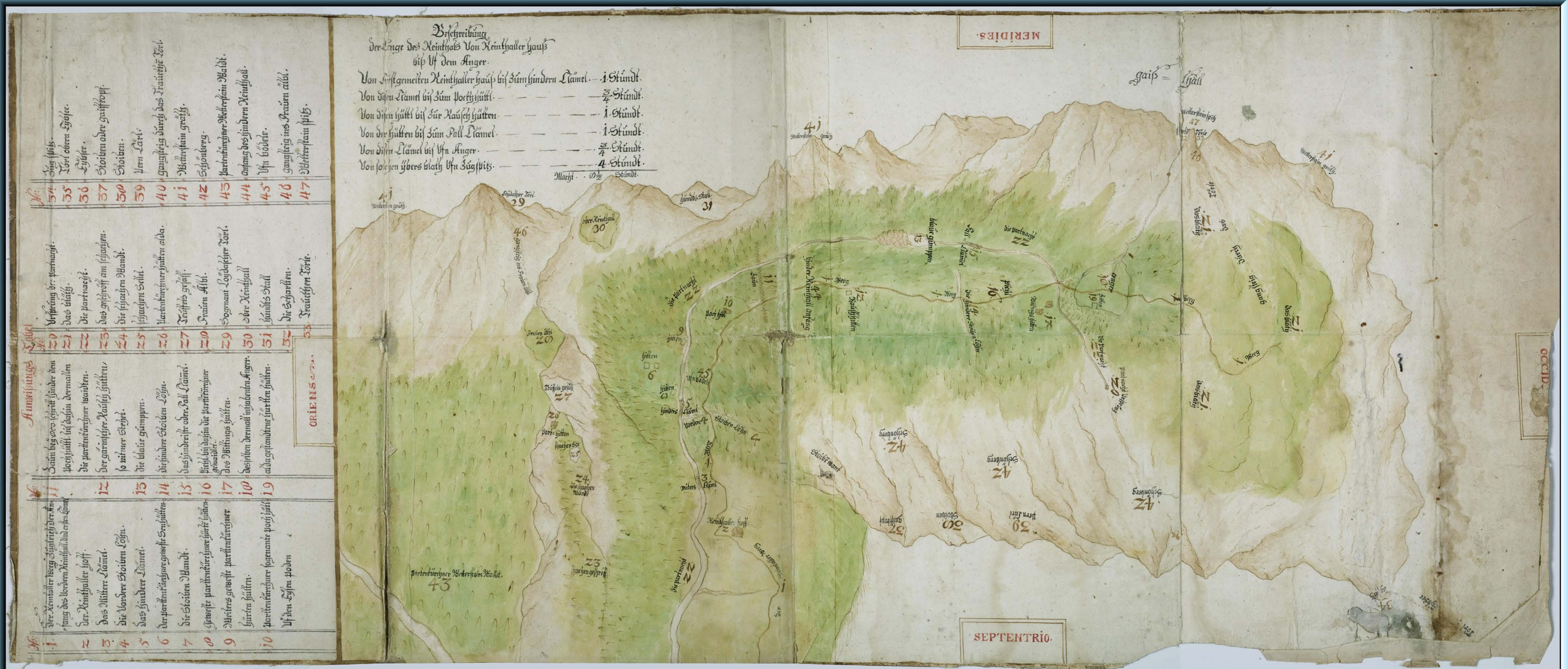


A forensic study of a legal map of the area around the Zugspitze, Germany's highest mountain

