

Alessandro Cont, Political life and aristocratic sociability in Vienna at the time of Emperor Charles VI. Experiences and strategies of the Protestant diplomat Konrad Detlev von Dehn and of the Catholic prince Giovanni Federico d'Este (1726)

Abstract: The paper presents two interesting groups of unpublished letters from the second half of the year 1726. The first of these contains letters by the Braunschweig-Wolfenbüttel ambassador Konrad Detlev von Dehn from Vienna to the duchess of Blankenburg, Christine Luise of Oettingen- Oettingen, the mother of Empress Elisabeth Christine of Braunschweig-Wolfenbüttel, while the other consists of letters also sent from Vienna by prince Giovanni Federico d'Este, a nephew (on his mother's side) of Empress dowager Wilhelmine Amalie of Braunschweig-Lüneburg, to his father, Duke Rinaldo of Modena. A comparative analysis of these documents facilitates a better view of several important aspects of political life in Vienna at the time of Emperor Charles VI, e. g. the political and dynastic interaction between the regnant and the widowed Empress; the variety of opinions in the fields of politics and diplomacy produced by the *Pietas Austriaca*; the function of (high-ranking) aristocratic sociability as an addition to and extension of the political and institutional system of the imperial court; and additionally, the cultural and political importance of the recently endowed monastery of Salesian nuns in the framework of relations between the capital of the Habsburg monarchy and the Italian regions.

Keywords: Emperor Charles VI; Court of Vienna; diplomats; correspondence; Konrad Detlev von Dehn; prince Giovanni Federico d'Este

Schlagworte: Kaiser Karl VI.; Wiener Hof; Gesandte; Briefwechsel; Konrad Detlev von Dehn; Prinz Giovanni Federico d'Este