

Format de citation

Chodějovská, Eva: Rezension über: Eva Semotanová / Jiří Cajthaml / Jitka Močičková, Jan Kryštof Müller. Barokní kartograf [Johann Christoph Müller. A Cartographer of Baroque Era], Praha: Academia, 2023, in: Frühneuzeit-Info, 35 (2024), S. 196-199, <https://recensio-stag.lorax.syslab.com/r/85679caf44ac472ba33085ab2458650f>



copyright

Cet article peut être téléchargé et/ou imprimé à des fins privées. Toute autre reproduction ou représentation, intégrale ou substantielle de son contenu, doit faire l'objet d'une autorisation (§§ 44a-63a UrhG / German Copyright Act).

Eva Semotanová/Jiří Cajthaml/Jitka Močičková (reds.): Jan Kryštof Müller: barokní kartograf [Johann Christoph Müller. A Cartographer of Baroque Era], Prague: Academia + Historický ústav 2023, 279 pages, ISBN: 978-80-200-3417-5; 978-80-7286-408-9

Johann Christoph Müller (1673–1721) ranks among the early modern mapmakers who are very well known to those, who are interested in old maps of Central Europe. Scholars agree that Müller's maps of territories in Hungary, of Moravia, Bohemia and the unfinished survey of Austrian parts of Silesia, commissioned by Emperor Charles VI and preserved in both manuscript and print, abundantly decorated copies and later revised and adjusted versions, represent the core of cartographic visual representations of the respective territories. Scholars and map collectors consider them as important milestones in the development of the early modern cartography in general.¹ Müller's activities fall into the edge of the official (state) cartographic production, which developed in the following decades into systematic topographic surveys, and private cartography. In the latter case, the cartographic representations of countries were created by skilled individuals and the publication of the maps was sponsored by a nobleman or a group of them (the estates community of the respective country). Such achievement can be interpreted at least in two ways: firstly, as a tool for country administration, secondly, as a tool of self-presentation of the sponsor(s) and of "his/their" country. Therefore, since David Woodward's essays from the 1980s, the question of the general layout of the map sheet also comes into account, alongside the process of publishing, and the quality of the execution of the map—in its cartographic and artistic aspect (and also heraldry and textual sections or gazetteers). Müller's works are no exception here.

The life and work of Johann Christoph Müller has been receiving scholarly attention for more than a century. First and foremost, the work by Joseph Paldus is regarded as fundamental. Paldus, a skilled archivist published his treatise

while he was working in the map department of the "Kriegsarchiv" in Vienna (from 1895, as its head from 1913 to 1917) and drew on it for his other unpublished works.² The constant place that Müller has had since the beginning of critical studies on the history of cartography at least in Czech production is documented by the study by František Fiala, a curator of the Czech Technical Museum.³ But it was Paldus' work that was further regarded as fundamental by renowned scholars Karel Kuchař and František Roubík, who, thanks to their longstanding work and great interdisciplinary erudition, were able to construct the still accepted narrative of the history of cartography, or the development of the image of the Czech lands from the Middle Ages to the modern era.⁴ "Lexikon zur Geschichte der Kartographie" then refers to Müller's work in multiple places, in the entry that discusses the cartographic image of Bohemia his work is labelled as "das große Kartenwerk".⁵

The editors of the reviewed book aspire to summarize Müller's work and to examine it from an interdisciplinary perspective. Because of that they brought together a team of historians, librarians, geomatics and cartographers. The contemporary context in terms of a general historical perspective was written by Jiří Hrbek. Müller's life based on previous studies was summarised by Jiří Martínek.

In a separate chapter, Eva Semotanová discussed Müller's work in the context of European science, the state of knowledge, and the organisation and centres of research, with special reference to the earth sciences, geography, cartography and astronomy. The author has taken into account recent German- and English-language scholarly literature, especially on Nuremberg in the 17th century as a centre of science of pan-European importance, as well as recent Czech scholarly synthetic literature dealing with society in general and science in particular in the early modern period and the Enlightenment era.

