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**Electors and elected.
The burghers of Eger in the 19th century**

Thesis of doctoral (PhD) dissertation

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In my dissertation I examine the social composition of the individuals who attained the rank of burghers in Eger, one of the significant market towns during the period when estate society was in decline. This framework allows the thorough analysis of the dynamics of acquiring burghers status, its substance and meaning; as well as of the composition, origins and family ties of the burghers in the town. In doing so it offers a socio-historical analysis of an urban government in transition from the beginning of the 19th century. After providing a framework within which to understand the development of the urban hierarchy during the Hungarian Reform Era (1825-1848) as well as an outline of the composition of the local administration, an analysis is undertaken of the proportion of individuals who obtained suffrage after the Revolution of 1848. In other words, the distribution of those who obtained the right to vote under the “old law” due to their rights as burghers. This analysis reveals a correlation between the members of the urban administration and those who gained voting rights because of their burgher status. The dissertation then turns its attention to the social composition of local government and the rate of personal continuity between 1848 and 1872. As the local administrative system and the suffrage legislation was regulated by

different laws in 1848 and after the Compromise, I will attempt to establish the degree of continuity between the first circle of representatives in 1848 and those of 1872.

The second part of the essay addresses this continuity by focusing on the level of the family in order to examine how individuals could maintain their positions in local government taking the cases of family examples. In this chapter, the emphasis has been put on the examination of the number and social background of those who had the right to vote, for this obviously had an impact on the social circle of the people elected to the city council (between 1848 and 1910). This examination of the family relationship networks highlights the fact that despite rapid personal rotation local politics was continuously characterised by the presence of strong networks based on family relationship.

This dissertation adopts a prosopographical approach and is predominantly based on family-based nominal record linkage, using all the contemporaneous (or near contemporaneous) sources to the individuals (voting lists, census records, baptism, marriage, burial records, religion, occupation, habitation). Distinctions are made between a conubial indicator (father-in-law, brother-in-law) and primary

familial relation (father, son, brother). In case the family was indigenous, vertical (grandparent, parent, and child) relations can be modelled retroactively onto more generations. The crucial contribution of using a database system is that it enables complex genealogical structures to be modelled and allows for analysis of typical cases illustrated by the families, in detail. In addition to this, changes in or permanence of relationships among representatives will be a relevant question in the old-new elite approach.