

WORK GROUP 1 – PAPER IN MOTION

1ST WORKSHOP

PAPER AND POWER

January 17th 2020

ARCHIVO GENERAL DE SIMANCAS
Valladolid, Spain

Our seminar in Simancas will give us a chance to start addressing the complex relations between paper and power. As one of the most important repositories of documentary information about the Hispanic Monarchy, Simancas and its papers constitute excellent case studies for the complex macro-economic and administrative structures that were created as a result of the gradual expansion of trade and finance on a global level, on the one hand, and on the other the creation of the modern state. The age of exploration had opened new paths for imperial conquest and expansion which relied for its management on a sophisticated bureaucratic machine based on the use of paper and its circulation throughout domestic and global networks. We can, in short, talk about a new era of state administration by paper, a new age of paper money and paper-based financial exchanges.

The history of paper and its arrival in Europe across the Mediterranean, from the Far East, through the Muslim world, and eventually on to the rest of the globe, constitutes in itself an interesting case study for the material mobility of a new medium that contributed to a revolution in communication, knowledge and administration. The availability of paper, its inexpensive nature, and its inherent capacity to register and circulate information quickly facilitated a new age of information towards the end of the Middle Ages. Only now, more than 700 years after its arrival in Europe, with the new digital formats, has paper found a serious competitor.



Schedule:

8:30 Departure from Valladolid

9:00 Arrival in Simancas and the Archive

9:30 Opening Remarks

Giovanni Tarantino, University of Florence, Chair of the PIMo COST Action

10:00 Introduction to the archive and guided visit

Joaquín Pérez Melero, Archivo de Simancas, Chief Archivist for Description and Conservation

11:00 Keynote address:

Paper and Power: General Methodological Approaches and Simancas as a Case Study – José María Pérez Fernández, University of Granada

12:00 – 12:30 Break

12:30 – 14:00 Morning panel:

Competing Papers. Franco-Spanish Rivalry in Early Modern Rome – Lana Martysheva, European University Institute, Florence

The material infrastructure of preaching as powerful form of communication – Pietro Delcorno, Raboud University Nijmegen, Netherlands

Ordering maritime movements in Ancien Régime France – Ellen Krefting, University of Oslo

The role of administrative and commercial print in the early modern Mediterranean: the Maltese case study – William Zammit, University of Malta

14:00 – 15:30 Lunch.

16:00 – 17:30 Afternoon panel:

Knowledge and Power in Early Modern Scientific Communication: Some Examples from the Correspondence of the Royal Society of London with the Mediterranean – Iordan Avramov, Bulgarian Academy of Science, Sofia

Found in Translation: the recounting of Hacı Hüseyin Efendi's diplomatic mission to Naples (1741) reloaded – Rosita D'Amora, Salento University, Lecce

The correspondence of the activity of the Pan-Albanian immigration society Vatra on 1919 – Deona Çali, Active Learning Lab, Albania

The Path of a Rediscovered Dante's Codex – Tilen Glavina, Science and Research Center, Koper, Slovenia

17:30 Concluding session and debate with proposals for the forthcoming conference in Granada in 2021 and eventual publications.

19:00 – Departure from Simancas to Valladolid

ABSTRACTS

Guided Visit and Introduction to the Archive

Joaquín Pérez Melero
Chief Archivist for Description and Conservation
Archivo de Simancas

