
The historical source which is the focus of this article is the private correspondence of the Prince Archbishop of Salzburg, Hieronymus Count Colloredo, with his brother, the Imperial Vice-chancellor Gundaker Prince Colloredo. 655 letters, written in French, have been preserved in the State Archive Zámrsk in the Czech Republic. As both brothers were major, influential political figures of their time, they dedicated a great part of their correspondence to the exchange of topical news as well as the analysis of political decisions. Due to this shift in perspective from official documents of that time to ego-documents of the Prince Archbishop Colloredo, we gain insight into how he saw himself as a sovereign and international political figure and how he surveyed and analysed this time of radical change. Furthermore, this historical source reveals details of Colloredo’s everyday life and the social environment he lived in.

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