

I. THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION IN GLIWICE – AN INTRODUCTION

In reconstructing the medieval and post-medieval townscape of Gliwice, we have to rely on assorted sources: written accounts, the iconographical record and, increasingly, evidence from archaeology. These can help us clarify various questions related to the functioning of the city in the past. Despite the relatively limited archival resources available,¹ many elements of its infrastructure are now relatively well understood based on many years of study of the urban plans and development, and from the evidence gained from archaeological and architectural research.

Although the status of archaeological research carried out in Gliwice has been discussed at more length by H. Wojciechowska (1995) and M. Furmanek (2001; 2004), the intensification of urban development projects over the last decade accompanied by archaeological investigation, mostly rescue excavations, brings forward new evidence relevant for tracing the city's past history.

Even in the period before the Second World War, the city and its surrounding area were under active conservator activity. The result of which was the discovery and recording of a number of archaeological features, most of which were lost to the urban development of Gliwice after the war (Fig. 1).

The rebuilding of the historic Old Town district was accompanied by more intensive archaeological-architectural work, mostly of an ad hoc nature. During the 1950s, a study was conducted of the city

walls as part of the nationwide "Millennial" project of research organised on the eve of the 1000th anniversary of Poland in the 1960s. Studies were continued during the 1960s and the 1980s and helped identify the site of the Racibórz Gate. In recent years, an investigation was undertaken next to the parish church of All Saints and a series of archaeological watching briefs led by development projects within the historic district of Gliwice were completed.

The history of Gliwice has been reconstructed from written, iconographical and archaeological evidence.

Gliwice is at present one of the principal cities of Upper Silesia. It lies in an unremarkable central area of the Silesian Highlands, within the geographic mesoregion of the Katowice Highland, in the basin of the middle and the lower Kłodnica River (Fig. 2).

The origins of the town commune go back to the 13th century. The oldest district, dating from the Middle Ages, is easily identifiable in the townscape of modern Gliwice. Although the exact date of the town's incorporation is unknown, it would have taken place in the second half of the 13th century, before 1276 (Horwat, Jedynek 1986, pp. 47–48). As evidence for this date, we have a document associated with the sale of the village of Sobiszowice in which Gliwice is referred to as *civitas*. The founding of the town is attributed to the initiative of Duke Władysław of Opole who took over the Duchy of Opole-Racibórz in 1246. This hypothesis is also confirmed by the fact that the same duke granted town charters to a dozen-odd other centres in Upper Silesia.

A much-discussed point, relevant for the process of the formation of the chartered town, is the pre-incorporation status of the Stare Gliwice [Old Gliwice, Alt-Gleiwitz] district (Barciak 1995; Horwat, Jedynek 1986, p. 48). Its position outside the later city centre suggests the relocation of an older settlement

¹ Very few source documents and iconographic/iconographical resources survive to reconstruct the buildings of the medieval and modern periods of Gliwice. They include the city's urbaria from 1534 and 1580/96, the oldest townscape by F.B. Werner (18th century), the painting from 1626 commemorating the city's rescue during the Thirty Years' War (now in the All Saints' Church), and its 19th century copy held by the Museum in Gliwice. There are, also, some maps and plans of the town, none of them earlier than the 18th century.

INTRODUCTION

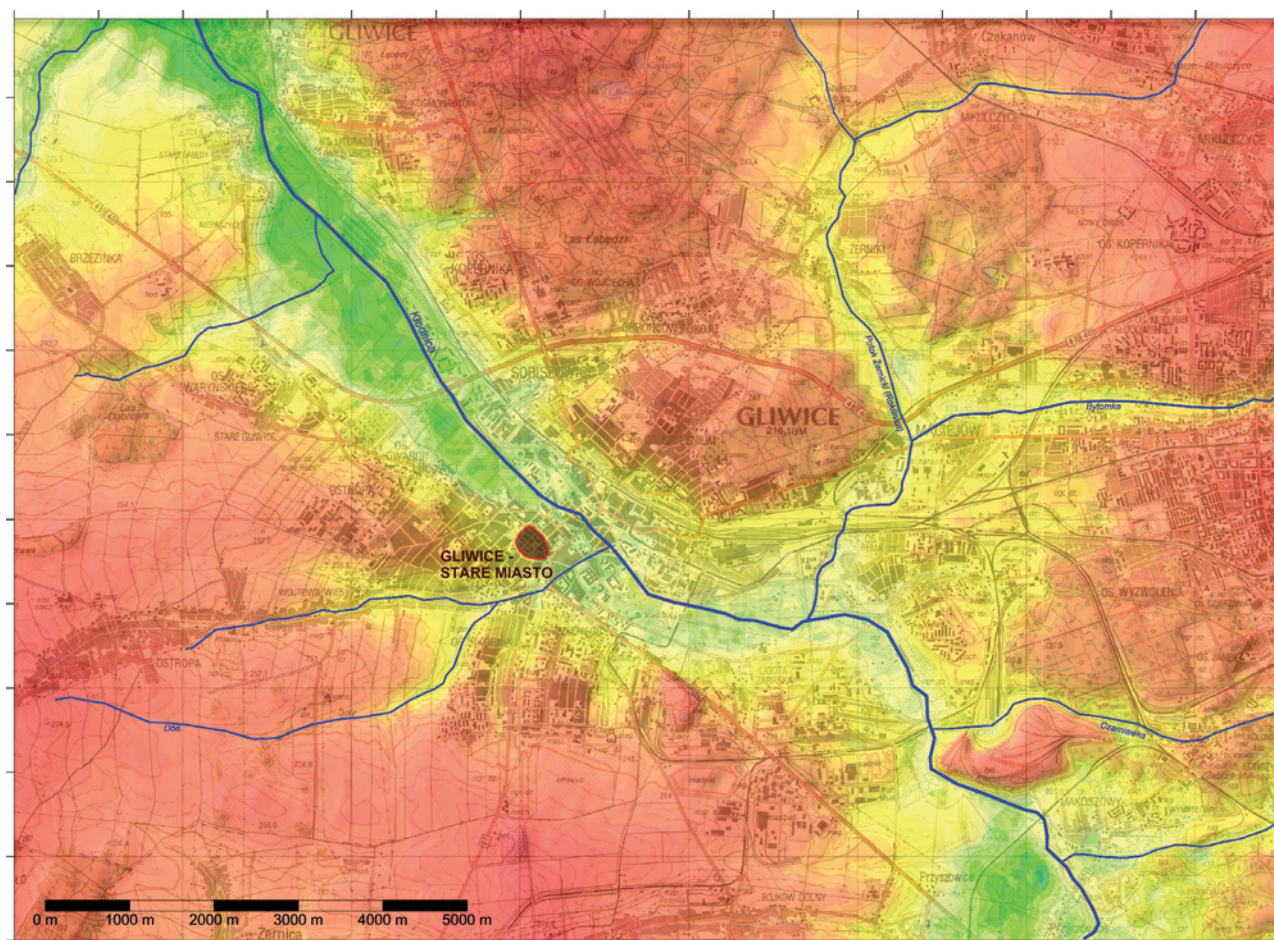


Fig. 1. Location of the Old Town district in Gliwice. Critical analysis M. Furmanek

to a new site. However, new input from archaeological research is needed to resolve this matter.

