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Brief Biography:

I studied history and art history at the University of Vienna and the Université de Bourgogne in Dijon, then studied historical auxiliary sciences and archive studies at the Austrian Institute of Historical Research. I have been engaged in a research project on princely representation in the Late Middle Ages as well as in the FWF-START project “Monastic Enlightenment and the Benedictine Republic of Letters”, and have published several articles in each of these areas. Currently I am employed at the University of Vienna in the research project “The Virtual Library of the Charterhouse of Gaming” about the history of said library, with the aim of reconstructing the lost library holdings.

Paper Title:

Marble and Wax, Metal and Cloth: New Source Materials and Their Visualization in the Austrian Historiography of the Early 18th Century

Paper Abstract:

At the beginning of the 18th century, several Austrian scholars who were engaged in historical research – one might call them historians, antiquarians or both – appeared as representatives of the so-called “critical revolution” around 1700. Among them were the Benedictine monks Bernhard and Hieronymus Pez and Philibert Hueber from the abbey of Melk, the Jesuits Anton Steyerer and Sigismund Pusch, the canon regular Raimundus Duellius and the Carthusian Leopold Wydemann. These scholars corresponded with each other and were well informed about each other’s research projects.

Apart from the skills in the recently established historical auxiliary sciences – paleography, diplomatics, sigillography – a typical element of the “modern, critical spirit” was the quest for as many primary historical sources as possible: besides narrative sources like chronicles and annals or charters, other sources like necrologies, bishop or abbot lists, epitaphs, monastic statutes, calendars and letters also attracted their attention and interest. By editing and publishing these texts, the scholars tried to overcome the compiling approach to historiography of former generations. In the end their historiographical output was very important, and they set new standards in historical research. Much knowledge and many basic facts of medieval Austrian history – e.g. some genealogical evidence pertaining to the Habsburgs – were established in this era.

Some of the historical publications in question not only deal with written sources, but contain various illustrations of different monuments: medieval as well as antique tombstones, painted retables, reliquaries, paraments or coats of arms. Though partly based on older traditions of illustration, the representation of these objects seems to be a rather recent phenomenon, particularly frequent around the 1720s.

It was the same time and period when the Maurist Bernard de Montfaucon published his *Antiquité expliquée et représentée en figures* and *Monumens de la monarchie française*. The second work in particular may serve for comparison as it features a particularly stringent system of linking text and pictures.

The paper will study the meaning and functions of the illustrations in Anton Steyerer’s *Commentarii pro historia Alberti II. ducis Austriae cognomento Sapientis*, Philibert Hueber’s *Austria ex archivii Mellicensibus illustrata* and several works of Raimund Duellius (*Miscellanea*, *Excerpta genealogico-historica* and the *History of the Teutonic order*).