

Abstract of the Dissertation

The Musical Entourage of Rudolf II (1576-1612) reconstructed from the Imperial Accounting Ledgers

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The proposed dissertation is undertaken as an attempt to make accessible the payments of the imperial court under Rudolf II concerning its musical life. Quite a century ago Albert Smijers published payments to the imperial musicians, but only to them of the chapel, while the other categories were considered unsystematically; but even among the “trommetter”, “kammermusici” and “servants on two and more horses” we find excellent composers. This dissertation, using the known sources and on the basis of new heuristics in the State Archives of Vienna, brings for the first time a complete list of all musicians of the Rudolf’s court, including the period, function and wages development of their stay. Thanks to the extensive lists and graphs, it also present the specialization and career evolution of the Imperial musicians, number and quality of their extraordinary payments, bonuses etc.

The conception of a first global view on the Rudolfine musical entourage in Prague will be complemented in a forthcoming monograph by a complete list of (*Gnadengeld*), it means “grace payments” to the musicians for their music dedications and other services and, consequently, by the list of musical prints which had origin in the Rudolfine Prague and compositions dedicated to the Emperor Rudolf II: only the exact chronological information on the musicians stay presented by this dissertation can help to define soon the real musical production which had origin at the court of Rudolf II. and that written in another environment of the late renaissance Europe.

Keywords:

Music – Renaissance – Rudolf II – Imperial Chapel – Trumpeters – Accounting ledgers