

## Werk

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## **NATIONAL PROGRESS REPORT OF HUNGARY 1992-1994**

**KLARA PATAY**

*National Széchényi Library, Budapest*

There follows a short survey of the map collections and map producing institutes, introducing their works and results in the period concerned:

**National Széchényi Library, Map Division (Országos Széchényi Könyvtár) H-1827 Budapest; fax +36-1-2020804**

Founded as a National Library in 1802 it has been collecting, with the biggest plenitude all books in any way related to Hungary (whether by author, area covered, printinghouse or language). Similarly, the Map Division, which is a separate department since 1939, collects all types of related documents, in two copies if possible. Presently it is the largest and most unique hungarica-collection in the country. Moreover it possesses an important collection of maps concerning the history of European map production. Its holdings now comprise more than 200.000 units.

For acquisition four channels are used. The handing in of deposit copies represents more than 70% of acquisitions, the rest are purchases (some 20 %), exchanges and donations. Between 1992 and 1994 44 missing maps were acquired. In Hungary, with more and more firms and companies being privatized, but with the legislations still outdated, there is an increasing problem of acquiring deposit copies.

The department's material is processed up to date. This results in the publication of a quarterly bibliography of maps. During reconstruction, started in 1992, 60 % of our atlas collection (some 2,880 volumes) has got more complete treatment.

There are five staff members of which four are research fellows with a 4 day working week. There were no reorganisations or changes in the number of staff recently. The map librarians mainly attend national conferences and give lectures on the history of map. Two staff members went abroad: one of them to Berlin (to attend the 6th Cartographic Colloquium), the other went to the U.S.A. for research. Their papers were published in national and foreign periodicals and

year-books. A larger work in our publication plan is a catalogue of the manuscript cadastral sketches and maps made during the second half of the 19th century. Recently another work, sponsored by the Volkswagen Foundation, was produced. All maps, atlases and manuals printed before 1900 in Germany or in the German language, which are in possession of the library were collected, evaluated and statistically processed. Three times a year the Map Department compiles a temporary exhibition. One shows the nicest copies of new acquisitions of the previous year, the others mainly focus on anniversaries (as Mercator this year) or on thematic selections from our holdings (i.e. town plans of Vienna, Danube-maps, etc.)

The national library, as all other libraries and archives in the country, pays special attention to preservation. In the restoration labs 16 atlases (amongst others copies with full parchment cover), 32 manuscripts and 11 printed maps were restored. Our restorers move with the times with regard to the use of new methods, tools and materials (i.e. preservation pencil, goretex, etc.) For reasons of protection items are not allowed to be xeroxcopied.

Presently, we cannot really talk about a fully existing and operational computerised information data processing or archiving system in the Map Collection. As a matter of fact, the development of such a system has been in progress since 1988, by the installation of an integrated system, called DOBIS-LIBIS. With this, our Library has attained the very first place in Hungary where automatization is concerned. This system is capable of automatizing all library data processing procedures and - at the same time - the program is freely upgradable. Presently three of our departments share this system, but unfortunately not the Map Collection, nor other specialised collections are integrated.

A Local Area Network (LAN) is also operating which is connected with Internet. We have also a CD-ROM tower with 28 CD-ROMs, which are accessible through the LAN. Several smaller databases -based on Mikrois- have been installed and which are accessible through Internet. Other libraries and archives use different systems, like Aleph, Voyager, Marquies, etc.

**National Hungarian Archives (Magyar Országos Levéltár), H-1014 Budapest,  
Bécsi kapu tér 2/4; fax: +36-1-1150693**

The National Archives are the largest official archives in Hungary. Since its formation in 1867 it has had a map collection, however, never as a separate, independent department. Its holdings comprise some 40,000 map units (one third manuscript, the rest engravings or prints) and about 20,000 architectural plans and designs; all of them from the 16th to the 19th century. In addition an inestimable amount of maps, plans and designs are hidden among the documents and records.

Annual acquisition are not worth mentioning, 10-15 units only (as gift or by purchase). All holdings are furnished with stock registers and with indexes of place names. Architectural designs have author indexes too. Approximately half of the maps have been prepared for computer processing.

The staff counts three people; one of them (a cartographer-archivist) has a day a week off for research. They attended several trade and archival conferences in Hungary. There were no exhibitions and publications compiled or edited in this period. Some 220 pieces were restored.

The Archives are supplied with II F international academic X.25. computer system, partially connected to the nationwide network; but the Map Room hasn't been linked, yet. Each county archive (20) holds some 1,000-1,200 manuscript maps, which are processed and -since 1965- published in catalogues.

