Cæsari in mis omni hora fidelis servivi: The Portraits of Sigismund Herberstein and Walter Leslie in Diplomatic Robes

Abstract

This paper discusses the portraits of two imperial ambassadors to the Ottoman Porte, Sigismund Baron Herberstein, who met with Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent in 1541, and Walter Count Leslie, who led the Grand Embassy to Sultan Mehmed IV in 1665–1666. The portraits are discussed in the context of their commissions, focusing on the diplomatic robes and the self-representative intentions of the commissioners. Herberstein’s decision to illustrate his autobiographical works with full body portraits is presented in the context of glorifying poems printed in some prestigious editions of his works, and in the context of the family’s portrait galleries. New light is shed on the painted portraits of Walter Leslie based on documents from the family archives, as well as on engraved portraits of the ambassador illustrating the travelogue of his mission.

Keywords: Sigismund Herberstein (1486–1566), Walter Leslie (1606–1667), imperial ambassadors, portrait, Donat Hübenschmann, Frans van der Steen

The portraits of imperial diplomats to the Ottoman court, dressed in oriental robes, have only recently received the attention of art historians. As Nina Trauth has pointed out, of the 120 ambassadors (approximately) who travelled from Vienna to the Porte from around 1500 until 1740, only Johann Rudolph Schmid Baron Schwarzenhorn, Walter Count Leslie, Wolfgang IV Count Oettingen-Wallerstein and possibly Leslie’s companion Johann Joseph Count Herberstein commissioned their portraits in oriental robes; Trauth described the portraits as a political masquerade.1 The number of commissioned portraits is unexpectedly low, even if we consider the possibility that some oil paintings may not have been preserved; however, the number is increased by including prints. Friedrich Polleroß provided an extremely thorough discussion of the portraits of diplomats in the graphic medium and categorised the depictions of the Early Modern diplomats into portraits, allegories and historical scenes, which he described as a medium of political communication.2 The present paper focuses on the portraits of Sigismund Baron Herberstein (1486–1566), who met with Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent in a military camp near Budim in 1541,1 and Walter Count Leslie (1606–1667), who led the Grand Embassy to Sultan Mehmed IV to Constantinople in 1665–1666. These works were selected despite the chronological gap between their missions, as Herberstein’s portraits were considered by Friedrich Polleroß to be not only the oldest portraits of the diplomats in their official robes in the Habsburg lands but also some of the most impressive or remarkable,4 whereas Leslie’s embassy was regarded by Arno Strohmeyer as a good example of an effective media event.5 The portraits of the two diplomats are discussed in the context of their commissions, with the focus placed on the diplomatic robes and their representative intentions.

Two portraits of Sigismund Herberstein connected to his mission to Sultan Suleiman are part of a series of six full body portraits in diplomatic robes commissioned by Herberstein at the advanced age of 73; the occasion for the commission was the illustration of his autobiographical works (Fig. 1 and 2).6 The woodcuts were made by Donat Hübenschmann, a painter, draughtsman and block cutter, who moved from Leipzig to Vienna, probably invited by the printer Raphael Hoffhalter.7 In 1559, Hübenschmann’s portraits of Sigismund Herberstein, a portrait of Emperor Ferdinand I and a depiction of Herberstein’s coat of arms enriched Herberstein’s collection of printing plates for woodcuts, etchings and copper engravings, which he often used to illustrate his books during the last two decades of his life. The extensive use of illustrations led Walter Leitsch to the conclusion that Herberstein’s weaknesses were copper engravings and woodcuts,4 and
Friedrich Polleroß pointed out that the long-term significance of these illustrations is based on their scientific and ethnographic character. This is true of the illustrations of Herberstein’s most important work, Notes on Muscovite Affairs, but I would like to point out that the message of the six Hübschmann portraits of Herberstein, in which the focus is placed on diplomatic robes, is primarily representative; they were intended to demonstrate the important deeds of Sigismund Herberstein in the service of the imperial house. This hypothesis is based on the verses in Paul Fabritius’ glorifying poem printed in the 1560 Vienna edition of the autobiographical work Gratiae posteritati, stating that the ‘painted’ robe Herberstein received from the Grand Duke of Moscow was proof of Herberstein’s youthful labours: “Haec quoq: quam picta gestas in imagine vestem / Acta iuventutis plena laboris habet”.10