During the 13th century, Gliwice was part of the Duchy of Opole, and after a time, of the Duchy of Bytom-Koźle. In 1334, the land of Gliwice was sold to Duke Leszek of Racibórz. Two years later the Duchy of Gliwice was formed, ruled by Duke Siemowit. After his death, the town was ruled by Bolesław, the last of the Bytom-Koźle line of the Upper Silesian Piast dukes. In the period 1370–1482 Gliwice was divided into two parts and remained under the rule of the Piast dukes from the Cieszyn and the Oleśnica line (Horwat, Jedynak 1986, pp. 48–50). An important event in the medieval history of the town was the Hussite incursion of 1430. The armies led by Sigismund Korybut, pretender to the Bohemian throne, and by Dobko Puchala (Puchalla), invaded and wrought destruction on Gliwice. For a time, the town continued as a Hussite centre in Upper Silesia. In 1431, Gliwice was recaptured by Duke Konrad the White of Oleśnica-Koźle. After 1475, real power in Gliwice was exercised by the armies of the Hungarian King, Matthias Corvinus.

In 1482, the divided city once more became one and, and after 1492, with some diplomatic effort, it passed to Duke John II Dobry of Opole. After his death in 1532, and the extinction of the Opole line of the Silesian Piast, Gliwice passed into Austrian Habsburg rule, which continued until 1740. In 1558, the Emperor Ferdinand leased the city and its village holdings to Friedrich Zettritz. In the late 16th century, the townspeople of Gliwice purchased the rights of sovereignty over their city and its village holdings for 27,000 thalers, legitimizing its status as a free royal city. Unfortunately, in 1601 a great fire destroyed almost all of its timber buildings.

When the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648) broke out, the city, ruled at the time by the Habsburgs, was dragged into the armed conflict (Fig. 2). In mid-August of 1626, an attempt by Protestant troops led by Ernst von Mansfeld to storm the town was unsuccessful; however, it suffered heavy damage. In gratitude for its loyalty and staunch resistance, Ferdinand II reconfirmed the earlier privileges of Gliwice and in 1629 granted the town a new coat of arms. The city came under the control of the Kingdom of Prussia in



Fig. 2. The Siege of Gliwice, c. 1629. A painting from All Saints Church in Gliwice

the wake of the Silesian Wars and the Seven Years' War that were fought by Austria and Prussia between the years 1740 and 1763.

During the early period, the main source of economic prosperity for Gliwice was commerce based on local production. The trade in hops and brewery production played an important role in the economic life of the town. Malt houses or breweries are mentioned in the oldest surviving documents. A reference from 1339 mentions one friar John, a brewer of Gliwice (Barciak 1995, pp. 38–39). From the Middle Ages onwards, the town became an important distillery centre in Upper Silesia.

The surrounding villages were also involved in non-agricultural activity. We have written references (from 1276) to a fulling mill, a public house, a slaughterhouse and a shoemaker at Sobieszowice. In 1286, the village headman of Ostropa was granted the right to run a public house with a brewery. There was fish farming in the fishponds at Ostropa, Stare Gliwice, and in the town itself. There is also evidence

of a number of corn mills. Up until the 17th century, the cloth trade was another important activity (Piotrowska-Andruszków 1986).

The end of the 18th century brought an increased development of heavier industry, especially metallurgy. In 1796, the first blast furnace for smelting iron, fuelled with charcoal, went into operation at nearby Królewska Huta [*Königshütte*, now Chorzów].

The newly developing industry attracted an influx of people and resulted in changes in the urban plan as the town expanded gradually to occupy the suburban area (Radziejewicz-Winnicki, Małusecki 2002). In the 19th century, the administrative differences between the city and its suburbs were abolished. The main communication axis and, at the same time, the high street of the city (today's Zwycięstwa Street) linked the Market Square with the railway station. The historic district of the Old Town survived through all this change but surrendered its function as the city's administrative centre to a new downtown district [today's Śródmieście].

URBAN LAYOUT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Gliwice was founded on a small elevation sloping towards the Klodnica River, taking advantage of the area's naturally defensive features, such as marshes and lakes to the north-east. Next to administrative and legal privileges, the chartered town was provided with a distinctive urban plan – sub-oval in shape, its long axis aligned north-west to south-east – with a nearly square market as its centre. The Market Square was the focal point within a regular grid of streets, two issuing from each corner. Another larger open space was in the north-western part of the town, the site of the parish church of All Saints. Next to the Market Square, there were other, smaller markets – the corn, the dairy and the butchers' markets (Mączny, Mleczny and Rzeźniczy Markets). The town within the walls had a surface area of 9.1

ha making it a medium-sized urban centre in Upper Silesia (Fig. 3).

The main buildings of the communal town were the Town Hall and the parish church of All Saints (Radziejewicz-Winnicki, Małusecki 1999). The founding of the parish and its central church is placed in the second half of the 13th century (Barciak 1995, p. 42). The original patron of the parish church is no longer known, its present-day name appears in the written sources only after 1467 (Furmanek 2003). The church was built in the north-western district of the town, near to the now defunct Racibórz Gate. A geo-radar survey conducted in 2002 (Antosiewicz 2000) identified the remains of older foundations within the church, presumably of the original church building. Fragments of walls exposed during the survey are too small to allow for a comprehensive reconstruction of

