

## General

During the 1990s the Academy and its School of Humanities and Social Sciences subjected its research institutions to a thorough evaluation by foreign experts. Some of the measures undertaken that led to a distinct improvement, in fact, a considerable modernization in the research scenario, had partly been initiated before the evaluation results were available. Certainly, these and other measures were supported and of course also prompted by the outcome of the evaluation process. With regard to Byzantine and Medieval Studies, the measures adopted were moreover able to strengthen intra- and inter-disciplinary cooperation, create tangible synergies and finally achieve even trans-disciplinary attractiveness (by offering external services). The principle applied, namely that urgently required cooperation should lead to a collaboration between different disciplines and their representatives, not however to duplication or to a multiplicity of identical activities, proved extremely helpful and productive. In other words, the Academy establishes and maintains facilities in certain fields that are either neglected by other Austrian institutions or not dealt with in a manner that is consistent with the latest advances in research. This approach, however, has not led to uniformity or a general levelling, but rather to a process of institutionalization in keeping with the principles of efficiency and best utilization of resources. In light of the above, the Institute for Research into the Daily Life and Material Culture of the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period, which has been in existence for the last three decades, underwent a thorough evaluation and stock-taking culminating in a balanced realignment. It was decided to create focus research areas and to concentrate on and extend the scope of research to the Early Modern Period.

The four Academy Commissions

- for research on the Early Middle Ages
  - for the publication of inscriptions from medieval Germany
  - for the publication of the *Diplomata* volume (Vienna edition) of the *Monumenta Germaniae Historica*
  - for the revision of the *Regesta Imperii*
- were amalgamated into a combined research unit for the history of the medieval period with effect from 1 January 1998. This process took place con-

currently with the evaluation of the four former Commissions.

The institutional structure of the following remained unchanged:

- Commission for Byzantine Studies
- Commission for the *Tabula Imperii Byzantini*
- Commission for Paleography and Codicology of Medieval Manuscripts.

## Tasks

All research facilities concentrate primarily on the applied historical sciences in the broadest sense. The objective is to gain an in-depth understanding of the written and non-written sources of the Byzantine and medieval period, while pursuing their description and publication. Development and further enhancement of the required methodologies are thus the focus of special attention. The tasks are of a fundamental nature and highly time-consuming. Other research projects with short- or at best medium-term orientation have tended to more or less neglect these areas. This holds true for both Austria and other countries. Cooperation between the Byzantine and medieval research institutes within the Academy, but more importantly with similar national and international institutions such as the *Monumenta Germaniae Historica* in Munich thus assume great significance. Cooperation agreements have already been concluded with some of these institutions and are functioning well. It is not possible to enumerate here in detail the various types of cooperation; however, the exceptionally close relationship with the Institute for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies as well as the Institute for Research on Austrian History, both at the University of Vienna, deserves special mention.

## Staffing problems

Staffing problems are common to all institutes. The institutes are clearly understaffed given the magnitude of tasks to be accomplished. This was also noted by the evaluators. The training of specialist staff usually takes place at both the above named institutes at the University of Vienna. However, occasionally on-the-job training is provided and will, in fact, assume increasing importance in the future. This dual training produces highly qualified experts who enjoy both a high level of competence as well

as a high degree of specialization. Unfortunately, only limited tenure research posts are available to such specialists since financial constraints have prevented the Academy from filling all required permanent posts and promoting new talent on a sustainable basis. Although considerable external funds do accrue to the Academy because of this approach, it is not necessarily conducive to maintaining continuity in research activities. Clearly, it will require considerable effort to ensure that the vital balance – so difficult to achieve in the humanities – between mobility, grooming of next generations and retaining highly qualified academic staff in the long term is achieved. Finally it should be noted that Academy institutes devoted to Byzantine and medieval studies partly cover research areas, in fact entire fields of study, that have tended to be neglected in the German-speaking and East European region. Thus suitable cooperation partners can sometimes be found only in Western Europe and in the United States.

