

## Abstract

This thesis aims for the comparison of historical, economic and cultural factors that are related to the establishment of the tetrarchy in the year 285 AD. Circumstances influencing the constitution of the tetrarchy are defined, together with the purpose of *sedes imperii*, which were simultaneously settlement cities for individual emperors, major economic centres of the province and also the centres of traffic.

The main part of the thesis includes the analysis of the economic background near each individual *sedes imperii*. In the text their general characterization as well as the individual surviving settlements, such as *villae rusticae* and *vici* are analysed together with their economic and social significance. Their effects on the development of the city and extensive economic prosperity in a broad region are researched.

Last but not least, the thesis focuses on the typology of the tetrarchial emperors' self-representation in individual settlement cities. In view of the fact that the emperors' residences were, in some aspects, similar to agricultural complexes, the author is considering the possibility that some emperor buildings, for example private emperor mausoleums, were inspired by local phenomena.

In the final part of the thesis there is a schema of the transformations of *sedes imperii* in the time of Constantine's dynasty and the following century. The author explores the productivity of economy in the reign of Constantine the Great and his sons and sketches out reasons for a gradual economic decline which begins to manifest itself at the end of 4th century AD.

## Key words

tetrarchy, *sedes imperii*, economic background, *villa rustica*, *vicus*, imperial palace, Augusta Treverorum, Sirmium