

The Ancient Maps of the Salt Mine in Wieliczka

Adam Lyszkowicz (Poland)

Key words: Cartography; History; Mine surveying; history of mapping, cartography, salt mine maps

SUMMARY

A maps especially a historical maps are one of the completest and the most reliable, free of subjective points of view, sources of information about the natural, economical, demographical, cultural, political conditions existing in a given region. The old cartographic materials are of great importance not only to historians but also to people of present economic and technical organizations.

The Wieliczka salt mine maps are the valuable cartographic relics of Poland and may be of the whole Europe. They were done by Marcin German in 1638 sixty years later than the oldest maps of zinc mine in Altenberg in 1574, gold and silver mine in Tarnowskie Góry in 1577 and gold mine in Grakofel near Steinfeld in 1577.

In this paper we first gave a general description of the Marcin German maps: the name of location, the time of preparation, its range, original title and so on. Then the detail maps description are given: e.g. the number of sheets, its state of destruction. In the third part we described: land used, buildings, property, register of the owners, size of the lots, inscription and other elements. The fourth part describes the evaluation map accuracy and the places where the archival data are collected.