

Žiga Zwitter, A history of knowledge about meadows and pastures in the south-eastern Alps in the 16th and early 17th centuries

Abstract: This article discusses the knowledge of meadows and pastures in the southeastern Alps in the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. It analyses the court records of one seignury, rent-rolls (Urbare) of five seigneuries, and personal notes of one landlord. By placing this information into the context of additional sources, it manages to offer a partial reconstruction of the traditional ecological knowledge of farmers in the past as well as the knowledge of landlords or seignury officials about grasslands, although the knowledge analyzed was predominately communicated orally. The article also addresses the dynamic development of farmers' traditional ecological knowledge, evidence for landlords' or seignury officials' familiarity with agricultural publications, and the interest of these last two groups in agricultural practices, environmental conditions, and the changes they underwent.

Keywords: history of knowledge; environmental history; agricultural history; early modern period; grasslands; Alps

Schlagworte: Wissensgeschichte; Umweltgeschichte; Agrargeschichte; Frühe Neuzeit; Grünland; Alpen