

Historical Maps



English Version

Historical Maps

The political and economic situation of the city and its architectural structure characterize your spatial classification system in the form of street names, house numbers and area classifications. The greater the needs for a classification system will, the larger a city is.

Hartmann Schedel's world chronicle of 1493 marks the beginning of cartographic representations from Nuremberg. The first Nuremberg city plan dates from the 16th century, which was created by Georg Nöttelein. Another outstanding work is Paul Pfinzings Atlas of 1594. It contains 29 hand-drawn and four printed maps of the city and its surroundings.

In the 17th century Jerome Braun charted offices of Nuremberg's Land area. His city prospect in 1609 shows the imperial city and its surroundings in steep supervision of north and includes all the buildings, streets and place names. Besides Jerome Braun, Hans Bien is another great Nuremberg cartographer of the 17th century,

The Author and Cartographer Hans Bien

Hans Bien (1591-1632) was as a stonemason and draftsman in town foreman Jakob Woff d. Jüngeren for training. After the master examination Bien worked as a draftsman, surveyor, architect and fortress builder, especially on behalf of the city of Nuremberg. Bien became famous topographical representations in parallel perspective, including representations of the city of Nuremberg. His graphic works include Landwehr maps around Nuremberg in 1620 and Nuremberg city plan from 1621 to 1631. Hans Bien died in 1632. His grave in the Rochusfriedhof is not received. The Bienweg in Nuremberg is named for him.

Historical Maps

In order to compare former place names with today, the historical maps have been scanned and Gauss Kruger calculated coordinates (georeferencing) for today's use. The map of 1750 was not converted, as it is seen from the north of Nuremberg.

The map of 1630 shows the Nuremberg's old town during the Thirty Years' War. Although the historic center now only accounts for about one percent of the total areas of Nuremberg, it still has a great significance for the city as administrative, commercial and tourist center.

Maps of 1630

The map by Hans Bien is a colored representation of the city in the supervision of the south.

Because of the mapped fencing house (Fechthausen) (built in 1628) and the transition between Jakob Church (Jakobkirche) and German Order Coming (Deutschordenskommende) (canceled in 1632), the maps can be dated on 1630.

Information of Maps:

Original paper on canvas, 48 x 66.6 cm, pen and ink drawing, colored, scale about 1: 2900, undated and unsigned. Nuremberg City Archives, A4, plan collection 517/4.

The Maps contains:

- the floor plan of the city with block diagram of the built-up areas with houses
- detailed representations of important buildings, gardens, waterways and figurative details such as trees
- highlight color of the eight districts of the city with distinctive letters
- numbers, place names, especially street names assigned
- legends at the road edge

The letters and numbers in the map are described in legends in the form of tables: one at the top of the page Sebalder, one at the bottom of the page Lorenzer. For each city page, four quarters with letters and names as well as the roads are listed with their numbers. Place names are mentioned in the page 96 and 97 for the city. Only seven districts are listed under the Salzmarktviertel, even though the Salzmarktviertel area is much larger.

The eight Nuremberg districts in 1630 are: Weinmarkt, Milchmarkt, St. Egidien, Salzmarkt, Kornmarkt, St. Elisabeth, Kartäuser and Barfüßer.

[Details of the Maps](#)

Today's meaning of the map:

The maps of Hans Bien still have a great importance today. It shows the free city as it was originally created. Major construction projects, which fix the new ground plan of the city, took place only after 1630, and continuity between the imperial city and today's old town is recognizable. One page is the ground plan and the other page is the street names: More than half of the former names are still in use, partly in other notations or compositions though.

The neighborhood just described demonstrates the importance of exact divisions of areas and street directories for the city. Markings that were in

colorfully highlighted district boundaries now serve as a model for digitally generated maps. By combining block diagram and selected graphical details, a clear and self-explanatory map was also achieved.

- **Maps in Stadtplandienst**

The historical map is interactive

Through the relatively accurate geographical representation, the accordingly coordinates by today's Gauss Krueger system could be calculated for the map. Placing the map of 1630 in the present city center, one can compare the historical and actual street names and monuments.

The numbers of the place names on the map are digitized with the current coordinates. The missing that is added in the map labeled "dairy market". The text information about roads is interactive by next section: the original name, the present name and a brief explanation of the terms in maps from 1750 and 1811.

