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LATE MEDIEVAL SKELETAL REMAINS FROM THE TOWNHALL OF TRNAVA (WEST SLOVAKIA): ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE AND ANTHROPOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

ABSTRACT: The Museum of Western Slovakia completed archaeological research in the present area of Trnava townhall. The chapel, situated in the west wing, was the topic of research. Excavations revealed a shaft in the middle of the chapel, divided by a crossbeam in the shape of the letter "T" at a depth of 116 cm. The outside diameters of the shaft measured 171×181 cm, the inside diameters were 125×115 cm and the depth was 470 cm. The backfill consisted of brick fragments, ceramic vessels, 30 pieces of silver and copper coins, Gothic beaker fragments, a seal stamp and animal skeletal remains, which were dated to the 15th century. A complete human skeleton of a male individual who died in the age of 20-29 years was excavated at a depth of 280-300 cm. Analysis of the skeletal remains did not confirm violent death of the individual.

KEY WORDS: Trnava (Slovakia) - Townhall - Skeletal remains - Middle Ages

INTRODUCTION

Archaeological evidence

In April and May 2001, the Museum of Western Slovakia in Trnava conducted archaeological research in the townhall area on Hlavná Street in Trnava. The object of the research was a chapel, located in the west wing of the townhall in the present-day building of Trnava's municipal offices (*Figure 1*). The townhall has been in renovation, and hence the chapel floor was disassembled, thereby giving an opportunity to explore its underground area.

The first probe was conducted in the northwestern corner of the chapel and its function was to determine the stratigraphy of the terrain as well as any signs of earliest human settlement (*Figure 2*). A paving found at a depth of 82 cm below the present terrain, which yielded shards dated to the 14th and 15th centuries, was marked as the borderlayer between the older and newer occupations. The bottom of the exploratory dig (at a depth of 180 cm) uncovered, during cleaning work, a concave arch of a cavity, which reached below the crevice of the footing of the chapel northern wall. A second exploratory dig was undertaken to determine how this cavity was created. During this probe, an original eastern closing of a medieval structure was found at approximately the centre of the chapel, adjacent to which a shaft was later dug and bricked. The shaft was divided by a crossbeam in the shape of the letter "T" from the surface to a depth of 116 cm. On the surface, remains of two squares and one rectangle-like chimney (Figure 3) were identified. The shaft's outer perimeter measured 171×181 cm, while inner dimensions of the undivided shaft were 125×115 cm. The shaft was 470 cm deep; its lower section was interconnected with the cavity discovered during the first excavation.



FIGURE 1. Axonometry of the town hall of Trnava (drawing by D. Urminská).



FIGURE 2. Three probes dug in the chapel (drawing by D. Urminská).

The shaft was built from bricks fired during the medieval period, reaching the depth of 280 cm; it then continued as a free-formed pit into the sandy base. Up to the depth of 120 cm, the shaft was filled with ceramic shards and broken tile, which were conclusively dated to the 18th century. This layer had the characteristics of one-off backfill, whose origin may be dated to the years 1791–1796, when Trnava townhall had been refurbished. Beneath, at a depth of 150 cm, we discovered clusters of iron and lead balls from medieval weapons, totalling 340 pieces, and some projectile tips. The filling further contained debris, shards of bricks and roof covering, as well as ceramics from the 15th century. At a depth of 190 cm, the shaft was obstructed by a thick lead sheet, which was half-worked raw material used in the manufacture of ammunition. Throughout the



FIGURE 3. Axonometry of the shaft (drawing by D. Urminská).

remainder of the shaft, approximately 80 ceramic vessels, both entire and in shards, were found randomly dispersed. Some of the uncovered vessels contained archaeobotanical remains. Furthermore, the filling layers contained 30 pieces of silver and copper coins: kvartings of Sigismund of Luxembourg, denars of Louis I Yagellow and, in largest quantity, Austrian pfennigs from the period 1440–1460. Another interesting find is a seal dating from the second half of the 15th century (*Figure 4*). The filling layer also yielded a metal shovel, shards of Gothic glass goblets, and bones from domestic animals.

Apparently the most surprising find is a complete human skeleton situated at a depth of 280–300 cm. The individual was lying prone with slightly spread legs, and the facial part of his skull was wedged in a broken pot. In the vicinity of the skeleton, a bronze button, bronze ligature, four coins, two tabs made of bronze and a ring were found. These objects may be interpreted as personal possessions of the deceased, as other layers did not include items of clothing. The body had been inserted into the shaft filled with debris, probably through the shaft's opening (dimensions 125×50 cm).

