Robert Wideen : 2023

Soufflenheim Genealogy Research and History
www.soufflenheimgenealogy.com

New Soufflenheim research on several topics.

Appearance of Richard the Lionheart before Emperor Henry VI in Haguenau in 1193.
Stained glass window in the historical museum of Haguenau, Léo Schnug.

ATLAS OF MEDIEVAL TOWNS IN ALSACE

By François J. Himly (1970)

A digital reissue of the historical atlas of Alsace by UHA / Cresat. Status of the project in December 2012.

http://www.atlas.historique.alsace.uha.fr/fr/content/9-atlas-des-villes-medievales-d-alsace

The atlas of medieval towns in Alsace by François J. Himly.

The atlas of medieval towns in Alsace, produced by François J. Himly (chief curator, director of the departmental archives of Bas-Rhin), and a large number of collaborators, in 1970 is an essential work, not to say a "bestseller" for anyone interested to the medieval period of Alsace.

The aim of the work was to present, for the whole of historical Alsace (i.e. the current region, increased by the territory of Belfort, but without the humpbacked Alsace to the west of the Vosges), an overview of the urban landscape between around 1300 and 1500. As a result, the atlas "paper" consists essentially of 73 city maps (71 cities, but two of them have two plans), on a scale of 1/4000 (except three cases: Strasbourg 1/7500, Colmar 1/5000 and Erstein 1/6000), such as he and his team were able to restore them, through the texts, archeology and ancient and modern graphic documents, for the period concerned. For each city, the background map is a transcription of the Napoleonic cadastre (not retaining only the islands without the plots). These plans are supplemented with legends indicating the type of buildings represented as well as indications on their date of appearance. But the beginning of this book also includes a set of complementary plans and tables, allowing a more collective and comparative approach. We find in particular in this device a cartography of the cities of the Middle Ages on the whole of Alsace; plans of comparison of city areas; maps of Alsace indicating by major period the cities founded by the Hohenstaufen, the bishops of Strasbourg and others; and tables presenting the various characteristics of each city (founder, area, population, franchises, market, administration, etc.).

It is still to be specified that Himly solved here the delicate problem, which arises with any researcher working on the urban in the Middle Ages, from the definition of the medieval city, including in its corpus all the agglomerations which at one time or another during the Middle Ages, had been described in the official texts as a "city", namely: civitas, urbs and Stadt or Städtlin, leaving aside the terms portus, burgus, oppidum and Flecken. Therefore, are included in the corpus of agglomerations which today would rather be qualified as "village" (Landser, Seltz).

It is a pioneering and major work on a national scale by its desire to represent space of medieval towns, taking into account the large number, which allows an approach comparative. It is therefore considered an important step in the historiography of this area of research.

If in other regions, other Atlases have emerged, more adapted to the subsequent evolution of problematic, he was not replaced in Alsace. The Atlas of Himly thus still arouses a strong enthusiasm in Alsace, forty years after its publication: it is still today the only general work dealing with the urban phenomenon in Alsace in the Middle Ages, while F.-J. Himly, in his introduction, referred to it as "a sketch of urban history".

But its edition has long been out of print and it has never been reissued. However, it is not free from weaknesses. The degree of knowledge for each city being very uneven, F.-J. Himly had called on local collaborators who sometimes supplemented the data, sometimes only skimmed over the issues without sufficient critical thinking. Some editorial choices are similarly problematic, such as the absence of references precise bibliographical information for most of the urban facts cited. Many errors or omissions also dot city maps and more synthetic documents, such as scales, often inaccurate, poorly located buildings, numbers in the list without correspondence on the plans or vice versa of buildings without reference in the legend.

Despite these weaknesses, and with the authorization of its publisher the Federation of Societies d'Histoire d'Alsace, the Atlas Historique de l'Alsace has nevertheless decided to republish it in the form digital. The choice was made to make the original document almost as it is as historiographical document, correcting only the most flagrant errors, duly reported elsewhere. But rather than offering simply scanned plans, the choice was fact of vectorizing them, according to the spirit which animates the organizers of the Atlas of the production of reusable working documents. Thus, our users will have plans under Adobe-Ilustrator and in color.

