

## INTRODUCTION

“There is no doubt today that the best results are obtained by inter-disciplinary research, that is, the research undertaken jointly by historians, urban planners and archaeologists using and comparing all basic source types, in other words, written information, archaeological reports, iconographical sources and preserved monuments” (Sowina 2004: 15, vide Follprecht in this volume).

In this booklet we publish more articles that have arisen as a result of just such cooperation. The methodology from the borderland of Science, Technology and Humanities; of Natural and Social Sciences, i.e., materials engineering, geology, geochemistry, geophysics, mining, metallurgy, foundry, plastic working, ceramics and archaeology, architecture and art history, paleobiology and microbiology, or anthropology will allow to combine the effects of specialized investigations. The Historical Layers Research Centre at AGH, the Stanisław Staszic University of Science and Technology in Krakow under the leadership of Prof. dr. hab. engineer Józef Szczepan Suchy, established in 2012, aims to take advantage of the experience and scientific achievements, university facilities and research equipment, designed for

research, conservation and protection of archaeological heritage from cultural, environmental, mining and industrial sectors. Archaeological context and dating of artefacts deposited in the substrate, besides archaeological investigation of stone, ceramic, glass and metal artefacts and biological debris, is also used to reconstruct changes in the contamination of areas related to the exploration and processing of raw materials, craft activities, trade and settlement. We are convinced of a great responsibility of researchers to share their experience and knowledge, the absolutely necessary attributes, without which the records of “life and death” of cities and their inhabitants cannot be accurately and fully read, which is particularly important in the context of depletion of natural resources and environmental changes. We do invite the reader to look for their own research topics hidden in both material and non-material layers of the issues discussed here.

On behalf of the Organizers,  
the Coordinator  
of the Scientific Forum “Historical Layers”  
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