The Rediscovery of nearly forgotten Iberian Map and Book Collections in Bavarian Libraries

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With the Iberian discoveries in the Renaissance we can observe a reinforcement of the relations between Germany and the Iberian Peninsula that goes back until the time of the crusades in the Late Middle Ages (Pohle, 2000). A closer economic relationship (Pohle, 2017) was especially promoted after the marriage of the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick III with the Portuguese Princess, Infanta Leonor (1436-1467) which took place in Rome in 1452 and had initiated - along with the contemporary Iberian discoveries in Africa (Lopes, 1992) and the »Novos Mundos« (Kraus, 2007; Lopes, 2016) - more intensive contacts between both nations.

In the late fifteenth century settled on the Iberian Peninsula and in Lisbon not only German book printers, soldiers (bombardeiros, Metzig 2010), Renaissance craftsmen and humanistic scholars, but also agents of the famous trading houses from the upper German imperial cities of Augsburg and Nuremberg. Especially worth mentioning are here, besides the Welser, in particularly the Fugger family, that established important trading factories over all Europe as one can see on a portrait of Jacob Fugger (»the Rich«, 1459-1525) together with his accountant Matthäus Schwartz. We used exactly this image as background illustration (fig. 1) for a poster for the International Workshop »Renaissance Craftsmen and Humanistic Scholars: European Circulation of Knowledge between Portugal and Germany« in the Portuguese National Library (20st/21th November 2014, see Horst; Lopes; Leitão 2017). It represents two noblemen standing before a bureau, where the correspondence with the various factories was archived. Therein, the Fugger factory in Lisbon is emphasized in written form - alongside with further merchant settlements of the family in Rome, Venice, Ofen, Cracow, Milan, Nuremberg and Antwerp. This image visualizes not only the close economic connections to Portugal, but documents also the transnational exchange in Europe wherein the Germans played a major transmission role for the circulation of knowledge on the Iberian Peninsula in general (Horst, 2017, 17-18).
1. Exchange of Cartographic Knowledge

With the European exploration and Portugal’s Age of Discovery emerged throughout Europe princely cabinets of curiosities (»Kunst- und Wunderkammern« cf. Hoppe, 1994; Impey/MacGregor, 1985; Siegel, 2006; Valter 2000), as »theatrum sapientiae«. These early-modern cabinets of wonder contained especially ethnographic exotica from overseas (Bujok, 2009) exchanged by cultural intermediaries like artistic agents/dealers from the Iberian Peninsula (Jordan Gschwend/Pérez de Tudela, 2003; Jordan Gschwend, 2017). There often can be found also other artefacts: namely unique works of art (e.g. two rediscovered views of the Rua Nova dos Mercadores in Lisbon by Jordan Gschwend/Lowe, 2015), antiquities, books, instruments (e.g. globe pairs and armillary spheres), maps, besides objects of natural history, religious and historical relics.

The cartographical exchange of knowledge also can be demonstrated with German maps and books that found their way already in the sixteenth century to the Iberian Peninsula. For instance, this is documented with a unique manuscript in the archive of the Fuggers in Dillingen that even tells us even the prize of the valuable cartographic objects that in 1546 were send in wine barrels to the Spanish cartographer Alonso de Santa Cruz (1505-1567) in Madrid (Meurer, 1997).

On the other hand, original Iberian portolan charts were exported also to the German-speaking world: Some of these cartographic cimelia (as the map »Kunstmann 1«) probably got into possession of the Fugger family through the agency of the Augsburg Humanist Konrad Peutinger (1465-1547), who served as a counselor for Emperor Maximilian I (1459-1519), the son of the Portuguese princess Leonor (Eleonor of Portugal, 1436-1467).

