Elisabeth Willau, The subjects of mathematics and descriptive geometry at the Montanuniversität Leoben in the first 130 years of its existence. 2 vols. (Anmeldelse)

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**Willau, Elisabeth**

The subjects of mathematics and descriptive geometry at the Montanuniversität Leoben in the first 130 years of its existence. Part 1. (Die Fächer Mathematik und Darstellende Geometrie an der Montanuniversität Leoben in den ersten 130 Jahren ihres Bestehens. Teil 1.) (German)


This two-volume dissertation (for Volume II see [Zbl 06109226]) appears to have been originally intended for the A4-format, but has then been printed as A5. The original font size (some 10 point, though 8 point in all notes and the copious long quotations from sources and often still smaller in reproduced documents) will at a pinch have been acceptable, but the actual 7 respectively 5.5 point is almost unreadable unless the reader uses a magnifying glass or is already strongly myopic. What follows is therefore the outcome of a very selective reading.

Volume I starts with a general institutional history, starting with the scattered Austro-Hungarian attempts in the eighteenth century to organize teaching for the mining business, concentrating on the foundation of the Bergakademie in Schemnitz (in the Hungarian part of the empire, today Banská Štiavnica, Slovakia) in 1724 and its development. Then comes a description of the sequence of institutions whose end point was the present-day Montanuniversität Leoben: The Steiermärkisch-Ständische Montanlehranstalt in Vordernberg, founded in 1840 and moving to Leoben in 1849, becoming there the Königlich-Keiserliche Montanlehranstalt (1849–1861), then Königlich-Keiserliche Bergakademie (1861–1904), and then Montanistische Hochschule (1904–1974) (in the years 1934–1937 absorbed into the Technische und Montanistische Hochschule Graz-Leoben) – rebaptized finally Montanuniversität in 1975.

Chapter 2 deals with the institutional history of the subjects of mathematics and descriptive geometry (1852–1904) respectively geometry (1904–1975), and Chapter 3 with the curricula. Chapters 4–6, finally, contain detailed biographies and publication lists for the higher-level teachers of mathematical subjects (ordinary and extraordinary professors and Dozenten, 14 pages long on the average).

In Volume 2, Chapters 7–10 contain similar though on the average slightly shorter biographies for the lower-level teaching staff (assistants serving at least three years or making their habilitation in Leoben, etc.) and the teachers at the integrated Graz-Leoben school (for the lower level it has sometimes proved difficult to find the necessary material). Chapter 11 contains tables summarizing institutional structure, teaching staff and teaching, and Chapter 12 reproduces some documents (statutes and curricula).

**MSC:**
- 01-02 Research monographs (history)
- 01A73 History of mathematics at universities
- 01A80 History of mathematics and mathematics education

Reviewer: Jens Høyrup (Roskilde)