Most important for the illustrations of Herberstein’s Notes on Muscovite Affairs was his collaboration with Augustin Hirschvogel prior to the first publication of the book in Vienna in 1549.11 In the 1540s Herberstein commissioned two maps of Russia from Hirschvogel, as well as two portraits, a coat of arms, the modes of transport he used, the portraits of the seven European monarchs that were sending Herberstein on diplomatic missions and those that the diplomat was visiting, as well as the portraits of Sigismund Herberstein in the service of the imperial house.
the portraits with his monogram. However, Herberstein appears to have been dissatisfied with these depictions, probably because of the somewhat imaginative or eccentric appearance of the monarchs. Two years later, Hirschvogel produced another seven etchings, this time in traditional medallion form reminiscent of portrait medals (Fig. 4). The second series came closer to Herberstein’s documentary expectations, illustrating several editions of Herberstein’s books either in their original form or in woodcut copies. The representative full body portraits of Sigismund Herberstein by Donat Hübschmann were intended to illustrate Herberstein’s autobiographical works, written and partially printed in the last decades of his life. Two autobiographical volumes which remained in manuscript were then edited and published in the 19th century by Theodor von Karajan. From the autobiographical works printed in Herberstein’s lifetime, Karl Enenkel took only five printed autobiographies in German and Latin into consideration, although the German version was printed with at least four different titles and in at least six editions from 1558 till 1562 by the Viennese printers Raphael Hoffhalter and Michael Zimmermann, while the Latin version was printed in 1558 and 1560 by Raphael Hoffhalter under the title Gratiae posteritati, and again in 1560 by the same printer, but entitled Picturae variae. Some editions were illustrated, but the illustrations in various editions differ and the placement of illustrations tends to differ within the copies of one edition. To avoid misunderstandings, for this paper I have used only three printed copies, selected because they contain six full body portraits of Herberstein, with slightly varying inscriptions: a copy of the German edition, printed in 1559 by Hoffhalter and entitled Sigmund Freyherr zu Herberstain, which is preserved in the family archive of the Dietrichstein family in the Moravian Land Archives in Brno, a copy of the Latin edition, printed in 1560 by Hoffhalter, entitled Gratiae posteritati and kept in the town library in Ptuj, and a copy of the Latin edition printed by Hoffhalter in 1560, entitled Picturae variae and kept in the Austrian National Library. According to the address in the German editions, the autobiographical works were intended for Herberstein’s family members, especially those who will carry on his name (“...den Gegenwurtigen und nachkomendn Freyherrn zu herberstain...”), i.e. his nephews and grandnephews, as he had no offspring. In his self-promoting works, he offered the male members of the Herberstein family examples and guidelines in the hope that they would continue or even surpass his political-diplomatic achievements. In order to achieve this goal, he almost entirely ignored his early years in the text, placing the focus on his military and political-diplomatic career. He also very carefully selected the illustrations, which placed him in close physical proximity to the most important leaders of his era. This is most obvious in the Ptuj copy of Gratiae posteritati, in which six
full body portraits of Herberstein in court and diplomatic robes, mostly received as gifts from the monarchs he visited, are printed alongside seven portraits of the European monarchs, the Grand Duke of Moscow Vasili III Ivanovich and Sultan Suleiman. Regarding this 1560 Vienna edition of Gratae posteritati, the choice of full body portraits and their size (approximately 275 × 170 mm) give the most likely unintended impression that the diplomat was more important than the monarchs portrayed in Hirschvogel’s portrait etchings (116 × 116 mm). In the other examined copies, i.e. Picturae variae in the Vienna National Library and Sigmund Freyherr zu Herberstein in the Moravian Land Archives, the portraits of European monarchs, the Grand Duke and the Sultan were not included as separate etchings, but printed in smaller woodcut versions on one page, as a variation on Hirschvogel’s etching of 1547 (Fig. 5).

The innovative decision to use full body portraits accentuating the robes is remarkable for a number of reasons. Herberstein decided not to include illustrations representing his education and military career in his autobiographical works, although he was in possession of four woodcut plates on this theme in 1557 at the latest, when they were printed in the 1557 Vienna edition of Notes on Muscovite Affairs. They depict Herberstein graduating, Herberstein in arms carrying a banner, Herberstein with a Styrian horseman in the campaign against the Venetians and Herberstein knighted by Maximilian I. Regarding the already existing depictions of imperial missions to the Ottoman court, Herberstein could have chosen the representations of historical events. Before his journey in 1541, he was probably acquainted with the travel journal of the diplomatic mission of Joseph Lamberg and Nicolaus Jurišić to Sultan Suleiman in 1550, which was written by the official Latin translator of the mission Benedikt Kuripečić. The 1531 edition of the travel journal contains an illustration of the diplomats Lamberg and Jurišić’s audience with the sultan (printed twice) and a similarly constructed reception by a pasha. In both depictions the imperial diplomats are kneeling subordinately in front of the enemy’s monarch and dignitary, in obvious contrast to Herberstein’s representative intentions.

Only two years before Herberstein’s full body portraits were produced, Melchior Lorck (Lorch) portrayed three members of the then embassy in Constantinople. Antun Vrančić, Ferenc Zay and Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq, who spent four years in Constantinople (1555–1557), are portrayed dressed in court robes in bust form and are characterized as imperial diplomats only by inscriptions and emblems. Herberstein could have been acquainted with these portraits, but he deliberately chose the more prestigious full body portrait format. As he intended to represent his deeds to his ‘loving descend-ants’ only full body portraits were appropriate to display the ceremonial robes he wished to stress entirely. This choice is also echoed in Herberstein’s choice of the prestigious folio format for some editions of his autobiographical works. Herberstein might also have been acquainted with publications in which a full body portrait of the author had been included, as for instance Leonhard Fuchs on the back of the title page of his Historia stirpium, printed in Basel in 1542 (Fig. 6). In contrast to Herberstein, whose rank of diplomat is recognizable only by the inscriptions, the botanist Fuchs holds a flower in his hand. In the woodcut by Veit Rudolph Specklin after Albrecht Meyer, the botanist is placed against a neutral background, whereas his facial features and the patterns of his short mantle have been depicted with masterfully delicate and precise lines similar to Hübßchmann’s portraits of Herberstein.