2. Unique Portuguese maps at the Bavarian State Library

The court library of the Bavarian Dukes was originally located above the vaulted chamber of the old court in Munich residence, founded in 1558 with 800 books from the Austrian orientalist Johann Albrecht Widmannstetter (1506-1557), and the extensive collection of the Augsburg patrician Johann Jakob Fugger (1516-1575) - with more than 10,000 volumes that were acquired for Duke Albert V of Bavaria (r. 1550-1579) in 1571. The growing library was located near the so-called »Antiquarium« in the new building of the residence, founded in 1568 (Diemer, 1995; Seelig, 2008). A few years later, Wolfgang Prommer, made an inventory of the map collection containing 40 maps in 1577 (Hartig, 1917: 352-356).

Much later, in the library catalogues of the nineteenth-century, we find in Munich not only a Portuguese atlas made by Fernão Vaz Dourado in Goa in 1580 (fig. 2) there, but also the »Plantas das Cidades e fortalezas da conquista da India oriental« (fig. 3) that were probably drawn around 1648 by one of the most prolific Portuguese cartographers, João Teixeira Albernaz the Elder († 1662).
Together with these atlases, two Iberian portolan maps (»Kunstmann I & II«) were integrated in the later-called Bavarian State Library. These nautical charts were for the first time analysed by the Bavarian philologist and librarian Johann Andreas Schmeller (1785-1852), who gave a paper about the oldest manuscript sea-charts at the Bavarian Academy of Sciences in December 1843 (Schmeller, 1844).

3. The map historian Friedrich Kunstmann and his relations to Portugal

At the same time, lived in Lisbon one of the most important but mostly forgotten protagonists, the Bavarian theologian Friedrich Kunstmann (1811-1867, fig. 4), in total for four summers, from 1841 to 1845: The invitation by the Portuguese Queen Mary II of Portugal (1819-1853), who was for the second time married with a German, Ferdinand II of Sachsen-Coburg and Gotha (1816-1885), changed the life of this catholic priest completely: Kunstmann became educator of the nine-year old Brazilian Princess Maria Amélia (1831-1853, see Almeida, 1973), the only child of the Brazilian King Dom Pedro I (1798-1834) and his second wife, Amélie of Leuchtenberg (1812-1873, Empress of Brazil from 1829 to 1831, see Schmidt, 1927 & Torres, 1947).
During his time in Portugal, Kunstmann (who later became professor of canon law in Munich) was able to do intensive research in Portuguese archives and libraries. This is impressively documented with his report that he gave at the Bavarian Academy of Sciences on 13th of January 1844 (Kunstmann, 1844): Therein he mentions for instance not only the opening hours of the Royal Public Library of the Court in Lisbon \(^1\), but also the public library in Porto that was founded in 1833. While speaking about the Libraries of »Necessidades« and »Ajuda«, Kunstmann also informs us about his meeting with the Portuguese novelist and historian Herculano Carvalho (Alexandre Herculano de Carvalho e Araújo, 1810-1877, see Döllinger, 1878 and Machado Santos, 1965), who granted him access to the unique royal collections that were normally not open to the public. Kunstmann also tells us that Herculano - who still corresponded with him as well as the Bavarian church-historian Ignaz von Döllinger (1799-1890) many years later (see Huppertz, 2001: 1-3) - provided him the books for his research even in his own apartment as Ajuda Palace was too cold for study during the wintertime (Kunstmann, 1844: 89-90).

Besides Herculano, Kunstmann came into close contact with further Portuguese intellectuals, with whom he corresponded also years after his return to Munich. We find among them for instance the politician Joaquim Heliodoro da Cunha Rivara (1809-1879, see Farinha/Franco, 2009) or the Marques of Resende, António Teles da Silva Caminha e Meneses (1790-1875). He also was in contact with the German geographer Baron Wilhelm Ludwig von Eschwege (1777-1855, see Sommer, 1952), the well-known architect of the Palácio Real de Pena in Sintra, and director of mines in Portugal, where he arrived in 1803, accompanied by another military engineer Friedrich Ludwig Wilhelm Varnhagen (1783-1842), the father of the renowned historian Francisco Adolfo de Varnhagen (1816-1878; since 1872 Baron and 1874 Visconde de Porto Seguro, see Moreira Lima, 2016), who became one of the closest friends of Kunstmann.

