the presence of pottery from workshops outside of Prague in the find assemblages of Prague Castle.

The social standing of the users was more or less reflected in all eight of the analysed find units. The cesspits by the homes of Church dignitaries produced assemblages suggesting substantial luxury; original and foreign products in these cesspits were by no means

exceptions. On the other hand, while the cesspits in the environment we connect with the imperial court and its functionaries produced imported and less common objects, their occurrence can be designated as isolated. The third group is characterised as a common, urban environment.

Due to the fact that the study concerned the largest find assemblage of Early Modern pottery not only from Prague and central Bohemia but the country as a whole, it is necessary to assume that the submitted conclusions will be refined and possibly changed in connection with an increase in the number of published assemblages.