

Martin Scheutz, Adelige Richterinnen und Bürgermeisterinnen. Badegerichte, Badeordnungen und Badepolicey am Beispiel der frühneuzeitlichen Kurstadt Baden bei Wien

Abstract: Female Noble Judges and Mayors. Law Courts, Regulations, and Supervision of the Baths exemplified by the Early Modern Spa of Baden near Vienna

The spas of the late medieval and early modern period were distinct legal entities in their own right where people living under different jurisdictions came together by chance to enjoy the cool or warm water. This coexistence had to be strictly regulated by bathing ordinances retified by the ruling sovereigns and noble landlords. Various issues had to be regulated: (1) the safety of bathers, (2) peace in the baths, (3) the punishment of „immoral“ behaviour, (4) the cleanliness of the baths, (5) the determination of bathing fees and the internal management of the baths. Using the example of the old spa town of Baden near Vienna, the appointment of „mayors“ (of the baths), Bathing Officers („judges“) or treasurers between 1685 and 1783 can be traced, and the collection and distribution of the fines observed. It was important for the town to appoint high-ranking nobles (more often women than men) as „mayors of the bath“, whose „courts of decorum“ were supposedly responsible for administering law and order in the baths and for imposing fines.

Keywords: Bathing regulations – bathing society – jurisdiction in the baths – female and male „mayors“ in the baths – distribution of fines

Schlagworte: Badeordnung – Badegesellschaft – Rechtsprechung im Bad – weibliche und männliche „Bürgermeister“ im Bad – Verteilung der Strafgelder