This is also documented in a letter which Francisco Adolfo has sent to him on 5th of August 1844. \(^5\) Therein he invites him (» meu amigo Kunstmann «) to visit his house in Lisbon (» Rua dos Prazeres no. 71 «), that could be easily found by his friend, as the letter contains a sketch of a map (fig. 5), which shows the best way to his house from the Torre de Tombo: »Não sabes onde é a Rua das Prazeres. Eu te faço um mappa «.
The Rua dos Prazeres still exists, even if the numbers of the houses seems to have changed in the meantime.

4. The Kunstmann Collection at the University Library of Munich

At the University Library of Munich all personal remains of Friedrich Kunstmann are preserved until today. He became a member of the Portuguese Academy of Sciences in Lisbon and was honoured also as knight of the Portuguese order of »Nossa Senhora da Conceição de Vila Viçosa«. The material in his inheritance has never been analysed before. That is why the author of this paper is planning to edit a complete edition of the correspondence; around 100 letters, which have been sent to him.

After a first examination of this material, it is evident that Kunstmann was in contact with the most important Portuguese and German scholars of his time (in total 70 different people) and became a friend of the director of the Torre de Tombo, João Pedro da Costa Basto (1824-1898) and especially Bartholomeo Maria d'Almeida, who around 1842 copied for him the famous atlas from Vaz Dourado (Garcia; Moreira, 2016: fig. 3) originally composed in Goa in 1571 with twenty sheets of parchment.

In total I could find nearly 80 (mostly printed) contemporary maps in this unique collection, two-thirds of them dealing with the cartographic picture of the African continent, as this was one of the main topics of Kunstmann's research. However, at a first look at the inventory of this map collection, many maps were missing, marked by librarians with the Latin word »ubi« - meaning where are they? But by comparing this with the corrected actual inventory, we now can state that mostly all maps named in the inventory could be rediscovered by the author of this paper - including also a German map of the Iberian Peninsula that was published by the cartographer Carl Ferdinand Weiland in the Geographical Institute in Weimar in 1838, or the »Carta Corografica do Reino do Algarve«, that appeared as appendix to the cartography by da Silva Lopes in Lisbon in 1842 (fig. 6) - and is in better condition as the copy in the Biblioteca Nacional. In a very bad condition, on the other hand, is Kunstmann's copy of the huge »Mappa ou carta geographica dos reinos de Portugal e Algarve« that was printed for the first time in London in 1762 (Moreira, 2011).
Most surprisingly, we cannot find any trace of contact with the famous Portuguese map historian Visconde Santarem (1791-1856), but nevertheless Kunstmann possessed his atlas in the Paris edition of 1849, as is documented with a facsimile of a late-medieval sea chart preserved in Luzern, that we also found in his remains. 13 Moreover, not only his published works (altogether around 60 publications are known), but also all his preliminary studies, are preserved in his personal remains, together with complete copies of originals, as for instance from the famous Codex Hispanicus 27, that was compiled by Valentim Fernandes († 1518) and came by Peutinger to the old court library in Munich. Kunstmann transcribed the whole text in two copybooks, which also contains copies of the sketchy manuscript maps of Portuguese islands. 13

Of special importance is further his atlas about the history of the discoveries of America that Kunstmann published in 1859 at the occasion of the centenary of the founding of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences. The second volume of this atlas (Kunstmann; von Spruner; Thomas, 1859) contains 13 facsimiles of manuscript maps, beneath them the portolans known as »Kunstmann I« (made by Pedro Reinel in 1504/197), »Kunstmann II« (drawn between 1502 and 1506) and six sheets of the atlas by Vaz Dourado in Goa (1580).

