

Session Proposal

European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) 12th Annual Meeting

Krakow, Poland

19th to 24th September 2006

Organizer: Prof. Andrzej Buko, Maciej Trzeciński, Aleksandra Rzeszotarska - Nowakiewicz

Theme:

Archaeology and Material Culture: Interpreting the Archaeological Record

Session Title:

**Making a medieval town – continuity or new quality.
Different patterns of early medieval European urbanization.**

Abstract:

As Kraków was one of the most important early Medieval political and cultural centers it seems to be the best place to discuss the beginnings of the European towns.

There are various historical and socio-cultural conditions underlying the origins of modern European towns: the legacy of the Greco-Roman urban civilization, urbanization processes of Merovingian and Carolingian age, the growth of the big European trade especially in the Baltic Sea zone as well as the urbanization considered as an inseparable part of the state-building process in central, eastern and northern Europe of the 10th century.

The leading topic of our session is the reflection on different ways of urbanization. We will try to compare various patterns of “becoming a Medieval town” – both in the case of early medieval centers of trade and political power and of former Roman towns. We are waiting for papers comparing differences in the urbanization processes as well as ones concerning selected aspects of the phenomenon of the early Medieval town. We assume that the analyses presented in the papers will be based on the results of archaeological excavations.

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