

## PREFACE

The edition on hand of Volume 29 of

**"ARBEITEN aus dem  
INSTITUT für GEOGRAPHIE der  
Karl-Franzens-Universität GRAZ"**

(Publications of the Institute of Geography at the Karl Franz University of Graz) not only reflects the wide scope of activities and interests of the authors, but also gives new evidence of the variety of fields of research represented at the Institute of Geography at the Karl Franz University of Graz:

BRAMREITER Sophie starts from the aspects in which ideas of ecological values have been gaining importance in society, in the mass media (especially the press) and in political translation. Quoting as an example the water supply of Graz, she demonstrates important ecological measures taken in recent years and the present state of protection of the environment as consequences of an increasing consciousness of environmental issues.

Franz BRUNNER in an empiric study deals with acceptance of village renovation in the East Styrian borough of Gutenberg a.d. Raabklamm. In this borough of commuters migration could be stopped by pioneer work in the field of village renovation. The study proves that the major part of the borough's inhabitants identify themselves with the village renovation, taking an active part therein.

Peter ČEDE describes the effects and consequences of the regulation of the river Mur as a perspicuous example of anthropogenic interference in landscapes. Floods and a progressive return of the river course to a wild state caused river training works at the Mur which were carried out systematically south of Graz during the second half of the 19th century. The study compares the changes in surface shapes before setting about and after completion of the regulation works.

Paul EDER deals with the development and the spreading of hop-growing in Styria, in particular stressing the economic impor-

tance of this special culture, which requires much capital and labour, for the structurally weak, still strongly agriculturally moulded borderland of Southern Styria. The author further emphasizes the moulding influence of hop-growing on cultivated land and settlement areas, contributing a lot to the abundance in contrasts and variety which characterizes the borderland of Southern Styria.

In the area of Bruck/Mur - Leoben Reinhold L A Z A R carried out research on air flow and inversion conditions by means of a vertical profile at the elevated pasture land (Hochanger) near Bruck and by means of survey trips. The results show a high level of conformity of the orographic conditions of propagation (influenced in particular by the descending winds in the Mur valley) and the situation of immission (e.g. damage done to the forests).

Harald E I C H E R is concerned with the phenomenon of gravel-covered and gravel-free tertiary in the Alpine foothills of Eastern Styria, referring to very different morphodynamics of exhumation, selective erosion, which allows an explanation for all configurations of basins and layers and capture phenomena - contrary to traditional tectonic interpretations. The essentially improved exposure situation (construction of the Südautobahn /a highway/, large ballast pits, new well log data) allows good insight into the morphodynamic change of incision generations of interglacial strata of ingrown meanders and glacial bottom generations. The maximum incision was attained in the Eem period already, where a gravel layer of the Würm period is placed into the ingrown meander basement of the Eem period; this gravel layer was not worked through by the flat incision stratum of the post-glacial ingrown meander. This wash-away stratum is replaced by the floodplain soils ("Auelehm") and therefore not visible in the bottom of the flat-floored valleys (see transverse- and cross-profiles). This final accumulation-series are fully attributed by the author to anthropogenetic geomorphology.

The intensive research presented by Wilhelm L E I T N E R and Josef G S P U R N I N G under the title "Klassifikation und Hierarchiebildung der Steirischen Städte mittels Korrelationsanalyse" (Classification and Formation of Hierarchies of Styrian Towns by Means of Correlation Analysis) is (also) understood as a methodical contribution to analytic geography of towns and

determination of centrality respectively. In accordance with regional/demographic changes and an altered "space behaviour" (Raumverhalten) of people a reconsideration of the issue of the "institutional infrastructure" of central places is going on just now. The realistic appearance of Styrian urban settlements described in various social-economic definitions - referring to the topics of population, vocational life, labour market and social structures as well as to rural residues and financial strength - allows a "new" evaluation and capital hierarchization of higher-ranking central settlements - beyond the traditionally exercised practice of centrality research.

Gerhard LIEB presents the Seetaler Alpen (Styria) in their basic geographical structures. The principal chapter of the research stresses Pleistocene glacier formation, giving a (first) description of the fossile block streams.

MORAWETZ, Sieghard Otto discusses general border problems, quoting as an example the STYRIAN-YUGOSLAV frontier between Hühnerkogel and Remschnigg, moreover he discusses border landmarks and the development of the border. In a reminiscence he refers to an "event" at the (former) "Iron Curtain".

Herbert PASCHINGER opposes the wide-spread opinion that the so-called "Schalensteine" (cup-shaped stones) are man-made. He explains that they are due to weathering.

Wolfgang PICKL in his work takes up the importance of topography in thematically oriented geography lessons. After defining the various so-called "Lernfelder" (fields of learning) of this "new understanding of topography", he concludes - based upon examples taken from the curriculum for pupils aged between 10 and 14 years - that progression in the topographic fields of learning can primarily be obtained by applying thematic schemes of orientation, where the topographic framework of names (and positions) is connected with contents. In the end the author attempts to demonstrate progression in a thematic scheme of orientation, quoting the example of climate.

Wolfgang SULZER presents the Langtang National Park in Nepal/Himalaya with its natural and cultivated landscapes, explaining the motives for its establishment and the conflicts concerning utilization.

Kasimir S Z A R A W A R A deals with the subject of cartographic communication, in particular with the "dialogue" between the author and the user of maps. Three factors are used for evaluation of maps with respect to easy handling: adequate preparation of data (content of information), cartographic translation and consideration of semiological aspects and the design of the user's legend, which - due to additional information contained therein - represents a guide to interpretation of maps.

Walter Z S I L I N C S A R occupies himself with the basis and the importance of urban living space in the Alpine region. In spite of many common features with respect to relief-bound components and components of communication geography and hierarchic structures of central places the Alpine towns, however, lack that type-moulding element bestowing on them the special characteristic feature of a phenomenon, unless the phenomenon "Alpine" is understood - according to G. DEMATTEIS - only as a feature somehow connected with the Alpine region with respect to location and function.

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Zeitschrift/Journal: [Arbeiten aus dem Institut für Geographie der Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz](#)

Jahr/Year: 1988

Band/Volume: [29\\_1988](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): diverse

Artikel/Article: [Preface 5-8](#)