The choice of full body portraits might also have been influenced by the series of painted portraits of Herberstein, possibly adorning his home in Vienna. They have not been preserved, but their existence can be assumed from the mentions of ‘paintings’ in the glorifying poems and epigrams written by various poets and included in the 1560 Vienna edition of Gratae posteritati. A glorifying poem by Paul Fabricius was inspired by the depiction of the robe that Herberstein received as a gift from the Grand Duke of Moscow in 1516: “Illustri ac Generoso Domino D. Sigismundo (...) ac de pictura illa compellat quæ eum ex Moscouiæ lam picta tabella refert.” As already stated, in Fabricius’ words, the robe in the painted picture was proof of Herberstein’s youthful labours. Fabritius also made reference to a painted picture in his later verses: “Inde reuersuro Dux Moscus munere vestem / Donat vt hæc il-lam picta tabella refert.” Although Fabritius’ terminology...
seems to refer to a panel painting, is it also possible that Herberstein presented him with a coloured version of the Hübschmann woodcut. In other glorifying poems there are numerous references to Herberstein’s robes, but it is not clear if the poets, Sigismund Torda and Johann Rosinus, authors of *Ad Imagines habituam, quibus diversis in legationibus summorum Principum muneratione est honoratus* had seen them depicted in woodcuts or in paintings. Torda referred to them only as simulacra, without references to authors of poems. However, the illustrators are coloured. I would like to suggest that the copies were coloured upon Herberstein’s request, most probably because they were intended for someone highly esteemed by the author, possibly the emperor and members of his extended family, like the copy of *Gratae posteritati* in Ptuj. It is also possible that some copies were coloured by Donat Hübschmann or at least all of them by the same artist, using either the existing garments or the presumed paintings as the visual source. One of the arguments supporting this claim is the use of the same colours in different copies, for instance in small details such as the light blue for the collar on the portrait of Herberstein in the garbem in which he travelled to Poland and Moscow in 1517.6 In the Ptuj copy, some details of the precious robes were gilded.

Furthermore, the glorifying poems give rise to another question: whether the unpreserved painted portraits could have been part of a Herberstein portrait gallery. On the basis of the poem on the aurochs and the bison by Caspar Pecius, John Nevinson surmised that Herberstein had placed stuffed specimens of these two rare animals in front of the family portraits, i.e. Nevinson assumed the existence of a Herberstein portrait gallery, probably located in his Vienna house. The verses Nevinson referred to are rather ambiguous and interpreted highly poetically in the recent Slovenian translation by Matej Hriberšek, i.e. that Herberstein placed the furs of these animals in front of his family fireplace: “(…) duorum / Exuuias patrios collocat ante lares.” Although the metaphor ‘patris ante lares’ cannot prove unequivocally the existence of a Herberstein portrait gallery, it can be said that around 1560, a series of family portraits would not have been an impossibility in the residence of a central European nobleman. As Ingrid Halászová pointed out, the painted portraits in the aristocratic residences of Austria and Bohemia that emerged in the 1520s and 1530s were regarded as the most appropriate method of personal and aristocratic representation. The same author characterised the era between 1530 and 1560 as the phase of proto-galleries, in which the large-format (half- and full-body) portraits reflected high social standing and were commissioned by itinerant and well-educated noblemen, who could have become acquainted with this phenomenon through their Europe-wide travels and visits to the imperial and archducal residences. Regarding the full body portraits, the central European noblemen followed the model of court portraits painted by Jakob Seisenegger in the reign of Ferdinand I. Following from this, we can say that the settings of Herberstein’s portraits are comparable with the early Seisenegger portrait of Adam I of Hradec (German: *Neuhaus*), painted in 1529 and preserved in Telč Castle. Like Herberstein, Adam of Hradec stands self-confidently in an almost empty room. The later obligatory requisites of representative portraits, such as columns, curtains, tables with rank and status defining objects etc., are absent in this portrayal; his high court position is shown only by his precious garments, a sword and a chain. Within a matter of decades, the possession of a small number of individual portraits could have grown into a larger series, eventually forming portrait galleries, but probably not earlier than the 1570s and 1580s. If “lares” in Pecius’ poem really does refer to family portraits, Sigismund Herberstein possessed one of the earliest such portrait series in Central Europe, probably consisting of portraits of himself, as well as of his close relatives, wife, parents and possibly siblings.

The presumed possession and commission of a family portrait gallery is consistent with Herberstein’s extensive...
genealogical research. Most of it remained in manuscript form and was edited and published only in the 19th century by Josef von Zahn, but Herberstein included his genealogical research in some German editions of his autobiography. Herberstein's selection of six diplomatic robes to be depicted in woodcuts was probably not based only on their material value but also on the importance Herberstein ascribed to the particular missions. In the editions of his autobiographical works, the upper sections of the frames were completed with a variety of inscriptions, each one containing different information; only the 1560 edition of Gratiae posteritati does not mention his name or the date of the mission. As all the other woodcuts contain these data, it may be assumed that they were not intended to be printed only in his books but also as independent prints. The first woodcut referring to the mission to the sultan depicts Herberstein in a short gown which he wore, and similar to the one worn by Nicolaus of Salm, in 1541. The gown was a court dress also worn by Herberstein when he acted as a "Hofmeister" at the royal wedding in 1543. As in other woodcuts, the inscriptions in various editions contain variable information ("Ambo nos oratores tali veste ad Tvrcavm imperatorem missi.")

Herberstein &c."


This is also true for the inscriptions on the woodcut that depicts Herberstein in the robe presented by the sultan ("Tvrcavm imperator nos qyovq vestibus donavit."

"Ferdinandi Rom: regis orator a Svleimano Tvrcavm imperatore tali veste donatvs. Sigismvndvs liber baro in Herberstain &c."

"Sigmundt Freyherr zu Herberstain. Gesanter zu dem Türkischen Khayser von dem also verehrt. M. D. Xlj."

