

---

## BOOK REVIEWS

---

**MANFRED DRAUDT**

**Das Österreich- und Wien-Bild in den  
englischen Topographien um 1600 und  
deren europäische Wechselbeziehungen**

(The image of Austria and Vienna in English topographies around 1600 and their interrelationship with European ones)

Vienna: LIT, 2024

---

**T**HIS EXCELLENT bilingual critical edition of the earliest English texts describing Austria and Vienna in the context of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation is aimed not only at Anglicists but also at historians, geographers and cartographers, as well as at students interested in early modern geography texts. The book is ambitious in scope and original in approach because, in a small number of pages, Manfred Draudt succeeds in capturing the essence of early modern geographic literature in English (plus German translations) around 1600, characterized, paradoxically, by originality and repeatability. The edition contains a general introduction (in German), comparing various texts and their relationships, and takes into account the contemporary readership of the topographies. Manfred Draudt cogently suggests that the great number of publications issued around 1600 is linked with the English colonialization and the advancements in cartography. The study contains individual introductions to each author and his work (all in German). The English texts are reproduced in normalized form to facilitate readability, but the origi-

nal spellings of names (countries, places, rivers, persons, etc.) are retained because, in addition to verbal parallels, they provide crucial evidence on the ways in which the texts relate to each other and their sources.

Emendations are duly recorded in the footnotes and the ample annotations attached to both the English texts and their German translations provide detailed explanations of the historical and geographical contexts, clarify obscure references and record quotations from sources which have been identified for particular passages. The book's footnotes are relevant in their clarifications, such as the explanatory footnotes referring to various locations, included in the English descriptions, which are connected to real places or people in Vienna and Salzburg (e.g., Samuel Lewkenor about the Collegium Ducale in Vienna, p. 39). Moreover, the footnotes bring useful corrections to the English text, such as Albrecht III and Leopold III instead of Leopold the Second in Samuel Lewkenor, p. 38; or Burchardt Krebs, who was not Canon of Padua, as in Samuel Lewkenor, but Dean of Passau, p. 40; or Ivor, instead of St Ivon, concerning the saints chosen for each faculty of the university, in Samuel Lewkenor, p. 42; or the note about the date of the Turkish siege of Vienna, in 1529, not 1526, as in Abraham Ortelius' account, p. 76.

These texts are illuminating and instructive, as Manfred Draudt's book succeeds in opening up the subject of early modern geography in exciting and profound ways. Indeed, the title is illustrative because the "interrelationships" provide a

palimpsestic image of borrowings and recycled materials, as it is often difficult to find a way through this confusing jungle of quotations and paraphrasing within the texts. This is why the author's footnotes are particularly helpful, as Manfred Draudt traces close relationships and connections between various authors and some of their sources, which they do not mention in the geographic text. The detailed analysis of the English chapters relating to Austria, which vary in length between three sentences and several pages (almost 2000 words), provide the basis for the other focus of this study, namely, the close network and interrelationship of European topographers, for which concrete evidence is supplied for the first time. Although several topographers refer to the sources they have been using, they frequently omit central ones. Samuel Lewkenor, for example, in his exceptional description of Vienna and its university—apparently based on his personal visit to the city—refers to fifty such authorities, but omits Wolfgang Lazius' pioneering work on Vienna, on which he draws for his introductory paragraphs.

Most of the new findings presented in Manfred Draudt's study concern the key figure among the topographers, Abraham Ortelius. For the first time, attention is drawn to the fact that the maps and the respective descriptions of countries show hardly any coordination, since the spellings of the same place names differ substantially. Furthermore, the *Epitome*, the abridged or pocket edition of *The Theatre of the Whole World*, is only partly based on his magnum opus, because some chapters (such as the one on Vienna) apparently rely on different sources. Whereas there are hardly any verbal parallels between Ortelius's *Epitome* and his *Theatre*, the chapters on Germany, Austria and Salzburg of the latter opus

read like a close English translation of Mathias Quad's German *Geographisch Handtbuch* (Geographical handbook), the first German atlas, which so far has not been associated with Ortelius. The detailed parallels of these two works extend even to references to authorities, occurring in exactly the same context. Also, an obscure source, Stumpf's *Gemeiner loblicher Eydgenoschafft . . . Chronica Germanie* of 1548, is common to Ortelius's and Quad's works. However, a deliberate touch of individuality is maintained in the chapters that are identical in every detail, because the authors add to them original final paragraphs. The parallel presentation of the English and German texts leads to the edifying conclusion that these authors drew on each other, probably more than they acknowledged or has been suspected.

