

## **16-18th CENTURY GERMAN CARTOGRAPHY IN THE COLLECTIONS OF THE “LUCIAN BLAGA” CENTRAL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**

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The conflicts of ideas and the crises of conscience have led to leaps from one orbit of the history of mankind to another.

Geographical discoveries, travel from the West towards the East as well as the development and extension of typographic centres have been all decisive in the development of cartographic printing presses.

As Archier Edwige<sup>1</sup> from the National Library of Paris points out, cartographic research is necessary and important because very few researchers work in this field though old cartographic collections are not only rare but also very precious. This French restaurator states that the mission of librarians is to arouse the interest of library users and to encourage historians, geographers, archeologists and anthropologists.

An inventory of the cartographic collections of our library now follows.

There is an imperious need for research into the old cartographic collection which is part of the Special Collections of our library. This collection is interesting not only from the point of view of the represented geographical areas, their history but also the various ways in which they are presented.

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<sup>1</sup> Archier, Edwige, *Le cartes et plans*, in: *Conservation et muse en valeur de fonds anciens rare et precieux des Bibliotheque Francaises*, Villeurbanne, 1983, p.127-133

The present study of old German cartography is part of a more exhaustive study. It deals with German cartographic products: maps, plans, atlases, geographical books or treaties printed in Germany, written by German or foreign authors, German authors who edited their works in different typographic centres of the world, in languages other than German and last but not least, cartographic works of foreign cartographers or geographers who had their works printed in German cartographers' printing presses.

In his book entitled *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in Philip II's Reign* Fernand Braudel the historian settles the coordinates of geographical investigation: "Germany can be viewed either from South to North, along the meridians or from West to East, along the parallels. This means that we have to examine it in both ways because it has many faces..." To follow the meridians means to take into consideration Germany's relations with Italy, says Braudel, for Germany had for centuries connections with almost all towns of the peninsula.<sup>2</sup> If we want to treat Germany in terms of the parallels, we have to start our research from the Rin, says the author.<sup>3</sup> Starting from these coordinates proposed by Braudel, we have to study German cartography also from the point of view of the development of printing.

A thorough examination of printing presses reveals a great number of German typographic centres in Europe during the Reformation. It throws light on the role of cartographers too: they were geographers, editors and printers at the same time.

Most German cartographers whose works are now part of our collection were humanists and geographers in the 16th century Europe.

Sebastian Münster (1459-1552), great German humanist, adept of Luther's reform, Professor of theology, mathematics and geography at Heidelberg and Basel is the author of *Cosmographia*

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<sup>2</sup>Braudel, Fernand, *Mediterana și lumea mediteranei în epoca lui Filip al II-lea*, Editura Meridiane, București, vol.I, p.368

<sup>3</sup> Braudel, Fernand, Op. cit. p.370

*Universalis* which had different editions in the 16th century. This work is a real encyclopaedia, a historical and geographical treaty of the world. It has a chapter about Valachia and Transylvania. In addition it is interesting the way it presents places in the ancient province of Dacia.

Gerhard Mercator (Kremer)(1512-1594), great cartographer and geographer, was born in Flanders. He studied philosophy and mathematics. He dedicated himself to drawing maps based on geographical coordinates and making globes and developing new cartographic methods. He invented the map with its scale growing towards the poles, a cylindric map which used the method of projection (representing the features of a curved surface on a flat surface) similar to that used today. *Tabulae geographicae ad mentem Ptolemaei* is the result of his manifold activity and it has many editions. Our library has maps drawn by Mercator which represent Greece (“Candia, Crete... or a general map of Greece”) and there is a historical-administrative map of Macedonia, Croatia, Bosnia and Dalmatia edited at Colonia (Köln).

The Transylvanian Renaissance and Reformation influenced editorial production too. The Saxon humanist, geographer and cartographer Johannes Honterus (1498-1549) was born in Braşov and lived in the great humanist centres: Vienna, Basel and Wittenberg. He opened the first printing press in Braşov in 1535 and established the local gymnasium according to humanist principles. He was the first geography teacher in the town. His *Rudimenta Cosmographiae* is one of the geography textbooks which had many editions and was used to teach geography and astronomy in Germany and South-East Europe. Our library has the 1552 edition printed in Tiguri (Zürich) by Froschmer. Its preface mentions the planisphere made in Zürich. The geography textbook of Honterus contains maps: one of them represents Europe. For the first time Valachia, Moldavia and the Carpathian arch with the seven fortresses is represented in a European context.

100 GRADUS

100 GRADUS



**ITER**  
**MAYERIANVM**  
 ad **MVAS GOETTINGENSES**  
 Norimberga A. 1751. factum.

Ex ipsius Collectione designavit  
 Iohannes Andreas Friedericus Yelin,  
 Philos. et Math. apud Goettingenses  
 cultor.

**ATLANTIS ITINERARIUM**  
 Primum Specimen,  
 ad imitandum aliis itinerantibus  
 proponunt  
 Heredes Homanniani.  
 Ao. 1751.

Georg Reichersdorfer (1495-1554) also came from Transylvania, from the village Biertan. As secretary and counsellor to Ferdinand I (1526) he travelled to Moldavia, Transylvania, Vienna and Lvov. His presence in Brajov is mentioned in 1527. He wrote *Chorographia Moldaviae* and then *Chorographia Transylvanae Descriptio Transylvaniae* contains interesting historical, archeological and geographical data. The author calls Transylvania a garden and says that it is the richest and most beautiful province in Europe.