## Research programme 2001–2005

### Institute for Research into the Daily Life and Material Culture of the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period

The Institute for Research into the Daily Life and Material Culture of the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period documents material culture on the basis of pictures, texts and originals from the middle ages till about 1620 as found in Austria and neighbouring Central European countries or the Danube states. In the first stage the material is described according to specified guidelines, a commentary provided and an entry made in the database (REAL). The descriptions and digitized images are linked to academic literature, lexicographical information and source texts. Documentation and research activities are divided into the following areas:

- pictorial sources
- literature
- historical sources
- archaeology

The institute processes this material from formal and content-related perspectives and issues publications on the material culture as well as the history of daily life and of mentalities. It organizes presentations, lectures and teaching programmes by the staff and provides assistance during exhibitions. Thus in this and in other areas the institute functions as a service enterprise. Following the evaluation process in 1998 and the subsequent symposium on the future tasks and structures of the institute in 1999, the projects below were either commenced or continued with:

#### 1. Documentation of sources

##### 1.1. Pictorial sources

The first phase of the *Everyday life in Bavaria* project, which commenced in 1996 and covered the documentation of pictorial sources in Swabia relevant from a material culture perspective was concluded in 2001. The next phase focusing on *Upper Bavaria* will be taken up in cooperation with the House of Bavarian History. Since the period under consideration was extended to 1620, older finds in Austria and the southern Tyrol will need to be included. Cooperation with the South Tyrolean Cultural Institute and the departments for culture in the Austrian federal states is envisaged for this purpose.

##### 1.2. Literary sources

The following texts will be included in the text database: poems by Stricker – *Daniel von dem Blühenden Tal*, *Frauenehre*, *Karl*, *Der Pfaffe Amis* and the *Kleindichtungen* – *Jüngling* by Konrad von Haslau, *Der Magezoge*, the verse novel *Meier Helmbrecht* by Wernher der Gärtner, *Hofzucht* by Tannhäuser, *Seifried Helbling* and the *Fürstenbuch* by Jans Enikel.

##### 1.3. Historical sources

The primary source material consists of last wills and testaments from the late medieval period in eastern Austria. “Testamentary books” were preserved in the residency of Vienna and in small- and medium-sized towns in Lower Austria. These books were maintained without interruptions for specific periods, e.g. 1395 to 1430 in Vienna (2300 wills), 1400 to 1500 in Korneuburg (550 wills) or Retz (1449 to 1500). Databases are being created for this purpose.

##### 1.4. Archaeological sources

It is planned to establish an archREAL database parallel to the image REAL database which will be concerned with the context-oriented study of small finds from the medieval period. The selection of finds will be thematic, with the main focus on specific categories. In the first phase, material groups that are relevant for Austrian research and which are reflected in pictorial and literary sources will be selected, such as late medieval folk costumes and jewellery. At the same time the possibility of using reports of material remains of excavations or museums already available in a database format and adapting and integrating these in the archREAL small finds database will be explored.

#### 2. Interpretation of sources

##### 2.1. REAL image database

The REAL image database has been accessible on the Internet since early 2001. For the first time since the establishment of the institute the contents of the image archive have been described, prepared in a format suitable for electronic representation

and made available as digitized images. In addition to ongoing updating due to new acquisitions, further features will be incorporated in the database in cooperation with the Institute for Information Processing at the University of Cologne. Some such features may include the automatic generation of geographical maps with the finds indicated when the database is searched, or the integration of graphics that would, for instance, provide information on the location of a fresco in a church.

### 2.2. *Architectural fantasies – architectural realities*

The objectives of the project are a) to provide an introduction to medieval construction activity and the complex processes involved and b) to shed light on the historically interesting field of “showpiece architecture”. In terms of content, this inter-disciplinary project aims at visualising the decorative textile elements in medieval churches. The focus will be on demonstrating the use of light, transparency, vibrancy of colours and material reflections in the interior. The second area of focus will be exterior design and the representation of the “unfinished”. Existing medieval buildings for which precise historical and structural studies are available will provide the basis for this visualization. The REAL image database has sufficient material to be able to abstract from panels and to integrate the texture or the actual materials used in sacred and profane architecture through computer simulation. The parish church in Schöngrabern, the cathedral at Wiener Neustadt and the Dominican church at Krems are used as examples of sacral interiors. Tulln and the Klosterneuburg residence were selected for exterior showpiece architecture.

