

# Atlas of the Dowry Towns of Bohemian Queens

Eva Semotanová – Jana Vojtíšková – Petr Grulich  
Zdeněk Beran – Radek Bláha – Jan Vojtíšek et alii



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## Preface

The *Atlas of the Royal Dowry Towns of Bohemian Queens* is an output of the grant project „Dowry Towns of Bohemian Queens (A Living Part of Awareness of the History and its Support by Means of Historical Geography, Virtual Reality and Cyberspace).“ For the years 2018 and 2022, this project No. DG18P02OVV015 (financed from a programme supporting applied research and experimental development of the national and cultural identity) was assigned to the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové, the Institute of History, Czech Academy of Sciences and the Faculty of Information Technology, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Czech Technical University in Prague. The main objective is basic and applied research into a particular Bohemian historical phenomenon – dowry towns of the queens of Bohemia – and a presentation of the research outcomes by means of a multi-faceted mobile application, a web portal, special maps with a specialized content, monograph *Věnná města českých královen* (Dowry Towns of Bohemian Queens, Prague 2022) and the presented publication.

The towns that belonged to the queens of Bohemia, the so-called royal dowry towns (namely Dvůr Králové, Hradec Králové, Chrudim, Jaroměř, Mělník, Nový Bydžov, Polička, Trutnov and Vysoké Mýto), form a specific category among historical Bohemian towns. With the exception of Mělník, they create a specific geographical enclave in the east of Bohemia. The status of the dowry towns emerged in the early 14th century, underwent a complex development and ceased to exist in 1918. Reflections on their historical charm were revived during the National Revival Movement in the 19th century and survive to this day as an identity aspect of these towns in relation to other towns and cities of the Czech Republic.

The *Atlas of the Royal Dowry Towns of Bohemian Queens* was written by a team of experts from the Institute of History, Czech Academy of Sciences and the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové who address issues and questions closely related to the origin and development of the dowry towns. They grasp the theme from separate, chronological and thematic aspects, which intertwine and complement each other, offering various views that finally lead to a synthesis of individual themes while preserving their colourfulness and diversity.

The atlas is divided into four main chapters: *Royal Dowry towns of Bohemian Queens (Aspects of the Phenomenon)*; *Royal Dowry Towns of Bohemian Queens, Historical*

*Overview; Royal Dowry Towns of Bohemian Queens in Cartographic Representation and Royal Dowry Towns of Bohemian Queens on the Old Maps (Selected Comparison Examples).* The chapter *Royal Dowry Towns of Bohemian Queens (Aspects of the Phenomenon)* comments on the emergence of the dowry towns from the Middle Ages to the modern period with emphasis on the landscape, political, ecclesiastical, economic and cultural aspects of their development. The chapter *Royal Dowry Towns of Bohemian Queens, Historical Overview* presents a brief historical overview of the individual dowry towns. The chapter *Royal Dowry Towns of Bohemian Queens in Cartographic Representation* comments on the importance of maps for research into these towns with regard to their position within the landscape and incorporation in the territorial administrative structure of Bohemia. The last chapter *Royal Dowry Towns of Bohemian Queens on the Old Maps (Selected Comparison Examples)* contains examples of comparative map sources important for the study of historical landscape and topography of the royal dowry towns. All maps included in the atlas also allow monitoring of changes in historical geographical names.

The *Atlas of Royal Dowry Towns of Bohemian Queens* offers a glimpse into specific features of Bohemian urban history, which the dowry towns of the Bohemian queens undoubtedly represent.

*Eva Semotanová*

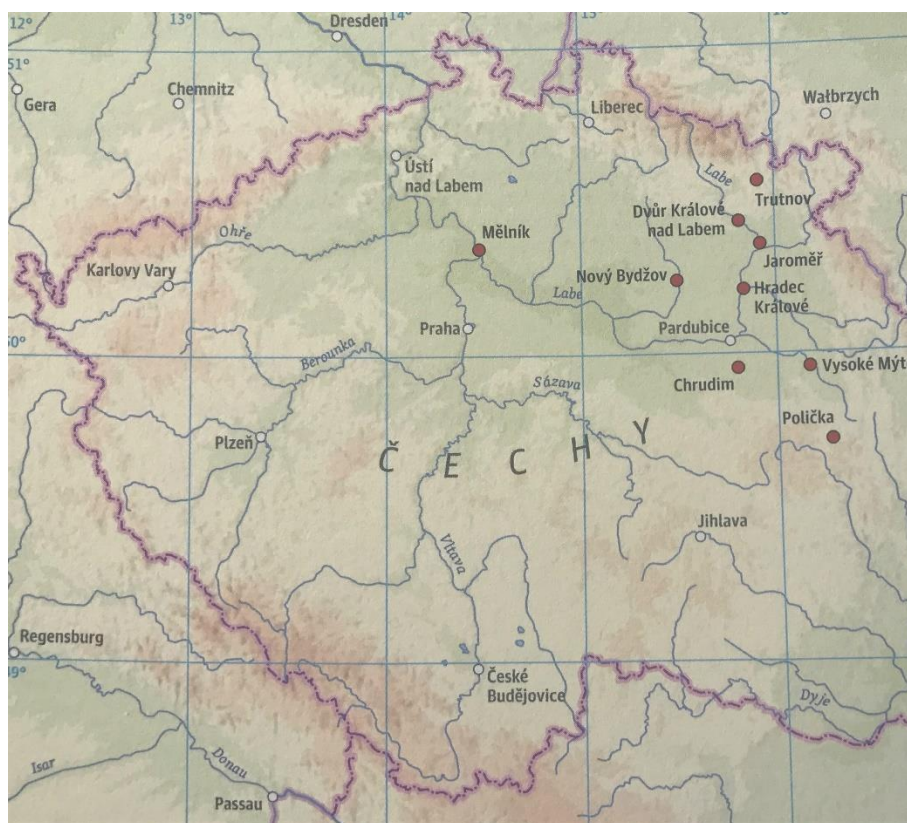
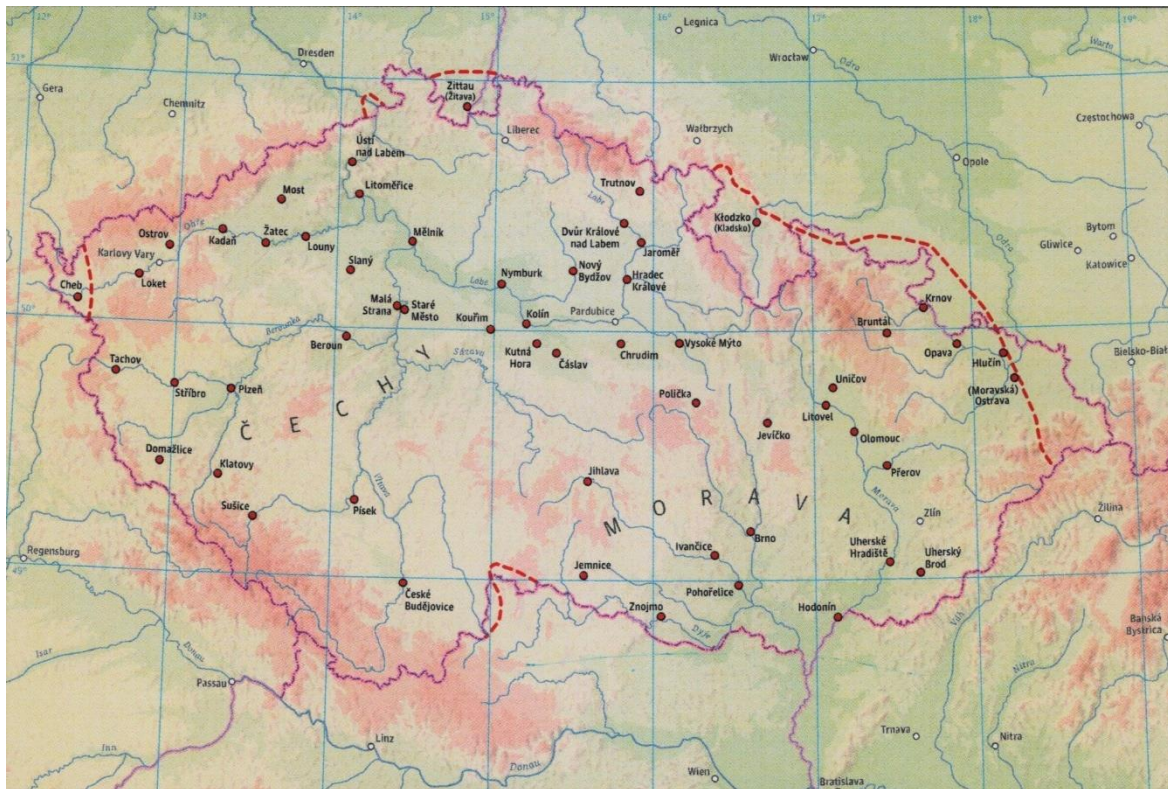


Fig. 1 a, b Historical royal towns and historical royal dowry towns of the Bohemian queens, early 14th century, on a current map of the Czech Republic by Josef Žemlička, Robert Šimůnek and Jiří Cajthaml, 2014

# 1. Royal Dowry Towns of Bohemian Queens (Aspects of the Phenomenon)

## Dowry Towns as a Phenomenon

In the Middle Ages, the financial and material provision of Bohemian queens, consisting mainly of gifts, purchases, revenues from manors, estates and later also from the towns, became part of the legal space. The queens obtained their benefits from several towns in Bohemia. Hradec Králové, Chrudim, Vysoké Mýto, Polička, Jaroměř, Dvůr Králové nad Labem, Trutnov, Nový Bydžov, Mělník and temporarily Teplice (a liege town temporarily owned by a queen shortly in the post-Hussite period) gave rise to a special category of dowry towns among the Bohemian royal towns. Together with villages, *Meierhofs* (farms or houses occupied by bailiffs) and other buildings that belonged to these towns, they formed a specific geographical enclave in East Bohemia (except for Mělník and Teplice, which are in different regions). The dowry towns became a unique phenomenon whose existence in other Central European states has not yet been proved (dowry towns were established in Hungary under Sigismund of Luxembourg, but in a slightly different context).

The institution of royal dowry towns, which emerged at the beginning of the 14th century, underwent a complex development and reached its peak in the Middle Ages. Dowry towns became not only the queens' source of income, but in some cases also their residences and courts, namely medieval Hradec Králové and Mělník. These towns thus had to be architecturally representative, comfortable and economically potent seats with good internal organisation. With its significance, Hradec Králové closely followed the prominent royal towns of České Budějovice, Kutná Hora, Olomouc and Brno.<sup>1</sup>

With the arrival of the early modern period, personal relations of the queens (and empresses) with their towns subsided and the dowry towns assumed a primarily economic role. In the 18th century, when the society underwent significant transformations, the importance of dowry towns as a specific type of royal town disappeared. They were incorporated into the structure of other urban settlements without exceptionality given by their original nature. However, during the Czech National Revival, the fame and importance of the

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<sup>1</sup> *Deutsches Rechtswörterbuch*, Leibgeding(s)stadt, königl. Stadt in Böhmen als Heiratsgut der Königin, online, accessible at <https://drw-www.adw.uni-heidelberg.de/drw-cgi/zeige?index=lemmata&term=leibgedingsstadt>; SEMOTANOVÁ, Eva – ŽEMLIČKA, Josef et al., *Věnná města českých královen*, Praha 2022, pp. 7–12 (author Eva Semotanová). Translations of Titles into English see Sources and Bibliography.



dowry towns were revived with the advance of national identity and regional awareness. This fact is particularly apparent in smaller dowry towns where the local societies adhered to their traditions as a tool for their new self-awareness and self-presentation, which was then reflected in the cultural and political life of the town's inhabitants. The status of the royal dowry town was not abolished until 1918 because until then, the queens (empresses) had retained their right of patronage.

Reflections on the towns' historical charm, which emerged in the 19th century under the influence of the Czech National Revival and the subsequent romanticism, still persist as one of the identities of these towns in relation to other towns in the Czech Republic. After 1989, this reflection was manifested by various cultural and promotional activities such as the establishment of a Dowry Towns Association under the leadership of Hradec Králové. Yet, regrettably, the perception of the dowry towns' historical tradition, especially by the younger generation, is not as strong as this remarkable historical phenomenon deserves.<sup>2</sup>

### **The Space and Landscape Scene of the Dowry Towns**

The structures of East Bohemian royal dowry towns were created at the time of their establishment or even earlier, if an older settlement had existed in their future space. Hradec Králové became a fortified settlement at the end of the 10th century, Chrudim in the 11th century and Jaroměř at the beginning of the 11th century. Horní Staré Město in Trutnov was preceded by a market village called Úpa from the first half of the 12th century and in Polička, there had been a small settlement around 1200. Vysoké Mýto was founded in the place of an older market settlement (Staré Mýto), much like Dvůr Králové nad Labem. Only Nový Bydžov was established at the beginning of the 14th century in an empty area between Starý Bydžov and Metličany, a flat basin of the Cidlina River. The natural conditions, especially terrain and rivers, but also roads significantly influenced the layout of the towns. The urban space with a central square – a public space with many functions, important buildings and a network of streets – was built within a system of fortifications with gates. Most of the towns were connected to important roads or waterways or located in their close vicinity; there was a

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<sup>2</sup> *Dowry towns during the Thirty Years' War and their post-war restoration. Proceedings from a conference held in Mělník on 4-5 May 2004*, KILIÁN, Jan (ed.), Mělník 2004; Project NAKI II *Dowry Towns of Bohemian Queens (A Living Part of Awareness of the History and its Support by Means of Historical Geography, Virtual Reality and Cyberspace*, No. G18P02OVV015, online: [Dowry Towns of Bohemian Queens \(kralovskavennamesta.cz\)](http://kralovskavennamesta.cz)

regional road from Jaroměř to Dvůr Králové nad Labem and Trutnov. Mělník and Teplice were established in different geographical regions of Central and Northern Bohemia. Mělník (promoted to a town in the 1270s), lying in an old residential area at the confluence of the Elbe River and Vltava River at the altitude of 215 MASL, benefited from important long-distance routes – first the Elbe waterway, then the railway in the 19th century which, together with wine-making, the main agricultural activity, contributed to economic prosperity of the predominantly Czech town. Teplice was established on a trading route to Saxony in the 1270s. It is situated at the altitude of 200–399 MASL in a wide basin between the Central Bohemian Highlands and the Ore Mountains, away from more significant rivers. Hot springs, which laid foundations to the Teplice spa industry, were documented in the mid-12th century when a Benedictine convent was established there. The farming and handicraft facilities were provided to the dowry towns by suburban villages, which became the towns' suburbs and finally their components for new residential and industrial built-up areas and factories prompted by the development of railway in the mid-19th century.<sup>3</sup>

### **A Long Road to the Towns of Bohemian Queens (East Bohemia as a “Dowry” Region)**

Specialized literature is not systematically concerned with the provision of Bohemian princesses and queens by their living husbands or when widowed in the Middle Ages. To some extent, the research reflects the condition of the sources because mediaeval chronicles, letters and other materials did not pay the women as much attention as to the men.

While a family, mostly one of the neighbouring dynasties, provided their daughters and sisters leaving for Bohemia with *věno* [dowry] (*dos*), from their husbands, the wives were entitled to *obvěnění* [dower] (*dotalicium*), but we rarely learn anything more. In practice, these princesses and queens and their courts usually received their sustenance from overhead

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<sup>3</sup> HOFFMANN, František, *České město ve středověku*, Praha 1992, pp. 213, 214; KILIÁN, Jan, *Zmizelý Mělník*, Praha – Litomyšl 2007; ŠIMŮNEK, Robert, *Věnná města českých královen*, in: SEMOTANOVÁ, Eva – CAJTHAML, Jiří et al., *Akademický atlas českých dějin*, Praha 2014, p. 98; SEMOTANOVÁ, Eva – CHROMÝ, Pavel – KUČERA, Zdeněk, *Historická geografie. Tradice a modernita*, Praha 2018, pp. 169–178; AUT. KOL., *Historický atlas měst České republiky*, sv. 5 *Hradec Králové*, Praha 1998; 12 *Trutnov*, Praha 2004; 13 *Chrudim*, Praha 2003; 29 *Nový Bydžov*, Praha 2017; 30 *Polička*, Praha 2019; 31 *Jaroměř*, Praha 2020; 33 *Vysoké Mýto*, Praha 2021; 34 *Dvůr Králové nad Labem*, Praha 2022; SEMOTANOVÁ, E. – ŽEMLIČKA, J. et al., *Věnná města českých královen*, pp. 15–53 (author Eva Semotanová).

costs of the Prague court. If they admitted any, usually small properties, these came from their trousseaus, gifts, occasional barter or purchases. Independent economical activities connected with careful supervision of their properties and their improvement started to be carried out by the queens in the 13th century. The first queen to do so was Constance of Hungary († 1240), the wife of Ottokar I of Bohemia, followed by Judith of Habsburg († 1297), the prematurely deceased wife of Wenceslas II. The cycle of exchanges and purchases accelerated under the so-called Germanic (emphyteutic) law as well as information on the queens' administrators and officials looking after better economy of their properties became wider.

Mělník was long associated with residential and property interests of certain queens (Emma regina already around the year 1000), though with breaks. A decisive step to set aside the so-called dowry towns is associated with Elizabeth Richeza, the wife of King Wenceslas II (1283–1305) and Rudolf I of Habsburg (1306–1307) who, at the age twenty, became a widow for a second time (1288–1335). Before their deaths, both of them provided Elizabeth with a pension of 20,000 talents of silver, i.e. the total of 40,000, covered by a pledge of the royal towns of Hradec Králové, Vysoké Mýto, Chrudim, Polička and Jaroměř, all in East Bohemia. The principle was simple. The towns remained royal, but the payments to the king were re-directed to a new recipient, the queen.<sup>4</sup>

While Hradec and Chrudim grew from old administrative centres, Mýto, Polička and Jaroměř were foundation projects of Ottokar II of Bohemia (1253–1278). Their future common destinies were confirmed by a collective privilege of October 1307 granted by Albert II of Austria and his son Rudolf IV, Duke of Austria. Although the dowry towns belonged in the category of royal towns, their relations to the queens transferred them to a closed group in the early 14<sup>th</sup> century. This development did not stop. The group of dowry towns did not stagnate in, but remained open to corrections and shifts. Mělník was added to the East Bohemian group, Dvůr Králové and later Trutnov and Nový Bydžov followed. Subsequently, a special office was established to administer and supervise the dowry towns, headed by vice-chamberlain for the royal dowry towns. There were pledges, sometimes long interruptions or

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<sup>4</sup> *Frauen im Frühmittelalter: eine ausgewählte, kommentierte Bibliographie*, AFFELDT, Werner (ed.), Frankfurt a. M. 1990; HOFFMANN, František, *Středověké město v Čechách a na Moravě*, 2nd edition Praha 2009, pp. 269–270; KOPIČKOVÁ, Božena, Věnná města a jiné majetky českých královen ve 14. a 15. století, in: DVOŘÁČKOVÁ-MALÁ, Dana - ZELENKA, Jan et al., *Ženy a děti ve dvorské společnosti*, Praha 2015, pp. 97–108.

even exclusions after a brief membership, but the status of the royal dowry towns in Bohemia can be characterized as a special contribution to medieval forms of sustenance for female members of the ruling dynasties.<sup>5</sup>

### **Dowry Towns under the Rule of the Luxembourg Dynasty**

The reign of the Luxembourg Dynasty was a crucial period in the development of the dowry town status. It brought about a transfer of Bohemian queens' properties from the Mělník area (which had constituted a stable part of their properties since the 13th century and had a specific status based on direct "ownership" rights rather than dower (*dotalicium*)), to East Bohemia and consolidation of the East Bohemian royal towns as the queens' dower properties. In the context of Charles IV's marriage policy, the decisive factor of this transfer was geographic. The subsequent long reign of Elizabeth of Pomerania resulted in definitive institutionalization of the East Bohemian dower domain, as it can be documented by Wenceslas IV's privilege to East Bohemian dowry towns in 1395. The main theme of the chapter is an analysis of the military and economic potentials of the dowry towns and their use by wives of the kings of Bohemia from the Luxembourg Dynasty. The military potentials are regarded from a passive perspective, i.e. the town fortifications and stays of the troops, and from an active perspective, i.e. the town's *hueste*. The analysis of economic potentials concentrates on special taxes and interests paid to the queens by the dowry towns in comparison with amounts paid to Queen Sophia of Bavaria and her officials recorded in the Chrudim tax registers from 1399 to 1402. The analysis also deals with the queen's domain administration, namely identification of the Bohemian queens' officials, i.e. the masters of the chamber, vice-chamber and *Hofrichters*. As regards the use of the potentials, the queens actively profited from the economic gains. In the "peaceful" 14th century, only one queen – Elizabeth Richeza of Poland, also used the military role. Elizabeth of Pomerania used the revenues for active access to the political scene for the benefit of her son John of Görlitz, while the politically passive Sophia of Bavaria concentrated on extension of the queen's domain, which reached its peak under her rule. The incorporation of East Bohemian royal

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<sup>5</sup> KLÁPŠTĚ, Jan, *The Czech Lands in Medieval Transformation*, Leiden – Boston 2012 (East Central and Eastern Europe in the Middle Ages 450–1450, p. 17); ŽEMLIČKA, Josef, *Království v pohybu. Kolonizace, města a stříbro v závěru přemyslovské epochy*, Praha 2014; SEMOTANOVÁ, E. – ŽEMLIČKA, J. et al., *Věnná města českých královen*, pp. 55–94 (author Josef Žemlička).



towns into dowry properties therefore resulted in a qualitative breakthrough in Bohemian queens' economic and strategic facilities, providing them with a sufficient material base for the performance of all components of their symbolic reign.<sup>6</sup>

### Castles in Dowry Towns

The existence of castles in the royal dowry towns has been hampered by absence of any, however modest written information since the start of the research. The analysis and interpretation of the paper thus solely depends on archaeological and structural surveys, which also provide only fragmentary data and can thus lead the experts to various speculations. The castle was not a characteristic feature of the dowry towns. This can be documented by the fact that there was no castle in Vysoké Mýto, Polička or Dvůr Králové and in other towns, it had been built before the dowry town was established.

Castles with no relation to the subsequent dowry character can be documented in places where a newly established town was set within an early mediaeval fortified settlement with an administrative or guarding function, which the town originally also adopted. The castles were established there in place of older fortified settlements (Hradec Králové, Chrudim, Jaroměř – here, however, only hypothetically assumed castle in place of today's St. Nicholas Church, Mělník – an occasional seat of Bohemian princes and kings' wives from the turn of the 10th and 11th centuries). Judging from layouts of newly established towns, there were no castles (Polička, Vysoké Mýto, Dvůr Králové nad Labem). Trutnov is an exception (a castle was documented there in 1316) and in Nový Bydžov, a place for a potential castle was perhaps presumed at the time of the town's establishment (the castle was first documented as late as 1516). However, the two mentioned towns represented a conversion of older administrative centres of Úpa and Starý Bydžov. When the local castle was established, the towns still did not serve as dowry towns; they were owned by the king (Trutnov) or held by the noblemen as a pledge (Nový Bydžov).

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<sup>6</sup> *Czech Medieval Sources*, LINDAT/CLARIAH-CZ, online: <https://lindat.cz>; <https://sources.cms.flu.cas.cz/src/index.php>; BOBKOVÁ, Lenka – BÁRTLOVÁ, Milena, *Velké dějiny zemí Koruny české IVa–b*, Praha–Litomyšl 2003; *Lucemburkové: česká koruna uprostřed Evropy*, ŠMAHEL, František – BOBKOVÁ, Lenka – MAŠKOVÁ, Pavlína – NOVOTNÝ, Robert (eds.), Praha 2012; SEMOTANOVÁ, E. – ŽEMLIČKA, J. et al., *Věnná města českých královen*, pp. 97–137 (author Jan Vojtíšek).

Therefore, as regards typology, castle cannot be considered a specific feature in the dowry towns. In the oldest East Bohemian dowry towns, some of the researchers, namely Tomáš Durdík, assigned these castles to four-wing Central European *castellos*, allegedly typical for the beginnings of colonisation towns. However, the existing archaeological and structural historical surveys have not provided sufficient evidence for this categorization. In 1454, written documents proved only the so-called old castle in Jaroměř (with the exception of questionable Mělník) and its connection with historical development of the dowry town in the post-Hussite period. In Trutnov, a castle was documented in 1316 and in Nový Bydžov in 1516, although the place for the future castle was probably marked already in the initial development plan. It is apparent that the mentioned opinions on the existence of a representative seat for the queen in the dowry towns have no support in the sources. Only long-lasting stays of queens in Hradec Králové and outcomes of structural historical surveys suggest that a castle may have been located there, but it is not documented in written sources.<sup>7</sup>

### **East Bohemian Dowry Towns and the Nobility in the Late Middle Ages**

Dowry towns in the period 1419 – 1526 (and 1547 as regards the property circumstances) are an important theme as regards their relations with the neighbouring nobility. Relations between dowry towns and the nobility in the area of politics, religion, various levels of administration, the developing estate system, economy and land properties were complicated. In the late Middle Ages, dowry towns concentrated in East Bohemia (with the exception of Mělník) did not constitute an institutionally firm unit sharply defined in relation to the other royal towns. In fact, they regarded themselves as part of the group of royal towns (and directly of the political status from the early 16th century), were narrowly linked to the regional administration and connected their interests with wider associations that emerged from the dramatical political events of the "Hussite" century. The core of their distinctiveness was thus marked by their unique relation to the Bohemian queens, their courts and officials. However, due to long periods of weakened ruling powers or the queens' absence, it was frequently covered up by relations to the regional hegemonic subjects (the Orphans' Union, the Poděbrady Unity or the East Bohemian Utraquist Society).

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<sup>7</sup> ŽEMLIČKA, Josef, Přemyslovská hradská centra a počátky měst v Čechách, *Československý časopis historický* 26 [76]/4 (1978), pp. 559–586; RAZÍM, Vladislav, *Středověká opevnění českých měst 2. 1*, Praha 2020; BLÁHA, Radek – SLAVÍK, Jiří, *Hrad v Hradci Králové*, Hradec Králové 2020; SEMOTANOVÁ, E. – ŽEMLIČKA, J. et al., *Věnná města českých královen*, pp. 139–155 (author František Musil).

The property structure of both East Bohemian regions was formed by massive secularization of church properties and the subsequent process of property concentration. Large noble domains became dominant. The only town that managed to keep up with these huge units at least to a certain extent was Hradec. Until the Jagellonian period, the other towns had to be satisfied with smaller territories in the rural hinterland whose basis usually consisted of *Schoss* (tax paid to the town) awarded long before. The weakening of the royal power also led to several pledges of the dowry towns, which subsequently limited development of their own estates. However, the economic power of the towns gradually grew and their self-governing bodies found a suitable opportunity to invest in the crumbling structure of the nearby allodial properties, which provided a long-term promise of regular payments to the town treasury and implementation of advantageous strategies leading to the formation of compact territorial and economic units.<sup>8</sup>

By the middle of the 16th century, all East Bohemian dowry towns had built estates numbering hundreds of rural serfs. Most of these acquisitions took form of cash purchases during the first half of the 16th century. This is documented by active balance of the town coffers. It is apparent that the spaces of the royal dowry towns, their inhabitants and the surrounding nobility intertwined. Representatives of both estates met directly in the towns or at various forums where they found a common agenda in the political goals and administration of the region. The areas where both groups owned their properties also mingled. Cooperation between the dowry towns and the nobility also proceeded on the economic level. Simultaneously, however, the groups were strictly competitive, which resulted in problems based on the towns' subordination to the noble officials or pledge lords and led to escalation of the estates' conflict in East Bohemia. The search for compromises and finding them allowed East Bohemia to enter the modern age as a stabilized and prosperous region.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> BRUNNER, Otto, *Land und Herrschaft. Grundfragen der territorialen Verfassungsgeschichte Österreichs im Mittelalter*, 5. Aufl. Wien 1965; HOFFMANN, F., *Středověké město v Čechách a na Moravě*, pp. 16–20; ŠANDERA, Martin, *Věnná města ve spojených východočeských landfrýdech*, *Východočeské listy historické* 29 (2012), pp. 7–22; BERAN, Zdeněk, *České královny a královská věnná města v pohusitské době (1436–1526)*, *Mediaevalia Historica Bohemica* 22/2 (2019), pp. 124, 148.

<sup>9</sup> FELCMAN, Ondřej (editor) – MUSIL, František (vedoucí autorského kolektivu) et al., *Dějiny východních Čech v pravěku a středověku (do roku 1526)*, Praha 2009; SEMOTANOVÁ, E. – ŽEMLIČKA, J. et al., *Věnná města českých královen*, pp. 157–193 (author Zdeněk Beran).

## **Royal Widows' Residences in Dowry Towns**

From the group of nine dowry towns, only two – Hradec Králové and Mělník became the residences of widowed queens. Elizabeth Richeza, the widow of Wenceslas II, settled in Hradec with her daughter Agnes after 1308. She had the local castle modified and transferred it into a representative court, which became a real political and cultural centre, especially in connection with Elizabeth's partner Henry of Lipá. She maintained contacts with the surrounding monasteries and commissioned creation of splendidly illuminated manuscripts. She extended the Church of the Holy Spirit reconstruction project, cared for spiritual life of the citizens and provided support for the Inquisition in a campaign against the local Waldensian group. Yet, she drew the town into a new round of civil war in Bohemia. In 1315-1317, Hradec was a military fortress from which the Silesian garrison of Henry I of Jawor, Richeza's future son-in-law, organized raids against the king's supporters' estates. After concluding the Peace of Domažlice between the Bohemian nobility and King John, Richeza also made an agreement with the king and presented him with Hradec and the remaining dowry towns as a financial compensation.

Compared to Richeza, Elizabeth of Pomerania, the widow of Emperor Charles IV, failed to form a deeper relationship with this milieu. Hradec was Elizabeth's residence from 1383. She attempted to engage actively in high politics even from her "Hradec exile". The costly court made the widow demand further benefits and loans whose amount did not become apparent until after Elizabeth's death. Economic privileges that she had granted to the town were not sufficient to compensate for the impact of her financial claims. Moreover, her officials repeatedly abused their powers over the town's population. On the other hand, Elizabeth significantly contributed to the completion of a parish church, finished the main nave, built the so-called royal vestibule and completed interior decoration of the church. The devastation of the Hradec Králové castle during the Hussite Revolution made the following two widowed queens chose Mělník as their residence.

