Gierczak STSM Scientific Report

1. Aim:

The main goal of the STSM was to prepare a small dataset of enriched, historical (1500-1800) gazetteer pilot data for a small region of Europe (Silesia) to be used as a test case in the future development of an early modern gazetteer. Silesia was chosen due to its changing dependency on higher hierarchies within the Holy Roman Empire during the EM, which caused changes of the administrative, as well as ecclesial, military, and judicial structures on several levels, along with changes of the administrative language. Those multi-level changes made it a good choice for testing the consistency of the planned data design for the EM Places historical gazetteer.

The collected data were integrated into the structure of the planned user interface and discussed the utility of the data pattern and of the interface with the team of the Cultures of Knowledge project at the Faculty of History in Oxford.

2. Contribution to the Scientific Objectives of the Action:

The STSM addresses point II.3 in the goals for Working Group 1 'Space and Time' in the Action, namely: "Develop means of creating new sub-gazetteers for extending, enhancing, and correcting existing gazetteers."

3. Outcomes:

The research drew on sources previously identified as part of a current research project at the Herder Institute in Marburg ("Historical-Topographical Atlas of Silesian Towns"). My work was carried out both in the Cultures of Knowledge project offices and in the Bodleian Library. Regular working meetings with the Culture of Knowledge project members took place to provide feedback on the data collected during my stay, and on the draft plans for the EM Places gazetteer.

The prepared dataset included administrative, ecclesiastical, military, and judicial hierarchy entities for six Silesian cities: Opole, Brzeg, Wrocław, Bytom, Brzeg, and Głogów which were chosen from the Silesian places already present in the EMLO catalogue. These cities are amongst the oldest places in the region, and played an important role in the early modern period under investigation. The data were collected in a spreadsheet format.

The hierarchies of entities were structured from bottom to top, i.e. they started with the highest level ("state" – in modern terms) and went through all levels of the respective structure of the units down to the town level. A new temporal hierarchy was shown for every change of affiliation for a town. In one case, using the town of Opole as an example, the changes in relations between the separate levels of the administrative hierarchies and their corresponding time validities were also recorded.

After the discussion of these datasets, worksheets were prepared for each chosen city based on the proposed user interface of the EM Places gazetteer. The worksheets included the following elements: all recorded names of the city with the time of the respective use of the name, information about the calendars used, short editorial notes about the city taken from other sources (Getty, Historical-Topographical Atlas of Silesian Towns) with indication of the source, a short bibliography and a list of other sources as well as links to georeferenced historical maps from several periods between 1500 and 1800. For this purpose, it was necessary to first georeference most of these maps, as there exist very few properly georeferenced historical maps of Silesia. The next section of the report addresses the main questions, along with problems and obstacles, concerning the collection of data, the data material itself, as well as the design and content of the EM Places gazetteer, which were discussed with the Cultures of Knowledge project team.

4. Discussion:

Following the STSM, the sample datasets for the towns of Opole, Brzeg, Wrocław, Bytom, Brzeg, and Głogów and a short report describing the outcome of the above work which I prepared were shared inside the COST Action for feedback and comment. According to the work plan, my research addressed the questions mentioned below, and came to the following conclusions:

1) What are the official/canonical names of towns which can be used as a default 'place name' in the gazetteer? What are the other relevant toponyms which are not found in current gazetteers?

There were several official languages in use in Silesia, between 1500-1800. Most official documents in this period were written in German which was the dominant language of the Habsburg monarchy, although the most older documents by far were written in Latin. Latin was common in the official documents of the Holy Roman Empire, especially in the Middle Ages, although it was gradually replaced by German. Official documents in Czech, which was also used in official documents of the Bohemian Crown, are, however, less numerous. There are only few official documents in Polish — the most widely spoken language in the region — at the beginning of the discussed period. At the beginning of the 19th century, Polish dominated in the east part of the region (Upper Silesia), while in the south (Austrian Silesia) Czech was also a common spoken language. Prussia, which ruled the most part of Silesia after 1742, also used French in official documents, although it was of minimal importance for Silesia. Polish, Czech, and German place names were also in official use at this time.

This overlapping of different language layers was typical for Central Europe. However, international gazetteers quickly reach their limits here. They are mostly developed in English-speaking countries or in Western Europe and their focus is definitely not on Central-Eastern Europe (along with other regions where other than western European languages are in use). For example, the Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names (which has better coverage of historical names of towns and regions) still has many gaps. Only the largest cities in each Polish region are covered, others only by chance, and the basis for the decisions taken to use the German or Polish names is opaque. For these reasons GeoNames is the more suitable gazetteer for this role. Its main records are based on the current (main) official languages in the proper country, although the coverage in some languages (e.g. in Belarusian) remains inaccurate. Today, modern states largely publish their own place name gazetteers. For corresponding publications for Central and Eastern European countries, see the section "Other Sources" under subitem 8).