### 2.3. *The 13<sup>th</sup>-century epic in Austria*

Work on a text database analogous to the existing image database was begun at the institute. The current project is part of a long-term endeavour that will encompass German-language literature from the beginning of the 13th century to the Early Modern Period. Due to the extensive amount of material available, the overall project will be subdivided according to geographical and chronological criteria. From this individual blocks emerge to form a self-contained academic project, although a link with the basic research carried out at the institute will be maintained to ensure continuity. This facilitates a precise estimation of the time-frame for completion and evaluation of the end result. In order to fulfil these basic preconditions of targeted project support, the first research area of the project, entitled *The 13<sup>th</sup>-century epic in Austria*, will include the duchy of Austria and the monastery at Passau, i.e. the diocese of Passau. Other selection criteria relate to “relevance in terms of material culture” of the literary sources and the actual sphere of influence of the author. The creation of a text database providing ample scope for diverse queries is one of the objectives of the new project and is intended to

supplement the image database already available at the institute. It will provide the basis for disseminating inter-disciplinary research on everyday life in the medieval and early modern period. Due to time constraints, only the published edition in each case will be fed in to the database. Interested users of this database are thus urged to look up various text variations on their own initiative.

### 2.4. *“Making provision for the future” in the historical context*

A pilot project for assessing the possibilities and limitations of evaluating mass sources will begin in 2001. Last wills and testaments from urban areas in eastern Austria provide excellent source material. Quantitative and qualitative analyses will be carried out to identify patterns and to shed light on what general types of “provisions for the future” were significant for urban society in the region under study and for its various social groups. The objective is to research social networks, needs structures and value hierarchies relating to specific topics.

### 2.5. *The “Burg” as part of everyday life in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period*

The primary focus will be on understanding the “Burg” as an economic entity. Historical sources on crafts, agriculture and trade will be analysed. As part of the institute’s project “encyclopaedia of medieval interior furnishings”, there will be an increased concentration on castle interiors. The *Burg* played an important role in general land development during the Middle Ages; taking this as a starting point, environmental archaeology is used to identify issues relating to the natural environment as an economic resource as also to the choice of the location in order to understand mental landscapes in terms of the political landscape. This type of interaction requires a discussion on the *Burg* as a concrete object and also construction analyses that accord greater priority to the symbolic aspects of architecture. In geographical terms, two natural areas that are partly also political units will be primarily considered, namely the Austrian Waldviertel and the Pitten regions.

### 2.6. *Terminologies and typologies of medieval material culture using habitat and interiors as an example*

Following one of the recommendations thrown up by the evaluation process, the institute is planning a *Lexikon der mittelalterlichen Wohnkultur (Lexicon of Medieval Interior Furnishings)* with the assistance of experts in the field. This topic demonstrates *pars pro toto* that man in his capacity as a cultural carrier is the focus of all work at the institute. This is a topic that at the international level is now being taken up by historical anthropology. The widely recognized expertise and professional competence of the institute has allowed it to assume an undisputed leading role even in the field of historical anthropological research.

## Medieval History Research Unit

### 1. General research objectives

According to the research programme established in 1998, the Medieval History Research Unit is responsible for researching medieval history and for the documentation, study, editing and analysis of sources relating to the history of the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period.

The research unit additionally endeavours to jointly set new focus areas and to develop new research projects on medieval history. These include research into the links between pragmatic texts, social memory and identity; on ethnogenesis, state formation and nation building in the Middle Ages; the development of statehood; the revision, study and editing of further sources on medieval history. Exchange of information and cooperation with other research institutions both in the country and abroad has always played an important role in this regard.

### 2. Joint projects

All activities concerning common interests and fields of research will be continued and further extended. In this context the following is planned:

- Ten to twelve new volumes will appear in the publication series of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences entitled *Forschungen zur Geschichte des Mittelalters (Research on Medieval History)*, begun in autumn 1999. These will be brought out by the Academy's publishing house. By the end of 2000, eight volumes were at various stages of completion or planning. The volumes are largely anthologies of excerpts from the work of the research unit on specific topics along with international research in the field (e.g. *Vom Nutzen des Schreibens – On the Use of Writing*). However it also includes monographs from the research fields of the research unit.
- One area of emphasis will be the topic *Rule and Identity – Ethnogenesis and State Formation in the Middle Ages*, which will also be backed up by public relations work. The objective is to publicize new research on a topic on which the "Vienna School" for research on the Early Middle Ages is internationally renowned. The issue is also of great current significance since its modern-day ideological abuse needs to be countered through scholarly criticism. Starting early 2001, about eight workshops per year are planned for the next two to three years in addition to at least two conferences (*The Langobards – Rule and Identity; The search for origins*). These activities will eventually culminate in a publication. On completion another special focus area will be taken up.
- Other workshops or conferences will deal with problems relating to medieval sources. Currently two conferences are planned, one on *Documents and commercial texts during the High and*

*Late Middle Ages* and the other on the problems and new opportunities relating to *Editing medieval sources*.