The visit will provide an account of the history of the archive and its spaces, both of which are closely linked to the Hispanic Monarchy, and in particular to King Philip II. His father, Charles V had already created an archive whose original purpose was the safe keeping of documents with the most relevant royal grants and rights. Philip II would then turn it into the chief and most important archive of the Hispanic Monarchy by means of an unprecedentedly modern and innovative political and administrative project. Whereas paper-based documents constituted the material backbone of royal power, the distribution, collection and centralization of information from the vast realms under Philippine control amounted to a nervous system that facilitated the administration of the first modern global empire. If Charles V had been a warrior king, running his affairs from atop his horse in all the important battlefields where his interests were at stake, Philip II was a bureaucrat monarch who ran the world from his desk. Simancas is patent proof of it. The archival project rests upon three main pillars. The first of them is the architectonic design. Philip II appointed Juan de Herrera for the job, who applied his austere style to a very functional design to serve its main purpose as a material repository for enormous amounts of documents, their classification and administration. The second pillar for the Project consisted in the appointment of a competent archivist. Philip II chose Diego de Ayala, who as an expert royal secretary was thoroughly familiar with the complex mechanisms and even the most intricate nooks and corners within the administrative networks of the monarchy. The third pillar was the elaboration of a specific normative corpus for the administration of the archive itself. This charter (“Instrucciones para el Gobierno del Archivo de Simancas”) was put into effect in 1561 and officially sanctioned in 1588. The archive thus became an efficient instrument at the service of the monarchy until 1844, when it ceased to function as an administrative archive and became a historical archive.

Paper and Power: General Methodological Approaches and Simancas as a Case Study

José María Pérez Fernández
University of Granada, Spain

The history of paper and its arrival in Europe across the Mediterranean, from the Far East, through the Muslim world, and eventually on to the rest of the globe, constitutes in itself an interesting case study for the material mobility of a new medium that contributed to a revolution in communication, knowledge and administration. The availability of paper, its inexpensive nature, and its inherent capacity to register and circulate information quickly facilitated a new age of information towards the end of the Middle Ages. Only now, more than 700 years after its arrival in Europe, with the new digital formats, has paper found a serious competitor.

As one of the most important repositories of documentary information about the Hispanic Monarchy, Simancas and its papers constitute excellent case studies for the complex macro-economic and administrative structures that were created as a result of the gradual expansion of trade and finance on a global level, on the one hand, and on the other the creation of the modern state. The age of exploration had opened new paths for imperial conquest and expansion which relied for its management on a sophisticated bureaucratic machine based on the use of paper and its circulation throughout domestic and global networks. We can, in short, talk about a new era of state administration by paper, a new age of paper money and paper-based financial exchanges, as well as an era during which the redefinition of traditional disciplines of knowledge, the enlargement of their scope, and the creation of new ones, were all conducted through new methods for the registration and exchange of information and knowledge in a diversity of paper formats.

This keynote will survey strategies that involve paper as a medium for the establishment of three different types, but closely related, forms of hegemony: administration, finance, and scholarship, or in other words, political, economic and cultural hegemony.

Competing Papers. Franco-Spanish Rivalry in Early Modern Rome.

Lana Martysheva

European University Institute, Florence

The struggle for power and prestige that two major Catholic powers, France and Spain, conducted in Early Modern Rome is a well-known historiographical topic. M. A. Visceglia and others have revealed the expression of this competition in various ceremonies and celebrations. Yet, it has been my observation that the role of paper from this point of view is still understudied. This presentation will thus focus on various types of paper in motion containing texts and images. Specifically, it will question the role of French and Spanish diplomatic networks in the circulation of paper-based political information in Rome. The goal is to analyse rival strategies to spread information and to limit the competitor's diffusion and therefore influence. I will focus on an essential transitional period: the end of the Sixteenth Century. France was getting out of the Wars of religion and thus starting to rebuild its positions in the Papal Rome, while Spain was trying to maintain its dominance. This was a crucial time of a new beginning in an old competition, that is to say: a heuristical opportunity to apprehend the strategies at play within the politico-cultural construction of "facts".