In the official report to King Ferdinand, Herberstein and Salm mentioned that the silk caftans presented by Suleiman for the farewell audience were of poor quality. The veracity of this mention in a diplomatic report is questionable considering the hostile relations between the two monarchs. There is no sign that the caftan was of poor quality in the woodcut and it is depicted with such accuracy that Jennifer Wearden has established that it was most likely tailored of silk velvet woven in Italy. When two of Herberstein's 'loving descendants', whose identities have yet to be determined, but presumably both living in the 18th century, selected the model for the portraits of Sigismund Herberstein intended for the family portrait galleries in Herberstein and Hrastovec castles and now preserved in Herberstein and Ptuj castles, both of them selected the depiction of Sigismund in the Turkish caftan. The unknown painters used coloured woodcuts as models but copied the details with a differing degree of accuracy. On the portrait in Herberstein Castle, Sigismund's figure occupies the whole painted surface. The painter added the Herberstein coat of arms in the lower right corner as well as a window in the upper corner, using its shelf as a pedestal for a turban. The patterns of silk velvet only approximately follow the woodcut, whereas in the Ptuj portrait, the painter copied every detail (Fig. 7). He added a column and a table following the conventions of representative portraiture and depicted a turban and a sealed letter, defining Herberstein as a diplomat. The selection of the portrait in the Ottoman robes as a model for oil paintings was probably based on its visual appeal and the enduring importance of Habsburg-Ottoman relations in the Early Modern nobility culture, although Herberstein viewed the mission to the sultan as one of the highlights of his career. The selection of the model neglected the fact that the fame of Sigismund Herberstein was founded on his embassies to Russia and on his Notes on Muscovite Affairs and not on his mission to the sultan. Since the portraits were probably not painted pre-18th century, their commissioner also neglected the fact that the obligatory wearing of an Ottoman robe at the audience with a sultan, as practised until the early 18th century, was perceived as an act of humiliation by the Habsburg diplomats, also in the constant dispute about rank with the French diplomats. According to Andreas Lazarus Imhoff, the foreign diplomats had been obliged to wear a caftan for security reasons from 1390 to prevent assassination attempts on the sultan. Imhoff explicitly stated, however, that the French ambassador was the only diplomat who was allowed to appear in French
garments at the audience as early as 1700, whereas all others had to wear Ottoman robes. He contradicts himself on the next page, reporting that ambassador Ferriol took off his caftan after the audience had been refused to him because of his demand to carry a sword. According to the painting of Charles de Ferriol's 1699 audience by Jean-Baptiste Vanmour, the privileged French ambassador was allowed to wear an open caftan over his court dress. When in 1744, Wenzel Samuel Theodor Schmidt used a print after Vanmour's painting to depict the audience of the Habsburg diplomat Joachim Sinzendorf, resident in Constantinople between 1577 and 1581, he anachronistically painted Sinzendorf in Western European garments and an open caftan. In 1733, Julius Bernhard von Rohr wrote in his *Ceremonienwissenschaft* that, previously, diplomats had had to wear Ottoman caftans when they were received by the sultan, indicating that the wearing of Ottoman robes was a sign of subordination abandoned only after the successful advances of the Habsburg army on the Balkans. The commissioners of Herberstein's painted portraits were probably not acquainted with such particulars of diplomatic ceremonial culture when they selected the woodcut portrait of Herberstein in a Turkish caftan as a model to complement the family portrait galleries. The main occasion for such a commission was, as John Burbury, a member of Walter Leslie's embassy to Constantinople, wrote in 1671: “Pictures, which relate to a Family, are usually exposed in Galleries, that the Heir by looking on them, may not only see the Features, but read too the Vertues and generous Exploits of his truly Noble Ancestors.”

In contrast to Sigismund Herberstein, for whom the mission to Suleiman was one of 69 diplomatic journeys to different courts, Walter Leslie had less diplomatic experience, being sent to the Cardinal-Infante in Flanders in 1639, to Pope Innocent X in 1645, and to “... quasi à tutti li Principi dell’Imperio.” From 1665 until 1666 he led the so-called ‘Großbotschaft’ to Sultan Mehmed IV in order to ratify the peace treaty concluded in Vasvár after the battle at St. Gotthard. Leslie's embassy was one of the seven Imperial Grand Embassies sent to Constantinople in the 17th century after the signing of the peace treaty in Zsitvatorok in the 17th century. The imperial court selected only important persons for grand ambassadors. Leslie was selected soon after the signing of the peace treaty in Vasvár, but declined because of his advanced age. Only after the next person selected, Adolf Ehrenreich Count Puchheim, passed away in October 1664 did Leslie give his consent, on the condition that he be granted the Order of the Golden Fleece. After months of negotiations, Leslie was accepted among the knights of the Order of the Golden Fleece as their 450th member, receiving the insignia at the ceremony in the Hofburg on the 6th of May 1665. The very next day, Leslie and his entourage had their last audience with the Emperor before setting off on their journey. Elaborate preparations had been taking place for several months, since in accordance with the Emperor's wishes, the embassy was to be more splendid than any other. Attention was focused on the precious gifts for the sultan, his mother and Ottoman dignitaries, as well as the swell of noblemen invited to accompany the embassy in order to increase its splendour. Leslie's sumptuous entourage included 350 members and 25 noble cavaliers, which was more than previous and later embassies. Three Turkish tailors were summoned to Vienna to make oriental garments for the entourage. The grand ambassador and his entourage awoke the admiration of Emperor Leopold I, who commented on their “sumptuous Cavalcade” on the streets of Vienna with the words: “Ist wohl zu sehen gwest, der Pracht ist sehr groß gwest.” His admiration was later shared by Sultan Mehmed IV, who on watching Leslie's entry to Edirne supposedly said that he had never seen such a splendid embassy.

