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Ceremony at Court : Reflections on an elusive Subject

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Extrait de l'article

The rituals surrounding rulership are no invention of the early modern age, though they seem to have reached new heights in the course of the seventeenth century. Following the eighteenth-century compilation of *cérémonial* codices by Jean Rousset de Missy, we may distinguish three main types of ceremony : *dynastie* (or *dynastie State-*) *cérémonial* including baptism, coronation, sacrey marriage, funeral, entry, *lit de justice*, *estâtes*, *diets* ; *domestic cérémonial* regulating audiences, public dining, *lever*, *coucher*, and finally *diplomatie cérémonial*, fitting the complicated and quickly expanding hierarchy of foreign representatives into the other *cérémonial* arrangements. Rousset also gave lists of the titles to be used in correspondences, often referred to as the *Kanzleizeremoniell*. We should add the various explicitly religious *cérémonies* : public worship, processions, etc. ; court ceremony in early modern Europe, especially at Catholic courts, was primarily based on the liturgical year.

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