- If possible, the publication of medieval sources from the Austrian region will be revived within the scope of the *Fontes rerum Austriacarum* which was formerly run by the Historical Commission. A volume on the traditions of the Reichersberg monastery and editorial supervision of further volumes (such as the Melk registers) are planned.
- Work on the electronic publication of research results will be intensified (Internet or CD-ROM). With regard to the *Regesta Imperii*, completed portions as well as work in progress will be made available on the Internet before final publication in the future. For early medieval research, electronic formats will be developed for various types of handwritten texts. This would provide new opportunities for the (electronic) publication of source texts. Bibliographies will also be published on the Internet. There are further plans to develop processing and interpretation aids such as a (text) database to record pictorial material available as a result of the securing of inscriptions on film and the digital archiving of registers.

### 3. Working group on the Vienna edition of the MGH *Diplomata*

It is expected that the *Diplome Heinrichs VI.* edition will be soon be completed. This work is being carried out as agreed with the *Monumenta Germaniae Historica (MGH)* in Munich and in cooperation with the Institute for Research on Austrian History in Vienna. The critical edition of documents of the Staufer emperor has made valuable material from his reign in Germany, Italy and Sicily available for research. In the long term, and depending on a contract from the MGH, an edition of *Diplome* of Philipp von Schwaben and/or Otto IV is planned. In any case, a conference on *Heinrich VI: Documents and political reality* will be held to introduce the finished edition.

### 4. *Regesta Imperii* working group

The German-Austrian project on the *Regesta Imperii* has been compiling documentary, historiographical and other written historical sources in the form of registers (summaries prepared according to strict scholarly criteria) on the medieval Roman-German empire since 1831. These provide information on records and editions with comments on sources and their contents. Since the *Regesta Imperii* have proved very useful instruments, work on the register volumes in cooperation with the Register Commission at the Mainz Academy will continue to enjoy priority. In Austria the following projects are currently included:

*Conrad III* – expected to be concluded on completion of the 2002/03 volume

*Frederick I* – the third of four volumes will appear in 2001. Work on the fourth volume will begin.

*Albert I* – the first of two volumes will appear in the near future.

*Wendell (IV)* – the first instalment (Baden-Württemberg) is expected to appear on the Internet in 2001. Other areas are under preparation and will be published shortly in electronic format.

*Frederick III* – Issue 13 from the general document series at the Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv Vienna (HHStA) is expected to appear in 2001/02 and a further issue will shortly be ready for press. This work is currently being financed through external funding. On completion of the project *Official documents during the reign of Frederick III*, a further project on the contents of HHStA 1467–77 and the relationship between the emperor and Charles the Brave is planned under the Fund for Promotion of Academic Research (FWF).

*Maximilian I* – Volume 4/1 is expected to appear 2001/02 and Volume 4/2 over the following years. A CD-ROM publication of the first four volumes is under preparation.

It would also be desirable to work on the registers of other kings and emperors that are presently available only in outdated and incomplete editions. However, this would entirely depend on the funds available.

The volume entitled *Propaganda, Kommunikation und Öffentlichkeit im 11.1–6. Jahrhundert (Propaganda, communication and the public in the 11th – 16th centuries)* is under preparation for research into medieval history.

#### 5. Working group on inscriptions of the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period

The principal objectives of the edition project working in cooperation with the various research institutions at German academies is to record and publish inscriptions from Austria and the southern Tyrol from before 1700. In particular:

- the working group is preparing a volume on the *Inschriften von Wien-St. Stephan (Inscriptions of Vienna – St Stephen's)*. A further volume on Lower Austria will follow on completion of this volume.
- Research assistants are working on several volumes of which it is expected that the *Inscriptions of St Veit an der Glan, the Upper Mühlviertel and Wels (town and country)* will be published.
- In addition, the securing on film of inscriptions in the seven federal states, which is being financed largely through external funding, will be continued or begun as the case may be. In Vienna and Vorarlberg this work should be completed by 2005. Pictorial material will be supplemented by a text and literature database to which an image database will be added later, subject to the availability of adequate funding.
- Increasingly, the working group is being commissioned externally to provide an *inscription service*

to utilize the wealth of previously collected material or to provide support in reading and dating inscriptions (e.g. for new finds). A flexible approach is required in responding to these requirements.

