

Jiří Hrbek, Öffentliche Feiern von Geburten und Hochzeiten des Hauses Habsburg im Böhmen des 17. und 18. Jahrhunderts

Abstract: Public Celebrations of Births and Weddings of the House of Habsburg in Bohemia (17th and 18th centuries)

The birth of the Archduke or Archduchess and the wedding of a member of the House of Habsburg were a cause for celebration in the early modern period. The festivities were held not only behind the closed doors of the royal residence, but also in the cities and in the countryside. With the spread of the news of the happy event, official authorities issued instructions on how entertainments should be organized. Bells rang, thanksgiving masses were celebrated, gun salutes were fired, streets and squares were illuminated not only in royal cities, but also on aristocratic estates. Costly decoration with numerous allegorical pictures was acquired by state authorities, city magistrates and aristocrats, as well as by many individuals who decorated their houses and thus contributed to the creation of a festive atmosphere. Dynastic celebrations transported the person of the ruler to the minds of those living in the Czech lands – places to which the monarch only travelled sporadically after 1648. They also supported a feeling of loyalty to him and created a collective identity for those celebrating together.

Keywords: public celebrations – early modern festivities; the House of Habsburg – 17th and 18th centuries – the creation of a collective identity – the image of a monarch

Schlagworte: öffentliche Feste – frühneuzeitliche Festivitäten – Habsburger – 17. und 18. Jahrhundert – Bildung der kollektiven Identität – die Inszenierung des Königs