**Scientific Report, Bamberg Colloquium, 4-6 October 2013**

[**The Interior as an Embodiment of Power, The Image of the Prince and its Spatial Setting (1400-1700**](http://www.courtresidences.eu/index.php/events/workshops-and-colloquia/Bamberg2013/)**):**

**I. Purpose of visit:** ESF-European Science Foundation’s PALATIUM Grant Award, for doctoral and young researchers, enabled my travel from Scotland to Germany to participate at PALATIUM’s Bamberg colloquium. Further its per diem allowance provided maintenance costs for my four days in Bamberg, all of which I am deeply appreciative. This Award also offered me the occasion to present a short paper during the colloquium and have further discussion with PALATIUM participants during these four days. Entitled ‘Mary Stuart’s inner chamber at Holyrood, as statement of sovereignty’, my paper addressed findings on Mary Stuart’s usage of furnishings, as embodiment of power. This work forms part of my current doctoral research at Edinburgh University’s architecture school.

**II. Work carried out during visit**: Attending the Bamberg colloquium provided an outstanding occasion for discussion and exchange with scholars from across Europe. It afforded the opportunity to hear research at the forefront of scholarship, both during the talks themselves and then further discourse taking place during the lunches, dinners and other breaks of this intensive programme. Further, Professor Breitling kindly hosted a welcome reception at home the day prior to the colloquium’s official opening. Adding a fourth day to this rich programme, discussion and exchange was already well underway even before the colloquium’s official commencement.

Bamberg’s rich offerings of visits afforded further study, including the reception and special tour of Neue Residenz palace and the full-day excursion to Heldburg. Both visits served as important case studies, to further illustrate aspects of topics presented in the colloquium’s many papers. Having Professor Breitling, (with intimate knowledge of this substantial restoration project at Heldburg) and other architectural scholars guide our small group through was of utmost value for understanding these important properties and their relevance.

Also serving as keynote speech, Professor Krista de Jonge’s paper provided a critical framework against which all the papers could then be considered, thus inspiring a rich understanding of roles played by interiors, furnishings and spatial settings for expression of power across Europe.

Another significant element emerging from Bamberg was the strategic role of interiors even from as early as the fifteenth century. In my previous review of historiography, scholarship stressed that the concept of interiors only began in the seventeenth century (notably Mme. de Rambouillet’s 1620s creation of the Chambre Bleue). Bamberg absolutely discredits this notion, thus freeing me from these historiographical shackles for my own work on Mary Stuart’s interiors at Holyrood Palace.

**III. Main results obtained, possible collaborations and further advancement:**

Bamberg’s constant exchange of ideas created a very rich palette for studying residences and interiors, as the embodiment of power. Fostered by the framework of the very well-chosen topics of the four Sessions, a number of important themes emerged from these Bamberg papers and, significantly, these criss-crossed century and dynasty. One theme emerging was the depiction, by various European monarchs, of their ancient lineage and particular ways of portrayal. Examples considered at Bamberg ranged from depiction of Charles IV’s ancient lineage in his portrait gallery (Ersek) to the young Tudor dynasty, only founded in1485, as depicted in Holbein’s c.1537 Mural (Lang). Indeed Bamberg papers provided necessary backdrop, for my further assessment of *why* Mary Stuart seems not to have portrayed her ancient, unbroken Stewart lineage in the room used as audience chamber and consultation with privy councillors (this room is the subject of my thesis’ current chapter). These Bamberg contrasts enabled me to tease out reasons she did not want to detract from the absolute monarch role. Coincidentally, during the following week, a Scottish National Portrait Gallery lecture reiterated this point about Mary’s wish that her personal antecedents not detract from the sovereign role, but by drawing upon another example (a contemporary portrait of her). Had I not participated at Bamberg, this important SNPG assessment would have gone unappreciated, strong indication of Bamberg’s and PALATIUM’s importance to my thesis.

Emerging from across Bamberg’s four Sessions, another theme was the deployment of certain furnishings to convey particular aspects of sovereign power, whether majesty, sovereignty or dynasty. The colloquium’s papers provided a comparative framework against which to consider *which* particular power aspect(s) received greatest emphasis, according to individual monarchs and dynasties. For example, emphasising Henry VIII’s majesty and opulent magnificence, the Holbein Mural’s vast scale underscored Tudor aggrandisement, elevating Henry VIII above even the mightiest of his ancient noble magnates.

Another prevailing theme which had great relevance for my own Mary Stuart work was the particular expression of power achieved by female rulers and the types of furnishings they sought to employ, such as the material in Bril’s andCremer’s papers. For these several themes emerging at Bamberg, I continue in regular contact with many participants by email and, in fact, Bamberg has shaped a very special network. Already PALATIUM’s Lisbon colloquium will draw together several of us, for further discussion and exchange. PALATIUM’s colloquia series provides a unique opportunity and international forum. My thesis’ development is enriched beyond measure, by my attending four PALATIUM colloquia and the networks thus emerging.

Research presented at Bamberg also overlaps with current focus by some Edinburgh pre/post-doctoral researchers, thus offering interesting possibilities for further cross-fertilisation and collaboration. I am initiating discussions with faculty and fellow doctoral researchers, whereby Edinburgh can directly benefit from the broadened knowledge emanating from the Bamberg colloquium. One particularly interesting avenue is the possibility for a future interiors-theme symposium, which expands upon comparative research for interiors created by, inter alia, three queen dowagers of France. Firstly, Bril’s work on Anne of Austria’s decorative programme (as above) could offer further interesting comparatives for Mary Stuart’s employment of Valois furnishings at Holyrood. Further comparatives can be found in the work, also underway at Edinburgh, for Marie de Medici’s Luxembourg Palace layout and Rubens paintings cycle (coinciding with her daughter Henrietta Maria’s marriage to Charles I.) Such a symposium could foster further study of Stuart and Valois/Bourbon parallels. There are also preliminary discussions for other possible joint projects to continue these PALATIUM links, further expanding aspects of topics from Bamberg.

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