Maximilian de Traux and his Contribution to Cartography

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Abstract

This paper presents a biography of Maximilian de Traux, who was a colonel, military writer and cartographer. He was born in 1766 in Antwerp and died in Wiener Neustadt in 1817. He was admitted to the Engineering Directorate in Zadar in 1803. He spent two years in Dalmatia, where he worked on maintaining and improving town fortifications. The paper describes his contribution to cartography, especially Croatian cartography. De Traux was the author of the manuscript atlas entitled Festungen Dalmatiens und Albaniens nebst vorliegenden Inseln, und Beschreibung (Fortifications of Dalmatia and Albania with the Nearby Islands, and Descriptions), which he produced in Zadar in 1805. It was dedicated to Archduke Johann von Oestreich (Oesterreich). The only known copy of the atlas is kept in the National Library of Serbia in Belgrade. It contains four maps: Ober Dalmatien (North Dalmatia), Unter Dalmatien (Central Dalmatia), Inseln des Quarners (Kvarner Islands) and Albanien (Albania), and 23 plans of fortified towns accompanied by town descriptions, of which 17 are in Croatia. In alphabetical order, they are: Drniš, Hvar, Klis, Knin, Korčula, Makarska, Opuzen, Osor, Pag, Sinj, Split, Supetar, Šibenik, Trogir, the fortress on the islet of St. Peter, Zadar and Zadvarje. De Traux also made several maps, including a map of Dalmatia and the Dubrovnik area (Carte von Dalmatien und dem Gebieth von Ragusa) and a map of Dalmatia (Map of Dalmatia). By comparing the contents of these two maps and those of his predecessors, de Traux’s contribution to the knowledge and depiction of Dalmatia has been confirmed.

Keywords: Maximilian de Traux, Dalmatia, cartography, atlas, maps, plans, fortified Croatian towns