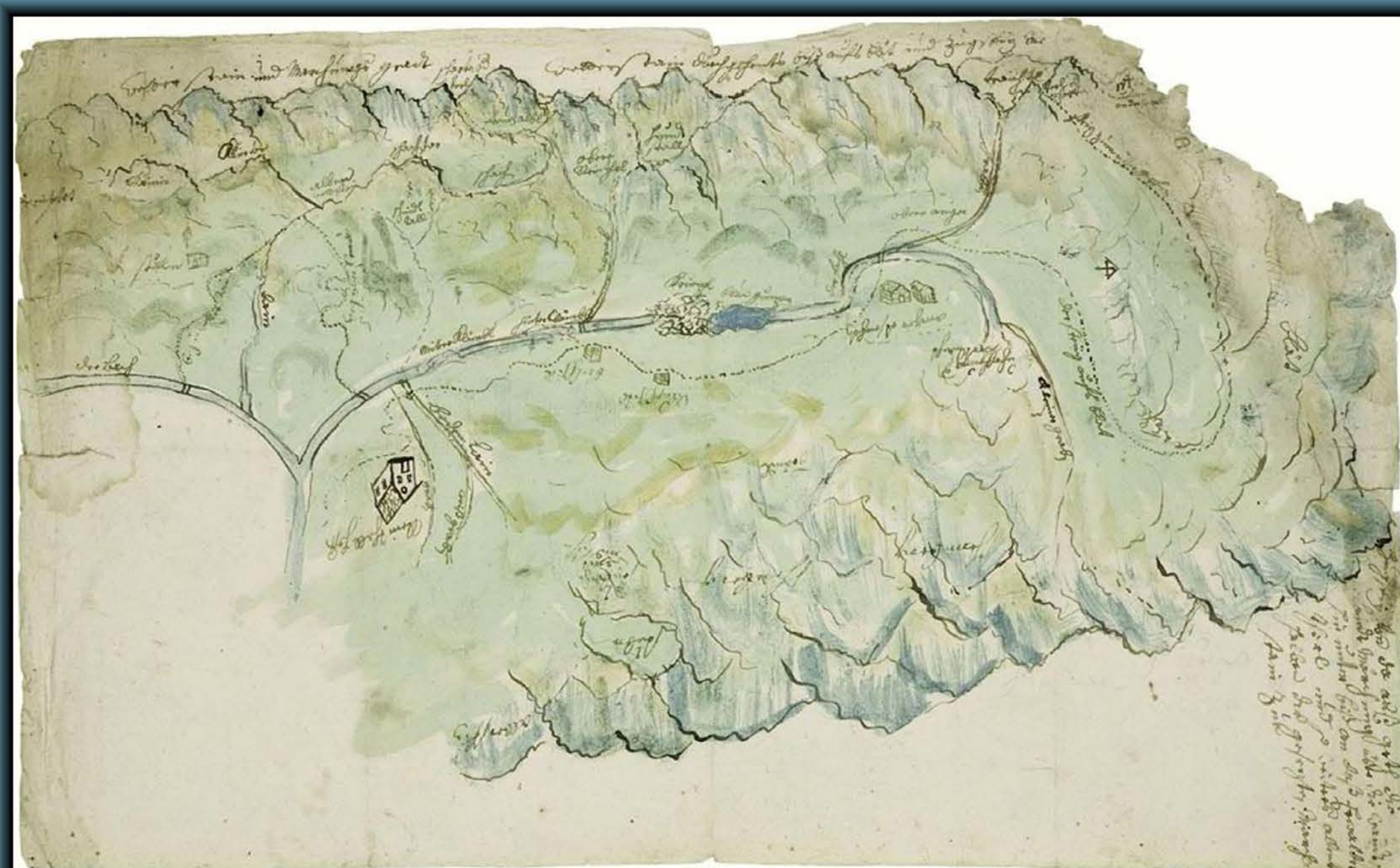


Manuscript map of the Zugspitze, ca. 1730
 [Alpine Museum of the German Alpine Club, Munich]

