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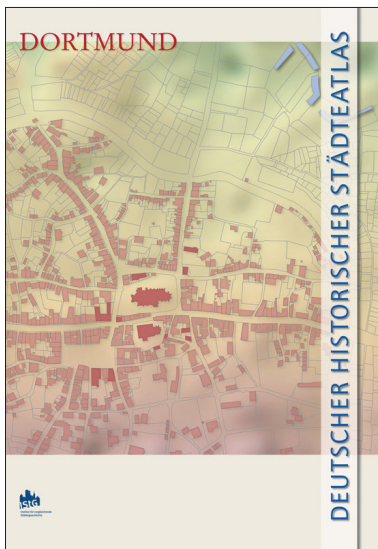
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Deutscher Historischer Städteatlas, Nr. 5: Dortmund, Hrsg. Peter Johaneke, Jürgen Lafrenz, Thomas Tippach, Autoren: Stefan Mühlhofer, Thomas Schilp, Daniel Stracke, Archäologie: Henriette Brink-Kloke, Bernhard Sicherl, Kartographie: Anja Obereisenbuchner, Benjamin Hamann, Redaktion: Daniel Stracke, Institut für vergleichende Städtegeschichte, 2. Auflage, Münster 2018, Ardey-Verlag, pp. 52 + 81 fig. in the text, 22 sheets

The “Deutscher Historischer Städteatlas” series (DHS) is part of the international project The European Historic Towns Atlas (EHTA), under the auspices of The International Commission for the History



of Towns. It is a relatively recent series, launched in 2006 and devoted to German cities, as well as a continuation of the older series “Deutscher Städteatlas” (DS). The book dedicated to Dortmund, prepared by the Institute for Comparative Urban History in Münster (Institut für vergleichende Städtegeschichte – IStG), is the fifth in the DHS series – the atlases of Quedlinburg (2006), Schwerin (2007), Herrnhut and the surrounding areas (2009) and Braunschweig (2013) were published earlier. It is also the second issue about Dortmund. The first appeared in 1973 as one of the earliest elements of the DS series and in 1975 – in an unchanged version – as part of another German city series,

“Westfälischer Städteatlas”. The need for the second edition of the Dortmund atlas resulted from the expansion of the new DHS series format – it was tied to the need to include a broader commentary on the city’s history and a greater number of cartographic materials¹. Furthermore, the state of archaeological research had grown from what it was in 1973, which led to a change in the way the beginnings of the city were examined. The city’s development period from the 19th century had also been more thoroughly analysed, taking into account, first and foremost, the changes that occurred and those that were planned in the times of National Socialism.

The Dortmund issue, like all other issues of historical atlases of cities, is divided into a descriptive section, containing a commentary on the city’s history, and a cartographic section, which includes visualizations of the results of these studies, reproductions of the oldest cityscapes and reference maps of Dortmund and the surrounding area. The latter is also linked to a special web page, available on the IStG website which contains interactive maps of Dortmund. Presenting its functions and usefulness will be an important part of the following review.

The descriptive section has 52 pages. The information about the city’s spatial development and certain aspects of Dortmund’s functioning, such as the number of municipal authorities, the economic history, the diversity of the city inhabitants’

¹ E. Chodějovská, S. Gearty, D. Stracke, *The “Digital Turn” of the European Historic Towns Atlas: Comparing Solutions for Digital Atlas Production and Online Presentation*, “Città e Storia”, 10 (1), 2015, p. 93.

occupations (allowing a brief description of the occupational topography of the late medieval city on p. 14) is presented on pages 3–37. The most thoroughly discussed are the times from the earliest settlement in the city to the turn of the Middle Ages and Early Modern Period and the times from around the mid-19th century, when changes occurred in the urban fabric of the city, resulting both from the industrialization in the 19th century and the influence of Nazi ideology on the shape of the city, as well as the destruction caused by World War II. The narrative is clear; the condensation of an over thousand-year old history of the city on the pages of the study has made it possible to show the development stages of Dortmund and the most important events in the history of the city. The information contained here complements the data from the cartographic section, sometimes in a significant way. This, in my opinion, is the case with the Dortmund castle. Its briefly described history (p. 5–6) allows a better understanding of its functioning than the information on the map of the spatial development of the city (Tafel 4.1.a), which suggests the existence of the castle in the mid-15th century, while the reader learns from the commentary in the text that after the city fire of 1231/32, the castle was no longer being used. This approach most likely results from the belief in the uniformity of the entire issue and the coherence between the descriptive part and the cartographic one. Thereafter, commentaries to the city maps from the years 1826/27, 1870/71 and 2014, the oldest renderings of the city and reference maps showing Dortmund in the surrounding area (p. 38–41) have been included. This is mainly information about the source material, introducing the user to the context of the creation of historical renderings and city plans. From the point of view of the historian, one might somewhat regret that a similarly brief excursus

