

Although the fields of work and the research programmes of the Commissions for the History of Art, Music Research, Cultural Science and the History of Theatre, the Historical Commission, the Commission for the History of the Habsburg Monarchy, the Commission for the History of Law in Austria, the Commission for the History of Natural Science, Mathematics and Medicine and the Institute for the Encyclopaedia of Austrian Biography and Biographical Documentation start from different disciplinary positions, and pursue different research objectives, nevertheless they can be presented here together, since the specific subject matter of their research is determined by superordinate guidelines and by inter-connected contents. From different disciplinary perspectives, they deal with the historical and cultural phenomena of Austria, which can be investigated only on the basis of their position within the context of the region as a whole and within the pan-European context. From this it follows that a specific socio-political, economic and cultural constellation, namely that in Austria, contains a variety of elements and codes that relate not only to the closer Austrian context but also have their origins in Central Europe, if not indeed the whole of Europe.

## Commission for the History of Art

The research projects of the Commission for the History of Art cover *inter alia* topic areas that on the one hand are devoted to researching and presenting the production and reception of art in Austria, while at the same time maintaining pan-European perspectives.

1. Amongst the research projects of the Commission that pertain primarily to Austria, reference is made in particular to the *History of Fine Art in Austria* project, (6 volumes, 1998–2001/02), a unique and major undertaking aimed at providing a summary of the status of research to date, while at the same time presenting new discoveries. It comprises the period from the late 8<sup>th</sup> century to the present, and its summary articles and detailed catalogue notes (and bibliographical information) are addressed both to the specialist and to a broader interested general public. The impressive illustrations present some of the works of art for the first time in entirely new photographs or from new perspectives.
2. The continuation of the investigation of *Baroque Ceiling Paintings in Austria* has for many decades been one of the major desiderata of the history of Austrian art. Compared with Germany, for instance, this field, one of the pinnacles of Austrian art, has still been insufficiently researched. The main aim is an analysis of the manifold Baroque “desire for unity” and the reconstruction of the original semantic context of a Baroque “total work of art”. This requires a comprehensive investigation of ceiling painting in its liturgical function and historical context. The current need for such a programme can be found in the deficit in interdisciplinary research, which is to be remedied by this research project. The material studied to date has been presented in a comprehensive publication within the framework of the *History of Fine Art in Austria* (volume on the Baroque, ed. H. Lorenz, 1999) and are to be analyzed according to new points of view. The focus will not primarily be on a national “Austrian” history of art, but rather the historical phenomenon is to be examined as part of “Central European” art. The investigation of ceiling painting can in this sense be the start of a more comprehensive research on other Central European art phenomena. It is proposed to apply new questions to the approach to Baroque ceiling painting in collaboration with other research facilities. The material is to be subjected to a comprehensive re-assessment in collaboration with international academics at workshops and conferences.
3. The documentation of the holdings of *Medieval Book Illuminations* in Austrian collections is to be recommenced following the end of the work on the 6-volume history of art.
4. New research results are promised by projects that are to be concluded in the course of the coming period: The research on *Jesuit Architecture in Italy 1540–1773* has attracted international attention; the volume on the order’s Rome and Naples Province, the second edition of which has already sold out, is to be followed by a volume on the *Historical Buildings of the Milan Province*. The *Corpus of Medieval Mural Paintings in Austria* is likewise nearing completion.

### Commission for Music Research

The Commission for Music Research regards itself as an institution working primarily in the field of music history, with its research centering on Austrian musical life in the past and present. Alongside detailed research, a large role is played by the compilation and processing of research results that are no longer being carried out at university institutes, where they may assume an even more peripheral role in future to the benefit of the basic training of music academics (and a possible further development of subject methodology in contact with neighbouring disciplines). Already in the present conditions (for instance in terms of literary evidence), the Commission constitutes a centre for the history of music, with a range of services that needs to be increased in order for it to be able to occupy this position unchallenged and with the desired level of competence. The Commission's work is concentrated primarily on two long-term projects.