5. Lost Portolan Maps at the Library of the Bavarian Army?

However, two portolan maps shown in Kunstmann’s atlas as map III (depicting the Atlantic Coast, 1506) and IV (a planisphere drawn around 1519) as well as two further Iberian maps (attributed to Salvat de Pilestrina, 1511 and Pedro Reinel, 1519) disappeared since 1945. These portolan charts on parchment, that have been copied for the Portuguese Queen by the Bavarian soldier Otto Progel (1815-1887) in 1843, were preserved in another library in Munich, the Bavarian Army Library. 13

The »Königlich Bayerische Armee-Bibliothek« was founded at the beginning of the nineteenth century (Horst, 2018 a). Until WWII it had an inventory of ca. 214.000 books, 1.165 manuscripts, more than 400.000 printed maps (thereunder also 153 maps of the Iberian Peninsula as listed in old catalogues) and around 500 manuscript maps. In the secondary literature can be read, that most of the collection was destroyed while the bombing of Munich at the end of the Second World War (Horst, 2018 b). But after intensive research about the unwritten odyssey of this important international collection I can claim the contrary: In fact, most of the unique cartographic prints and manuscripts were stored in different places mostly outside of Munich, and so fortunately survived the destruction of the building (Horst, 2019). Today the collection of the former Bavarian Army Library is split in various German institutions: one smaller part was integrated into the Bavarian State Library already in the 1960s with the help of its director Gustav Hofmann (1900-1982), but only has been catalogued recently.

A much bigger section was brought by Americans soldiers in 1946 to the Library of Congress, Washington D.C., where it was stored in the cellar for more than a decade; this part only was returned to Germany in 1962, which arose a political dispute between the German State and the Free State of Bavaria that was settled only six years later. The unique book and map collection then became part (as a temporary loan) of the so-called »Wehrbereichsbibliothek VI«, preserved since 1978 at the terrain of the Bundeswehr University in Munich. But
unfortunately, already in 1984, the collection of the former Bavarian army library was relocated again and moved to a smaller museum in the Bavarian province, where most of the maps survived until today.

More than 1,000 manuscripts of the Bavarian Army Library were stored in Berchtesgaden and survived the war, but they met their fate already in December 1945, when American soldiers burnt them, without knowing the value of these documents (Horst, 2016b: 266). But this concerns only written documents, not the manuscript maps itself what had been stored at another place, at a castle near Landshut. That is why we still could rediscover more than 500 manuscript maps of this special collection in Munich (Horst, 2019).

However, parts of the former Bavarian Army Library might have never been restored to Germany and still remained somewhere in the United States or in private hands, insofar as we know that even the destroyed building in Munich was robbed several times in 1946. The typical stamps on these maps will be of big help for their identification (Horst, 2018a: 106-107). We are planning to do further research on this interesting topic in the near future.

Notes

1. This portolan, today preserved in the Bavarian State Library Cod.icon.132, was drawn by the Portuguese cartographer Pedro Reinel at the beginning of the sixteenth century, see Kuplik, 2000: 21-27.
2. This map (today: Bavarian State Library, Cod.icon.137) entered the library only after the secularisation in the 19th century. It probably belonged formerly to the convent of Augustine canons in Polling.
3. Today: Bavarian State Library, Cod.icon.162.
4. This library was set up in 1796. According to Kunstmann the opening hours were from Monday to Saturday from 9 am to 1 pm and only two hours in the afternoon.
6. Only eight years later, the original atlas was parted in single sheets and rebound after the theft of the frontispiece and one of the manuscript maps (number eight in the original order), see Garcia et al, 2014. Almeida's copy is of most importance for the Portuguese cartography as it contains the cartographic picture of this map of Eastern Europe that has not been recovered until today.
9. The Munich copy (Nachlass Friedrich Kunstmann C 19) is not digitized yet.
10. Ibid., C 24.
11. As most of the books in Portuguese, it is one of the biggest collections of Iberian books of the 19th century in Germany.
13. Unfortunately we do not have any information about the provenance of these maps.
14. Unfortunately they are not catalogued. Only a new inventory of this unique map collection, together with a comparison of the old catalogues, will provide us with the information, what is preserved now in Germany, somewhere else or lost.

Bibliography


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