The material infrastructure of preaching as powerful form of communication

Pietro Delcorno

Raboud University (Nijmegen, Netherlands)

In large part of fifteenth- and sixteenth-century Europe, preaching was the most effective medium of religious instruction, able to reach and influence large strata of society. This contribution will focus on the texts that were produced to support and promote this powerful form of communication, with a specific attention to Lenten sermon collections that were printed in massive numbers before the Reformation. As working tools used by the professionals of the communication of the time, these texts greatly contributed to the circulation and organization of ideas. Still largely overlooked by scholars, this vast ocean of paper constituted the textual and material infrastructure that shaped and oriented the preachers' actual oral performances across Europe. My presentation will briefly discuss three key aspects: first, the way sermon collections – as objects made of paper and ink – were powerful tools to organize, control, transmit religious, moral, and political knowledge; second, the way sermons are to be considered within an oral-

written continuum; third, how this type of material medium for communication was structurally connected with the construction of a (temporary) community, gathered around (or by) a preacher – a community bound by shared ideas and emotions.

Ordering maritime movements in Ancien Régime France

Ellen Krefting
Oslo University, Norway

L'ordonnance de la marine issued by Louis 14/Colbert in 1681 was the first unified, national attempt to codify "all maritime matters". It covered areas from port administration, practices of navigation and shipping contracts to fisheries, pertaining to the Mediterranean as well as the Atlantic oceans. I will give a short introduction of this regulatory document, which demonstrates the role of paperwork, information systems and archiving for political power in the Colbert-period, and more particularly for the administrative government of maritime movements (of ships, goods, fish, people - and paper, such as ship's logs).

The role of administrative and commercial print in the early modern Mediterranean: the Maltese case study

William Zammit
University of Malta

The presentation will focus primarily on secular administrative and business transaction printed matter, mostly in the form of single-sheet items and that increasingly became a standard feature of the Maltese administrative and commercial life particularly – but not exclusively – following the permanent introduction of printing facilities on the island in 1756. Besides fulfilling a much-required role, indeed contributing towards the development of a modern state bureaucracy and of a commercial infrastructure, such printed matter could still serve – mostly through its decorative elements – as a means for the reinforcing of the notion of statehood in the minds of the common subjects in whose lives such printed matter was gradually assuming a significant importance. Specific examples of such material will include Bills of Health, Bills of Lading, Bills of Exchange and Pawning bills.

Knowledge and Power in Early Modern Scientific Communication: Some Examples from the Correspondence of the Royal Society of London with the Mediterranean

Iordan Avramov
The Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia

That knowledge is power was clear to the “founding fathers” of the Royal Society of London. Their first secretary, Henry Oldenburg, created his correspondence network as an information empire which would make knowledge generated in all parts of the world stream into London “as to a center.” To know nature in this way was to possess her and the connection between this power and its extension via technology and trade networks into social and political power was also well understood. For this reason, Oldenburg letters contain a lot of evidence of the interplay between knowledge and power. On one hand, the correspondence was designed to empower the distant correspondents in their search after nature, but also to give the Society some control on the results of this search. On the other hand, there was an explicit focus on knowledge which would be useful in practical ways helping trades and arts. Finally, there was also direct contact with the political power either as a factor obstructing the free exchange of knowledge in the Republic of Letters or

as a friendly force helping scientific correspondence in achieving its goals. In my talk I shall survey such aspects of the topic using examples of Oldenburg correspondence with the Mediterranean.

Found in Translation: the recounting of Hacı Hüseyin Efendi's diplomatic mission to Naples (1741) reloaded.

Rosita D'Amora
Università del Salento (Lecce, Italy)

On the 31st of August 1741, Hacı Hüseyin Efendi, a special envoy of the Ottoman Sultan Mahmud I, arrived in Naples with a large retinue and rich gifts for King Carlo di Borbone. The visit of the Ottoman envoy was celebrating the signing of a Treaty of peace, commerce and navigation between the Ottoman Empire and the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies drawn up in Constantinople on the 7th of April 1740.

Hacı Hüseyin Efendi spent almost two months in Naples during which he was attentively looked after by the Neapolitan Court but he died shortly after his return to Istanbul. The Neapolitan representative in Constantinople, Niccolò di Maio, announcing in a letter the unexpected death of the Ottoman envoy, commented that it would have been better if Hacı Hüseyin Efendi had died before his return so he would not have been able to complain unfairly about the way he was treated in Naples.

