

SCIENTIFIC CHRONICLES

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS *IMAGE AND POLITICAL POWER: THE EUROPEAN FESTIVE CULTURE BETWEEN REPRESENTATION AND INSTRUMENTALISATION*

Craiova, 21st-23rd of October 2010

On the 21st-23rd of October 2010, the “C.S. Nicolăescu-Plopșor” Institute for Studies in Social Sciences and Humanities (Cultural History Group) organized, in collaboration with the Group PROTEO of the University of Burgos (Spain) and the Brukenthal Museum, the international congress *Image and Political Power: the European Festive Culture between Representation and Instrumentalisation*.

Coordinated by Oana Andreia Sâmbrian (Academia Română, Institutul de Cercetări Socio-Umane “C.S. Nicolăescu-Plopșor”, Craiova) and María Luisa Lobato (Universidad de Burgos) and cofinanced by the Consolider-Ingenio 2010 Program and the Spanish Embassy from Bucharest, the congress aimed to integrate the Romanian scientific community in the much wider area of international research, as well as to engage the media and civil society knowledge of the key developments of Hispanism. Through communication sessions, plenary lectures and round tables, the organizers focused on the promotion of the most valuable results of Hispanism concerning the chosen items. The plenary sessions, assigned to personalities in the field, such as acad. Carmen Sanz (Universidad Complutense, Madrid) or María Luisa Lobato (Universidad de Burgos), informed the public regarding the newest professional achievements and most relevant knowledge about the topic proposed for discussion.

The first plenary session was assigned to Carmen Sanz, academician of the Spanish History Royal Academy, whose excellent study, entitled *Political service and Culture in Court: Sigismund Bathory, the construction of his idealized image*, highlighted the figure of the 16th century Transylvanian prince Sigismund Bathory, using a wide range of sources.

The first session of communications held on the 21st of October, *Political propaganda and literature*, gathered two studies concerning the propagandistic construction of the image: Jessica Castro Rivas (Universidad de Chile/Universidad de Navarra), *The oath of prince Baltasar: exaltation and political propaganda in La banda y la flor by Pedro Calderon de la Barca* and Fabrice Quero (Université Bordeaux III), *Popular feast and the cult celebration of the person: leitmotifs of the public image of the archbishop of Toledo, Juan Martínez Silíceo, in four avvisi (1545-1556)*.

The construction of image during the public feast was the main theme of the second session of communications, illustrated by Lidwine Linares (Université Toulouse II), *Saint Teresa or apostle Santiago? The feast of the patron, resonances of a political and religious conflict* and María Martos Pérez (Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha), *Image and power in the cult epics of Golden Age: Sansón Nazareno by Antonio Enríquez Gómez*.

The congress continued with the second plenary session, held by Oana Andreia Sâmbrian (Academia Română, Institutul de Cercetări Socio-Umane “C.S. Nicolăescu-Plopșor”, Craiova), who debated on *The feast of the other: the festive representation of*

Christians, Moors and Indians in the Spanish Baroque theatre. The first day concluded with *Portraits of power in Premodern Romania*, a section which included the communications of Teodor Sâmbrian (Universitatea din Craiova), *L'image postbyzantine dans l'exercice du pouvoir des voïvodes roumains (XVI^{ème}-XVII^{ème} siècles)*, Anca Parmena Olimid (Universitatea din Craiova), *European Personalist Model of State-Church Relations (Political and Legal Fundamentals in the 16th-17th Centuries)* and Ileana Cioarec (Academia Română, Institutul de Cercetări Socio-Umane "C.S. Nicolăescu-Ploșor", Craiova), *Unité de la politique anti-ottomane des Roumains au milieu du XVII^{ème} siècle: Matei Basarab, Vasile Lupu et George Rakoczi*.

On the second day of the congress, Francisco Sáez Raposo (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Madrid) opened the series of debates with a discourse on the comedy of Agustín Moreto, *Moreto at the palace, the palace at Moreto*, where he approached the historic comedies of one of the important Spanish dramatists of the 17th century.

The following session of communications, *Matter as image of power*, grouped two studies about how power can be conceived and utilized through coats of arms and taste: Constantin Ittu (Muzeul Brukenthal), *Coats of Arms as Images of Power on the 16th-17th Century Transylvanian Maps* and Marin Toma (Universitatea din Craiova), *Hunger for Power: Gastronomy and Government in 16th Century Europe*.

The day concluded with a section dedicated to New Spain, *Allegory and power in the Baroque of New Spain*. The three communications, presented by Sofia Brito Ocampo (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), *Representations of feasts and ideology in the Novohispanic Baroque*, Ramón Manuel Pérez Martínez (Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí), *Political iconography of the sea in Neptuno alegórico by Sor Juana* and Laurette Godinas, Mihaela Liana Mihailescu (UNAM), *Las tristes ayes del águila mexicana or a poetical and homiletically pyrotechnics of late Baroque in New Spain* showed an unitary image of the New world although the 17th century.

The last day of the congress started with the plenary session of Jesús González Maestro (Universidad de Vigo), *The Golden Age theatre in front of the idea and concept of power in the political society*, followed by the session of communications *Public power and literature at Lope and Calderón*. This last section illustrated the results of the studies of two young Romanian researchers: Sorina Dora Simion (Universitatea din București), *The rhetoric of discourse in the play El prodigioso príncipe transilvano* and Andreea Iliescu, whose research interests concentrated on *Calderón de la Barca, the paradigm of Baroque Aesthetics*.

The closure plenary session was assigned to María Luisa Lobato (Universidad de Burgos), who build her discourse around „*Cante Himeneo/ pues calla Mercurio*”: *theatrical feasts celebrating the arrival of Mariana de Austria at Madrid (1649)*.

Image and power have been to date the subject of international congresses, such as *Power and Authority in Spanish Golden Age*, 2-3 November 2009, organized by the University of Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris 3, in collaboration with the Oxford Research Group and GRISO (University of Navarra). A similar conference was held in Lerma on 26-29 September 2005, *Festive Drama and Aristocratic Culture in Don Quixote's Epoch*, coordinated by María Luisa Lobato (Universidad de Burgos) and Bernardo García (Universidad Complutense, Madrid). Consequently, our event came on the already internationally drawn line of how to promote the relationship between image and power, through appropriate congresses and conferences and their subsequent proceedings.

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