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THE PROJECT *TABULA IMPERII BYZANTINI (TIB)* OF THE AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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When Prof. Dr. Herbert Hunger (1914-2000) announced the foundation of the project *Tabula Imperii Byzantini* (hereafter *TIB*) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences at the XIIIth International Congress of Byzantine Studies in Oxford in the year 1966,¹ he indicated at the same time preliminary studies, which had served as a model for the new project:

"In Analogie zu der von der Union Académique Internationale herausgegebenen *Tabula Imperii Romani* bereitet das Institut die Publikation eines Atlas des byzantinischen Reiches vor, der in rund 35 Kartenblättern (1 : 1,000,000) und ebenso vielen zugehörigen Faszikeln alle Städte und größeren Orte des Ostimperiums enthalten soll. Einige Spezialkarten in größerem Massstab werden für besondere Gebiete notwendig sein."²

Initially, the above-mentioned project *Tabula Imperii Romani (TIR)* served as a model for the *TIB*. According to the International Union of Academies' website³ the *Tabula Imperii Romani* was founded in 1928. After the Second World War it was placed under the supervision of the International Union of Academies. Its aim consists in publishing an atlas of the Roman Empire on the scale of 1 : 1,000,000 with accompanying volumes containing historical and bibliographical data for each locality shown on the maps. Fifteen sheets were published between 1932 and the Second World War. After 1945 another twelve sheets were accomplished.

Although some similarities exist, it needs to be stressed that there are nevertheless substantial differences between the two projects.⁴ While the *Tabula Imperii Romani* puts a strong emphasis on archaeological data with little information on the history of localities and with references to the most important literature, the *TIB* combines aspects of history, archaeology, bibliography and field research / surveys in equal shares.

In the period between the announcement of the project *TIB* by Herbert Hunger in 1966 and the publication of its first volume in 1976 the *TIB* evolved significantly. Progress reports were presented by Herbert Hunger in 1966⁵

¹ H. Hunger, Das Institut für Byzantinistik der Universität Wien, in: Proceedings of the XIIIth International Congress of Byzantine Studies, Oxford, 5-10 September 1966, ed. J. M. Hussey, D. Obolensky, St. Runciman. London 1967, 481.

² Ibid., 481.

³ International Union of Academies, Projects of the IUA, 6a. *Tabula Imperii Romani (TIR)*, viewed 9 February 2010, http://www.uai-iua.org/english/projects/proj_6a_en.asp.

⁴ J. Koder, Überlegungen zu Konzept und Methode der „*Tabula Imperii Byzantini*“, in: Österreichische Osthefte 20 (1978) 257.

⁵ H. Hunger, Association Internationale des Études Byzantines, in: Bulletin d'information et de coordination 3 (1966) 51-53.

and in 1972/73⁶ and by Johannes Koder in 1975/76.⁷ The first volume of the *TIB* (*TIB* 1) entitled 'Hellas und Thessalia' was completed by Johannes Koder and Friedrich Hild in the year 1976⁸ and was referred to at the XVth International Congress of Byzantine Studies in Athens in the same year.⁹

Since 1976 the aforesaid volume has served as a model for all future volumes of the *TIB*. Moreover, it helped to define the working method of the overall project, which can be summarised as follows.

After the publication of the first volume and on the basis of the experience gathered during its writing Johannes Koder described the aim of the project in the following manner:

"Das Ziel der *TIB* ist nicht, in jedem Detail und für jeden Aspekt neue Forschung zu treiben bzw. neue Ergebnisse anzubieten, sondern in erster Linie ein möglichst vollständiges, homogenes und „objektives“ Bild des neuesten Forschungsstandes zu produzieren, wobei der historisch-quellenkundliche, der denkmalkundliche, der archäologische, der kunsthistorische und der topographische Faktor in gleicher Weise zu berücksichtigen sind und auch die kartographische Präsentation qualitativ entsprechen soll."¹⁰

Thus, the *TIB* carries out systematic research of the historical geography of the Byzantine Empire, which existed from the beginning of the 4th century AD until the 15th century AD, that is from Late Antiquity to the Ottoman conquest, in order to create an atlas of the aforesaid empire.

The main part of each volume of the *TIB* comprises a catalogue of the Byzantine names of towns, settlements, fortresses, churches, monasteries, fields, mountains, rivers and lakes in alphabetical order, which is extracted for each region / province of the Byzantine Empire from four categories of sources. These categories are the written sources from the above-mentioned period (e.g. historiography, inscriptions etc.), the archaeological evidence (monuments and their remnants), the toponyms and the physical state of landscapes.