was not dedicated to written sources, for example the city chronicles cited by the authors of the historical commentary². Footnotes to the commentary can be found on pages 42–46. A small remark must be interjected here: the use of endnotes, especially in the case of a format similar to A3, is not particularly convenient. The last pages (p. 47–51) contain a bibliography of source material and secondary literature used in the creation of the atlas, while p. 52 contains the sources of photos and reproductions found in the text of the commentary and the masthead. The entire text of the commentary is written in German. While bilingual texts in atlases of cities from Central Europe (Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Ukraine, Romania) is understandable, in the case of the Dortmund issue, one may wonder whether a second language – I am, of course, thinking of English – should also have been used. This is primarily due to the fact that English is the main language that enables international debate and discussion in academia. While the knowledge of German among historians from the aforementioned countries still seems necessary for the study of history at least in its regional, central European context, I am not certain if the level of knowledge of the language is similar in some of the Western European countries. Of course, I realize that this procedure would cause a significant increase in publishing expenditure, however, it seems that the observed increase in the domination of the English language in the international academic discourse will at some point demand such a solution³. The commentary also contains six maps, of which at least two (fig. 41 on p. 19, which shows the development of the railway network around

² This remark can be applied to all issues of the historic atlases of cities.

¹ I acknowledge that this is due to the premise of the series on the study of the history of cities primarily through cartographic or iconographic sources.

³ For comparison, at the International Congress of Historical Geographers in 2018, English is the only congressional language.

Dortmund and fig. 81 on p. 37, which demonstrates the growth of the city area) could have been located in the second part of the issue.

The cartographic section consists of 22 thematic sheets. They contain the results of the research and analysis of Dortmund's area, reproductions of old cityscapes and depictions of the city, as well as reference maps from the 19th and 20th centuries, on which Dortmund is present. These maps include ones with subject matter that is covered in all the issues of atlases of historical cities: the oldest cadastral plan (1826/27) in the scale of 1:2,500, the contemporary city plan (2014) in the scale of 1:5,000, the plan of the city's surrounding area in the scale 1:25,000 and a drawing showing the city's spatial development. However, one can have certain reservations about the latter, as it only reconstructs Dortmund within the city walls, without even showing the schematic development of its suburbs⁴. Some of the sheet (4.2, 8.1, 8.2.1, 8.2.2, 8.3, 8.6.1, 8.6.2), mainly those depicting the results of thematic studies, are also accompanied by commentaries, sometimes very extensive ones, which are a sort of continuation of the chapters from the descriptive section. Almost all the maps have a linear scale, though the sheets 4.2 and 8.5.b are an exception to the rule. One may wonder why in the sheet 1.1, in reference to the names of quarters (*Flur*) taken from the titles of individual maps, the gray typeface in italics was used, while the names of the surfaces present in these maps have been written in a black font, though in square brackets. It seems that the application of the reverse solution – a black, basic font for the designation of map titles (referring to – as can be

assumed – the main parts of the city) and a gray one, written in italics for names already extracted from the content of these maps – would be more convenient for the reader. This becomes even more apparent in the case of the sheet 1.2, in which the *Flurnamen* are written in a black, simple font. Since the inclusion of the oldest plans next to the contemporary plan is intended to help conduct comparative research, it may have been worth unifying the elements of the legend on the plans from 1826/27, 1870/71, and 2014. The first two have legends with the same layout, while the legend for the plan from 2014 is different in some cases, e.g. the cemetery was marked differently than previously. The category of area was not distinguished from the use of the area in the legend – the buildings were marked as space, not as structures. Furthermore, the legend lacks the categories of the street or square, important forms of urban space. One may ask oneself if it is necessary to trace the shapes of buildings so thoroughly. This note applies mainly to the outlines of the churches in Dortmund. Would not it be enough to produce a general outline of the building without delineating the buttresses or indentations? Generalization would also be useful when marking bodies of water on plans from the 19th century. It is also a bit puzzling that the sheet 1.2 indicates the railway surface, but without tracks. In sheet 8.1, the numbering of archaeological sites is done in accordance to a numbering system that is not explained – it seems that it would have been easier to adopt some organization of numbers on the map in order to search the map more easily. These are not, of course, matters that deprecate the work of the cartographers, which remains accurate and meticulous, as well as aesthetic. An interesting solution is the use of bases from Prussian maps from the first half of the 19th century in certain maps (8.2.1.c, 8.3). It seems that a good solution would