- The inter-disciplinary value of the inscription sources will be highlighted through publicity activities (lectures, exhibitions, media presence, small publications).
- Two compendia on research into medieval history are planned, i.e. the conference volume *Epigraphik 2000*, as well as a volume containing individual studies by Austrians (*Epigraphica Austriaca*).
- A seminar on “Epigraphic inscriptions in minuscule scripts in the medieval to modern period” (2002/03) as also regular inter-Academy staff meetings are envisaged.
- An FWF project is planned to expedite the edition. As it appears, another permanent employee is urgently required to coordinate the remaining activities.

#### 6. Working group on early medieval history

The tasks of the group generally involve researching written records, revision and editing of early medieval sources as well as research on the history of the early medieval period.

The focus is on questions relating to ethnic processes and identity in the Early Middle Ages as well as sources and written records. A combination of these throws open new methodological avenues. Moreover, it facilitates a better understanding of the progression from the Roman world to medieval Europe.

- Research on the identity and recorded texts of the Langobards will be presented in the monographs *Werkstätte der Erinnerung – Montecassino und die langobardische Überlieferung (Workshop of memory – Montecassino and records from the Langobard period; 2001)* and *Die Langobarden (The Langobards)*. A paperback entitled *Die Völkerwanderungszeit (The period of mass migration)* is currently under preparation. A variorum edition with English translations of important essays and a volume entitled *Ethnicity and Identity in the First Millennium* are planned. Also under consideration is a volume of the Oldenbourg outline of history: *Die Reiche der Völkerwanderung (The empires of mass migration)*.
- The FWF project on the *Historical ethnography of the Franks* will be continued (till mid-2002). The most important portions of the *Fränkische Geschichtsbuch (Book of Frankish history)* of cvp 473 will be published on the Internet. A monograph is planned.
- The FWF project on the *Annales Fuldenses* in which the records are being freshly revised will continue till mid-2003. A continuation is under consideration and this is to result in a new edition.

- An FWF project on identity and saintliness in early medieval Bavaria is currently in the submission phase. The study of hagiographical records from the 8th and 9th centuries is proposed.
- Several volumes of research on medieval history are either under preparation or being planned. These include Eugippius and Severin (2001); integration and rule in the Early Middle Ages, the cultural history of nature in the Early Middle Ages.
- Established international cooperation projects will be continued, among them *Texts and Identities* (an annual conference for young medieval scholars from Vienna, Utrecht, Cambridge and Leeds) as well as *The State in the Early and High Middle Ages* (an international project group under the patronage of the Academy)
- Cooperation with the Hoops research unit at the Göttingen Academy, on the *Reallexikon für Germanische Altertumskunde* (*Lexicon of Early German History*), will be concluded by 2005. The volumes L–Z are currently under preparation.

### Commission for Byzantine Studies

It has been the constant endeavour of the Commission to expedite the most important basic research on Byzantine history that can be realized in the near future through working groups. At the same time the Commission is realistic in its perception of the possibilities and limitations as well as the economic rationale of the required funds.

Following the above approach, medium- to long-term projects have been successfully completed while other projects are in the process of finalization. The *Prosopographische Lexikon der Palaiologenzeit* (*Prosopographic Lexicon of the Paleologue Era*) which was finalized in 1996 will be published by mid-2001. In view of the technological opportunities available it will be brought out on CD-ROM and will incorporate some improvements, making the product accessible to a wider audience. In addition, the incipit lists and indices of the *Katalog der griechischen Handschriften der Oesterreichischen Nationalbibliothek* (*Catalogue of Greek Manuscripts at the Austrian National Library*) – completed in 1994 – will be made available on the Internet (on the homepage of the Commission).

Work on the *Corpus der byzantinischen Mosaikikonen* (*Corpus of Byzantine Mosaic Icons*), of which Volume I appeared in 1991, will be completed in 2002. Even the *Repertorium der griechischen Kopisten 8001–600* (*Repertory of Greek Copyists 8001–600*), a ground-breaking palaeographical study will be finalized in 2002 with the completion of Volume IV. Successful completion would in fact have been possible one year earlier, had one of the foreign research assistants been in a position to adhere to agreed deadlines.

