

Summary

AGATA CHMIELOWSKA (Lower Silesian Voivodeship Monuments Conservator's Office in Wrocław) / On political-aesthetic aspects of the space in mediaeval Świdnica. The 14th-century sources and postmodern research approaches

The space of Italian cities in the Middle Ages has been submitted to multidimensional analyses based on grand collections of written records among others. The set of sources concerning these centres is reach enough to learn about their' space and also to come up with various theses referring to their operation system, what enables extending their definitions as well as making them more detailed. A humble resource of data concerning foundation of Lower Silesian towns – e.g. Świdnica – we have at our disposal, is not the limit when we want to make an attempt at carrying out similar analyses. Despite the fact that the preserved written records for Świdnica are smaller in their number and they differ from the Italian resources, they still make up a basis for extending our knowledge on historic city planning, if completed with other groups of sources (including results of archaeological-architectural research, iconographic and cartographic sources). By doing so, the way of operating of mediaeval space of Świdnica, comprehended in a material category as a system of streets and squares, tenements and building plots, should become only one of dimensions of discovering this city. The paper takes up an idea introduced by Jacques Rancière. Following it, the records from Świdnica city books are treated as tools of the authorities interference in the city space, in other words they reveal political actions with an aesthetic overtone. It allows us to pose a question not only about a look of the city space but also about the relations between the city authorities and its space, and between the city authorities and its abstract idea. This approach seems to reach beyond a physical and material dimension of historic city planning. It also allows us to complete the following complex phenomena and ideas: a mediaeval city, a city community and the relations between subjects co-creating this community, it also improves our understanding of a city as a work of art.