In reality, this digitization is only the first part of a total overhaul of Himly's Atlas, taking into account the evolution of knowledge and methods of representation. Since 1970, in fact, urban research has multiplied, allowing access to resources then unknown. We will be able to rely in particular on a specific file compiled by Bernhard Metz, largely still unpublished, but which is organized according to Himly's first ideas on the definition of the medieval city as an accumulation of functions and built structures (enclosure, market, privileges, etc.). All mentions are referenced and if possible dated, thus constituting a corpus of the urban phenomenon in its chronological dimension. Furthermore, for the cartography, we will rely on the standards similar to the Urban Archaeological Heritage Assessment Documents of the Ministry of Culture (in Tours), with a current cadastral map background and a stratification of the organization taking into account the major stages of urban development adapted to each city. In this spirit, moreover, the data on the medieval city will be preceded according to the cases of the ancient antecedents and supplemented by the layer(s) of the modern period. This overhaul is a large-scale work that the Atlas is starting now, based on examples that have already been completed, mainly in the context of university work and already offered to our users on the same site (Strasbourg, Ingwiller, Wissembourg, Sélestat and Haguenau). The monographs will be posted online as they are produced.

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Source :

HIMLY (F.-J.), Atlas des villes médiévales d'Alsace, Strasbourg, Fédération des sociétés d'histoire et d'archéologie d'Alsace, 1970, 133 p

MAPS

Historic Atlas of Alsace : http://www.atlas.historique.alsace.uha.fr/fr/

ERNST VON MANSFELD

[Note: Ernst von Mansfeld burned Soufflenheim during the Thirty Years War]

The German Military Entrepreneur Ernst von Mansfeld and His Conduct of Asymmetrical Warfare in the Thirty Years War, Doctoral Dissertation by Olli Bäckström September 15, .2011, University Of Helsinki, 98 pages, English. https://helda.helsinki.fi/bitstream/handle/10138/28444/thegerma.pdf

Wallenstein, A Scene of the Thirty Years War, Ernest Crofts

THE ARCHIVES OF ALSACE

From Genealogy Alsace : The website of the Cercle généalogique d'Alsace, Île-de-France section

During the last exhibition in Châtenois, the Departmental Archives presented the creation of the Archives d'Alsace. Following the merger of the departmental councils of Bas-Rhin and Haut-Rhin on 01.01.2021 into CeA (European Collectivity of Alsace), the former Departmental Archives of Bas-Rhin and Haut-Rhin become the Archives of Alsace.

The new service remains spread over two sites, Colmar and Strasbourg comprising two depots, two reading rooms, two management systems and two websites. Given the physical and numerical volumetrics, it is impossible to unify everything quickly.

It is necessary to keep the two websites of Bas-Rhin and Haut-Rhin. There are two types of content that are managed by different tools.

- Editorial content (news, practical information, research help sheets, etc.)
- Archival content: digitized holdings (viewers) and finding aids (filing frame).

This is a huge project, made up of several projects... In the meantime, the two sites are preserved in order to continue to provide service, enrichment, and maintenance, with the strong desire to offer for the future a single entry point such as "archives d'Alsace".

The calendar:

- 1er quarter 2023
  - Launch of Mnesys Expo to consult Colmar's finding aids and digitized collections
  - Opening of the Archives Alsace portal, a single point of entry to the Archives d'Alsace
  - The catalogues of the Archives libraries have already merged on the archives of Alsace libraries website
- 2023-2024 data preparation internally
- 2025-2026
  - Convergence of business applications,
  - Convergences towards a single and complete Alsace portal (editorial content, IR and digitized collections).

Good news! the parish registers of the Haut-Rhin for the letters I, J, K are online.

Source: extract from the presentation of the conference of the Archives of Alsace on September 11, during the Salon de Châtenois.

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