The new edition and translation of the *Patriarchatsregister von Konstantinopel* (*Registers of the Patri-*

*archy of Constantinople*) from the 14th century (one of the most significant handwritten manuscripts in the Vienna collection), the Commission's inter-disciplinary "showpiece" project and a treasury of historical, philological and historical legal data of the late Byzantine era, will reach the halfway mark in 2004 with the completion of Vol. IV.

Of the three main projects being undertaken by the Commission, the *Lexikon zur byzantinischen Gräzität* which will similarly reach the midway point in 2001 with Vol. IV, is being continued using the tried and tested approach. At the same time, due to ideas and input from international quarters, the scope has been extended to include further languages and the time frame of the project expanded.

In the field of Byzantine diplomacy Paris has produced some excellent work with the publication of the Athos documents on which considerable progress has been achieved. For the other areas of study, Vienna may be regarded as an important research centre of the future. Several sub-projects are currently ongoing and publications are regularly appearing. Cooperation with the Bavarian Academy of Sciences has meant that its decisions will also have a bearing on future planning, particularly with regard to the impending re-orientation of one of the main focus areas. New technological advances (such as digital photography) have paved the way for considerable academic progress. Valuable new insights have been obtained on the functioning of the imperial Byzantine chancellery.

The planned EU project on *Digital palimpsest research*, which will see participation from researchers or research teams from eight countries will utilize advances in digital technologies to make practically illegible text remnants viewable again. It will also contribute to preserving and evaluating these old, often inadequately conserved items of cultural heritage. The duration of the project will be from autumn 2001 to autumn 2004.

With the death of Professor Oikonomides, who headed the Seals Project at Dumbarton Oaks, Vienna is now the only international centre for the study of Byzantine seals, although of course there are renowned specialists in the field in other cities. This has meant that there has been an even stronger involvement in international projects than was previously the case. Of the current projects, three are expected to be completed by 2002 (Vol. II of seals in Austria, the seal with family names in the Eremitage and seals with family names belonging to the Theodoridis collection in Munich). Any costs incurred here will largely be met through FWF funds. The Commission is hopeful that it will also be able to successfully complete Volume III of the seals in Austria with FWF funding (2005). Further research and work on the wealth of photographic material for the highly-regarded systematic photograph library – the largest in the world – will continue as before.

Increased involvement in international projects on Middle Byzantine prosopography has posed new

challenges. For Volume III (1025I–II8), which is particularly relevant from a sigillographic point of view, it is appropriate that the main workload be shouldered by specialists for Byzantine sigillography to ensure that the level of research accords with the latest academic advances. The best solution recently put forward at a conference in London was that work on the seals would be carried out in Vienna, Paris and Washington, while the evaluation of other sources would be undertaken in London. The necessary framework for these activities should be created by 2001. To a certain extent, the concentration of seal specialists on the 11th century is a reaction to the justified criticism regarding sigillographic weaknesses in current prosopographic projects in Berlin and London relating to preceding centuries.

A further task of the Commission is to publish the *Jahrbuch der Österreichischen Byzantinistik* (*Yearbook of Austrian Byzantine Studies*), the *Byzantina Vindobonensia*, *Wiener Byzantinistischen Studien* (*Byzantine Studies in Vienna*), and the *Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae/Series Vindobonensis* (both of the latter in cooperation with the Institute for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies). It also publishes the *Veröffentlichungen der Kommission für Byzantinistik* (*Publications of the Commission for Byzantine Studies*) and the *Corpus scriptorum de re musica* (as part of the *Monumenta Musicae Byzantinae*).

### Commission for the *Tabula Imperii Byzantini*

The objective of the Commission for the *Tabula Imperii Byzantini* is to develop an atlas of the Byzantine empire at approximately the points of its furthest expansion, which it attained under the emperors Justinian I in the 6th century and Basileios II in the early 11th century.

The *Tabula Imperii Byzantini* (*TIB*) consists of map sheets of the scale 1:800,000, to each of which comprehensive text volumes are linked providing information on borders, administration, history, church, economy, population, transport and defence installations. The individual sheets have been prepared according to historical and geographical guidelines (provinces, “topics”). However, they have been integrated in a modern topographical framework that will need to be freshly revised in order to serve as a present day “travel guide”.