At a depth of 320 cm we further found an occipital bone fragment, and a left humerus, discovered at the depth of 450 cm, constituted the last find of human remains.

Anthropological analysis

All human remains were subjected to anthropological analysis. On the basis of their location, we assume that they are not related to each other, and therefore belong to three separate individuals.



FIGURE 4. Ceramic vessels and seal stamp found in the shaft.

METHODS

The skeletal remains were processed using standard morphometric and morphological methods, largely following those of Martin and Saller (1957) and Knussman (1988). Gender was determined on the basis of morphological traits, calculated using the Degree of Sexualization (DS) according to Acsádi and Nemeskéri (1970) and on the basis of morphological and metric measurements of the pelvis (Brůžek 2002, Novotný 1986). The age of the individual at death was determined by morphological dental attrition (Lovejoy 1985), obliteration of ectocranial suture closure (Meindl, Lovejoy 1985), the morphology of facies symphisyalis ossis pubis (McKern, Stewart 1957), and sternal end of the clavicle (Szilvássy 1980). We used several methods for stature estimating (Pearson, Lee 1899, Telkkä 1950, Breitinger 1937, Rother 1978, Trotter 1970) and calculated the average value.

As part of our analysis, we also made two plastic facial reconstructions of likeness based on the skull, using the methodologies of Krogman and İşcan (1986) and George (1993).



FIGURE 5. The male skeleton from Trnava townhall.



FIGURE 6. The male skull from Trnava townhall, frontal view.

RESULTS

Find of the complete human skeleton

Preservation: Skeletal remains of the individual were very well preserved (*Figure 5*), the surface of the bones was light in colour. However, the skeleton of the individual is not complete, due to difficult working conditions in the narrow shaft, which did not permit overall unearthing of the whole skeleton and resulted in the loss of some small bones. Missing skeletal remains include: the first neck and last lumbar vertebrae, coccyx, all carpals except for left side *os hamatum*, some metacarpals (dx: I, sin: I, II, V) and sections of phalanges, both patellae and all bones of the feet.

Morphological description: Medium robust skull with marked muscle relief (*Figures 6* and 7), prominent glabella (type IV, Broca 1875), medium to protruding superciliary



FIGURE 7. The male skull from Trnava townhall, lateral view.



FIGURE 8. Fenestratio sterni in the lower third of sternum.

arches, slightly rounded supraorbital margins, slightly marked frontal eminences, missing parietal eminences, little external occipital protuberance, medium mastoid processes, thick zygomatic arches. Medium robust to robust postcranial skeleton with marked muscle relief; *fenestratio sternalis* in the lower third of sternum (*Figure 8*).



FIGURE 9. Bone prominence in the right cheekbone.



FIGURE 10. Cleft of the sacral bone.

Dental state: The individual had 27 preserved permanent teeth. The first lower left molar was lost ante-mortem; the first upper right incisor and canine were lost post-mortem. Apparently due to dental caries, the first upper left molar and first lower right molar were signified only as root torsos. On the preserved teeth, we found 4 occlusal and 5 proximal caries. The second lower right premolar contained an open pulp cavity, which was probably the result of the tooth fracture during the individual's lifetime. Under the root torso bottom right, there was a periapical granuloma or cyst. Since the skeletal remains were evaluated only visually,

TABLE 1. Craniometric characteristics of the individual from the shaft in Trnava townhall (diameters in mm, volumes in ccm).