**War History Institute and Museum, Map Room (Hadtörténeti Intézet és Múzeum Hadtörténelmi Térképtára), H-1250 Budapest, I. Tóth utca 40. Pf. 7; fax: +36-1-1561575**

The Military Archives and Museum was formed after the First World War. It became the Hungarian legal successor of the Military Archives of the Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy in Vienna. All maps and their copies concerning Hungary came into the inheritance of the Archives.

In the course of time the institute has been repeatedly reorganized and renamed. The War Institute came into existence as a subordinate section of the Military Archives in the 1950s. The first duty of the Map Room is to collect all military maps (mainly series). With the enlargement of the field of collection the holdings -that embrace about 400,000 units- have been enriched with single-sheet maps, aerial photographs and photocopies, making it the largest map collection in Hungary. All the maps have been processed.

In the period concerned the Map Room's acquisition included some 2,000 map-series sheets and approximately 7,000 obsolete military maps. Because of hardly existing financial resources purchases are negligible.

The staff of five have three research fellows with a day off a week. They attended the conferences organized by the National Defence's institutes, and others organized by archives and universities. The Map Room compiled 10 exhibitions, and also took part in the composition of national and foreign travelling shows. 60-70 pieces a year were restored. Their highest priority was the photographing of Hungarian and manuscript maps, which has been done with colour xerox-copying of sheets of the first military survey. Five catalogues were published as part of a series.

They started their cataloguing automation in 1992 with loading a register of about 270,000 entries. This is a project planned for 10-15 years. IBM computers with proper software are used.

**Institute of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing (Földmérési és Távérzékelési Intézet), H-1051 Budapest, Sas u. 19; fax: +36-1-2694560**

The Institute was founded in 1967. In the beginning, activities covered organization, directional and supervision tasks, as well as central surveying data and a map library. Through the years it has been reorganized several times and its activities have been gradually extended. The Satellite Geodetic Observatory has been established in the mid-1970s, the Remote Sensing Centre in 1981 and the Department of Land Information Systems in 1988.

The continuous tasks of the Institute comprise the partial supervision of the Land Registry Offices, assuring the cartographic reference services of topographic and cadastral maps, running a technical library, and edit professional periodicals and scientific publications. Nowadays, the Institute is involved in the production of digital maps, too, using PC 486's and Intergraph workstations.

**Cartographia, H-1149 Budapest, Bosnyák tér 5; fax: +36-1-1633649**

Cartographia was organized in 1954. It is the biggest map-making, -publishing and -printing institute in Hungary. Its main task is to produce commercial maps and official maps in scales 1:10,000 to 1,000,000. Since 1967 its activities have been extended to also producing the so-called topographical maps and executing photogrammetrical works for civil purposes.

The firm compiles geographical and historical maps for national schools, and also tourist, city, road, thematic and other types of maps, even map picture cards. Furthermore it provides millions of copies to other governmental organizations. The firm has also produced for well-known foreign map-publishing houses like Falk, Ravenstein, Hallwag, Freytag Berndt u. Artaria, etc.

Since 1993 it has been several times reorganized and renamed and presently it is run as a private corporation under the name of Cartographia.

Besides traditional maps the firm has for the past 2 to 3 years been producing computer-aided digital maps, using IBM PCs and Intergraph.

**Agoston Tóth Mapping Institute of the Hungarian defence Forces (MH Tóth Agoston Térképészeti Intézet), H-1125 Budapest, Szilágyi Erzsébet fasor 20; fax: +36-1-2124223**

Since its foundation in 1919, the institute's constant and unchanging task has been to furnish the National Defence Forces with different kinds of cartographic materials. Its organizational structure and its name have changed several times until quite recently. The present name dates from 1989, however, since 1990 the Institute has been divided in two independent parts.

The task of the Agoston Toth Mapping Institute is military mapping and researches in the field of military geography, which started in the beginning of

the 1980s. The other part became the Cartographic Centre of the Hungarian Defence Forces. Its duty comprises producing cartographic materials, that is, conventional and digital maps and related researches and improvements. The Centre now has four independent digital cartographic sub-systems ready or under construction, using Intergraph and Laser-Scan computer systems.

**Geometria GIS Systems House (Geometria Térinformatikai Rendszerház), H-1015 Budapest, Felső-Zöldmáli út 128-130; fax: +36-1-2501231**

Geometria, established in 1986, is an independent private enterprise for innovating and servicing in the GIS field and as such is the leading company in Hungary.

One of the most important elements of GIS' is a computer mapping database. Besides digitizing maps in small and large scale or only some sheets the firm has been creating special databases (such as public utility and communication networks, etc.), not only for national demand but and mainly for EC countries. The data are put in a conventional map form or stored in magnetic databases. They use Intergraph, DEC-stations, SPARC-stations, etc., and further workstations and IBM compatible PC's.