⁴ A similar criticism has occasionally been made in the reviews of some Polish issues of "The Historical Atlas of Polish Towns", see Andrzej Tomczak's review from the issue devoted to Grudziądz, Bydgoszcz and Giżycko ("Zapiski Historyczne", 61 (4), 1996, p. 168) or Marek Słoń's review of the issue concerning Świdnica ("Studia Źródłoznawcze", 47, 2009, p. 218).

be to organize the attached sheets in two ways: the first would be thematic – with a division into a separate presentation of city plans and maps, a separate presentation of cityscapes and panoramas, and a separate presentation of the reconstruction of the results of research on the city space – and the second would focus on a chronological arrangement of maps or cityscapes in each of the sub-categories. Such an arrangement would help order the structure of the cartographic section and facilitate the use of the sheets. An observation can also be made regarding the completeness of the most important historical plans of the city. In the layer reconstructing the water regime in the city and its environs available in the web application (more about it later), there is information about redrawing the waters from the plan from 1810. After a brief search on the Internet, I found information about the plan of Dortmund created by Ludwig Varnhagen⁵, from the time when Dortmund was under French rule. Unfortunately, this source is missing from other published city plans. Perhaps this is the result of some legal or copyright issues?

As has already been mentioned, the IStG website has a separate page with interactive maps of Dortmund⁶. Their content consists of selected elements of maps, included in the cartographic section of the issue, transferred into a specially designed interface⁷. They allow the user to select

interesting thematic layers (those that have been made available) and display them separately or with other layers, depending on the research needs and interests of the user. They have been designed so that there is no need to install special software – all one needs is to have Adobe Flash installed. An important advantage is also the fact that they do not slow down the browser.

After entering the web page dedicated to Dortmund, the user has a choice of four interactive maps. Each of them opens in a separate window, located on a separate page. In the upper left corner of the window there are four buttons: return to the original view, zoom, zoom out and – most importantly – the button used to select the layer to be displayed. In the upper right corner there is also a search function. Initially, it is not particularly clear what is being searched. Only after entering the text (e.g. “Dortmund”) and switching on one of the layers, the elements of the particular layer, in the description of which the search word is found, remain. Below the window there is a commentary briefly explaining the map.

The first map (*Die bauliche Gestalt Dortmunds in historischen Stadtplänen*) shows the shape of Dortmund on the city plans from 1826/27 (sheet 1.1 in the cartographic section), 1870/71 (sheet 1.2) and 2014 (sheet 5). By choosing subsequent layers corresponding to individual plans, one can see the changes in the city’s development over the space of nearly 200 years. All plans have been properly calibrated, so that the individual elements of the buildings can be overlaid, which facilitates comparative analysis. This is an important feature due to the publication of the plan from 1826/27 on a different scale (1:2,500) than the following two (1:5,000).

The second of the maps on the web page (*Siedlungsentwicklung I: Von den Anfängen bis zum Beginn des 19. Jahrhunderts*)

⁵ The plan can be found on p. 61 of the pamphlet *Dortmunder Museumsgesellschaft*, available at https://www.dortmund.de/media/p/museums-gesellschaft_4/museumsgesellschaft_do/broschuere_museumsgesellschaft.pdf (access: April 20, 2018).

⁶ <http://www.uni-muenster.de/Staedtegeschichte/portal/Stadtkarten/Dortmund.html> (access: April 17, 2018). This is the second interactive city map of this kind (*interaktive Stadtkarte*). The first appeared together with the publication of the historic atlas of Braunschweig in 2013, see: <http://www.uni-muenster.de/Staedtegeschichte/portal/Stadtkarten/Braunschweig.html> (access: April 17, 2018).

