

**RATIARIA-ARCHAR AND BONONIA-VIDIN IN SOME HISTORICAL
AND GEOGRAPHICAL WESTERNEUROPEAN MAPS FROM THE END
OF 14TH - 18TH CENTURY**

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Lastly, the following conclusions can be drawn. Except for two travelers - *Jean Baptiste Bourguignon D'Anville* and *Luigi Ferdinando Marsigli*, the other cartographers discussed here have not visited the lands around the Lower Danube. The descriptions made by *Count Marsigli* of Bologna are extremely valuable. He often descended along the coast, did surveys of the terrains, of the Danube's bed and the remains of bridges; he describes the population of the regions where he goes.

Of course, cartographers borrow in their works mainly from the copies of the works and maps of *Claudius Ptolemaeus* (IX European map). Some had access to different Roman itineraria or used information from Greek and Roman travelers and historians. Moreover they exerted influence upon each other. *Abraham Ortelius* was later used by a number of his colleagues, for instance by *Petrus Kaerius* and *John Speed*.

Nicolas Sanson, the founder of the French "modern cartography" was well acquainted with the works of *Ptolemaeus*, *Ortelius* and *Kaerius*. There are many analogies between *Frederic de Wit* and the cartographer working soon after him - *Cantelli da Vignola*. *Jean Baptiste Bourguignon D'Anville* later supplemented maps completed earlier by *Guillaume D'Lisle* and *Nicolas Sanson*.

Many maps and atlases originated from *Iohann B. Homann's* school. They are of great value to the European cultural heritage. Over the years, cartography shows natural progress, like all sciences. Maps are becoming more and more precise (for example *Iohann Mathias Haas*).

The name of *Ratiaria* appears written in several ways - *Retiaria*, *Rataria*, and *Rhetiaria*. These are clerical errors made at the copying from one map to another. The same applies to the name of the village of Archar - *Archiar*, *Aziar*, *Artzar*, *Artsar*.

Vidin is also written in several ways - *Widdin*, *Widin*, *Viddin*, *Bodon*.

The more recent the maps are, the more often we find in them the new names - Vidin and Archar at the expense of the ancient ones.

In some maps Vidin and Archar are wrongly located in North-Eastern Serbia. During the Ottoman rule Vidin is the principal city of a sancak (sanjak, administrative unit, TN) and one of the three major garrison forts along the Lower Danube, beside Nikopol and Silistra.