

MARRIAGE AND SOCIETY – THE CITY OF BUDA AT THE TURN OF EIGHTEENTH-NINETEENTH CENTURY

A three-year data set was investigated by the author: the marriage entries of 1793 to 1795 in the seven parishes of the Hungarian capital, Buda. The aim of the survey was the analysis of the demographic and social characteristic of the local society through the marriage. The demographic characteristics of the Buda marriages match with the general pattern of other contemporary large urban communities of Hungary but the analysis by social groups and by city districts show definitive differences. The main dividing lines are between certain social groups: cottagers/labourers, local and foreign born artisans/intellectuals. Because of the relatively sharp social segregation of certain social layers by districts the marriage pattern of the different parishes also show variations. The nobles and intellectuals concentrating into the Burg-district (vár), the newcomers artisans-merchants residing in the Lower Watertown (Alsó-Víziváros) or the cottagers and vinelabourers of the suburbs (Újlak, Országút, Krisztinaváros) have different age at marriage, seasonality and remarriage patterns. The connubial and the geographic mobility of the mentioned social groups are also different. Because of its special social structure (first of all the wine growing and administrative center functions characterizing the settlement) the Buda marriage patterns are not every respect similar also to its neighbouring industrial-commercial twin city, Pest.

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