⁷ The work on the development of the interface for the interactive versions of the maps of Braunschweig and Dortmund created by IStG was presented by Daniel Stracke in the article: E. Chodějovská, S. Gearty, D. Stracke, *The “Digital Turn”*, p. 94–98.

shows selected aspects of the development of the settlement and space in Dortmund in the pre-industrial period. The base map is an outline of the city plan from 1826/27, on which data from thirteen available layers are displayed. However, using the map from 1826/27 as the basis means that no previous changes in the spatial layout were recorded on the map – as the authors themselves admit in the text under the window by the map. Almost all the available layers come from sheet 4.1.a, showing the spatial development of the city. The exceptions are the layers of archaeological sites, church divisions, and the layer that makes it possible to use the contemporary city plan as a basis. Layers contain primarily polygons. The only point-based ones are selected archaeological sites, the only linear ones – the streets. After the user selects a layer, they can click on an area, point, or line to get information on the selected topic. They appear in separate pop-ups, in the application window. Their level of information varies. Sometimes, as in the case of sacral buildings, the most important dates from the history of the building, such as the time of the construction, the reconstructions or disasters, were given. The most important bibliographic items related to the given topic were equally mentioned and the reference to specific pages has been located in the textual section of the issue. Unfortunately, the user operating solely within the application on the website will have access only to the abbreviated bibliographic data. The complete information can be found on the Internet after further research, but the lack of a bibliography on the site makes it difficult to comfortably use the presented data. Sometimes, however, the information in the pop-ups is very scarce or simply non-existent. By clicking on the territory of the parish, the user receives only a pop-up with the name of the church to which the terrain belonged. On the one

hand, by clicking on the church associated with a given parish, the user will become aware, through the information about parish rights, of when the parish was established, though this is not always the case, as is shown in the example of the pop-up about the church of St. Peter. Some information, such as the start of the church's construction, is given, while other, as in the instance of the date of receiving parish rights – or when the parish's association with the church was mentioned for the first time – is not. There are other such examples: after clicking on the church school, one finds no other data beyond its name. Likewise, there is a lack of information even in the case of the armory (*Rüsthaus*) found in the layer with the buildings or in the case of presumed earlier road directions (*Vermutete ältere Wegführung*) present in the layer of the medieval roads passing through the city. The Jewish cemetery is missing in the layer associated with the ecclesiastical divisions of Dortmund, on the sheet 4.1.a marked west of the west city gate.

The selected data do not differ from that presented on the printed maps. This sometimes causes issues of clarity. For example, the color of the *Flächenzuwachs 900–1050* layer is barely visible when only this layer is being used. Light purple lines on the gray outlines of the plots are difficult to spot, especially in the part of the city described as the royal central site around the year 1000 (*Königliche Zentralort um 1000*), the castle (*Burg*), and the royal farm buildings (*Königliche Wirtschaftshof*). The visibility of the layer increases only when the view is zoomed in. From less troublesome problems, it can be pointed out that the use of the color scheme from the printed map in the *Flächenzuwachs 1050–1150* layer means that the later terraces of the St. Peter church and the Dominican monastery have not been marked as part of the city. This is the result of the date of the foundation of both buildings,

which happened after the period included in the layer, at the turn of the 13th and 14th centuries and in the first half of the 14th century, which have been assigned a different color. Selecting a layer with parish divisions and another area layer covering the range of the city within the walls (e.g. depicting the increase of the area in the period of 1050–1150) causes that the *church* layer is imposed on the other one, which then cannot be clicked. This problem stems from the method of ordering of individual layers – that is, technological limitations⁸.

The third map (*Siedlungsentwicklung II: Die Straßen- und Gebäudeentwicklung seit Anfang des 19. Jahrhunderts*) concerns the development of Dortmund's buildings and street network from the beginning of the 19th century. It contains six thematic layers. They mainly show the development of Dortmund's buildings between 1826/27 and 1908, based on the city plans from 1826/27, 1870/71 and 1908. The data contained here comes from sheets 4.2 (five layers) and 4.1.c (one layer) and predominantly concern the city within the medieval city walls. Only the layer showing the year 1870/71 also contains buildings outside the city center. This application is used to show the development of buildings based on the redrawing of structures from the aforementioned plans. The only interactive layer is the layer with the streets, where the dates of charting or extending the road have been added.

The final map (*Dortmund im Nationalsozialismus*) presents Dortmund during the period of National Socialism. It contains 11 layers, mostly point ones, showing, among others, buildings associated with the Nazi authorities, although there are also area layers presenting planned

reconstructions, as well as linear ones, indicating changes in street names. Here too not all the pop-ups contain information about the categories selected in a given layer. For example, buildings are often accompanied solely by the dates of their construction or the names of the streets near which they were located. On the plus side, the layer showing the names of streets derived from the names of people associated with NSDAP contains pop-ups, which introduce information about the previous street name, the date of the name change and the present-day name. The question, however, remains whether it would have been possible to present information about the namesakes – this issue is related to the problem of the extent of the use of the application's possibilities (more on this later).