During her ten-year stay in Mělník, Barbara of Cilli, the widow of Sigismund of Luxembourg, wanted to keep a high standard of living. However, the image of the profane or even licentious court that was spread by her opponents did not correspond to reality. Her political activities and powers were shielded by representatives of the East Bohemian *Landfriede* Quadruple Union and Mělník repeatedly became a venue of Utraquist congresses. Yet, much like Elizabeth of Pomerania before, her income was not sufficient to cover her lifestyle. From the mid-decade, the widowed queen started to face increasing financial difficulties, which could not be averted even by her attempts with precious metals in an



alchemist laboratory. Compared with Barbara of Cilli, Joanna of Rožmitál found a deeper affiliation to Mělník, despite her shorter residence. She had a lower ambition, yet did not become a private person. She managed to build a court with a very agile office, maintained rich correspondence with the Bohemian land officials as well as the imperial princes and actively instructed the estate representatives and burgraves of her castles from the Mělník centre. However, much like Barbara of Cilli, financial difficulties became a limiting factor for Joanna's court in Mělník. In the spirit of traditional piety of widows, she supported the local parish school and funded the local diaconate church. As regards the Habsburg queens, none of them resided in any of the dowry towns any longer.<sup>10</sup>

### **Dowry Towns within the Ecclesiastical Administration**

The royal dowry towns played an important role in the ecclesiastical administration. One of them – Hradec Králové – became the seat of a bishopric and centre of a diocese, which included East Bohemia. Also other towns occupied, at least for a time, a place on the medium level of ecclesiastical administration as the seats of diaconates, vicariates or as an archdeaconry (Chrudim). The queen, as a patron of their churches, sometimes directly influenced the ecclesiastical affairs of the towns. But not always or everywhere. Sometimes the right of patronage was in the hands of the monarch, sometimes it was transferred to a person who had obtained the town as a collateral. Although the period of the queens' participation in the dowry town administration ended with the death of Joanna of Rožmitál, in the ecclesiastical area, the queens continued to be connected with the deanery or parish churches until the end of the Habsburg Monarchy and the status of the Queen of Bohemia. If an active queen was missing, the ecclesiastical patronage was influenced by the monarch. The period of Utraquism was an exceptional time when the influence of urban representation and the lower consistory gained momentum. It seems that the last significant involvement of a queen in the dowry town's ecclesiastical affairs was Queen Eleonora's involvement in a dispute between Hradec and the local bishopric at the time of its establishment. Nonetheless, the queens acted as patronesses of churches, mainly in the clergy appointments still in the

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<sup>10</sup> AUT. KOL., *Historický atlas měst České republiky*, sv. 5 *Hradec Králové*, Praha 1998; HRUBÝ, Vladimír, *Katedrála sv. Ducha: kaple sv. Klimenta: biskupská rezidence*, Hradec Králové 2002; KAVKA, František, *Čtyři ženy Karla IV. Královské sňatky*, Praha-Litomyšl 2002; DVOŘÁČKOVÁ-MALÁ, Dana – ZELENKA, Jan, *Curia ducis, curia regis. Panovnícký dvůr za vlády Přemyslovců*, Praha 2011; AUT. KOL., *Hradec Králové. Historie/kultura/lidé*; RAZÍM, V., *Středověká opevnění českých měst 2. 1*; SEMOTANOVÁ, E. – ŽEMLIČKA, J. et al., *Věnná města českých královen*, pp. 195–227 (author Martin Šandera).

19th and early 20th centuries. Although at that time, the status of the dowry town was more or less representative or functioned as a reference to its antiquity or historical significance, in the ecclesiastical area it was still functional as it can be documented by clergy catalogues where the queen's patronage was still acknowledged in the early 20th century.<sup>11</sup>

### **The Role of Dowry Towns in the Habsburg Monarchy**

In the pre-White Mountain period, the legal practice of the queen's "věno" [dowry], as the institute is referred to in sources of Czech origin (the term "obvěnění" [dower, *dotalicium*] is not used in this context), was established. For example: Bartholomeus Paprocky of Hlaholy refers in his *Diadoch* (1602) to Chrudim as one of the "royal dowry towns". Therefore, the term queen's dowry town was already known to the early modern society. The Latin texts refer to it as *dos* and *dotales*. Contemporary historiography uses the term royal dowry towns where the wider group of royal towns is accentuated. Legal interpretation of the issue was provided by M. Pavel Stránský of Zápý in his work *Respublica Bojema* (1634). As of 1526, the queens' dowry towns (*Reginarum dotales urbes* according to Stránský) included the towns of Hradec Králové, Chrudim, Vysoké Mýto, Jaroměř, Polička, Mělník and Dvůr Králové as well as dominia with facilities, namely the Trutnov, Mělník and Kostelec nad Labem estates which, however, were held in pledge for a long time. If a crowned Queen of Bohemia desired them as the dowry, she could therefore only make a claim to them and, if she was interested, seek their repayment. In 1569 (finally in 1593), Nový Bydžov and in the late 16th century, again Trutnov became the royal dowry towns. In 1593, these towns were accepted as members of the urban estate which secured them from a potential pledge. The Trutnov estate was purchased by the town of Trutnov and the Kostelec nad Labem estate by Rudolph II in 1586 who added it to his Brandýs dominion. The Mělník estate was sold by Leopold I to the Czernin family in 1687. In this way, the queen's *dowry* was limited exclusively to the royal

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<sup>11</sup> MIKAN, Jaroslav, *Vznik a počátky hradeckého biskupství*, Hradec Králové 1946; *Chrám Svatého Ducha a královna Eliška Rejčka v Hradci Králové 1308–2008. Historická tradice města. Od chrámu ke katedrále*, ŠTĚPÁN Jiří, (ed.), Ústí nad Orlicí 2009; *Přemyslovci: budování českého státu*, SOMMER, Petr – TŘEŠTÍK, Dušan – ŽEMLIČKA, Josef (eds.), Praha 2009; CROŮ, Jana, *Královéhradečtí biskupové a jejich rezidence*, Hradec Králové 2014; *350 let královéhradecké diecéze*, POLEHLA, Petr (ed.), Červený Kostelec 2015; SEMOTANOVÁ, E. – ŽEMLIČKA, J. et al., *Věnná města českých královen*, pp. 229–262 (author Petr Polehla).

dowry towns, which were obliged to pay the so-called *Schoss* tax and in-kind payments to the queen.<sup>12</sup>

In the early modern period, the queens' dowry towns belonged to a wider category of royal towns, which were formally divided into several groups subordinated to a special official and from the mid-16th century supervised by the Bohemian chamber. During the early modern period, dowry towns did not form any specific corporation or engage in regular cooperation. The reason was different economic and cultural advance of the towns as well as a long-term political constellation, which did not favour such corporations. There are only a few documented events where the towns acted in a common interest as a certain unit adhering to the queen's *dowry*. It was caused by threats to their economic interests by business activities of the surrounding noblemen or by serious disputes with the bishopric concerning the right of patronage after the Thirty-Year War in the second half of the 17th century. Even the leading dowry town of Hradec (i.e. *Králové* = Queen's ) did not emphasize its relation to the queen, being "*Hradec nad Labem*" (i.e. on the Elbe River) until the 18th century.

Since 1523, administration of the royal dowry towns was permanently supervised by the queen's vice-chamberlain who was assisted by a *Hofrichter* and scribe (later a chamber secretary). The significance of the vice-chamberlain gradually dropped due to the state's centralisation efforts and the difference between him and the king's vice-chamberlain, who had been one of the highest land officials until the 1780s, also diminished. In 1834, when this institution became more or less outdated, both offices were united into a single one and ceased to exist in 1848 in connection with establishment of the new municipal system. The status of the *dowry* was abolished de jure in 1918.<sup>13</sup>

## The Second Life of Dowry Towns

It seems that through the prism of modern history, the status of royal dowry towns gradually faded away and lost any significance. With the arrival of civil society after 1848

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<sup>12</sup> ČELAKOVSKÝ, Jaromír, *Úřad podkomořský v Čechách. Příspěvek k dějinám stavu městského v zemích českých*, Prague 1881; STRÁNSKÝ ZE ZÁP, Pavel, *O státě českém*, RYBA, Bohumil (ed.), Praha 1946; *Vladislavské zřízení zemské a navazující prameny (Svatováclavská smlouva a Zřízení o ručnicích)*, KREUZ, Petr – MARTINOVSKÝ, Ivan – VOJTÍŠKOVÁ, Jana (eds.), Praha 2007; HLEDÍKOVÁ, Zdeňka – JANÁK, Jan – DOBEŠ, Jan, *Dějiny správy v českých zemích od počátků státu po současnost*, Praha 2005.

<sup>13</sup> ŠEDIVÁ KOLDINSKÁ, Marie – CERMAN, Ivo et al., *Základní problémy studia raného novověku*, Prague 2013; AUT. KOL., *Hradec Králové. Historie/kultura/lidé* /chapters by Jana Votíšková); SEMOTANOVÁ, E. – ŽEMLIČKA, J. et al., *Věnná města českých královen*, pp. 265–312 (author Jana Votíšková).

and modern forms of administration and municipal self-government, the dowry towns became mere witnesses of the past. However, this applied to the executive, i.e. economic and administrative importance of the dowry towns. Perhaps surprisingly, their symbolism prevailed thanks to romantic reminiscences of our national history which, since the 19th century, was perceived rationally, though inaccurately and often in the form of fabricated romantic sentiments. This was nothing unusual. After all, romanticism penetrated throughout the whole Europe. It was emphasised almost spectacularly that the Bohemian Middle Ages and the early modern state were organisationally advanced and the towns flourished. In the 1880s and 90s, the individual Bohemian towns strove for the establishment of this or that institution or office on the background of gradual industrialization and bureaucratization of the society.

The title of the royal dowry town was not utilized by all dowry towns equally. The towns did it with varying intensity and more or less in the late 19th century, that is in connection with a growing competition caused by development of the Bohemian society. The second life of the royal dowry towns from the 1880s to 1918 confirmed the fact that there were great differences between these towns. The rebirth of dowry towns in the minds of the people had clear reasoning in the contemporary atmosphere, which was characterized by effects of the National Revival, building the new-time Cisleithanian democracy, the final phase of industrial revolution and rapid urbanization. The rebirth of the dowry towns thus became a kind of a mirror of the time in the urban life. The third life of the royal dowry towns began in the first quarter of the 21st century. The Dowry Towns Association, which is active in the Czech Republic in the area of tourism is, however, another story, albeit with a similar motivation.<sup>14</sup>

## **Dowry Towns across the Centuries**

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<sup>14</sup> *Čechy. Společnou práci spisovatelův a umělců českých*, I – XIV, Praha [1883–1908]; GRULICH, Petr, *Obchodní a živnostenská komora Hradec Králové 1910–1949. Protektor hospodářských a nacionálně politických zájmů českých podnikatelů na severovýchodě Čech*, Praha 2005; HLAVAČKA, Milan et al., *České země v 19. století I., II.*, Praha 2014; Milan JINDRA, Zdeněk – JAKUBEC, Ivan et al., *Hospodářský vzestup českých zemí od poloviny 18. století do konce monarchie*, Praha 2015; GRULICH, Petr, *Titul královské věnné město a jeho užívání na konci 19. a na počátku 20. století*, *Královéhradecko* 10 (2019), pp. 35–60; SEMOTANOVÁ, E. – ŽEMLIČKA, J. et al., *Věnná města českých královen*, pp. 315–333 (authors Petr Grulich and Eva Semotanová).

To close the matter, we need to say that the term "dowry town" has its place in the historical dictionary. We should also add the adjective "royal" because although their revenues were directed to the queen and she administered them through her officials, they remained royal. The towns obtained their benefits, favours, reliefs – in short privileges, from the hands of the monarch.

Until the 15th century, the Middle Ages, which preferred Latin and partly German in the official and general communication, did not use the term "dowry towns". We do not read about *urbes dotales*, which had not been mentioned until Pavel Stránský referred to them as such. Technically speaking, it was no *věno* [dowry], but *obvĕnění* [endowment]. We should therefore refer to them as *obvĕněné město* [town gifted as dower], as Pavel Stránský did in Latin. However, learned contemporaries knew that royal towns in the Hradec and Chrudim regions as well as the remote Mělník belonged to the queen and supervision of her officials. In other words, the term "dowry town" is more or less an artificial term that was ingrained into the awareness of history in the 19th century. Let us keep it so. A neologism would only muddy the problem.

The fact that it was Bohemia, and East Bohemia for that matter, which became their home, was caused by specific circumstances. Even Moravia, where the queens of Bohemia also had their ownership and user interests, has no closer or distant analogy. None of the Moravian (margravian) towns addressed them as "My lady". Of course, wives of the Bohemian princes and kings enjoyed various properties and pensions obtained from their husbands as dowers or gifts, or through barter or purchase, yet a continuous stabilized ownership passed from one queen to another cannot be proved until the mid-13th century. This situation had not changed until the endowment of young Elizabeth Richeza, the second wife of Wenceslas II. The dying king connected it with the sum of 20,000 talents of silver, which was increased to 40,000 talents by King Rudolf of Habsburg, the widowed Richeza's new husband. According to Peter of Zittau, these amounts were to be secured by incomes from Hradec, Mýto, Chrudim and probably also Polička and Jaroměř.

Was the choice of East Bohemian towns incidental or did it hide an elaborate intention? Why not Litoměřice comparable with Hradec, with a circle of the royal towns of Louny, Žatec, Ústí and incorporated Mělník? Or even better, why not Budějovice with Písek, Sušice and perhaps Klatovy? A territorial interconnection with Austria would thus have been feasible and in line with Habsburg strategic plans. Yet, it was East Bohemia with a group of royal towns in the upper Elbe-Loučná area. The towns were determined by Wenceslas II, while Rudolf, his successor on the throne and on the matrimonial bed, doubled the number

and if not established, then confirmed the list of the towns. The first chapter was closed by the "Opatovice" privilege issued by Albert, King of the Romans, and his son Duke Frederick on 5 October 1307 to a group of the future dowry towns. Surprisingly, however, the Habsburg privilege is silent about the queen's claims and her relationship to the *civitates* in question.

If we ask why East Bohemian towns, we must consider their vicinity of the broader Polish homeland of Elizabeth Richeza, although the Greater Polish line of the Piast dynasty, which became extinct in the male line in 1296, no longer held any territory there. Where else was the hypothetically threatened Richeza to find her refuge? Moreover, East Bohemia maintained political, economic and ecclesiastical administrative contacts with fragments of the Silesian principalities. Perhaps, however, it was tradition, stability and profitability that played the main role. After all, the towns of Hradec and Chrudim grew from leading fortified *civitates*, while Mýto, Jaroměř and Polička were Ottokar's successful foundations.

Richeza chose the conveniently situated Hradec and its castle as her widow seat. She turned it into a noble core of her East Bohemian domain for a full decade, while Mělník found itself in the interest of her rival Elizabeth of Bohemia. Richeza used a free hand, which King John had originally provided her, to develop rich cultural, benefactorial and building activities facilitated by incomes from the dowry towns. The Hradec court became a live social centre and when the "Hradec Lady" became attached to Henry of Lipá, it also gained a political dimension. The good connection from East Bohemia to Poland and Moravia and from there to Austria and Hungary made Hradec and Chrudim exceptionally important areas. Or did young King Rudolf, who had earlier helped his father to control Kutná Hora and Bohemia (1304), formed a smart geographic idea with the assistance of Cistercian councillors and projected it into Richeza's endowment? He claimed the Polish royal title together with the Bohemian title. Moreover, according to one, though not very reliable source, also Judith of Habsburg had obtained properties through *obvĕnění* in *Grecensi provincia*. We know about Jičín, but it soon dropped away. So, there is a choice of other, still unidentified items.

The East Bohemian group of five towns linked to the enchanting Richeza was incorporated into the other royal towns and Mělník, which followed after the death of Elizabeth of Bohemia. It seemed that their bond with the queens would become loose, yet it did not perish. Charles IV revived it when he endowed his third wife (Anna of Schweidnitz) and fourth wife (Elizabeth of Pomerania) with the East Bohemian towns. Of these two, it was Elizabeth who showed a greater private interest in them, already as a widow. She received Bohemian royal as well as imperial crown. When she found no willingness from the new king and her stepson Wenceslas IV to support her children, namely Sisigmund, she defiantly left



Prague and settled in Hradec, which had been prepared for its residential role in advance. But she did not follow Richeza in her elegant management of the Hradec court. She failed to adapt herself in the town and her residence in Hradec was more a burden than tribute.

After the physical departure of Elizabeth of Pomerania († 1393), the residential character of Hradec de facto disappeared and Sophia of Bavaria, the second wife of Wenceslas IV, treated her contact with the East Bohemian towns completely without personal attachment as a passive recipient of the dowry benefits through her officials. At the end of the 14th century, she became the owner of Trutnov and Dvůr Králové (and Chotěboř from Elizabeth of Pomerania). Therefore, all East Bohemian royal towns referred to the Queen of Bohemia as their Lady, although they were simultaneously royal *civitates*.

During the lawlessness of the Hussite Revolution when not only a "proper" king, but also a queen was missing after Sophia's († 1428) departure to exile, the vertical bonds tying the dowry towns with the queens weakened and the already fragile relations between the individual dowry towns also suffered. In the turmoil of the revolutionary events, also the towns got a chance to gain land properties from the secularized church property. Hradec became one of the revolutionary centres and continued to hold the position of a leading Utraquist pillar. The dowry towns made a significant step to the return of the pre-revolutionary condition with the accession of King Sisigmund. He granted them to his wife Barbara of Cilli after her coronation in February 1437. In this way, he again bound the queens with the dowry towns, but in a different situation. Barbara went her own way, adhering to the tradition of the Hussite Orphans' Union when she joined the bloc of Hynce Ptáček of Pirkstein and later unions linked to George of Poděbrady. She did not return to the old ways. When she lost her husband, and newly returned to Bohemia in 1441, she settled in one of the dowry towns, but not in Hradec. She chose Mělník, which was closer to Prague.

When Joanna of Rožmitál, wife of the "Hussite king" George of Poděbrady was crowned, she did not hesitate to take control of the dowry towns, but Trutnov, Jaroměř and Polička remained in the power of pledge holders. Queen Joanna occasionally participated in the Hradec council restorations, but more frequently appointed her vice-chamberlains. Under the reign of George of Poděbrady, Teplice in the Ore Mountain foothills was incorporated into the queen's dowry properties. The dowry towns participated individually, not as an aggregate, in various land negotiations. In 1470, the towns were involved in a council resolution on permanent regional troops. One part was incorporated into the Hradec region (Hradec, Jaroměř, Dvůr, Trutnov), the other into the Chrudim region (Chrudim, Vysoké Mýto, Polička). Polička broke free from the pledge and also Jaroměř emerged from its difficult

situation. The position of Trutnov remained complicated because it was tied to the liege system.

Queen Joanna, already as a widow, chose Mělník as her residence, following the example of Barbara of Cilli. She was the last queen of Bohemia who, in her widowhood, assumed a dowry town (Hradec Králové, Mělník) as her own and chose it as her residence, supervising its their inner life and prosperity. After her death, the temporarily strengthened bond between the dowry towns and the queens slackened again. The Jagiellonian kings Vladislaus and Louis took care of the dowry towns, confirming and extending their privileges in several cases. The Jagiellonian period, however, escalated tension between the towns and the aristocracy on multiple levels. In addition to political fights, especially as regards the position of royal towns in the council and their resistance to Vladislaus' Land Ordinance (1500), both components started to face difficulties in a sensitive economic area in the first decades of the 16th century.

A crowned queen could formally take possession of the dowry properties, but only if a queen-widow was missing. After the death of Joanna of Rožmitál, this applied only to Mary of Hungary († 1558), the wife of Louis II of Hungary. She took possession of the dowry properties after coronation in June 1522, but passed her claims on her sister-in-law Anna Jagellonica († 1547), wife of Ferdinand I. From 1523, the queen's vice-chamberlain's role increased and intensified after the arrival of the Habsburg Dynasty (1526).

At the turn of the 30s, the confrontation between the Habsburg king and the Bohemian estates first started to boil. From the dowry towns, Hradec Králové, which closely cooperated with the Old Town of Prague, a leading element of the urban estates, was most intensively engaged in this policy. The other dowry towns were more or less satisfied with a passive role without taking a clear collective stance. As royal towns, but also leading non-royal municipalities, they were only engaged in standard neighbourhood relations, which almost never extended beyond the region. This is one of the reasons why the willingness and ability to protect joint interests was absent. King Ferdinand got the upper hand in 1547 and subsequently, the economic and political punishments mostly affected towns, including the dowry towns. In addition to the establishment of royal reeves, loss of privileges (usually only temporarily), the urban estates (and most heavily Hradec Králové) were most affected by confiscations of land properties. These harsh restrictions were revised only after a time.

On the outside, the dowry towns presented themselves as a corpus, but it underwent various shifts. The position of Trutnov and its liege circle developed with difficulty. It was pledged for a long time and negotiations on its status even occupied the land council. In 1569,

the raster of the dowry towns was extended with Nový Bydžov, one of the last Přemyslid foundations. Wives of the Habsburgs as queens or queen-widows gladly received incomes from the dowry towns which, however, were only part of their gains. Another queen who made a mark in the history of the towns was Maria of Austria, the wife of Maximilian II, finally also as a queen-widow († 1603). When Trutnov broke free from a pledge at the end of the 16th century, it became a royal town again and the group of dowry towns became stabilized as nine: Dvůr Králové, Hradec Králové, Chrudim, Jaroměř, Nový Bydžov, Mělník (its dominion pledged for a long time), Polička, Trutnov, Vysoké Mýto. They were managed and administered by the vice-chamberlain's office for dowry towns. After the death of Maria of Austria until the coronation of Anna of Tyrol, the wife of King Matthias, in January 1616, the dowry towns were transferred to the Bohemian royal chamber according to the usual practice. Anna died in 1618.

The administration of dowry towns by Elizabeth Stuart, the wife of Frederick V of the Palatinate, coronated in November 1619, was fleeting. The following thirty years were a time of war, sometimes less, sometimes more painful, but always heavily affecting the domestic society including the dowry towns. After her coronation in November 1627, Eleonora Gonzaga († 1655), second wife of Ferdinand II, took charge of them. Also the dowry towns, as part of the royal towns, were hit by the Renewed Land Ordinance (1627), which gave them a single council vote, confiscated properties and imposed economic and religious restrictions immediately after the battle of the White Mountain. Further decline and other losses were caused by long wars when the urban population dramatically dropped. The vice-chamberlain tried to defend interests of the dowry towns, but in vain. He could ease the situation in individual matters, not in the whole. He still had a *Hofrichter* and chamber scribe at hand, but the vice-chamberlain's office had to be held by a person from the knightly or manorial estate.

The aftermath of the Thirty-year war was still evident long after 1648. The last remains of Utraquist ecclesiastical administration disappeared in the process of recatholization and the new era of Catholicism was announced in East Bohemia by the establishment of a bishopric in Hradec Králové in 1664. The Hradec diocese absorbed Hradec, then Dvůr Králové, Jaroměř, Trutnov and later also Chrudim, Polička and Vysoké Mýto, i.e. deaneries of the Litomyšl bishopric, from the group of the dowry towns. Hradec Králové, the centre of a large region, became a residence of one of the (still few) Bohemian bishoprics.

Long after the Thirty-Year War, the dowry towns still faced passivity of the direct "authorities", debts, sharp demographic decline, economic difficulties and sometimes

consequences of devastating fires such as Nový Bydžov in 1665. Fortunately, the dowry region dealt with the 1680 plague epidemic without serious consequences and Eleonora Gonzaga stayed with the Hradec Jesuits for a month. The still dowry town of Mělník was hit more seriously with hundreds of casualties. The status of dowry towns prevailed without interruption, but the mutual bonds and feel of unity weakened at an accelerated speed. The contents of the vice-chamberlain's office, which consisted of the vice-chamberlain, *Hofrichter* and scribe, concentrated on renewals of the town councils, the vice-chamberlain looked after proper management of the towns.

A sudden absence of a crowned Queen of Bohemia freed hands of the administrator of the right of disposal to the queen's dowry property (which was the King of Bohemia (and of course an emperor)), and subsequently, Leopold I sold the Mělník estate to the Czernin of Chudenice family in 1687. The bonds between Mělník, a residence of two queens in the 15th century, and the East Bohemian dowry group were thus permanently torn. The next crowned queen was Elizabeth Christine of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel, the wife of Charles VI, who was crowned in September 1723. The persistent weak spots in the system and economy of the dowry towns were to be revealed by a visiting commission established by the queen, but there was little improvement. Only the regional towns of Hradec Králové and Chrudim perhaps started to work a little better. Also Polička improved. It transferred its urban farm estate into a *corvée* farm and managed to gain from it economically. It could subsequently finance demanding public buildings from the revenues (a town hall or Marian plague column).

After the death of Elizabeth Christine († 1750), her daughter Maria Theresa took charge of the dowry towns. She applied unscrupulous methods to confirm some of the older privileges and her son Joseph II and later Francis II continued with even greater strictness. The Theresian and Josephinian reforms affected the operation of dowry towns more or less formally by further reduction of the vice-chamberlain's office and the related *Hofrichter*. Until 1745, they were both subordinated to the Bohemian chamber and, after its abolition, to the vicegerency. The content remained unchanged: collection of cash allowances for the queen, her representation during confirmations of town councils and parish benefices. In general, the vice-chamberlain was to look after the towns' development with an emphasis on benefit to the state. His office was *de facto* transformed into an accounting office subordinated to the gubernium, which again brought it closer to the royal vice-chamberlain's office. After the mid-18th century administrative changes, Nový Bydžov temporarily joined the royal towns and the role of the regional representatives intensified.

In the towns' categorization, the dowry towns were included in a group of vice-chamberlain towns (free and dowry) and managed by a regulated town office. The wife of Leopold II was succeeded as a crowned queen by Maria Theresa of Naples and Sicily († 1807), the second wife of Francis II, and Caroline Augusta of Bavaria († 1873), the fourth wife of Francis II, took this position for a long time. In 1834, under this queen, the offices of the queen's vice-chamberlain and *Hofrichter* were cancelled and the dowry towns passed under the vice-chamberlain's office within the gubernium. The last queen to receive the Crown of Bohemia was Maria Anna of Savoy († 1884) in 1836 who married Ferdinand I of Austria, but after his abdication (1848), she did not take charge of the dowry after the death of Caroline Augusta.

The status of the dowry towns was not abolished until 1918. The queens, after 1836 only as non-crowned, could only claim inertial residues and references to their former rights, namely the church patronages. Yet, live memory of the dowry towns and their historical role survived throughout the Czechoslovak Republic after 1918, socialist Czechoslovakia and the current Czech Republic. Let us cherish it! It is one of the grateful symbolic bonds that link today's hectic time to the mediaeval past. We do not mind that we will have to do away with some of the romanticizing ideas in which the dowry towns were shrouded in a good faith in the 19th century. Moreover, the towns also remain a grateful research theme, which will certainly not end with this presented publication.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> SEMOTANOVÁ, E. – ŽEMLIČKA, J. et al., *Věnná města českých královen*, pp. 265–312, 335–347 (authors Jana Vojtíšková and Josef Žemlička).



