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## **The earthquake of 8 May 1267**

The 1267 earthquake is reported by a seismological compilation about Styria by Hoernes (1902), and from him was taken the information inserted in the catalogue by Toperczer and Trapp (1950).

Hoernes (1902) wrote about this earthquake the following:

*R. Peinlich summarises the reports concerning the earthquake in his „Geschichte der Pest“, I., S. 307: “Like in the year 1201, again a powerful earthquake made its usual waveline in 1267 through Styria, but this time its most heavy shock occurred in the Mürztal, churches quaked, towers swayed, bells rang like calling for help, the strong castle Kindberg collapsed and its wreckage rolled down the hill.”*

*E. Sueß wrote in his „Monographie der Erdbeben Niederösterreichs“, p. 24 S. A. the following: “1267. Eodem anno factus est terrae motus in Styria ut castrum Chynberch (Kindberg) corrueret et ecclesiae tremarent in tantum ut campanae sonarent (Chron. Claustron. 1. c. p. 97) ...” In another passage he wrote: “Item eodem anno terrae motus factus est Wienne proxima die post Symonis et Jude in media nocte sive in galli cantu”. – Pilgram (p. 284) added according „Chron. Salisb.“: “The earthquake occurred around the 3rd hour; after it there was a solar eclipse on 25. May; the earthquake probably occurred on 8. May”. – Chron. Paltrami (Pez, Script. I., col. 716) quotes the earthquake “in die S. Petri Tharentasiensis” and the solar eclipse “in die Urbani Papae”.*

*Anselm Ebner quotes in his earthquake list Annales S. Roudberti Salisburgenses: “1267 Terre motus accidit circa horam diei tertiam, eclipsis vero solis postmodum subsequenter”.*

*The dating of the Kindberg earthquake on 8. May 1267 is not doubtful, because two sources agree on it, which Dr. Mell proved in the Mon. Germ. 9. Both sources quote a second earthquake for the year 1267 too. Hist. Annorum, 650, quotes: “In die beati Petri Tharentasiensis episcopi et monachi – (8. May) – factus est terre motus circa horam tertiam” and the same 651: “Eodem anno terre motus fit per diversa loca”. – Cont. Lamb. 560 quotes: “terre motus factus est 8. Idus Mai circa horam diei tertiam. Item terre motus factus est 3. Kal. Novembris circa mediam noctem”. The information about the second earthquake in the year 1267 corresponds to the passage quotes after Sueß, which mentions an earthquake in Vienna for the day Simon and Juda. The day Simonis and Judae is the 28. October, the earthquake occurred on the following day, that means on 29.*

*The castle Kindberg was destroyed in May and not in October, which is clear from the source Anonym. Leob. 20., where it is quoted after a message of Dr. Mell: “VI. Nonas Maii die dominica hora tertia terremotus factus est magnus qui duravit per mediam horam et ex eo multa aedificia corruerunt et de castro Chinwerch corruente cecidit avarius et exspiravit”. The information concerning the day not at all corresponds with the sources mentioned above.*

Hoernes collected information from historical literature and previous seismological studies. He made a summary of this earthquake using information from Peinlich (1877), Pilgram (1788), Suess (1874) and the unknown Anselm Ebner, which also contains references to chronicles contemporary to the earthquake. Table 1 summarizes the relationships among literature and contemporary sources mentioned by Hoernes.

Table 1 – Literature and sources from Hoernes (1902) on the 8 May 1267 earthquake.

Sources/Literature	Pilgram, 1788	Ebner, unknown	Suess, 1874	Hoernes, 1902
Continuatio Claustroneoburgensis			1267. Eodem anno factus est terrae motus in Styria ut castrum Chynberch (Kindberg) corrueret et ecclesiae tremarent in tantum ut campanae sonarent. Item eodem anno terraemotus factus est Wienne proxima die post Symonis et Iude [note: 27 or 28 October] in media nocte, sive in primo galli cantu.	
Chron. Paltrami = Pez. Scriptores I	citirt das Erdbeben „in die S. Petri Tharentasiensis“ und die Sonnenfinsternis „in die Urbani Papae“.			
Annales S. Rudberti Salisburgenses	Um die dritte Stunde des Tags war ein Erdbeben, hernach kam eine Sonnenfinsterniß. Diese war den 25. Mai; das Erdbeben dürfte am 8. Mai eingetreten sein	“1267 Terre motus accidit circa horam diei tertiam, eclipsis vero solis postmodum subsequenter”.		
Hist. Annorum				p.650. Anno 1267 in die beati Petri Tharentasiensis episcopi et monachi, (8 May) factus est terremotus circa horam terciam. Et Urbani pape ante meridiem facta est eclipsis solis... p.651: ... Eodem anno terre motus fit per diversa loca; ...