The collected and sorted information is presented in headwords (i.e. lemmata). Each headword contains the localisation (if possible) of a place found in the sources and data on its history and monuments. The used sources and the most important secondary literature are quoted at the end of a lemma. There the reader also finds information as to whether field research or sur-

⁶ H. Hunger, Bericht über die Arbeit an der *Tabula Imperii Byzantini* (*TIB*) von 1966 bis 1971, Association Internationale des Études Byzantines, in: *Bulletin d'information et de coordination* 6 (1973) 82-86.

⁷ J. Koder, Association Internationale des Études Byzantines, in: *Bulletin d'information et de coordination* 8 (1976) 80f.

⁸ J. Koder, F. Hild, *Tabula Imperii Byzantini* 1, Hellas und Thessalia. Register von Peter Soustal. Wien 1976 (reprinted 2004).

⁹ H. Hunger, Neue Forschungsprojekte, in: *Actes du XV^e Congrès International d'Études Byzantines*, Athènes, Septembre 1976, ed. P. Zepos. Athènes 1979, 111; Koder, Hild, Hellas und Thessalia, 10.

¹⁰ Koder, Überlegungen, 261.

veys were conducted *in situ* by the scholars of the *TIB*. At this point it has to be stressed that it has never been part of the project to excavate monuments in the areas of research.¹¹ The conducted surveys have always had the aim to localise visible monuments and to document their current state by means of photography. Hence, the above-mentioned scholars strongly rely on the co-operation with archaeologists in the countries to be visited and on their publications concerning the relevant monuments.

Furthermore, each volume of the *TIB* contains introductory chapters on the geography, climate, history, administration, church history, population, lines of communication and the economy of the studied region / province of the Byzantine Empire as well as a register.

The results of each volume are presented to the reader on a map on the scale of 1 : 800,000 with the headwords marked onto it. Special symbols and combinations of colours indicate the nature of the monument and its dating. The maps also include historical places for whose existence there is only archaeological evidence without knowledge of their ancient (Byzantine) names.

The original plan to produce maps on the scale of 1 : 1,000,000 in the style of the *Tabula Imperii Romani* (see above) had soon been abandoned and the former Institute of Cartography of the Austrian Academy of Sciences designed a map for the whole Mediterranean on the above-mentioned larger scale.¹² This enabled a more thorough topographic approach and facilitated the entry of headwords. If necessary, even a larger scale is applied for some regions (e.g. 1 : 400,000).

The basic working method and the layout of the *TIB* have remained nearly unchanged since the 1970s with the exception of the implementation of selected new scientific methods and technical innovations being introduced by Prof. Dr. Johannes Koder in the 1990s (see below).

As mentioned above, the scientific work of the *TIB* focuses on the regions / provinces of the Byzantine Empire. Therefore, borders had to be drawn for each volume at the beginning of the project in accordance with the sources on Byzantine administration and the natural borders of landscapes. This classification was undertaken by Johannes Koder.¹³

Initially, the main focus of research was put on the Balkan Peninsula (Hellas, Thessaly) and on Asia Minor (Cappadocia). The first volume of the *TIB* (*TIB* 1), published in 1976, is entitled 'Hellas und Thessalia' (see above), the second (*TIB* 2) on 'Kappadokien' was completed by Friedrich Hild and Mar-

¹¹ H. Hunger, Bericht über die Tabula Imperii Byzantini. Entstehung – Aufbau – Fortschritte, in: XVIIIth International Congress of Byzantine Studies. Major papers. Moscow 1991, 276.

¹² F. Kelnhofer, Die topographische Bezugsgrundlage der Tabula Imperii Byzantini. Wien 1976, passim; Koder, Überlegungen, 254-256; Koder, Hild, Hellas und Thessalia, 8.

¹³ Hunger, Bericht über die Arbeit, 83.

cell Restle in 1981.¹⁴ The third volume (*TIB* 3) on 'Nikopolis und Kephallēnia' was also published in 1981.¹⁵ The last two volumes were subsequently presented to a wider audience at the XVIth International Congress of Byzantine Studies in Vienna in October 1981.¹⁶

The regions upon which research was to be conducted were initially chosen as follows:

"Den Kernländern, Kleinasien und der Balkanhalbinsel, wurde der Vorzug eingeräumt. [...] Den Kontrapost Hellas ~ Anatolien hielten wir dabei für zielführend und arbeitstechnisch sinnvoll. [...] Ferner werden – in Beibehaltung des Kontraposts Hellas ~ Anatolien – die Bände *Epirus* und *Lykaonien* vorbereitet. Mit den Arbeiten an *Aigaion Pelagos* wurde begonnen."¹⁷