Fig. 2 Afterthought of royal dowry towns on a historic map of Bohemiae by Vítězslav Opluštíl, before 1918, graphic scale, symbol map of former royal dowry towns: blue transversely striped circlet; Dvůr Králové nad Labem (Králové Dvůr), Hradec Králové (Králové Hradec), Chrudim (Chrudím), Jaroměř (Jaroměř), Mělník (Melník), Nový Bydžov (Nový Bydžov), Polička (Polička), Trutnov (Trutnov), Vysoké Mýto (Vys. Mýto)

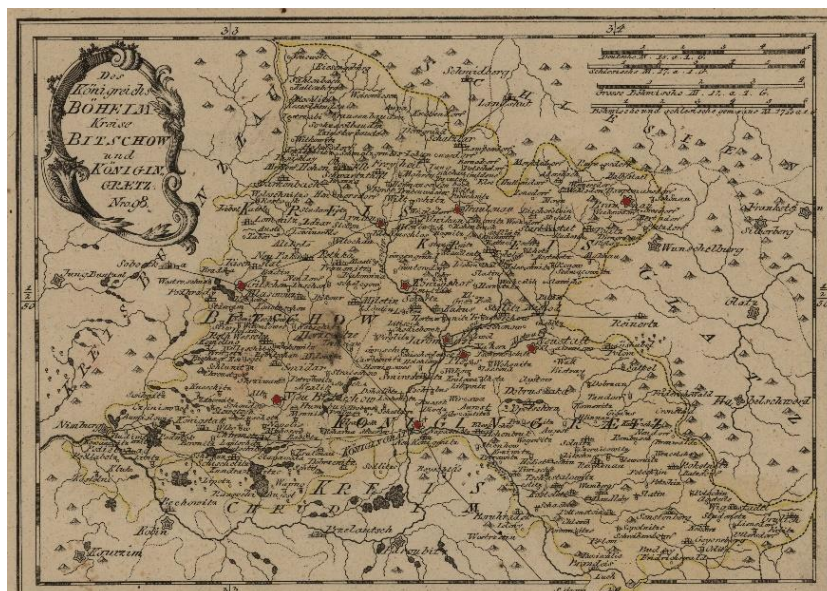


Fig. 3 Royal dowry towns on a map of Bydžov and Hradec Králové region by Franz Johann Joseph Reilly, 1789–1791, [1 : 530 000]; Dvůr Králové nad Labem (Königshof), Hradec



Králové (Königingrätz), Jaroměř (Jaromirz), Nový Bydžov (Neu Bitschow), Trutnov (Trautenau)



Fig. 4 Royal dowry towns on a map of Chrudim, Čáslav and Kouřim regions by Franz Johann Joseph Reilly, 1789–1791, [1 : 530 000]; Hradec Králové (Königingrätz), Chrudim (Chrudim), Jaroměř (Jaromirz), Nový Bydžov (Neu Bitschow), Polička (Policzka), Vysoké Mýto (Hohenmauth)





Fig. 5 a, b Royal dowry towns on a map of the Elbe River from Dvůr Králové nad Labem to Hradec Králové; Dvůr Králové nad Labem (Königshoff), Jaroměř (Jaromirz), Hradec Králové (Königgratz); a coloured manuscript map, before 1780, no scale, within a cut-out



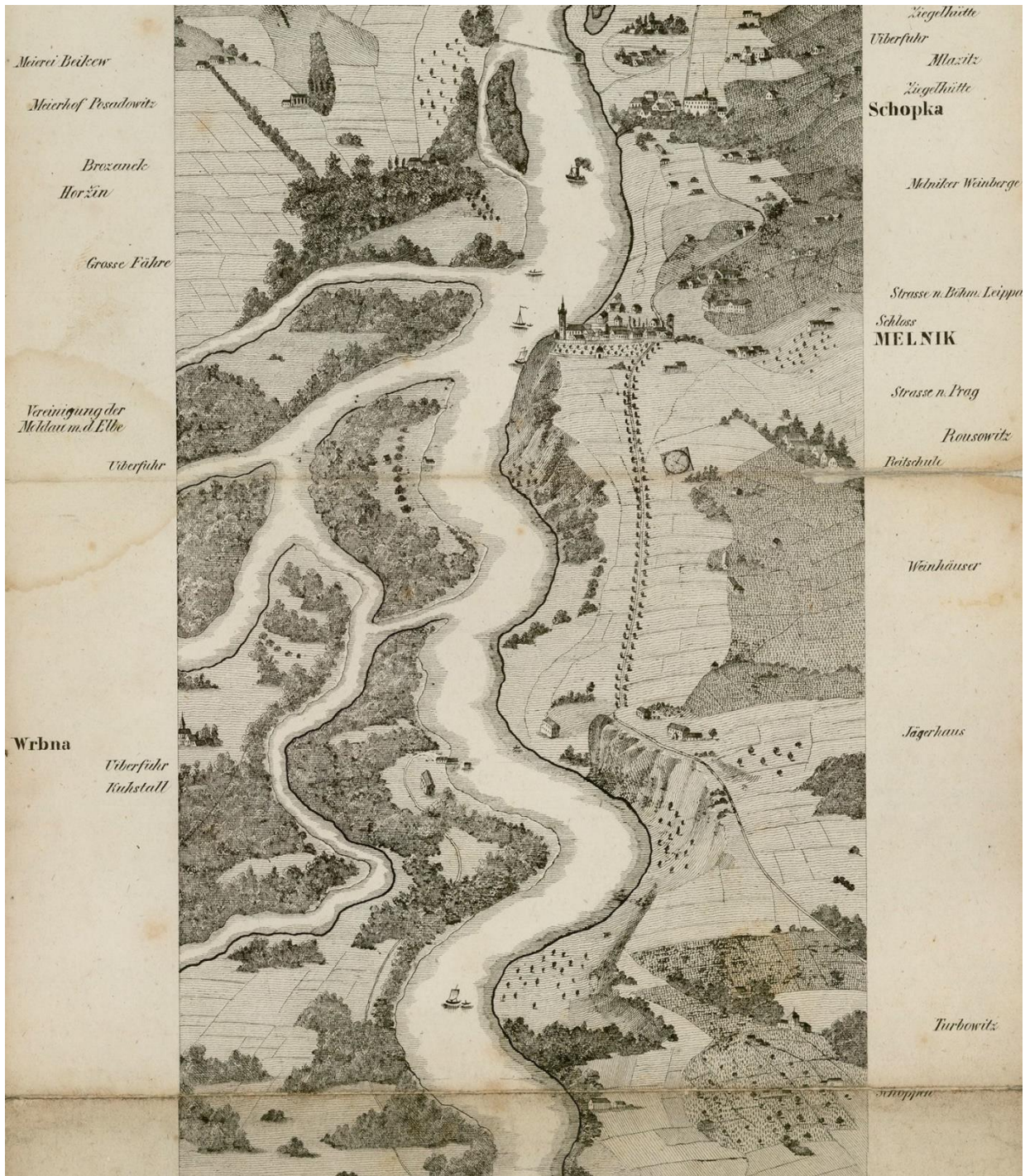


Fig. 6 The royal dowry town of Mělník (Melnik) on a map of the Elbe River from Obříství to Míšeň (Meissen), 1846, no scale, a cut-out





Fig. 7 a, b The royal dowry town of Hradec Králové (Králové Hradec, Königgrätz) on a map of the Elbe River, end of the 19th century, no scale [1 : 25 000], a cut-outs

## 2. Royal Dowry Towns of Bohemian Queens, Historical Overview

### Dvůr Králové nad Labem

Dvůr Králové nad Labem is located about 35 km north of the regional city of Hradec Králové and has a population of approximately 15,500. The area has been inhabited since prehistoric times. The town of Dvůr was probably founded during the reign of Ottokar II of Bohemia. Shortly after its foundation, the town walls with four gates were built. The town formed an important element in a defensive line against the neighbouring Silesia and thus became part of the independent Trutnov manor region. Dvůr nad Labem gained the status of a royal dowry town only at the very end of the 14th century. The town was not the most important settlement in terms of population, economic performance or military strength, but its imprint in the Bohemian cultural heritage is unquestionable. Following the Hussite wars, the predominantly Czech and Utraquist town had to change its confession after the Battle of the White Mountain and the shape of the town changed with the newly built Baroque buildings. Dvůr Králové nad Labem played an important role in the National Revival when the so-called *Královédvorský Manuscript* was "discovered" in the local church. The expansion of industry (especially cotton and mechanical engineering) turned the town into a "Bohemian Manchester" in the last quarter of the 19th century. At the same time, education, culture, and activities of the citizens' clubs and associations developed. The town entered the First World War with a predominantly Czech population and a German and Jewish minority.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Státní oblastní archiv v Hradci Králové, Státní okresní archiv Trutnov, fond Archiv města Dvůr Králové nad Labem; BIENENBERG, Carl Joseph von, *Versuch einer kurzgefaßten Geschichte der Stadt Königinhof*, Prag 1782; HALÍK, Tomáš, *Dějiny Dvora Králové n. L.*, Dvůr Králové 1926; POCHE, Emanuel, *Soupis památek historických a uměleckých v okrese Královédvorském*, Praha 1937; KUČA, Karel, *Města a městečka v Čechách, na Moravě a ve Slezsku I. (A–G)*, Praha 1996, pp. 798–804; JANOUŠEK, Pavel, *Dvůr Králové nad Labem*, Praha-Litomyšl 2006; FELCMAN, Ondřej (editor) – MUSIL, František (vedoucí autorského kolektivu) et al., *Dějiny východních Čech v pravěku a středověku (do roku 1526)*, Praha 2009; AUT. KOL., *Historický atlas měst České republiky*, sv. 34 *Dvůr Králové nad Labem*, Praha 2022; SEMOTANOVÁ, Eva – ŽEMLIČKA, Josef et al., *Věnná města českých královen*, Praha 2022; *Historic Towns Atlas of the Czech Republic Web Map Portal*, map application, online *Dvůr Králové nad Labem* <http://towns.hiu.cas.cz/HAM/rekmapa.php?mesto=dvur-kralove>; *Royal Dowry Towns*, web portal [kralovskavennamesta.cz](http://kralovskavennamesta.cz) - homepage





Fig. 8 Dvůr Králové nad Labem in an oblique aerial photograph, view from the south-east, Martin Gojda 2009



Fig. 9 Dvůr Králové nad Labem, T. G. Masaryk Square (view from the east), northern front of a built-up area with Renaissance building of the old town and burgher houses with arcades; Josef Král 1908





Fig. 10 Dvůr Králové nad Labem, T. G. Masaryk Square (view from the south), fountain with a statue of Zábaj (1857) by Antonín Pavel and František Wagner in the foreground, Baroque plague column (1750–1753) with a statue of the Virgin Mary in the background, Renaissance building of an old town hall (1572) behind and late Art Nouveau building of the Municipal Savings Bank according to a project by Jan Vejrych (1909–1910) next to it, built in an area of two burgher houses (see Fig. 9); Miroslav Beneš 2021

## **Hradec Králové**

The regional city of Hradec Králové is located in East Bohemia, roughly 100 km west of Prague and has a population of approximately 94,000. The landscape at the confluence of the Elbe River and Orlice River has been inhabited since prehistoric times. There are numerous archaeological finds not only from the city centre, but also from its local parts such as Plotišť nad Labem. A fortified settlement, which was established already in the late Stone Age above the confluence, became the centre of East Bohemia in the late Bronze Age. The royal town was established at the beginning of the 13th century on the site of a Slavic fortified settlement with an extensive populated area around the castle, which served as an administrative and commercial centre of the Přemyslid state. At that time, Hradec already

enjoyed the benefit of its convenient location at a crossroads of routes, the most important leading from Prague to Wrocław and Krakow via Náchod.<sup>17</sup>

In the 13th century, a Gothic castle was built on the site of an acropolis of a Slavic fortified settlement. Occasionally, the “Hradec“ queens, most famously Elizabeth Richeza and Elizabeth of Pomerania, stayed there for a long period, but also other members of the Přemyslid and Luxembourg dynasties and their relatives resided there. Exceptionally valuable Gothic churches and monasteries were built in the city and in its suburbs as early as the first half of the 13th century. However, the castle and much of the church architecture disappeared in the Hussite period. Hradec underwent a new development during the late Gothic and Renaissance periods, which gave the town its main landmark, the White Tower. It complemented the Hradec Králové skyline, formed by a monumental Gothic Church of the Holy Spirit. Other important Gothic and Renaissance buildings, such as the city gates and an area in front of them, the Kropáčka Tower and numerous other structures have unfortunately not survived. The appearance of Velké náměstí (the Great Square), the city centre, was completed to its present form mainly by the Baroque Jesuit College with the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary and the bishop's residence. At the end of the 18th century, the city was transformed into a fortress, which has left a mark on its layout to this day. The ground plan was succeeded by a new construction of the city, which began after abolition of the fortress towards the end of the 19th century.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> AUT. KOL., *Historický atlas měst České republiky, 5 Hradec Králové*, Praha 1998; AUT. KOL., *Hradec Králové. Historie/kultura/lidé*, Praha 2017; SEMOTANOVÁ, E. – ŽEMLIČKA, J. et al., *Věnná města českých královen*.

<sup>18</sup> Archiv Národního muzea v Praze, sbírka F – Topografická sbírka, Hradec Králové, sbírka G – Eichlerova sbírka; Archiv Pražského hradu, fond Archiv metropolitní kapituly; Národní archiv v Praze, fond Česká dvorská kancelář, fond Desky zemské, fond Josefský katastr, fond Nová manipulace, fond Stará manipulace, fond Tereziánský katastr; Archiv Pražského hradu, fond Archiv metropolitní kapituly; Státní oblastní archiv v Hradci Králové, Státní okresní archiv Hradec Králové, fond Archiv města Hradec Králové; fond Archiv římskokatolického děkanství Hradec Králové; fond Biskupský archiv Hradec Králové; KUBÍČEK, Alois – WIRTH, Zdeněk, *Hradec Králové. Město českých královen. Město Ulrichovo*, Hradec Králové 1939; MIKULKA, Jaromír, *Dějiny Hradce Králové II./1., II./2., I./1., I./2.*, Hradec Králové 1994–1997; TOMEK, Václav Vladivoj, *Z dějin Hradce Králové*, Hradec Králové 1997 (1837, 1885); KUČA, Karel, *Města a městečka v Čechách, na Moravě a ve Slezsku II. (H–Kole)*, Praha 2000; HRUBÝ, Vladimír et al., *Chrám sv. Ducha. Katedrála a její sousedé*, Hradec Králové 2008; CROŮ, Jana, *Královéhradečtí biskupové a jejich residence*, Hradec Králové 2014; BLÁHA, Radek – SLAVÍK, Jiří, *Hrad v Hradci Králové*, Hradec Králové 2020; *Historic Towns Atlas of the Czech Republic Web Map Portal, map application*, online *Hradec Králové*



Fig. 11 Hradec Králové, view of the Velké náměstí Square from the White Tower in the west, Baroque bishop's residence and U Špuláků house on the right, Baroque plague column (1717) with statue of the Virgin Mary in the square centre, undeveloped suburban landscape in the background; Julius Russ 1910

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<http://towns.hiu.cas.cz/HAM/rekmapa.php?mesto=hradec-kralove>; *Royal Dowry Towns*, web portal  
[kralovskavennamesta.cz](http://kralovskavennamesta.cz) - homepage.





Fig. 12 Hradec Králové, view of the Velké náměstí Square from the White Tower in the west, Baroque bishop's residence and U Špuláků house on the right, Baroque plague column (1717) with statue of the Virgin Mary in the square centre, modern built-up area from the 20th century in the background; Robert Šimůnek 2017



Fig. 13 Hradec Králové in an oblique aerial photograph, view from the south, Martin Gajda 2015

## Chrudim

The town of Chrudim is located about 10 km south of the regional city of Pardubice and has a population of approximately 32,000. As it is situated in a fertile region of East Bohemia, various cultures developed there already in the prehistoric times together with fortified settlements including a settlement surrounding the projection of Chrudim. Thanks to the so-called Trstenice trade route, Chrudim became a regional centre as early as the 13th century. It became a royal town in the 1260s during the reign of Ottokar II of Bohemia. In the years 1305–1307, it was turned into one of the dowry towns when Queen Elizabeth Richeza was granted the rule over Chrudim. During the reign of queens of Bohemia who were wives of kings from the Luxembourg Dynasty, Chrudim developed in the Gothic spirit and built stone fortifications. During the Hussite Wars, the town was occupied by Hussite troops and subjected to the rule of the Prague Union. In the second half of the 15th century and first half of the 16th century, it experienced a considerable boom and strengthened its position as a regional centre. This rise was interrupted by Ferdinand I of Habsburg who imposed a punishment on the town after the Bohemian Estates Revolt in 1547. After an early restoration of privileges and some of the property, the town continued in its development. This fact was reflected in the construction of a number of opulent Renaissance burgher houses including the most beautiful Mydlářovský House, which was completed in 1577. The Thirty Years' War and forced recatholization with the departure of some wealthy burghers significantly affected Chrudim and threw the town into debt. In the second half of the 17th century, the development of religious life associated with activities of local religious fraternities, especially the cult of St. Salvator (the Saviour), turned Chrudim into a site of pilgrimage and Baroque art centre where important artists, such as the painter Joachim von Sandrart and sculptor Jiří František Pacák created their works. At the end of the 18th century, the transfer of the Hradec Králové bishopric to Chrudim was considered because of the construction of a military fortress in Hradec. However, this project failed due to the lack of suitable premises and financial resources. In the 19th century, the importance of Chrudim gradually declined despite all efforts, especially due to competition of the nearby town of Pardubice. With the end of the Habsburg Monarchy, the status of Bohemian queens' dowry towns ceased to exist.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> Státní oblastní archiv v Hradci Králové, Státní okresní archiv Chrudim, fond Archiv města Chrudim; POCHOBRADSKÝ, Ferdinand – ADÁMEK, Jaroslav, *Stará Chrudim*, Chrudim 1932; FLORIÁN, Čeněk, *Chrudim. Úvod do dějin města*, Chrudim 1954; FROLÍK, Jan – SIGL, Jiří, *K počátkům města Chrudimi*,





Fig. 14 Chrudim in an oblique aerial photograph, view from the north-west, Martin Gojda 2000

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Archaeologia historica 10 (1985), pp. 175–180; FROLÍK, Jan – SIGL, Jiří, *Chrudimsko v raném středověku – vývoj osídlení a jeho proměny*, Hradec Králové 1995; AUT. KOL., *Historický atlas měst České republiky*, sv. 13 *Chrudim*, Praha 2003; *Historic Towns Atlas of the Czech Republic Web Map Portal*, map application, online *Chrudim* <http://towns.hiu.cas.cz/HAM/rekmapa.php?mesto=chrudim>; *Royal Dowry Towns*, web portal [kralovskavennamesta.cz](http://kralovskavennamesta.cz) - homepage.



Fig. 15 Chrudim, Ressel Square (view from the north-west), 1905, Baroque plague column of the Transfiguration of Jesus (1732) in the foreground, three-nave Gothic Basilica of the Assumption of Mary (modified in the neo-Gothic style in the second half of the 19th century) behind it; Karel Liebscher 1905



Fig. 16 Chrudim, Ressel Square (view from the west), Baroque plague column of the Transfiguration of Jesus (1732) in the foreground, three-nave Gothic Basilica of the Assumption of Mary (modified in the neo-Gothic style in the second half of the 19th century) behind it; Miroslav Beneš 2020



## Jaroměř

Jaroměř is located about 17 km north-east of the regional city of Hradec Králové in East Bohemia at the confluence of the Elbe, Úpa and Metuje rivers and has a population of approximately 12,500. A castle centre, which was documented on this site already in the first half of the 12th century, was probably founded by Duke Bretislaus I in the 11th century. The royal town was founded by Ottokar II in the 1260s. The location got its name from a fortified settlement of the same name. Jaroměř was one of the five East Bohemian dowry towns that Elizabeth Richeza acquired at the beginning of the 14th century. In the 14th century, the appearance of the urban residential area was completed. There was only a square lined with a series of houses on two sides extending in an area of 3 hectares (it was the smallest area surrounded by walls among all the royal towns). The town, which had two suburbs in the Middle Ages and Early Modern times, faced this major complication, which did not allow greater cultural and economic development or population growth. In the 14th century, the construction of the Church of St. Nicholas began. The Hussite Wars had a drastic impact on the town and its population. At the beginning of the Hussite invasion, many citizens were killed and many of the survivors left. Despite its convenient location at the confluence of two rivers (at that time, it was only the Elbe River and the Úpa River), the town did not develop rapidly even in the subsequent “golden age of Bohemian towns”. Moreover, it was affected by several adverse events in the 16th century including a punishment by Ferdinand I of Habsburg for anti-Habsburg resistance, devastating fires and plague epidemics. The problems deepened especially during the Thirty Years’ War due to the recatholization of local people who mostly adhered to Lutheranism. In the 18th century, reports given by visitation committees repeatedly drew attention to the backwardness and numerous problems of the town.<sup>20</sup>

One of the significant events in the second half of the 18th century was the construction of a neighbouring fortress and the town of Josefov. The town experienced its greatest expansion in the 19th century when, together with the development of industry and establishment of the citizens’ associations and clubs, it was enriched by a number of public

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<sup>20</sup> Státní oblastní archiv v Hradci Králové, Státní okresní archiv Náchod, fond Archiv města Jaroměř; KNAPP, Antonín, *Paměti královského věnného města Jaroměře nad Labem*, Jaroměř 1887; HOVORKA, Josef, *Dvanáct kapitol z historie Jaroměřska*, Jaroměř 1996; NOVÁK, Václav, *Chrám sv. Mikuláše v Jaroměři*, Jaroměř 2006; POLÁK, Jindřich – SLAVÍK, Jan, *Jaroměř. Chrám sv. Mikuláše*, Jaroměř 2015; VOJTÍŠKOVÁ, Jana, *Královské věnné město Jaroměř a jeho panství v době předbělohorské (historickogeografické aspekty problematiky)*, *Historická geografie* 45/ 2 (2019), pp. 239–261; AUT. KOL., *Historický atlas měst České republiky, sv. 31 Jaroměř*, Praha 2020.

buildings. A new residential area was built Na Ptákách in the early 20th century when the valued modern department store of the Wenke and Son Company was constructed. The promising development was interrupted by the First World War, during which a POW camp was established in Josefov, and the outbreak of a Spanish flu epidemic.<sup>21</sup>



Fig. 17 Jaroměř in an oblique aerial photograph, view from the east, Martin Gojda 2000

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<sup>21</sup> MERTLÍK, Pavel – MERTLÍKOVÁ, Olga, *Josefov. Kapitoly z dějin pevnosti a města*, Liberec 2019; AUT. KOL., *Historický atlas měst České republiky*, sv. 31 Jaroměř; SEMOTANOVÁ, E. – ŽEMLIČKA, J. et al., *Věnná města českých královen; Historic Towns Atlas of the Czech Republic Web Map Portal*, map application, online Jaroměř <http://towns.hiu.cas.cz/HAM/rekmapa.php?mesto=jaromer>; *Royal Dowry Towns*, web portal [kralovskavennamesta.cz](http://kralovskavennamesta.cz) - homepage.



Fig. 18 Jaroměř, Československé armády Square (view from the east), petty stallholders in the foreground, Baroque column with a statue of Our Mary by Matthias Bernard Braun (1722–1727, today a copy) behind, burgher houses on both sides, Gothic Church of St. Nicholas (the current structure initiated in the early 15th century) in the background; Antonín Levý [1888]



Fig. 19 Jaroměř, Československé armády Square (view from the east), a group of burgher houses with Gothic foundations, arcades and Baroque façades, Gothic Church of St. Nicholas in the background; Zdeněk Rerych 2021



## Mělník

Mělník is located in the Central Bohemian Region about 35 km north of Prague, in a convenient position at the confluence of the Vltava, Elbe and Pšovka rivers where settlements can be traced to the prehistoric times. It has a population of approximately 19,500. A fortified settlement was documented there in the early Middle Ages. According to a legend, Saint Ludmila was born there. Mělník was held by Princess Emma, the wife of Boleslaus II at the turn of the 10th and 11th centuries. The Church of St. Peter and Paul was an important part of the castle centre. Mělník was first mentioned as a royal town in the 1270s. In 1279, it was mentioned as the town of Queen Kunigunda of Halych and from that moment, it is documented as a town connected with the queens of Bohemia. The Mělník domain was particularly used by Elizabeth of Bohemia who granted it the administration of the regional land property register. Throughout the 14th century, the centre of the queens' economic base moved to East Bohemian dowry towns, but in the 15th century, Mělník again became the seat of the queens of Bohemia during their widowhood. After the Hussite Wars, in which Mělník sided with the moderate Hussites, the town was held by Queen Barbara of Cilli who lived there from 1441 until her death in 1451. Joanna of Rožmitál took refuge in Mělník (1471–1475) after the death of her husband George of Poděbrady. The residential function brought prosperity to the late medieval town.<sup>22</sup>

However, it was interrupted in the Early Modern period due to frequent stays of armies and a plague epidemics. In 1547, Mělník was punished by Ferdinand I for its anti-Habsburg resistance. The privileges were soon restored, but the economic base was undermined. The main misfortune of Mělník came with the Thirty Years' War when the town was repeatedly occupied by Saxon and Swedish armies. The town experienced a significant twist in the 19th century when it became a district town and cultural life began to develop there. Towards the end of the century, it was the home of several important personalities and new districts in the neo-Renaissance and Art Nouveau styles extended into the suburbs. The

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<sup>22</sup> Státní oblastní archiv v Praze, Státní okresní archiv Mělník, fond Archiv města Mělníka, fond Archiv města Kostelce nad Labem; SCHUBERT, Bedřich Karel, *Mělník a jeho památnosti*, Prague 1856; ČERMÁK, Bohuslav, *Proboštský chrám sv. Petra a Pavla na Mělníce*, Mělník 1899; KILIÁN, Jan et al., *Mělník*, Praha 2010; IZDNÝ, Jakub, *Ludmila. Kněžna a svěřice*, Praha 2020; SEMOTANOVÁ, E. – ŽEMLIČKA, J. et al., *Věnná města českých královen*.

First World War did not significantly affect Mělník, but after the war, the status of Mělník as a dowry town was abolished in 1918.<sup>23</sup>



Fig. 20 Mělník in an oblique aerial photograph, view from the north; Martin Gojda 2009

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<sup>23</sup> BÖHM, Ludvík, *Královské věnné město Mělník a okres Mělnický*, Mělník 1892; PURŠ, František et al., *Mělník 1274–1974. 700 let města*, Mělník 1974; BROŽOVSKÝ, Miroslav, *Mělník. Státní zámek, památky města a okolí*, Praha 1987; ČERMÁK, Bohuslav, *Mělnický zámek*, Mělník 1888; KILIÁN, Jan, *Historické náhrobníky a epitafy Mělnicka*, Mělník 2004; *Věnná města za třicetileté války a jejich poválečná obnova*, KILIÁN, Jan (ed.), Mělník 2004; KILIÁN, Jan, *Zmizelý Mělník*, Praha-Litomyšl 2007; KILIÁN, Jan, *Město ve válce, válka ve městě. Mělník 1618–1648*, České Budějovice 2008; *Historic Towns Atlas of the Czech Republic Web Map Portal*, map application, online Mělník <http://towns.hiu.cas.cz/HAM/rekmapa.php?mesto=melnik>; *Royal Dowry Towns*, web portal [kralovskavennamesta.cz](http://kralovskavennamesta.cz) - homepage.





Fig. 21 Mělník (view from the west) on the Elbe River with busy ship transport, Renaissance chateau (originally a Gothic castle) and late-Gothic Saint Procopius Church (rebuilt in the late 15th century); Antonín Levý [1888]



Fig. 22 Mělník (view from the west) on the Elbe River, famous vineyards on hillsides below the chateau and Saint Procopius Church; Martin Šandera 2017

## Nový Bydžov

Nový Bydžov is located about 30 km west of the regional city of Hradec Králové and has a population of approximately 7,000. The origin of the local settlement dates back to today's Starý Bydžov from which King Wenceslas II transferred it into a new location where the town was founded in a strictly regular layout. It was not originally established as a royal town, but served as an aristocratic pledge property for many decades. The court records of Nový Bydžov, which is the second oldest surviving Bohemian municipal book, date back to the early years of the town's existence. In the first half of the 16th century, the town greatly prospered and was able to deposit a large amount of cash, free itself from the vassalage and become a royal dowry town in 1569. The predominantly Utraquist town was forcibly recatholicized in the post-White Mountain period, but various "heretical" groups had to be dealt with still in the 18th century.<sup>24</sup>

The tradition of student festivities, the so-called *merendas*, originated with the participation of young volunteers from Nový Bydžov in an academic legion in the defence of Prague against French and Bavarian troops during the First Silesian War (early 1740s). In the first half of the 19th century, the population grew rapidly, but the town retained its predominantly agrarian character and a large number of wooden structures. The development of political, social and cultural life started in the early 1860s. A relatively large Jewish community also left a significant footprint in the town's history. In the field of industry, a key milestone arrived in 1870 with the town's connection to the railway. The development of industry was also associated with the emergence of secondary education. In the last third of the 19th and especially at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, the town gained a number of

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<sup>24</sup> Státní oblastní archiv v Hradci Králové, Státní okresní archiv Hradec Králové, fond Archiv města Nový Bydžov, fond Archiv římskokatolického děkanství Nový Bydžov; ŘÍHA, Celestin: *Místopis a dějiny král. věnného města Nového Bydžova, kteréž dle starých listin a spisů sepsal*, Praha 1868; ŠRÁM, Václav: *Chrám Páně sv. Prokopa ve Starém Bydžově*, Nový Bydžov 1895; *Kniha svědomí města Nového Bydžova z l. 1311–1470. S výsadami a akty o výkupu svobody*, KAPRAS, Jan (ed.), Nový Bydžov 1907; KUČA, Karel: *Města a městečka v Čechách, na Moravě a ve Slezsku IV. (Ml–Pan)*, Praha 2000, pp. 460–487; ROZKOŠNÁ, Blanka: *Židé v Novém Bydžově a okolí*, Nový Bydžov 2015; AUT. KOL., *Historický atlas měst České republiky, sv. 29 Nový Bydžov*, Praha 2017; SEMOTANOVÁ, E. – ŽEMLIČKA, J. et al., *Věnná města českých královen*.



new architectural landmarks. Between 1850 and 1960, Nový Bydžov served as the district seat.<sup>25</sup>



Fig. 23 Nový Bydžov on the oblique aerial photograph, view from the north; Martin Gojda 2000

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<sup>25</sup> POCHE, Emanuel et al.: *Umělecké památky Čech II. K–O*, Praha 1978, pp. 503–506; PROKOP, Jaroslav: *Nový Bydžov v proměnách staletí*, Nový Bydžov 2005; PROKOP, Jaroslav: *Zmizelé Čechy. Nový Bydžov*, Praha 2007; PROKOP, Jaroslav: *Studentské merendy 1750–2010*, Nový Bydžov 2010; *Historic Towns Atlas of the Czech Republic Web Map Portal*, map application, online *Nový Bydžov* <http://towns.hiu.cas.cz/HAM/rekmapa.php?mesto=novy-bydzov>; *Royal Dowry Towns*, web portal [kralovskavennamesta.cz](http://kralovskavennamesta.cz) - homepage.



Fig. 24 Nový Bydžov, Masaryk náměstí Square (view from the north-east), Baroque Marian column in the foreground, neo-Gothic town hall from 1862–1865 behind on the right, Gothic Church of St. Lawrence tower (rebuilt after a fire in 1817) in the background; Karel Liebscher 1908



Fig. 25 Nový Bydžov, Masaryk náměstí Square (view from the east) with a Baroque Marian column and neo-Gothic town hall; Miroslav Beneš 2020

## **Polička**

Polička is situated about 60 km south-east of the regional city of Pardubice in a relatively infertile area at the border of Bohemia and Moravia and has a population of approximately 8,800. The original centre of the area in the Early Middle Ages was Litomyšl with a Premonstratensian monastery that colonized its surroundings. The town of Polička was founded by King Ottokar II of Bohemia in 1265 to strengthen the local settlement. However, not much later in 1307, the town was presented to the Queen of Bohemia Elizabeth Richeza and became one of the dowry towns of Bohemian queens for the next 600 years. The mid-14th century was a crucial period in the development of Polička, which was "dressed in a stone robe" when a solid stone fortification around the town, the parish Church of St. James, and the town hall were built. After the Hussite Wars, when Polička was part of the Prague Union, the town further strengthened its fortifications with defensive elements against firearms in line with the war experience and threat posed by Matthias Corvinus. However, from the second half of the 15th century, Polička stagnated economically. It experienced an especially difficult time in the first half of the 17th century. The problems of the town were intensified by extensive fires, harsh punishments after the unsuccessful Bohemian Estates Revolt and the Thirty Years' War when the town was occupied three times by the Swedish army.<sup>26</sup>

However, Polička experienced a turning point thanks to the maximum use of its corvée farm and the first half of the 18th century became a "golden age" of the town. At that time, a spectacular Baroque complex with a new town hall was built in the square. The successful boom of Polička was interrupted by a devastating fire in 1845, after which the town was rebuilt in the Classicist style, but it lacked development of industrial production. This situation did not change until the construction of a railway at the end of the 19th century.

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<sup>26</sup> Státní oblastní archiv v Hradci Králové, Státní okresní archiv Svitavy se sídlem v Litomyšli, fond Archiv města Polička; DUDEK, Karel, *Dějiny královského věnného města Poličky I. Do doby předhusitské*, Polička 1940; KONEČNÝ, Stanislav – RŮŽIČKA, Jindřich, *Polička. Věnné město českých královen*, Polička 2001; BORSKÝ, Pavel – JUNEK, David – MUCHOVÁ, Martina, *Polička. Kostel sv. Jakuba*, Polička 2005; JUNEK, David – KONEČNÝ, Stanislav, *Dějiny města Poličky*, Polička 2005; AUT. KOL., *Historický atlas měst České republiky, sv. 30 Polička*, Praha 2019; SEMOTANOVÁ, E. – ŽEMLIČKA, J. et al., *Věnná města českých královen*.



