

## The Habsburgs and their Courts in Europe, 1400–1700 Between Cosmopolitanism and Regionalism

7–10 December 2011

Vienna, Austria

*Organized by*  
Austrian Academy of Sciences

*Co-organized by*  
Slovak Academy of Sciences

A variety of visual and written sources demonstrate that the members of the House of Habsburg devoted special attention to creating a 'dynastic identity' (e.g. "Fürstenspiegel", panegyric and emblematic literature). The aim of this conference is to trace a Habsburg dynastic 'idiom' in the sphere of archducal/kingly/imperial representation, particularly at the residence courts, and to consider its supranational features in contrast to regional ones. Court culture in Vienna, Madrid, Brussels, Prague, Bratislava and Budapest will be examined and compared in detail – with a double focus, looking for interactions both within the Habsburg network spread across Europe and with local traditions. All topics of exchange should be worked out with the help of visual media as used by the Habsburgs, and developed within one of the following four panels:

### **I. "Repraesentatio Majestatis" and Residency**

The court residence is viewed as the nucleus of representation. Investigation should focus primarily on the official apartments built by the Habsburgs, and their relation to the court ceremonial. The main question is whether or not there was a model unifying the court residences in Madrid, Brussels, and Central Europe. Particular attention should be devoted to the display of codes and symbols of Habsburg princely representation. All visual media and elements of performance (theatre, festivities, ephemeral art, etc.), including different sorts of collections and collectibles (artworks, books, horses, plants, etc.), are expected to be reconsidered in the context of their display.

### **II. Religious Practices and the Court**

A decisive element of Habsburg dynastic identity was what might be called "Pietas Austriaca" (Adoration of the Eucharist, of the Holy Virgin, the Holy Cross, and the Saints). In which way were these specific religious practices displayed either in publicly performed liturgy or in private devotion? How were these practices reflected in the art, culture and architecture of the court? What about the sacred spaces at the Habsburg courts, their location, structure and function in ceremonial and private life? What about possible connections and interdependencies between princely residences and religious buildings? Can virtues like "Pietas" and "Modestas" be seen as criteria for a reconsideration of Habsburg architecture? Which differences or similarities can be found between the Spanish and the Austrian Habsburgs in using "Pietas"?

### III. Habsburgs and Muslims

The long-standing threat of the Ottomans in eastern Central Europe and of the Moors in Spain provoked the construction of images and stereotypes of the enemies in faith. Were there similar strategies in Spain and in Austria, and in particular within the context of court culture, for the creation of propaganda presenting the Habsburgs as “defenders of the Catholic faith”? Was there any tangible influence of this image on Habsburg court culture? Further issues are: Turkish perceptions of Habsburg courts and palaces; the possible role of Ottoman palaces as a rival imperial model; manifestations of the triumph over the Moors and the Ottomans in palatial art and architecture.

### IV. Regional Patriotism (*Landespatritismus*)

The Habsburgs developed a supranational form of dynastic identity. Besides this, however, there were other forms of identities articulated and cultivated by the local nobles in Bohemia, Hungary, and Poland. They related namely to what may be called *Landespatritismus*, in the sense of their loyalty to the traditions of what they still saw as their ‘homeland’. This panel considers various forms of expression of *Landespatritismus* in the visual arts of the palaces of the time. Of particular interest in this context are works of art produced in Bohemia, Hungary, or Poland, which glorify local saints or earlier rulers.

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Please submit your proposal (max. 350 words) for a 20-30 minute paper before **30 April 2011** to [Herbert.Karner@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:Herbert.Karner@oeaw.ac.at), with a copy to [Pieter.Martens@asro.kuleuven.be](mailto:Pieter.Martens@asro.kuleuven.be), coordinator of PALATIUM. Notification of acceptance before 30 June 2011. A collection of papers will be published after evaluating the conference’s results.

*Languages:* English and German – *Paper abstracts only in English*

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This conference is part of the Research Networking Programme *PALATIUM. Court Residences as Places of Exchange in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe (1400-1700)*, financed by the European Science Foundation. See [www.courtresidences.eu](http://www.courtresidences.eu)