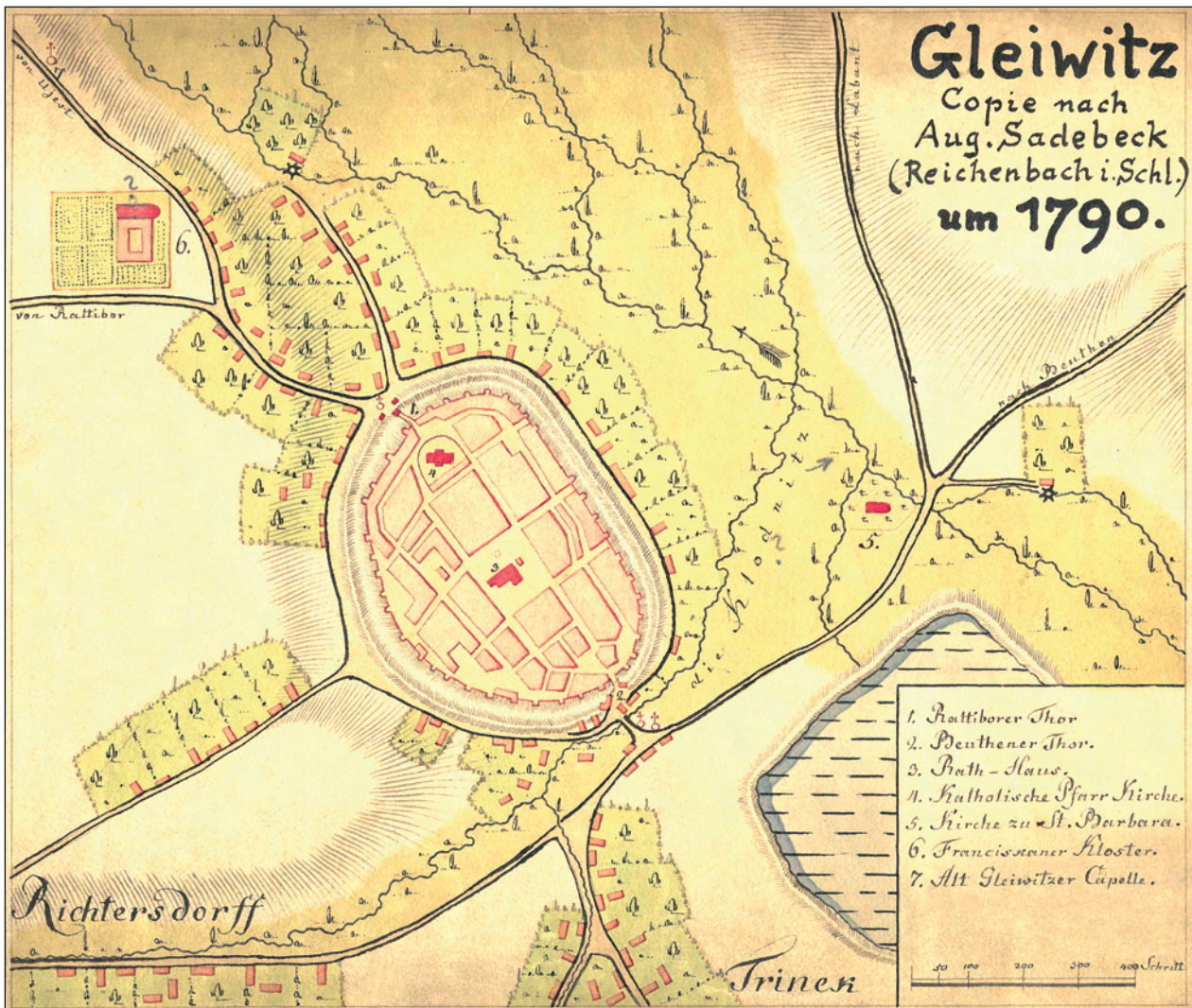


Fig. 3. Gliwice. Town plan from the 18th century, title page of *Krieges Carte von Schlesien*, Ch. F. Wrede

INTRODUCTION

the shape and size of the first edifice. We can only tentatively conclude that this was a one-naved structure, which was approximately 13 m wide. The next stage of development of the church was its expansion during the 14th century. At this time, a new chancel was built, lower than the one the church has now; its foundations were uncovered by archaeologists (Furmanek, Wojciechowska 2002); a small number of elements of its interior decoration survive to this day. The next project of improvement came in the latter half of the 15th century. The chancel was raised to a greater height and, presumably, the nave was extended westward. Other additions included the construction of the chapels of the Holy Cross and of Our Lady, the treasury and the sacristy. This stage ends with the construction of the bell tower in the western area of the nave.

A churchyard was established around the church building and the townspeople of Gliwice were buried in it in the period c. 1250 – c. 1900. An archaeological excavation undertaken on a section of this graveyard helped to classify it as a multi-layer cemetery, the site of uninterrupted burial over several centuries confined to a small area. With only 163 graves identified, the overall number of burials was 254. Grave pit outlines were mostly unrecognisable, only in a handful of cases was the grave plan identified as rectangular, some traces of coffins were detected (Furmanek 2003). Grave-goods were observed in just a few graves, a greater quantity of finds was recovered from the cemetery layer, both from the medieval (to a lesser extent) and the modern level. They included dress accessories (belt buckles, buttons, hook-and-eye fastenings), devotional objects (medallions, crosses, rosary beads and a reliquary), coins, and fragments of pottery (Furmanek 2003; Furmanek, Michnik 2004).

From 1531, the town had its own water supply system, with wooden pipes carrying water from Wójtowa Wieś, and six gutters draining off the sewage to the Kłodnica River. A fragment of a 4.5 m long wooden conduit, retaining an iron-coupling piece was discovered by accident in 2009 in Dolnych Wałów Street, with a diameter of 0.3 m (and the diameter of the pipe opening was 0.1 m). It has been interpreted as an element of the early modern municipal water supply system (Fig. 4).

At first, the town buildings were constructed of timber; only at the close of the Middle Ages were the first brick houses built in the street-blocks closer to the Market Square. Nevertheless, research has yet to identify the more substantial remains of these town buildings. Equally poorly understood is the matter

of the town properties – their size, plan and changes in build-up. To judge from archaeological evidence from other urban centres, we can assume that in the upper area of the town plot there was the town house, with a backyard and workshops, sanitary facilities (cesspits and water wells) and areas where raw materials were worked. Next, a backland/rear plot, with another, much less imposing house, or which was given over to an economic function (stables, sties or vegetable gardens).

The remains of timber houses and/or outbuildings were identified at the junction of Kaczyniec and Krupnicza streets (Tomczak 1971, pp. 187–188), and at no. 2 Krupnicza Street (Stankiewicz-Węgrzykova 1959). A pottery kiln discovered at no. 3 Bankowa Street is probably related to structures that functioned in the rear of the plots (Tomczak 1971, p. 187). A similar function can be ascribed to a number of sunken features, interpreted as refuse pits, which were identified at the back of the properties at nos. 21 and 23 Rynek, no. 21 Matejko Street, and at the junction of Grodowa and Wysoka streets (Furmanek, Kulpa 2001).

During the 14th century, urban development spilled over into the area outside the town wall. In time, two suburbs (Raciborskie and Bytomskie) took shape in the area outside the city gates – named after



Fig. 4. Gliwice, Dolnych Wałów St. A wooden water pipe.
Photograph R. Zdaniewicz

the towns of Racibórz and Bytom. In Racibórz suburb the buildings extended from the Racibórz Gate along the road running to today's district of Stare Gliwice; Bytom suburb expanded in the direction of the villages of Trynek and Wójtowa Wieś. In the late 15th and during the 16th century three churches were built in the extramural part of the town: the Holy Cross, St Barbara's – by the river crossing on the Kłodnica, and the hospital chapel of the Holy Trinity. These timber buildings did not survive into the modern period and in time, were replaced by brick edifices in different architectural styles.

The more outstanding non-residential elements of the urban build up were: the brewery, the distillery, the bath houses (not less than three in 1534), a corn mill and a fulling mill in Bytom suburb, a mill and a sawmill in Racibórz suburb. Near the city there were two other fulling mills used in the cloth trade. Racibórz suburb had a larger mill with three wheels but we still do not know the location of the smaller mill with two wheels, which is also mentioned in the written sources.

An urbary drawn up in 1534 reports that the town had 203 residential buildings, 187 of them were within the city walls, the rest in the suburbs. The city's population during this period is estimated at 1000–1200 people (Horwat 1993, p. 22).

