

**A guild's trade of a rural town in the review of
contemporary town records
Trading history of Miskolc Guilds (1761–1848)**

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In my PhD thesis I have tried -through less observed town records –to discover such a field of history of Miskolc City’s guilds which did not take place for the time being yet. The fact that current essays about the connection in between cities and guilds are often paying less attention to this topic is the main reason of choosing this subject. In my work by all means I could not really leave out presenting those aspects which are not mentioned in town reports and/or difficult to find any data on. From my perspective it is essential to review the above in connection to have the overview of the relation of the towns and guilds. I also have found it remarkable from the aspect of the town’s most discovered industrial history, that is the reason why- considering the limits of lengths of this thesis - to present the production and also sales. At the same time the richness of the sources gave me the possibility to answer most of Miskolc’s history’s unclear questions, such as the circumstances and date of certain guilds foundations.

Hereby I would like to emphasize the importance of the files referring to the Jewish guilds, because on one hand the pertinent files have been perished and therefore all prospectors can only rely on the work of Mr. János Szendrei. This is the main reason why I released the whole essay in full lengths taking the risk of disproportion of the chapter describing the development of the industry.

During observing the relation of the town and the guilds it was essential to examine the lobby ability of the guilds.

Summarizing the experiences of the survey we can clearly state that recently the above mentioned ability of lobby of the guilds is continuously weakening. The reason of it is partly the fact that craftsmen from the guilds are represented themselves in minority in town’s counsel, not truly reflecting their role in the town’s society. At the same time it is clearly visible from the town reports that craftsmen participating the counsel often represented their own interests rather than the representing the interests of the guilds.

The economic interest of the guilds are often was in opposition to the interests of the town, and so to the interest of the manor. This has resulted in the fact that they could not indeed hope effective support in certain matters, such as assertion against the Bunglers. Nevertheless this was not typical of Miskolc, such as losing the right for jurisdiction. The intentions of central industrial policy, coincidentally to interests of the town referred the jurisdiction to the competence of the rural cores. Establishing the title of the Guild Commissioner the guilds’ life has come under the town’s strict control and supervision – this

applied as well to the case when the Counsel has taken into account the requests of the guilds when holding the position.

Mostly guilds could count on the town's support in contests with other town's guilds. On this field was their capability of lobby the strongest, which is not surprising - because in these fields were the guilds, the town's and the manor's interests similar. From the manor's point of view it was essential to maintain the citizen's tax solvency.

In my essay I behoved a couple chapters to two special fields which have no strong connection to the main topic. In my opinion however in discovering the relation of the town and guilds it is essential to examine the craftsmen administration and the guilds fire service. I considered the significance of the ulterior to be important, because the fire meant to be the biggest danger to towns other then Miskolc, and also taking part in town's fire service brought special position to the guilds in administration, and security of the town. Above all these the reason of higher importance is that apart from the army - guilds were the only organised societies being able to play effective role in the frequent combustions.

Until present - in the past decades many fields of guild's and town's life were discovered, such as agriculture and sales, also the role of the guilds in the economy of the region, and as I referred to it earlier, there are several researches concerning the history of many local guild. I hope that my work offered a closer view of the relation in between the guilds and town, and at the same time highlighted the fact that many fields would require further researches, among which I found 3 specially important. These are the followings. Relation of the county and the guilds, the manor and the guilds. Finally analysing the contemporary notes on towns, to have overview on craftsmen' financial, religious and ethnical distribution. From my perspective these aspects can stand as individual topics of other PhD essays.

Publications:

Works on guild history:

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- 2005 Wheeler price list of 1770 of Borsod shire – In: A Herman Ottó Múzeum Évkönyve XLV. 241-249.
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