

Cartographic Presentation of Settlements on the Old Maps of Bohemia

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The cartographic works, maps, map series, state map works, globes etc. represent a part of the national culture. The maps show the geographic picture of the landscape and its dynamic changes in the given period. This claim applies especially to the period limited by the years from 1518 until 1720, when ancient maps of the Bohemian territory compiled by individual cartographers originated. An initial study of the research aimed at identification and assessment of regularities in successive evolution of cartographic language, namely the cartographic presentation of settlements, on the following investigated maps: the famous map of Bohemia of Nicholas Claudianus (1518) and further the maps of Bohemia of Johann Criginger (1568), Paul Aretin (1619) and Johann George Vogt (1712).

The only original print of Claudianus' map of Bohemia is kept in the Episcopal library of the Litoměřice archdiocese in North Bohemia, nevertheless this beautifully decorated map has been re-printed many times till present. The map was also overprinted in the famous Münster's Cosmography. The map of the scale approximately 1 : 637 000 is remarkable also by its southern orientation. The topographic content of the map consists of 280 signs of topographic objects with their geographical names. Cartographic presentations of settlements involve 37 Royal towns, 53 feudal towns and 59 other towns and villages and 131 castles, monasteries, mansions and strongholds, which differ by the signs and the type of letters. The Royal towns are marked by a crown, feudal towns by a shield, both described in larger letters. Catholic towns have a picture of crossed keys added to their symbol, the Utraquist towns a picture of a chalice. The other places are signed by a partly closed circle, castles or monasteries by the picture of a tower.

In the year 1568 Johann Criginger issued a map, which contains the sketch of 224 towns and villages at the scale approximately 1 : 683 500. One copy of this map is kept in the library of the Prague Strahov monastery, the second one was found in Salzburg (Austria). The copy of the map is a part of the well known Ortelius Atlas Theatrum Orbis Terrarum. It was published in an improved form by the significant Dutch cartographer Gerhard Mercator as well. The settlements are represented by four kinds of symbols: a group of buildings in a plane for towns, small towns and villages; a picture of buildings on a hill for castles; a church with two spires for some places with known monasteries; an isolated symbol of a simple cottage for small settlements.

In the 17th century the Prague citizen Paul Aretin issued a relatively detailed map of Bohemia (1619) with 1157 towns and villages, which was often published in Dutch and English atlases. The map scale was 1 : 504 000. The map includes the political division of Bohemia into 15 districts. The description of settlements distinguished between free Royal towns, smaller Royal towns, baronial towns, castles, fortresses, monasteries, small towns and

villages. Larger settlements are presented by quite complex pictorial signs accompanied by symbols listed in a map legend (crown, cross, pike etc.).

The so called Vogt's map, a fairly large and detailed map of Bohemia of the scale approximately 1 : 400 000, was published in Frankfurt o. M. in 1712. Except from towns and villages, rivers and main mountain chains it presents by conventional signs also the mining of mineral resources (gold, silver and other ores) and ironworks, glass factories and vineyards. The map contains fortified towns, other towns ("civitates"), smaller towns, castles and fortresses, monasteries, villages, chapels, ruins, corn-mills etc. – in total 3110 localities. Larger settlements are presented by pictorial signs (including fortification), smaller towns and villages by a simple circle which may be supplemented by simple symbols presented in a map legend. Apart from conventional symbols the map contains also some perspectively drawn miniatures (e.g. for the castle Bezděz).

The development of cartographic language has been documented on a set of selected settlements of various types (Rakovník, Kadaň, Pelhřimov, Benešov, Litoměřice, Konopiště, Křivoklát, Zbraslav). In addition to the cartographic presentation of settlements, the variety of their geographical names on the above mentioned investigated maps has been traced. The names of the settlements on Claudianus' map and Aretin's map are mostly written in old Czech (e.g. Pelrzimow, Pelhrzimow). The nomenclature of Criginger's map is influenced more by old German or Latin (Pilgram), some of the geographical names on Vogt's map are bilingual, other adapted to the German manner of spelling.

Presented research is focused on depiction of settlements and geographical names on the old maps of Bohemia. It is a part of initial contribution outlining the orientation of the research of the development of the ancient map cartographic language within the grant project focused on cartometric and semiotic analysis and visualization of old maps of the Czech Lands from the period 1518 – 1720. The set of the investigated maps will be enlarged with the ancient maps of Moravia and Silesia and the research will continue towards the identification and assessment of regularities in successive evolution of cartographic language of the maps.

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