Insight into the functioning of the extramural areas of Gliwice and the appearance of their development at the turn of the Middle Ages and the modern age comes from an archaeological investigation held in 2005 in the street-block between Jana Pawła II and Mikołowska streets, in the former suburb of Bytom. One of the features identified during this study were the foundations of a log-house: a rectangular building 4.7–5 m × 3.4 m in size, built of round logs with their bark intact, these were notched and jointed at the corners (Fig. 5). The height of the surviving structure was less than 0.6 m. The western wall (facing in the direction of the village of Ostropa) survived as two rows of timbers. In all the corners, vertical elements had been added for greater stability of the building's foundations. The walls of the hut were chinked with moss and clay. Its floor of packed grey-coloured clay rested over an insulation layer of branches, again with their bark intact. On its east side, at the centre of the hut, were the remains of a plank, interpreted tentatively as the remains of a wall bench. Small finds from inside the house included a series of pottery fragments, with some complete vessels (e.g. jars, basins, plates and tripods) and tile fragments. There were also some metal and wooden objects, as well as some animal bones. The dendrochronological

analysis identified the timber of the building as pine and oak, and secured two dates – 1551 and 1570. The purpose of this building is hard to establish. The pottery and the tiles it contained suggest it was both a dwelling and a workshop – perhaps, a fulling mill. Next to the hut, a rubbish pit and another log-house were identified, presumably non-residential (Fig. 6). The latter, only partly preserved, was sub-rectangular in plan, 2.25 × 2.7 m. Its north wall survived in the form of three planks, its east and west walls were preserved as two heavily damaged planks. At a distance of 0.9 m from the north wall were the remains of a partition. The walls were insulated with straw. Underneath the plank floor was a layer of decayed branches. The purpose of this building is hard to specify. Given the absence of small finds, its small size and layout it may have been an outbuilding. The remains of sharpened stakes, discovered at a distance of 1.2 m from this building, may be interpreted as a sort of enclosing structure (a fence?). Dendrochronology dates obtained for this smaller building, which was constructed entirely of oak wood, suggest it was built in 1538–1539 (Michnik 2010). Presumably, both log houses went out of use when the city was besieged during the Thirty Years' War.

During the 17th and 18th centuries, the town buildings suffered from a succession of wars and fires – in 1601, 1711, 1730 and 1735. In 1743, the town had only 146 houses, and in its centre there were not less than 51 vacant lots, presumably occupied by burnt down buildings. During the same period, in the suburbs there were 66 standing houses. Their prices in late 17th and early 18th centuries were very low. The condition of the city in the first half of the 18th century is documented by the only surviving townscape of Gliwice, painted by Friedrich B. Werner (Fig. 7) as a souvenir of his travels in Silesia. This is a panorama of the town as viewed from today's village of Sobiszowice, on which are shown the landmarks of its topography and architecture. Werner included in his image some mills on the Kłodnica (e.g. the flour mill, Schneider's mill, the fulling mills of the leather dressers and the cloth makers and the Great Mill), and a bird's eye view of the nearby villages of Stare Gliwice, Łabędy, Żerniki, Trynek and Wójtowa Wieś (Siemko 2004, pp. 28–38).

Perhaps the best understood feature of the medieval town are its fortifications. Until 1945, the subject of the city walls had not been addressed in a separate historical-conservator study. After the war, interest in this subject increased, especially among researchers attached to the Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice (Bergman 1989; Bergman, Jankiewicz 1987;

INTRODUCTION



Fig. 5. Gliwice, Jana Pawła St. The remains of a timber building (dwelling), second half of the 16th century.
Photograph M. Michnik

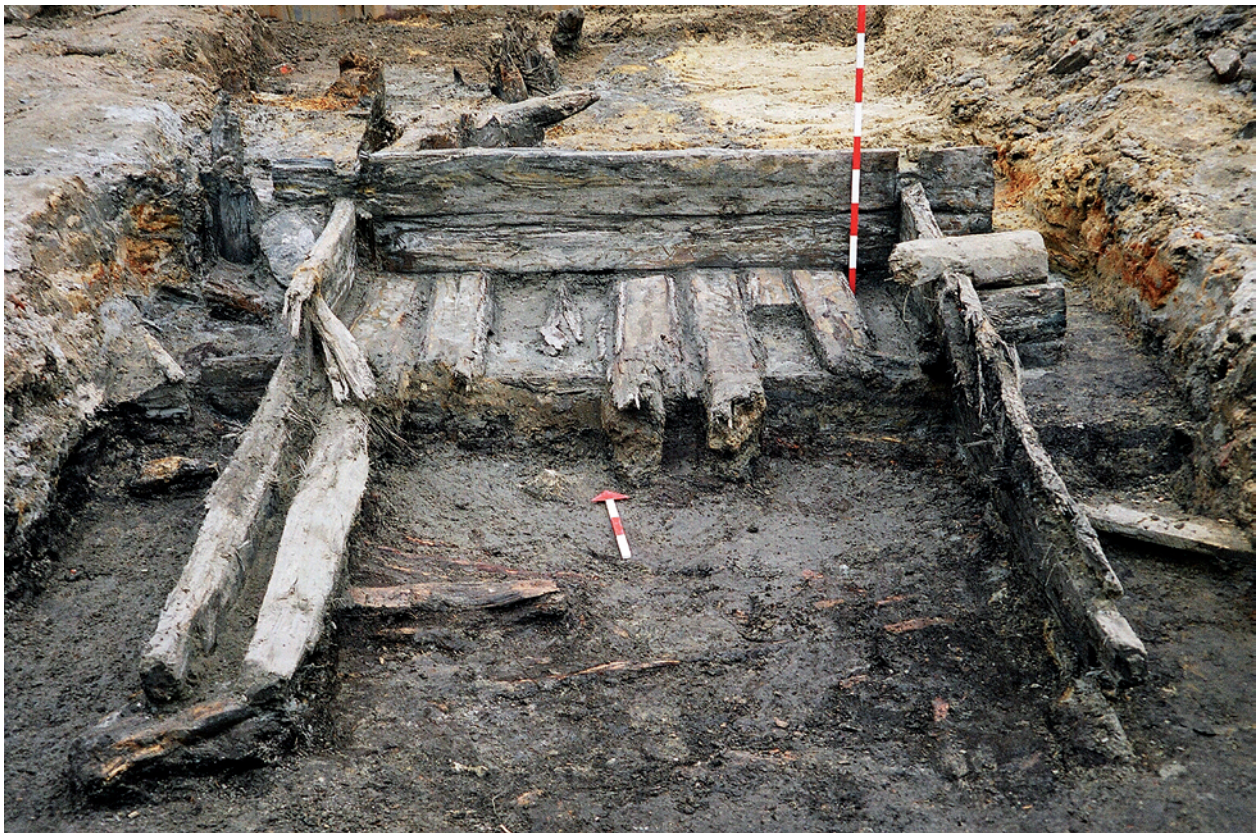


Fig. 6. Gliwice, Jana Pawła St. The remains of a timber building (outhouse), first half of the 16th century. Photograph M. Michnik



Fig. 7. Gliwice. The town and its surrounding area, first half of the 18th century, drawing by F. B. Werner.
Wrocław University Library

Radziejewicz-Winnicki 1989; 2001; Radziejewicz-Winnicki, Rendchen 1985–86).

