

## Eagles Looking East and West – Dynasty, Ritual and Representation in Habsburg Hungary and Spain.

Edited by Tibor Martí and Roberto Quirós Rosado.

Habsburg Worlds 4. Turnhout: Brepols, 2021. 338 pp.

Dóra Baráth 

Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Institute of History, Doctoral School of History, 1088 Budapest, Mikszáth Kálmán tér 1; [barath.dora93@gmail.com](mailto:barath.dora93@gmail.com)

This book is the fourth volume in the series *Habsburg Worlds* from Brepols, and explores the lands under the rule of the Habsburg Dynasty, including both the Spanish and the Austrian branches, focusing on several different aspects of the history of these regions. The series aims to “foster an interdisciplinary and comparative approach necessary for studying the manifold of languages, cultures, history and traditions.” The volume entitled *Eagles Looking East and West – Dynasty, Ritual and Representation in Habsburg Hungary and Spain* fits well with this approach: the research papers focus on the Eastern or Western domains of the dynasty, while examining similar aspects.

In recent years, the topic of relations between the Spanish and Austrian branches—the Central European *Habsburgermonarchie* and the *Monarquía de España*—have been well researched in thematic volumes, but mostly with a focus on diplomatic relations and cultural transfer, respectively—and according to the references given in the introductory study of the volume, were in Spanish, not English, which made them less accessible to Central Europeans. Compared to the earlier research of the dynasty that traditionally emphasised diplomatic and military history approaches, the authors of this volume focus on the symbolic political communication and forms of representation of power by the rulers, which thus far has not been at the heart of research. Since the turn of the millennium, however, the study of ceremonies, rituals, and symbolic manifestations of courtly society has been significantly strengthened and enriched with new methodological approaches at an international level. This volume attempts to apply these new research approaches to the interpretation of the cultural and political working mechanisms of the courts of the Austrian and Spanish Habsburgs. The volume is edited by Tibor Martí, a research fellow from the Early Modern History Research Team of the RCH (Research Centre

for the Humanities) Institute of History, and Roberto Quirós Rosado, an assistant professor of Modern History at the Autonomous University of Madrid. The fact that the editors have Hungarian and Spanish origins (and their research areas concern their own countries' histories) reinforces the duality of the book's perspective, which is always beneficial in research, as the texts present the realms of the dynasty in relation to the differences and similarities of their geographic locations and cultures. The declared aim of the volume is to stimulate research into Spanish-Hungarian relations (not only during the times examined by these studies, but also during the eighteenth century), which has been complicated because of distance and language barriers.

The edited, augmented and revised papers from the international conference *The Representations of Power and Sovereignty in the Kingdom of Hungary and the Spanish Monarchy in the 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Centuries*, which took place in Budapest on 5 and 6 April 2016, organized by the Institute of History of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, have been published on nearly 350 pages. The studies were written by Hungarian, Spanish, and Czech researchers, and are a milestone of cooperative research between Hungarian and Spanish historians.

In the preface, three insights are identified by the editors. First, the new results in the research into the representation of sovereignty in the early modern period have not yet been available to the Anglophone public. This volume is in English, in contrast to the previous one in the series, thus is easily accessible to the growing number of English-speaking researchers. Second, such research can only be fruitful through international comparison, especially in the case of a dynasty like the Habsburgs, which involved widespread domains. Third, through the research it is apparent that, beyond symbolism and representation, the resources (natural, economic, military, intellectual) of the Early Modern Hungarian Kingdom played a more important role in terms of their Habsburg influence in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries than previously thought.

The introductory study by the two editors starts with a report by the Spanish ambassador in Vienna from Sopron (in 1622) about a feast following the coronation of Eleonora Anna Gonzaga, Ferdinand II's second wife, at which the second dance (after one between the emperor and the empress) was between the empress and the Spanish ambassador, thus representing the relationship between the two dominions of the dynasty, Hungary and Spain.