The academic significance of the *TIB* lies in the extensive practical information they provide, and particularly in the methodological combination of various subjects such as history, geography, regional studies, topography, toponomastics, paleobotany and paleozoology, climatology, archaeology, art history, ceramic research, architecture, numismatics, history of settlements or demography, and in the transferring of the insights obtained to texts or maps.

Primary research areas are currently Asia Minor, the southern Balkans and the Aegean – which were also the core areas of the Byzantine empire. For the

Peloponnese there is a cooperation agreement with the national research centre in Athens. The Syrian region will be studied together with researchers at the University of Mainz. Extensive preparatory work has already been undertaken with regard to Sicily.

No fundamental changes in methodology are proposed. Among other reasons this is because the individual sheets are matched both in terms of formal criteria and content and the accompanying text volumes should provide comparable information. Based on previous experience however, microtoponymy, findings related to monuments and the history of the pre- and post-Byzantine period have increasingly been included for some time now.

In December 2003 a symposium on food supplies in Byzantium will be jointly conducted with the Institute for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies at the University of Vienna and the Austrian Byzantine Society. This is expected to provide new insights and methodologies for historic economic geography within the *TIB*.

With regard to cartography, the inclusion of a topographical map reflecting the modern situation, as was the case up to Vol. 7, will in future be avoided since these maps soon become outdated due to the rapid development of transportation networks and settlements. Thus the maps often do not present a completely accurate picture even when they are published. There has also been a fundamental change in the making of the maps since the traditional method could no longer be used for technical reasons (it is no longer possible to make astral copies) and had to be replaced by electronic graphics.

Since it is envisaged that one or two staff members will require an average of ten years for the individual projects – depending on size and thematic content – there will be no change in priorities for medium-term planning. The time period required can also not always be accurately predicted. For instance, in the case of *TIB* 8 (Lycia and Pamphylia), new epigraphical findings and research on Turkey by the Lycian research centre at the Adkeniz University of Antalya provided such a wealth of new insights that a number of completed articles needed to be rewritten and new articles on previously unknown places added.

A new partnership was entered into with the special research department of the University of Mainz for research on Syria (north and south). This work will be a continuation of and based on the volumes *TIB* 2 (Cappadocia) and *TIB* 5 (Cilicia and Isauria). The project will be carried out autonomously, funded primarily by the German partners, although publishing (editing and printing) costs will be borne by the *TIB*. Similarly, a cooperation agreement regarding the *Peloponnesos* volume has been entered into with the Ethnikon Idryma Ereunon (Institutouto Byzantinon Ereunon) in Athens. Work will once again be carried out autonomously and funded in Athens. The Commission will be respon-

sible for translating, adapting and publishing the results. The close cooperation with the Lycian research centre at Antalya will be continued. Cooperation is also being envisaged within the scope of the European Interreg IIIB Common Paths programme that is run by the European Centre of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Monuments in Thessaloniki. The programme envisages inter-regional research on monuments in Albania, Bulgaria, FYROM, Greece, Yugoslavia and Romania.

Following the Commission's intra-disciplinary approach, the historic geography of the Mediterranean region is regarded as a basic discipline of Byzantine studies. Moreover, from an inter-disciplinary perspective it is also viewed as an independent branch of humanities that borrows methods and content from related subjects such as ancient history, archaeology, medieval studies, oriental studies and art history, while in turn offering its services to these subjects. The high acceptability of the *TIB* with regard to these subjects has also been increasing in trans-disciplinary terms since the *TIB* is a source of reference for geographical and sophisticated travel literature. Cooperation with cartographic institutes in these disciplines would be very desirable since no good maps of either Greece or Turkey showing the latest position are available due to military restrictions.

In the planning period 2001–2005, *TIB 8* (Lycia and Pamphylia), *TIB 11* (south Macedonia) and *TIB 12* (Marmara Sea region) will be concluded. *TIB 13* (Aigaion south Pelagos) will be continued and *TIB 14* (Caria) will be started. As planned by our partners in Mainz, northern Syria should also be concluded by 2005. The Peloponnese project (Athens) should have been completed by now but is expected to experience considerable delay.

### Commission for Paleography and Codicology

The main objective of the Commission for Paleography and Codicology is to prepare catalogues of handwritten texts. These include special catalogues for manuscripts selected according to specific criteria as well as general catalogues to describe the external appearance and the contents of all manuscripts in a corpus. Accompanying monographs will focus on specific issues relating to the primary objectives on a case to case basis.