Mea	sure (Knussmann 1988)		Inde	x (Knussmann 1988)	
1.	g-op	184	I1	M8/M1	79.3
1c.	m-op	186	I2	M17/M1	75,0
1d.	n-op	178	I3	M17/M8	94.5
3.	g-l	174	I4	M20/M1	63.0
3a.	n-l	171	I5	M20/M8	79.5
5.	n-ba	109	I6	M17/M23	26.0
7.	ba-o	38	I12	M9/M10	84.4
8.	eu-eu	146	I13	M9/M8	74.0
9.	ft-ft	108	I14	M12/M8	76.7
10.	со-со	128	I16	M27/M26	85.2
11.	au-au	132	I17	M28/M26	81.5
12	ast-ast	112	118	M28/M27	95.7
13.	ms-ms	108	I22	M29/M26	84.4
16	fol-fol	31	I24	M30/M27	90.4
17.	ba-b	138	125	M31/M28	83.6
17a	ha-v	136	133	M16/M7	81.6
20.	b-po	116	137	(M1+M8+M17)/3	156.0
23	g^{\wedge} on $^{\wedge}g$	530	138	M47/M45	91.1
24	$p_0 \wedge p \wedge p_0$	330	139	M48/M45	54.1
25	n^o	360	140	M66/M45	75.6
$\frac{20.}{26}$	n ^ b	135	141	M46/M45	65.9
20.	h ^ l	115	142	M52/M51	78.0
$\frac{27}{28}$	1^0	110	146a	M50/M44	23.0
20.	n-h	114	148	M54/M55	48.0
$\frac{29}{30}$	h-l	104	154	M61/M60	114.3
31	l-0	92	160	M40/M5	94.5
280	Wolokor I	1550	161	(M40+M45+M47)/2	120.2
$\frac{38a}{38a}$	Manouvrier	1626	163	(10140+10145+10147)/5 M71/M70	120.5
384	Lee & Dearson (Bayern)	1450	164	M66/M65	70.7
38d	Lee & Pearson (mean)	1456	169	M40/M1	56.0
38d	Lee	1474	107	M45/M8	92.5
284	Boarson	1407	1/1	1145/1110	12.5
<u>38</u> u.	Olivier	1545			
	Maan	1514			
	Standard deviation	50			
40		102			
$\frac{40}{42}$	ba-pi	105			
$\frac{43.}{44}$	Imt-Imt	109			
44.	ек-ек	125			
45.	zy-zy	135			
40.	Zm-Zm	102			
$\frac{4/.}{40}$	n-gn	123			
48.	n-pr	/3			
<u>49a.</u>	a-a	27			
<u>50.</u>	mt-mt	23			
51.	mī-ek	41			
52.	Orbit height	32			
54.	apt-apt	24			
<u> 35.</u>	n-ns	50			
<u>56.</u>	n-rhi	23			
<u>60.</u>	pr-alv	56			
<u>61.</u>	ekm-ekm	64			
62.	ai-sta	51			
<u>63.</u>	enm-enm	37			
<u>65.</u>	kdl-kdl	128			
<u>66.</u>	go-go	102			
<u>67.</u>	ml-ml	49			
<u>69.</u>	ıd-gn	37			
70.	go-kdm	74			
71.	Minimum ramus breadth	36			

the suspicion of the possible presence of periapical cavity needs to be confirmed by x-ray. A strong layer of calculus covers almost all of the teeth on the right side of the dental arch.

Metric characteristics: Craniometric characteristics and indices are given in *Table 1*. On the basis of absolute measures, the skull is medium long, narrow and medium tall; the face is medium wide and medium tall; the orbits are medium wide and low; the nose is low and medium wide. According to the indices, the skull is mesocrane, hypsicrane, metriocrane, tapeiocrane; the face is leptoprosope and the upper face is mesone; the orbits are mesoconch, and the nose is mesorrhine. The dimensions and indices of postcranial skeleton are given in *Table 2*.

Stature estimate: Body height of the individual was calculated as average, quantified by several methods. Stature of the individual was calculated separately for the right and left sides. According to the right side of the skeleton, body height of the individual was of 165.7 ± 4.9 cm, while the left side measured 165.4 ± 4.8 cm; according to the classification of Martin and Saller (1957) these measurements place him in the medium height category (*Table 2*).

Gender determination: Thanks to the well-preserved skeletal remains of the individual, it was possible to determine gender by use of morphological and morphometric signs in the pelvis and skull. On the basis of metric and morphological signs on the pelvis, and also according to the value DS (+ 0.87), gender of the individual was determined as male.

Age determination: Age of the individual at the time of death was, similarly to gender, also determined by several methods. Having evaluated all the signs determining length of life of the individual, we can state that the skeletal remains belonged to a male who died at 20–29 years of age.

Pathological finds: On the skeleton we noted bilateral occurrence of cribra orbitalia. Another finding is a bone prominence on the left cheekbone, in the vicinity of sutura zygomaticomaxillaris (Figure 9). According to the analysis made by a traumatologist, this probably indicates exostosis. Alternatively, it could also indicate myositis ossificans traumatica. The prominence would certainly have been palpable through facial tissue, but the face itself would not necessarily have been deformed.

Another skeletal prominence is located on the back side of the left femur under *crista intertrochanterica*. In this case it might also have been exostosis, ossified tendriled muscle, respectively a self-repairing process in the location of snagged muscle.