The building of the city fortifications during the 14th century was the last stage in the development of the medieval town. It would continue to develop within these walls, both in terms of its architecture, economy and legal system. The earliest system of the town defences consisted of an earthen rampart and a palisade. During the second quarter of the 14th century, a masonry wall was added outside the rampart (Bergman 1989). These fortifications survived until the 1430s when they were destroyed during the Hussite Wars. The remains of the defensive system, which survive to the present day, originated during the 15th and at the beginning of the 16th century (the system was completed by 1513). Some researchers have suggested that these remains follow the original layout of the fortifications, but this has not been confirmed by the results of archaeological-architectural studies undertaken so far. No remains of older walls have been discovered and it seems rather unlikely

that the original system of fortifications would have been fully dismantled. We know that the fortifications were built in stages (as this would have been a major expense for the city) but always according to one overall plan. The system consisted of an 1125 m long wall, with half-towers spaced along the entire length of its perimeter (their number was subject to change). The towers formed a single structure with the wall but extended outside the line of the rampart. The sections of the curtain wall between the towers were between 15 m to 37.5 m long. The wall had been built in stages, in the *opus empletum* technique, with pebbles at the bottom and bricks above, laid in single stretcher or in mixed courses (Fig. 8). The inside was filled with stone and brick rubble. The wall reached 9 m in height, its base was 1.2 m wide, its upper part – up to 1 m wide. Different stretches of the wall had foundations at different depths, ranging between 0.5 m and 2.5 m. On its inner side, the wall had a wooden, roofed over walkway for the watch, and embrasures in the walls. A stone step

INTRODUCTION

uncovered in 2008 in the half-tower on Basztowa St., was placed at right angles to the wall face and could be the remains of a corbel supporting a wooden stairway which led to the walkway (Fig. 9) (Michnik, Zdaniewicz 2009). A narrow alley ran along the foot of the wall. In a later period, as the wall weakened, it was reinforced with buttresses, both on its outer and inner sides.

The rectangular wall towers opened towards the town. In time, three of them (next to the Castle of Gliwice, in Bednarska St. and in Dolnych Wałów St.) were closed off. Their outer dimensions were on the average 6×2 m and the wall thickness between 1.2 m and 1.4 m. Analysis of the town plans suggests that the towers rose above the curtain wall at different heights. They had crenellations and a suspended breastwork with machicolations. Another element of the defences was a moat, 3 m – 15 m wide, with a depth of up to 4 m, fed by the Ostropka, a minor tributary of the Kłodnica River. Originally, the moat was right next to the town wall but its remains at the Racibórz Gate were discovered at a distance of 7–8 m from the walls (presumably, an earthen bank had been raised alongside the wall, to strengthen it and push the river back from it). On the outside of the moat was an earth-and-timber bank with a palisade. Archaeologi-



Fig. 8. Gliwice, Basztowa St. Bottom section of the town wall tower, late 15th–early 16th century. Photograph R. Zdaniewicz



Fig. 9. Gliwice, Basztowa St. Remains of a stone structure, which originally supported a wooden staircase, on the inner face of the town wall tower, the late 15th to the early 16th century. Photograph R. Zdaniewicz

INTRODUCTION

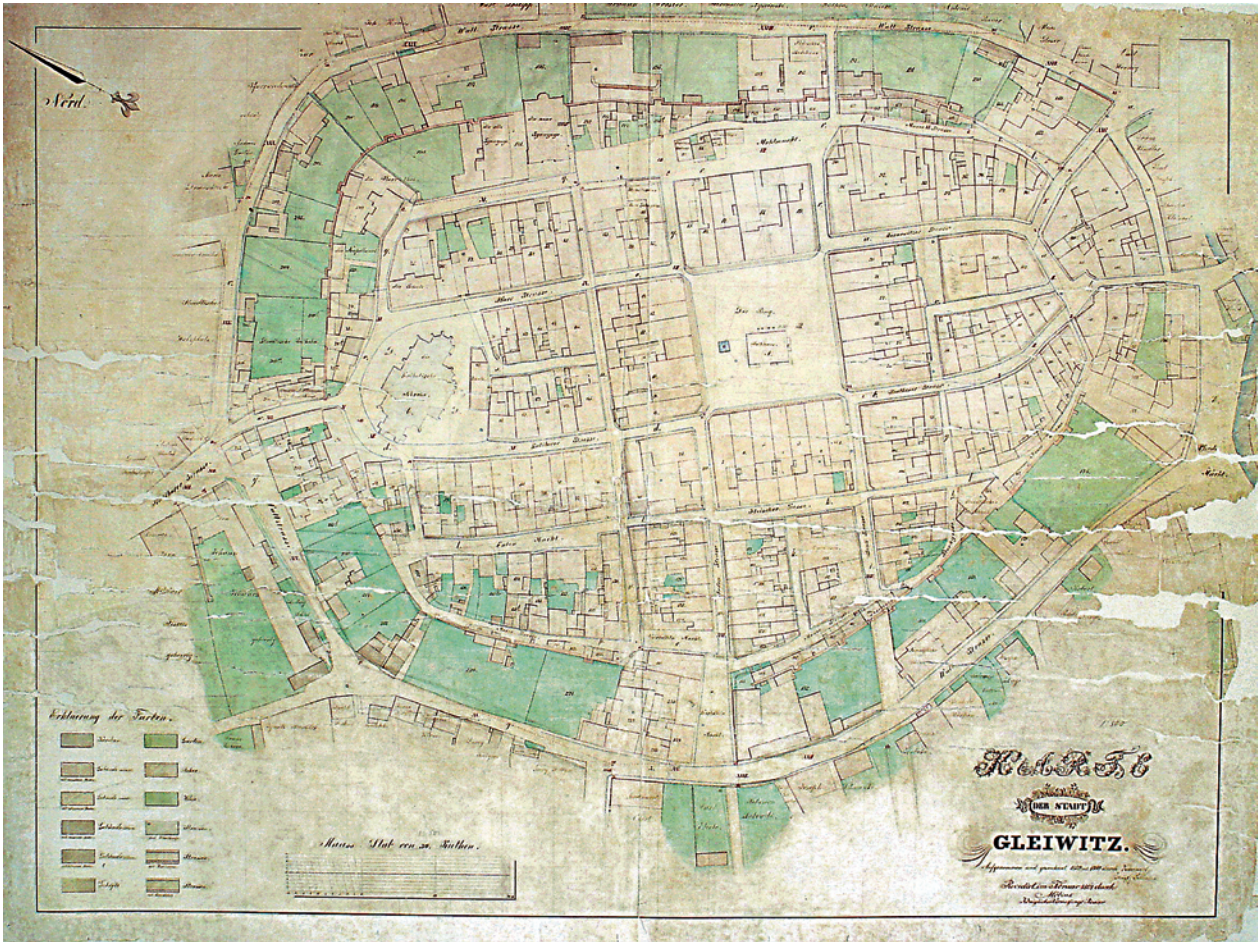


Fig. 10. Gliwice. The town plan from 1861. State Archive in Gliwice

cal investigation (Stankiewicz-Węgrzykowska 1959; 1962) helped identify some remains of linear timber structures that consisted of rough planks with square holes, some of them still with vertical half-timbers. This feature has been interpreted as the revetment of the sides of the city moat.