*Special catalogues on Die illuminierten Handschriften und Inkunablen der Osterreichischen Nationalbibliothek (The illuminated manuscripts and incunables of the Austrian National Library)*

The objective of the project is to continue work on the directory entitled *The illuminated manuscripts and incunables of the National Library in Vienna*, initiated by Hermann Julius Hermann immediately after the First World War. In academic terms, these catalogues, appearing in two volumes respectively – one text volume and one volume of plates – are pri-

marily of interest to art historians since the illuminated codices contain substantially more pictorial material than available in monumental form (wall, glass or panel drawings). Of course, work on a significant collection of illustrated manuscripts, such as that available at the Austrian National Library, is also very relevant to other disciplines of medieval history. It is of particular relevance to the history of mentality, which is able to draw important conclusions from the relationship between a text and the accompanying illustrations that interpret it.

The objectives of the research programme will remain unchanged in substance, i.e. accurate description of manuscripts and the classification of their decorative illustrations in art historical terms. The only modification that may occur would be to make selection criteria more stringent given the large number of manuscripts preserved from the late medieval period.

#### *General paleographic catalogues*

The significance of the source material available in medieval handwritten texts for all historical disciplines such as literature studies, theology, historical legal studies and history is undisputed today. An obvious corroboration for this lies in the way catalogues and indices are being created for these sources in almost all European countries, often with greater financial and personnel resources than are available in Austria.

Currently the following corpora are being catalogued: the monastery of the Augustine Canons at Klosterneuburg, Innsbruck university library, the Benedictine church at Kremsmünster, Mattsee monastery, the central library of the Viennese province of the Franciscan order at Graz as well as German manuscripts of the Benedictine monastery at Melk and the Benedictine Nonnenberg convent at Salzburg.

In Austria the cataloguing of corpora of occidental manuscripts since 1973 has been one of the main objectives of the Commission for Paleography and Codicology. Given the available personnel and financial resources, it is not possible to predict when this project will be concluded. However, in order to facilitate distinctly improved access to handwritten source material in the near future, the cataloguing of such texts will not be continued in the same fashion as practised so far: the cataloguing of handwritten corpora will be promoted through the preparation of inventories and/or registers, which will also serve as a preliminary stage for an overall catalogue containing all codicological information and details of contents. The first new catalogue of this type was the *Inventar der Handschriften des Benediktinerstiftes Melk, Teil I: Von den Anfängen bis ca. 1400 (Inventory of manuscripts from the Benedictine Monastery at Melk, Part I: from the beginnings to c. 1400)* published in 2000. A description of the codices of the central library of the Franciscans at Graz will also appear in inventory form.

*Watermarks of manuscripts from Klosterneuburg*

The project on *Watermarks of manuscripts from Klosterneuburg* will demonstrate that the classification of largely undated medieval handwritten paper documents of a large homogeneous corpus is possible to within a few years by (a) exact documentation of the watermarks of the manuscripts, (b) comparison of the watermarks with reproductions in repertories, and primarily (c) by comparison of the watermarks of dated and undated handwritten manuscripts from one and the same corpus. Beta-radiography is used to photograph the watermarks. This technology enables clear pictures to be taken even of watermarks that are either not or only partially visible to the naked eye. In all, about 650 medieval handwritten documents belonging to the library and the archive of Klosterneuburg monastery need to be studied. In mid-2000 about 6000 watermark photographs from a total of 232 codices were available.

The primary areas of research of the Commission will largely remain unchanged. However, following international trends, in future general manuscript catalogues will no longer exclusively be published as comprehensive full catalogues in printed form. In certain cases inventories may also be published on the Internet. In addition, as part of the project on *General paleographic catalogues*, illustrative pictures (examples of scripts and text illumination, stamp tables, dates etc.) will be attached to the published description of handwriting to allow for a better understanding of the descriptions. The catalogues on *Streubestände in Wien und Niederösterreich (Scattered holdings in Vienna and Lower Austria)* and the *Inventar der Handschriften des Benediktinerstiftes Melk (Inventory of manuscripts from the Benedictine Monastery at Melk)* published in 2000 already included hundreds of images related to the catalogued corpus on a CD-ROM accompanying the catalogues.

