

Culture and Politics in mid-eighteenth century Europe - the letters of Count Ignaz Maria von Attems-Heiligenkreuz to his father (1734 – 1738)

A digital edition

1. The topic

By the middle of the eighteenth century the so-called Grand Tour had become – for the offspring of wealthy European families – an established way of completing one's education and becoming initiated into the world of international politics, economics and culture at large. This type of travel embraced both higher education at famous universities, visiting centres of political power, attendance of local cultural events, melding with local elite and seeing the foremost sites. It was conceived back in the Renaissance era and remained popular among royal, noble and other influential families until the nineteenth century. In the eighteenth-century English travellers in Europe were by far the most numerous. Consequently, their tours are today the most fully researched and publicised.¹ Similar travels by noblemen from other European countries have so far neither been systematically recorded nor thoroughly researched.

This is why a very little known primary source (family letters) for a typical Grand Tour, undertaken in the 1730s by Ignaz Maria von Attems, a member of a wealthy noble family from the Inner-Austrian capital city of Graz, is of such exceptional value. Not only was Attems a keen observer of contemporary political, economic, religious and cultural life at the places he visited, but his tour is actually the only well-documented case so far discovered of such a travel performed by a member of an influential family from Inner Austria.

Count Ignaz Maria Attems-Heiligenkreuz (Graz, 1714 – Vienna, 1762), the founder of the branch of the Attems family with its seat at Slovenska Bistrica (Ger. Windisch Feistritz), spent four years abroad: from November 1734 to September 1738, the period strongly marked by the Polish succession war, which shaped the Austrian youth, too. From his native Graz in Styria Ignaz Attems travelled first to the North, to Würzburg and some other German towns, the first half of the year 1735 he studied in Prague and later he inscribed himself to the University of Leiden as *candidatus iuris*. In July 1737 he finished with his official university education and travelled to Belgium, France and finally to Italy, where he remained from late 1737 to September 1738. After his return to Graz he was appointed, starting in 1739, to a series of high positions in the Inner-Austrian government and the Habsburg court in Vienna.

¹ Cf. e.g. Jeremy Black (ed.), *The British Abroad. The Grand Tour in the Eighteenth Century*, 2013; a lot of primary sources are offered by <<http://www.grandtour.amdigital.co.uk/>> (accessed: 22.8.2018; feel! Access to the websites mentioned below 22.9.2018, too).

His travels in Europe are documented not only by the thirty-four surviving letters (in German) that he sent to his father in Graz but also by other documents, such as the surviving musical scores brought back from this tour (now housed by the Provincial Archives of Maribor).

2. The primary sources

Ignaz von Attems's tour followed perfectly the established pattern: he learned about politics, warfare, economy and law especially in northern Europe (in his case, the various German-speaking states of the Holy Roman Empire, including the United Provinces of Flanders), while he concentrated on the arts in France and Italy. The 34 letters in German (preserved as deposit in the Steiermärkisches Landesarchiv in Graz, Familienarchiv Attems, Briefe des Grafen Ignaz Attems, K. 19, H. 87) are not only very informative on his education but also constitute a rich source for the history of many everyday aspects – routes, costs, transport, accommodation, health, clothing, university education, tutoring by a *Hoffmaister*, religious issues, economic debates, descriptions of the foremost sites and artistic wonders of the time, etc. Furthermore, he provided his father with current news and didn't fail to inform him of some of his visits to music events, concerts, dances and operatic productions, too.

THE LIST OF LETTERS

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Würzburg, 16. 11. 1734 | 18. Amsterdam, 6. 10. 1736 |
| 2. Würzburg, 15. 12. 1734 | 19. Leiden, 7. 10. 1736 |
| 3. Würzburg, 8. 1. 1735 | 20. Leiden, 17. 1. 1737 |
| 4. Würzburg, 16. 2. 1735 | 21. Leiden, 12. 3. 1737 |
| 5. Würzburg, 19. 6. 1735 | 22. Leiden, 9. 4. 1737 |
| 6. Würzburg, 24. 7. 1735 | 23. Leiden, 3. 5. 1737 |
| 7. Mainz, 4. 9. 1735 | 24. Leiden, 14. 5. 1737 |
| 8. Mannheim, 24. 9. 1735 | 25. Leiden, 28. 5. 1737 |
| 9. Prague, 26. 11. 1735 | 26. Leiden, 11. 6. 1737 |
| 10. Prague, 30. 11. 1735 | 27. Brüssel, 14. 7. 1737 |
| 11. Prague, 25. 1. 1736 | 28. Paris, 31. 7. 1737 |
| 12. Prague, 25. 2. 1736 | 29. Paris, 26. 9. 1737 |
| 13. Prague, 13. 3. 1736 | 30. Bologna, 11. 12. 1737 |
| 14. Prague, 19. 5. 1736 | 31. Rome, 4. 1. 1738 |
| 15. Mainz, 11. 9. 1736 | 32. Rome, 18. 1. 1738 |
| 16. Leiden, 18. 9. 1736 | 33. Rome, 22. 2. 1738 |
| 17. Haag, 28. 9. 1736 | 34. Trieste, 5. 10. 1738 |

3. Aims and working methods

The principal aim of the proposed digital edition is to make the publicly available for further research. A digital edition of Attems's letters will, naturally, profit from some

already published examples of critical epistolary editions worldwide, such as for example the Yale edition of *Horace Walpole's Correspondence*, the digital edition of Thomas Gray's correspondence, *The Grand Tour Correspondence of Richard Pococke and Jeremiah Milles* (Pococke Press 2012), to mention just a few² that are of direct relevance to the time and places of Attems's.