The chapter by Václav Čada summarizes the results of previous research by the author, his students and his team members at the Department of Geomatics of the University of West

Bohemia in Pilsen (Plzeň) on Müller's manuscript maps of individual regions in Bohemia (kept in the Museum of National Literature in Prague [Praha]), as well as other smaller works concerning mainly the Bohemian borderlands and especially the manuscript draft (Austrian National Library) for the printing of the so-called "Great map of Bohemia" of 1720 (which was first brought to the scholarly attention by Ivan Kupčík in the 1990s⁶). In addition to the interpretation, which provides a detailed insight into the contemporary practice of surveying and mapping in the field, the cartographic analysis and analysis of the map features leads to the conclusion that the manuscript maps of the regions were first produced as a joint effort by a team of individuals coordinated by Müller, about whom nothing is known. Subsequently, Müller compiled a large manuscript map of Bohemia, and after further editorial work, the printing plates were produced.

A major contribution of the present book is the chapter that summarises the analysis of the uniquely preserved printing plates of Müller's map of Bohemia (National Technical Museum in Prague), the Müller-Wieland map of Bohemia (a reduced map made after Müller's death by Johann Wolfgang Wieland, 1726, National Technical Museum in Prague), maps of Moravia (Moravian Provincial Archives in Brno), maps of Cheb (Cheb Museum) and other works derived from Müller's work (map of the Olomouc diocese) by Zdeněk Stachon and Josef Chrást. The technique of copper engraving and etching was used in the works under study, and the engravers of Müller's maps were the leading personalities of the period: Christoph Weigel from Nuremberg (Cheb), Daniel Hertz and Michael Kauffer from Augsburg (Bohemia), Johann Christoph Laidig from Swabia, who worked in Brno/Moravia, and others. The authors of the chapter provide the reader with a good context of printing methods, and the possibilities of researching surviving printing plates. In addition to the abovementioned plates for the reproduction of Müller's work, they also present their conclusions on a newly discovered (2019), previously unknown printing plate of one of the

versions of Comenius' map of Moravia (Comenius' map edition marked "M"), which demonstrates the use of both sides of the printing plates.⁷

The following chapters deal with Müller's so-called "Great Map of Bohemia", but also with its derivatives and copies (Eva Semotanová, Eva Novotná). The analysis of the map itself (copy from 1720, now 1724/5) is carried out by Tomáš Janata; the passages on surveying methods complement the chapter by Václav Čada. Jitka Močíčková and Michal Vokurka analysed the newly discovered manuscript index, which is significant for its extent (58 pages) and level of detail. Their text is a commentary on the web application they have provided, which is very useful and innovative.⁸ In general, printed indexes of varying levels of detail matching with some surviving copies of Müller's maps are available. Similar applications would help topographic research and deepen the knowledge in early modern society and landscape.⁹

The following two chapters summarise the work carried out at the Department of Geomatics, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Czech Technical University, over the last 15 years, mainly by Jiří Cajthaml and Jakub Havlíček, on analysis using digital technologies and making maps available on the Internet, with a focus on Müller's maps.¹⁰ The maps of Moravia (1716) and Bohemia (1720 and 1724/5) are permanently available online (and have also played an important role in the genesis of map accessibility using digital technologies).¹¹ Jiří Cajthaml shows in his analysis that the average positional error on the Müller's map of Bohemia is about 2300 m, which confirms the most frequently given scale of 1:132,000.

In addition to a brief discussion of the role of Müller's work for studies in landscaping and landscape in the past in general, the book concludes with a chronological list of maps by Johann Christoph Müller and a bibliography of works on him. The list records 24 maps (Josef Paták, pp. 189–210) aiming at—with the exception of the manuscript works mapping the boundary adjustments of the Habsburg Monarchy and the Ottoman Empire in Hungary after the

Peace of Sremski Karlovci (1699)—a comprehensive list of Müller's work (specific copies held in the main public libraries and university collections in the Czech Republic and Austria). This provides great double contribution: a systematic critical examination of the dating of individual maps, and the determination of their interrelationship. This list is followed by an indicative bibliographical survey of scholarly works dealing with Müller by Václava Horčáková.