Continuatio Lambacensis				<i>"terre motus factus est 8. Idus Mai circa horam diei terciam. Item terre motus factus est, 3. Kalendas Novembris [30 October], circa mediam noctem."</i>
Anonymi Leobenses Chronicon				<i>"VI. Nonas Maii die dominica hora tertia terremotus factus est magnus qui duravit per mediam horam et ex eo multa aedificia corruerunt et de castro Chinwerch corruente cecidit avarius et exspiravit".</i>

The earthquake of 8 May 1267 is described by original sources, which are quoted below:

- Continuatio Lambacensis, [1197-1348]. G.H. Pertz ed., 1851, MGH SS 9, p.560.  
 "1267. Terre motus factus est, 8. Idus Mai [8 May] circa horam diei terciam. Item terre motus factus est, 3. Kalendas Novembris [30 October], circa mediam noctem."  
 This source was written in the Benedictine monastery of Lambach.
- Annales Sancti Rudberti Salisburgenses, [1-1286]. G.H. Pertz ed., 1851, MGH SS 9, 797.  
 "1267. Terre motus accidit circa horam diei terciam, eclipsis vero solis postmodum subsequenter."  
 This source was written in Salzburg. The first part stems mostly from the Annals of Hermannus Althensis (Hermann von Niederaltaich 1901/02-1275), a monc/abbot in the Benedictine monastery of Niederaltaich (Bavaria).
- Hermannus abbas Althensis de rebus suis gestis. [1242-1273] G.H. Pertz ed., 1861, MGH SS 17, p.381.  
 "1267. Datum, emptum et destructum est castrum in Cirberch et [or: et – adquisita desunt] predia ibidem data et adquisita.  
 Contemporary source from the Benedictine monastery Niederaltaich (Bavaria). An important abbot from this time was Hermann (in office from 1242 to 1273), the author of the "Annales Hermanni".
- Hermanni Althensis Annales. [1137-1273] G.H. Pertz ed., 1861, MGH SS 17, p.405-406.  
 1267 ... Tunc etiam in priori dominica factus est terres motus, ita ut in multis etiam locis ruinam edificia paterentur. [May 8.]  
 Contemporary source from the Benedictine monastery Niederaltaich (Bavaria). An important abbot from this time was Hermann (in office from 1242 to 1273), the author of the "Annales Hermanni".
- Anonymi Leobenses Chronicon. [1-1350]. J. Zahn ed., 1865, Graz, p. 19.

“Anno domini M.cc.lxvij. Nonas (x) Maij [Saturday 7. May] die dominica hora tertia terremotus factus est magnus qui duravit per mediam horam et ex eo edificia corruerunt et de castro Chinwerch corruente cecidit – et exspiravit et ecclesiae tremuerunt in tantum, ut campanae sonarent.

(x) Manuscript „Nouembr”; questionable Kal., or Non. Od. Idus; none of the sixth days is a Sunday, but a Monday or a Tuesday, therefore an error in the day is probable. From the sound the word “Nonas” is most probable.” [*the note is translated from German*]

This source was written in Vienna or at the Cistercian monastery of Heiligenkreuz and goes back to the Liber certarum historiarum of Johann von Viktring, which uses also the so called *Steirische Reimchronik* of Ottokar aus der Gaal (1265-1318/22), in which no information of the earthquake could be found.

6. Continuatio Claustroneoburgensis sexta, [1267-1288] G.H. Pertz ed., 1851, MGH SS 9, p. 742-743.

p.742: 1267. Eodem anno factus est terrae motus in Styria ut castrum Chynberch (Kindberg) corrueret et ecclesiae tremerent in tantum ut campanae sonarent.

p.743: Item eodem anno terraemotus factus est Wienne proxima die post Symonis et Iude [27 or 28 October] in media nocte, sive in primo galli cantu.

This source was written in the monastery of the Augustinian Canons in Klosterneuburg.

7. Historia Annorum, [1264-1279] G.H. Pertz ed., 1851, MGH SS 9, p. 650-651.

p.650. Anno 1267 in die beati Petri Tharentasiensis episcopi et monachi, (8 May) factus est terremotus circa horam tertiā. Et Urbani pape ante meridiem facta est eclipsis solis...

p.651: ... Eodem anno terre motus fit per diversa loca; ...

Historia annorum was written by the monk Gutolf in the Cistercian monastery Heiligenkreuz and is a contemporary source.

8. H. Pez, Scriptorum rerum Austriacarum, Bd.1, 1721, col.716.

Paltram citiert das Erdbeben „in die S. Petri Tharentasiensis” und die Sonnenfinsternis „in die Urbani Papae”.

