

A Note on Names of Places, Persons and Dates

The centre of attention in this volume are frontier and overlap zones between various linguistic, cultural, or religious spheres, whose heterogeneous historical heritage often entailed conflicting imperial or national employments, especially since the 19th century. The Russian war against Ukraine once again revealed in a tragic way the powerful effects such traditions can cause even in our present time, if allegedly harmless phrases such as the “prevalent” or “common” spelling of place or personal names can hold masked traces of hegemonial and nationalistic attitudes. The editors as well as the authors of this volume therefore took sensitive and transparent measures when handling the problem of spelling. Yet, the situations and traditions in the respective frontier regions in Eastern, Western, Southern, and Northern Latin Europe are very specific. It is especially this diversity the present volume aims to reflect. At the same time, the volume is designed as a step towards a better integration of these regions into scholarly discourse and therefore aims at maintaining easy legibility for those unfamiliar with the respective present-day national languages. Thus, the authors were not obliged to follow uniform spelling practices, especially since ultimately satisfactory solutions can never be achieved. However, the following guidelines were agreed upon:

Place names are usually written in the current national language, except if this would lead to historical distortion, such as in the case of Pressburg (today Bratislava). Alternative spellings are given in brackets in the first mention. In order to emphasize the heterogeneous character of certain places, the authors were allowed to use multiple forms separated by a dash, e. g. Šaṭība/Xàtiva (Arabic and Romance spelling).

For **personal names**, especially in German, Latin spelling is preferred for names such as Johannes (John, Jan, János, Jean), Matthias (Matthew, Maciej, Matías, Mátyás) or Petrus (Peter, Piotr, Pere, Pierre). In other cases, more “native”¹ spellings are given preference – thus, the Grand Dukes of Lithuania are spelled as Vytautas or Švitrigaila rather than Witold or Swidrigal. Here, too, possible alternative spellings will be provided in the first mention.

Furthermore, the following **formalities** have been agreed upon: Within Christian-Muslim frontier zones, dates will be given according to the Islamic and Latin Christian calendars. References to the terms of office or life span of historical protagonists have been left to the discretion of the authors.² Transliterations from Arabic, Slavic or other languages will follow the respective systems of transliteration generally accepted within German or English academia.

¹ According to *Robert Frost*, *The Oxford History of Poland-Lithuania*, vol. 1: *The Making of the Polish-Lithuanian Union, 1385–1569*. Oxford 2015, xx.

² Years in office will be marked by “r.” for secular and “s.” for ecclesiastical protagonists, fl. for life spans in general; cf. also the list of abbreviations.

