

“Points of entry” taken literally: Mapping arrivals and lodgings of the upper class in 18th Century Vienna.

Nina C. Rastinger, Thomas Kirchmair, Lydia Fytraki & Claudia Resch

Situated in the field of Digital Humanities and historical newspaper research, this paper collects, maps and analyses entry points and lodgings of diplomats, legates, couriers and other members of the upper class arriving in 18th Century Vienna. As the city was at the heart of the Habsburg empire and played a key role in political and social affairs at the time (Hatz 2008), arrivals of high-ranking persons did occur rather frequently and were even documented within the historical newspaper *Wien[n]erisches Diarium*¹ (WD) in the form of arrival lists. These semi-structured texts were published twice a week from the newspaper’s founding year in 1703 to the middle of March 1725 and can be considered of high information density (and, hence, high research potential), as two exemplary list entries showcase:

- (1) Den 29. Jenner 1710. Karntner=Thor. Herr Graf von Purgstall / komt von Grätz / log. [> logiert] im wilden Mann. [WD 29.01.1710: 6]
- (2) Den 3. May 1710. Stuben=Thor. Herr Gössinger / Stuck-Hauptmann / kommt von Coñorn / log. im guldnen Hirschen. [WD 03.05.1710: 7]

Legend

date of arrival	point of entry	arrived person
occupation	place of departure	place of accommodation

Despite – or, to put it differently, because of – their brevity the items of the *Diarium*’s arrival lists contain a substantial amount of information per documented event: Besides being informed about when and through which of the city gates persons of the upper class entered the city of Vienna, readers also gain knowledge of the name, titles of nobility and/or occupation(s) of the arriving individuals as well as of their place of departure and place of accommodation in Vienna.

By (semi-)automatically extracting, interrelating and mapping all this information, the study aims to determine both the popularity of specific entry points and accommodations as well as

¹ The *Wien[n]erisches Diarium* was renamed *Wiener Zeitung* in 1780 and is still published under this name today which makes it one of the oldest newspapers in the world still in print.

possible factors for people's lodgement choices. For instance, the distance of a lodgement to a person's point of entry could be just as relevant for his² decision as the accommodation(s) he chose in earlier visits to Vienna or his social status (e.g. aristocrat vs. courier). To find out more about this, we draw on two already existing digital resources – namely the *DIGITARIUM* (Resch & Kampkaspar 2020) and the Austrian National Library's *AustriaN Newspaper Online* (ANNO, Kann & Hintersonnleitner 2015) which both offer (selected) digitized full text issues of the *Wien[n]erisches Diarium*. From there, we use all 104 arrival lists of the year 1710 as our data set. This choice is in unity with the decision to map the data on the so-called *Steinhausenplan*, an already georeferenced historical map of Vienna that was created by Werner Arnold Steinhausen in 1710 and replicated by Gustav Adolph Schimmer in 1847. As shown on the detail below, this resource labels many of Vienna's inns and city gates by name which helps to obtain their coordinates:

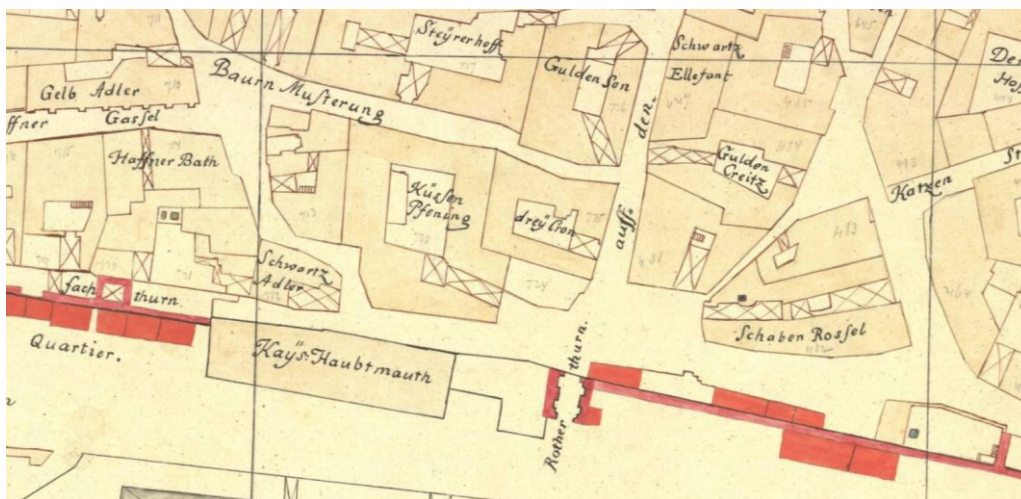


Figure 1: Detail of the Steinhausenplan (1710) as replicated by Schimmer (1847), showing the city gate “Rother Thurn” and nearby inns

Additionally, the study also makes use of other sources, like the knowledge platform *Wien Geschichte Wiki* (WGW), to collect the coordinates of the entry points and lodgings mentioned in the arrival lists.³ This spatial data is then imported into a geographic information system (GIS) where it is converted into precise points and visualized on the *Steinhausenplan*. For this step, the software ArcGIS is used as it facilitates the mapping and analysis process and allows us to calculate the distances between different city gates and accommodations as well as to visualize them as routes taken by individual persons. First results from this approach suggest

² The arrival lists primarily recorded males.

³ Due to the historical nature of the data, not all places might be clearly locatable in the end – for instance, when incomers stay at their own homes or other underspecified places or multiple inns bear the same name.

that visitors of 18th Century Vienna – especially couriers – tended to stay close to the entrance gates they came through. Also, the findings imply that accommodations differed in their popularity: *Zum wilden Mann* or *Zum weißen Schwan*, for instance, attracted significantly more upper class guests than other neighbouring taverns.

References

- ArcGIS*. <https://www.arcgis.com> (22.02.22).
- Austrian National Library (ed.): *AustriaN Newspaper Online (ANNO)*. <https://anno.onb.ac.at> (22.02.22).
- City of Vienna: *Wien Geschichte Wiki* (WGW). <https://www.geschichtewiki.wien.gv.at> (22.02.22).
- Hatz, Gerhard (2008): Vienna. *Cities* 25(5), 310–325. DOI: 10.1016/j.cities.2008.02.002
- Kann, Bettina & Hintersonleitner, Michael (2015): Volltextsuche in historischen Texten. Erfahrungen aus den Projekten der Österreichischen Nationalbibliothek. *BIBLIOTHEK – Forschung und Praxis* 39, 73–79. DOI: 10.1515/bfp-2015-0004
- Resch, Claudia & Kampkaspar, Dario (eds.): *DIGITARIUM*. <https://digitarium.acdh.oeaw.ac.at> (22.02.22).
- Schimmer, Gustav Adolph (1847): *Reproduktion des Stadtplans von Werner Arnold Steinhausen*. http://wais.wien.gv.at/archive.xhtml?id=Stueck++842296CA-B8D3-4679-8C5D-92B6790D44BClanm08sch#Stueck__842296CA-B8D3-4679-8C5D-92B6790D44BClanm08sch (22.02.22).
- Steinhausen, Werner Arnold (1710): *Stadtplan*. <https://www.wien.gv.at/kultur/kulturgut/plaene/steinhausen.html> (22.02.22).