The research team will create a digital edition, which consists of the facsimiles of the letters (approval already granted by Dr. Johannes Attems), a diplomatic transcription and a scholarly comment, in English, on persons and places. We're optimistic, that our schedule permits a detailed commentary, especially on the musical performances, not at least because the research-team consists of some leading experts in this field.

By using special analytical methods and encoding practices (the modules of the TEI-XML elements that are especially suited to this kind of material), the digital edition will:

- a) encompass the complex content of Attems's letters in a machine-readable way to the greatest extent;
- b) make this content explicit by means of indexes and hyperlinks;
- c) connect this content with scholarly commentary and finally;
- d) publish the content in a user-friendly html rendering, suitable for reading and browsing, in open access on the web for further dissemination (free download of the complete edition included).

The edition will also take advantage of the already published models such as critical edition of various sources, especially epistolary documents, already published by the group of Matija Ogrin (see for example the published correspondence of Žiga Zois: <http://nl.ijs.si/e-zrc/zois/index-en.html>).

The edition is accessible via the web-site of the "Kommission für Neuere Geschichte Österreichs" (<http://www.oesterreichische-geschichte.at/>) and the Slovenian Society for Eighteenth Century Studies (<http://sd18.zrc-sazu.si/>). The long-term storage will be provided by the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

4. Research team

The team consists of leading experts in the fields of eighteenth-century politics and culture in general, music history in particular from Austria and Slovenia. It's an interdisciplinary research group of historians (Gabriele Haug-Moritz, Marlies Raffler, Miha Preinfalk, Željko Oset), literary and art historian (Luka Vidmar), musicologists

²<<https://walpole.library.yale.edu/collections/digital-resources/horace-walpole-correspondence>>; <<http://www.thomasgray.org/>>; Rachel Finnegan (ed.), Letters from abroad. The grand tour correspondence of Richard Pococke & Jeremia Milles, 3 vol., 2011-2013.

(Metoda Kokole, Michael Walter) and specialists in Digital Humanities (Matija Ogrin, Jona Javoršek).³

The project will be directed by Gabriele Haug-Moritz and Metoda Kokole.

5. Operational program

The edition will be prepared in seven stages (some of them overlapping; with tasks shared among the involved researchers in Slovenia and Austria):

	To do	Responsible
Month 1	acquisition of the scanned copies of the original letters and preparation of reproductions for the facsimiles to be edited	Gabriele Haug-Moritz / Marlies Raffler
	formation of the editorial committee and establishment of the editorial methods	Matija Ogrin, Metoda Kokole and Austrian partners
Months 2-4	diplomatic transcription of German texts	Gabriele Haug-Moritz / Marlies Raffler
Months 3-4	identification of names and textual structures to be encoded as TEI elements	Metoda Kokole and Miha Preinfalk
Months 5 - 11	research on topics that will need further clarification and writing comments on identified names of persons and places; finding links to already existing published materials	Metoda Kokole, Miha Preinfalk, Luka Vidmar, Željko Oset, Austrian partners
	the encoding of the identified structures as TEI-XML elements, the beta version of the digital edition published on the web	Matija Ogrin and Jona Javoršek

³ Gabriele Haug-Moritz (University of Graz); <https://homepage.uni-graz.at/de/gabriele.haugmoritz/>; Marlies Raffler (University of Graz); <https://geschichte.uni-graz.at/de/geschichte-der-fruehen-neuzeit/mitarbeiterinnen/marlieseraffler/>; Miha Preinfalk (Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts); <http://zimk.zrc-sazu.si/en/sodelavci/miha-preinfalk-en#v>; Željko Oset (University of Nova Gorica); Luka Vidmar (Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts); <http://isllv.zrc-sazu.si/en/sodelavci/luka-vidmar-en#v>; (Metoda Kokole, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts); <http://mi.zrc-sazu.si/en/sodelavci/metoda-kokole-en#v>; Michael Walter (University of Graz); <https://musikwissenschaft.uni-graz.at/de/institut/mitarbeiterinnen/>; Matija Ogrin (Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts); <http://isllv.zrc-sazu.si/en/sodelavci/matija-ogrin-en#v>; Jona Javoršek (Jožef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana).

Month 12	corrections and amendments followed by the public version of the digital edition and its opening for free access	Matija Ogrin and Jona Javoršek
----------	--	--------------------------------

7. Outlook

We understand our project just as a starting point for further cooperation on the topic. Thus, if funding is available, the digital edition can be enhanced by further research into the manifold subjects of the Attems letters, from the eighteenth-century contemporary history to the history of everyday life, including archival work and comparative analysis of other primary sources.