

The Journey of Konrad von Weinsberg to Hungary in 1428. Routes, Expenses and Conclusions

Konrad von Weinsberg, hereditary imperial chamberlain (Reichserbkammerer), set out from the town of Windsheim on 3 February 1428. He was on his way to visit King Sigismund of the Romans, also King of Hungary and Bohemia. His aim was to arrange for his stepson, Prince Erich V of Saxe-Lauenburg, to receive the electoral title. As the king was preparing to besiege the Golubac Fortress on the Lower Danube, Weinsberg and his entourage had to travel not only to Buda via Regensburg, Passau and Vienna, but also via Szeged to Kovin and Târnova. The mission was unsuccessful, but ten very detailed registers of the voyage have been preserved. The registers are in German and mostly contain the expenses in the order of the stops along the route. They typically include the purchase of wine, meat, milk, vegetables, fruit, spices, ingredients for the cook, lodging, hay and oats for the horses, small amounts for the servants, as well as the payment of pilots, fees for guides, utensils and clothing purchased during the journey. The registers were found by Bence Péterfi in Hohenlohe Zentralarchiv Neuenstein a few years ago, and we are working together on their full edition. The source provides not only the dynamics and circumstances, but also its relatively accurate cost structure of a journey. Its entries are also important for economic, settlement and cultural history of the regions visited. Since the later Ottoman conquest led to the destruction of the southern territories of the Kingdom of Hungary, the lists are of interest for the regions of Alföld, Bačka and Banat, and thus not only for Austrian and Hungarian but also for Serbian and Romanian research. In my lecture I will describe and evaluate the contents of the registers from these points of view.

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Paper title: Charter networks in the late-medieval small towns of Krems-Stein

This presentation introduces first results of my dissertation project on the late medieval charter production in the Lower Austrian towns of Krems and Stein. The aim is to trace the development of literacy through the predominant documentary form in this region, the charter. The study examines the dissemination of charter production and use among the numerous, often closely interconnected social groups and institutions within the urban community, as well as the resulting connections between Krems, Stein, and their surrounding regions, both near and far. Particular attention is given to identifying locations and individuals - both within and potentially beyond the urban space - as centers of charter production, thereby shedding light on the dissemination of documentary practices within the complex social structure of the medieval town.

Krems and Stein feature a high density of urban, ecclesiastical, charitable, and monastic-economic institutions and were closely linked to many regions of Central Europe through long-distance trade and viticulture. These factors make them a particularly interesting case study. Methodologically, this research combines the classical diplomatic analysis of the internal and external characteristics of charters with prosopographical and network-analytical approaches to reconstruct the social embedding of charter production in Krems and Stein.

The application of these methods to a corpus of 14th-century charters is at the core of this presentation. The documents, along with the persons and organizations involved in their creation, are analyzed as a network that reflects the social context of their production and reveals developments that might not have been uncovered by traditional diplomatic methods alone. The integration of diplomatic and network-analytical approaches thus offers new perspectives on the role of documentary practices in the late medieval (small) town.

Objects of Cultural Memory: Ukrainian Book Heritage as an International Research Challenge

This paper addresses the understudied manuscript and early printed book collections in Ukraine, which represent crucial but insufficiently explored sources for understanding European cultural and intellectual history. While traditional approaches focused primarily on texts, contemporary book studies offer new methodological perspectives - from materiality studies and historical bibliography to fragmentology and digital humanities. These approaches allow us to reveal previously unknown aspects of book production, circulation, and usage, making Ukrainian collections particularly valuable for reconstructing networks of knowledge transfer in Central and Eastern Europe.

The interconnected nature of this heritage is exemplified by the *Apostolus Christinopolitanus*, a 12th-century manuscript whose parts are now preserved in different institutions across national borders in Ukraine and Poland. Such cases demonstrate how medieval and early modern book heritage transcends modern political boundaries, creating opportunities for international scholarly collaboration and cultural dialogue. These objects serve as material evidence of shared historical experiences and cultural exchanges between regions and communities.

However, this invaluable heritage faces serious threats today. The ongoing Russian invasion has already resulted in significant damage to major Ukrainian book repositories. In 2022 alone, missile attacks severely damaged the Korolenko State Scientific Library in Kharkiv (housing over seven million items, including unique manuscripts) and the historical buildings of the Vernadskyi National Library in Kyiv. The latter holds particularly significant collections, including the library of the last Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth king, Stanisław August Poniatowski. This situation creates an urgent need for international cooperation in preserving and studying these endangered collections, combining traditional research methods with digital preservation strategies to ensure this heritage remains accessible for future generations of scholars.

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