- **Street names 1630**

To a large extent, street names could be found in the 193 place names in the map, for example, the street name "2 findel blazlein". It refers to the Findelplätzlein, which is formerly Mädchenfindelhaus (burned in 1557). Today's designation is Maxplatz. The place name could be deciphered by using the topographical description of the city of Nuremberg by Christian Conrad Nopitsch from 1801 and also entries in Stadtlexikon Nuremberg.

Street names of 1630 and today

Hans Bien lists 193 place names. Today there are about 234 street names in the old town, of which about 122 on the Sebalder and about 112 on the Lorenzer page.

Around 41 percent of the place names of 1630 are no longer available. Reasons are alterations such as the demolition of parts of the town walls and monasteries in the 19th century, war damage from the Second World War and modernization in the 20th century. In addition, there were more than one names of some streets, so many place names have ceased to exist.

Approximately 35 percent of place names are still in use today as in 1630. 11 percent of the names have been changed, for example, "fill" instead of "Front fill", or referring to another place that is very close. An example of this is today's Augustinerstraße. It runs in the vicinity of the former

Augustinian monastery and used to be called "The Augustinians" (Bei den Augustinern). The remaining 13 percent could still be used for orientation today. For example, the destroyed house "Golden Shield" (Zum Goldenen Schild) was served as a place name in 1945. It was located on the present "Schildgasse".

To confirm the new names, the names of 1630 were compared with the numbers in 1750 and 1800 and finally with the present situation.

Approximately 35 percent of designations are "streets" or "courts" and 12 percent are "market". Many names refer to buildings, especially churches, (former) monasteries and on military or administrative buildings. In addition, 9 goals, 7 inns, 5 bathhouses and 3 walls are also mentioned.

Commerce (about 40) and topography (about 27) have great importance for the place names. The names need to describe the respective areas concretely.

- **Districts 1630**

Following the order of the district master, the imperial city of Nuremberg was divided into eight districts within the city walls since the mid 15th century,

On the northern Sebald side:

Wine Market Quarter (Weinmarktviertel)

Milk Market District (Milchmarktviertel)

Egidien Quarter

Salzmarkt Quarter

On the southern Lorenzer side:

Barfüßerviertel

Kornmarktviertel

Elisabethviertel

Each district consisted of ten to twenty *Gassenhauptmannschaften* and got a city wall section for the defense. A neighborhood faced two-quarter masters who perceived the defense mainly of internal security, the fire order and direct control tasks alongside. In the 16th century, the district had numbers from one to eight. At the beginning of the 19th century, the new city districts were formed by merging lanes captaincies without further consideration of the district.

District boundaries in the map by Hans Bien

Uncertainties concerning the delimitation of district boundaries in the map of 1630 exist in the areas of “Hinteren Insel Schütt” and also areas around the “Schottengasse”.

The map of the city Nuremberg in Pfinzingatlas of 1594 also contains a colorful quarter. This map can be found in an association of the Hinteren Insel Schütt and Barfußerviertel of the Lorenzer side. The allocation of the Hinteren Insel Schütt to the Lorenzer side corresponds to the burial place of Hans Biens. He lived in the “Dannergärtlein” and was buried in the Lorenzer Rochusfriedhof, not on the “Sebalder Johannisfriedhof”. At this point, the district border between Sebalder and Lorenzer sides is in agreement with the way of the border of today’s Statistical Districts 1 (Old Town, St. Lorenz) and 6 (Old Town, St. Sebald) as much as possible.

The area around the Schottengasse (with Maien- and Pfeifergasse, south of Jakobstraße and between Zirkelschmiedgasse and Färberstraße) belongs to Elisabethviertel in the map of Hans Bien. In contrast, Kartäuserviertel is assigned in the Pfinzingatlas and the

allocation in the map of Hans Bien was followed in this case.

Maps of 1750

The “Topographical Description of the Imperial City Nuremberg” by Christian Conrad Nopitsch from 1801 was issued in 1992 by the publisher of art reproductions Christoph Schmidt as a reprint. It contains a small enclosed map, whose production year is estimated in 1750. The map has the following title:

“Geometric basic-crack of H[piece]. Roman Empire Freyen city NURNBERG”.

It shows the city Nuremberg in a steep supervision from the north. Blocks are shown with hatching and important buildings are marked for orientation. 191 names are listed in a detailed legend:

136 numbered topographical signs, essentially street names

23 church buildings from A to Z (without J, U, W)

32 secular buildings from A to Z and a to h in italics

A corresponding line draw by Hans Biens is assumed as template from the period between 1621 and 1627, therefore the representation of the fencing house corresponds to the predecessor of the 1627/28 constructed building.