Shortly afterwards, the First World War broke out and with its end, the long period of Polička's history as a dowry town also ended.<sup>27</sup>



Fig. 26 Polička in an oblique aerial photograph, view from the west; Martin Gojda 2020

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<sup>27</sup> AUT. KOL., *Východní Čechy. Okresy Polička, Litomyšl, Vysoké Mýto, Chrudim, Ústí nad Orlicí, Polička* 1949; POPELKA, František – POPELKA, Iša –JUNEK, David, *Martinů a Polička*, Praha 1990; KONEČNÝ, Stanislav, *Polička za pruské okupace v roce 1866*, Polička 1998; AUT. KOL., *1937–2017: 80 let chrámu Páně v Poličce*, s. 1. 2017; AUT. KOL., *Historický atlas měst České republiky, sv. 30 Polička; Historic Towns Atlas of the Czech Republic Web Map Portal, map application, online Polička* <http://towns.hiu.cas.cz/HAM/rekmapa.php?mesto=policka>; *Royal Dowry Towns*, web portal [kralovskavennamesta.cz](http://kralovskavennamesta.cz) - homepage.



Fig. 27 Polička, Palacký Square (view from the south-east) with Baroque plague column of the Virgin Mary, with a fountain and richly decorated Baroque town hall designed probably by Fratišek Maxmilián Kaňka from the mid-18th century; Karel Liebscher, 1905



Fig. 28 Polička, Palacký Square with plague column of the Virgin Mary, with a fountain, richly decorated Baroque town hall, the Church of St. Lawrence tower (rebuilt in the neo-Gothic style after a fire in 1845) in the background; Miroslav Beneš 2020

## Trutnov

Trutnov, originally called Úpa, is located about 50 km north of the regional city of Hradec Králové and has a population of approximately 30,000. The town probably acquired its urban character around the mid-13th century. In the 14th century, the Trutnov region played an important military role during expansion of the Kings of Bohemia to Silesia and therefore an independent manor region was established there. After taking control of the Silesian area, the town was presented to the queen and became a royal dowry town at the end of the 14th century. However, it was pledged again in the post-Hussite period. In 1539, the independent Trutnov region ceased to exist and five years later, Queen Anna Jagiellon took charge of the town.<sup>28</sup>

In 1547, Trutnov joined an anti-Habsburg resistance movement, for which it was pledged to Christoph of Gendorf, the chamber and mining councillor. The town was permanently owned by the queens of Bohemia from 1571, and was formally accepted into the urban estate in 1593. After the Thirty Years' War, the local chateau was not restored and the town's debt was growing. At that time, the source of income came from a large forest property. The town, which was gaining a new Baroque appearance, was heavily hit by the War of the Austrian Succession. After the loss of developed Silesia, however, the importance of the local textile industry increased. It gained a new impetus with the development of factory manufacture in the second half of the 19th century. The town had retained its German character until forced resettlement of the German population. At the beginning of the 20th century, the Czechs accounted for a mere one tenth of the population.<sup>29</sup>

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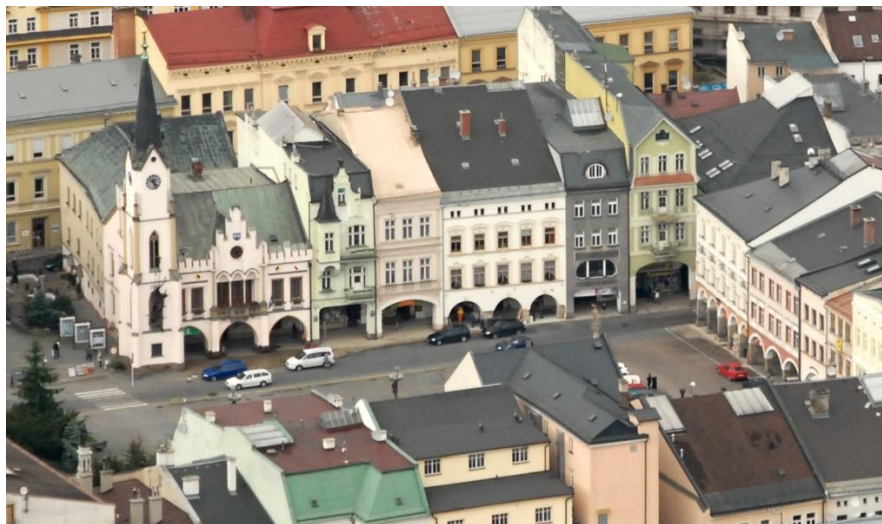
<sup>28</sup> Státní oblastní archiv v Hradci Králové, Státní okresní archiv Trutnov, fond Archiv města Trutnov; HÜTTEL, Simon, *Simon Hüttels Chronik der Stadt Trautenau (1484–1601)*, SCHLESINGER, Ludwig (ed.), Prag 1881; REIL, Roman et al., *Trutnov v archivních dokumentech*, Trutnov 1995; JUST, Antonín, *Kostely. Sakrální stavby na území města Trutnova a bývalých integrovaných obcí*, Trutnov 1998; JIRÁSEK, Luděk, *Sakrální stavby na území města Trutnova a bývalých integrovaných obcí*, Trutnov 2002; AUT. KOL., *Historický atlas měst České republiky, sv.. 12 Trutnov*, Praha 2004; SEMOTANOVÁ, E. – ŽEMLIČKA, J. et al., *Věnná města českých královen*.

<sup>29</sup> LESÁK, Vladimír – KÁBRT, Jan, *Textilní průmysl a dělnictvo na Trutnovsku v XIX. století. Materiálová studie k problematice vzniku textilního průmyslu a dělnického hnutí na Trutnovsku v XIX. století*, Krkonoše – Podkrkonoší, Supplementum II, Trutnov 1968; AUT. KOL., *Historický atlas měst České republiky, sv.. 12 Trutnov*, Praha 2004; *Historic Towns Atlas of the Czech Republic Web Map Portal, map application*, online





Fig. 29 a, b Trutnov in an oblique aerial photograph, view from the south, (a cut outs); Martin Gojda 2013



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Trutnov <http://towns.hiu.cas.cz/HAM/rekmapa.php?mesto=trutnov>; Royal Dowry Towns, web portal [kralovskavennamesta.cz](http://kralovskavennamesta.cz) - homepage.





Fig. 30 Trutnov (view from the north-east) with dominant late Baroque Church of the Nativity of Mary (1756–1782), distinct slopes above the Úpa River in the background; Josef Král 1908



Fig. 31 Trutnov in an oblique aerial photograph, view from the north, Church of the Nativity of Mary in the foreground, Krakonoš Square on the right, Janský vrch in the background; Martin Gojda 2013

## Vysoké Mýto

Vysoké Mýto is located about 30 km east of the regional city of Pardubice and has a population of approximately 12,300. It is one of the examples of royal towns that were founded in the so-called greenfield probably in the 1260s, but in this case with a previous settlement in the area of Staré Mýto, which failed to develop into a medieval town in a full sense of the word. With its location, Vysoké Mýto replaced the regional centres of Vraclav and Hrutov Fields lying on the border of Bohemia and Moravia along the Trstenice trade route. This was reflected in the town's layout, which had an unusually large square for its size. This surprises the visitors even today. It was designed with an emphasis on a military role of the new town because the square served not only as a place of markets and business life, but also as a residence for the army. This fact was documented at the end of the 14th century when the royal army was stationed in the town during a war with the League of Lords. In terms of political events, Vysoké Mýto shared the destiny of other East Bohemian dowry towns. At the beginning of the 14th century, Elizabeth Richeza received it as a widow dower. However, she lost her dowry towns in the resistance of the Ronovec noble family against King John of Luxembourg in 1315–1318. Vysoké Mýto became a dowry town again in 1353 when Queen Anna of Świdnica obtained it through her marriage to King Charles IV. Since then, it had been part of the Bohemian queens' dowry properties until the disintegration of the monarchy in 1918. During the Hussite Wars, the town was occupied and ruled first by the Prague Union and then by the Orphans' Union.<sup>30</sup>

In the early modern period, like the other towns, Vysoké Mýto faced sanctions for its resistance against Ferdinand I and then misfortunes of the Thirty Years' War. The Baroque period was associated with pilgrimage sites in the region, namely a spa pilgrimage complex in

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<sup>30</sup> Státní oblastní archiv v Hradci Králové, Státní okresní archiv Ústí nad Orlicí, fond Archiv města Vysoké Mýto; ŠEMBERA, Alois Vojtěch, *Vysoké Mýto, královské věnné město v Čechách*, Olomouc 1845; JIREČEK, Hermenegild, *Královské věnné město Vysoké Mýto*, Vysoké Mýto 1884; VOTRUBEC, Vratislav, *Kostel sv. Vavřince ve Vysokém Mýtě. Příspěvek k dějinám jeho stavby*, Vysoké Mýto 1892; DVOŘÁK, Radovan – HYKSA, František, *Knihy bílá úzká. Městská registra vysokomýtská 1423–1450*, Choceň 1969; HYKSA, František – DVOŘÁK, Radovan, *Historická topografie města Vysokého Mýta*, Vysoké Mýto 1984–1989; KAPLANOVÁ, Kristina – VÁCHA, Štěpán, *Chrám sv. Vavřince ve Vysokém Mýtě*, Vysoké Mýto 2001; DVOŘÁK, Radovan, *Vysoké Mýto. Stručné dějiny města*, Ústí nad Orlicí 2003; KUČA, Karel: *Města a městečka v Čechách, na Moravě a ve Slezsku VIII. (V–Ž)*, Praha 2011; AUT. KOL., *Historický atlas měst České republiky*, sv. 33 *Vysoké Mýto*, Praha 2021; SEMOTANOVÁ, E. – ŽEMLIČKA, J. et al., *Věnná města českých královen*.

Vraclav and a Baroque church in Chlumeck Hill in Luže. From the beginning of the 18th century until the First World War, Vysoké Mýto directly held the position of a garrison town for infantry and cavalry regiments. Unfortunately, the town also suffered from numerous devastating fires throughout its modern history. It remained economically focused on agricultural production for a long time until the second half of the 19th century when industrial activity gradually began to develop.<sup>31</sup>



Fig. 32 Vysoké Mýto in an oblique aerial photograph, view from the west; Martin Gojda 2000

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<sup>31</sup> DVOŘÁK, Radovan, *Vysoké Mýto památce A. V. Šembery 1807–1957*, Vysoké Mýto 1957; ANDRLE, Augustin, *Osobnosti Vysokého Mýta. 1310–2001*, Vysoké Mýto [2001]; KLÍMA, Jan, *Vysoké Mýto. Tradice a současnost*, Vysoké Mýto 2004; FIDLER, Jaroslav, *C. a k. vzpomínky na vysokomýtskou posádku aneb Trocha sousedské historie*, Vysoké Mýto 2013; DVOŘÁK, Radovan, *Vysoké Mýto. Stručné dějiny města*, Ústí nad Orlicí 2003; AUT. KOL., *Historický atlas měst České republiky*, sv. 33 *Vysoké Mýto*; Map application *Vysoké Mýto* <http://towns.hiu.cas.cz/HAM/rekmapa.php?mesto=vysoke-myto>; Royal Dowry Towns, web portal [kralovskavennamesta.cz](http://kralovskavennamesta.cz) - homepage.





Fig. 33 Vysoké Mýto, Přemysl Otakar II Square (view from the north), Church of St. Lawrence from the late 13th century rebuilt in new-Gothic style in 1875–1904 in the background; Karel Liebscher 1905



Fig. 34 Vysoké Mýto, Church of St. Lawrence in an oblique aerial photograph, view from the north-west; Martin Gojda 2020



### 3. Royal Dowry Towns of Bohemian Queens in Cartographic Representation

Because of their affinity with urban history, maps and plans represent primary sources of information on the territorial growth and topographic transformations of Bohemian towns. The towns are captured as part of the residential structure on overview maps or multi-sheet maps of the lands and regions or separately on plans that often illustrate their close or distant surroundings featuring the landscapes and agricultural and small architectural elements. The towns were first marked by simple pictures, later by map symbols usually in the form of circles of different sizes and colours. In the early modern period, the map symbol indicated the size and status of the town (royal or liege town, with city walls or without, etc.). An important example of this illustration is a map of Bohemia by Nicolaus Claudianus from 1518 and a map of Bohemia by Johann Christoph Müller from 1720.

Claudianus' map schematically shows forests and mountain ranges surrounding the whole land, the main land routes with lengths in miles and Bohemian towns distinguished by map symbols into royal, liege, Utraquist and Catholic towns and townships.<sup>32</sup>



<sup>32</sup> SEMOTANOVÁ, Eva, *Mapy Čech, Moravy a Slezska v zrcadle staletí*, Praha 2001.





Fig. 35 a, b (a cut-out) Royal dowry towns on the map of Bohemia by Nicolaus Claudianus, 1518, copy by the cartographer Franz Xaver Heinrich Jakob Kreibich, before 1816, [1:685 000]; the map is oriented to the south; Royal dowry towns on the map: Utraquist towns: Dvůr Králové nad Labem (Dvuor), Hradec Králové (Hradecz Kralowe), Chrudim (Chrudim), Jaroměř (Yaromierz), Mělník (Mielnik), Nový Bydžov (1325–1569 liege town, Bydzow), Polička (Poličzka), Vysoké Mýto (Myto wys.), Catholic town: Trutnov (Trutnow, a liege town at the beginning of the 16th century).

The map creation improved throughout Europe with the advance of surveying and topographical mapping in the 17th and early 18th centuries. Many manuscript and printed maps of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia from the 18th century were influenced by the



cartographic work of Johann Christoph Müller. His map of Bohemia is one of the most beautiful and precious cartographic works of the Czech Lands because of the dimensions (approximately 2316 x 2719 mm), rich contents and artistic processing. The models for the monumental parerga were produced by the leading High Baroque artist Wenzel Lorenz Reiner. The legend distinguishing many types of towns became a model for other 18th-century Central European maps.<sup>33</sup>

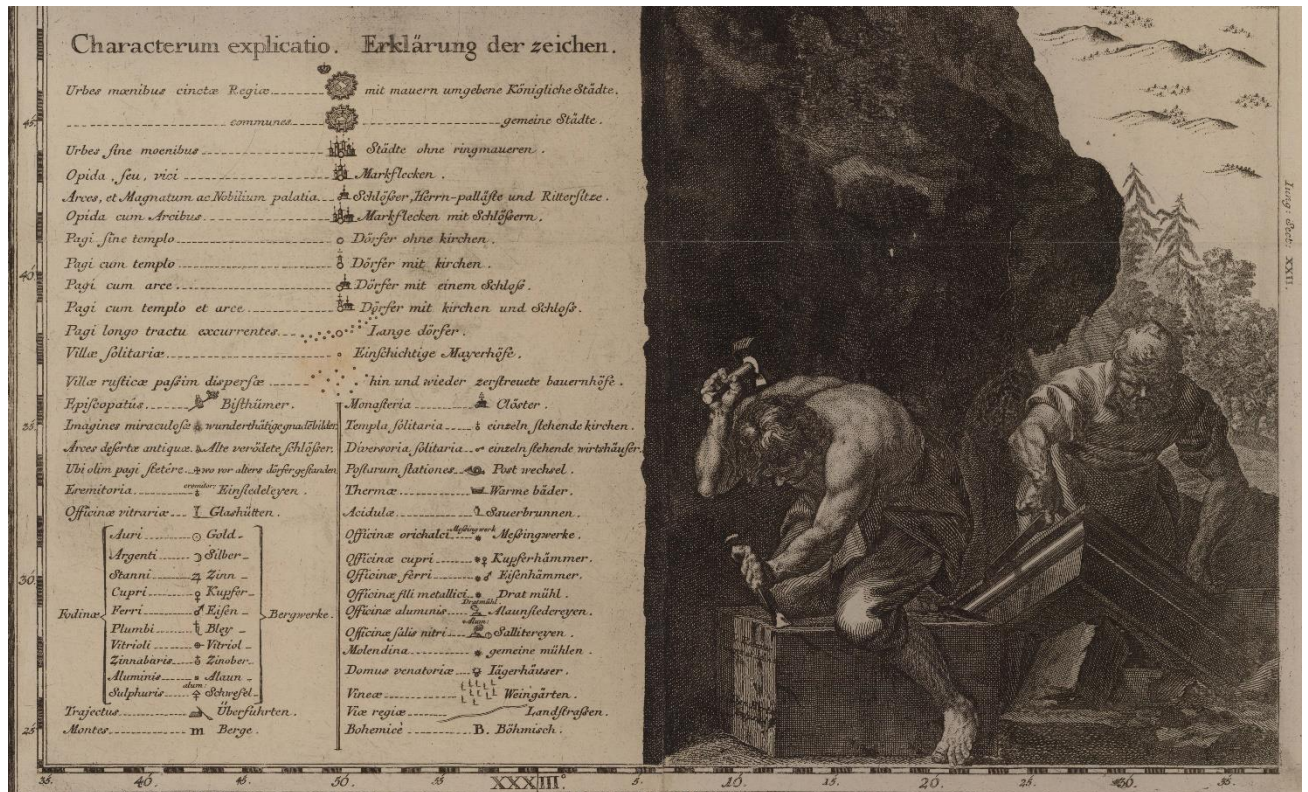


Fig. 36 Explanation of map symbols on Müller's map of Bohemia, 1720, [1 : 132 000], section XXI, a cut-out

<sup>33</sup> SEMOTANOVÁ, Eva, "Tematické" legendy tištěných map Českých zemí ve století Jana Kryštofa Müllera, Historická geografie 31 (2001), pp. 241–274; Fig. 36, 37.

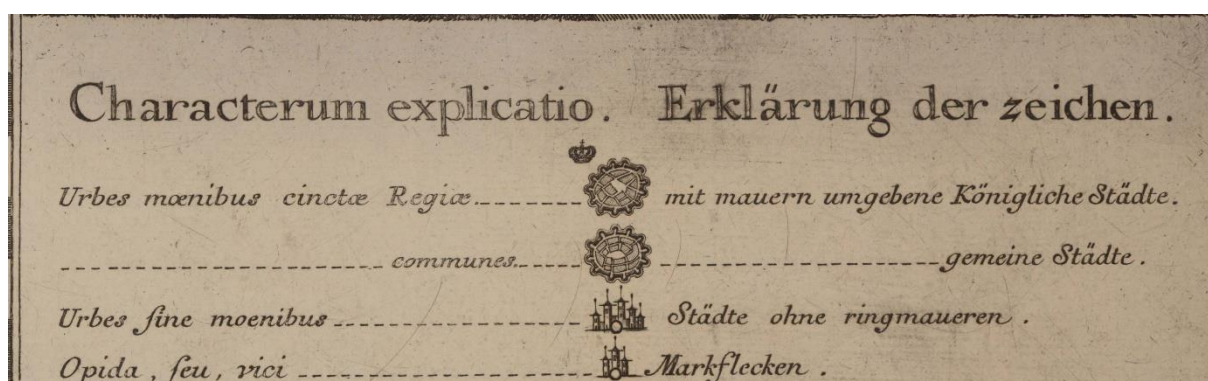


Fig. 37 Explanation of map symbols on Müller's map of Bohemia, 1720, [1 : 132 000], section XXI, a cut-out: *Urbes moenibus cinctae Regiae*, *mit mauern umgebene Königliche Städte* (fortified royal towns); [*Urbes moenibus cinctae*] *communes*, [*mit mauern umgebene*] *gemeine Städte* (other fortified towns); *Urbes sine moenibus*, *Städte ohne ringmauern*, (unfortified towns); *Opida, seu, vici*, *Marktflecken* (market towns)

Another unique cartographic source is the military land survey from the second half of the 18th century whose detailed coloured manuscript sheets cover the entire Habsburg Empire in a unified scale of 1 : 28 800 (1 : 14 000) and 1 : 25 000. The first military survey referred to as the 1st (Josephinian) military survey from the 1760s and 70s was created for the needs of the state military and civilian organs as a more detailed, better-quality replacement of the outdated Müller's cartographic work. The 2nd military survey from the first half of the 19th century and the 3rd military survey from the 1870s and 80s also illustrate urbanizing processes in the Czech Lands including royal dowry towns in the pre-industrial and industrial periods.<sup>34</sup>

In the 19th century, cartography was strongly promoted in the political and economic life, in science and education. The numbers of maps and plans intensively grew as a result of new reproduction techniques. The towns were similarly captured on maps of the stable land register. Maps of territorial administrative regions (regions and districts) and plans of individual towns filling the entire map sheet were also produced.<sup>35</sup> Important information on

<sup>34</sup> SEMOTANOVÁ, E, *Mapy Čech, Moravy a Slezska; the First, Second and Third Military Survey of the Habsburg Empire*: [Maps | Arcanum Maps \(mapire.eu\)](https://www.mapire.eu); Fig. 40–47.

<sup>35</sup> Cadastral maps of Bohemia: [Archiv \(cuzk.cz\)](https://www.cuzk.cz), *Císařské otisky* (Imperial Prints).



towns and their transformations can be obtained especially from old plans that indicate changes in the territorial arrangements of towns and their parts, developments of the built-up areas and impacts of historical traces on the given town; the plans document the towns from various perspectives. The image of the royal dowry towns is accompanied by a pair of photographs indicating their transformations from the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries until the early 21st century.<sup>36</sup>

In the 20th century, vertical and oblique aerial photographs from various periods contributed to specific cartographic and pictorial photographic sources. Transformations of historical town centres, ecclesiastical buildings, public buildings and preserved relics of fortifications are documented by oblique aerial photographs from the bird's eye view.<sup>37</sup>

The notion of the historical and contemporary growth of urban agglomeration is also provided by visualizations, for example in the form of digital town models within the historical and contemporary landscapes. They illustrate the position of the town in the landscape in relation to the reliefs, water courses and urban agglomerations with transformations in two chronological layers. Their aim is to compare the development of urban settlements within the landscape – in case of the royal dowry towns the late 18th century or mid-19th century (the 1st and 2nd military survey) with the 21st century. They provide comparison, which is similar to oblique aerial photographs that did not exist in those periods.<sup>38</sup>

The historical changes of urban agglomerations are also illustrated by map applications on the *History Atlas of Czech Towns* web portal, which also compares the

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Reproductions of selected cadastral maps in: AUT. KOL., *Historický atlas měst České republiky*, sv. 5 Hradec Králové, 12 Trutnov, 13 Chrudim, 29 Nový Bydžov, 30 Polička, 31 Jaroměř, 33 Vysoké Mýto, 34 Dvůr Králové nad Labem. Maps of regions became an essential official aid in state administration, local governments, economy and in almost all social classes. The public wanted to be informed and oriented in the regional structure and features of individual regions in their land. SEMOTANOVÁ, Eva, *Atlas der Länder der Böhmischen Krone. Gesamtkarten, Länder, Regionen und Städte. Auswahlpresentation: 16.-19. Jahrhundert*, Prag-Hamburg 2004; Fig. 48–50.

<sup>36</sup> Fig. 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, 28, 30, 31, 33, 34; SEMOTANOVÁ, Eva – TŮMOVA, Martina – KUČERA, Zdeněk, *Česká města na starých mapách a plánech*, Praha 2021.

<sup>37</sup> Fig. 8, 13, 14, 17, 20, 23, 26, 29 a, b, 31, 32, 34; cf. *Royal Dowry Towns*, Web Portal [kralovskavennamesta.cz](http://kralovskavennamesta.cz) - homepage.

<sup>38</sup> Fig. 51 a, b – 59 a, b.

development of urban settlements within the landscape in the late 18th century or mid-19th century (the 2nd military survey and maps of the stable cadastre) with the 21st century.<sup>39</sup>

Maps selected for this publication have a strongly comparative character. They provide numerous data on historical landscapes and residential structures as well as toponyms on the same (similar) type of map. The towns (in this case dowry towns belonging to the queens of Bohemia) and their positions within the landscape or the territorial administrative structure, can thus be monitored on the same (similar) map scale (horizontally) and on various chronological layers (vertically). The royal dowry towns are introduced on Müller's map of Bohemia from 1720, on the 1st (Josephinian) military survey from 1780–1783 (in case of Jaroměř on the 2nd military survey from 1851–1852 because of the map's legibility), on special maps according to the 3rd military survey from the 1880s, on maps of political regions from the second half of the 19th and early 20th centuries, on digital town models and on the old plans.<sup>40</sup>

The maps simultaneously document the rich variety of geographical names as regards the language – Czech and German, orthography in the local names (names of settlements) and toponyms (forests, mountains, rivers, fields, meadows and roads). The origin of geographical name standardization in the Czech Lands falls into the end of the 19th century, which is also apparent in the names of royal dowry towns.<sup>41</sup>

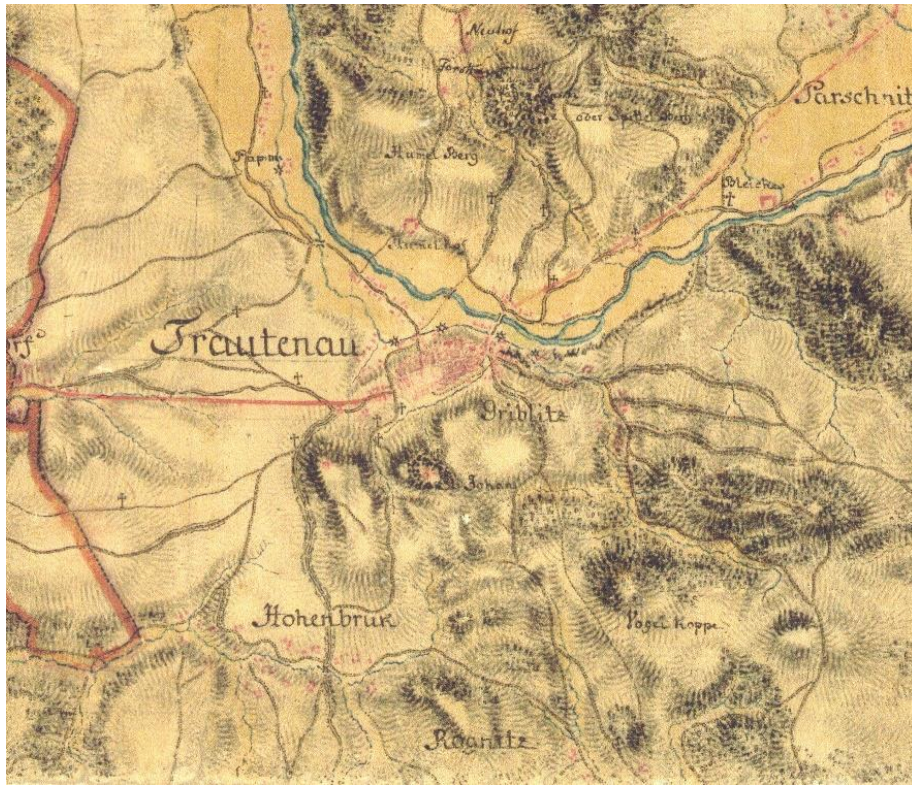
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<sup>39</sup> *Historic Towns Atlas of the Czech Republic*, <https://www.hiu.cas.cz/en/historical-atlas-of-czech-towns>; <http://towns.hiu.cas.cz/en/>, Fig. 60 a, b – 68 a, b.

<sup>40</sup> Cf. Chapter 4: Royal Dowry Towns of the Queens of Bohemia on the Old Maps (Selected Comparison Examples).

<sup>41</sup> E.g. Fig. 2 – 7.







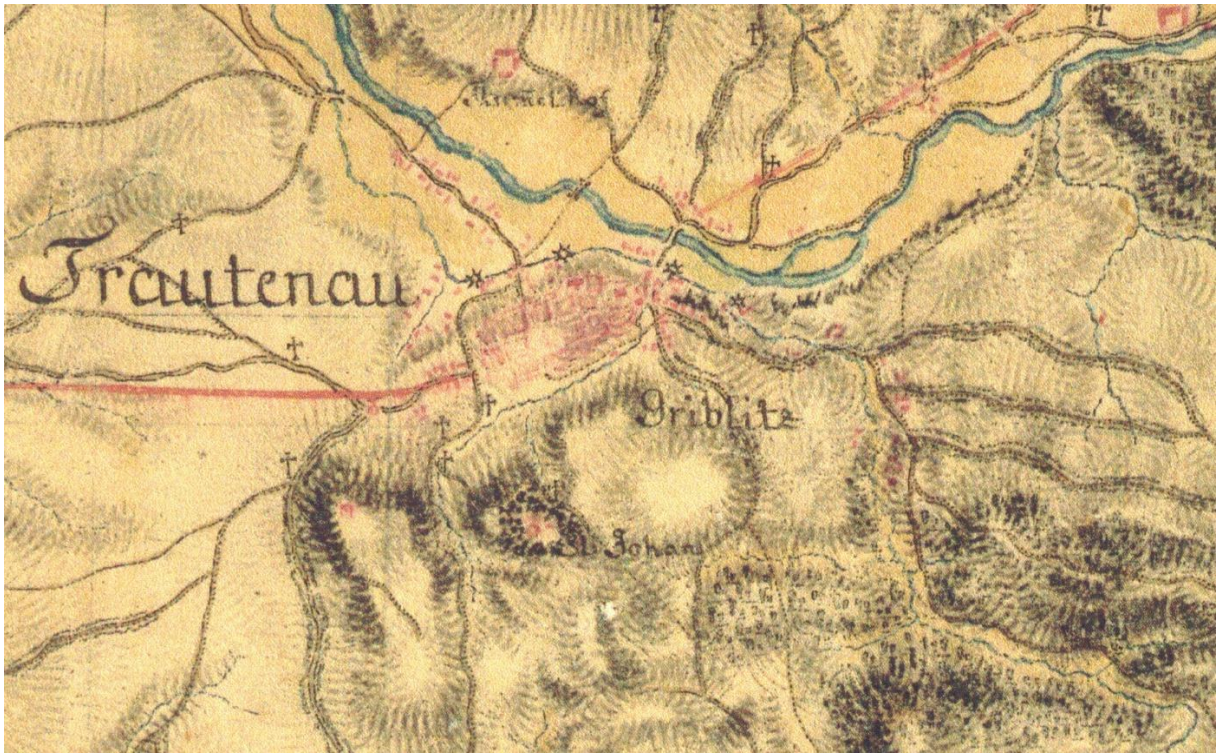


Fig. 38 a, b, c The royal dowry town of Trutnov (Trautenau) on the maps of Bohemia, 1st military survey 1780–1783, section 46 [1 : 28 000] and 3rd military survey, 1880, 1 : 75 000, Zone 3, Col. XIV, a cut-outs; in the late 18th century, the built-up area remained within the original mediaeval boundaries; there were water mills, the roads were lined with crosses and the planned imperial road went westwards from Trutnov. One hundred years later, in the late 19th century, the built-up area extended along the main roads, especially to the north-west and north-east and the roads were supplemented with railways. There were still many crosses in the landscape but the water mills had vanished.