Leslie sat for a portrait for an unknown, presumably Viennese, painter in the diplomatic robes he wore during the parades (Fig. 8). The portrait is preserved in the Náchod Museum, not far from Leslie Castle in Nové Město nad Metují in North-East Bohemia. Petr Landr stated that the portrait was transferred from the Nové Město Museum to Náchod in 1980 and assumed that it was initially hung in the Nové Město convent of the Brothers of Mercy, founded by Walter's nephew Jacob Count Leslie, with the intention of reminding all those who looked at it of the most important member of the founder's family. Landr's presumption was partially based on the existence of a copy of the portrait, presumably painted in the early 19th century for the convent, when the original was already in poor condition. Unlike Landr, I suggest that the Walter Leslie portrait was intended for his Nové Město castle based on an entry in the castle inventory from 1738 when it was hanging in the dining room: “Ihro excel: herrn herrn graffen Walters von Leslie lebens größe portrait in Türkischer Kleidung.” Leslie's robes correspond to descriptions in historiographic works and travel journals. He wears a silver suit and a caftan, both embroidered with golden flowers, while the caftan is lined with sable fur. The insignia of the Order of the Golden Fleece is depicted with great accuracy. The cap of carmine velvet, lined with sable fur and adorned with heron's feathers and a golden rosette with diamonds from the Emperor's treasury, is depicted on the table, alongside the Emperor's authorisation and a pocket watch. It has been pointed out by some researchers that in accordance with the tradition of the Habsburg ambassadors to the sultan, Leslie was wearing the garments of the Hungarian magnates to demonstrate the Emperor's pretensions regarding Hungary, the area of dispute between the two empires. Foreign garments worn by diplomats can also be considered as an act of politeness, whereas by wearing a Hungarian fur cap instead of a turban, the imperial diplomats could avoid a dispute about rank between the emperor and the sultan, showing themselves to be “merely” royal and not imperial ambassadors. The presumed political connotation of the Hungarian costume, demonstrating imperial pretensions over the disputed territory, loses some credibility in regard to contemporary reports, which refer to the garments as Turkish. The confusion concerning the Turkish or Hungarian origin of the garments endured until the 20th century, when Carmen Bernis, referring to the robe Sigismund Herberstein was given by the Grand Duke of Moscow, stated that the Muscovites adopted this kind of ceremonial robe from the Turks, whereas the fastening with passemanterie was used by the Hungarians, Croats and Turks. She poses the questions: “Ce furent les hongrois, qui s’inspirèrent des turcs? Ou bien...”
les turcs s’inspirèrent-ils des hongrois?94 As already stated, the garments for Walter Leslie and his retinue were made by Turkish tailors and recorded as Turkish in the inventory of Nové Město Castle from 1738. Describing the cavalcade in Vienna, John Burbury states: “But now the Ambassa-
dour, together with his Comrades and their Retinue, being
pompously and nobly apparelled after the Turkish fashion,
in Cloaths of Gold and Silver. “95 The claim that they were
pompously and nobly apparelled after the Turkish fashion,
dour, together with his Comrades and their Retinue, being
1667., Muzej Náchod

According to the lithograph, the portraits in Mikulov and
not the one in Nové Město nad Metují. The copy could have been
intended for the convent of the Brothers of Mercy, since an
ancestor of Franz Joseph, Ferdinand Prince Dietrichstein,
was actively involved in the foundation of the convent in the
mid-1690s, which is also demonstrated by his coat of arms
over the main entrance into the convent.

Another painted portrait of Walter Leslie in diplomatic robes
existed in Mikulov Castle, possessed by the Dietrichstein
family; it appears in inventories and paintings lists until the
beginning of the 20th century, but it has not been preserved.103
In a list of paintings in Mikulov Castle, drafted in 1861, it is
referred to as “Portrait: Graf Leslie im türkischen Kostüm”.104
The estimated value of 15 florins, compared with the value
of the other portraits mentioned in the list, is evidence that it
was a full body portrait. As all the other downscaled copies
of the family portraits by Carl Agricola were copied in Mikulov
Castle, we may assume that Agricola copied the Leslie
portrait in Nové Město na Metují (Fig. 9). The copy was later transferred from the convent to the castle and
false identified as Walter’s nephew Jakob Count Leslie, the
founder of the convent and hospital of the Brothers of Mercy
in Nové Město nad Metují.99 The unknown painter copied
the portrait accurately but added Leslie’s coat of arms in the
upper left corner. Petr Landy, who was convinced that the
original portrait was also painted for the convent, assumed
that the copy was painted due to the poor condition of the
original.100 The commissioner of the copy and his motives
have yet to be determined. The most likely commissioner was
Franz Joseph Prince Dietrichstein (1767–1854), the owner
of the Nové Město estate from 1808. His father Karl Johann
Baptist Prince Dietrichstein (1728–1808) inherited 1802
the title and lands of the last count of Leslie of the Central-
European family line. Since then, the full name of the family
was Dietrichstein-Proskau-Leslie. Franz Joseph Dietrich-
stein paid considerable attention to the family portraits. In
the early 1840s, Franz Joseph Dietrichstein commissioned
downscaled copies of family portraits and some important
historical events from the history of the Dietrichstein fam-
ily by the painter Carl Agricola.101 Lithographs were made
after Agricola’s paintings and printed in 1844 with the title
Familien-porträte und Historische Bilder aus dem Fürstlich
Dietrichsteinischen Hause.102 Apart from twenty portraits of
his direct ancestors, Franz Joseph Dietrichstein chose only
five other family members to be depicted, among them Wal-
ter Leslie in diplomatic robes (Fig. 10). For this reason, we
may assume that he also commissioned the copy of the Leslie
portrait in Nové Město nad Metují. The copy could have been
intended for the convent of the Brothers of Mercy, since an
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portrait in Mikulov and not the one in Nové Město nad Metují.
According to the lithograph, the portraits in Mikulov and
in Nové Město can be considered replicas, presumably both
commissioned by Walter Leslie himself. As already stated,
one was intended for his Nové Město castle and the other
came into the possession of the Dietrichstein family. The
portrait in Mikulov was probably identical to the “Contra-
fait des herrn Graffen Leslie Lebensgroß", mentioned in the probate inventory of Leslie's widow Anna Francisca, born Countess of Dietrichstein.\(^\text{105}\) She bequeathed all her possessions to her nephew Walter Xaver Count Dietrichstein, but her brother, Ferdinand Prince Dietrichstein, selected some paintings for his own collection in Mikulov Castle, among them the portrait of Walter Leslie.

