

Map twins:

The 1:200 000 ethnographical maps of Hungary (1918) in the shadow of Trianon

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I would like to introduce the recently found, largest and most detailed ethnographical maps, produced by a most ambitious cartographic project in Hungary to prepare for the negotiations in the Paris peace conference concluding World War I.

The map presented here is the „Ethnographical” map of Hungary edited on 1:200 000 scale with the leadership of Zsigmond Bátky and Károly Kogutowicz in the autumn of 1918. Scholars of different disciplines have participated in this project. The thematic map was hand-colored on a printed base map, and only in 23 copies were made in 2 months. This map used the so called dot method, and, based on the census of 1910, represented the mother-tongue of the population of the contemporary Kingdom of Hungary, Ferenc Fodor assumed that this was the largest „ethnographical” map of the world at that time. The editors went back in their methodology to the influential German geograph, Alfred Hettner, in particular his paper on and his population-statistical map. Hettner’s method was made known for the international scientific community because of the work of Sten de Geer by his map, *Befolkningens fördelning i Sverige; beskrivning till karta i skalan 1:500 000*.

The project was the initiative of the Hungarian Geographical Society was financed by the Industrial- and Trade Ministry, and was completed with the assistance of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office. For methodological discussions the Hungarian Central Statistical Office prepared another „ethnographical” map-series on the same base-map, but this was reproduced only in 6 copies. Actually these ethnographical maps are „twin-maps”, the two maps differ only in that the Bátky-Kogutowicz’s map represents the rural population, so we can see the settlement-structure, while on the HCSO-map all of the population is located in the settlement-centre make an easier calculation of the number of population.

The circumstances of this project were roughly known by the contemporaries and also repeated in modern special-literature, but most of the maps have been founded during my archive-research, so it only now became possible to analyse them. These maps have an extensive family tree: many later direct, or indirect; homemade, or international successors. I will summarize their history as well.