

ARCHAEOBOTANICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EARLY MODERN VAULT INFILL FROM VLADISLAV HALL, OLD ROYAL PALACE, PRAGUE CASTLE, CZECH REPUBLIC

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Pražský hrad (Prague castle) was one of the most important medieval and early modern royal courts in Europe. Within it, Vladislavský sál (Vladislav Hall) was the main ceremonial space used at the end of the Gothic period and beginning of the Renaissance. In 2008, restoration of the hall floor was carried out in connection with archaeological research focused on detailed understanding of material, sociological and environmental knowledge of the historical building. The most valuable results are connected with the vault infill, which was subjected to archaeobotanical analyses. A combination of dry sieving and flotation methods have been used and allowed to specify the different amounts and quality of the archaeobotanical assemblages. Based on the macroremains and xylotomy (wood) analysis of the waste-vault infill from the Early Modern period floor in Vladislavský sál, the character of the Prague Castle environmental and the dietary traditions from the 16th to the early 20th century are reconstructed. The waste-vault infill is unique material consisting of specially selected components of dry waste, targeted to isolation function. Beside the many unique artefacts such as the wooden spoon, the playing cards, knives, alchemists' weights, handwriting and so on, the main archaeobotanical collection of the basic elements of waste materials such as hay, fuel charcoal and constructional wood were analysed. The assemblage of useful plants consisted of many common and valued taxa such as *Amygdalus communis*, *Juglans regia*, *Persica vulgaris* and others. Very important is *Arachis hypogaea* (peanut) identification, probably the first find in the Post-Medieval period in central Europe.

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