

Iconographic programme of cathedral St. Carolus Boromaeus in Vienna

The Diploma Thesis deals with the iconographic programme of cathedral St. Carolus Boromaeus in Vienna (known as Karlskirche). The author begins with the outline of the curriculum vitae of Cardinal Charles, the Archbishop of Milan, and the life of the Emperor Charles VI. It was Charles VI of Hapsburg (anglicized Habsburg) who had the monumental votive cathedral built in the capital of the monarchy as thanksgiving for the end of plague. The corner stone was laid in 1713 and in 1737 only the construction was built according to the plans Johann Bernhard Fischer of Erlach. In 1733 brought to the church were the Knights of the Cross with Red Star, Czech Order from Prague. Their task there was to conduct spiritual administration for all time and found the hospital which they did immediately in 1739. The task of the writer of the Diploma Thesis was to elaborate the history and, mainly, the iconographic programme of the exterior and, first of all, of the interior of the House of God. He outlined there also the potential cooperation of the Knights' Fathers on the final programme of decoration. The work set as its task the extension of knowledge of that significant Baroque jewel of European architecture in the direction of revealing new facts found in the archives. It is interesting to observe the personality of Charles VI who was compared to the Old Testament king Solomon and built the new cathedral as a modification of the Old Testament Temple and, at the same time as the New Testament Temple, where sacrifices to the God are to be brought all the time for conciliation. Within these intentions of the Emperor the whole construction of the cathedral was accomplished and it reflected both in the exterior and in the interior where later stress was laid on iconography oriented at the love of the Gemini.