

tartozik jelenleg. Zólyom, Szepes, Pozsony, Pozsega esetében még valahogy eligazodik az ember, de Abrudhava, Apáthavasa, Aranyos, Bogách, Buhtefevide (hogy csak az első két betűhöz tartozókat vegyük számba), megkeresése már jóval nehezebb.

Mindez azonban nem kisebbíti Borsa Iván érdemét, aki önzetlenül, nyíltán saját munkáit félre téve sajtó alá rendezte Árpád-házi királyaink okleveleinek kritikai jegyzékét, illetve annak két befejező füzetét. A 4410 oklevél nem fog számottevően gyarapodni lappangó vagy ismeretlen darabokkal, ezért Árpád-korral foglalkozó kutatóink azzal a megnyugtató tudattal foghatnak neki az őket érdeklő kérdés tanulmányozásának, hogy a teljes anyagot tartják a kezükben. Lényeges, új eredmény csak régészeinktől várható.

Kőhegyi M.

**Food in Change, Eating Habits from the Middle Ages to the Present Day.** Edited by *Alexander Fenton* and *Eszter Kisbán*. Published by John Donald Publishers in association with the National Museum of Scotland. Glasgow 1986. pp. 166.

The volume contains the papers presented on the Fifth International Conference on Ethnological Food Research held in Mátrafüred in October, 1983. As suggested by the title, the topic allowed a broad perspective; it examines the changes in the eating habits in Europe and partly in America from the Middle Ages up till the present day. Due to the wide frames offered by the topic – in accordance with the presented papers – the volume displays a colourful tematics. Nevertheless, the editors grouped the material in three independent units.

The first chapter (General Surveys) contains two analyses reviewing the European development: *Eszter Kisbán* (Hungary), *Food Habits in Change: an Example of Europe and Hans J. Teuteberg* (West Germany), *Periods and Turning Points in the History of European Diet: A Preliminary Outline of Problems and Methods*. The introduction of both studies deal with the history and present state of research of eating habits and discuss the methods and possibility to resolve or at least approach the problems. The authors endeavour to distinguish periods in the change of European eating habits. To illustrate how difficult it is to set up clearcut historical periods, it is worth quoting some lines from Hans J. Teuteberg: "The major obstacles hampering a classification by period are: A diet contains biological-chemical as well as psychosociological elements. Any historical research has therefore to take into account the facts of nature as well as the intellectual-cultural aspects.

Eating habits have never changed in a revolutionary manner, but have undergone subtle change in a prolonged and almost imperceptible fashion. Furthermore, change has always taken place under the cloak of 'normal' historical events, and hence, an exact dating cannot be given."

The periods set up by *E. Kisbán* and *J. H. Teuteberg* more or less cover each other. Further research made in respect of the different countries, will, however, certainly refine them. It is testified even in the papers of the volume that certain statements of the two introductory studies are not valid in the whole of Europe, but rather fit only its western and

partly central territories. Let us mention the example of the potatoes and the maize, which did not gain general acceptance in the whole Europe in the same time. There are similar variations regarding the tea and coffee consumption, the first appearance of the practice of having three meals a day, and the dominance of the Turkish influence in South-east Europe should not be forgot either.

The second, and the most voluminous part (National and Regional Examples) published the papers in the alphabetical order of the countries. Although the topics of the papers are far from each other, still there is some possibility of grouping.

1. The first group contains historical sketches on the eating habits in different countries. Regrettably enough, these are the less elaborate studies in the volume. The only exception is the paper by *P. Lyngath*, *Continuity and Change in Irish Diet*, which is really devoid of any kind of superficial generalizations.

2. The second group consists of studies dealing with shorter periods or smaller geographical units. Two of them deserve attention: *M. G. Rabinoviush* (Russia), *Eating Habits in Russian Towns in the Sixteenth to Nineteenth Centuries: the Main Phases of Development* and *A. Fenton* (Scotland), *Food and the Coastal Environment*.

The papers analysing the changes in the eating habits after the 2nd World War and during the last few decades, also belong to this group. It is to be noted, however, that this topic seems to belong rather to sociology than to historical or ethnographic sciences. Anyhow, it should be admitted, that these papers were exceedingly interesting and prospective, and their appearance in this volume is fully justified.

3. Perhaps the most interesting group of publications is the one on the spread and acceptance of different domesticated plants or dishes in various countries. Such papers are e.g.: *W. W. Weaver* (U.S.A.), *White Gravies in American Popular Diet*, *E. Hörandner* (Austria), *Storing and Preserving Meat in Europe*, *R. Weinhold* (East Germany), *Potato Spirits in Early Days*, *S. D. Imellos* (Greece), *Hard Tack as Popular Food*, *A. Kowalska-Lewicka* (Poland), *The Potato and the Polish Kitchen*. Two papers are especially worth noting: *H. Cheape* (Scotland), *Pottery and Found Preparation, Storage and Transport in the Scottish Hebrides* and *B. Walker* (Scotland), *The Flesher's Trade in Eighteenth and Nineteenth-Century Scotland*. They belong practically to the field of ethnography and discuss the objects and tools related to eating habits.

The third great, closing unit of the volume (Medieval Fasting) contains two outstanding papers dealing with the topic indicated in the title, written by *M. Dembinska* (Poland) and *J. M. van Winter* (The Netherlands).

The lectures of the conference and the volume with high-standard papers will obviously enlarge our knowledge on this topic. In the same time it underlines that there are significant differences between various countries concerning the present state of research. Judging from this volume, I think that the time has not yet arrived for a synthesis of the whole European development. There is a greater need for well elaborated partial studies on historical periods, geographical areas just as well as on various dishes.

I. Gerelyes