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The place of East Central Europe on the map of Romanesque architecture

The presence of East Central Europe in general overviews of Romanesque architecture shows a declining tendency. While K. J. Conant included a number of sites from the region in his book (1959), in more recent publications the map east of Saxony is totally empty (e.g. X. Barral i Altet 1998, R. Stalley 1999). This is partly due to the lack of relevant and internationally available publications. While in the 19th century the Habsburg Monarchy represented a kind of unity and its historical monuments were centrally coordinated by the Central-Commission, the similarities of the different regions of the empire were not emphasized. During the interwar period the borders hindered all kinds of international comparison. After WW2, when many of the related territories were in the same Socialist block, an attempt of A. Merhautová (1974) is noteworthy. However, it is rather the discussion of single problems which led to real comparisons (Tomaszewski 1974, Grzybowski 1983). A special case is the book of V. Goss (2010) with “a view from southeast”. A promising attempt is the planned handbook series on East Central European art organized by the GWZO in Leipzig. However, one should ask the question, whether it is relevant to discuss Romanesque architecture in an East Central European framework. The lecture presents some examples which reveal the divergence of Romanesque traditions in the countries of East Central Europe.