#### 4. Royal Dowry Towns of Bohemian Queens on the Old Maps (Selected Comparison Examples)

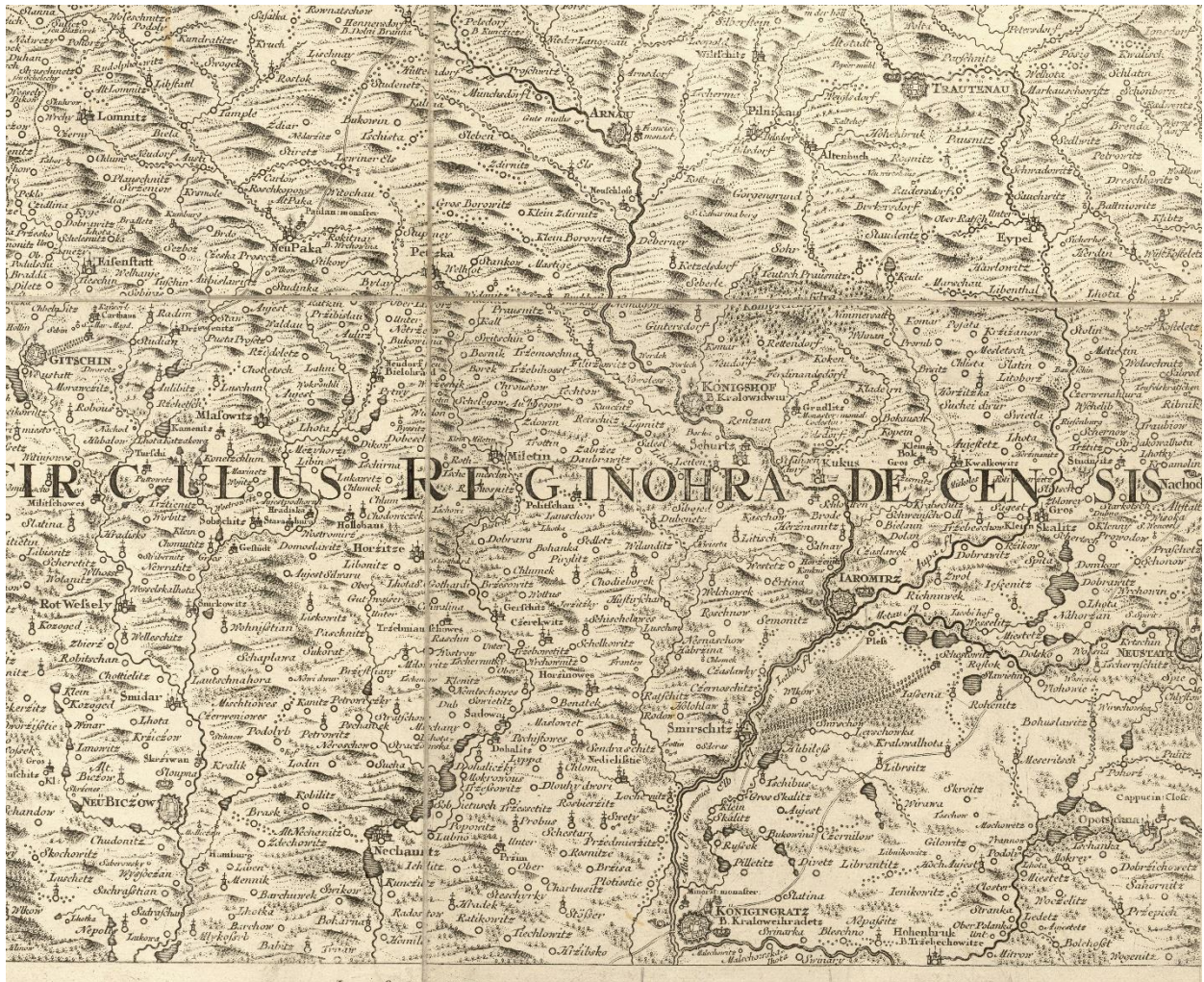


Fig. 39 a, b  
 Royal dowry towns and their surroundings on Müller’s map of Bohemia, 1720, [1 : 132 000], a cut-out of the sections: IX Dvůr Králové nad Labem (Königshof), Hradec Králové (Königgratz), Jaroměř (Iaromirz), Nový Bydžov (Neü Bicżow), Trutnov (Trautenau); XIV Chrudim (Chrudim), Vysoké Myto (Hohenmauth, B. Vissoky mejto), a cut-outs



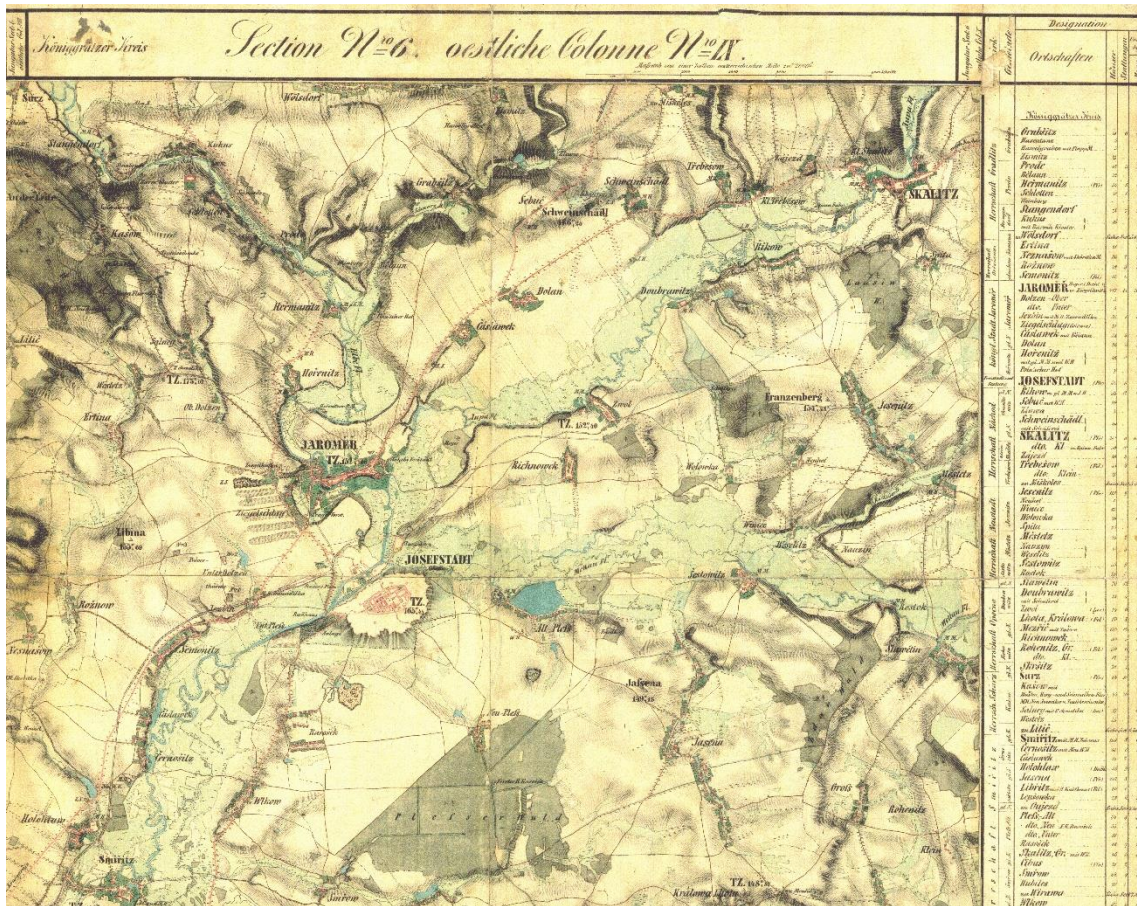


Fig. 40 Jaroměř (Jaroměř) with Josefov (Josefstadt) fortress and its surroundings on a map of the 2nd military survey of the Habsburg Empire from 1851–1852; a manuscript coloured map, graphic scale [1 : 28 800], section IX/6, östliche Colonne, a cut-out

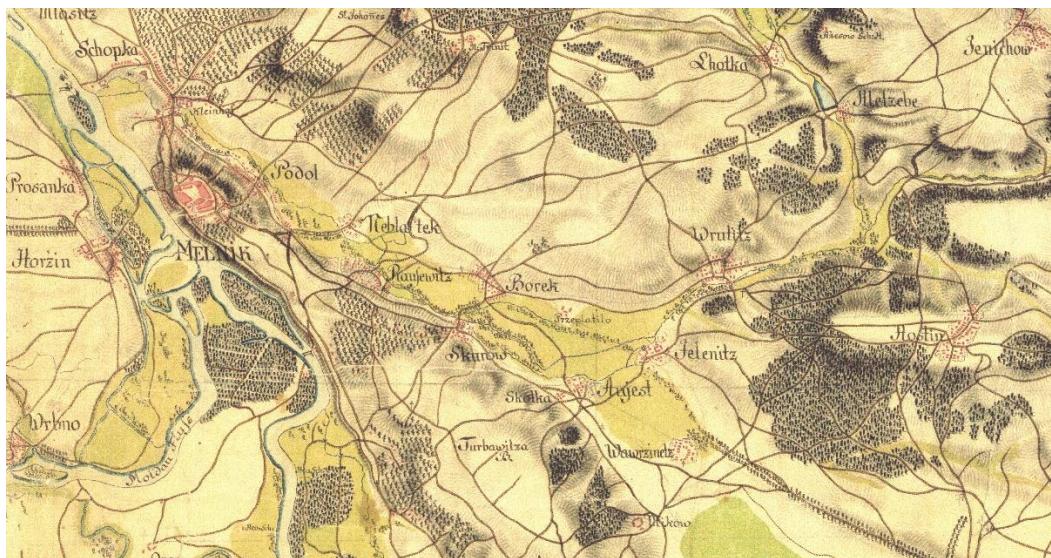


Fig. 41 Mělník (Melnik) at the confluence of the Elbe River and Vltava River and its surroundings on a map of the 1st military survey of the Habsburg Empire from 1780–1783; a manuscript coloured map, graphic scale [1 : 28 800], section 74, a cut-out



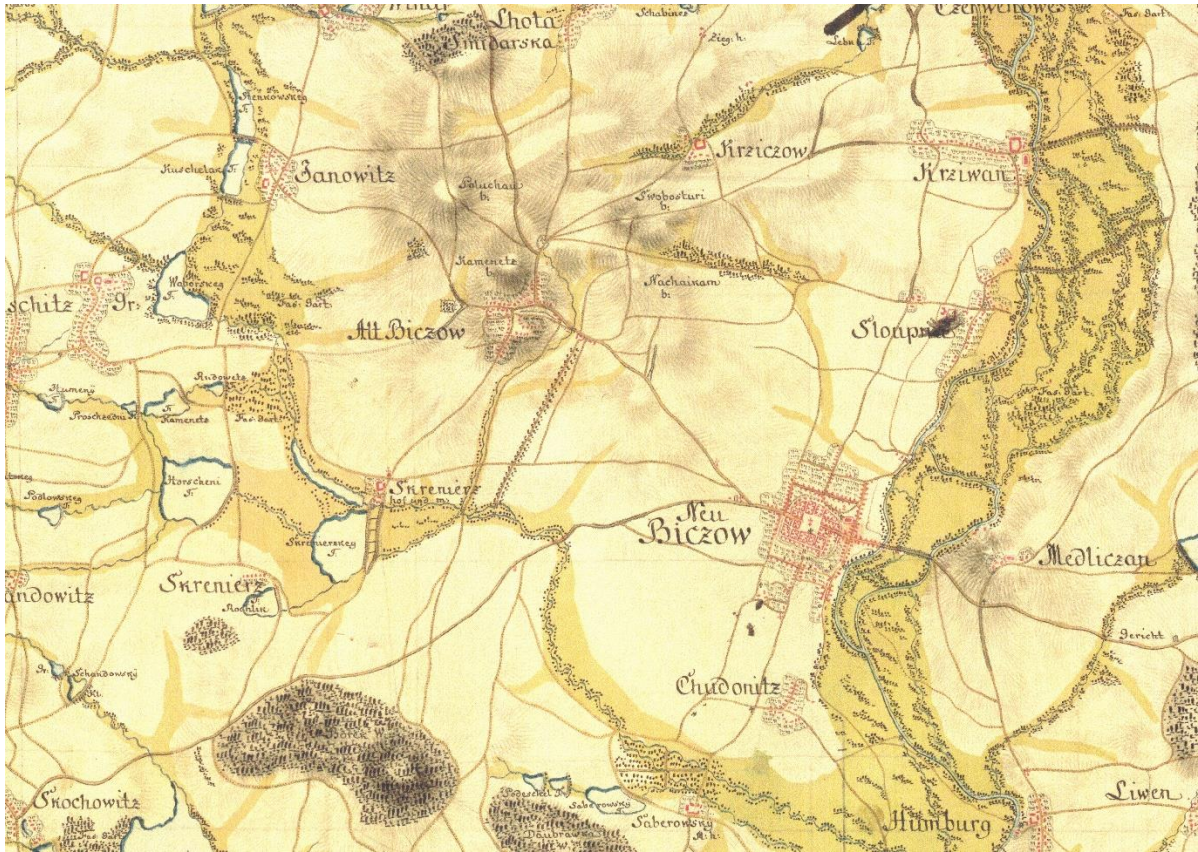


Fig. 42 a, b Nový Bydžov (Neu Biczow) and its earlier location Starý Bydžov (Alt Biczow) with their surroundings on a map of the 1st military survey of the Habsburg Empire from 1780–1783; a manuscript coloured map, graphic scale [1 : 28 800], section 94, a cut-outs



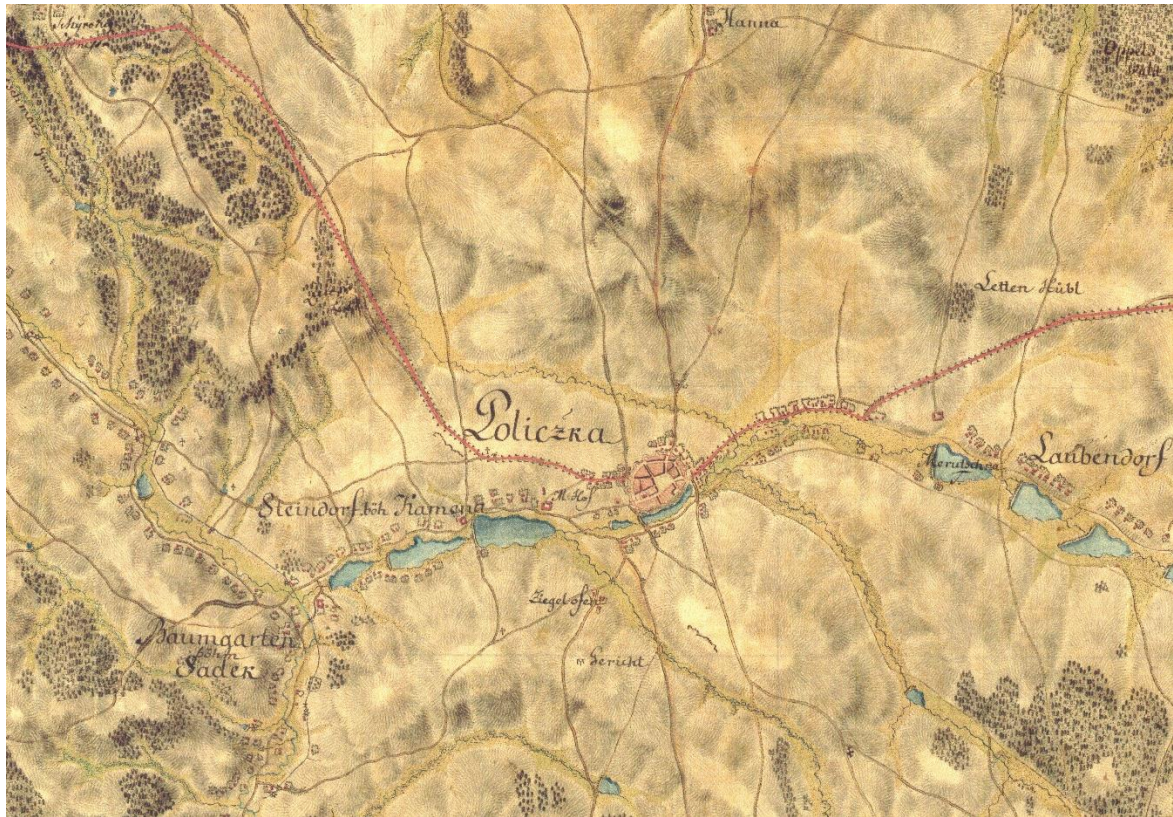


Fig. 43 Polička (Policzka) and its surroundings on a map of the 1st military survey of the Habsburg Empire from 1780–1783; a manuscript coloured map, graphic scale [1 : 28 800], section 184, a cut-out

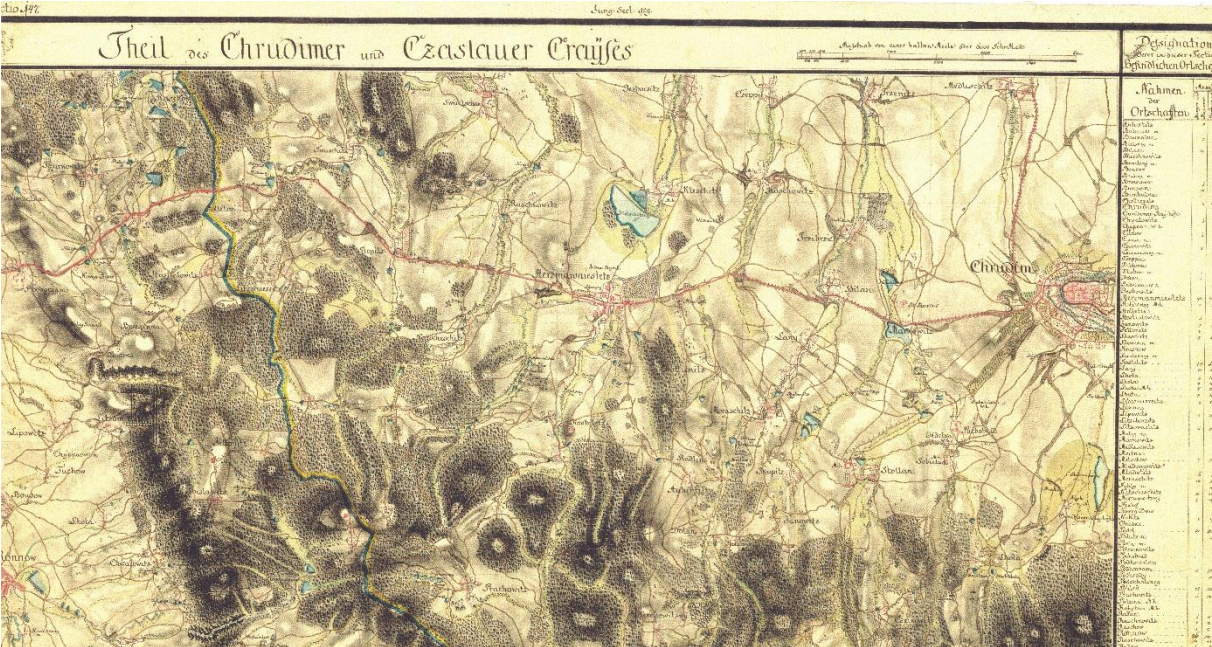


Fig. 44 Chrudim (Chrudim) and its surroundings on a map of the 1st military survey of the Habsburg Empire from 1780–1783; a manuscript coloured map, graphic scale [1 : 28 800], section 147, a cut-out



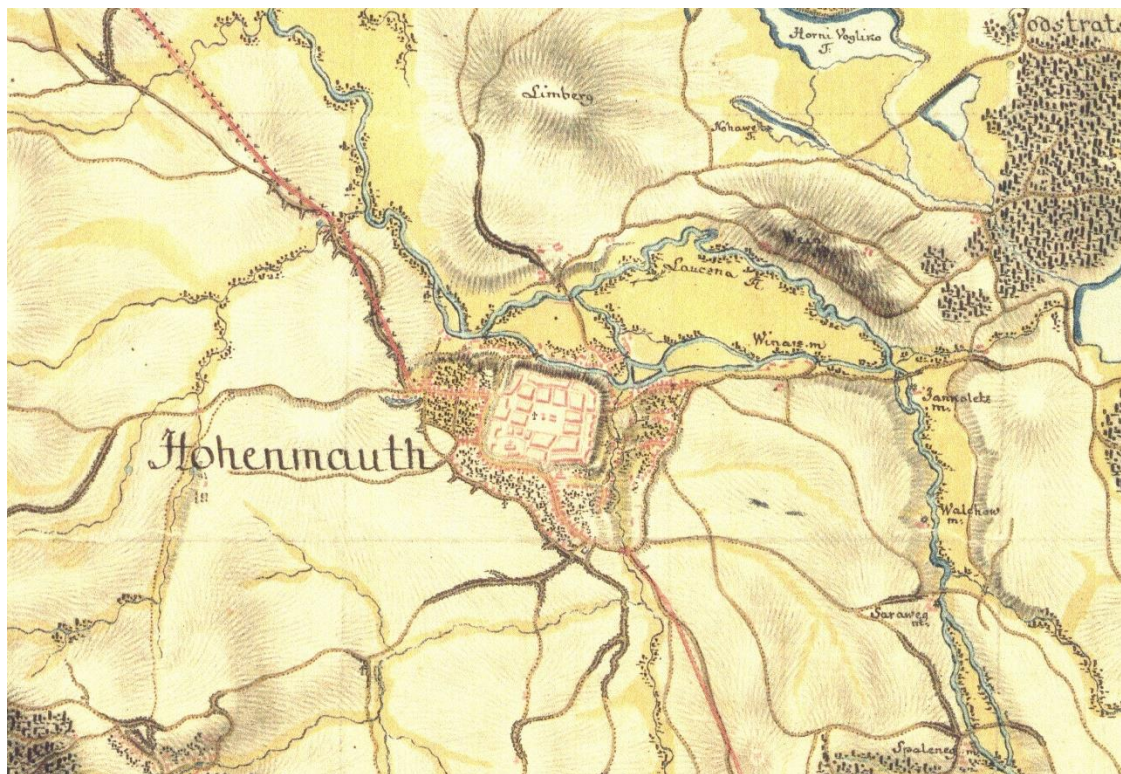
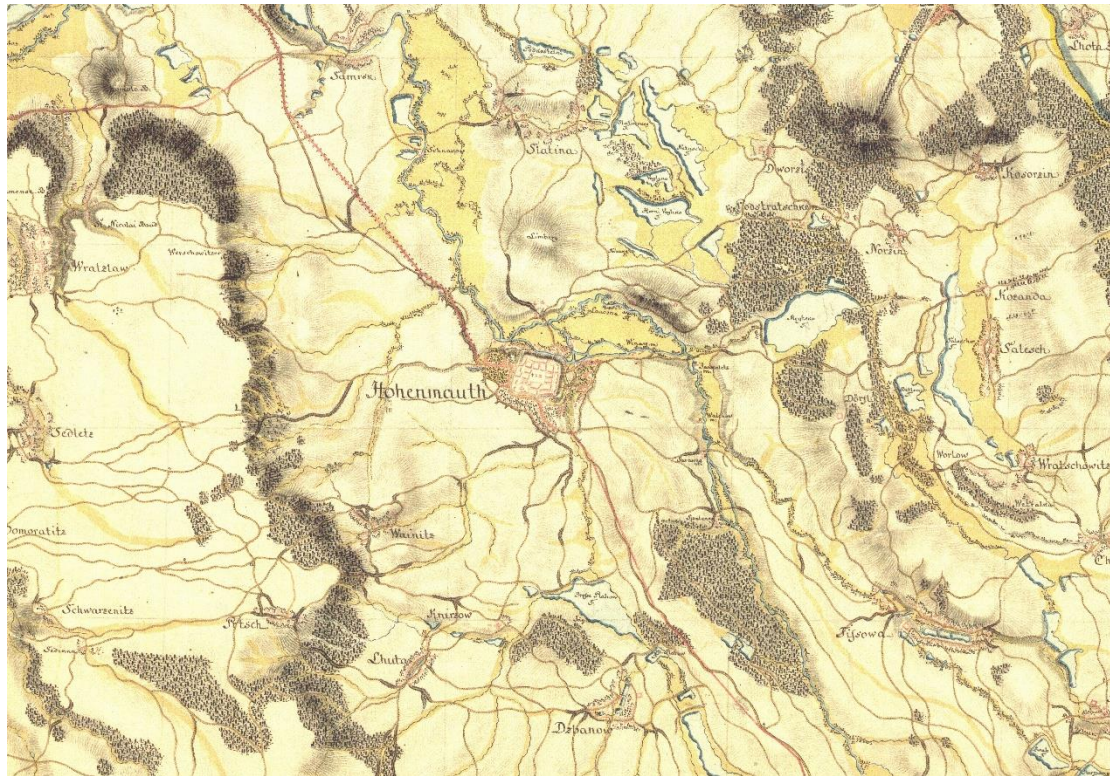


Fig. 45 a, b Vysoké Mýto (Hohenmauth) and its surroundings on a map of the 1st military survey of the Habsburg Empire from 1780–1783; a manuscript coloured map, graphic scale [1 : 28 800], section 149, a cut-outs



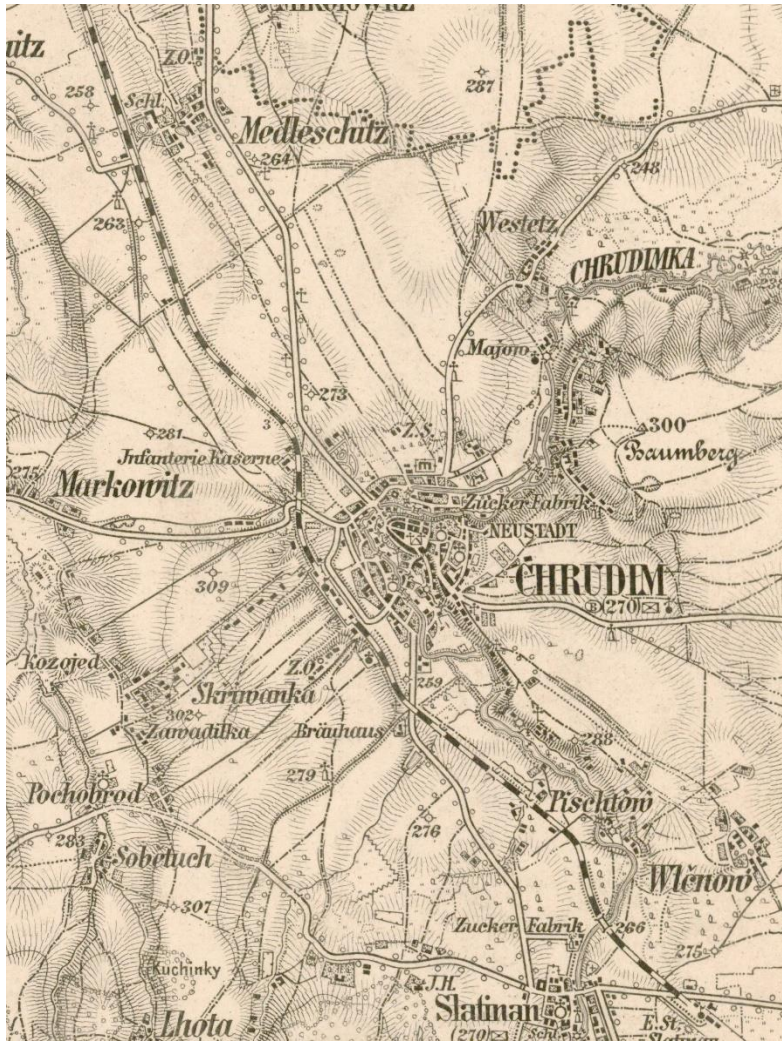


Fig. 46 Chrudim (Chrudim) and its surroundings on a special map of the 3rd military survey of the Habsburg Empire from 1880, section Zone 6, Col. XIII, 1 : 75 000, a cut-out



Fig 47 Jaroměř (Jaroměř) and its surroundings on a special map of the 3rd military survey of the Habsburg Empire from 1880, section Zone 4, Col. XIV, 1 : 75 000, a cut-out





Fig. 48 Mělník (Mělník) and its surroundings on a map of the County District Office territory by Karl André, 1861 [1 : 72 000]



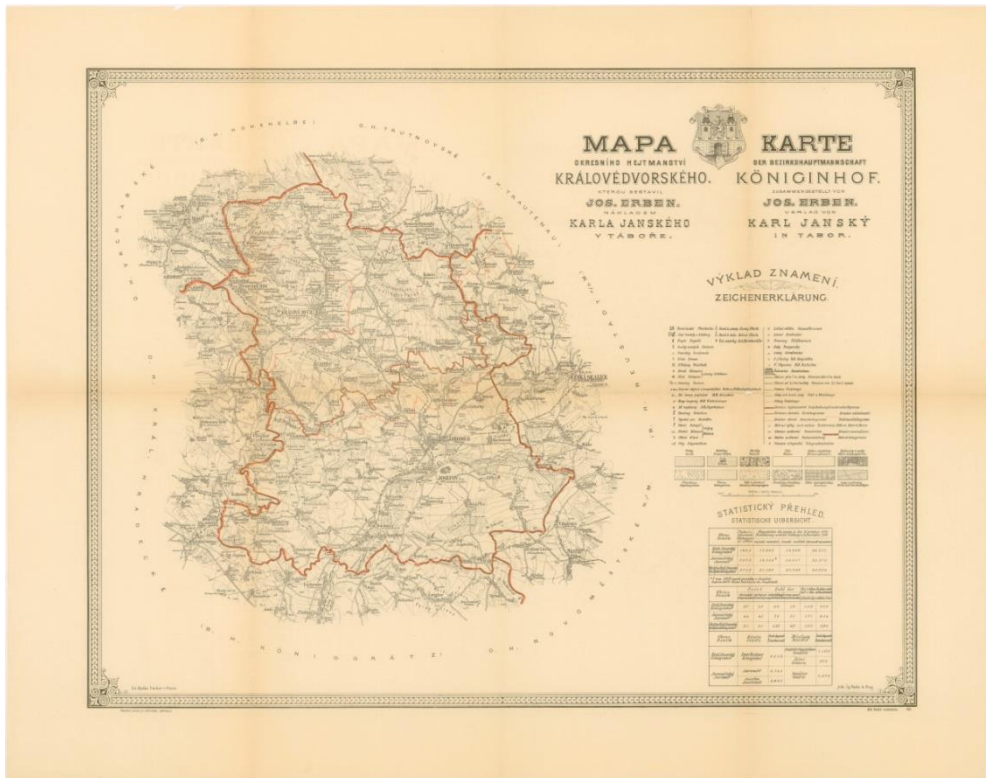


Fig. 49 Dvůr Králové nad Labem and Jaroměř (Králové Dvůr, Jaroměř), and their surroundings on a map of the County District Office territory by Josef Erben, approx. 1883, 1 : 100 000