After the portrait in Nové Město or in Mikulov, Leonard Henry van Otteren made a copper engraving published in *Historia di Leopoldo Cesare* by Galleazzo Gualdo Priorato in 1670 (Fig. 11).\(^\text{106}\) The inscription mentions Leslie's positions of a councillor of state, Knight of the Golden Fleece, the imperial general in Slavonia and Grand Ambassador to the Ottoman Porte ("Gvaltiero Conte di Leslie del Cons. Di Stato di S. M. Cesareus ad Portam Ottomanicam Orator"). The signature "Leonardo Hen-(co)-V-O Venetiis" was falsely deciphered as Leonard Venetiis, but the last part of the signature probably indicates the making of the engraving in Venice.

Paul Tafferner, a Jesuit who accompanied Walter Leslie to Constantinople, published a travel journal in Vienna in 1668.\(^\text{107}\) The travelogue was written in Latin and dedicated to the ambassador's nephew Jacob Count Leslie.\(^\text{108}\) The sole illustration in the travelogue is a portrait of the ambassador with the inscription "Gualterus S. R. I. Comes de Leslie Cæsareus ad Portam Ottomanicam Orator" (Fig. 12). The engraving was probably made by Frans van der Steen, who signed his work with the initials "F. v. s. C. M. f." Van der Steen's works for Walter Leslie are not documented, but from August 1665 until July 1667, van der Steen was in contact with Leslie's friend Karl Eusebius Prince Liechtenstein, to whom he sold a painting and some copper engravings.\(^\text{109}\) There is a possibility that Frans van der Steen is also the author of the painted portraits in Nové Město nad Metují and Mikulov, but there is no written evidence relating to it and no known paintings by van der Steen for comparison.\(^\text{110}\)

It was probably Paul Tafferner who commissioned the engraved portrait of Walter Leslie and prepared the inscriptions, since Walter Leslie died in 1667. As in the painted portraits, Leslie is depicted in diplomatic robes and with the Order of the Golden Fleece, but with the addition of depicted objects, background scenes and inscriptions, the
message of the portrait was significantly extended. The engraver left out the emperor’s authorisation, leaving only the fur cap with heron’s features and a small chest on the table. On the wall behind the table is a cartouche adorned with a laurel wreath and the inscription “CæsarI In mIs oMnI hora fIDeLIs serVIVI,” giving the year 1668. Walter Leslie points with a baton to a battlefield depicted in the background. The military aspect is accentuated with a helmet and a cuirass lying at the ambassador’s feet, while a sword, a trumpet and a laurel wreath on the pedestal embellished with Leslie’s coat of arms remind us of the ambassador’s justice and fame. An eagle in the upper left corner holds Jupiter’s thunderbolts and Mercury’s caduceus, symbolising – according to Friedrich Polleroß – the function of an imperial diplomat. The eagle is accompanied by two angels holding bands with the inscriptions “Vtrvm libet” and “Vtrvmqve.” They refer to the heroic device “Vtrum libet” (Whether it pleases) published by Claude Paradin in 1551 and as a whole emblem with a motto, image and text in 1557. Paradin’s image consists of a mace wrapped with an olive branch. According to Paradin’s explanatory text, the mace wrapped with an olive branch could be shown to one’s enemies, offering them a choice of war or peace, just as the Romans had shown a caduceus and a lance to their enemies. An engraving by Frans van der Steen after Gerard Bouttats with a similar connotation was published as a frontispiece to the second part of Historia di Leopoldo Cesare: the imperial eagle is holding thunderbolts and an olive branch in his bill; the thunderbolts from his right paw are killing the Ottomans, whereas the leaves from the olive branch in his left paw are falling on a group of peaceful looking Ottomans. Under the eagle is the inscription “Sternit, et Vnit.” Regarding the Leslie portrait, the militaristic standpoint of the presumed commissioner Paul Tafferner is obvious: whereas the imperial eagle shows thunderbolts and a caduceus to the Ottomans, Leslie is unequivocally pointing to a battlefield. The message of the engraved portrait seems at odds with the diplomatic mission of Walter Leslie, sent to Constantinople to ratify a peace treaty. However, Leslie, as vice-president of the Aulic War Council, surely shared the militaristic standpoint toward the Ottomans with the Jesuit Tafferner, since they, as Philip Steiner pointed out, shared both a religious and cultural disdain for Ottoman culture. A more reconcilable visual answer to the militaristic illustration in the Latin edition of Tafferner’s travelogue can be found in an unauthorized German edition published in 1672. It is illustrated with an etched allegory entitled “Keýserliche Botschafter” (Fig. 13). The portraits of Walter Leslie and the Ottoman ambassador to the imperial court are depicted in medallions framed with laurel wreaths and fastened to columns, with one column embellished with a crown, a sceptre and a sword, and the other with a turban, a sceptre and a sabre. The symbols of the two empires are supplemented by a church and...
a mosque in the background. As a sign of peace, the columns are linked together with a chain on which the globe balances, while the sun shines equally upon both countries. The message of the allegory echoes the main intention of the Grand Embassies travelling between Vienna and Constantinople since the peace treaty of Zsitvatorok in 1606, i.e. symbolizing the equivalence of the power of both empires.