1. Firstly, a *Database on Austrian Music*, commenced as far back as 1987 and currently containing more than 100,000 entries, serves the purpose of the production of a 3-volume *Lexicon of Music in Austria*, which will also be available in an electronic version capable of continuous updating. By its very nature, this is an inter-disciplinary undertaking that relies on cooperation with various neighbouring disciplines. The Music Lexicon will without doubt fill a major gap in Austrian and international musicology.
2. Secondly, research is providing access to previously unexamined inventories on music in Austria in the well-established Academy series *Tabulae Musicae Austriacae*, such as in the form of lists of sources, persons and repertoire. These are of relevance not only for musicology but also for other disciplines such as theatre history (libretto research) or the history of art.

The Anton Bruckner Institute has now been organizationally separated from the Commission, but still remains under the patronage of the Academy of Sciences. It pursues an agenda of its own, the principle function being the creation of a documentation and research centre on the life, works and circle of Anton Bruckner (c.f. Uwe Harten et. al. (Eds.), *Anton Bruckner. Ein Handbuch*, Salzburg 1996).

### Commission for Cultural Science and the History of the Theatre

The work of the Commission for Cultural Science and the History of the Theatre covers two research programmes involving eight specific research projects. They are accompanied by international conferences (one a year), workshops and monthly meetings, and are in addition subject to continuous review and assistance from an international council of experts appointed specifically for this purpose. The research projects of the theatre history and

cultural history research programmes are coordinated with one another, and are being pursued under the common motto of *Remembrance and Memory*. The research results are published by the Academy's publishing house and by Passagen Verlag.

1. The theatre history research programme can also be regarded as part of cultural science memory research. An important function of theatrical representation consists of storing the collective memory, enriching and updating it by means of recall (by the recipients). Starting from this theoretical point of view, the theatre history work of the Commission is concentrated on the following topic areas:

- a) Research on *The History of Viennese Theatre*: Vienna as capital and imperial residency, the intellectual and cultural centre of a multi-ethnic state, played a decisive role in the development of theatre in Austria and in the region of Central Europe as well as for the cultural self-image (memory) of its inhabitants. One research project deals with the *Inaugural speeches, retirement speeches or obituaries of the directors of the Burgtheater (1848 to 1938)*, revealing the mentalities of entire social classes, while another examines *Prinz Eugen as a place of remembrance in the Austrian theatre*.
- b) *Festivities and celebrations of the Casa de Austria*. The subject matter of research in this project is the representational character and political relevance of theatre within court life. Particular importance is attached to the investigation of cultural interaction between Austria and Spain: To what extent did codes of Spanish origin become identifiers of the collective consciousness in Austria (Baroque)?
- c) *Musical Entertainment Theatre in Vienna around 1900 as a Storehouse of Remembrance*. The project applies an interdisciplinary approach to the research of remembrance and memory of the Viennese operetta. With its poly-coded musical and literary structure, the operetta was a cultural text that was able to combine a number of different levels of remembrance and was received (recalled) by an extremely heterogeneous and mixed audience.

2. The cultural science research programme *Places of Remembrance* pursues a current and international research approach. The focus is on *Places of Remembrance* (in the topographical or metaphorical sense) in Vienna and Austria (in a pan-regional and European context), whose continuing and gradual acquisition by individual or collective memory has a decisive effect on consciousness. The interdisciplinary programme concentrates on the following specific research projects, some of which are financed by third-party funds:

- a) *Remembrance Culture at the End of 20<sup>th</sup> and the Beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries. Transformations of Social Memory in a European Comparison.*

“Remembrance” has not only become a key term of cultural science research projects in the last few years, but in addition the focus on forms of social memory indicate an interface between academic, political and public interests. Alongside the construction and repositioning of national identities after 1989, there is no doubt that in recent years the memory of the complex of events and experiences described by Dan Diner with the term “Auschwitz as rupture of civilization” has shifted to the focal point of this interest. For this reason, the question is raised of the transformations of the Austrian memory culture(s); at the same time, specifically in the light of focus of research work, which is primarily orientated towards aspects of the nation state, it appears necessary to release the questions about the remembrance of war, National Socialism and the Shoa from their embedding in “national” narratives and to establish a trans-national history of remembrance from 1945 to the turn of the millennium with its both specific and supra-national political (e.g. the cold war) and cultural (e.g. generation-specific experiences) contexts.