Fig. 50 Hradec Králové (Králové Hradec) and its surroundings on a map of the County District Office territory by Josef Erben, approx. 1883, 1 : 100 000



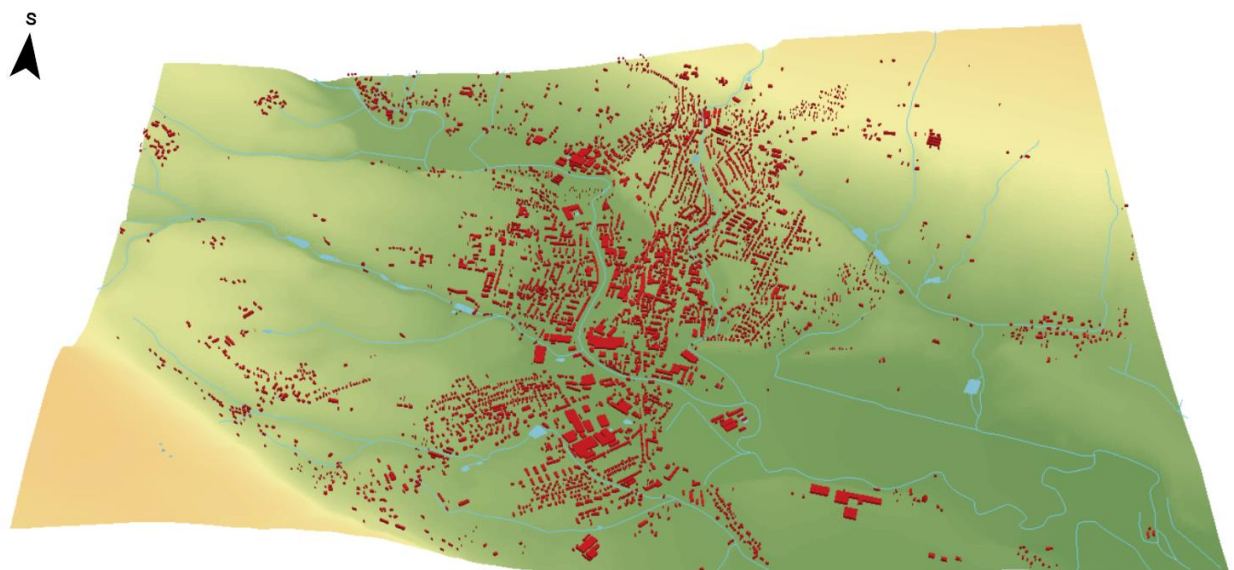
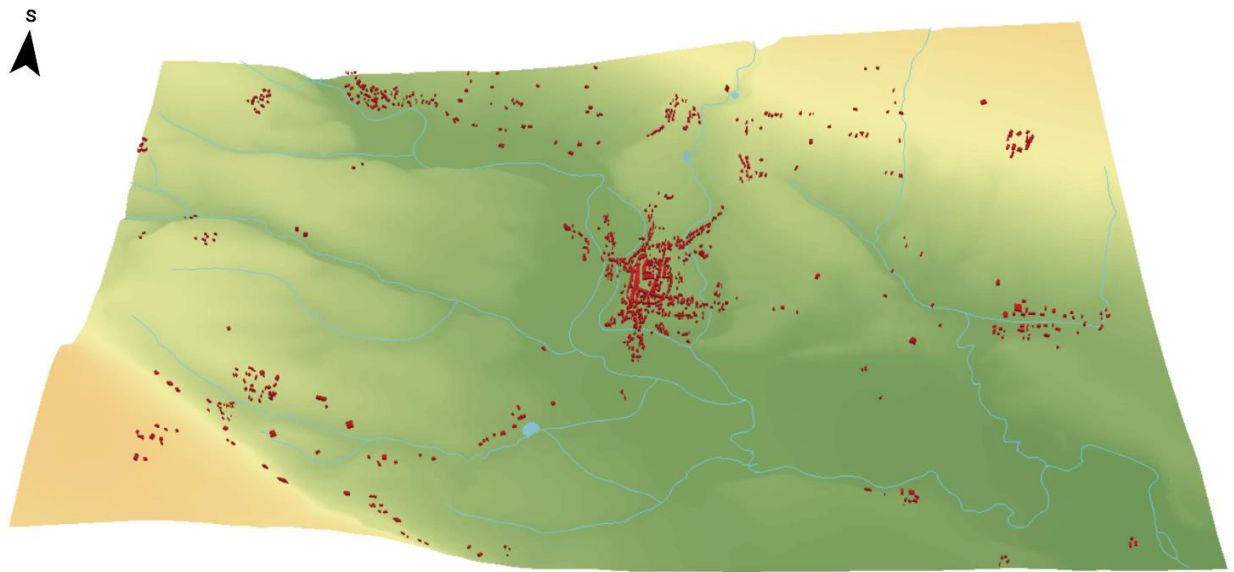


Fig. 51 a, b Digital model of Dvůr Králové nad Labem and its surroundings where the town layout and street blocks are marked according to a map of the 2nd military survey of the Habsburg Empire from 1852–1853, reambulanted in 1870, section 5/VIII, östliche Colonne and as of the early 21st century with the use of modern digital data. Dvůr Králové nad Labem, former Dvůr, a town founded before 1270 and inhabited by German colonists, lies with respect to the sloping terrain at an altitude of 290–485 meters above sea level in the wide Elbe River valley. The core of the town was surrounded by an Elbe River millrace and the Hartský brook; Eva Semotanová and Petra Justová-Jílková, 2022

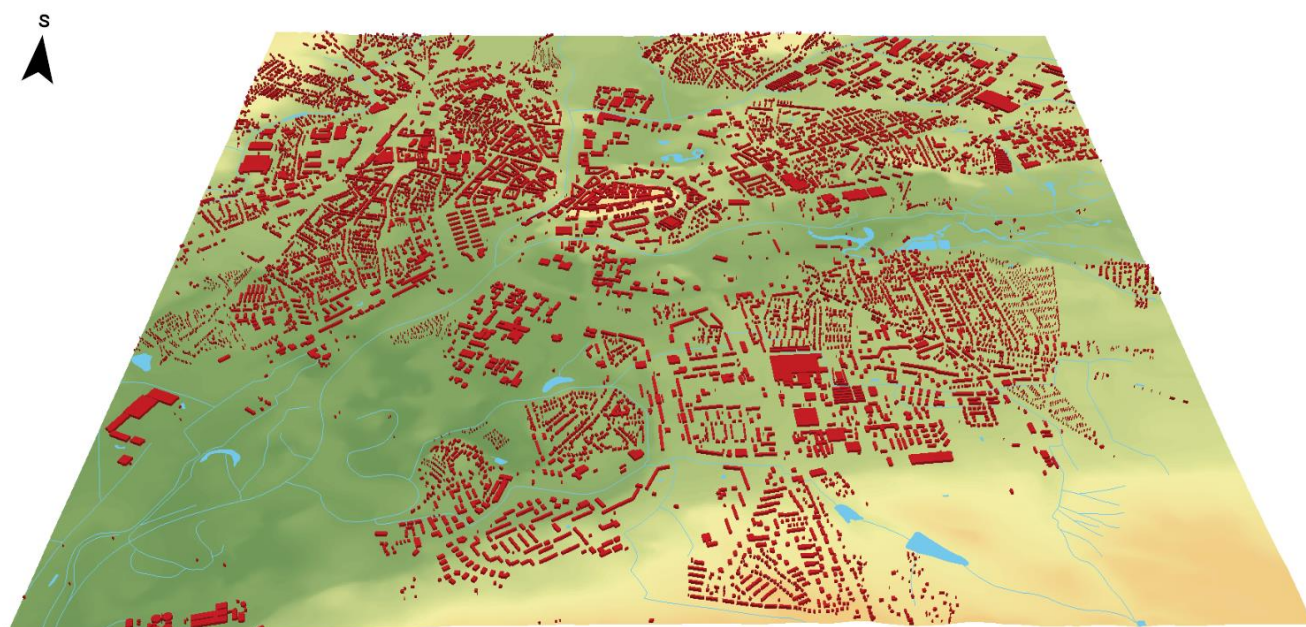
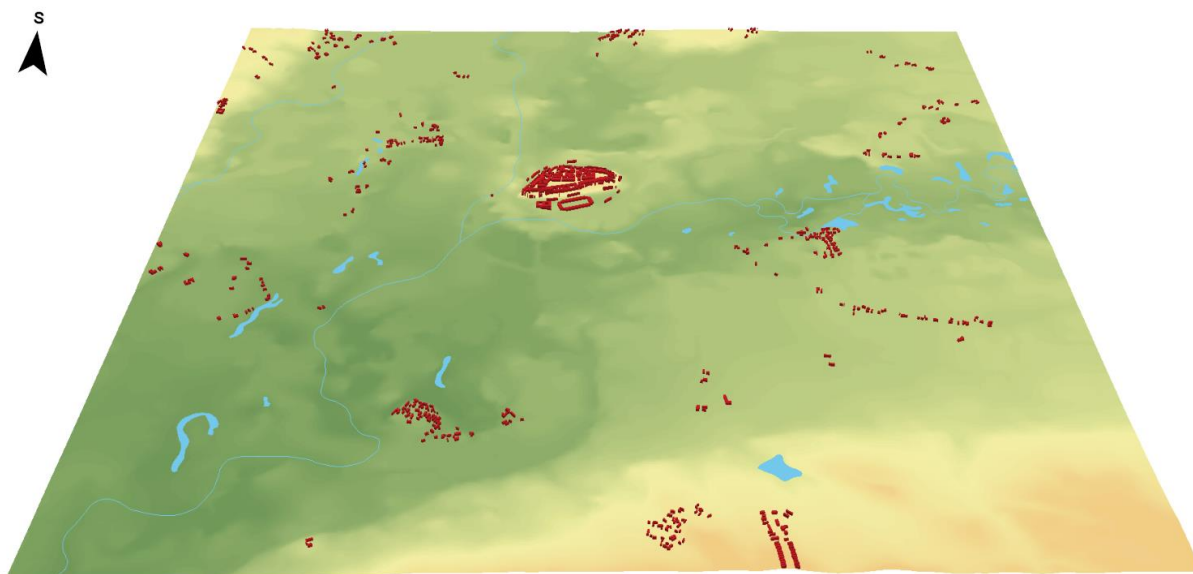


Fig. 52 a, b Digital model of Hradec Králové and its surroundings where the town layout and street blocks are marked according to a map of the 1st military survey of the Habsburg Empire from 1780–1783, sections 96, 113 and as of the early 21st century with the use of modern digital data. Hradec Králové, a town founded in about 1225 at the confluence of the Elbe River and Orlice River and on a road to Poland, was built at the foot of an old castle on an oval hill at an altitude of about 235 meters, exceeding the surrounding terrain of the Elbe and Orlice floodplain by 10–15 meters; Eva Semotanová and Petra Justová-Jílková 2022

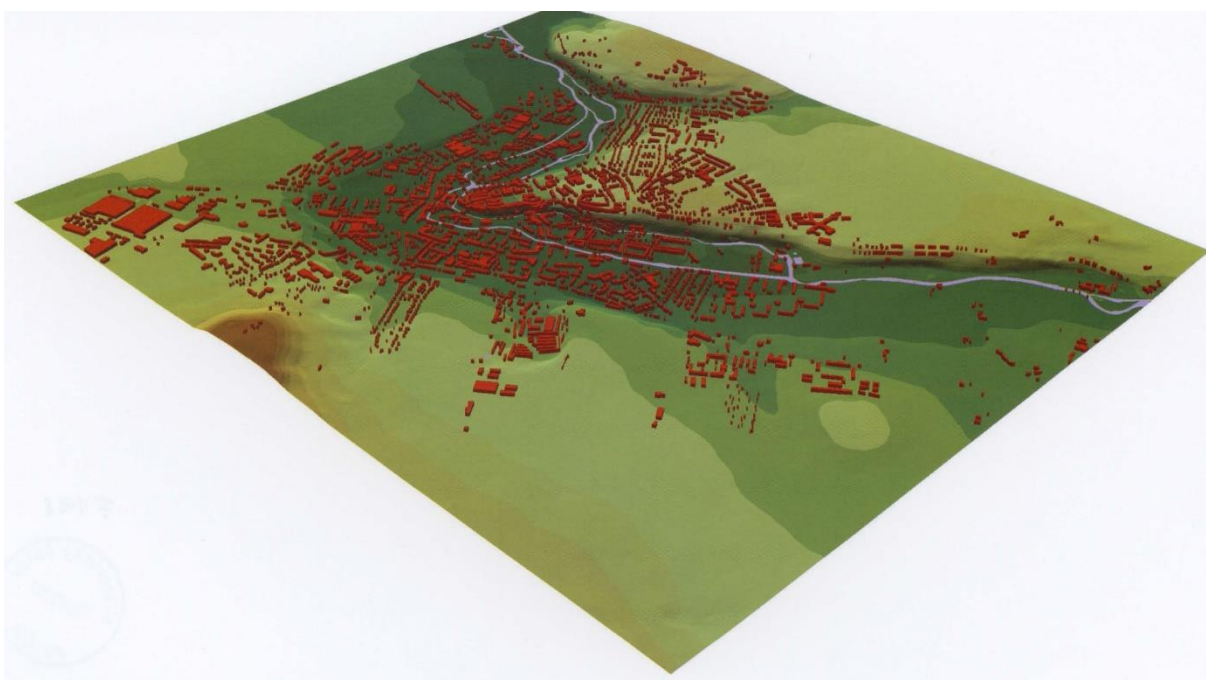
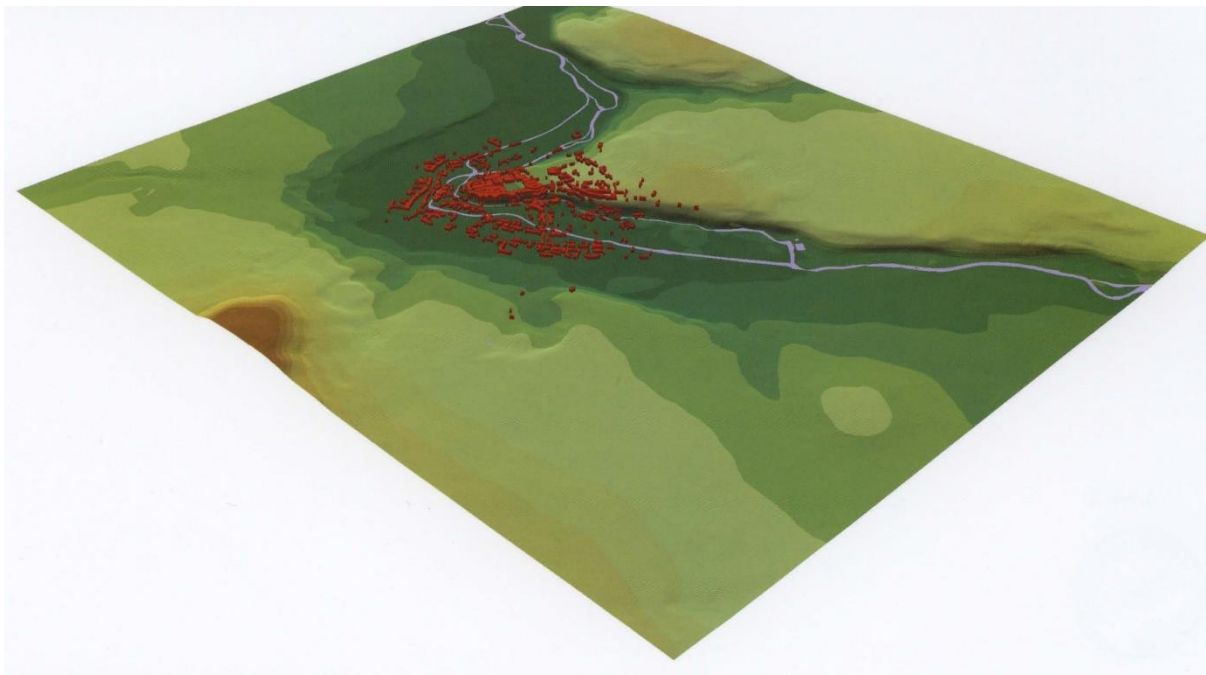


Fig. 53 a, b Digital model of Chrudim and its surroundings with a development where the town layout and street blocks are marked according to a map of the 2nd Land Survey of Bohemia from 1852–1853, section 9/VIII, östliche Colonne and as of the end of the 20th century with the use of modern digital data. Chrudim was probably founded in the 1260s at an altitude of about 240 meters. The model shows sloping of the terrain in the landscape and its distinctive and strategically advantageous position in relation to a watercourse (the Chrudimka River, previously Kamenice) and to limited areas of development; Eva Semotanová and Marcela Havelková 2013



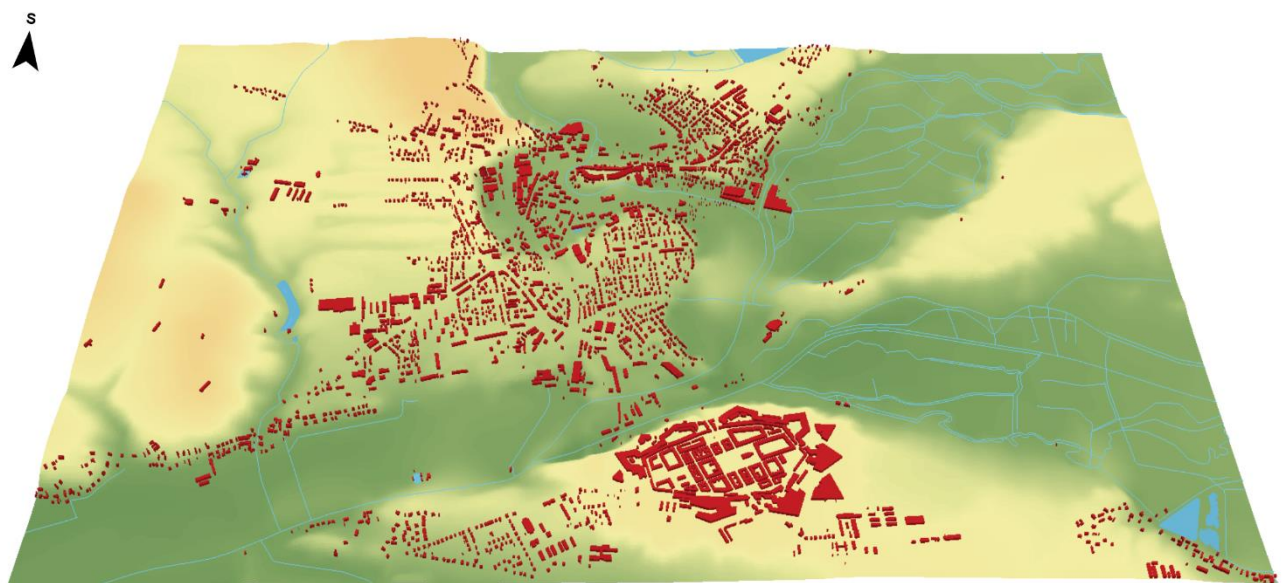
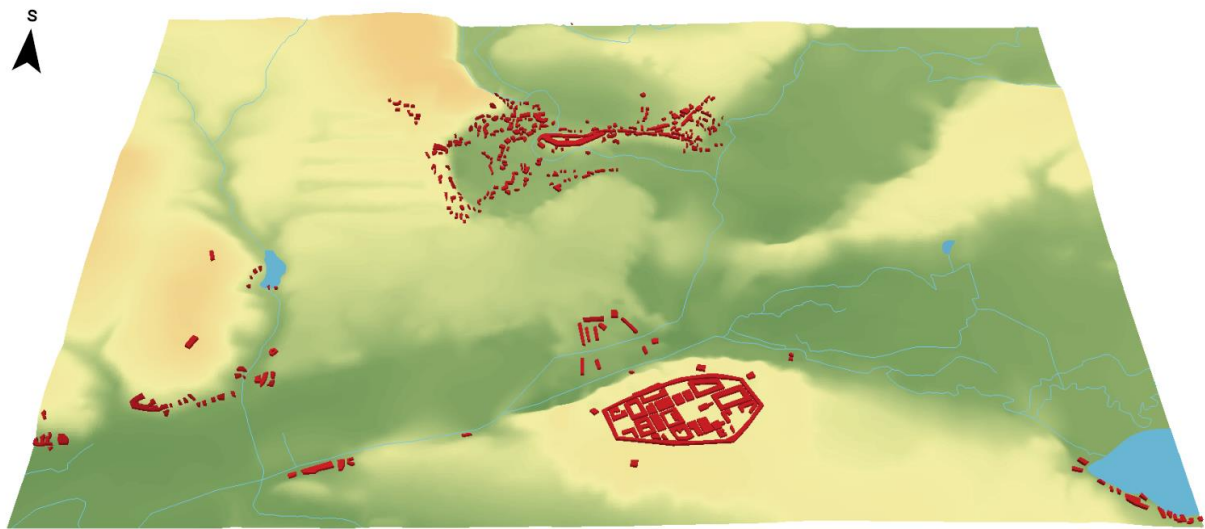


Fig. 54 a, b Digital model of Jaroměř and its surroundings where the town layout and street blocks are marked according to a map of the 2nd Land Survey of Bohemia from 1851–1852, section IX/6, östliche Colonne and as of the beginning of the 21st century with the use of modern digital data. Two rivers, the Elbe and Úpa influenced topography of the town founded in 1260 at an altitude of about 254 metres. The Josefov Fortress (former Ples) contributed to further development of the town; Eva Semotanová and Daniel Paluba 2020

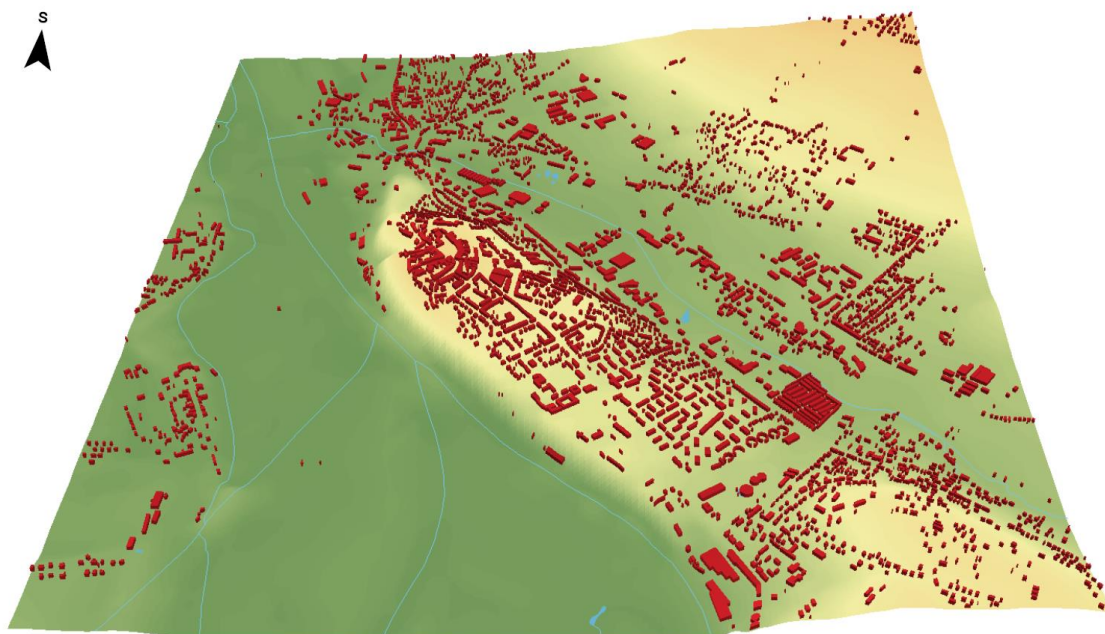
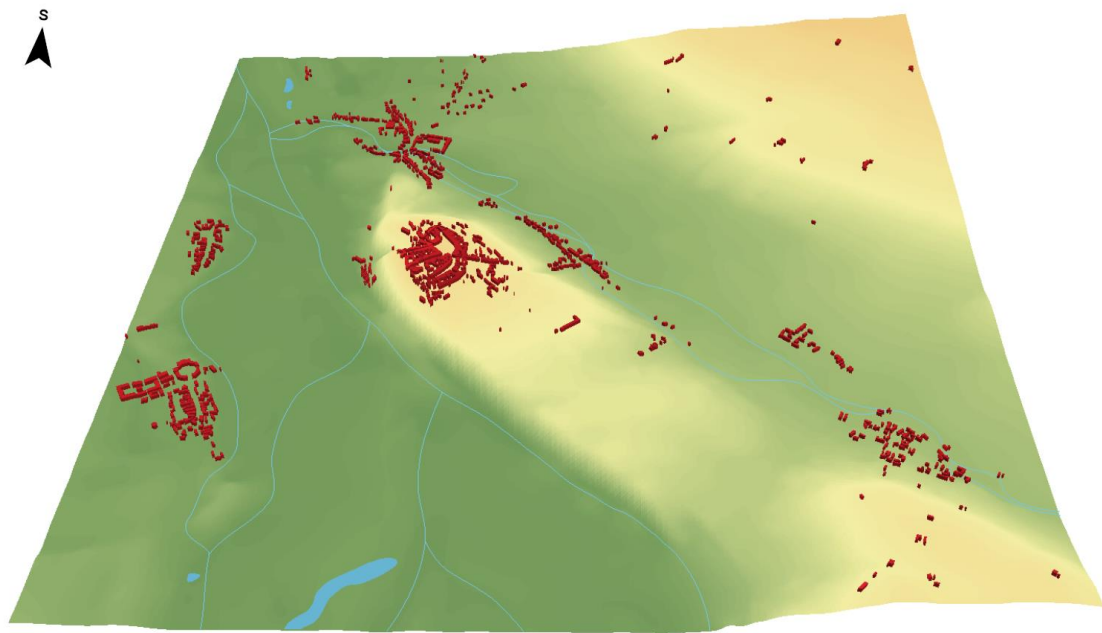


Fig. 55 a, b Digital model of Mělník and its surroundings where the town layout and street blocks are marked according to a map of the 1st military survey of the Habsburg Empire from 1780–1783, sections 73, 74 and as of the beginning of the 21st century with the use of modern digital data. Mělník, located in an old mediaeval settlement area at the confluence of the Elbe and Vltava rivers at an altitude of 215 metres became stabilized as a dowry town in the second half of the 13th century; Eva Semotanová and Petra Justová-Jílková 2022

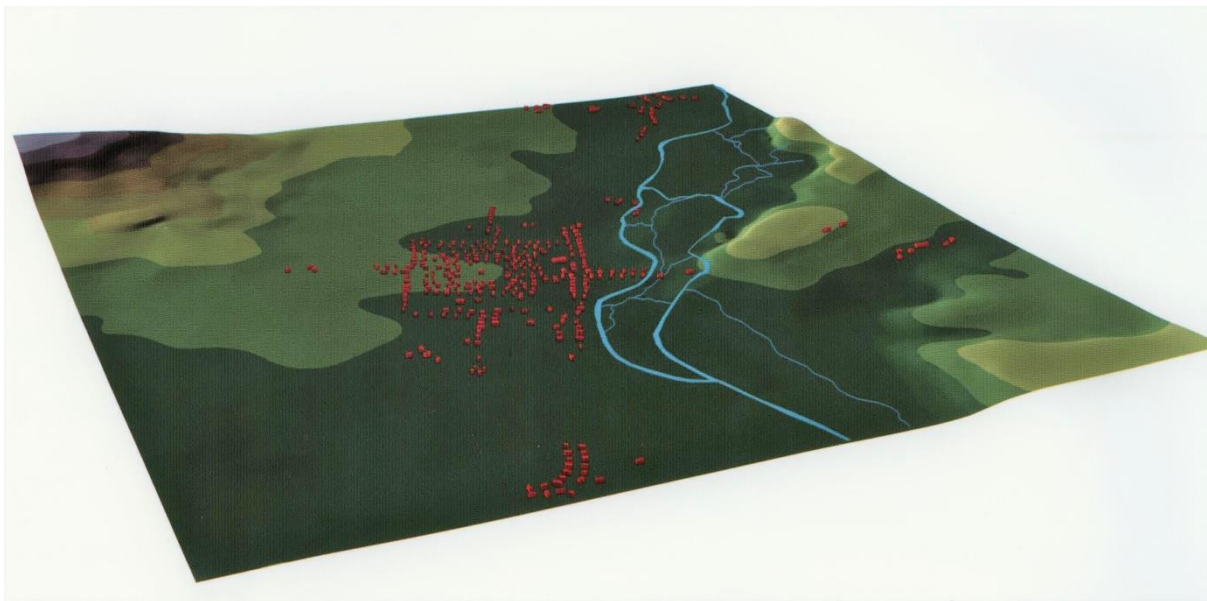


Fig. 56 a, b Digital model of Nový Bydžov and its surroundings where the town layout and street blocks are marked according to a map of the 1st Military Land Survey of Bohemia from 1780–1783, section 94 and as of the early 21st century with the use of modern digital data. Nový Bydžov was founded near Starý Bydžov by the Cidlina River after 1305 in an almost square layout. The town was surrounded by a fertile farming land at an altitude of 250 metres; Eva Semotanová and Jan Pacina 2017



