

STIPENDIENBERICHT

Name: **Monika Vitovská Slezáková**
Heimatuniversität: **Karlsuniversität Prag**
Zieluniversität: **Universität Wien**
Zielinstitut: **Institut für österreichische Geschichtsforschung**
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1. Research

My project entitled The reflection of the posthumous magie in the administration of the Habsburg monarchy in the 17th and 18th centuries represents a significant part of my dissertation, which aims to provide a complete picture of the posthumous magie on the Moravian-Silesian border in the early modern history. I deal with this issue since my bachelor's studies and within my dissertation I would like to take this topic more comprehensively. In this context, my main objective was to determine whether and, if so, how central authorities of the Habsburg Monarchy approached to the query of posthumous magie and how was this issue reflected within documents, such as regulations and instruction. The second task was the comparison of cases from the Czech lands with instances that occurred in the Austrian part of Serbia in the same period.

To answer the stated questions helped me mostly the archival research carried out in the branches of the Austrian State Archives, namely Allgemeines Verwaltungsarchiv, Finanz- und Hofkammerarchiv, Kriegsarchiv and Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv, where I managed to find important sources. Although a number of materials were destroyed during the fire of Justizpalast in 1927, the preserved sources allowed me to answer the necessary inquiries. Based on the study can be determined that although posthumous magie can be perceived as a part of the wider complex of popular belief in general, first of all represented the peculiar cultural phenomenon. Despite the fact that similar phenomena were reflected across Europe (mostly in Serbia), had posthumous magie in form, in which appeared on Moravian-Silesian border in the studied

period, distinctive characteristics and showed a close resemblance to the witch belief, which along with the belief in revenants formed the basis for a specific form of ritual whose aim was to remove inconvenient people from the community. Moreover, Austrian Authorities weren't informed over the years about what is happening in northern Moravia. Later based on the direction of Maria Theresa intervened in the last case from the years 1754-1755. Until then the matter was despite the considerable mass character solved only on the local level.

This archival research I continuously complement by study of professional literature and period treatises in the University Library and the Austrian National Library. While the current historical production could help me to compare the knowledge that gained with different historiographical approaches, period prints on witchcraft and vampirism in general helped me to clarify how scholarly circles considered this issue. To the outlined study I would like to devote intensively for the remainder of my stay.

The third aspect of my research which I highly appreciate were professional consultations with the supervisor Univ.-Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Thomas Winkelbauer (Institute of Austrian Historical Research and History Department), who put me in touch with scholars dedicated to the stated theme and period. Ao. Univ.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Christoph Augustynowicz (Department of East European History) recommended me very kindly important literature and MMMag. Franz-Stefan Seitschek (Allgemeines Verwaltungsarchiv, Finanz- und Hofkammerarchiv) helped me to find required archival units. This cooperation relieved me of the research and enabled to work with relevant sources from the beginning of my stay.

2. Organization

I would like to highlight primarily the perfect organization by the OeAD Regional Office Vienna as well as OeAD Housing Office, which provided for the accommodation. I appreciate particularly great communication, ongoing awareness and willingness to help at any time. Regarding the financial aspects, the scholarship amount was sufficient, but given the price of accommodation, meals and having to pay fees in

research institutions I can imagine a slightly higher amount.