

THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS OF THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY – MAP EXHIBITION – GENERAL INFORMATION

(selected by Zsombor BARTOS-ELEKES and Katalin LUFFY)

Opening: *Special Collections, Central University Library, Cluj-Napoca; September 22, 2022.*

The collections of the **Transylvanian Museum Society**, founded in 1859, were taken over by the University of Kolozsvár (Cluj), founded in 1872. The **University Library** moved to its present building in 1909.

Today, the Central University Library of Cluj-Napoca contains 4 million books. The library's **Special Collections** include historical prints up to 1830 (incunables, old Romanian, old Hungarian and other European books), maps and atlases, manuscripts, letters, albums, photographs, music scores, etc. The **Map and Atlas Collection** contains 580 atlases (in 698 volumes), at least 4,500 (mostly chorographic) maps (as 9669 map sheets), 103 wall maps, 202 guidebooks – from the 16th century to the present. Beyond the Map and Atlas Collection, there are also maps as parts of books: if we take these into account, the oldest map stored in the library is from the 15th century.

The 8,453 cards of the traditional **catalogue** of the Map and Atlas Collection is available here: <https://www.bcucuj.ro/ro/resursele-bibliotecii/cat/csh>

This **map exhibition** is part of the 16th **ICA Conference on Digital Approaches to Cartographic Heritage**. The map exhibition presents maps and atlases from the following collections: Maps and Atlases, Incunables, Old Romanian Books, Old Hungarian Books. The exhibition includes three groups of maps.



The **first group** presents some of the highlights of the Special Collections: books containing maps from the Incunables Collection and from the Old Hungarian and Romanian Books; the oldest map and atlas of the Maps and Atlas Collection; early maps related to Transylvanian Saxon, Hungarian or Romanian cartographers:

- the Schedel's incunable containing the map of *Germania Magna* (1493),
- Reichersdorff's description of Transylvania and Moldavia (1550),
- the pocket atlas by Johannes Honterus (1552) and a map by Sebastian Münster based on it,
- Ortelius' map, based on the map of Transylvania by János Zsámboky (1566),
- the prince of Transylvania, Gábor Bethlen's own Ortelius atlas (1592),
- map of Siberia, based on Nicolae Milescu's map (1676),
- the first school atlas in Hungarian (1800),
- map of Palestine in the book by Pavel Kengyelác and Ioan Theodorovici (1824).



The **second group** shows mainly old maps of Transylvania and its vicinity until the mid-19th century, with a typical map from each historical or cartographic period, e.g.:

- Mercator's (around 1600) and Da Vignola's (1686) maps, from the period of the Principality of Transylvania,
- from the 18th century, a series of maps of Transylvania, Moldavia, Walachia, etc. (1790),
- German, Hungarian and Romanian maps of Transylvania from almost the same year (1861–1862).



The **third group** of maps guides the visitors through the maps of Claudiopolis / Klausenburg / Kolozsvár / Cluj / Cluj-Napoca:

- the first map of the city (1670),
- the first published map of Kolozs / Cluj county from the Habsburg period (1844),
- city maps from the Austrian–Hungarian dualism, the Romanian interbellum, the communist period and the recent past.

THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS OF THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY – MAP EXHIBITION – THE MAPS EXHIBITED