In their study, the editors outline another aim: "to facilitate comparison by structuring the volume so as to let individual studies outline the shared and differing characteristics and elements of the representation of power across the two Habsburg branches" (p. 23). The case studies in the volume allow for comparison of propagandistic goals and various means and shared practices, which cannot be done

by a single researcher or in a monograph. Studies that focus on the Hungarian or Spanish dominion alternate in this book, further facilitating comparison, but they also follow a chronological order, from the fifteenth century until the beginning of the eighteenth century. However, the comparison has to be made by the reader, as many of the studies deal with only one of the aforementioned dominions.

The editors have divided the studies in the volume into two thematic sections. Part I examines the ceremonies and dynastic representation of the Habsburg dynasty. Coronation rituals are the focus in the majority of the papers, but some of them also deal with funerals, which were also important events of dynastic representation. Géza Pálffy explores the heraldic representation of dynasties in Central Europe at funerals and coronations from the fifteenth to the early seventeenth century. Alfredo Floristán Imízcoz gives a panoramic view of rituals of majesty during the inauguration of reigns in the Kingdom of Navarre in comparison with those in Castile, Aragon, Valencia, and Catalonia in the sixteenth century. Borbála Gulyás shows the coronations and court festivals of two kings, Maximilian I (as Emperor Maximilian II) and Rudolf I (as Emperor Rudolf II) in Bratislava (Pressburg). The paper by Václav Bůžek and Pavel Marek focuses on the Imperial funeral rituals of the same Rudolf II. János Kalmár examines the proclamation and accession of Archduke Charles (later Emperor Charles VI) to the Aragonese kingship in the era of the War of the Spanish Succession. The political representation of coronations and sovereigns appears in the study of Nóra G. Etényi, who presents the printed political representations of the coronation of Joseph I in Hungary. The last paper in the first thematic section is written by Fanni Hende, who studies the political representation of Hungarian kings, focusing on the aforementioned rulers Joseph I and Charles III (Charles VI as Emperor).

Part II presents the political interactions, self-representations and internal dynastic affairs between the Eastern and Western branches of the dynasty. Zoltán Korpás studies the fraternal relationship of Charles V and Ferdinand I and their attitudes towards Hungary. Rubén González Cuerva examines the cooperation between the two Habsburg branches after the wedding in 1631 of Ferdinand III of Hungary and Maria Anna, the Spanish infanta, by showing the changes in the iconography of the dynasty. Tibor Monostori writes about the ideas that sustained and upheld the military and political power of the Spanish Monarchy in the seventeenth century by examining the essays of Diego de Saavedra Fajardo, where the example of Hungary is used in argumentation when asking for support for Spain and the dynasty against their enemies. The studies of Cristina Bravo Lozano and Zsolt Kökényesi explore the topic of court life—however, with significantly different approaches. The former shows the importance of etiquette in the operation of Spanish diplomats in the United Provinces in 1649 (in the year after the Peace of Westphalia), while the latter

presents the relationship networks of the noble elite using the example of shooting competitions that took place at the Viennese court of Charles VI. The two editors in their studies both focus on function of the Order of the Golden Fleece. Tibor Martí explores the aims and motivations of the dynasty behind the conferrals of membership of the Order, and shows the importance of membership in the careers of Hungarians who joined it. Roberto Quirós Roasdo studies the War of Spanish Succession and the religious-political ceremonials of the Order in Vienna. The volume ends with an index of names, which will be of great help to future researchers.

The studies use different sources and different methods and look at different aspects, but several characteristic features of the display of power recur, such as the confessional nature of displays (*Pietas Austriaca* and *Pietas Hispanica*) and various manifestations and portrayals of the common origin of the two branches. The introductory study summarizes and briefly introduces all of the other studies in the book; however, it is not entirely balanced: for some, it goes into great depth, using a whole paragraph, while for others it gives only a sentence description to the reader. However, the various topics and approaches attract our interest, and the names of the editors and writers guarantee the quality of the volume—therefore this volume should be read by anyone who is interested in the history of the Habsburg Dynasty and their dominions.