The town had two great gates: the Racibórz (Black) Gate and the Bytom (White) Gate. They were a prominent feature in the landscape of the medieval and the early modern town. Using pictorial evidence and evidence from an archaeological investigation of the Racibórz Gate carried out in the 1980s; we can attempt to reconstruct their original appearance (Stabrowska 1986; 1987; 1989). The Racibórz Tower was square in plan, with 9 m long walls, five storeys in height, and covered with a pavilion roof. It had a foregate of three storeys, flanked by two half-round towers, extending about 24 m out from the curtain wall. The passageway through the gate had a width of approximately 5 m. Originally, the gate had a drawbridge, later replaced with a permanent bridge. It is assumed that the Bytom Gate was similar in its form and dimensions to the Racibórz

Gate, but had a much more imposing tower. This square structure of 4–5 storeys had battlements and a pavilion roof. With evidence from archaeology in short supply the location of the Bytom Gate cannot be identified at present.

As the town continued to grow and the art of waging war evolved, the decision was taken to pull down the city walls, level the earthen defences and fill in the moat, turning over the newly created space for gardens (Fig. 10). This process started in the late 18th century and continued until the end of the next century. In the period 1773–1783, the walls were reduced in height by a third, around 1800 – by half, and finally, during the period 1854–64, the greater part was dismantled. Racibórz Gate was pulled down before 1864, the gateway and the bridge, presumably, after 1773. The Bytom (White) Gate was dismantled in 1852. At present, a third of the city's original system of defences survives.

Another element of the fortification system but with other functions too (e.g. that of the ducal residence) was the Castle. The castle in Gliwice is referred to extensively in literature, but its location

continues to be the subject of controversy (Furmanek 2004). The first reference to the castle is in a document from 1492 confirming the payment of rent by the inhabitants of Szynwałd to the manor in Gliwice. Another mention is found in a document from 1507, in which John II of Opole grants a house in Gliwice, which was located next to the Ducal Castle, to Jan Prokop. Its existence in the period 1532–1534 is confirmed by urbaries which contain lists of castle estates

and holdings. One of the locations suggested by some researchers is the site, which was occupied in 1812 by the “Old” Synagogue (at 2 Kościelna St., now a police station). Franciszek Maurer (1995) claims that we should look for the remains of the Castle in the cellars of the rectory at 4 Kościelna St. Traditionally, the name “Castle of the Piast” or alternately, Zettritz Manor, is given to the building in Pod Murami Street, now the seat of the Museum in Gliwice.

THE MARKET SQUARE AND THE TOWN HALL – ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDIES

The main market square, the first element to be designated when planning a new town, was the centre of administration and self-government, communications, commerce and trade, a place of assembly and a market place. It was a symbol of the autonomy and prosperity of the townspeople as this is where the town patricians and the richest tradesmen and merchants congregated.

The Market Square in Gliwice is relatively small, 73 × 74 m, approximately square in plan, lying in an area with a slight north-east gradient. The streets that issue from its east and west frontages converged at the city gates. The existing frontage buildings date from the 19th and 20th centuries when they replaced many tenement houses destroyed in the wars. Unfortunately, the results of an architectural study carried out by F. Maurer during the 1950s at the time of the rebuilding of the Old Town, were never published and the documentation was lost (?). No architectural-archaeological investigation was ever undertaken in the cellars of the surviving buildings in order to phase/date them. Only during an archaeological intervention carried out in the Market Square (at nos. 4/5), were the remains of a stone foundation exposed, dated to the Middle Ages (Wojciechowska 1995).

Earlier development-led excavation in the Market Square was not accompanied by archaeological research. Because of this, we have no data on how this space was organised and managed. The written sources offer limited insight into the infrastructure the square must have had to fulfil its functions. The urbaries report that the bakers, butchers and shoemakers all had their stalls around the Town Hall building, and that there were also ten stalls selling salt and herrings, and six stalls selling luxury goods. The urbary from 1534 also notes that there was a weighing scales and a water cistern. Presumably, the latter was replaced during the 18th century by a fountain

with a statue of Neptune, designed by Johannes Nitsche. We have evidence that the Market Square was subject to dynamic changes as the timber buildings became derelict, its ground level rose and the masonry structures were built around it.

The best understood feature of the Old Town is the Town Hall – the seat of the city council. It occupies the central area of the Market Square, with a north to west shift in relation to the buildings around the square. It is hard to identify with confidence the time or origin and layout of the Town Hall building, but we do know that it was built during the late Middle Ages. Presumably, it was rectangular in plan, with three storeys, and a tower. Written sources from the 16th century refer to spacious vaulted cellars where beer and wine were sold (the beer brewed in today’s Krótka St.). In 1601, during a great fire in the town, the Town Hall burnt down. Most probably, its reconstruction started that same year and the tower was given a cupola with two bays, its gable ends rebuilt in the Mannerist style.

According to descriptions from the early 17th century, the first storey of the Town Hall housed the Councillors Hall, a judiciary chamber and two stores. More than a hundred years later (in 1711), another fire destroyed the building. During this reconstruction of the Town Hall, no work was carried out on the cupola, and the tower was partly dismantled and given a low pavilion roof. At this time on the ground floor, there were vaulted rooms occupied by tradesmen, the court, the customs chamber and bread stalls. There is also mention of a meeting chamber and a smaller chamber (waiting room) on the upper floors, and four attics. Adjacent to the main building were two extensions, one of them a guardhouse. In the late 18th century, the condition of the building was so poor that it threatened to collapse. As a remedy, it was decided to lower the tower by 13 ells (1784). This project, completed in 1789, presumably also took in the main

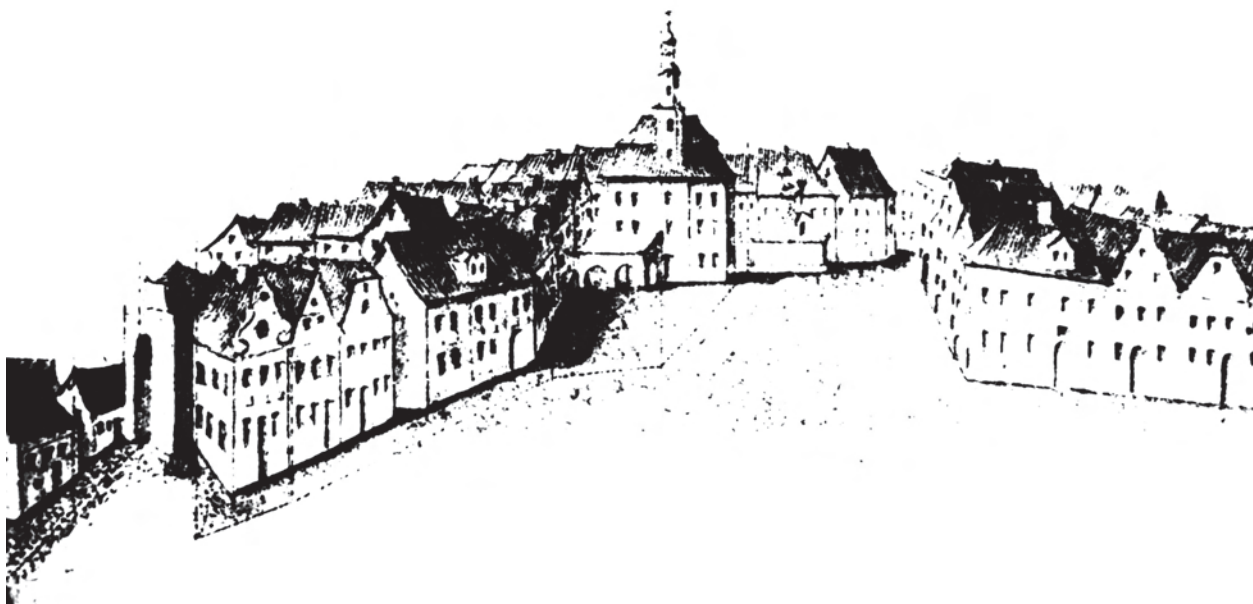


Fig. 11. Gliwice. View of the Market Square and the Town Hall around 1801. State Archive in Gliwice