On the grounds of internal evidence (occasionally slightly different spellings of names, minor mistakes, etc.), it is impossible to determine who copied and translated the other's work. It seems that Quad might be the original author of the chapters on Germany and Austria, although he refers explicitly to Ortelius's *Theatre* in his section on Salzburg. More research, particularly on Ortelius's original Latin version, is required if we are to solve this puzzle. The most curious parallel between the works of Ortelius and Quad concerns the listing and brief descriptions of eleven "cities" in Eastern Austria, which occur in exactly the same sequence and in virtually identical spellings in their works and, surprisingly, are concluded with "Hamburg"—an obvious printing mistake for "Hainburg" (p. 100). However, neither Ortelius nor Quad were the originators of this passage, which can, in fact, be traced back to Mercator's *Atlas*, their apparent source, where this sequence of place

names in similar spellings with identical descriptions and the misprint “Hamburg” for “Hainburg” can be found.

This exemplary analysis of the chapters on Austria has led to new and deeper insights into the ways in which topographers compiled their works by drawing on a wide range of sources from many parts of Europe, which goes considerably beyond what they acknowledged and what scholars have so far documented. The book is an intellectually lively account of early modern geography, brimming with the insights of the learned and acutely attentive reader. In a study that goes from John Thorie and George Abbot to Giovanni Botero, Abraham Ortelius, and Robbert Stafforde, concentrating on geographic narratives that link the *telos* of early modern spatial subjectivity to our own parameters, Manfred Draudt sketches a vast cultural canvas commanding the reader’s full attention. I hope that Manfred Draudt’s admirable study will give the subject of early modern geography the recognition it deserves—as it diligently draws attention to the intersection of geography, social history, and lived spatial experience. *Das Österreich- und Wien-Bild in den englischen Topographien um 1600 und deren europäische* is a groundbreaking book which, if properly recognized, should transform not only the terms of our understanding of early modern geography, but also the ways in which the textual fabric of early modern Austria (and Europe) itself is conceptualized.



MONICA MATEI-CHESNOIU

ANDREI CUȘCO and VICTOR TAKI

***Basarabia în componența Imperiului Rus (1812–1917)***

(Bessarabia as a part of the Russian Empire, 1812–1917)

Chișinău: Cartier, 2024

IT IS easy to forget that Bessarabia, identifiable on physical and mental maps by nearly everybody interested in the history and geography of Eastern Europe, came into being only with the Treaty of Bucharest in 1812, following the Russo-Turkish war of 1806–1812. Until then, it “did not constitute a distinctive administrative unit” (p. 9), not to mention an independent state. The region bordered by the rivers Prut to the west and Dniester to the east, and the Black Sea to the south is the fascinating topic of this work, with its suggestive title *Basarabia în componența Imperiului Rus (1812–1917)*, which can be translated as Bessarabia as a part of the Russian Empire, 1812–1917. The authors, Andrei Cușco and Victor Taki, both Moldovans, provide an innovative approach to the study of the historical region of Bessarabia as an area on the margins of the Ottoman and Russian Empires. They thus offer an alternative to the nationalistic discourse which has dominated the historiography of this area for the past century and a half. As competent historians trained at the Central European University, they also consulted Russian archives, which gives their study more depth as it offers both the vision from the center to the periphery and the other way around. The rich bibliography of Russian secondary sources is another strength of this work. The authors have chosen a different perspective from that normally encountered in Romanian historiography. The work is thus