On the sacrum, there is a *canalis sacralis apertus*; arches of all sacral vertebrae are open, indicating a junction in the area of the third vertebra (*Figure 10*).

Reconstruction of the likeness: As part of our anthropological analysis, we attempted at a plastic facial reconstruction of the given individual based on his skull (*Figures 11* and *12*).

TABLE 2. Postcranial osteometry	y of the individual from the shaft in Trnava townhall ((diameters according to Knussmann 1988, in mm)
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Os sac	rum		
S1	Mid-ventral curved length	130	
S2	Anterior length	113	
S4	Superior curved breadth	100	
S5	Maximum anterior breadth	97	
S14	Length of auricular surface	dx	sin
		62	61
S15	Breadth of auricular surface	dx	sin
		37.5	39.5
S18	Base sagittal diameter	13	
S19	Base transverse diameter	28	
Indices	8		
Sacral	index S5/S2	85.8	
Sacral	index S5/S1	74.6	
Sacral	index S4/S1	76.9	
Curvat	ure index S2/S1	86.9	
Index of	of auricular surface S15/S14	dx	sin
		60.5	64.8
Index of	of auricular surface S14/S1	dx	sin
		47.7	46.9
Index of	of base S18/S19	46.4	
Index of	orpobasalis S19/S5	28.9	
Sternu	m		
St2	Length of manubrium	48	
St3	Length of mesosternum	109.5	
St4	Maximum breadth of manubrium	78	
St5	Maximum breadth of mesosternum	52	
St6	Minimum breadth of manubrium	28	
Indice	3		
Index s	ternalis St2/St3	43.8	
Index of	of mesosternum St5/St3	47.5	
Clavic	le	dx	sin
Cl1	Maximum length	150	150
Cl2a	Length of clavicular curvature	160	160
Cl4	Vertical diameter at mid-shaft	9.5	9.5
Cl5	Sagittal diameter at mid-shaft	15	16
Cl6	Circumference at mid-shaft	40	43
Indices	8	dx	sin
Cl6/Cl	1	26.7	28.7
Curvat	ure index Cl2a/Cl1	106.7	106.7
Index of	of mid-shaft cross-section Cl4/Cl5	63.3	59.4
Scapul	a	dx	sin
Sc1	Height	171	176
Sc2	Breadth	107	
Sc3	Length of axillary border	132	131
Sc4	Length of cranial border	81	86
Sc7	Projective length of spine	151	
Sc12	Height of glenoid fossa	41	40
Sc13	Breadth of glenoid fossa	28	28.5
Indice	S	dx	sin
Index s	capularis Sc2/Sc1	62.6	
Border	index Sc3/Sc1	77.2	74.4
Index of	of glenoid fossa Sc13/Sc12	68.3	71.3

Humeru	IS	dx	sin
H1	Maximum length	335	334
H3	Breadth of the proximal epiphysis	52	52
H4	Epicondylar breadth	63	64
H5	Maximum diameter at mid-shaft	25.5	25
H6	Minimum diameter at mid-shaft	19	19
H7	Minimum circumference at mid-shaft	73	70
H7a	Mid-shaft circumference	73	73
H8	Head circumference	145	145
H9	Transverse head diameter	45	
H10	Vertical head diameter	48.5	48
Indices		dx	sin
Robustic	ity index H7/H1	21.8	21.0
Index of	mid-shaft cross-section H6/H5	74.5	76.0
Index of	head cross-section H9/H10	92.8	
Radius		dx	sin
R1	Maximum length	236	234
R2	Physiological length	221	219
R3	Minimum circumference	46	44
R4	Minimum transverse shaft diameter	16	17
R5	Minimum sagittal shaft diameter	12.5	12.5
R5(5)	Mid-shaft circumference	47	45
R5(6)	Distal maximum breadth	32	33
Indexes		dx	sin
Robustic	ity index R3/R2	20.8	20.1
Index of	mid-shaft cross-section R5/R4	78.1	73.5
Ulna		dx	sin
U1	Maximum length	260	258
U2	Physiological length	227	226
U3	Minimum circumference	44	45
U6	Olecranon breadth	28.5	27.5
U11	Anterior-posterior shaft diameter	14	13.5
U12	Medial-lateral shaft diameter	16.5	17
Indices		dx	sin
Robustic	ity index U3/U2	19.4	19.9
Index of	lengths U1/U2	114.5	114.2
Index of	olecranon breadth U6/U2	12.6	12.2
Index of	transverse cross-section U11/U12	84.8	79.4
Os coxa	e	dx	sin
P1	Coxal height	228	230
P4	Maximum Breadth	163	164
P9	Iliac height	142	146
P12	Iliac breadth	161	162
P15	Ischium length	84	83
P15(1)	Heigth of great schiatic notch	39	42
P17	Pubis length	91	89
P18	Heigth of symphyseal face	43	43.5
P20	Length of the obturator foramen	47	46
P21	Breadth of the obturator foramen	33	33.5
P22	Maximum breadth of acetabulum	56	58
P31	Breadth of great schiatic notch	49	47
P32	Depth of great schiatic notch	32	34