Unfortunately, the reader of the descriptive section will not find out that these interactive maps exist. In the commentary, there is no information about their availability on the IStG website. I do not consider the thank you note containing a link to the general IStG site (p. 2), addressed to one of the people working on the creation of the published issue for their aid in producing the interactive atlas, as an adequate reference to the online maps. This is all the more surprising since in the note from December 19th, 2017, published on the IStG website, informing about the publication of the Dortmund issue, the interactive maps are extensively discussed⁹. For a moment, I even wondered whether the interactive maps were not a beta or test version, but I could find no information confirming this.

The digital dissemination of research results should essentially serve two basic purposes: making it accessible to a wider audience (both for people interested in

⁸ This is a problem that can be solved, as has been demonstrated in the interactive edition of the Derry-Londonderry city plan (created as part of the Irish Historic Towns Atlas), which has the possibility of changing the order of layers: <https://www.ria.ie/digital-atlas-derrylondonderry> (access: April 20, 2018).

⁹ The text is titled *Zweite Auflage für Deutschen Historischen Städteatlas Dortmund – viele historische Infos jetzt auch online* (https://www.uni-muenster.de/Staedtegeschichte/bestaende/Meldungen_2017.html, access: April 21, 2018).

the history of Dortmund and non-German researchers of urban history with limited access to the printed version of the Dortmund issue) and utilizing technology in a way that will allow for a different perspective on the city's history. In my opinion, this second goal was only partially achieved.

This is partly due to the authors' belief that the primary version of the issue is the printed one¹⁰. The legends for maps are missing, they could have been placed e.g. in the description under the windows. There is also no scale or interactive ruler that would measure distances within the city. It should further be noted that the pop-ups contain uneven amounts of information and that there is a lack of a basic bibliography or even a list of items whose abbreviated forms were placed in pop-ups. One can, therefore, be under the impression that the authors did not use the full potential of this different method of presenting Dortmund's history. However, this does not change the fact that such an attempt deserves the appropriate recognition and praise. The interactive maps of Dortmund offer are a good start to further improve the various methods of presenting subject matter related to cities and their history¹¹. Perhaps a good solution to the conundrum surrounding the online presence of atlas issues would

be to merge the way in which the issues of the "Österreichischer Städteatlas"¹² were presented with a similar application to the one used for Dortmund.

In conclusion, Dortmund's historic atlas is an important publication not only in the DHS series, but also in a project exploring the history of European cities. It broadens the knowledge about German cities and includes a much larger thematic scope related to Dortmund compared to the first edition of 1973. This is a comprehensive approach to the history of the city, its space, and its transformations. The descriptive section is clear and orderly. The cartographic section, in turn, although it does not include all available source material and is not organised beyond reproach, is characterized by a high quality of reproductions and aesthetic cartographic images. In the end, the interactive maps of Dortmund – even though their existence is not highlighted in the issue – on the one hand enable the people who do not have access to the paper copy of the issue to interact with its contents, and on the other show that interactive and diverse presentation of the history of cities is possible. With proper refinement of the method of presenting digital data on subsequent cities, the whole EHTA series be elevated to an even higher level¹³. ■

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Translated by Karolina Frank

¹⁰ E. Chodějovská, S. Gearty, D. Stracke, *The "Digital Turn"*, p. 96.

¹¹ The people associated with the EHTA are well aware of this: E. Chodějovská, S. Gearty, D. Stracke, *The "Digital Turn"*, p. 89–121. Besides the Brunswick-Dortmund application, similar endeavours in Ireland and the Czech Republic were also discussed. See also: J. Šedivý, *Map Portals and Databases of Towns in Central Europe. An Appendix or Substitute for Printed Historical Town Atlases?*, "Città e Storia", 10 (2), 2015, p. 261–280. An interesting example of the presentation of a city's history is *The Map of Early Modern London* project (<https://mapoflondon.uvic.ca/>, access: April 18, 2018).

¹² <http://www.mapire.eu/oesterreichischer-staedteatlas> (access: April 17, 2018).

¹³ Including, of course, other attempts of interactive portrayals of the history of cities: E. Chodějovská, S. Gearty, D. Stracke, *The "Digital Turn"*.