Paul Tafferner was unhappy with the unauthorized German edition, claiming it contained numerous mistakes and “so vil Lutherische Lehrsprüch.” He arranged a new translation by the erudite Joannes Georg Schliessel and published it in Vienna with a dedication to the ambassador’s widow Anna Francisca. Although Tafferner only criticised the translation, he was obviously also unhappy with the illustration, since he commissioned a new etched allegory to illustrate the new German edition (Fig. 14). The portrait of Walter Leslie is omitted and the message of the allegory is even more militaristic, intolerant and at odds with the intentions of Grand Embassies, similar to the illustration of the Latin edition. An eagle with the device of Emperor Leopold I (“Consilio et Industria”) sticks Jupiter’s thunderbolts into a dragon symbolising the Ottoman Empire. The eagle holds a raised sword in its second paw and the victorious battle at St. Gotthard (“S. Gothard”) is depicted in the background. The personification of Fame holding a band with a verse from Psalm 121 floats over the eagle (“Fiat Pax in virtute tua”).

This general view of the relations between both empires becomes more personal with the addition of Leslie’s coat of arms onto the flag fastened to Fame’s trumpet. Silk flags with Leslie’s coat of arms were fastened to the trumpets and drums played during Leslie’s parades, for instance during his solemn entry into Edirne.

Just as with the portraits conveying the virtues of famous ancestors, the diplomatic robes and presents received by Ottoman dignitaries were also carefully kept by the heirs of both diplomats. A cloakroom with precious Spanish and oriental garments is reported in the Herberstein castle in Styria. “Unterschiedliche türkische Zeug, nebst einen türkischen Kleyd” are mentioned in the probate inventory of Leslie’s great nephew Jacob Ernst Count Leslie in the “feuer Gewölb” of his Graz palace in 1737. The precious Turkish robes could also have been remade into liturgical vestments. In 1684, a nephew of the Grand Ambassador, the Jesuit Willem Aloisius Count Leslie, wrote to his brother Jacob that the Loreto chapel and the parish church in Nové Město nad Metují lacked liturgical vestments and suggested that some Turkish robes stored in the castle cloakroom be remade (“…and as for vestments both for it (Lauret Chappell) and the church, which hath also much need, your Exce might make imploy some of our Uncles turkish cloaths which otherways rotts in your Guardarobbe…”).

Either depicted or preserved in the original, diplomatic robes were an effective medium of self-representation.
Notes


4  FRIEDRICH POLLEROß (note 2), 49.


9  FRIEDRICH POLLEROß (note 2), 54.

10  Gratae postertati Sigismundus liber baro in Herberstain Neyperg & Guttenhag. Primarius Ducatus Carinthiae Harreditariusq; & Camerarius & Dapifer &c. Immunitate meritorum ego donatus, actiones suas à piéro ad annum vsq; etatis sua septuagesimum quartum, brevi commentariolo notatias reliquit, Vienne, 1560, [94].


13  TILMAN FALK (note 12), 237.


16  TILMAN FALK (note 7), 226–229.

17  ALFRED NEHRING (note 11), 128.

18  TILMAN FALK (note 7), 234–236.

19  POLONA VIDMAR (note 6), 243.


23  Gratae postertati (note 10).

24  Pictvrae variae Quae Generosum ac Magnificum Domi. Dominum Sigismundum liberum Baronem in Herberstain Neyperg & Guttenhag etc. varias legationes obeuntibus exprimunt, Vienne, 1560.

25  Sigmund Freyherr zu Herberstain (note 22), title page.


27  KARL A. E. ENENKEL (note 21), 560; MATEJ HRIBERŠEK (note 26), 205.

28  JOHN L. NEVINSON (note 15), 91–92; WALTER LEITSCH (note 8), 174.

29  JOHN L. NEVINSON (note 15), 91–92.
On the colours in different copies, see: JOHN L. NEVINSON (note 24), [22].

54 Gratae posteritati (note 10), [33].

55 Pictvrae variae (note 24), [22].

56 Sigmund Freyherr zu Herberstein (note 22), [38].

57 Gratae posteritati (note 10), [34].

58 Pictvrae variae (note 24), [24].

59 Sigmund Freyherr zu Herberstein (note 22), [39].

60 ERNST D. PETRITSC (note 3), 96.


62 KARL A. E. ENENKEL (note 21), 563. The founder of Hrastovec portrait gallery, now displayed in Ptuj castle, was probably Johann Ernst II. Herberstein; see: TINA KOŠAK, Slikarske zbirke grofov Neuhaus und Rosenberg, in: INGRID HALÁSZOVÁ (ed.), Die Noblesse im Bild (note 45), 39–74, here 49.

63 FRIEDRICH POLLEROß (note 2), 53.


65 Neu-eröffneten Historischen Bilder=Saals (note 64), 162: "(...) denn dem Frantzösischen Ambassadeur ist allein an dem Türkischen Hof vergönnt / in Französischer Tracht zu erscheinen / da hingegen alle andere Gesandschaften sich der Türkischen bedienen müssen (...)."
66 **Neu-eröffneten Historischen Bildes Saults** (note 64), 163. “Weil nun Ferrole den Degen nicht ablegen wollte / wurdene ihm die Audienz versagt / worauf er den von denen Türcenk empfangen Ehrenrock oder Caftan nebst seiner Suite ablegte (…)”.