We can summarize in conclusion that the book is a useful collection providing a reader with the outputs of recently undertaken studies on Müller's life and work esp. by Czech scholars which builds on and takes as a solid basis the previous works. It should be emphasized that the book contains high quality reproductions of selected maps. The copies of Müller's and Müller-Wieland's maps of Bohemia kept in the Map Collection of Charles University in Prague (sign. 318/7, sign. 302/4), the manuscript form of the "Great Map of Bohemia", details from the so-called "Imperial copy", maps depicting the resolution of the Peace of Sremski Karlovci, as well as plates of Bohemia, Moravia and Cheb region maps are a great contribution. Moreover, Josef Paták is suggesting a new, later date of the publication of one of Müller's major works, the so-called "Great Map of Bohemia" of 1720. Nevertheless, this year appears on the map, it should be—based on recently discovered archival evidence—postponed to the period 1724/1725. This latest finding is stated in Paták's chapter and in the introduction, however not reflected by other authors of the reviewed book. Generally, such research outcomes are very promising for future studies on early official cartography of Central Europe.

Eva Chodějovská (Brno)

Notes

- 1 This confirms at least the narrative of history of cartography in former Czechoslovakia and present-day Czechia (see note no. 4), and in Hungary: Antal Andreas DEÁK: Antecedents of the Map of Hungary by J. C. Müller, in: IMCoS Journal 72 (1998), pp. 19–27.
- 2 Joseph PALDUS: Johann Christoph Müller. Ein Beitrag zur Geschichte vaterländ. Kartographie (= Mitteilungen des k. und k. Kriegsarchivs 3, Folge 5), 1907, pp. 1–121; for the context and Paldus's works including the unpublished manuscripts see Eva CHODĚJOVSKÁ: Dějiny a současnost uchovávání, zpřístupňování a studia kartografických dokumentů v Česku [The History and Present of Preserving, Making Accessible and Studying Cartographic Documents in Czechia], in: Sborník archivních prací 73/2 (2023), pp. 463–540, especially pp. 475–483.
- 3 František FIALA: Jan Kryštof Müller, inženýr-kartograf a jeho práce při vydávání první správné mapy Čech z r. 1720 [Johann Christoph Müller, an Engineer-cartographer and his Work on the Earliest Accurate Map of Bohemia from 1720], Praha 1922.
- 4 Karel KUCHAR: Early Maps of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, Praha 1961, pp. 24–33, 47–49; other, for the history of cartography in the Czech Lands essential works by Kuchar are: Karel KUCHAR: Mapové podklady ke geografii Československa [Cartographic Sources on Geography of Czechoslovakia], in: Acta Universitatis Carolinae–Geographica, vol. 2, Praha 19[67], pp. 57–97; id.: Mapy českých zemí do poloviny 18. století [Maps of the Czech Lands Issued until the mid-18th Century], Praha 1959 (= Vývoj mapového zobrazení Československé republiky I); František BOGUSZAK/Josef CÍSAŘ: Mapování a měření českých zemí od poloviny 18. století do počátku 20. století [Surveying and Mapping of the Czech Lands from the mid-18th Century until Present], Praha 1961 (= Vývoj mapového zobrazení Československé socialistické republiky III). Moreover, K. KUCHAR: Naše mapy odedávna do dneška [Our Maps since the Early Times until Present], Praha 1958, which was intended for general public, and František ROUBÍK: Soupis map českých zemí [The List of Maps of the Czech Lands], vol. 1, Praha 1951, pp. 42–48.
- 5 Ingrid KRETSCHMER/Johannes DÖRFLINGER/Franz WAWRIK (eds.): Lexikon zur Geschichte der Kartographie: Von den Anfängen bis zum Ersten Weltkrieg, 2 vols., Wien 1986.
- 6 Ivan KUPČÍK: Nález rukopisné předlohy tisku Müllеровы mapy Čech, pohřešovaného rukopisu mapy Moravy a tiskové desky mapy okolí Chebu [The Discovery of a Manuscript Draft of Müller's Map of

Bohemia, a Missing Manuscript of the Map of Moravia and a Printing Plate of the Map of the Cheb Area], in: Sborník České geografické společnosti 100/4 (1995), pp. 25–34.

