

## **Where and how did the Rudolfine musicians live? A brief contribution to Prague topography at the turn of the 16th and 17th centuries.**

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In 1886 Zikmund Winter published his study about the homeowners and roomers listed in a *Kvartierbuch*, a register requested in 1608 by the councillors of the Old Town in Prague. In this important source many town and Imperial musicians are named, together with other inhabitants such as merchants, artisans, tailors, shoemakers, blacksmiths, bakers, butlers, taverners, but even doctors, scribes, painters, precious stones cutters, solders, and finally laundresses, widows and many others. One hundred years later Zdeněk Hojda extracted the names of musicians from another similar register, made in the same 1608 for the Small Town and Hradčany castle. Anyway, many other sources tell us about how and where did the Rudolfine musicians live: especially urban books of the four Prague historical towns register in many occasions the name of the house's owner; baptism registries within the other sources related to Prague churches (especially to the St. Thomas) are useful as well as testaments, Imperial accounting ledgers and numerous other documents, as we will see. Essentially, the paper aims to contribute, from another point of view, to our increasing knowledge about the Rudolfine musicians and about the Prague music culture at the turn of the 16th and 17th centuries.