So far, Hacı Hüseyin Efendi's assumed dissatisfaction about his stay in the Neapolitan capital has not emerged in any archival document, nor has the recounting of the journey and the experience of the Ottoman envoy been found in the Ottoman archives. On the contrary, the Neapolitan documents recording the visit of the Ottoman envoy all have a very celebratory tone extolling the diplomatic success of the newly established Bourbon Kingdom.

However, a French translation of a memorandum that Hacı Hüseyin Efendi seems to have presented to Mahmud I upon his return, that I recently found in the Archivio di Stato di Napoli, sheds new light on this event. This paper will examine the narrative of Hacı Hüseyin Efendi's memorandum about his diplomatic mission, surviving through its French translation, and will place it within the context of the production of paper-based state documents both in the Ottoman and Neapolitan court, as well as the power projection policies that they promote.

The correspondence of the activity of the Pan-Albanian immigration society Vatra on 1919

Deona Çali
Aleksandër Moisiu University (Durrës, Albania)

The paper examines the activity of representatives of these societies in European chancelleries as well as in the US Senate during the Paris Peace Conference. Its purpose is to answer the question of which was the role of correspondence as a communication tool in the coordination of the internal policies and the presentation of the Albanian issue in the US Senate and in the European chancelleries. Through this paper, I examine their activity to help the national cause. The Pan-Albanian Federation of America Vatra was formed on April 28, 1912, by the merge of societies "Besa-Besen", "Flamuri i Krujes", "Kombëtare and Dallendyshja". Leaving London after the signature of truce, Mehmed Bej Konica, the London delegate of Vatra, hurried to Albania from where in collaboration with Myfit Bej Libohova gathered in Durrës a National Assembly aiming the election of an Executive National Committee. Besides the Albanians settled early in America who united to give their help for the national cause it is very interesting the collaboration and cooperation as honorary delegates to Vatra of Miss Edith Durham, M-Elle Elise Aubry and Aubrey Herbert. The correspondence among these delegates in the United Kingdom and the leaders of Vatra is very important to understand the reasons which brought the

postponement of the Albanian question which was part of the Adriatic issue during the Peace Conference and its admission to the League of Nations without defined borders. In the paper will also, be analyzed the role of the written press used by Vatra as a medium of information specifically of the Dielli journal published in the Albanian language with the purpose to inform the Albanian nationals also the Adriatic Review published in English which was sent to the US Senate.

The Path of a Rediscovered Dante's Codex

Tilen Glavina

Science and Research Centre Koper (Slovenia)

Before the invention of print and book, illuminated manuscripts and incunabula were objects that symbolised their prestigious cultural and economic value, which was evident in part from their trade and circulation. Most manuscripts were commissioned by wealthy and powerful educated families, copied and illustrated by professional copyists and craft workshops. In the 14th and 15th centuries the serial production and trade of Dante Alighieri's poem *Divine Comedy* in manuscript was at its peak. A case study of such a Dante codex transcribed in Izola (Slovenia) will be presented at the workshop of Simancas, describing the history, modalities and possible reasons for its production, purchase and circulation. There are several mysteries and curiosities related to the mobility of Izola manuscripts, with one of the most interesting being the history of the "Venetian codex". Thanks to the podestà, notary Petrus Campenni, a native of Tropea and resident of Izola, in 1395 transcribed the entire commentary on Dante's *Divine Comedy* written by Benvenuto da Imola, after Boccaccio the most important commentator on Dante. Because the commentary had been finished only some dozens of years previously, it was the most up to date means of tackling Dante's text. Over 630 years, the manuscript has travelled almost the entire world but been admired by only a few collectors; in fact, every trace of it was completely lost at one point until 1870. Apparently, the codex had reached Spain and remained there for about 400 years, when it was found by the German antiquarian Paul Gottschalk (1880–1970), who sold it in the United States, where it was later bought by the publisher Leo Olschki. Following the advice of senator Francesco Salata, Benito Mussolini bought the codex in 1935 and donated it to the Venetian Marciana Library.

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