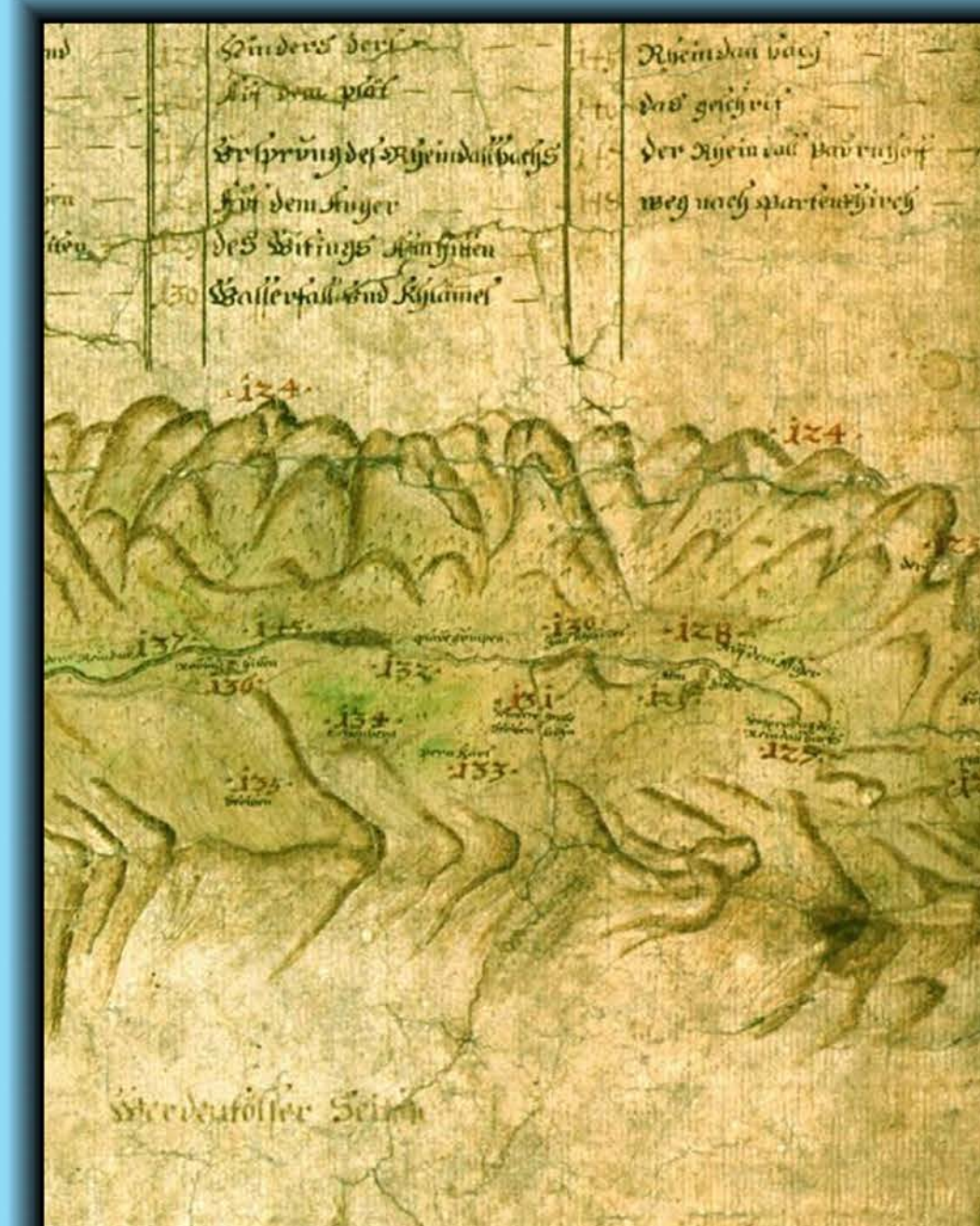


In 2005, the discovery of a manuscript map in the Munich archives of the German Alpine Club depicting the Reintal in the Werdenfels county (former territory of the prince-bishopric of Freising, Bavaria) led many people to rush to conclusions about an early first ascent to the Zugspitze, Germany's highest mountain. However, this presumption soon proved unfounded. This newly found map is, in fact, a legal map ("Augenscheinkarte") which was made around 1730 in the course of a border conflict between the Werdenfels county and the county of Tyrol.

Moreover, written documents illustrate that there exist more contemporary legal maps belonging to the same border dispute. This also shows a relief of the Zugspitze with its surrounding mountainous region of the 16th century. These documents were all part of tribunal files, which is why the region was inspected closely and mapped by sworn artists. Therefore these highly specified maps, which document the former cultivated landscape, can serve as excellent sources for cultural history.



