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Was the First Partition of Poland-Lithuania a Turning Point? The Example of the Artistic Activities of the Basilian Order in Galicia

The partitions of Poland-Lithuania (1772, 1793, 1795) were one of the most significant changes in the history of Central Europe. The territories annexed by the Habsburg Monarchy in 1772, known as Galicia, experienced not only a new political regime, but also a completely different way of governing. The administratively weak Commonwealth, ruled by the libertarian nobility, was replaced by the intrusive bureaucracy of enlightened absolutism. Among the most affected was the Church, which had to accept the new order with its demands for greater control over religious institutions.

This paper aims to question the significance of the 1772 turn for the Greek Catholic Church, considering the field of artistic initiatives. Gathering and analyzing the information in the database developed within the project "Artistic Network of the Basilian Order in Eighteenth-Century Poland-Lithuania", it was possible to notice a surprising peak of construction projects in Galician monasteries in the 1770s, that is, just after the Partition. Completely new complexes, new buildings, or new furnishings were built, for example, in Buczacz, Krechów, Krystynopol, the Lviv monastery of St. Onuphrius, Ławrów, Podhorce, and Strusów. The partition remained practically unnoticed in the monastic payment registers and, in fact, no project was stopped. In this respect, the real turning point was the accession of Joseph II (1780), whose decrees quickly cut not only investments, but also the very existence of many monasteries. It also affected the initiatives of the bishops, as the failed construction of the new cathedral in Przemyśl shows. All in all, this paper aims to show how research in the field of art, supported by contemporary digital tools, can help to re-examine old questions of political and economic history.

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Hungarian Clergy in the Republic of Letters: Networks and Cultural Engagement in Central Europe (1750–1800)

In accordance with the expectations of their time, the Hungarian archbishops and bishops of the second half of the 18th century were not only engaged in ecclesiastical affairs but also played an active role in scientific and literary life. While their ecclesiastical governance has been examined in the literature, their role within the intellectual networks remains a relatively unexplored area.

Through their agents in Rome and Vienna, these prelates were not only informed about political news but also gained crucial connections for their cultural enterprises, such as book collecting and library foundations, the writing of diocesan histories, and the necessary archival research.

The aim of this paper is to explore the networks of key prelates (György Klimó, János Szily, and Ádám Patachich), with particular focus on their interactions with Viennese booksellers as well as scholars and historians based in Vienna and Prague. By analysing their correspondence, we can see how these relationships connected the Hungarian *respublica litteraria* to Central European intellectual networks. Furthermore, this research investigates the nature of cultural transfers in the period: which ideas, works, and methods were transmitted to Hungary, and how they influenced scientific and cultural life.

However, this flow of information was not one-directional, as Hungarian prelates actively shaped Central European intellectual networks. They were not merely recipients but also influential participants in the region's intellectual and cultural processes. As patrons, they supported the publication of theological and historical works and facilitated the acquisition of rare books for their foreign colleagues and friends.

The data visualisations based on the analysed sources reveal numerous previously unknown connections, providing new insights into the cultural and intellectual landscape of the period.

Proposal

This study focuses on the power structures of the Viennese court during the reign of Maria Theresia (1740-1780), examining them through the lens of networks among court function holders.

While the political and social significance of aristocratic networks for court nobility in early modern Europe is a well-known theme, as noted by Norbert Elias (1969), the specific nuances of this aspect of the Viennese court have rarely been articulated in detail. It is evident that the aristocracy surrounding Maria Theresia coalesced into discernible political factions or interest groups, though their influence varied significantly among individuals (Frantz Szabo, 1994). Previous studies have described the formation of networks among the court nobility in vague terms, such as "friendship" or "rivalry" (Jeroen Duindam, 2003). Therefore, clarifying the specific processes behind networks formation, the intentions of the actors involved, and the historical significance of these networks is a crucial task.

In response to this issue, this study takes a spatial approach by focusing on the "court quartering system" (Hofquartierwesen). Under this system, the Habsburg court granted residence rights in Vienna to court function holders, providing them with accommodations corresponding to their status. Consequently, their residential locations in Vienna can be regarded as a vivid reflection of the power distribution among court function holders.

The primary source material for this study is an old map of residences in Vienna's inner city, created by the court in 1748 (owned by Wien Museum). This historical document provides valuable information about housing ownership in the old city but has not been subjected to detailed analysis thus far. Additionally, entries from the diary of Johann Joseph Khevenhüller-Metsch, a court noble serving Maria Theresia, will be utilized to examine descriptions related to the housing system (especially regarding his noble colleagues).