
In the years between 1775 and 1782 – at the time when the fundament of modern historical thought was developed – the study of History at the University of Innsbruck lay in the hands of two scholars who attempted to establish it as a scientific discipline and to enhance its position amongst the others. Therefore, both of them delivered programmatic, but hardly original, inaugural lectures. While Giambattista Graser chiefly drew on the repertoire of the classic authors of Antiquity, Karl Josef Michaeler referred to the magisterial works of well-known historians at the University of Göttingen with their groundbreaking ideas on historical research and historiographic methods. Michaeler also dealt with the question of the relation between the university and scholarly societies or academies. In practice, neither of them lived up to his own high standards.

Keywords: University of Innsbruck; Enlightenment; study of history

Schlagworte: Universität Innsbruck; Aufklärung; Geschichtsforschung