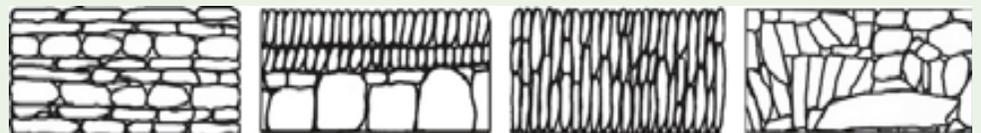
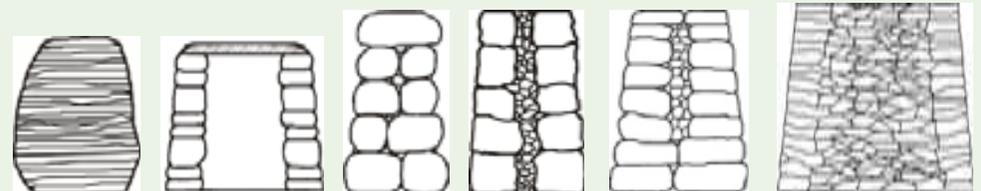


The field enclosures and field boundaries of Europe



Georg Müller

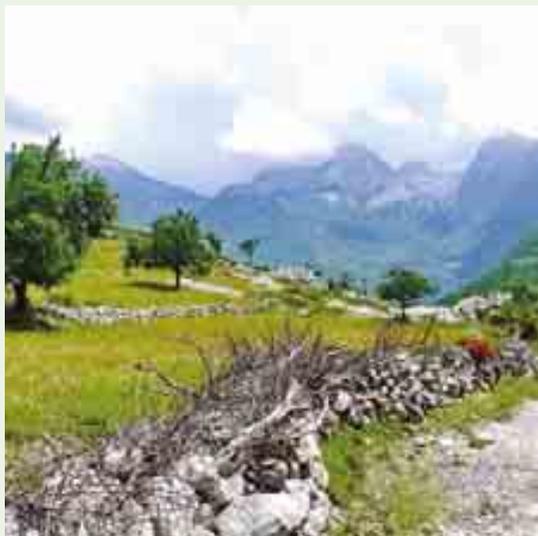


This book will offer a comprehensive overview of Europe's field boundaries including hedged banks, hedgerows, field walls (stonewalls, dry stone walls), dry bush hedges, hedge laying, hedges made of bent and interwoven sticks as well as woven fences, fences made from interwoven sticks and traditional wooden fences. It includes references to the worldwide history, development and distribution of field boundaries complemented by comprehensive and varied survey results.

Until now, such an extensive description and documentation has never been available in Europe. Moreover, it is illustrated with about 5000 photos, approx. 310 drawings of hedge construction, about 340 drawings of field walls and 330 drawings of embankments.

The preparations for this book began as early as 1978/1979, although first, in 1989, my book about hedged banks was published: "Hedged banks, development – care – construction". In addition to this volume I planned to publish a 100-page booklet in 1996 which has so far developed into a comprehensive volume of 1280 A4 pages.

In this new book I venture to document the distribution, emergence and overall condition of hedged banks (hedgerows) and field walls (dry stone walls and stone walls) in Europe. In addition, I record the construction of dry brush hedges, hedges made of bent and interwoven sticks, woven fences, fences made from interwoven sticks and traditional wooden fences. Additionally, references to the distribution of European field boundaries are sourced.



The book consists of two parts:

- The first part is a general description of the emergence, development, loss, condition, care conservation and new development of field boundaries throughout Europe.
- In the second part, precise mapping of the survey results are shown with detailed descriptions of the survey route incl. maps and, where known information on the emergence development, appearance, function and the distribution of field boundaries including their legal protection within each country.

Furthermore, the book presents a splendidly illustrated account of the variety, appearance, condition, construction, care, vegetation, management and maintenance of field boundaries. Plus their loss, destruction and causes there of.

I have become aware of the fact that I am describing a dying landscape feature, one which was developed and cultivated by man – with all its functions, its significance for Human Beings, its place in our culture, the development of our landscape, its ecosystem as well as fauna and flora. This makes it all the more important to publish this book, in order to give future generations a fascinating insight into part of today's landscape.

Hopefully this book can stir our conscience of a culturally significant landscape feature which cannot defend itself and which is destined to disappear if effective measures for their conservation are not taken immediately!

This book will raise awareness, especially amongst politicians and decision makers throughout Europe, to what is happening to an important part of Europe's landscape. It should also be the basis for political and other decision making processes to initiate urgently required measures to protect and maintain this important cultural asset.

Yet this book is also a reference book for everybody interested in field boundaries. According to my very careful estimate, more than 10 million kilometres of hedges, hedged banks and field walls have been lost since the 19th century. Within the next 50 years these losses will have tripled if the destruction of hedgerows and field walls is not stopped immediately. Only isolated relics of one of the most important landscape features ever developed and constructed by man will remain. In some countries these remains will be insignificant.

In order to map hedgerows and field walls and to record their condition I have walked along 20,000 km of hedged banks and field walls and have driven 240,000 km through 32 European countries and 52 countries worldwide. About 50,000 photos of hedgerows and field walls have been archived to date. I have collected extensive information on function, distribution, development, construction, care, state, measurements, structure, material, types of material and cutting methods of hedgerows and field walls throughout Europe.

The work on the translation and layout of the book are scheduled to be completed by the end of November 2013. Afterwards the publication of this 1280 page long, well illustrated book in colour, is planned. It will be made available English and German. It is planned to use A4 format.



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