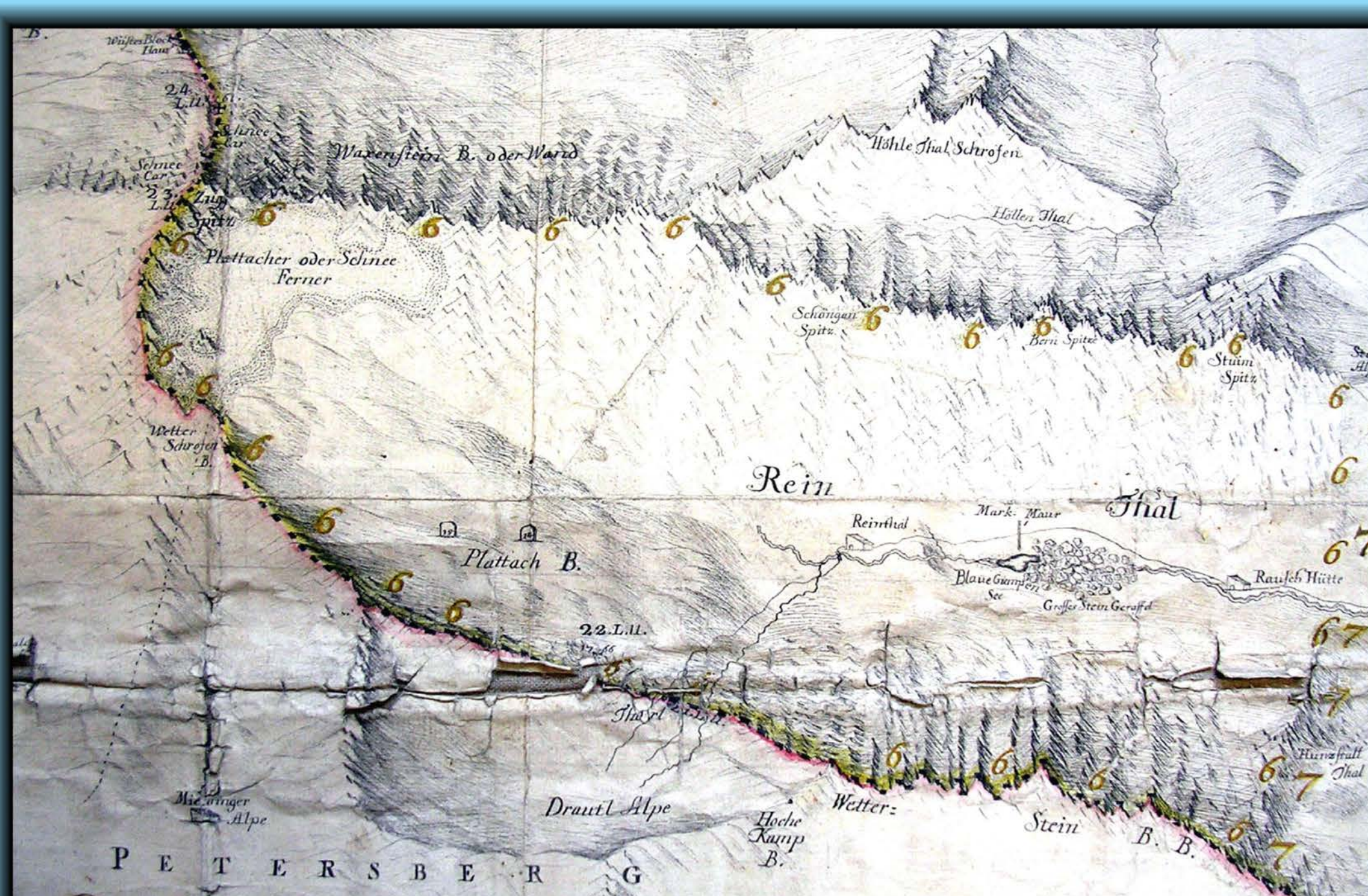
Manuscript map of the Zugspitze-area, 17th century
 [Archive of the city of Garmisch-Partenkirchen]