- 7 A detailed treatise on this copperplate: Zdeněk STACHOŇ/Josef CHRÁST: Tiskové matrice map Johanna Christopha Müllera a jejich odvozenin [Printing Plates of Johann Christoph Müller's Maps and their Derivatives], in: Z dějin geodézie a kartografie 19 (2018), pp. 41–57; Zdeněk STACHOŇ/Josef CHRÁST: Neznámá tisková deska Komenského mapy Moravy [The Unknown Printing Plate of Comenius' Map of Moravia], in: Z dějin geodézie a kartografie 20 (2021), pp. 67–73.
- 8 Preserved in the Institute of History, Czech Academy of Sciences, sign. B 3210, inv. no. 35.490. The application under: <https://www.hiu.cas.cz/rukopisny-rejstrik-k-muellerove-mape-cech-1757> (1.10.2024).
- 9 Müller's map of Moravia preserved at Moravian Library, sign. Moll-0001.779,1-6; the copy preserved at Institute of Geography, Faculty of Sciences of Masaryk University in Brno.
- 10 Jiří Cajthaml's dissertation was published in 2012: Jiří CAJTHAML: Analýza starých map v digitálním prostředí na příkladu Müllerových map Čech a Moravy [Analysis of Old Maps in the Digital Environment on the Example of Müller's Maps of Bohemia and Moravia], Praha 2012.
- 11 The earliest CD-ROM containing raster images of individual sections of the map dates back to 2002. Later on, an online presentation of individual sections applying the ZoomiFy application was launched on the website of the Laboratory of Geomatics of J. E. Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem, which has recently been upgraded in cooperation with the Moravian Library. Finally, the georectified seamless map was made available on the web map portal of the Czech Technical University (2011) and independently also on the map portal of the Research Institute of Geodesy, Topography and Cartography in Zdíby. It is permanently available in the application "Archive" of the Office of Surveying: <https://ags.cuzk.cz/archiv/> (1.10.2024).

Gregor Emmenegger (mit Beiträgen von David Neuhold und Anton Schwingruber): Kirche, Macht und der letzte Ketzer. Der Fall Jakob Schmidli 1747, Zürich: Theologischer Verlag 2022, 124 Seiten, mit zahlreichen Abb., ISBN 978-3-290-18518-3

Die Geschichte des Jakob Schmidli (1699–1747) ist in jeglicher Hinsicht schillernd und extrem: in äußerster Armut in das katholische Luzern hineingeboren, arbeitete er als Knecht und kam dabei als Halbwüchsiger zu einem Wundarzt, bei dem er Lesen und Schreiben lernte. Letzterer kam bald darauf wegen Leugnung des Fegefeuers und Besitz eines alchemistischen Schriftwerks vor Gericht und starb schlussendlich in Gefangenschaft – ein Fanal für Schmidlis weiteren Lebensweg.

Erst taucht er aber als Fuhrmann auf, der nun nach einem von ihm erworbenen Gut „Sulzigjoggi“ genannt wird und eigentlich den sozialen Aufstieg genießen könnte. Aber auf ungeklärte Weise mischt er sich in pietistische Kreise in Basel und wird dort als kleines Wunder göttlicher Erweckungsmöglichkeiten herumgereicht. Von der Innigkeit der Zusammenkünfte beeindruckt, gründet Schmidli zu Hause in Luzern eine eigene Gebets- und Leserunde, die erstmals 1738 auffliegt, aber zu diesem Zeitpunkt noch von einem wohlwollenden katholischen Priester gedeckt wird. Nach einem Pfarrerwechsel eskaliert jedoch die Situation, Schmidli verweigert die Ausreise in ein protestantisches Gebiet und wirbt stattdessen immer neue Teilnehmer für seine Runden an.

1746 sprengt der Pfarrer eine gerade stattfindende Versammlung und eine Verhaftungswelle setzt ein. In einem Massenprozess kommt es bei über 100 Angeklagten zu 83 Schuldsprüchen, die teilweise drakonische Strafen nach sich ziehen: Einziehung des Vermögens, Verbannung, Verschickung auf die Galeeren und ewige Gefangenschaft. Schmidli selbst wird schwer gefoltert und bekennt schlussendlich: „Es ist alles falsch und lätz, was ich gelehrt habe.“ Dieses Schuldeingeständnis kann er „wegen abgemer-