

Thematic Strand “King” Maria Theresa

This and the following issue of *Povijesni prilozi* include a thematic section called “King Maria Theresa” with papers presented at the scholarly conference with international participation, organized by the Croatian History Museum, Croatian State Archive, and Croatian History Institute, which took place in Zagreb, 10-11 April 2017. Fifteen scholars from Croatia and five from other countries participated at the symposium. It is noteworthy that Empress Maria Theresa (1717-1780), the main topic of our conference, besides the fact that she was one of the most long-lived rulers of the Austrian lands and the only female ruler from the House of Habsburg (r. 1740-1780), is known in Croatian and European history for her many reforms, which primarily aimed at improving the operation of bureaucracy in the Habsburg Monarchy. Since the conference aimed at presenting to the public some insufficiently researched or unknown aspects of the military, social, and cultural life of the Croatian and neighbouring lands in “Maria Theresa’s century,” the present issue of *Povijesni prilozi* features four papers that describe precisely these phenomena and their development. Thus, V. Popovici focuses on the evolution of Transylvanian infantry regiments in the 18th century, analysing the military, economic, and religious dimensions of these processes to make conclusions about the short- and medium-term implications for the society as a whole. Since Empress Maria Theresa relied to a considerable extent on the *Grenzer* troops, especially those created over the centuries in the Military Border region, in the successful wars that she conducted throughout her reign, J. Balić has focused in his paper on the reception of these troops in British newspapers, analysing the way in which their appearance and their combat style, considerably different from traditional warfare, were perceived abroad. One of the prerequisites for successful governance was the acknowledgment and confirmation of succession along the female line, and the right to the title of the Habsburg ruler, granted as early as 1712 by the Croatian nobility in the Pragmatic Sanction. This segment has been the subject of I. Jukić’s paper, who has presented the complex socio-political situation and the interests of individual members of the Habsburg dynasty and the Croatian nobility exhaustively and with a number of new insights. After the subsection concerning the military defence of the territory and

the political acknowledgment of Maria Theresa’s rule, I. Horbec has presented the bureaucratic reforms as another process crucial for this period. Her paper focuses on the establishment and organization of the Political and Cameral Sciences programme, launched in Varaždin in 1769, with references to the development of a state-controlled educational system and a critical overview of its efficiency and impact in the Croatian lands during the 18th century.

Vedran Klaužer, thematic strand editor