

Summary

AGATA CHMIELOWSKA/ Northern Italian streets in view of law and space of the 13th-century Bologna

Stability of Northern Italian cities ca. 1200 allowed them to head towards self-development, for instance to undertake long-term actions in the urban space that were designed far and wide. This favourable situation brought fruit of impressive legislative tools, being the statutes produced by the city Commune, which have become basic methodology in studies on mediaeval city planning. The text is based on analyses of these documents as well as some other monuments of mediaeval urban law, the article makes an attempt to outline the legislative base that is translated into a spatial image of urban streets in the cities like Bologna, Lucca, Reggio Emilia or Parma. In the aforementioned centres the state of urban spaces – including streets – was a sort of material equivalent of the city governments' condition and force.

Accentuating in the following text the 13th century as the main period for urban analyses allows us to focus on parallelism of urban-legal processes in several European regions, including the action of city settlements in Lower Silesia since 1211. Despite their exceptional specificity, the Italian statutes are no precedents in urban legislation. Regularity of the space structures in mediaeval location towns (in Lower Silesia among others) indicates similar regulations applied in these centres.