TABLE 2 (continued). Postcranial osteometry of the individual from the shaft in Trnava townhall (diameters according to Knussmann 1988, in mm).

Os coxa	ne	dx	sin
P1	Coxal height	228	230
P4	Maximum breadth	163	164
P9	Iliac height	142	146
P12	Iliac breadth	161	162
P15	Ischium length	84	83
P15(1)	Heigth of great schiatic notch	39	42
P17	Pubis length	91	89
P18	Heigth of symphyseal face	43	43.5
P20	Length of the obturator foramen	47	46
P21	Breadth of the obturator foramen	33	33.5
P22	Maximum breadth of acetabulum	56	58
P31	Breadth of great schiatic notch	49	47
P32	Depth of great schiatic notch	32	34
Indices		dx	sin
Index o	f the obturator foramen P21/P20	70.2	72.8
Pubis-p	elvic index P17/P4	55.8	54.3
Index o	f os coxae P4/P1	71.5	71.3
Ischium	-pelvic index P15/P1	36.8	36.1
Index o	f greater schiatic notch P32/P31	65.3	72.3
Femur		dx	sin
F1	Maximum length	434	434
F2	Bicondylar length	431	433
F5	Mid-shaft length	330	330
F6	Anterior-posterior mid-shaft diameter	31	30.5
F7	Medial-lateral mid-shaft diameter	29	29
F8	Mid-shaft circumference	94	90
F9	Subtrochanteric transverse diameter	34	33
F10	Subtrochanteric antero-posterior diameter	28	29
F13	Proximal epiphyseal length	104	101.5
F18	Vertical head diameter	48	48.5
F19	Transverse head diameter	48	48
F20	Head circumference	150	150
F21	Epicondylar breadth	83.5	83.5
Indices		dx	sin
Robusti	city index (F6+F7)/F2	13.9	13.7
Index o	f mid-shaft cross-section F6/F7	107	105.2
Index o	f proximal mid-shaft cross-section F10/F9	82.4	87.9
Index o	f head cross-section F19/F18	100	99.0
Index o	f head robusticity F19+F18/F2	22.3	22.3
Tibia		dx	sin
T1	Length	350	347
T1a	Maximum length	357	353
T1b	Medial length	346	345
Т3	Proximal epiphyseal breadth	81	79
T6	Distal epiphyseal breadth	55	57
T8	Maximum diameter at mid-shaft	32	31
T8a	Sagittal diameter at the nutrient foramen	33	36
T9	Transverse diameter at mid-shaft	25	25
T9a	Transverse diameter at the nutrient foramen	28	28
T10	Circumference at mid-shaft	90	88
T10b	Minimum diaphyseal circumference	86	84
Indices			sin
Index o	f mid-shaft cross-section T9/T8	78.1	80.6
Cnemic	index T9a/T8a	84.8	77.8

TABLE 2 (continued). Postcranial osteometry of the individual from the shaft in Trnava townhall (diameters according to Knussmann 1988, in mm).

TABLE 2 (continued). Postcranial osteometry of the individual from the shaft in Trnava townhall (diameters according to Knussmann 1988, in mm).

Fibula		dx	sin
Fi1	Maximum length	348	349
Fi2	Maximum diameter at mid-shaft	15	15
Fi3	Minimum diameter at mid-shaft	12.5	13
Fi4	Circumference at mid-shaft	46	43
Fi4a	Minimum diaphyseal circumference	40	40
Indices	S	dx	sin
Robust	ticity index Fi4a/Fi1	11.5	11.46
Index of	of mid-shaft cross-section Fi3/Fi2	83.3	86.7
Statur	e	dx	sin
Pearson	n (1899)	164.0	163.8
Telkkä	i (1950)	167	167.2
Breitin	ger (1937)	172.0	171.7
Rother	(1978)	157	157.2
Trotter	(1970)	168	167.3
Mean		166	165.4
Standa	rd deviation	4.88	4.84



FIGURE 11. Plastic facial reconstruction (drawing by M. Krupanová).