69 FRIEDRICH POLLEROß (note 2), 53.

70 A Relation of a Journey of the Right Honourable My Lord Henry Howard, From London to Vienna, and thence to Constantinople, In the Company of his Excellency Count Lesley, Knight of the Order of the Golden Fleece, Counsellor of State to his Imperial Majesty, etc. And Extraordinary Ambassador from Leopoldus Emperor of Germany to the Grand Signior, Sultan Mahomet Han the Fourth. Written by John Burbury Gent., London 1671, A3r–A4v.


75 JOSEPH HAMMER, Geschichte des Osmanischen Reiches, 6: Von der Grosswörsechaf Mohammed Köprišiš bis zum Carlowsicz Frieden. 1656–1699, Pest, 1830, 164.


77 Historia di Leopoldo Cesare (note 73), 564.


82 Historia di Leopoldo Cesare (note 73), 565.


84 NINA TRAUTH (note 1), 251.

85 A Relation of a Journey (note 70), 31.

86 ALFRED FRANCIS PRIBRAM – MORIZ LANDWEHR VON PRANGENAU (eds.), Privatbriefe Kaiser Leopold I. an den Grafen F. E. Pötting, 1: November 1662 bis Dezember 1668 (Fontes rerum Austriacum, Diplomataria et acta, 56), Wien, 1903, 123.

87 Der Röm: Kay: May: Leopoldi I. An Deß grossen TürkencSultans (note 80), 80.


89 Státní oblastní archiv v Zámrsku, Roddiny archiv Lesliů, kt. 14, inv. č. 318, Inventory of the castle Nové Město nad Metují, 3 June 1738, fol. 6v.

90 Historia di Leopoldo Cesare (note 73), 568; Der Röm: Kay: May: Leopoldi I. An Deß grossen TürkencSultans (note 80), 78.

91 IGOR WEIGL, In a Caftan before the Emperor, with the Haiduks around Graz and with a Library in Ptuj. The Counts Leslie and their City and Country Residences in the 17th and the 18th Century, in: POLONA VIDMAR (ed.), Zapuščina rodbine Leslie na
Rad. Inst. povij. umjet. 43/2019. (75–90)

Polona Vidmar: *Casari in mis omni hora fidelis servivi: The Portraits of Sigismund Herberstein...*

ptujskem gradu, Ptuj, 2002, 88–96, here 89; NINA TRAUTH (note 1), 252–253; FRIEDRICH POLLEROß (note 2), 52.

92
FRIEDRICH POLLEROß (note 2), 52.

93

94
CARMEN BERNIS (note 93), 709.

95
*A Relation of a Journey* (note 70), 30.

96
See: NINA TRAUTH (note 1), 251.

97
Ibid., 252.

98
*Äußere Reis=Beschreibung / Von Wien nach Constantinopel / und wieder zur u...* 96, here 97.

99

100
PETR LANDR (note 88).

101

102
PETRA MEDŘÍKOVÁ (note 101), 123; IGOR WEIGL (note 91), 89.

103
PETRA MEDŘÍKOVÁ (note 101), 134.

104

105
Státní oblastní archiv v Zámrsku, Roddini archiv Lesliů, kt. 6, inv. č. 118, Probate inventory of Anna Francisca Countess Leslie, 4 October 1685, fol. 241r–241v.

106

107
On the travel journal see: PHILIP STEINER (note 76); PHILIP STEINER (note 78).

108

109

110

111
On the portrait, see POLONA VIDMAR (note 106), 4; NINA TRAUTH (note 1), 263; FRIEDRICH POLLEROß (note 2), 50–51.

112
FRIEDRICH POLLEROß (note 2), 51.

113
Devises heroïques, Par M. Claude Paradin, Chanoyne de Beauieu, Lion, 1551, 70; Devises heroïques, Par M. Claude Paradin Chanoine de Beajuex, Lion, 1557, 118–119.

114
Devises heroïques (note 113), 118: "L’olive, ensemble la Masse d’armes, (Deuise de Paix, ou de Guerre) se peut montrer aux ennemis, leur offrant le choix de l’un, ou de l’autre, ainsi que faisoient les Antiques par les Caducee, auec la Lance, mesmes les Carthaginois (…)".

115
*Historia di Leopoldo Cesare* (note 73), frontispiece.

116
PHILIP STEINER (note 76), 303; PHILIP STEINER (note 78), 243, 255.

117

118
Ibid., 252.

119
Ibid., 65–66.
Časopis za zgodovino in umetnost: The Portraits of Sigismund Herberstein i Walter Leslieja u diplomatskim odorama

U članku je riječ o portretima dvojice carskih poslanika otomanskim vladarima – baruna Zigmunda Herbersteina (1486.–1566.), koji se susreo sa sultanom Sulejmanom Veličanstvenim u vojnom logoru blizu Budimpešte 1541., i grofa Waltera Leslieja (1606.–1667.), koji je u poslanstvu Veličanstvenog u vojnom logoru blizu Budimpešte 1541., (1486.–1566.), koji se susreo sa sultanom Sulejmanom

_ps. 121:7 (“Fiat pax in virtute tua et abundantia in turribus tuis”; “Let there be peace in your strength, and abundance in your towers”).

_Polona Vidmar: Časopis za zgodovino in umetnost: The Portraits of Sigismund Herberstein i Walter Leslieja u diplomatskim odorama_