

Sabine Jagodzinski

Scientific Report concerning the activity „Court Residences as Places of Exchange in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe (1400-1700)“

- Purpose of the visit

The main purpose of taking part in the conference „Beyond Scylla an Charybdis. European Courts and Court Residences outside Habsburg and Valois /Bourbon Territories 1500-1700“ (30 April - 2 May 2012) hosted by the National Museum in Copenhagen, Denmark, which was supported by a Short Travel Grant for Early Career Researchers from the European Science Foundation (ESF) was to present a part of my PhD project – focussed on the special topic of the conference – to an international audience in the form of a conference paper. The aim of presentation was to get methodological and contentional feedback, especially new hints and questions arising from another geographical point of view.

- Description of the work carried out during the visit

During the 3-days-lasting conference the participants heard contributions to topics as for example court architecture, their building materials, interiors and iconographical programmes, also the dealing with secular and sacred spaces of noble and royal residences, their integrating or highlighting in the architectonical ensemble as well as diplomatic and ceremonial moves oscillating between private, semi-public and public spheres in the space of the residences. Other papers presented examinations of buildings explicitly referring to the past, i.e., ancient times as well as of the building of new edifices and their representational and political aims. Further papers were dealing with artists' transfer, exchange and networking allover Europe. Included in the conference programme was not only a joined survey of the exhibition „Europe meets the World“ in the premises of the National Museum but first and foremost on-site-visits with short guided tours at Fredriksborg castle and Rosenborg castle – including the outer architecture, inner appartements, chapel and garden. During the vistit to Fredriksborg castle I gave my lecture within a section of three Early Career Researchers chaired by the PALATIUM chair Krista De Jonge (Leuven). My paper entitled „The Commemoration of the anti-Ottoman Wars as reflected in the Art and Architecture of Noble Residences in 17th Century Poland-Lithuania“ dealed in comparative manner with two

residences of the Polish magnate and king Jan III. Sobieski – Żółkiew and Wilanów – and their role in the visual representation of the Polish victories in the Anti-Ottoman Wars in the 17th century on the one hand and the adaption of oriental elements in the Polish culture of nobility on the other hand. In both residences the military skills of Jan Sobieski were emphasised. But while the concurrent existence of hostility towards and influence of the Ottoman and Tatar Culture in Żółkiew made the Polish noble residence in the South-East of the Commonwealth an ambivalent place of commemoration of the Ottoman expansion, the residence in Wilanów close to the capital Warsaw shows a program, which positioned itself more in the artistic programmes of Western European courts. The 10-minutes-presentation was followed by 10 minutes of questions from the audience and scientific discussion – which was continued in later talks.

- Description of the main results obtained

The results obtained during the stay can be divided into two groups. First, new impulses concerning residence research which can be made fruitful for the final phase of my PhD project and second, new contacts for possible further collaboration with my project group „Ottoman Orient and Central Eastern Europe (16th – 18th century)“ in Leipzig.

Taking first into account the discussion following my paper and regarding the other papers coming from different court contexts especially from Western and Northern Europe I could get new perspectives on my topic dealing with a Polish residence from the finishing 16th century until the beginning of the 18th century, I could see parallels and differences as well. One interesting result for example that was comparatively observed during the conference is the fact that some iconographical motives are strongly dependent of the spatial, historical and socio-political context they were put in and therefore variable in recognizing through the public and when seen out of context – here to name e.g. the so called „*Mars sarmaticus*“ in Wilanów which in fact is not so different from other *Mars* sculptures but connotated as such by Early Modern Polish authors and audience in the special context of the Polish *Rzeczpospolita*. All over regardable at European courts was a „cosmopolitan dialogue with antiquity“ (K. Ottenheim) in the 16th and 17th century, that is why sometimes antiquity can be as a sign of modernity. Furthermore some traditions and fashions – for example in the area of hunting and (exotic) gift-giving – were spread in nobility all over Europe – Danish Princes for example used Turkish horses imported from Poland. Differences between the

Central Eastern European and the Western European residences often resulted from the dependence of regional wars and the relationships to the immediate neighbours and confessional and dynastical reasons as well, for example the use of trophies and booties. An interesting question to be further – but rather in another research – pursued could be the (not-)reception of cultural elements of the Muscovite Empire/Court in Poland-Lithuania in contrary to the Ottoman – although a neighbour and long-time-enemy of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, too. Examining in case studies the different European courts in their extremely different relationships towards the Habsburg and French courts one could briefly see that „the others were not a monolithic block“ (K. Ottenheim). Generally it was asked for further research more to try to reconstruct the reception and not only the representational frame programme given by the ruler, although this will often be difficult because of lacking sources and filtered perspectives of the existing ones.

The second group of results was rather still informal but nevertheless hopefully fruitful in the future. Learning to know other international scholars (especially from Denmark, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom) either already dealing with or thinking about coming bi-lateral or global projects about the Ottoman Empire, the „East“ in general and e.g. images, relationships, contacts, networks towards this regions in some talks I could initiate an exchange of thoughts about developing cooperation possibilities in this direction.

- Future collaboration with host institution (if applicable)

Though a direct future collaboration with the host institution (National Museum of Denmark) is not foreseen at the moment it gave an important forum to establish contacts to different international researchers for possible further cooperation, especially in the topic of my project group and further on some ideas about possible future projects concerning arts and artistic networks in the Baltic region of the Middle Ages and Early Modern Times.

- Projected publications/articles resulting or to result from your grant

A publication of the conference papers – including the ones of the Early Career Researchers – was announced by the organisers. The material shall be published in the series of the National Museum of Denmark, further details will be submitted to the authors in summer or autumn of this year.

- Other comments (if any)

Concluding I would like to remark that in my opinion the Copenhagen conference was as much as pleasant as fruitful and I would like thankfully to highlight the perfect and extraordinary friendly organisation by the Danish host, namely by Birgitte Bøggild Johanssen from the Danish National Museum and her team.