

Macedonia on the Maps of Well -Known Cartographers

by Iliya Petrushevski (Macedonian Review, 1983)

In examining the history of maps showing Macedonia, one notes three specific periods. Classical, Middle and the Modern periods. The Classical period of maps showing Macedonia dates from ancient times and is represented by the ancient forms of toponymy. The maps were made by the well-known geographers and .astronomers of the time, such as Ptolemy and Castorius, and others. Claudius Ptolomy (87-150) was an astronomer from Alexandria, the author of the famous work Geografia. The maps which were a part of this work have not been preserved, but when the book was trans- lated in 1477 in Bologna, the maps were made following the descriptions given. Macedonia is shown on the 10th page of the map of Europe. The mountains are shown with two mountain ranges, one starting from the Adriatic Sea and extending in a straight line to the Black Sea (which is the location of the Shar Mountain), and the other extending in a north-south direction (which is the actual position of Mts Korab-Yab- lanitsa and Pindus). The rivers are shown as straight lines which flowed in a North-West - South-Easterly direction. The towns are marked by ancient topanymy. Most cartographers have used this rnap as a base in their making maps showing Macedonia. Castorius, the second well-known cartographer of the Classical period, showed Macedonia around 340. His distinguished work is Pait- inger's Table, the map so named after its discoverer and owner Claudius Paitinger. It measured 7.45 metres in length and 34 centimeters in width, and shows the then known world from Gibraltar to India. In Macedonia it shows the Via Egnatia road with the towns of Salonika, Voden and Ohrid on its route. On the Skopje-Salonika road the follow- ing towns are shown: Skopje, Antigona (near Kavadartsi) and Stenae (near Demir Kapiya). But there exist no common elements in the way the included toponyms are shown in these two maps, except for the names of the towns. This testifies that Castorius had not been using

Ptolemy's maps when making his own. The Middle period can itself be divided into an earlier and a later period. The earlier one is characterized by an almost complete stagnation in cartography, as the maps from that period were mainly made in the monasteries, for the needs of the Church, presenting the world to suit its interests. Other maps made during this period were in fact copies of the maps of the Classical period. For example, the map of 1552 by Nicholas Sophianus (1500 - 1560), who worked in Venice, is a copy of a map by Ptolemy. The later period of the Middle period begins with the Renaissance, and includes the geographic discoveries of Vasco de Gama, the path to India around Africa (1472), Columbus's discovery of America in 1492 and Magellan's voyage around the world in 1518. The significant progress of the cartography and map-making in the world started with these discoveries. Among these new maps were those of Macedonia. Unlike the ones of the Classical and early Middle periods, these maps are different in outlook, in contour, in hydrography, and beginnings of modern Macedonian toponymy are to be noticed. The map by Jacopo Gastaldi (1500 - 1565) may be regarded as one of the first of this period. This first cartographer of the Italian Renaissance presented Macedonia on the map *Graeciae universale secundum Hodiernum situm neoterica descripto*. This is the first map on which are marked the origins of the Macedonian toponymy for rivers and towns such as: Vardaro fl., the towns: Prilepo, Vodana (Voden), Ostro (Ostrovo), Vitolie (Bitola), Cratovo, Stipe (Shtip), Prespa (Resen), Belgrado (Goritsa-Korcha), Struga, Ocrida (Ohrid), Novigrado (Novi Grad near Ostrovo). One of the most distinguished world cartographers was Gerard Mercator (1512 - 1549). He made a large number of maps, and his monumental atlas saw several editions. Macedonia is shown on the map *Macedonia, Epirus et Achaia* 1539. Mercator had not introduced any essentially new elements in these maps, except for modifying those of his predecessors, while adopting Gastaldi's Slavic toponymy. Mercator's ideas and methodology came to be adopted hereafter for many years as a basis for the making of maps of Macedonia. Cornelio Blaeu, the son of a well-known Dutch cartographer of the first half of the 17th century, set up a printing-shop for maps in Amsterdam. His map *Macedonia* (1642) was a reprint of the map *Macedonia Epir et Achaia* made by Mercator. Nikolas Sanson worked and died in Paris. He was the father of French cartography and one of the most eminent French cartographers of the 17th century. He made 143 maps, among which was the map *Partie de Turquie en Europe*, on which is shown Macedonia. Besides this map, Sanson also made other maps, showing Macedonia. In their making, he