2) Is it possible/feasible to trace the historical development of these town names?

The first notation of numerous localities in Silesia was in Latin, although there are doubts whether the reproduction of the names in the older texts was a linguistic adaptation to Latin or a reproduction of the original name into one of the three locally spoken languages (mainly Polish and Czech).

In most Slavonic languages (as well as in some others) the place name changes following the declension (i.e. changing the form of a word). In the inflected forms usually only the word stem remains unchanged, but not the endings or other morphemes. As a result, the declension can make it difficult for non-native speakers to recognise the place name in documents. Another challenge are the homonymic place names such as Bytom nad Odrą / Beuthen an der Oder in Lower Silesia (which was more important during the period in question) and Bytom/Beuthen [OS.] in Upper Silesia (which became much bigger and important in the 19th century). In some sources there is no further information which would allow an easy recognition.

Even if the Czech and especially Polish names of the most places in Silesia appeared considerably later in the official documents, this does not mean that they were not in use at those times. The analysis of

the Latin and of the older German documents suggest that the Slavonic names were mostly in use earlier, while the German ones developed later.

3) What are the other relevant spelling variants which should be included in the gazetteer for the above places?

The earlier documents showed many forms of the respective place/locality names for virtually all language mentioned above. It depended partly on the language skills of the particular writer in this multi-language region.

4) What were the historical changes in the administrative/political regions enclosing each of these six towns between c. 1500 and 1800?

There were several such changes in the mentioned period. After the fragmentation of Poland in the 12th century, Silesia was divided into several duchies, the rulers of which eventually subordinated themselves to the Bohemian Crown one by one. From 1348, the Bohemian Crown was part of the Holy Roman Empire, a multi-ethnic complex of loosely connected territories in Central Europe and parts of Western Europe that developed during the Early Middle Ages and continued until its dissolution in 1806. 1468/9, Matthias Corvinus the King of Hungary conquered Moravia, Silesia, and Lausitz, but his supremacy had not been accepted until the Peace of Olomouc which was signed on 2 April 1479. After his dead in 1490, those territories were returned to Bohemian Crown.

In 1526, the Bohemian Crown lost its sovereignty to the Habsburg monarchy which was also part of the Holy Roman Empire, as well as the Kingdom of Prussia was which conquered the main part of Silesia in 1742 and hold it until its own dissolution in 1918. The Bohemian County of Kladsko (German: Glatz, Polish: Kłodzko) was conquered by Prussia in 1763 and was added to the Duchy of Silesia. Only a much smaller part in South (Austrian Silesia) was ruled by Habsburg monarchy (with Austrian Emperor as the holder of the Bohemian Crown) until its dissolution in 1918 as well.

The traces of the administrative units, especially on lower level, are not always reflected in the contemporary written records (charter, maps etc.). Some documents also leave room for different interpretations. In addition, the definition of the territorial extension of Silesia in the period in question could be disputable. So-called New Silesia, i.e. former Polish territory which was annexed by Prussia in 1795 and existed until 1807 (and partly belonged to Silesia in the 12th century) was not considered here. The name for this territory given by the Prussian administration was only a manifestation of an intention to merge it with Silesia. This approach, however, was not implemented (until 1939), and this territory was indeed administrated from the province of South Prussia (which was also formed from former Polish territory annexed by Prussia in 1795 and ceded to Russia 1807).

Also the more or less episodic changes during the 30-year war (1618-1648) were not considered for my research.

In addition, there have been Moravian enclaves on Silesian territory since 1198. This was the small town of Kietrz (czech. Ketř, in German Katscher) with its surroundings and other places owned by the Olomouc diocese. Kietrz came under Prussian rule in 1742 and were now incorporated into Silesia. The other places that remained in Austrian Silesia.

The former Polish Province of Silesia disintegrated into numerous duchies, which in turn divided further. Some of those autonomous territories existed only for a short time, others expanded or merged with another several times. On 16.4.1422 the first Oberlandeshauptmann (governor) for the Duchy of Silesia was assigned. The head of the governorate was usually elected by the king from the circle of the Silesian dukes (especially between 1498-1719). Part-duchies which became vacant fiefs fell to the crown as titular duchies. Name changes due to border changes which did not affect the

administrative or political structure were not taken into account in the prepared datasets. The Prussian province of Silesia (whose existence is often indicated as 1816-1919) was established after the Prussian conquest, in 1742 (at that time it was also referred to in official documents as the Sovereign Duchy of Silesia; in 1816 only its borders changed).

The territories of the duchies were eventually subdivided into counties (German *Kreis*) and municipal areas (*Weichbild*) of some charted cities, but the subdivision varied from duchy to duchy, and had also other names or different functions and competences. The counties appeared around the 15th/16th century. They were only numbered first, the names taken from the main locality of the county were given later.

