

HiMAT – Project Part 02 (Mining and Settlement in Schwaz)

Annual Report 2007

In coordination with the other project parts within HiMAT, PP02 started its research on March 1, 2007. Firstly the three parttime employees, Dr. Wolfgang Tschan (50%), Mag. Alois Unterkircher (50%) and Dr. Gerd Hofmann (marginally employed), were asked to give a summary on the latest state of mining-related research. Simultaneously, archival research commenced. According to the goals set in the project proposal, the sources available in the Tiroler Landesarchiv (Tyrolean State Archive) were to be systematically examined and transcribed in chronological order. In addition, the topics of population development and settlement structure in the Greater Schwaz area were to be examined in detail.

First research results on the historiographic placing of 16th century Schwaz within the European mining landscape, as well as settlement and migration in the early modern Greater Schwaz area were presented at the 1st Milestone Meeting of the SFB HiMAT on April 28/29, 2007 in Obergurgl/Tyrol.

Research in both subareas continued throughout 2007. Especially the analysis of the early 16th century Schwazer Berglehenbuch revealed valuable insights into the still unresolved beginnings of mining activities in 15th century Schwaz. The survey on the influence of mining on settlement structure in and around the market town of Schwaz had to be transferred to the neighbouring village of Vomp, due to the lack of valid source material for Schwaz itself. On the basis of church records, beginning in the 17th century, attempts were made to reconstruct and evaluate the influence of mining on the local social structure.

At the 2nd Milestone Meeting of the SFB HiMAT, which took place on November 3, 2007 in Schwaz, the employees reported on the progress of the research. Those first research results for the mining area of Schwaz are going to be published as an interdisciplinary special issue of the renowned journal “Der Anschnitt”. The preliminary findings were also presented as part of a lecture series at the Institute of History and Ethnology at the University of Innsbruck on November 4, 2007. Furthermore, the special research area introduced itself at the Tyrol-Day of the European Forum Alpbach on August 19, 2007.