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- 1.1. **Hartmann SCHEDEL: *Das Buch der Croniken und Geschichten, Nürnberg, 1493 (Inc. 46)***. The Schedel's World Chronicle (the Nuremberg Chronicle) is a German-language incunable of the historian, physician and humanist author. It is one of the highlights of the library. It contains the oldest map in the library, which is the oldest map printed in Germany, Hieronymus Münzer's map *Germania Magna*, on which the author represented among others Transylvania / Siebenbürgen (*Sibenburg*), Oradea / Várad (*Wardem*) and Țara Bârsei / Burzenland (*Wvrtzlant*).
- 1.2. **Georg von REICHERSDORFF: *Chorographia Transylvaniae, quae Dacia olim appellata, Viennae, 1550 (BMV 213)***. The Transylvanian Saxon author was in the service of the Habsburg/Hungarian Kingdom, he was sent in a mission to his homeland and to Moldavia. He published a chorographic description of Transylvania and Moldavia in Latin, which unfortunately does not include a map.
- 1.3. **Johannes HONTERUS: *Rudimenta Cosmographica, Zürich, 1552 (BMV 227)***. After his university studies, the Transylvanian Saxon author returned to his homeland and published a textbook in 1542, with an atlas appendix, which can be considered the world's first pocket atlas. The textbook and the atlas has gone through more than a hundred editions in a century and a half: the library has an edition from Zürich, which is unique in that it contains the notes of a contemporary reader.
- 1.4. **Von Transylvania / Siebenbürgen, 1530? (H 42/18)**. This map appears in the map catalogue with an unknown author and assumed to be from around 1530. In fact the map was based on a sheet from the Honterus' textbook and pocket atlas, *Rudimenta Comographica* (1542), copied the German cartographer Sebastian Münster. Münster's *Cosmography* has also gone through many editions; this map sheet is most similar to the Basel editions from the second half of the 16th century.
- 1.5. **SAMBUCUS, Joannes: *Transilvania, Viennae, 1566 (H 44/22)***. Honterus's other major cartographic work is the first map of Transylvania from 1532. It was the basis for the Hungarian-born, Viennese physician and historian, János Zsámboky's map of Transylvania in 1566. The map shown here is not the Zsámboky's original map, but its copy used by the Flemish Abraham Ortelius in his famous atlas, *Theatrum orbis terrarum*. The edition shown here is the second version, which appeared in atlases published between 1575 and 1612 in Antwerp.
- 1.6. **Abrahamus ORTELIUS: *Theatrum orbis terrarium, Antverpiae, 1592 (Atlas 64)***. The earliest atlas in the Map and Atlas Collection is the 1592 edition of Ortelius' atlas. It is of outstanding value to the map collection not only because of its age, but also because it comes from the library of the most important Transylvanian prince, Gábor Bethlen, as his own handwritten inscription in Latin and Hungarian in the atlas attests.
- 1.7. ***Nouvelle Carte de la Sibérie et du Kitay* (H 32/46)**. Nicolae Milescu was a Moldavian-born Russian diplomat; he travelled in China in 1675–1678 and produced a map of Siberia in 1676, the first map by a Romanian author. The map is known through a copy made by the French Jesuit explorer, Philippe Avril in 1692, a photocopy of which is shown here.
- 1.8. **BUDAI Ésaías: *Oskolai új átlás, Debreczen, 1800 (Atlas 440)***. The first maps in Hungarian began to appear in the 18th century. A few decades later, a teacher at the Calvinist College in Debrecen, together with his students, produced the first Hungarian-language school atlas.
- 1.9. **Pavel KENGYELÁ CZ – Ioan THEODOROVICI: *Istoria universală sau a toată lumea, Buda, 1824 (BRV 1210)***. The world history of the Serbian Orthodox monastery chief Pavel Kengyelá cz of Banat has been translated into Romanian by Ioan Theodorovici. This work, published in Buda, contains this early map in Romanian, still in Cyrillic letters. Its title is *Palestina sau pământul făgăduinței* (Palestine or the Land of Promise).
- 2.1. **Gerardus MERCATOR: *Transylvania. Excusum apud Henricum Hondium sub insigno Atlantis, Amstelodami, 1590? (H 44/21)***. During the time of the Principality of Transylvania (16th and 17th centuries) the map of Transylvania by Honterus (via Zsámboky) was improved by western atlas publishers. One of the best known of these is Mercator's work (1595), which was later published in Hondius' atlas. This copy is one of the earlier versions, published between 1604 and 1636 (later than the 1590 estimation of the catalogue).
- 2.2. **Giacomo CANTELLI DA VIGNOLA: *La Transilvania, Roma, 1686 (H 34/80)***. This Italian map was one of the most detailed maps of the Western map publishers, from the last years of the Principality, before the production of local, detailed maps began in Habsburg Transylvania. It is notable for being the first map, which marked the boundaries of Transylvanian counties and seats.

