Maps of Czech Lands in the Period 1518 - 1720
from the Map Collection of Charles University in Prague

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Abstract
This poster presents preliminary results of research on old maps of Czech Lands deposited at the Map Collection of Charles University in Prague. The extensive cartographic selection belongs among the most important collections in the Czech Republic. The goal of the research was to document the development of cartography during the period 1518 (Criginger’s map) to 1720 (Vogt’s map). More than 50 originals or facsimiles of different maps were found during inventory phase of the work. This poster concentrates on a description of most interesting maps discovered from the point of view of their content, map symbols and cartometric characteristics.

Introduction
Maps of Czech Lands, i.e. Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, created by individuals in the period of 1518 - 1720 are part of our history and represent important cultural heritage of immense value. They give evidence about the period in which they originated. Old maps reflected the society and culture, and they become important historical sources. These sources are used especially in social sciences, namely in history of cartography, historical cartography, historical geography and historiography.

This poster presents an overview of the most significant cartographic works from the given period deposited in the Map Collection of Charles University in Prague, which is one of the most important map collection in the Czech Republic.

Analysis and assessment of old maps
Surroundings of the Brno City on Comenius’s map of Moravia from 1619. The map of the Brno City was researched thoroughly, with particular emphasis on map works of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia from the period 1518 -1720.

The works’ dating details served to determine the author, year of publication and name of publisher. The information whether the work is an original, facsimile, copy or derivative was also important. In our selection Comenius’s map of Moravia is facsimile. Other maps are originals.

However, some elements could be absent, like date or name of the author. For example, Mercator’s copy of Criginger’s map of Bohemia is not dated. In some cases the maps were made without a map frame or a scale.

The basic elements of map content are: settlements, paths and roads, granges, castles, monasteries, baths, vineyards, villages and various natural-History curiosities.

Political and territorial self-governing divisions of depicted areas are represented by various types of boundary lines and surfaces of different colours.

Another assessed element of map content is the relief, the legend and decoration in the areas of title, scale or legend. And also a cartouche, i.e. decorative or ornamental framing of the map’s title.

Chorographia insignis regni Bohemiae, autore Ioanne Crigingero

Author: Johann Criginger
Year of publication: 1573
Author of engravings: copies by Gerhard de Jode
Approx. scale: 1 : 455 000

Its content does not depart from the original Criginger’s map. However, it does not include certain features of four rulers of the Czech Crown countries in the map’s corners. It contains a very clear depiction of Bohemian mountains and waters. There are altogether 252 settlements in the map represented by four symbols. The map contains a detailed work of water streams and mountain ranges represented by hummocks and groups of oaks.

Tabula generalis Marchionatus Moraviae in sex circulos divisae – Müller’s map of Moravia

Author: Jan Kryštof Müller
Year of publication: 1712
Frame size: 494 x 228 mm
Approx. scale: 1 : 396 800

Müller’s map which contains a Map of Moravia from 1716 belongs to scarce prints of Moravia at the beginning of the 18th century. Five decades before the first military mapping it represents in detail the landscape of the Moravian Lands with a lot of information concerning geography, economy, notabilities and culture.

One of these publishers was Johann Baptista Homann who worked in Nuremberg. His reprint of the Müller’s copy is deposited in the Map Collection of the Charles University in Prague.

Conclusion and Acknowledgments
This contribution was to introduce the methodology and results of basic analyses of works selected from the Map Collection of the Charles University in Prague. However, not all necessary data was available and many questions still remain unanswered. Nevertheless, the result will serve as a first stage preceding other detailed analyses of map content and cartometric analyses of these works. Currently, a detailed cartometric analysis of Vogt’s map is completed.

This Map Collection of the Charles University currently contains several other cartographic works from the period 1518 - 1720. Their content and cartometric analyses will follow.

Complement placed in the corners of map sheets of Miller’s map of Moravia

Map Collection of the Charles University in Prague
The Map Collection of Charles University in Prague was founded by professor Václav Sýmberova in 1920 as the State Collection of Maps of the Czechoslovak Republic. The basic elements of this collection were represented by the funds from the Department of Geography of the Faculty of Science, some map sheets from the Vienna-Brünn Archives after the collapse of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire, and cartographic archive materials from various libraries. Professor Bedřich Salamon and professor Karel Kuchel belonging among its prominent representatives.

Its cartographic fund places among the most significant in the Czech Republic. It is composed of over 2,000 adates (since the 18th century), 150 globes, approximately 100,000 map sheets and books and magazines.

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