building of the Town Hall and the mansard roof (Fig. 11). It was supervised by the building inspector Franz Ilgner from Ratibor and a team of master craftsmen: master mason Fritz from Hultschin, master carpenter Heindrich from Ratibor, master tinsmith Schitting from Tarnowitz, blacksmith Ledwoch from Gliwice, coppersmith Schön from Jacobswalde, whitesmith Sladczyk, wheelwright Zembol, ropemaker Schödon and roofer Meridies (Stachurski 1990). In 1826, the roof was improved and, presumably, given the hipped form it has today. On the north-east side, an arcade with four pillars was added. In 1842, repairs on the cupola of the tower started and resulted in its current form. This project was run by the local building councillor Uhling.

During the first half of the 19th century, some of the rooms on the ground floor were leased by the Königlische Stadtgericht and the Königlische Akciseamt (Reclaw, Małusecki, Kulczyk 2010). In the cellar, there was a restaurant. On its south-west side of Town Hall, there were two small extensions, presumably storehouses. According to an agreement made in 1849, all three storeys were handed over to the district court and the building lost its function as the Town Hall. After the building passed to the city board in 1861, repairs and improvements were made to its front, giving it a new architectural form. The author of the design and the building contractor was master mason Lubowski. It was also at this time that all the extensions were pulled down. In 1885, the Council Hall was improved; its height raised up to

a second storey and it was given an eclectic decor. Based on documents from 1887 we can determine the layout and functions of individual rooms of the Town Hall building. On the ground floor was the main guardroom, the savings bank and two police premises. On the first floor – the law office, the Mayor's office, the meeting hall of the Magistrate and the Registry Office. On the second floor was the Council Hall, the registry office of the police and a committee room. The Building Inspectorate (previously, the living quarters of the beadle) was located in the attic. In 1890, new arcades were added to the north-west wall, designed by the city architect Carl Verwiebe. In the 1920s, the Town Hall front was given the Neoclassical appearance it still has today (Fig. 12). In the 1970s, another arcade was added on its north-west side.

The building of the Town Hall came under a number of architectural and archaeological studies (Maurer 1968; Stachurski 1990). In 1967, F. Maurer investigated its walls and identified medieval Gothic brickwork on all the storeys and in some parts of the tower, vestigial remnants of polychrome in some arcades, traces of older window openings of different sizes, and traces of brick arches of unknown origin. The traces of the windows suggest by their arrangement that the Gothic Town Hall had two gable walls.

An archaeological-architectural study was undertaken in the underground area of the Town Hall in 1977 (Wojciechowska 1978), in three trenches:



Fig. 12. Gliwice. The Market Square and the Town Hall, 1930s. The Museum in Gliwice

1 – next to the outer south-west wall, 2 – at right angles to that wall, 3 – in the cellar, next to the wall of the tower. It established that the foundation of the Town Hall building was built of boulders, bonded together with a lime mortar containing stone rubble and sand. The tower was founded on a sturdy continuous footing of granite bonded with a strong lime mortar. The time of construction was dated to the 14th century. There were numerous small finds: fragments of ceramics, glass vessels and stove tiles.

New evidence was secured in the early 1980s. A small masonry structure was uncovered by the north-west wall, laid in courses of stone and brick, differing from the brickwork observed in the walls of the main building of the Town Hall. The foundation of this structure was at a much greater depth namely, 5.55 m below the level of the Market Square compared to the footing of the Town Hall building, which is at 3.86 m below the floor of the ground storey. The small masonry structure was interpreted as a medieval gaol, built after 1476 (Stachurski 1990). A test trench dug during the same investigation in the basement under the tower, in its southern corner, uncovered a section of a medieval cobbled floor (Stachurski 1990).

In 1981 and 1983, a partial excavation of a chamber was conducted. The chamber extended partly beyond the footprint of the superstructure of the Town Hall. It continued into the south-western section of the Town Hall's underground area. In its upper section were vestiges of barrel vaulting, which were at right angles to the barrel vaults in the Town Hall cellar. Its walls were built of stone at the bottom, and mostly of brick on the top, the Gothic brickwork was preserved. This underground chamber had a floor of cobbles and used to be a part of the medieval building of the Town Hall (Stachurski 1990).

The panorama of Gliwice which has emerged from our research is that of a medium-sized town which enjoyed periods of prosperity alternating with times of economic breakdown, many of them the result of political unrest. The expanding material research base, archaeological evidence in particular, has been helpful in answering with more confidence some of the questions related to the different aspects of the functioning of the city, e.g. its inner layout, system of defences, land use of the public open spaces and within the town properties. Nevertheless, some matters remain which may never be clarified. Especially important is the increment of data on the