In addition, the Prussian province of Silesia (whose existence is often indicated as 1816-1919) was established after Silesia was taken by Prussia, i.e. since 1742 (at that time it was also referred to in official documents as the Sovereign Duchy of Silesia; in 1816 only its borders changed).

Already in 16th century, there was a dense network of charted cities in Silesia (Magdeburg Law), but it is not always sure, when exactly the Magdeburg Law was granted to the concrete place. The most places were inhabited long time before the Magdeburg Law was granted to them, but also new foundations which existed near/next to an earlier locality were common. The old place remained outside the city limits (sometimes on the other river bank, on higher or lower ground etc.). Considering the different legal traditions of administration between the Anglo-Saxon countries and Central Europe, for this research project the term *city* refers to the Magdeburg Law charter. Since the 19th several towns had become their own administration, independent of the county, but Wrocław had never been part of a county, while its *Weichbild* built the rural district of Wrocław after it became Prussian.

The estates of the Catholic Church were excluded and were subjected only to the church authorities, as well as the estates of the crown which were also excluded from the city law. The garrisons in the towns were subjected only to the military authorities. Such areas formed enclaves in the structurally contiguous urban space. In the largest city of Silesia, Wrocław, the estates of the Catholic Church formed a second large urban unit on the Dominsel (Polish: *ostrów Tumski*). The mighty City of Wrocław was in the rare position to dispute the territorial sovereignty with the Church.

5) Is it possible to capture analogous information for the related ecclesiastical, military, and judicial regions?

Due to the reason mentioned in the previous chapter, there are only limited possibilities to reconstruct the whole spectrum of those information for those times in Silesia. The whole original territory of Silesia was part of the Archbishopric of Gniezno. While the most of the area belonged to the Diocese of Wrocław, a small part in the east – due to the former affiliation with Lesser Poland (until 1138) – was subordinate to the Diocese of Cracow. Most likely, all of the selected cities were chief towns of a deanery of the catholic church 1500. The area of Wrocław and was divided into several catholic parishes.

The former County of Kladsko along with the Moravian enclaves remained part of the Olomouc diocese after their respective incorporation into the Kingdom of Prussia.

In the 16th century, the Reformation soon dominated especially in the western part of the region, but after the Thirty Years' War (1618-1638), only few reformed churches were allowed in Silesia as part of the catholic Habsburg monarchy. Such churches were only allowed in duchies ruled by a protestant duke. For the mainly protestant population of the other (former) duchies which were now owned by the Habsburg emperor the so-called border churches were allowed in so-called border churches (German *Grenzkirchen*) in Pogorzeliska (Kriegheide), Trzmielów (Hummel), Luboszyce (Herrnlauersitz),

and Ryczeń (Rützen), in the Churches of Peace in Jawor (Jauer), Świdnica (Schweidnitz), and Głogów (Glogau). After the Treaty of Altranstädt (1707) Grace Churches were built in Teschen (Cieszyn), Jelenia Góra (Hirschberg), Kamienna Góra (Landeshut), Kożuchów (Freystadt), Milicz (Millitsch), and Żagań (Sagan). Also 780 former Protestant churches were returned to Protestant communities (German *Rezesskirchen*). Of these, at least Bytom had a Hussite community 1432-1455.

Jewish communities existed, at least temporarily, in all of the regarded cities, although in most places in Silesia, Jews were not allowed to settle down until 1740/42, and in the Habsburg parts not until 1781.

The Moravian enclaves in Austrian Silesia were administered by the Silesian Office from 1783, but they were subject to Moravian courts. All Moravian enclaves belonged to the Moravian bishopric of Olomouc (German: Olmütz) which was established in 1063 (originally as part of the Archdiocese of Mainz, 1344 transferred to the Archdiocese of Prague), and became archdiocese, on 5/12/1777. The border of the other court districts in Silesia usually corresponded to the borders of the administrative districts.

The Oberlandeshauptmann exercised jurisdiction over the dukes of Silesia on a voluntary basis, but not necessarily over the other legal subjects on the territory of the respective part-duchy.

6) Which specific calendar systems (e.g. Julian, Gregorian) were in use in Silesia between 1500 and 1800? Were there any noteworthy regional differences?

The Gregorian calendar was introduced in Silesia in 1584. Presumably, the small part of Silesia which was part of the Diocese of Cracow (like Bytom) may had introduced the Gregorian calendar on 04/10/1582. The stated dates usually refer to the official coming into force of the changes.

7) What are the main references/resources relevant for collecting this data?

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8) To what other (not just online) resources should an enriched, historical gazetteer entry on Silesia ideally link?

Most historical maps are not georeferenced until now or their georeferencing is not exact. Furthermore, it is necessary to agree on one system standard for the standard coordinate system for the Earth in order to identify places below (or beside) the administrative unit level, like buildings, ships etc. (most common is WGS84, also known as WGS 1984, EPSG:4326; last revised in 2004).

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