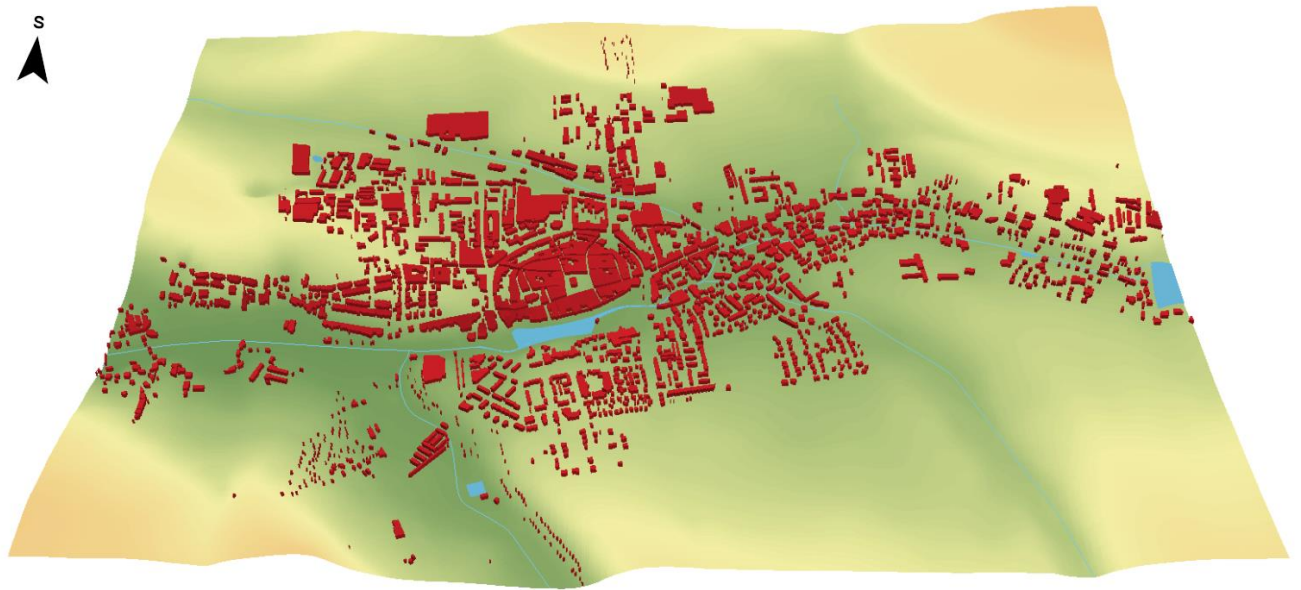
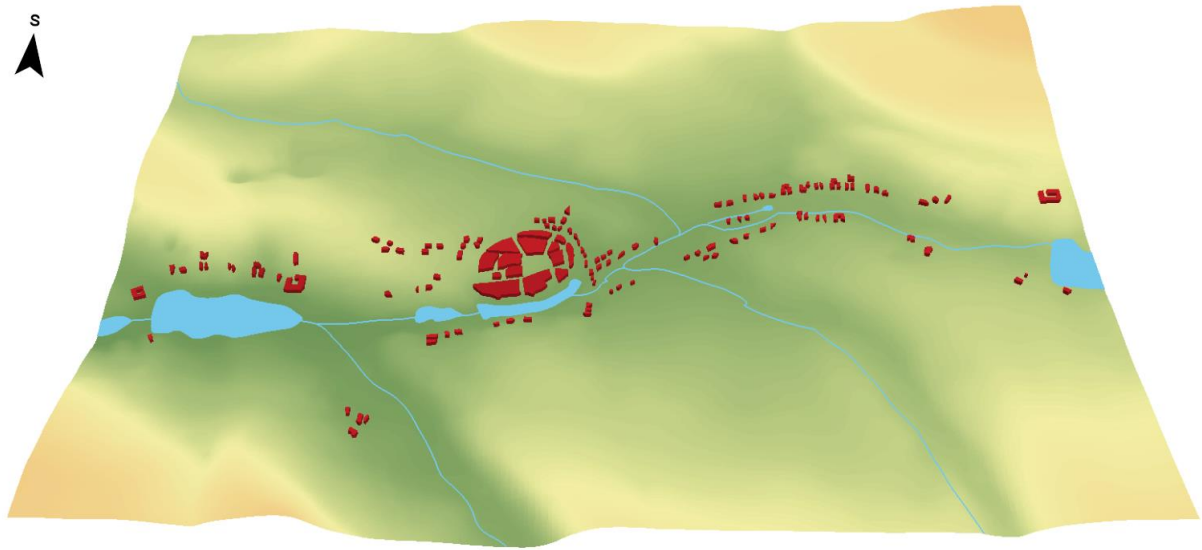


Fig. 57 a, b Digital model of Polička and its surroundings where the town layout and street blocks are marked according to a map of the 1st Land Survey of Bohemia from 1780–1783, section 184 and as of the beginning of the 21st century with the use of modern digital data. Polička is located at an altitude of about 550 metres in a shallow valley along the Bílý potok (White Brook), left tributary of the Svatka River), in a forested borderland between Bohemia and Moravia. The town was founded in 1265; Eva Semotanová and Daniel Paluba 2019

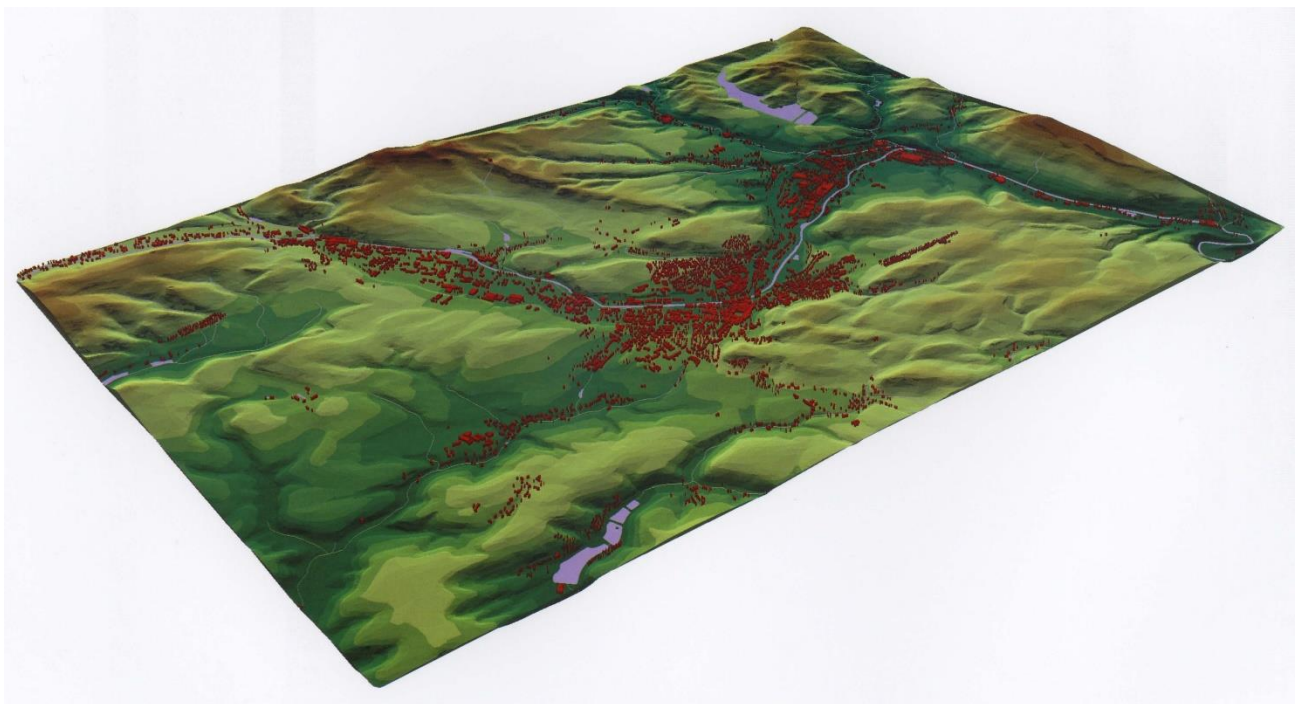
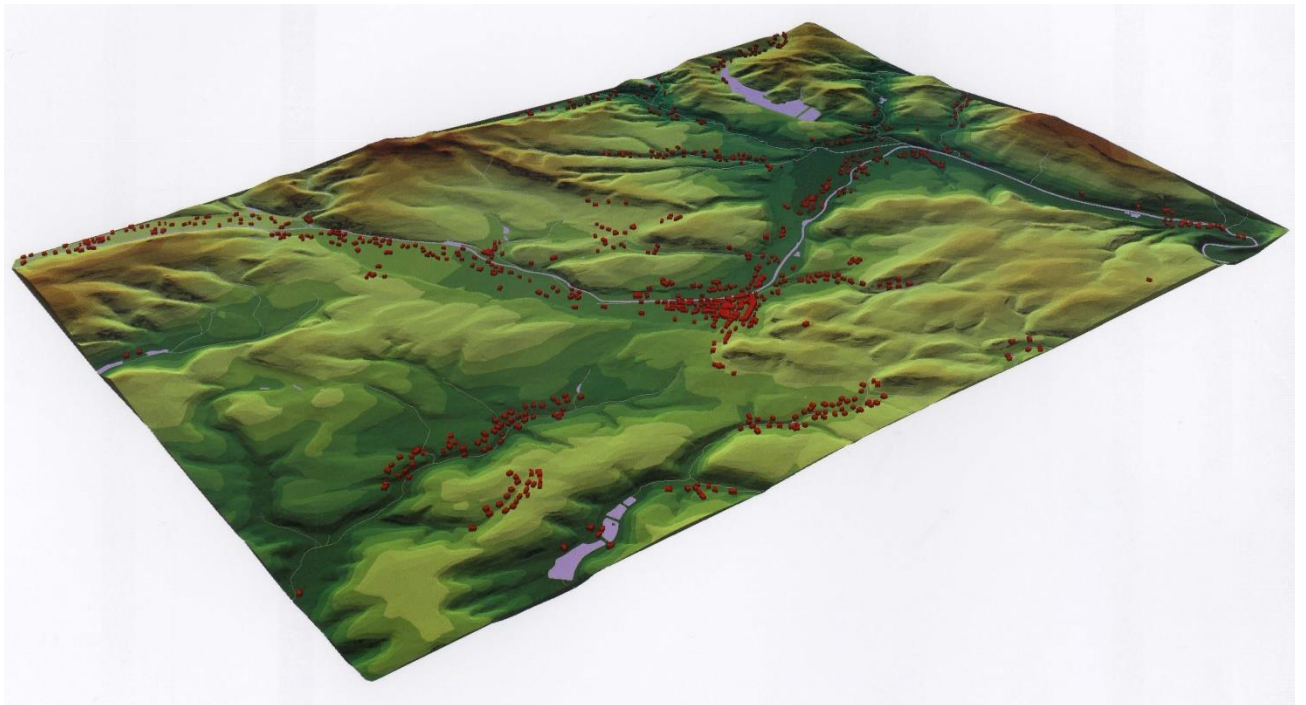


Fig. 58 a, b Digital model of Trutnov and its surroundings where the town layout and street blocks are marked according to a special map of the 3rd Land Survey of Bohemia from 1880, 1881, section IX/10, östliche Collonne and as of the late 20th century with the use of modern digital data. Trutnov lies at an altitude of about 414 metres above the Úpa River (left tributary of the Elbe River). The town was founded in a deep borderland forest in the 1260s; Eva Semotanová and Marcela Havelková 2004

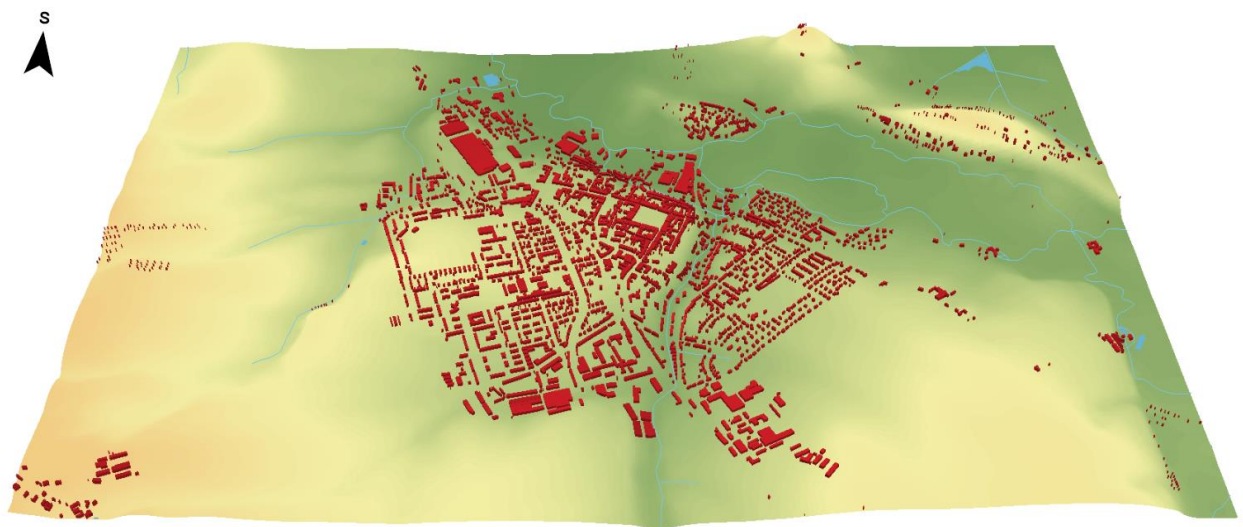
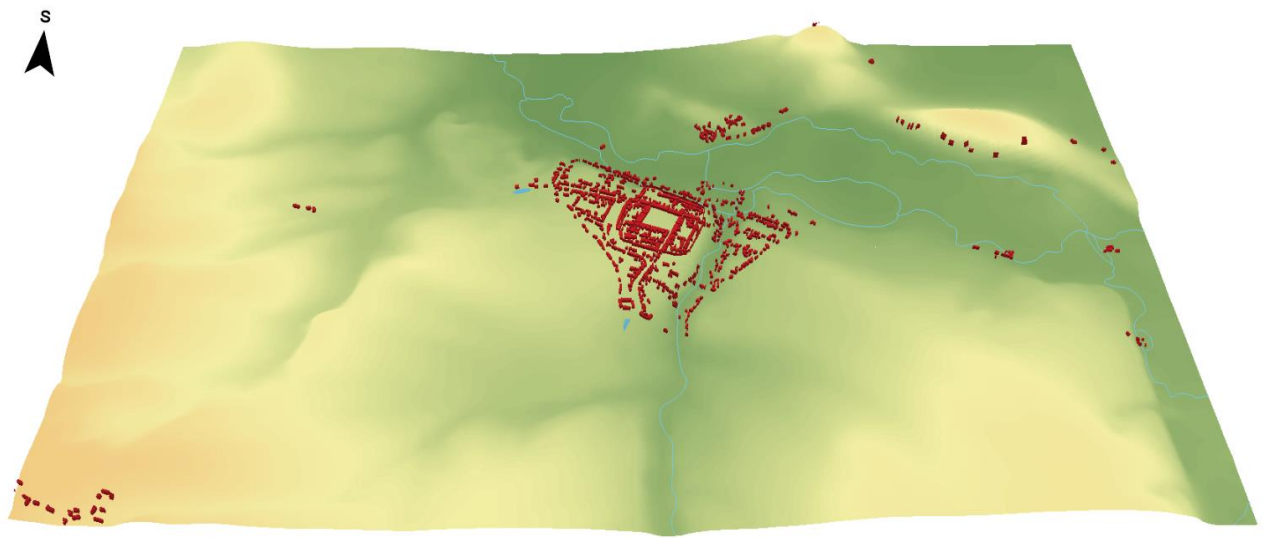


Fig. 59 a, b Digital model of Vysoké Mýto and its surroundings where the town layout and street blocks are marked according to a map of the 2nd Land Survey of Bohemia from 1852–1853, completed and corrected after 1868, section IX/10, östliche Colonne and as of the early 21st century with the use of modern digital data. Vysoké Mýto was founded before 1265 at an altitude of about 284 metres. There were millraces and many mills on the Loučná River in the slightly undulating farming land; Eva Semotanová and Petra Justová-Jílková 2021



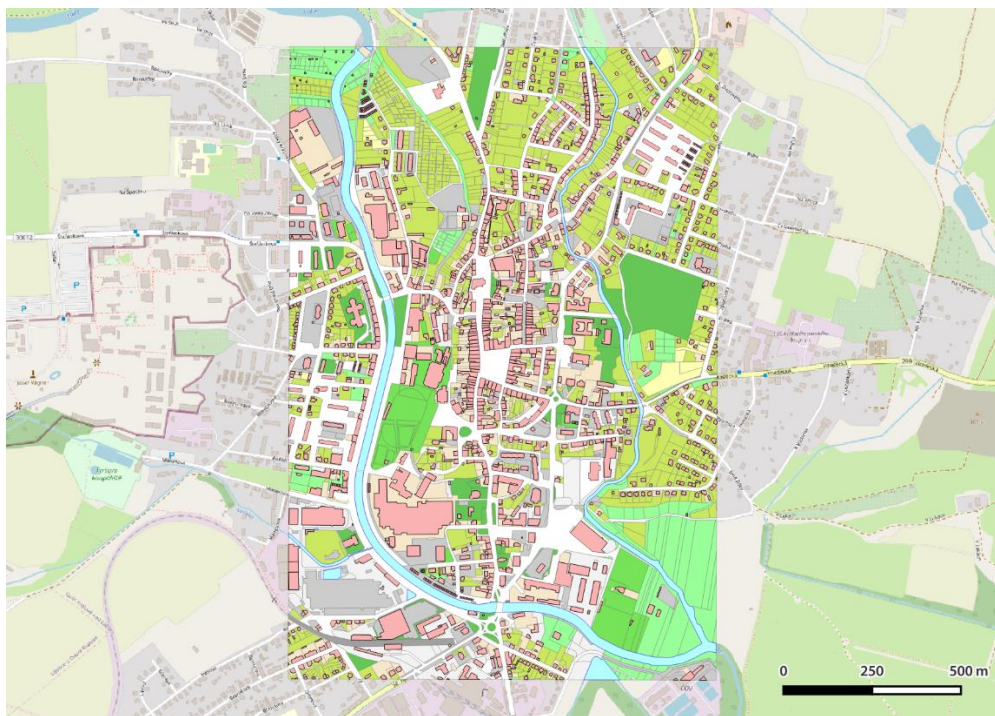
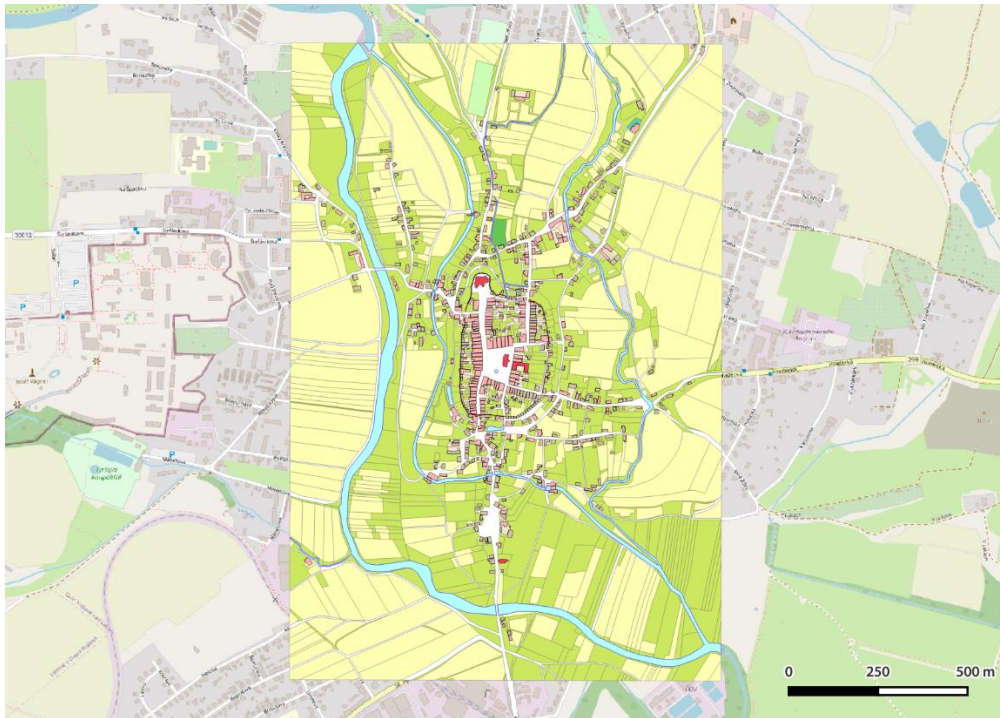


Fig. 60 a, b Reconstruction map of Dvůr Králové nad Labem and its surroundings where the town layout is marked according to a map of the Stable Cadastre of Bohemia from 1841 and as of the early 21st century with the use of modern digital data; Eva Semotanová and Jiří Krejčí 2022



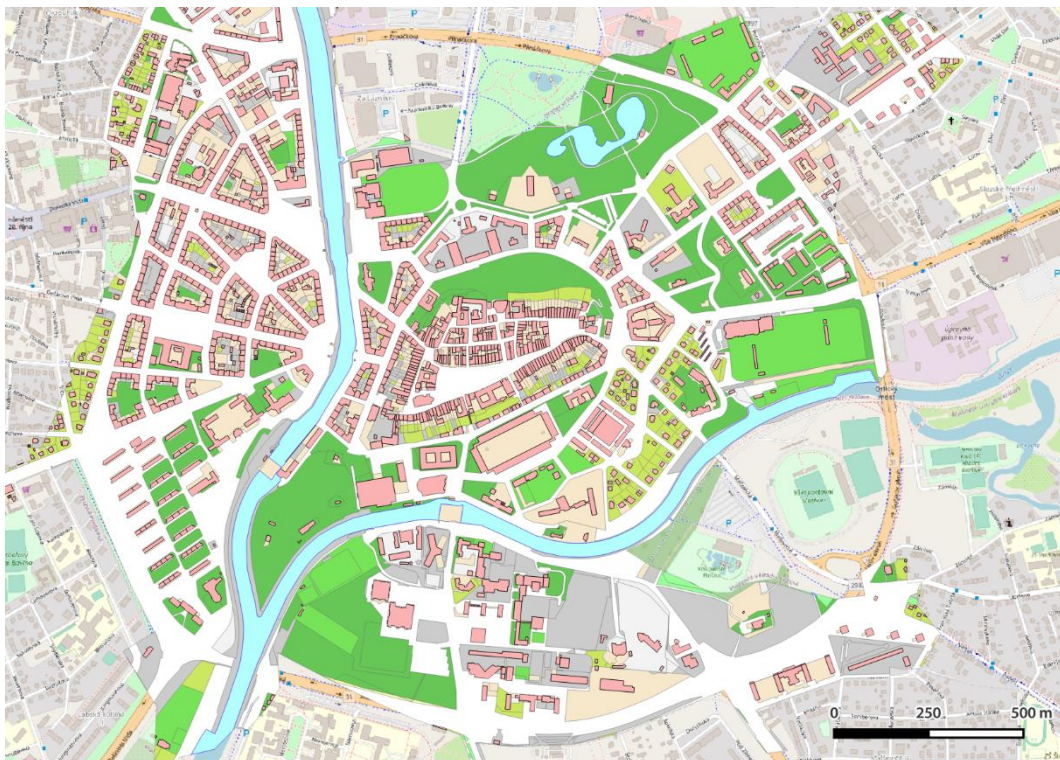
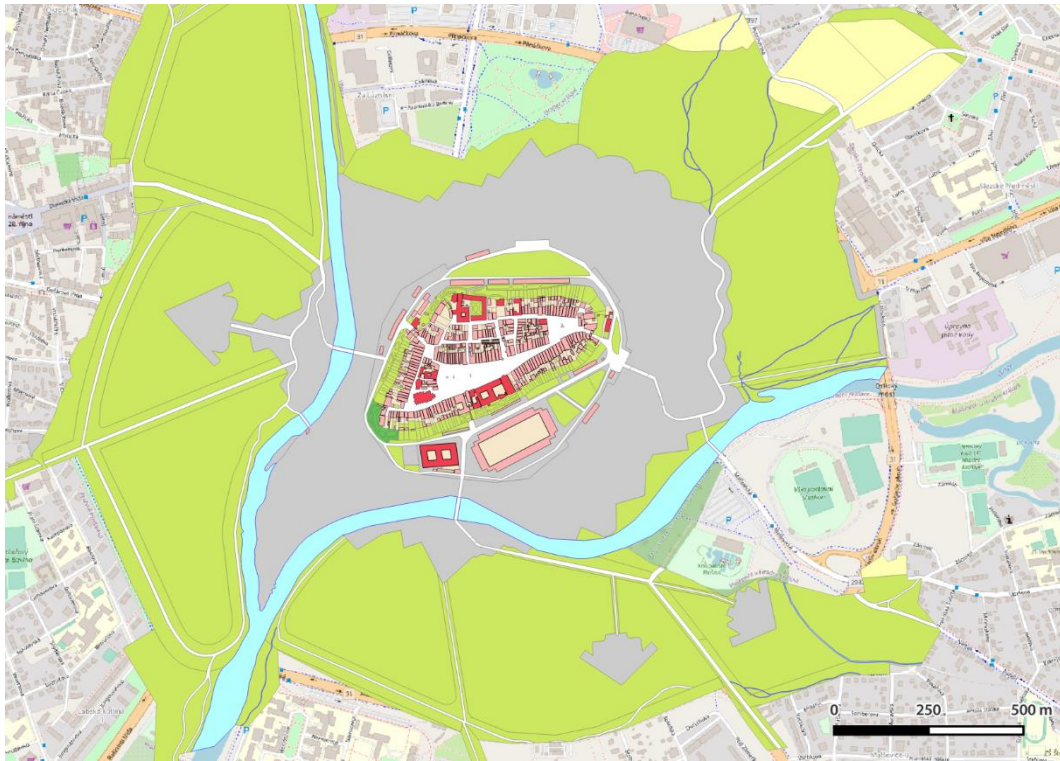


Fig. 61 a, b Reconstruction map of Hradec Králové and its surroundings where the town layout is marked according to a map of the Stable Cadastre of Bohemia from 1840 and as of the early 21st century with the use of modern digital data; Eva Semotanová and Jiří Krejčí 2022



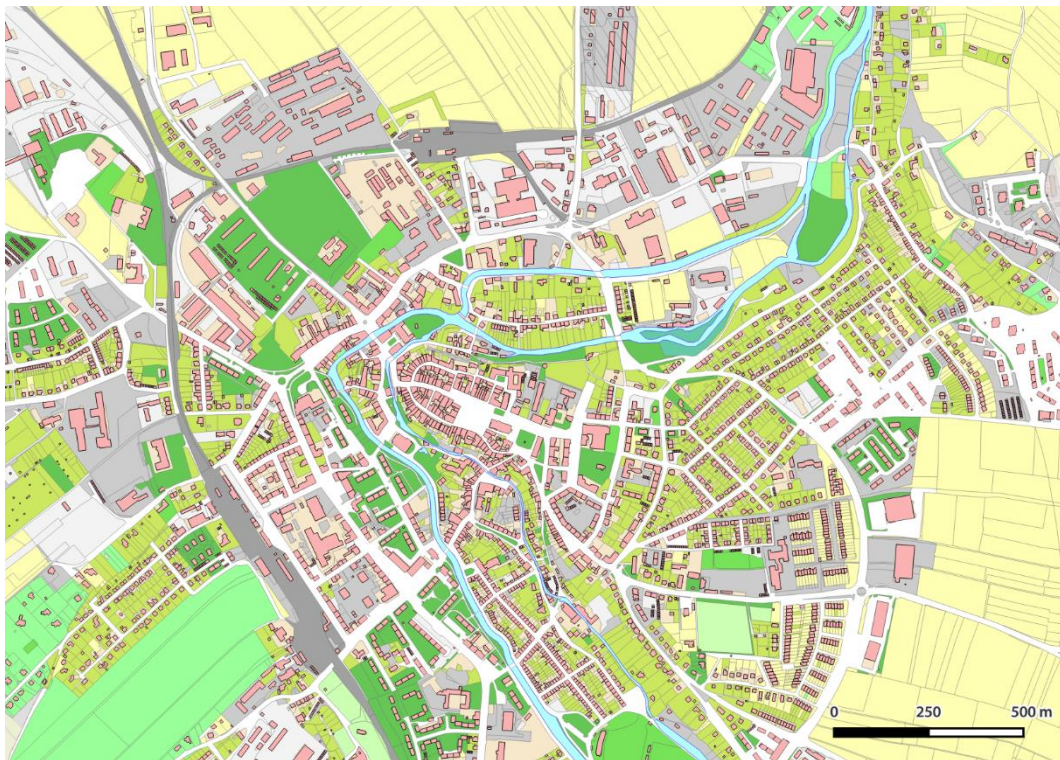


Fig. 62 a, b Reconstruction map of Chrudim and its surroundings where the town layout is marked according to a map of the Stable Cadastre of Bohemia from 1839 and as of the early 21st century with the use of modern digital data; Eva Semotanová and Jiří Krejčí 2022



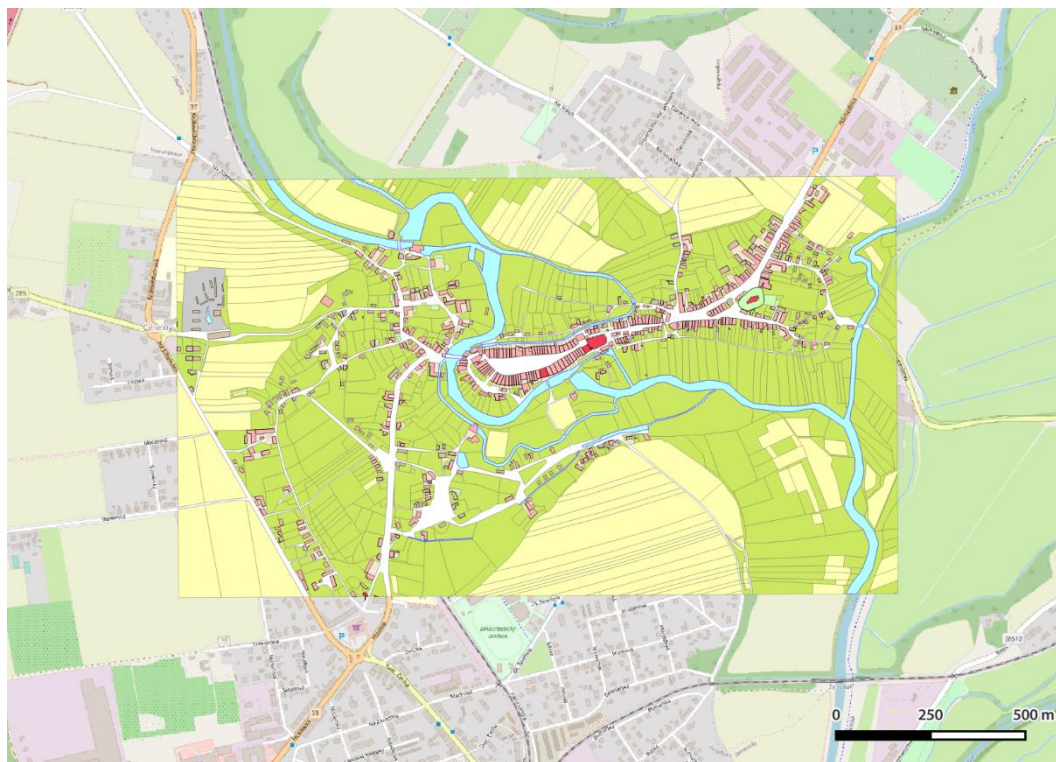


Fig. 63 a, b Reconstruction map of Jaroměř and its surroundings where the town layout is marked according to a map of the Stable Cadastre of Bohemia from 1840 and as of the early 21st century with the use of modern digital data; Eva Semotanová and Jiří Krejčí 2022





Fig. 64 a, b Reconstruction map of Mělník and its surroundings where the town layout is marked according to a map of the Stable Cadastre of Bohemia from 1842 and as of the early 21st century with the use of modern digital data; Eva Semotanová and Jiří Krejčí 2022