Volume 4 of the *TIB* (*TIB* 4) entitled 'Galatien und Lykaonien' was printed in 1984¹⁸ and included black-and-white photographs of monuments for the first time. The same year witnessed the publication of a book on the historical geography of the eastern Mediterranean by Johannes Koder,¹⁹ which marked the beginning of a new perception of the geographical characteristics of the Byzantine Empire. Due to its impact on the scientific community in general and on the *TIB* in particular it was reprinted with an augmented bibliography in 2001²⁰ and translated into Modern Greek in 2005.²¹

In this book Johannes Koder has defined three central areas of the Byzantine Empire (the so-called 'Kerngebiete'), which were: 1. the eastern Mediterranean, 2. Asia Minor and 3. the Balkan Peninsula.²² Vital for the existence of the Byzantine state and therefore of great importance were: 1. the Aegean Sea, the Sea of Marmora, the Bosphorus and the access to the Black Sea, 2. the

¹⁴ F. Hild, M. Restle, *Tabula Imperii Byzantini* 2, Kappadokien (Kappadokia, Charsianon, Sebasteia und Lykandos). Wien 1981 (reprinted 2004).

¹⁵ P. Soustal (unter Mitwirkung von J. Koder), *Tabula Imperii Byzantini* 3, Nikopolis und Kephallēnia. Wien 1981 (reprinted 2004).

¹⁶ F. Hild, *Tabula Imperii Byzantini* (*TIB*), in: XVI. Internationaler Byzantinistenkongreß, Wien, 4.-9. Oktober 1981, Akten I / Beiheft (= Jahrbuch der Österreichischen Byzantinistik 31). Wien 1981, 2.2.

¹⁷ Koder, Hild, Hellas und Thessalia, 8-10.

¹⁸ K. Belke (mit Beiträgen von M. Restle), *Tabula Imperii Byzantini* 4, Galatien und Lykaonien. Wien 1984 (reprinted 2004).

¹⁹ J. Koder, Der Lebensraum der Byzantiner. Historisch-geographischer Abriß ihres mittelalterlichen Staates im östlichen Mittelmeerraum (= Byzantinische Geschichtsschreiber Ergänzungsband 1). Graz-Wien-Köln 1984.

²⁰ J. Koder, Der Lebensraum der Byzantiner. Historisch-geographischer Abriß ihres mittelalterlichen Staates im östlichen Mittelmeerraum. Nachdruck mit bibliographischen Nachträgen (= Byzantinische Geschichtsschreiber Ergänzungsband 1). Wien 2001.

²¹ J. Koder, Το Βυζάντιο ως χώρος. Εισαγωγή στην Ιστορική Γεωγραφία της Ανατολικής Μεσογείου στη Βυζαντινή Εποχή. Θεσσαλονίκη 2005.

²² Koder, Der Lebensraum (1984), 16.

western part of Asia Minor, the northern and southern shores of Asia Minor and 3. Thrace, the shores of the Aegean Sea and the Peloponnesus.²³

On the basis of this approach the scientific work of the *TIB* shifted towards those central areas ('Kerngebiete') in the 1990s. Consequently, the fifth volume on 'Kilikien und Isaurien' (*TIB* 5) was printed in 1990.²⁴ Volume 7 entitled 'Phrygien und Pisidien' (*TIB* 7) was published in the same year.²⁵ One year later, Peter Soustal completed the sixth volume of the *TIB* (*TIB* 6) on 'Thrakien (Thrakē, Rodopē und Haimimontos)'.²⁶ All three volumes were presented to a wider audience at the XVIIIth International Congress of Byzantine Studies in Moscow in August 1991.²⁷

In 1995 Prof. Dr. Johannes Koder became chairman of the overall project of the *TIB*, which was incorporated into the newly established Institute of Byzantine Studies of the Austrian Academy of Sciences in January 2006.²⁸

Since 1995 the ninth volume (*TIB* 9) on 'Paphlagonien und Honorias',²⁹ the tenth (*TIB* 10) on 'Aigaion Pelagos (Die nördliche Ägäis)'³⁰ and the eighth volume (*TIB* 8) on 'Lykien und Pamphylien'³¹ have been accomplished. Andreas Külzer has recently published the twelfth volume (*TIB* 12) on 'Ostthrakien (Eurōpē)'.³²

Seven volumes of the *TIB* are in preparation at the moment. Peter Soustal is writing on 'Makedonien, südlicher Teil' (*TIB* 11), Klaus Belke on 'Bithynien und Hellespontos' (*TIB* 13), Friedrich Hild on 'Karien' (*TIB* 14), Klaus-Peter Todt and Bernd Andreas Vest on 'Syria' (*TIB* 15), Mihailo Popović on 'Makedonien, nördlicher Teil' (*TIB* 16) and Andreas Külzer on 'Lydien' (*TIB* 17) and 'Asia' (*TIB* 18).