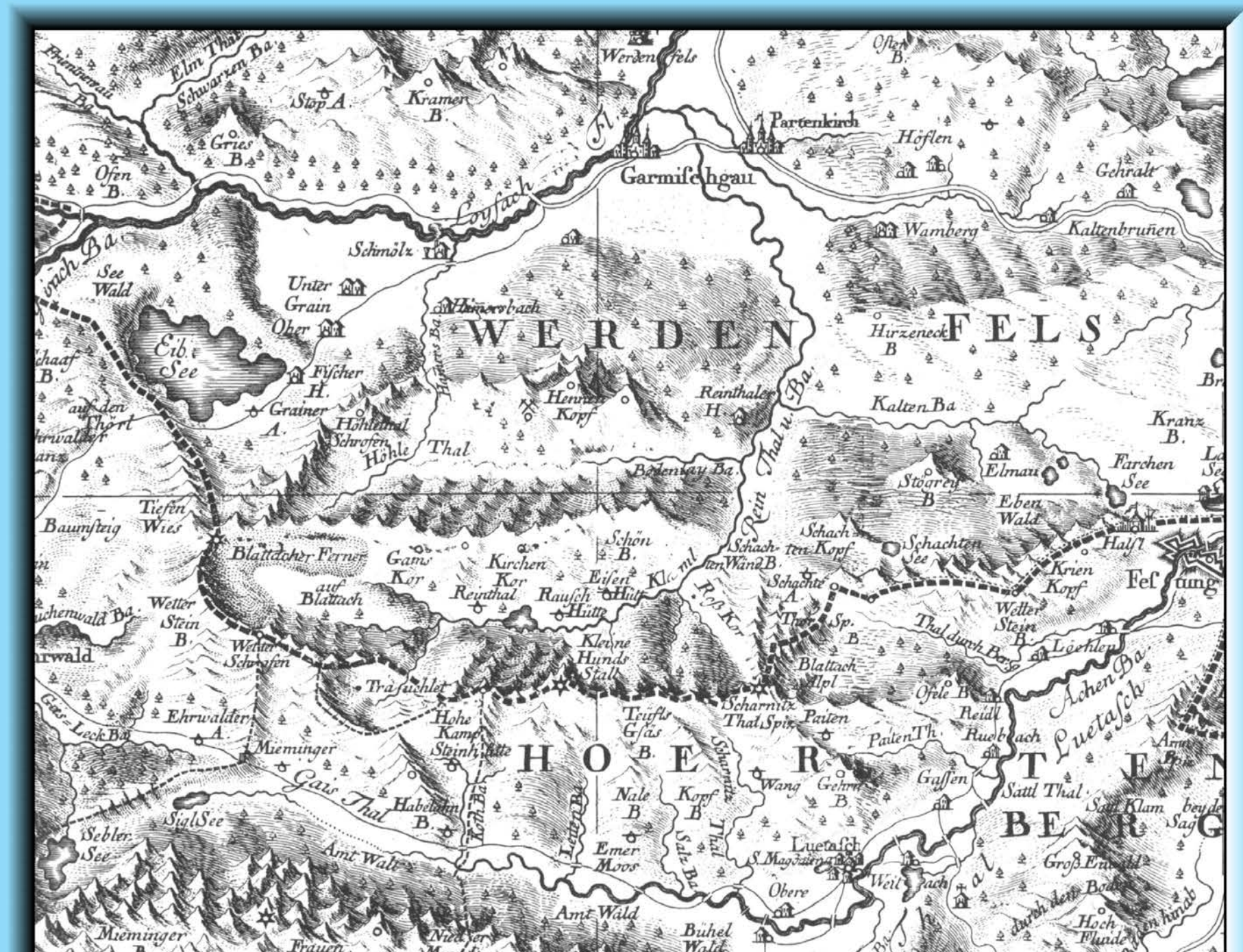
Detail of a manuscript map of the Zugspitze-area by Matthias Paur, 1718
 [Bavarian State Archive, Munich, Pls. 2460]



Detail of a manuscript map of the Zugspitze-area by Georg Anton Gump, 1718
 [Tyrolean State Archive, Innsbruck, Karte 520]



Detail of a manuscript map of the Zugspitze-area by Blasius Hueber, 1768
 [Austrian State Archive, Vienna, Hofkammerarchiv D 3]



Detail of the „Atlas Tyrolensis“, sheet 3, by Peter Anich and Blasius Hueber, 1774
 [Facsimile, edited by M. Edlinger, Innsbruck, 1984]