

## BOOK REVIEW – KÖNYVISMERTETÉS

Europe's Field boundaries by Georg Müller, 2013  
Publisher: Neuer Kunstverlag, Stuttgart, 1280 pages  
English and German  
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More information: [www.wallhecke.de](http://www.wallhecke.de)

Field boundaries such as hedged banks, hedges and others are present in Europe in many different forms. Often they enclose areas used for farming. They are part of Europe's cultural landscape history and a habitat for complex ecological communities.

This book gives a wide ranging overview of the field boundaries found in Europe: their history, formation and geographical range. Appearance, function, characteristics, condition and woody growth as well as the different uses of the field boundaries are described in detail. "Europe's Field boundaries" bases on a survey undertaken over a period of 30 years in which photos were taken, drawings made, descriptions written and measurements taken. As a result, about 170 different earth banks, 160 stone faced banks, 10 peat banks, 330 field walls, 240 hedge styles, 70 dead brushwood hedges, stick picket fences, vertical branch fences, wattle fences and other traditional wooden fences are depicted in diagrams.

The ecological and economic significance of hedged banks and field walls to the farming industry is discussed as well as the economic implications of the creation of new ones. The effect of excessive cutting of woody growth on yields is also detailed. A brief overview of the international agreements and EU responsibilities regarding the protection of hedged banks and other landscape elements is given.

The book is split in two volumes. The first volume provides an overview of Europe, while the second volume is dedicated to detailed descriptions of the different countries surveyed. The volumes are available in German and in English. The book contains 1280 pages, 4433 photos and 1381 technical drawings.

I highly recommend "Europe's field boundaries" as standard for professionals and non-professionals interested in field boundaries. The information, pictures and maps and all the collected and presented materials have thoroughly been researched. They are of high documentary and investigative value for studies on this important part of European cultural landscapes. The book will be without any doubt a long-lasting source of information on which further investigations on the farmed landscape will be based.

by Alexandra Kruse,

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