In the last fifteen years Johannes Koder has introduced new scientific methods and technical innovations. He called for the systematic utilisation of results deriving from studies on Palaeoclimate,³³ and applied the *Central*

²³ J. Koder, Perspektiven der *Tabula Imperii Byzantini*. Zu Planung, Inhalt und Methode, in: *Geographia antiqua* 5 (1996) 76.

²⁴ F. Hild, H. Hellenkemper, *Tabula Imperii Byzantini* 5, Kilikien und Isaurien. Wien 1990 (reprinted 2004).

²⁵ K. Belke, N. Mersich, *Tabula Imperii Byzantini* 7, Phrygien und Pisidien. Wien 1990 (reprinted 2004).

²⁶ P. Soustal, *Tabula Imperii Byzantini* 6, Thrakien (Thrakē, Rodopē und Haimimontos). Wien 1991 (reprinted 2004).

²⁷ Hunger, Bericht über die *Tabula Imperii Byzantini*, 278.

²⁸ Cf. <http://www.oeaw.ac.at/byzanz/>, viewed 9 February 2010.

²⁹ K. Belke, *Tabula Imperii Byzantini* 9, Paphlagonien und Honorias. Wien 1996.

³⁰ J. Koder (unter Mitarbeit von P. Soustal und A. Koder), *Tabula Imperii Byzantini* 10, Aigaion Pelagos (Die nördliche Ägäis). Wien 1998.

³¹ F. Hild, H. Hellenkemper, *Tabula Imperii Byzantini* 8, Lykien und Pamphylien. Wien 2004.

³² A. Külzer, *Tabula Imperii Byzantini* 12, Ostthrakien (Eurōpē). Wien 2008.

³³ J. Koder, Historical Aspects of a Recession of Cultivated Land at the End of the Late Antiquity in the East Mediterranean, in: Evaluation of Land Surfaces Cleared from Forests in the Mediterranean Region during the Time of the Roman Empire, ed. B.

Place Theory on different landscapes of the Byzantine Empire.³⁴ Nowadays the *Global Positioning System (GPS)* is used regularly during surveys in the areas of research. In addition to making slides during field research digital photography is applied successfully on a regular basis.

The applicability and the usefulness of *Historic Landscape Characterisation* and *Geographic Information System (GIS)* will be tested for a new stand-alone project financed by the FWF – Austrian Science Fund on the ‘Economy and regional trade routes in northern Macedonia (12th-16th century)’ (project P 21137-G19). It began on 1 March 2009 with research undertaken by Mihailo Popović under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Johannes Koder.³⁵

Frenzel (= Paläoklimaforschung/Palaeoclimate Research 10). Stuttgart-Jena-New York 1994, 157-167; Koder, Perspektiven der Tabula Imperii Byzantini, 84f.

³⁴ J. Koder, Για μια εκ νέου τοποθέτηση της εφαρμογής της “Θεωρίας των κεντρικών τόπων”: Το παραδειγμα της μεσοβυζαντινής Μακεδονίας, in: Historical Geography. Roads and Crossroads of the Balkans from Antiquity to the European Union, ed. E.P. Dimitriadis, A.Ph. Lagopoulos, G. Tsotsos. Thessaloniki 1998, 33-49; J. Koder, Παρατηρήσεις στην οικιστική διάρρηση της κεντρικής Μικράς Ασίας μετά τον 6ο αιώνα. Μια προσέγγιση από την οπτική γωνία της «θεωρίας των κεντρικών τόπων», in: Η Βυζαντινή Μικρά Ασία – Byzantine Asia Minor, ed. St. Lampakes. Αθήνα 1998, 245-265; J. Koder, Land Use and Settlement: Theoretical Approaches, in: General Issues in the Study of Medieval Logistics: Sources, Problems and Methodologies, ed. J.F. Haldon (= History of Warfare 36). Leiden- Boston 2006, 159-183.

³⁵ Cf. on this project: <http://www.oeaw.ac.at/byzanz/routes.htm>, viewed 9 February 2010.