- 2.3. **Frederici DE WIT: *Hungariae et Regionum, quae ei quondam fuêre unitae, ut Transilvaniae, Valachiae, Moldaviae, Amstelodami, 1688 (H 31/16)***. Transylvania appeared on the maps not only on its own, but also with its neighbours, as on this map made by the famous Dutch cartographer.
- 2.4. **Anton Friedrich BÜSCHING: *Nro. 7: Das Grossfürstenthum Siebenbürgen (H 14/71). Nro 8: Die Landschaft Bukovina (H 14/76). Nro 9: Das Fürstenthums Moldau, nordliche Haelfte (H 14/72). Nro 10: Das Fürstenthums Moldau, südliche Haelfte (H 14/73). Nro 11: Die Landschaft Bessarabien (H 14/75). Nro 13: Das Fürstenthum Walachey (H 14/74). 1790?*** The main work of the German geographer Büsching, *Erdbeschreibung* (Earth description) was published between 1754 and 1761. Büsching's text was the basis for the cartographer Franz Johann Joseph von Reilly's atlas *Schauplatz der Fünf Theile der Welt* (Scenes from the Five Parts of the World), with 826 map sheets in 6 volumes published in Vienna. The first chapter of the first volume (1791) is on Hungary and the Ottoman Empire in Europe, from this chapter we have presented the sheets held by the library.
- 2.5. **Joannes de LIPSZKY: *Mappa Generalis Regni Hungariae VI., Pesthini, 1806 (H 77/86)***. The detailed Habsburg military maps were secret at the time, and foreign maps were not detailed enough. János Lipszky published his map of Hungary, Transylvania and Croatia in Pest on 12 sheets, between 1804 and 1808. Much more accurate and detailed than the earlier maps, this map was the source of later works for decades.
- 2.6. ***Karte des Grossfürstenthums Siebenbürgen, Th. Steinhausen, Hermannstadt, 1862 (H 61/36)***. Transylvania was a separate Habsburg province until 1867, so its last maps were published before then, most of them by German authors, as this one from Sibiu.
- 2.7. **ELEKES Ferencz: *A Királyhágón inneni rész Erdély térképe, Stein János, Kolozsvár, 1861 (H 44/58)***. After the 1848–1849 revolution, apart from the German-language maps, there were hardly any Hungarian-language maps of Transylvania. The exception is this map of a cadastral engineer, lithographed in our city, for school use.
- 2.8. **Spiridonu FETTI: *Chart'a marelui Principatu Transilvania, Sabiu, 1862 (Murale 78)***. The first detailed, Romanian-language map of Transylvania for schools was published in Sibiu in roughly the same year as the maps exhibited in vicinity.
- 3.1. ***Claudiopoli, 1680? (H 44/26)***. The first detailed map of Cluj / Kolozsvár was published in the three-volume *Historia di Leopoldo Cesare* by Galeazzo Gualdo-Priorato (Vienna, 1670). The Italian-language map shows the location of the armies of Küçük Mehmet (the Turkish Pasha of Oradea / Várad) and of Mihály Apafi I (the prince of Transylvania) around the town in 1662.
- 3.2. ***Nemes Kolozs megye földabrosza. Kir. Lyceum Könyomó Intézete, Kolozsvár, 1844 (H 64/47)***. This county map represents the level between the Transylvania maps and the city maps. The first map of Cluj / Kolozs County is Gábor Hevenesi's manuscript from 1699, but this one is presumably the first published county map (maps were published regularly after 1867).
- 3.3. **BODÁNYI Sándor: *Szabad királyi Kolosvár város térrajza, Kolozsvár, 1869 (H 53/23)***. Until 1869, the town's houses were numbered by quarters, when the numbering of streets was introduced, with odd and even sides. The town's cartographer is the author of this map, which (together with a volume), helped the readers find their way around the old and new house numbering.
- 3.4. **CSÁNYI Gusztáv: *Kolozsvár szab.kir. város belterületének térképe. Budapest, 1917 (H 4/2)***. After earlier inaccurate maps of the city, the cadastral survey of the 1890s brought a change in accuracy. This is a reduced cadastral map served as a city map. (Many colour but less detailed city maps were also published in this period.)
- 3.5. **Petru BORTEȘ: *Harta generală a orașului municipal Cluj, Cluj, 1937 (H 53/11)***. Between the two world wars, Petru Borteș produced several editions of the map of the city. This is the last, 4th version.
- 3.6. ***Harta orașului Cluj (H 3/129)***. The fewest city maps were published in the communism, around the 1950s. This monochrome, anonymous map is probably from 1958. (In the 1970s and 1980s, their numbers increased and the works printed again in colour.)
- 3.7. ***Cluj-Napoca, Agát-Topográf, Budapest, 1996 (H 79/30)***. The first city map edited with graphical software on a computer.