Readme: Data set on trade fairs from printed fair calendars of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries

This data set contains information on location, date and duration of early modern trade fairs and annual markets in Europe, collected from seven printed fair calendars of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The data set itself is introduced and described in detail in:

Ulf Christian Ewert / Susanne Rau / Leif Scheuermann: Räumliche Konfigurationen des Messehandels im frühneuzeitlichen Europa. Geduckte Messekalender des 16. und 17. Jahrhunderts und ihre computergestützte Analyse, in: *Vierteljahrschrift für Sozial- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte* 110/4, 2023.

This readme file explains how these data is arranged for its potential re-use in the two Microsoft Excel files which are added to this publication.
When using the data, please cite the paper.

(1) File *fair-calendars-16th-and-17th-centuries.xlsx*

The file contains all the single entries of fairs and annual markets in the seven printed fair calendars of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Explanation of variables:

ENTRY-NR is a consecutive number of all 1.080 single entries of fairs and annual markets in the used seven fair calendars.

CALENDAR indicates the respective fair calendar:

> MED = Lorenz Meder, Handel Buch, Nuremberg 1558;
> fair calendar: *Verzeychnuß etlicher Marckt / wann dieselben gehalten werden.*
> (fol. 65r–67v).

> HER = Giovanni Da l'Herba, Itinerario delle poste per diverse Parte del Mondo, Roma 1563;
> fair calendar: *NOTA DE DIVERSE Fiere che si fãno per il Mon=do, a che tĕpo comin=ciano, e quanto tempo du=rano* (pp. 64–70).

> FOR = Olivier Fordrin, Almanach pour l'an M.D.LXXIII., Geneva 1573;
> fair calendar: without title, on 32 calendar pages (two pages for each month).

> ROW = Richard Rowlands, The Post For diuers partes of the World, London 1576;
> fair calendar: *The principall and most accosto=med yearly fayer or markets, in the chiefest cities and vil=lages of name: vsed of marchauntes and other occupiers* (pp. 88–96).

> RIE = Adam Ries, Rechenbüchlein auff der Linien vnd Federn, Frankfurt/Main 1586;
> fair calendar: *Anzeigung der Maerckt / vnnd Messen / der fuernembsten Staett und Flecken / nach ordnung des A.B.C. So durch das jahr von Kauff=leuten vnnd Haendlern ge=braucht werden.* (fol. 93r–94v).

> TDM = Théodore Turquet de Mayerne, Sommaire Description de la France, Allemagne, Italie & Espagne, Rouen 1604;
> fair calendar: *LES FOIRES PRINCI-pales, tant du Royaume de France, Allemagne, Italie qu'Espagne* (pp. 261–277).

> WAD = James Wadsworth, The European Mercury, London 1641;
> fair calendar: *A CATALOGUE Of divers FAIRS, which were kept in divers places of the World, when they begin, and how long they continue.* (pp. 76–85).

SECTION indicates the section within a fair calendar and gives the title of this section in original text and (in brackets) the pagination within the respective calendar.

ID is a six-character code to identify fair calendar entries. It is composed of the three-character abbreviation of the fair calendar (CALENDAR) and a three-digit consecutive number within the respective calendar following the order of entries.
Example: MED014 is the fourteenth entry of the fair calendar printed in the edition of Meder's 'Handel Buch' of 1586.

PLACE-NAME-MODERN gives (in German) the current names of places enlisted in the fair calendars. In some cases, the current name in the local language is given in square brackets. For places not yet identified this field remains blank.

PLACE-NAME-SOURCE gives the place names as they are spelled and printed in the fair calendars.

GEO-COORDINATES gives the geographic coordinates of identified places in the following form:
Latitude,Longitude

DATE gives the indicated date of a fair or an annual market in the American date format:
Year-Month-Day
This is then divided into three variables for year (YEAR), month (MONTH) and day (DAY).

DURATION indicates the duration (in days) of a fair or an annual market, if specified. For entries without duration specified this field remains blank.

SOURCE-TEXT gives the full text description of the entry in the respective fair calendar.

(2) File *trade-fairs-16th-and-17th-centuries.xlsx*

The file contains all identified fairs and annual markets registered in the seven printed fair calendars of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Since many fairs and annual markets are enlisted in more than one of the seven calendars, the number of fairs and annual markets (728) is naturally smaller than the overall number of entries (1.080), and for such cases there are several references, of course.

Explanation of variables:

FAIR-NR is a consecutive number of all 728 identified fairs and annual markets in the used seven fair calendars.

PLACE-NAME gives (in German) the current name of places of fairs and annual markets in alphabetical order. In some cases, the current name in the local language is given in square brackets. Numbers 687 to 728 represent fairs and annual markets for which the location could not yet be identified properly. Thus, for these cases the field remains blank.

GEO-COORDINATES gives the geographic coordinates of identified places in the following form:
Latitude,Longitude

The reference(s) to a calendar of a fair or an annual market is/are given through seven variables – one for each calendar – containing the IDs from the Microsoft Excel-file
fair-calendars-16th-and-17th-centuries.xlsx .
Names of these variables are composed as follows:
'Abbreviation of author name = CALENDAR'-'Year of publication'-ID.
For fairs and annual markets that are not enlisted in a particular fair calendar this field remains blank.

Example: MED-1558-ID gives the references to the fair calendar printed in Meder's 'Handel Buch', and MED014, for example, refers to the fourteenth entry in this calendar.
This six-character code can be used to view the information on a trade fair (historical place name, date, duration, full text of description) from a specific fair calendar in the Microsoft Excel-file *fair-calendars-16th-and-17th-centuries.xlsx* .

Dates of fairs and annual markets reported in the fair calendars are given as day and month in a total of 14 variables composed as follows:
'Abbreviation of author name = CALENDAR'-'Year of publication'-DAY and
'Abbreviation of author name = CALENDAR'-'Year of publication'-MONTH.
Example: MED-1558-DAY = 20 and MED-1558-MONTH = 3 would indicate, that following the fair calendar printed in Meder's 'Handel Buch' a particular fair was held beginning from 20th of March.

Special cases:

Bruck an der Mur (FAIR-NR = 103) is enlisted in the fair calendar printed in Rowlands' guidebook of 1576 (ROW-1576-ID = ROW019), but since the author does not report any date the fields of ROW-1576-DAY and ROW-1576-MONTH remain blank here.

For some unknown reason Turquet de Mayerne reports the Bolzano fairs in mid-lent (FAIR-NR = 87) and on Saint Giles' Day (1st of September) (FAIR-NR = 88) twice in his fair calendar, in the same section ('Allemagne'), as *Botse* (TDM345 and TDM367) at first, and after that as *Bolzan* (TDM385 and TDM386). Only the references TDM385 and TDM386 are entered in the table.

NUMBER-OF-REFERENCES indicates in how many of the seven fair calendars used here a particular fair is registered.

NUMBER-OF-FAIRS-PER-ANNUM indicates how many fairs or annual markets in total were held at this particular location throughout the year.