The second half of the 17th century marked a development in mathematical geography and new methods appeared in cartography.

Philip Cluverius (1580-1623) was a German scholar, the author of many works of ancient and modern geography. His *Introductio in universam geographicam* published in Amsterdam in 1683 by Johannes Bunonis contains also a map of Dacia. The author defines Geography as a universal science of the earth. He makes a distinction between Cosmography and Corography and defines Topography as well.

On the map of Dacia the different regions are delineated: Dacia Alpestrina includes Moldavia and a part of Valachia, whereas Dacia Mediteranea includes Transylvania.

Cluverius' *Introductio in universam geographicam* was published and republished in Holland, in Elzeviri beginning with 1629. The fact that the German scholar's work was printed in Holland proves that there was close relations between Germany and the Netherlands. "There is another Germany which has relations with the Netherlands, says Fernand Braudel, it is on the coast of the North Sea, at Emden, Bremen and Hamburg..."<sup>4</sup>

Two great cartographic centres developed at the end of the 17th and the beginning of the 18th century: Nürnberg and Augsburg.

The history of German cartography in Nürnberg is linked to Johannes Baptist Homann's activity. He was a cartographer, editor and engraver. His printing press worked even after his death, until 1848.

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<sup>4</sup> Braudel, Fernand, Op. cit. p.371

In 1716 Homann printed the first world atlas (it had 126 maps) and a *School Atlas* in 1719. His printing press had various cartographic products: planispheres, astronomic, historical-geographical and military maps with handcolouring. The titles of maps have an engraved framing and the elaborate cartouches (title blocks) resemble small works of art. The geographic map of the *Isle of Malta and Gozac* printed in the 18th century has its title framed by an engraving and there are many engravings on the map itself too. On the bottom of the map there is an engraving which represents the Isle of Malta. The map has a detailed legend concerning the interior of Malta.

The map *Vue de la Montagne de Broken situeé laTerritoire du Comté deWernigerode, qui est dans le forêts de Hartz* has an interesting subject. It is a coloured map bearing the subtitle *Perspectivische Vorstellung der berühmte Blocken oder Blokenbergs...*, drawn by L.S. Bestehorn in 1732 and printed by Homann in 1749. There is a note which says that Joh. Praetorius and Albrecht Richter have written about Blocksberg and both of them climbed the mountain on 5 July 1635 with their friends from Ilsenburg. They reached the top in four hours and descended in two hours via a short cut. The map has two legends which detail every little place and it is a wonderful representation of the Blocken mountain and its environs. It gives the impression that we are climbing the mountain itself.

Augsburg (Augustae Vindelicorum) was the most important printing centre in South Germany in the history of German cartography and was the greatest engraving centre as well.

The *Theatrum Belli Russo-Tureici* map is also held in the collections of our library. It was drawn by Johann Michael Probst, geographer, caleographer and printer. He self-financed the printing of this map. The map represents the area between Italy and Ocenkov, Prague and Constantinople as well as a part of the Danube and the archipelagoes. The author presents inaccurately the location of places in the Romanian Provinces. The title of the map is framed; on the left

and right of the title there are engravings representing Turkey's attack on Russia.

Matthaeus Sentter, geographer of the Hapsburg Imperial Court worked in Augsburg. His *Atlas Novus* was printed there in 1730 and reprinted in 1736, 1742-1759 and 1762.

The 18th century colour chart entitled *Ein Orlog - oder Grosses-Kriegs Schiff* is perhaps the most interesting work of Sentter. In the middle of the chart there is a vessel, a Mediterranean man-of-war. All the components are presented in detailed fashion and there is also a description of the interior of the vessel.

The theme of the Mediterranean appears in Gabriel Bodendor's *Atlas curiex* too, which was printed in Augsburg in 1714. Fernand Braudel pointed out that "The Mediterranean Sea was a medium of communication and of exchanging values; it witnessed the diversity of European civilisation. The Mediterranean is not a sea but a complex of seas 'freckled' by many islands, separated by peninsulas and surrounded by sinuous coasts. It is the sea of olives and vines but also the sea of narrow boats and round-wombed merchant ships. It hides the history of Europe; it is a real historical personage."

G. Bodenehr's map entitled *Die Fahrt von Cadiz nach Malaga, von Gibraltar aus dem Ocean in das Mittelländische Meer* represents the sea battle on 24 August 1704 between the Austrian, Spanish and French allies. The map is a sketch, in the middle of which there are the Austrian and Spanish vessels which advance towards the French vessels spread in the Mediterranean region.

Alongside these printers Tobie Conrad Lotter, cartographer and map merchant set up a workshop in Augsburg. He printed a great number of maps, some of them presenting Transylvania and the Romanian provinces. Tobie and Mattheus Lotter, 18th century German cartographers and geographers had map editions representing Transylvania, Valachia, Moldavia and even Bucovina.

The old German cartographic collection of our library (consisting of maps, atlases and geographical treaties) provides us with precious information. The title as well as the legend are

historical-geographical sources which could be useful in an overall study of the history and geography of a given country, region or place. The titles and texts of maps are framed by engravings with mythological, historical-geographical or theological themes.

To build a database of 16-18th century German cartography has become an essential requirement. The compilation of a catalogue (which is under way) will throw light on new aspects of German cartography.