Hieronymus Pez, historian, Benedictine monk, wrote between 1721 and 1745 in three volumes the Scriptorum rerum Austriacarum. During his journeys he collected many sources concerning the history of Austria.

Table 2 summarizes the places and the effects.

Table 2 – Places and effects related to the 8 May 1267, Styria earthquakes

Place name in sources	Today place name	Special cases	Effects (synthesis)
Chynberch	Kindberg	Castle	Damage
Mürztal	Mürztal	Valley	Damage
Styria	Styria	Federal state	Felt

### Conclusion

In conclusion, the information is scarce, and at this stage, it is not possible to assess macroseismic intensity values.

### References

- Annales Sancti Rudberti Salisburgenses, [1-1286]. G.H. Pertz ed., 1851, MGH SS 9, 797.
- Anonymi Leobenses Chronicon. [1-1350]. J. Zahn ed., 1865, Graz, p. 19.
- Continuatio Lambacensis, [1197-1348]. G.H. Pertz ed., 1851, MGH SS 9, p.560.
- Ebner A., Terrae motus, quotquot Anselmo Ebner ex pluribus Chronicis innotuerunt. (This source is unknown, it was probably a personal information from Suess to Hoernes).
- Hoernes, R., 1902. Erdbeben und Stoßlinien Steiermarks. Mitt.d.Erdbebenkommission d. K. Akad. d. Wiss. in Wien.,N .F.7., p. 62-63.
- Peinlich R. , 1877. Geschichte der Pest in der Steiermark. Bd. 1, S.96 & S.307 , Graz.
- Suess, E.,1874. Die Erdbeben Niederösterreichs. Denkschr. d. Österr. Akad. d. Wiss. 33, p. 84.
- Toperczer, M. and E. Trapp, 1950. Ein Beitrag zur Erdbebengeographie Österreichs, nebst Erdbebenkatalog 1904 – 1948 und Chronik der Starkbeben. Mitteilungen der Erdbeben-Kommission, N. F. 65.
- Wichner P. Jakob, 1876. Geschichte des Benediktiner-Stiftes Admont von der Zeit des Abtes Henrik bis zum Tode des Abtes Heinrich II. (1178 – 1297).

### Literature (including the original texts)

**Pilgram**, Anton: Untersuchungen über das Wahrscheinliche der Wetterkunde. Wien 1788, p.283.

1267. Den 29ten Oktober Nachts wurde Wien durch ein Erdbeben erschüttert. In Steyermark war dieses Beben ein so heftiges, daß das Schloß Thynburg zusammenfiel, die Kirchthürme wurden so erschüttert, daß die Glocken von selbst läuteten. Chr.Austr. Um die dritte Stunde des Tags war ein Erdbeben, hernach kam eine Sonnenfinsterniß. Chr. Salisb. Diese war den 25ten May, so wie sie Paltram ansetzt. Das Erdbeben aber den 8ten May ( in die S. Petri Tharent. Ep. Mon. Grisei.) Dieses Erdbeben war in Steyermark, um 3 Uhr frühe; das zusammengefallene Schloß hieß Chynberg (Kürnberg) nicht Thynburg. An.Leob. Der alles genau, nur den Tag allein falsch ansetzt, es sagt nämlich, den 7ten May an einem Sonntage, da er doch ein Samstag war. Das Chr.Zwetl. setzt A.1264 den 29 Oktober zu Wien ein Erdbeben an, welches sonst Niemand meldet.

**Peinlich**, Richard: Geschichte der Pest in der Steiermark. Bd. 1 (Graz 1877). p.96

1267 erschütterte ein Erdbeben Wien und Kindberg im Mürztal, wo das Schloß zusammenstürzte, die Kirchtürme wankten und die Glocken läuteten.

**Peinlich**, Richard: Geschichte der Pest in der Steiermark. Bd. 1 (Graz 1877). p.307

1267 machte wieder ein mächtiges Erdbeben, wie 1201 seine gewohnte Wellenlinie durch Steiermark, aber diesmal hatte es seine gewaltigsten Stöße dem Mürztale zugebracht, die Kirchengebäude bebten, die Türme schwankten, die Glocken erklangen, wie um Hilfe rufend, das feste Bergschloß Kindberg aber stürzte zusammen und rollte in Trümmern den Abhang herunter. (Anon. Leob.?)

P. Jakob **Wichner**: Geschichte des Benediktiner-Stiftes Admont von der Zeit des Abtes Henrik bis zum Tode des Abtes Heinrich II. (1178 – 1297). (1876). p. 116

Die Chronisten des Landes erzählen in diesem Jahr 1267 von einem am 7. Mai stattgefundenen Erdbeben ...