was mostly influenced by the works of Mercator. Dancker Justus (1630 - 1695) was a Dutch cartographer. Since 1670 he was the owner of a map publishing firm. His work was continued by his sons Justinus, Cornelius, Theodor and Johan. He showed Macedonia on the map *Regni Hungariae Graeciae et Morea*. Justus introduced new elements in the presentation of the relief, while adopting the other elements from the older maps. Pierre du Val (1619 - 1683), worked in Paris and published an atlas of historical and military maps in 1657. He did not fail to include Macedonia on the map *Pyrrle Regis Epirotorum et Peloponesum*, which, however, did not contain much data. Johanes Laurenborg, the author of several historical maps of Greece, also made the map of Macedonia entitled *Macedonian Alexandri Patria Illustris*, in 1655. He also showed Macedonia on the map "*Hellas seu Graeciae Universa*", twenty years later, in 1680. Laurenborg too adapted the maps by Mercator with certain changes in the contours. Vignola Cantelli was an Italian cartographer who lived and worked during the 17th century. He is known in Yugoslavia for his maps of Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia, Albania, Bulgaria, and Macedonia. His map "*La. Macedonia*" is the first to present Macedonia separately. In this map one notes for the first time towns such as: Cumanovo, Tettovo, Kaplanovo (Katlanovo), Kuprulih o Citi due Ponti (Veles), Dibra Superiore (Goren Depar), Bigliza (Biglishte), Janizza o Citanoua (Enidze Vardar) and of the mountains: the *Monti di Prilep* (Mt. Babuna). De l'Isle (1677 - 1726) was a French cartographer who introduced reforms in the cartography at the beginning of the 18th century. He made maps of the world, of the continents and of the Balkan Peninsula. He presented Macedonia on several geographical and historical maps, differing from each other not only in their contents but also in their physical and geographical elements. The geographical map "*Carte de la Grece*", on which Macedonia too was presented, differed greatly from all previous maps both in contents and contours of the frontiers shown and in the coastline: he introduced a certain freshness into the geographical maps, and progressed in the geographical knowledge of Macedonia, by introducing new, up till then unknown elements. His historical map *Graeciae pars Septentrionalis* was based on historical maps, so that ancient toponymy and the Roman roads predominate. De l'Isle also made certain errors in these maps, like failing to indicate Lake of Prespa, an error to be passed on for a whole century: changing the shape of the Lake of Ohrid; and down the Struma River, he included several non-existent lakes. In 1710, the English and French cartographers Jon Senex, C. Price and J. Maxwell made the map

Turkey in Europe, for which they adopted the data from the geographical map made by De l'Isle. Two years later this map was reprinted. Anvile Jean Baptist (1697 - 1782) was a French cartographer who made 210 maps of the world. He showed Macedonia on the map *La Grece et les Pays plus septentrionaux jusqu'au Danube* of 1741. This map did not contain much data, and what it provided was data taken over from the earlier maps based on ancient toponymy. The well-known German cartographer Homan Baptist (1663 - 1724) made and published a large number of maps and atlases. Macedonia was shown on the map *Flavio- rum in Europa Principis Danubii cum adiacen- tibus Regnis nec non totius Graeciae et Arshipelagi*. The data from this map was compiled from several maps, and there existed neither new data nor any corrections to the older maps. In 1789 the Academy of the Empire in Petersburg published the map *A New Map of Turkey in Europe Divided into all its provinces*, whereby for the first time the region of Meglen was included. In 1897, Joanis Walchii made a map entitled *Imperii Osmanici sive Turcici Europaei*. Though he did not add any new elements, he introduced a novel way of presenting the relief. He abandoned the method of molehills and presented the mountains by hatching, i.e. using the so- called Leman's method. The cartographers of the 18th century primarily reproduced data from the previous maps. No particular progress was seen, except for certain insignificant new data in some of the maps. From the aspect of cartography, the Modern period for Macedonia begins with the 19th century. Since then the presentation of relief by molehills has been abandoned, and what is more important, the mistake of showing the ancient towns as being inhabited, was also ended. In the maps of this period the inhabited places which actually existed at the time were registered instead. The first map with up-to-date data was the one made by Lapie Pierre in 1810. In this map, the first of the many this cartographer made, he introduced not only the Slavonic names of the rivers, mountains and towns but also the Slavonic toponyms registered in the Middle period. Among these new names are those of Servia (Serbia), Grevno (Trevno), Cavadartei (Kavadartsi), Radovish (Radovish), Stromja (Strumitsa), Petrich, Melnik Demirhisar (Demir Hisar - Aegean Macedonia), Drama, Gradsko, Dojran, Magarova (Magarevo), and some others. The map by Wilkinson *Turkey in Europa*, is dated. 1818. This map does not show the relief but it is still an improvement of the map made by Lapie in the sense it included certain settlements which were not registered before. Such are Resna (Resen), Pletvar, Rosoman, Strasin (Stratsin), Orhissa (Orizari-near Veles), and Siatista (Satista). In 1821/1822, Franz Weiss

made a map of the European part of Turkey, in which he introduced bilingual - Macedonian and Ancient - toponymy. From this period onwards every new map added some new names, which were actually names of inhabited places, mountains and rivers not registered before. Certain elements, though, were still not precisely placed, but later the mistakes have been corrected, so that by the end of the 19th century the first correct and complete maps appeared.