



1ST HEMSEE WORKSHOP

HISTORY ON THE MARGINS

MARGINALIA IN EARLY MODERN
SOUTHEAST EUROPE,
15TH-18TH CENTURIES



INZ

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HISTORIOGRAPHIES OF EARLY MODERN SOUTHEAST EUROPE (HEMSEE)

The Vienna-based project HEMSEE (financed by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation) intends to produce a source-based handbook showing the challenges and opportunities of working with the historiographic texts of Early Modern Southeast Europe. Operating with thematic clusters, we will explore both familiar and uncharted territories and thereby analyze excerpts from both mainstream and “minor” sources.

WRITING ON THE MARGINS

Relentlessly chasing solid data for their research, historians have long (and justifiably) used marginalia as source of information. Nevertheless, as the focus was rather on details than on form, structure, or motive, writing on the margins was hardly addressed in its own right. This allegation holds particularly true for Early Modern Southeast Europe where the “notes of yore”, which allegedly offered unmediated access to otherwise unaccessible bygone worldviews and realities, fuelled many collections, but inspired few epistemological reflections.

Recent developments in the field of medieval diplomatic, literary studies, art history, or history of ideas, provide, however, plenty of food for thought for all those interested in the topic. The number of high-quality editions is also increasing at a steady pace. As a direct consequence, the first workshop organized in the framework of the project *Historiographies of Early Modern Southeast Europe* intends to build upon these stimuli and reflect, from a cultural-historical perspective, on the potential and limits of Southeast European marginalia as form of writing about history.

We operate with a concept of marginalia, which tries to take into account the remarkable linguistic and typological diversity of the marginal notes. Our aim is to reflect on the issue of “marginal” subjects, discuss the interplay between text and image, and provide a plausible interdisciplinary interpretative framework for an elusive and, by definition, peripheral phenomenon.

Paolo Odorico, “...*Alia nullius momenti. A proposito della letteratura dei marginalia*,” *Byzantinische Zeitschrift* 78 (1985): 23–36; Lucy Freeman Sandler, “*The Study of Marginal Imagery: Past, Present, and Future*,” *Studies in Iconography* 18 (1997): 1–49; Anthony GRAFTON, *The Footnote: A Curious History* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1997); Heather J. JACKSON, *Marginalia. Readers Writing in Books* (New Haven / London: Yale University Press, 2002); EAD., *Romantic Readers. The Evidence of Marginalia* (New Haven / London: Yale University Press, 2005); Geoffrey KOZIOL, *The Politics of Memory and Identity in Carolingian Royal Diplomas. The West Frankish Kingdom (840–987)* (Turnhout: Brepols, 2012); *Marginalia* 19 (2015) [Tenth Anniversary Conference: “Out of the Margins”, 19th–20th September 2014]; Konrad PETROVSZKY, “*Marginal Notes in South Slavic Written Culture. Between Practising Memory and Accounting for the Self*,” *Cahiers du Monde Russe* 58/3 (2017): 483–502.

CONVENOR

Ovidiu Olar (ovidiu.olar@oeaw.ac.at)

PROGRAMME

- 09:30–9.45 **Opening Remarks**
Konrad Petrovszky – Ovidiu Olar
- 09.45–11.15 **Keynotes**
Peter Schreiner
Marginalien sind nicht marginal. Byzantinische Geschichte am Rande von Handschriften
Marinos Sariyannis
Marginal Notes in Ottoman Manuscripts: Some Preliminary Considerations
- 11.15–11.30 COFFEE & COOKIES BREAK
- 11.30–12.30 **First Session: Editions & Databases**
Cristina-Ioana Dima
The Narrow Path of the Book on the Large Scene of History. Marginal Notes on Romanian Printed Books from 16th and 17th Century
Poly Mukanova
Marginal Notes – The Foundation of an Educational Platform
- 12.30–14.00 LUNCH BREAK
- 14.00–15.30 **Second Session: In the Margins**
Kristina Nikolovska
Paratexts, Intertexts and Pre-texts: Early Modern South Slavic Historiography in the Margins of Manuscripts and Printed Books
Konstantinos Giakoumis
(Re-)Claiming Sacred Space: Texts and Images in the Margins of Artworks from the Ottoman Balkans
Ovidiu Olar
Cantemir's Annotations of the History of the Ottoman Court
- 15.30–15.45 COFFEE & COOKIES BREAK
- 15.45–17.15 **Third Session: Off the Margins**
Marian Coman
Symbolic Agency: Michael the Brave's Marginal Signatures on Wallachian Charters
George Tolias
The Paraphernalia of Rhigas' Charta of 1796–97
Radu G. Păun
Names in Time. On the Historical Functions of Regnal Lists in the post-Byzantine Balkans (15th-18th Centuries)
- 17.15–17.45 **Discussions & Concluding Remarks**