FIGURE 12. Plastic facial reconstruction (drawing by P. Kolesík).

Anthropological and paleopathological analyses of skeletal remains did not confirm, but neither did exclude violent death of the individual. The man could have been thrown into the shaft already dead, but also while still alive. Not probable, but also not excludable, is the possibility of an accidental fall which resulted in his death. The most probable cause of death seems to be some version of a violent assault, followed by the disposal of the body into the shaft.

Find of occipital bone fragment

Another find is that of a fragment from the back of the skull, with preserved internal occipital protuberance (*Figure 13*). On the basis of this fragment alone, it was impossible to determine gender and age of the individual.

Find of left humerus

Our last find is a bone from a left arm. Metric characteristics of the bone are given in *Table 3*. On the index of robustness



FIGURE 13. Fragment of the occipital squama.



FIGURE 14. Left humerus with a cavity on the back of its head, in the area of anatomical neck.

value, the bone falls into the category of gracile bones, and on the basis of value of the index of mid-shaft cross-section, the bone belongs to eurybrachic. However, the metric signs of the bone indicate that it could have belonged to a male. An interesting finding on this bone is a cavity on the back of its head, above *tuberculum majus*, in the area of anatomical neck (*Figure 14*). The opening of the cavity measures 1.3×1.1 cm, with a depth of about 4.5 cm; its edges are sharp. Due to the absence of signs of healing it is probable that the opening in the bone occurred postmortem. The colouring of the opening edge and of the cavity upper part indicates that the cavity was created long ago.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of current knowledge, it is possible to interpret our findings in the chapel of Trnava townhall as follows:

The original medieval townhall was, according to current archaeological and historic research, located in the yard of two medieval land plots on Hlavná Street in Trnava. Its construction is indirectly attested to by two mentions in the accounting ledger of the city, on the basis of which it is possible to assume that the building of the townhall took

TABLE 3. Osteometry	of the left hur	merus from 1	the shaft in	n Trnava
townhall (diameters acc	ording to Knus	smann 1988,	in mm).	

Humerus				
H1	Maximum length	351		
H3	Breadth of the proximal epiphysis	51		
H4	Epicondylar breadth	69		
H5	Maximum diameter at mid-shaft	25		
H6	Minimum diameter at mid-shaft	20		
H7	Minimum circumference at mid-shaft	66		
H7a	Mid-shaft circumference	75		
H8	Head circumference	145		
H9	Transverse head diameter	46		
H10	Vertical head diameter	47		
Indices				
Robust	icity index H7/H1	18.8		
Index o	Index of mid-shaft cross-section H6/H5 80.0			
Index o	Index of head cross-section H9/H1097.9			

place in 1411–1413. Originally, it was a one-storey structure concurrent with the basement, and it took the shape of the letter "L", with the shorter length joining a more sumptuous townhall of rectangular shape, and seemingly fulfilled the function of an outbuilding. In the years 1791–1796, significant rebuilding was undertaken, after which the structure became a chapel.

This recently discovered and excavated shaft from the 15th century bears witness to the fact that the hall's surroundings included a kitchen and an armoury. The shaft was most likely built as a toilet for an adjoining building, while also collecting rainwater from the hall roof. During the 15th century, water continuously eroded the bottom of the shaft, in time causing the outer wall of the hall, as well as the shaft, to weaken. At the same time, the flow of water created a hollow space in the shape of an elliptical shaft, which reached below the wall of the future chapel. Probably because of damage to the structural integrity of the building, the cavity began to be filled up at the turn of the 15th and 16th centuries. The filling materials included ceramic refuse, bones, and objects of daily use. It is hard to say whether the shaft concurrently fulfilled the original function of toilet.

As to the find of the complete skeleton, although we did not succeed in finding the causes of the individual's death, we assume that he died from violent attack. This could have occurred during an argument, for instance during nationalistic conflicts between Germans and Slovaks at the Trnava magistrate, which were accompanied by bloodshed, and had to be dealt with in 1486 by king Matthias Corvinus. Of course, it is also possible to find other explanations.

The importance of this find in the chapel of Trnava townhall is not currently comparable with any other archaeological findings in Trnava from the 15th century. At present, this site allows a relatively exact analysis in connection with historic events and in this way allows for a better understanding of the developments of Trnava in the Middle Ages.

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