INTRODUCTION

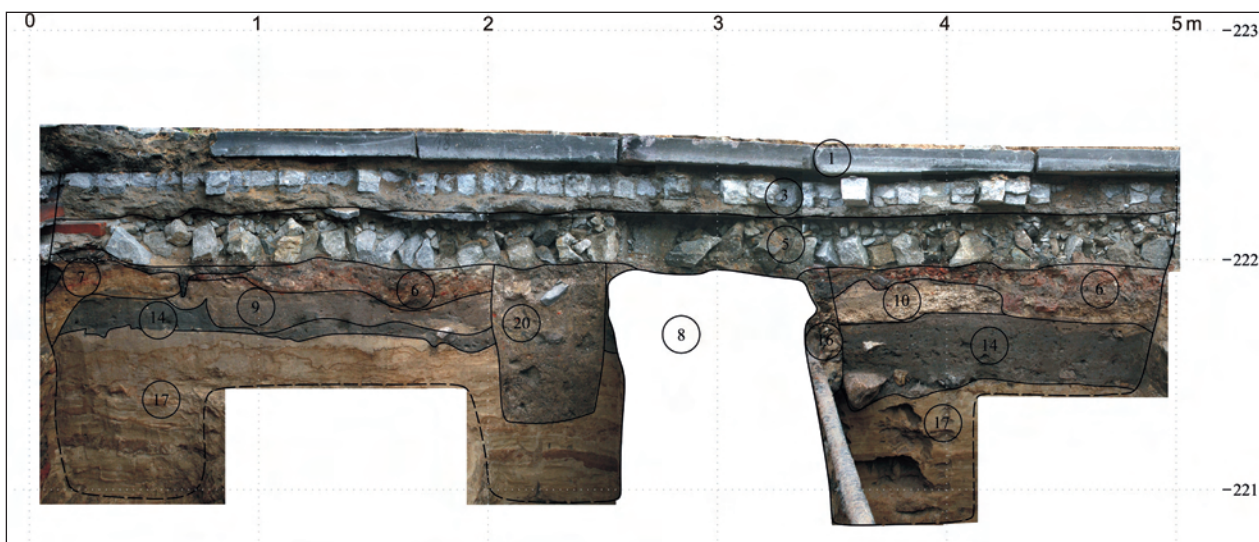


Fig. 13. Gliwice, Market Square. Sondage trench no. 1. Composite photograph of E section: stratigraphic units (s.u.) 1–5 – modern pavement and sub-base (20th century); s.u. 6 – brown soil with fine brick debris (17th–18th century); s.u. 7 – brick debris with yellow-orange sand (modern trench excavated to repair the foundations of the Town Hall); s.u. 8 – extension of the Town Hall (16th century); s.u. 9 – brown humus; s.u. 10 – lime mortar (building layer s.u. 8); s.u. 16 – trench excavated for a service line (s.u. 15); s.u. 20 – modern cut feature; s.u. 14 – grey humus (13th–14th century); s.u. 17 – yellow sand (natural layer).

Critical analysis J. Nastaszyc

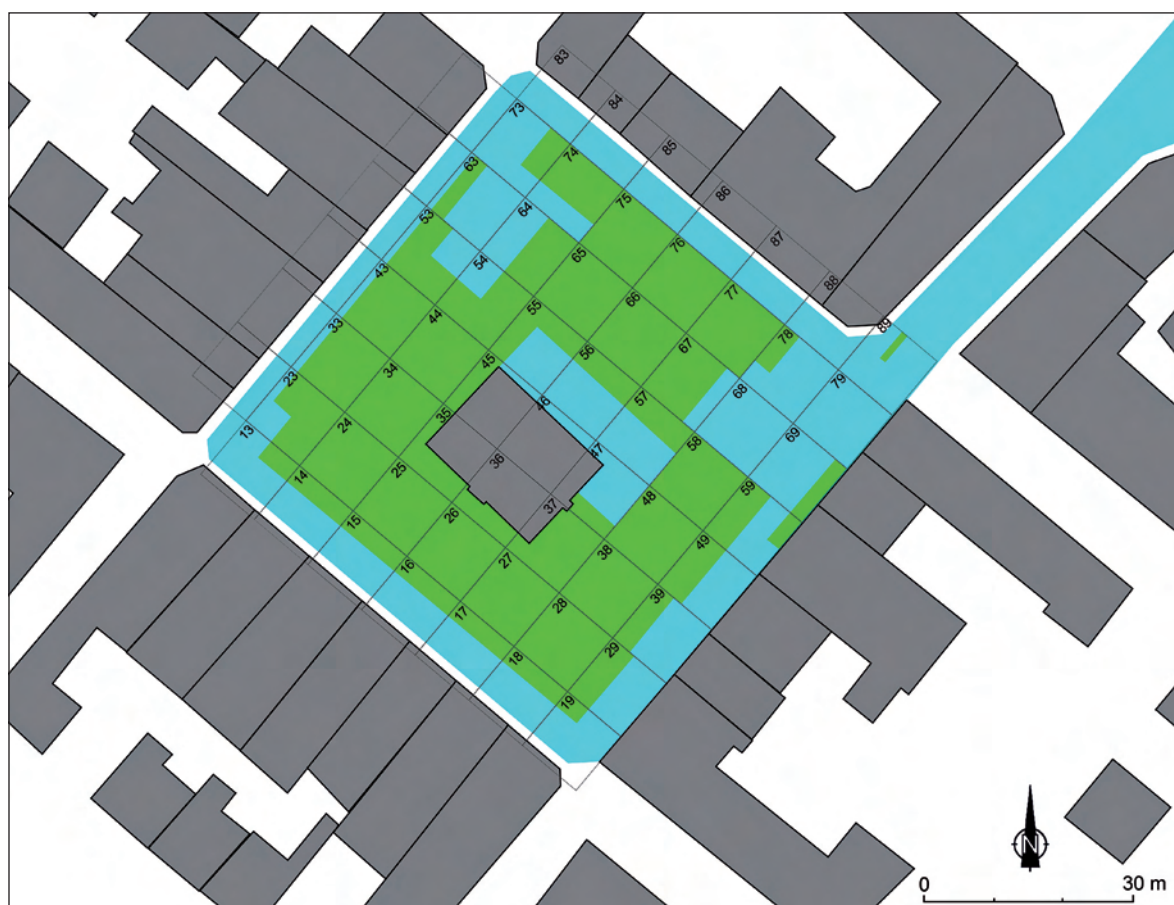


Fig. 14. Gliwice, Market Square. Area investigated archaeologically in 2010. The green colour marks the area of the rescue excavation, the blue colour – the area lost to infrastructural systems, subjected to archaeological supervision.

Critical analysis M. Furmanek

INTRODUCTION

material culture of the medieval and post-medieval period, invaluable for examining the diversity of daily living, and for making a comparison of the living conditions in Gliwice with the situation in other urban centres.

Construction work carried out in 2010, aimed at modernising the surface of the Market and rebuilding its infrastructure, provided an opportunity for investigating the archaeology of this central area of Gliwice. Excavations were carried out in two stages. A large-scale rescue excavation followed upon a sondage excavation undertaken in April/May, which helped to tentatively identify the stratigraphy of the cultural deposits in the Market Square (Fig. 13). This fieldwork was carried out by a team of archaeologists headed by Jerzy Piekalski from the Institute of Archaeology, University of Wrocław and Monika Michnik from the Department of Archaeology of the Museum in Gliwice. Post-graduate and graduate students from the University of Łódź, Jagiellonian University and the University of Wrocław worked under supervisors Monika Michnik, Joanna Nastaszyc and Radosław Zdaniewicz.

In the period from May to July 2010 more than 2800 square metres were investigated, almost the

entire open area of the Market Square, except for a 5 m–6 m wide strip along all its frontages, which has been destroyed by the network of subterranean infrastructure (Fig. 14). Only by the eastern frontage of the Market Square did the fieldwork directly reach the line of the buildings (in this case, their arcades). In addition, an archaeological-architectural study was made of the foundations of the Town Hall building exposed during insulation work carried out on the walls.

We wish to thank all those who were involved in the fieldwork and in the post-excavation analysis: the Management, Ms Elżbieta Tomaszewska and Mr Grzegorz Wiczorek, the staff of the Municipal Roads Board in Gliwice, the contractors of the development work, Ms Barbara Klajmon and Mr Jacek Pierzak from the Silesian Monuments Office in Katowice. We are grateful for the valuable input of Professor Jacek Radziewicz-Winnicki, and we would also like to thank Mirosław Furmanek PhD, the Management of the Museum in Gliwice, and our colleagues, for their kind assistance.

Monika Michnik
The Museum in Gliwice