

Miroslav KAMENICKÝ

Travelogues as Sources for the History of Mining in the Central Slovak Mining Area in the 17th Century

Miroslav KAMENICKÝ, Inst. of Humanities, Department of History, Comenius University Bratislava, kamenicky@fedu.uniba.sk

Travel books are a special kind of historical sources. In recent years, they are subject to relatively high interest not only historians, but also literary scholars, geographers and other experts. Travelogues literature which contains information about the history of mining in central Slovakia in the 17th Century can be divided into three groups.



Fig. 1: Travel book of John Baptist MERIN (1615)

1. Travel books

Own travels - descriptions when the authors actually visited the site and wrote down in the travelogue their observations. During such travels writers found a lot of important research results and wrote them down. With regard to the 17th Century and central Slovakia, are actually only three. Received are two written by English doctors; the third author is Norwegian.

2. Descriptions the states

Descriptions of the states are much more often. Nine works were originated in the 17th century. The work of Martin ZEILER greatly influenced in structure this group of travelgues. At the beginning of the work is a general description of the country. Followed by the list of cities with their description.

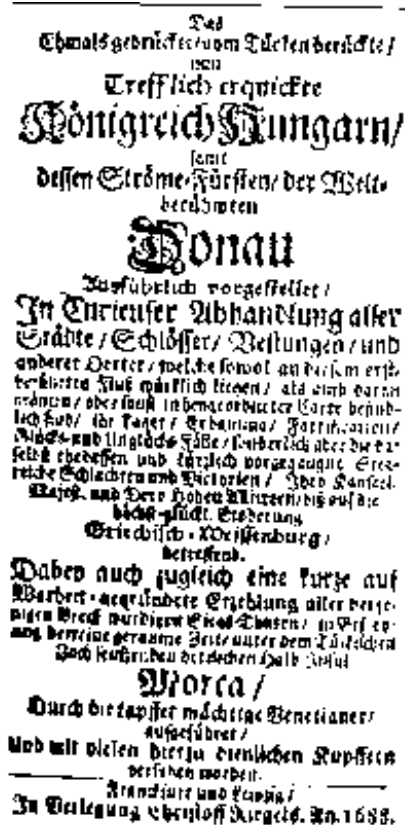


Fig. 3: Travel book (1688)

These are represented by the famous novel *“Ungarischer Oder Dacianischer Simplicissimus”* from 1683, written by Daniel SPEER.

Fig. 4: Travel book of Brostrup GEDDE (1651 – 1652)

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Autor(en)/Author(s): Kamenicky Miroslav

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