- **Street names 1750**

Hans Bien lists 193 place names on his map. Those names on the map of 1750 were compared with those of 1630 and

also with those of present situation. Today there are about 234 street names in the old town. The map of 1750 contains a number of errors in the names and the related numbers or letters. Some numbers and letters cannot be found on the map.

In the contrast, there is only one apparently misplacement of the name in Hans Bien's map: the Jewish cemetery (Judenfriedhof) was accordingly Stadtlexikon outside the Jewish quarter (Judenviertels) (today's Martin-Treu-Straße)

Vergleich der Karte von 1750 mit der Karte von 1630:

| Die Bezeichnung der Karte von 1750 ist in der Karte von 1630 | Anteil in Prozent |
|--|-------------------|
| vorhanden | 69 |
| etwas anders | 7 |
| ganz anders | 2 |
| nicht vorhanden | 22 |

Comments on the table:

- Changes in writing were not considered as a change in name

Example: "Tieling Hof" equals "Dielling hoff," and "Hinterm Tetzal" equals "Hinder dem Tetzal".

- Examples for other definitions for the same type: "Judengäßlein" and "Juden höflein", "das Ober Zollhaus" and "Neue waag"
- Examples of completely different denominated designations: "a.b.c. Brucken" and "Langen bruckhen", "Meilers Hoff" and "Straßen hoff"

The identical place names from 1630 to 1750 in both maps have hardly changed in 120 years. However, there are 32 names that Hans Bien does not list. He mentioned that no individual buildings were within the castle complex except for the tower Luginsland. On the other hand, the names that Bien regards important no longer appear in 1750, for example, two walls and two of the five bathhouses. Some mentioned hostelries of 1630 did not appear in the map of 1750: "Zum Wilden Mann", "Sieben Türme", and "Bärleinhuter". The "Seven Towers" (Sieben Türme) and "Bäleinhuter" were still available in 1800. This shows that the street names were not fixed and that making a selection in the map is made among the existing place names.

Overall, it can be noted that while there has been no dramatics, but noticeable changes happened between 1630 and 1750.

Vergleich der Ortsbezeichnungen der historischen Karten mit der heutigen Situation:

| Die Bezeichnung der Karte ist heute | von 1630 | von 1750 |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| vorhanden | 35 | 38 |
| etwas anders | 11 | 15 |
| noch zur Orientierung verwendbar | 13 | 8 |
| nicht vorhanden | 41 | 39 |

The result of the comparison is not surprising: the map of 1750 is the current situation closer than the map of 1630. 38 percent instead of 35 percent of place names are still available.

A total of 53 or 46 percent of the old place names can still be easily used for orientation today. 61 or 59 percent of the names are still available, even though partly in a somewhat different form.

- **House number from 1796**

In the first coalition war against France, French troops occupied the city in August 1796. Under the pressure from the occupier, the Council established separate house number in 1796 for both sides of town, in order to enable a clear identification of the houses for the billeting of soldiers. Before that the houses could be found only by house name, house signs, and names of the owner or occupier or by a location description. The house numbers of Sebalder side began with an S (S1 to S1706), and the Lorenzer side with a L (L1 to L1578).

Later House Numbering

Unique official street names were introduced in 1809/10. From 1865 to 1867, the houses were numbered by street fashion: the right is straight, the left is odd number. The "Zero" was the counting and is the meat bridge (Fleischbrücke): at the end of a road, number that is closest to the meat bridge (Fleischbrücke), begins counting.

Topographical description of 1801

The "Topographical Description of the Imperial City of Nuremberg" by Christian Conrad Nopitsch offers accurate and detailed geospatial information about Nuremberg. This detailed description of the street names and other topographical conditions of the city with a "directory of inns, taverns, wine and beer taverns in Nuremberg" was published in 1801. Nopitsch sees his work as

an aid to travelers who want to take “an easy and swift way, for which therefore a brief topographical description throughout the city after their places, markets, streets, alleys, etc. as an actual guide.

Reprint of 1992

In 1992, the publisher of art reproductions Christoph Schmidt, Neustadt an der Aisch made a reprint. It is an extensive epilogue by Peter Fleischmann, included in which he juxtaposes the new Nuremberg street names with the respective old names, and also the hostelryes listed in 1800 with the S- and L-house numbers and current address.

Street Names from 1809

In the city of Nuremberg, there was no street names unified, fixed by the Council. The map

Maps of 1811

Maps of 1860