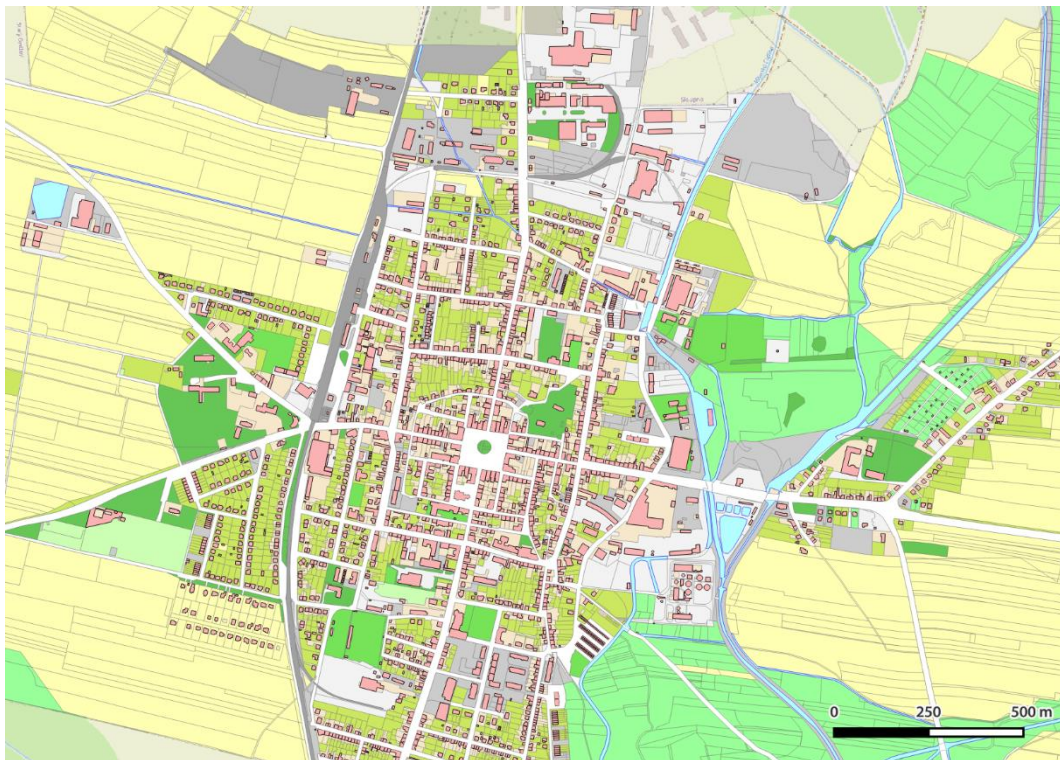
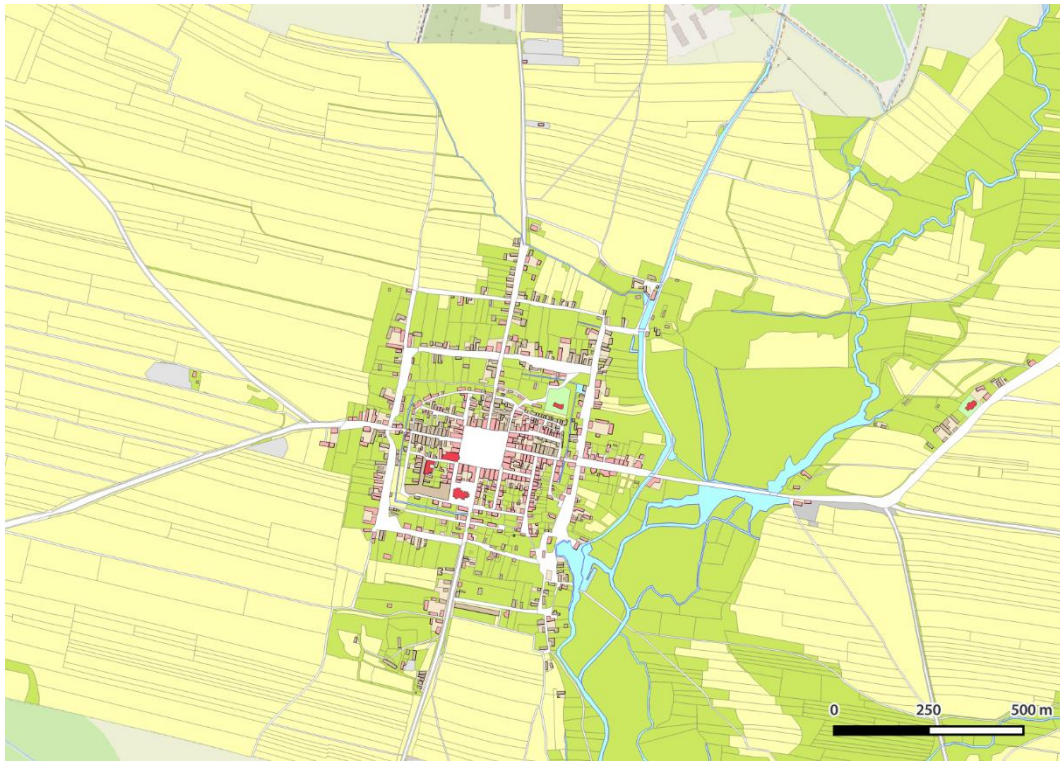


Fig. 65 a, b Reconstruction map of Nový Bydžov and its surroundings where the town layout is marked according to a map of the Stable Cadastre of Bohemia from 1841 and as of the early 21st century with the use of modern digital data; Eva Semotanová and Jiří Krejčí 2022



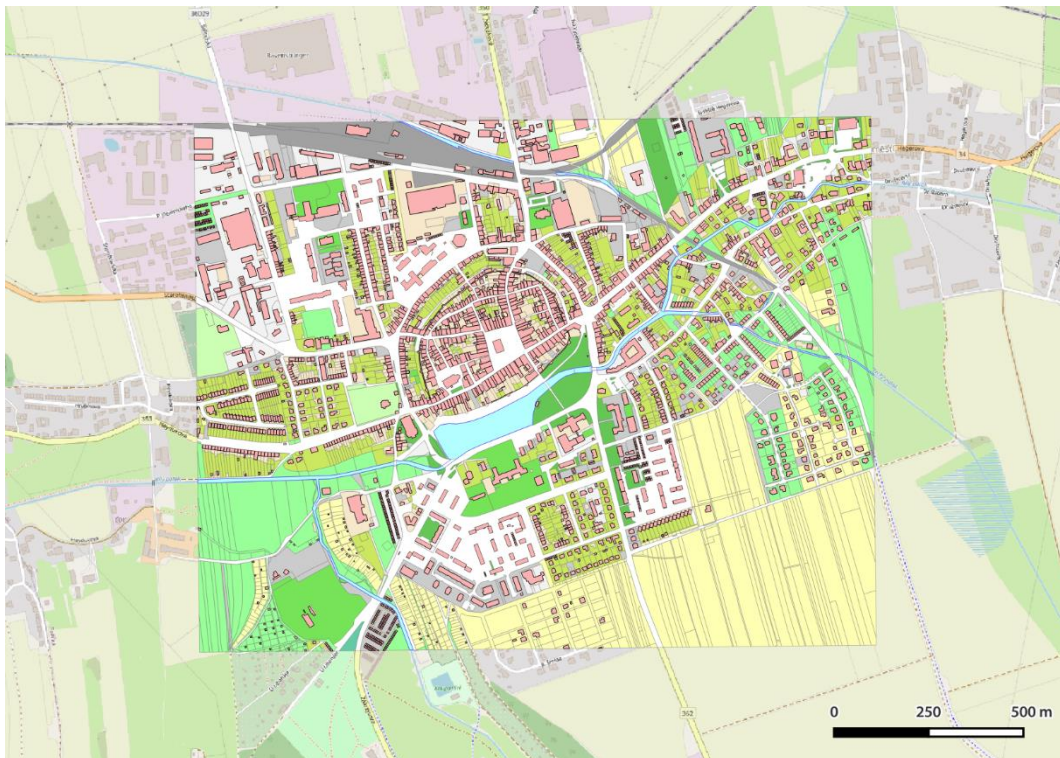
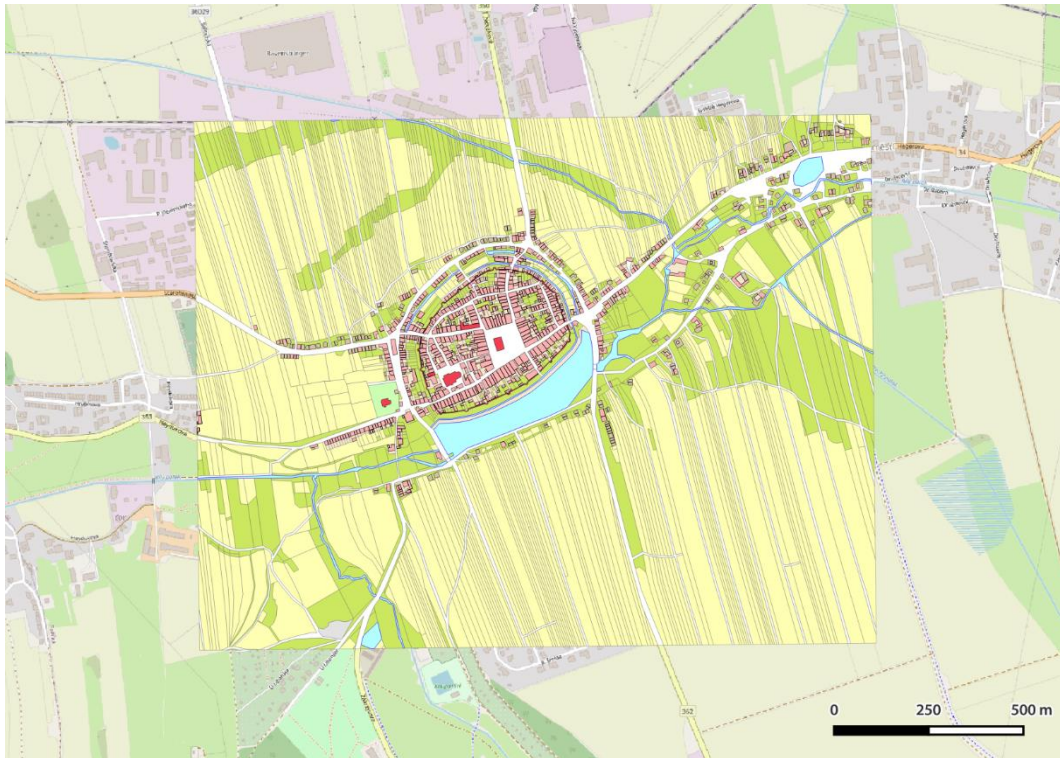


Fig. 66 a, b Reconstruction map of Polička and its surroundings where the town layout is marked according to a map of the Stable Cadastre of Bohemia from 1839 and as of the early 21st century with the use of modern digital data; Eva Semotanová and Jiří Krejčí 2022



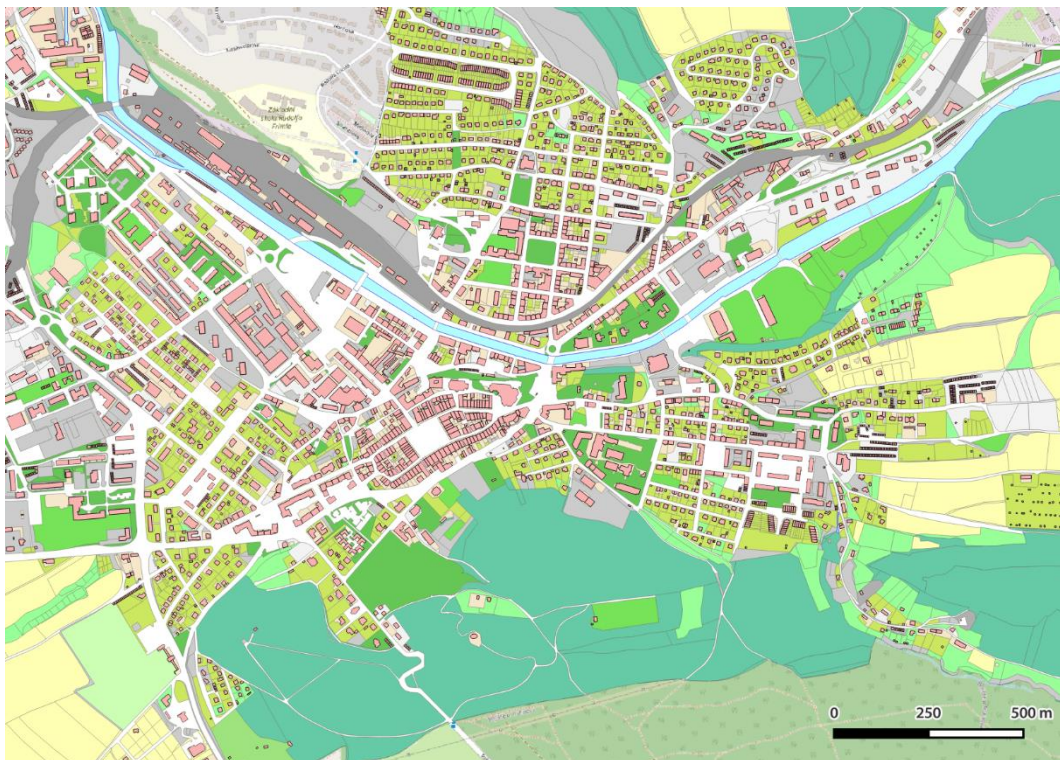
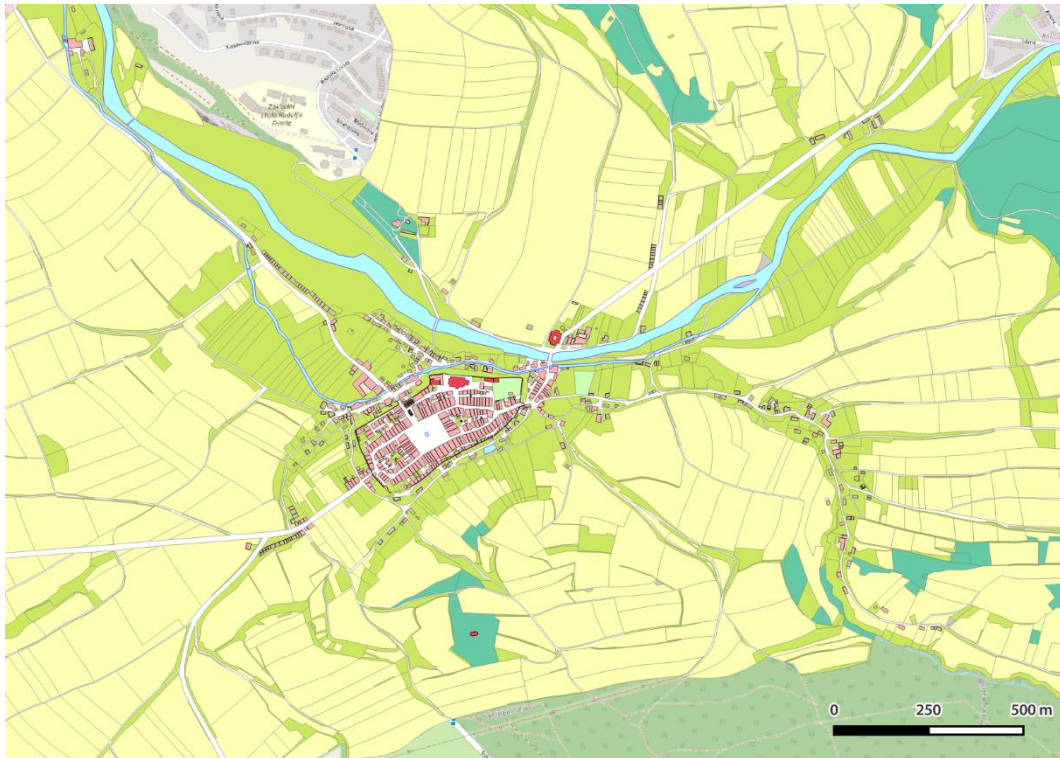


Fig. 67 a, b Reconstruction map of Trutnov and its surroundings where the town layout is marked according to a map of the Stable Cadastre of Bohemia from 1841 and as of the early 21st century with the use of modern digital data; Eva Semotanová and Jiří Krejčí 2022



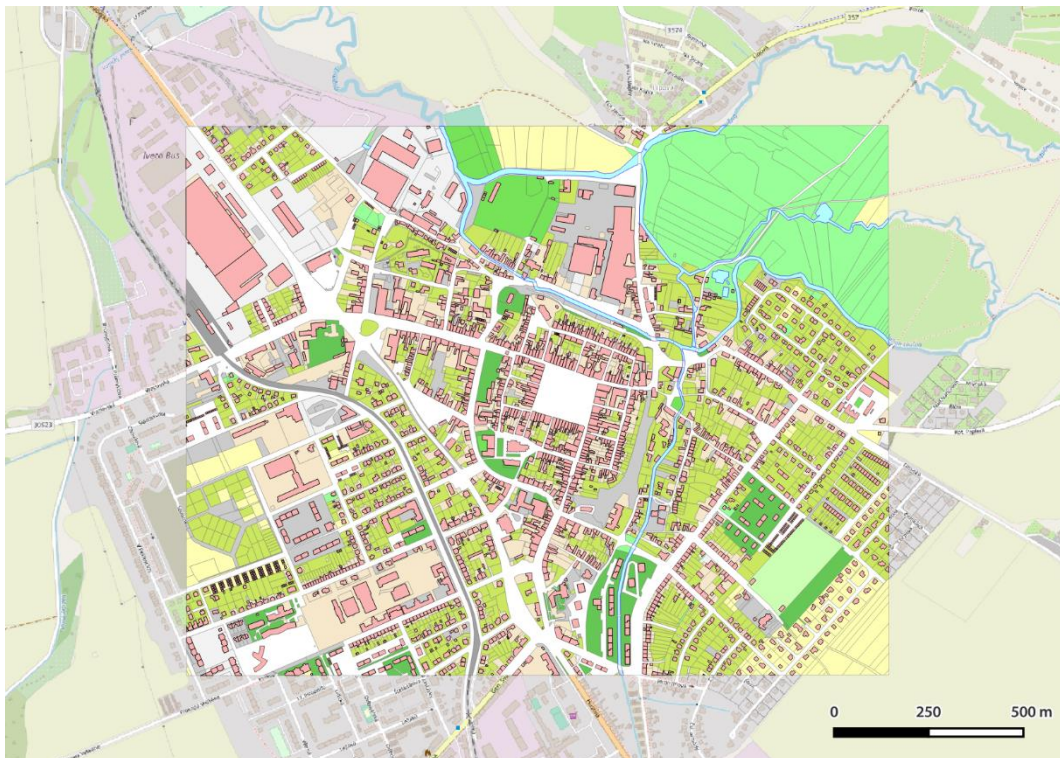
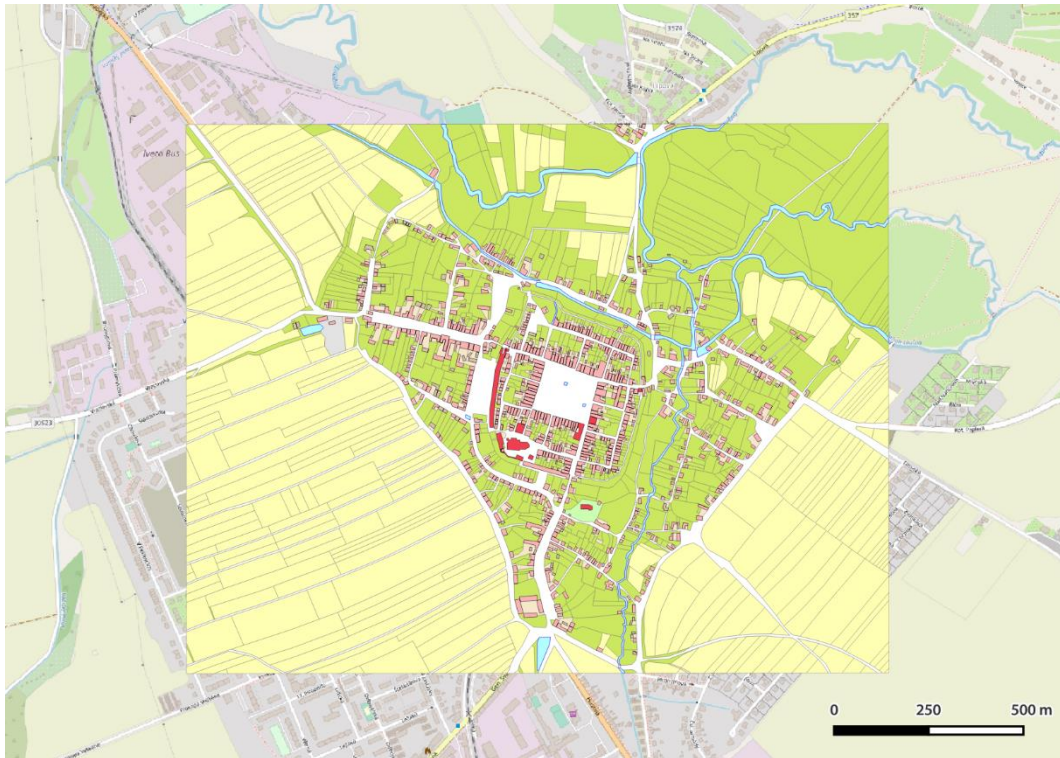


Fig. 68 a, b Reconstruction map of Vysoké Mýto and its surroundings where the town layout is marked according to a map of the Stable Cadastre of Bohemia from 1839 and as of the early 21st century with the use of modern digital data; Eva Semotanová and Jiří Krejčí 2022



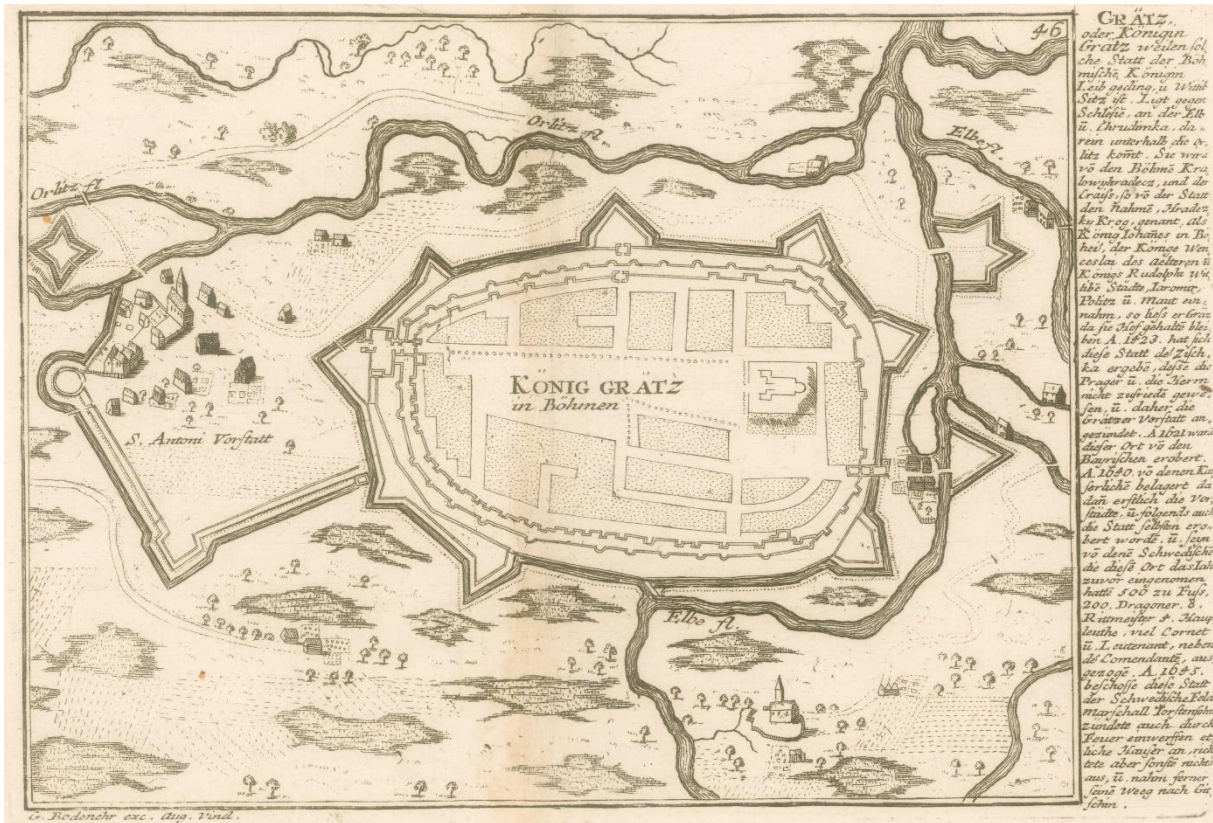


Fig. 69 Hradec Králové (Königgrätz) on a plan by Gabriel Bodenehr, between 1715 and 1730 (according to Carlo Cappi from 1640), south-oriented, without a scale, with schematic urban development, with suburbs and fortification elements. Hradec Králové is mentioned as a royal dowry town together with Jaroměř and Vysoké Mýto in a text on the right of the plan



Fig. 70 Hradec Králové from the south-east, mediaeval town model (condition before 1420), Jan Špelda, before 2008. Built-up area enclosed within town walls surrounded by rural landscape with non-regulated Elbe River and Orlice River





Fig. 71 Hradec Králové from the south-east, Baroque fortress model as of 1865, František Žaloudek, early 20th century



Fig. 72 Hradec Králové, model of the town (as of 2000), Josef Pospíšil, Jiří Turek, Přemysl Kraus et al.



## Summary in Czech

*Atlas of the Royal Dowry Towns of Bohemian Queens* (Atlas královských věnných měst českých královen) patří k neplánovaným výstupům grantového projektu NAKI II „Věnná města českých královen (Živá součást historického vědomí a její podpora nástroji historické geografie, virtuální reality a kyberprostoru)“, č. DG18P02OVV015. Tento projekt (poskytovatel Ministerstvo kultury, program NAKI II aplikovaný výzkum a experimentální vývoj) byl na léta 2018–2022 udělen Filozofické fakultě UHK, Historickému ústavu AV ČR a Fakultě informačních technologií ČVUT. Hlavním cílem projektu byl základní a aplikovaný výzkum českého dějinného fenoménu – věnných měst českých královen – a prezentace výsledků výzkumu formou členité mobilní aplikace, webportálu, specializovaných map s odborným obsahem, monografie Eva Semotanová – Josef Žemlička a kol., *Věnná města českých královen*, Praha 2022, stejnojmenné mezinárodní konference a naučného filmu.

Autorský tým ve složení Mgr. Radek Bláha, doc. PhDr. Zdeněk Beran, Ph.D., doc. Mgr. Petr Grulich, Ph.D., prof. PhDr. František Musil, CSc., Mgr. Petr Polehla, Ph.D., prof. PhDr. Eva Semotanová, DrSc., doc. PhDr. Martin Šandera, Ph.D, Mgr. Jan Vojtíšek, doc. PhDr. Jana Vojtíšková, Ph.D. a prof. PhDr. Josef Žemlička, DrSc., se posléze rozhodl představit fenomén královských věnných měst (Mělník, Hradec Králové, Chrudim, Vysoké Mýto, Polička, Jaroměř, Dvůr Králové nad Labem, Trutnov a Nový Bydžov) také zahraniční odborné i poučené laické veřejnosti. Předkládaná publikace tak vznikla mimo stanovené projektové úkoly a výstupy. Seznámit zahraniční odborníky s královskými věnnými městy jako specifiky české urbánní problematiky autoři považovali za podnětné a inspirativní.

Královská věnná města tvořila až na Mělník poměrně uzavřenou geografickou enklávu na východě Čech. Obdobou existenci tohoto unikátního jevu se ve střední Evropě odborníkům dosud nepodařilo prokázat; v poněkud jiném kontextu vznikala uherská věnná města za Zikmunda Lucemburského. Instrukce královských věnných měst, která se začala utvářet počátkem 14. století, prošla složitým vývojem. Věnná města se stala nejen zdrojem příjmů královen, ale v případě středověkého Hradce Králové a Mělníku na čas sídlem několika z nich včetně jejich dvorů. Svého vrcholu dosáhla v období středověku, jejich specifické identity a funkcionality však pokračovaly v určité míře i nadále.

Historické reflexe osudů a vývoje královských věnných měst ožily během 19. století vlivem národního obrození i pozdějšího romantismu. V pozměněné, novodobé podobě trvají

dosud jako jedna z náplní sebe prezentace a regionálního charismatu ve vztahu k ostatním městům České republiky.

Ve vztahu k urbánním dějinám a tím i k dějinám královských věnných měst patří k primárním zdrojům poznání prostorového růstu a topografických proměn kartografická díla. V publikaci byl položen důraz na prostorová specifika a komparaci královských věnných měst, zachycených výběrově na starých mapách, plánech a kartografických modelech. Tyto zdroje zachycují zejména krajnotvorné aspekty městské topografie. Mapy a plány skýtají údaje o poloze městských sídel v krajině, o bližším i vzdálenějším zázemí a začlenění do územně správního členění Čech. Města jsou zachycena jako součást sídelní struktury na přehledných nebo mnohalistových mapách zemí a regionů i samostatně na plánech, často zobrazujících jejich okolí s krajinnými, hospodářskými a drobnými architektonickými prvky.

Mapy rovněž dokumentují pestrou variabilitu zeměpisných jmen z hlediska jazykového – v češtině i němčině – i pravopisného, a to jak místních (jména sídel), tak pomístních (zejména jména lesů, hor, vod, polí, luk a cest). Počátky standardizace zeměpisného názvosloví v českých zemích spadají do konce 19. století, což je patrné i na jménech královských věnných měst v historických pramenech různých typů.

Srovnávací kartografické prameny, především povinné císařské otisky map stabilního katastru z první poloviny 19. století a I. i II. vojenské mapování z konce 18. a poloviny 19. století vytvořily podklad ke zpracování kartografických modelů. Modely (vizualizace) a mapové rekonstrukce znázorňují polohu královských věnných měst v krajině v návaznosti na reliéf a vodoteče. Zachycují schematicky městskou aglomeraci a její proměny ve dvou časových vrstvách, v polovině 19. s počátkem 21. století podobně, jako to umožňují např. šikmé letecké snímky, které v 19. století ještě neexistovaly. Atlas tak představuje prostřednictvím vybraných mapových děl a kartografických modelů pohled na prostorové aspekty jednoho z fenoménů českých urbánních dějin, jímž věnná města českých královen bezpochyby jsou.



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## **Atlas of the Dowry Towns of Bohemian Queens**

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