- b) *Between Integration and Marginality. An Attempt at a Typology of Intellectual Achievements from Josephinism to the Collapse of the Monarchy.*

An analysis of selected intellectual and academic traditions from the (former) Habsburg monarchy can be used to identify the influence of the pluralistic cultural context (remembrance) on the dominant thought structures in Central Europe and to show the continued effect of this tradition (memory).

- c) *Heldenplatz. The Symbolism of an Austrian Place of Remembrance.*

The comparative analysis of the political and symbolic significance of Heldenplatz (Heroes’ Square) – from the imperial forum conceived as a counterpoint to the Ringstrasse with its “bourgeois” connotations to the “place of consummation” of the *Anschluss* in 1938 – is capable of demonstrating a variety of types of “identity-establishing memory” at different stages of “Austrian” history.

- d) *Museum – Remembrance – Identity. The Styrian Provincial Museum, the Joanneum, as storehouse of remembrance.*

Museums are part of the social framework of culture, and hence social institutions, in which (alongside others such as libraries, archives, etc.) cultural traditions are inherent and whose requirements they satisfy. Museums ensure the selection, securing and traditionalization of collective knowledge and social values by means of selection, conservation and

presentation of a selected world of objects. On the basis of an analysis of the self-representation and reception of the Joanneum as a paradigmatic field of research, the project examines the functions that the museum, a storehouse of cultural remembrance, has set itself in the various stages of its development, the values it recalls and how it is received.

- e) *Person-related Street Names of Vienna as Places of Remembrance. The City as Museum.*

The phenomenon of naming streets after persons is a placing of monuments in the public space. Going beyond the museum world of objects, a memory community takes over historical personalities and inscribes their commemoration in the urban scene. The analysis of street names, taking into account the time when the names were given and the place of presentation, allows us to decode cultures of memory by showing the historic reference personalities on which collectives focus (from which they draw their identity).

### Historical Commission

The Historical Commission is in the process of restructuring and is to concentrate on new thematic focal points. Over the course of the last few years, there has been a change in the academic perspectives under which an “Austrian history” as the history of a central European community and of a former major or medium-sized power is to be researched. Many aspects of the interaction between the individual countries and nations and the Court and central organizations can be regarded as having been treated exhaustively. The interest today is on bringing the Austrian Monarchy into the international discussion on associations of states and “composite body politics”. The examination of the frequently highly complex and dynamic structures of the function and the interaction of the individual elements and the manner of cooperation and coordination with the state (the Court) that developed as a result of their common interests today goes far beyond the previous total-state and etatistic explanatory approaches, as well as those focused on provincial autonomy, that formed the main interest of Austrian historical science and that of its partners in the east over the last 30 years. That considerable relevance is at present attached to such questions in Europe and, in the context of European integration and its expansion towards the east, will continue to be for the long-term future, need not be discussed in any further detail. The work on the thematic focal points is to be supplemented by historiographic reflection. The first project is to be an investigation of the genre of the writing of national history, with a focus on questions concerning mystification in the age of National Socialism and concerning demystification since 1945. The following two thematic focal points are the result of these considerations:

1. *The Viennese Court (c. 1500–1792)*: a) The interaction between the Court and the provinces: tribute and enthronement; Ways and means of communication between the provinces and Vienna. b) Diplomatic ceremonies at the Viennese Court. c) Patronage and clientele. The investigation of the early modern courts has recently become a focal point of international research, above all as a means of explaining the structures that enabled modern sovereignty to establish itself and how this sovereignty worked. This is also of interest for the Habsburg monarchy, in particular because it was on occasion able to rise to the status of a major European power, and is to be regarded as a central European power at least from the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the Napoleonic wars.
2. *European Empires in an Age of Nationalism (1770–1920)*: a) A comparison of the structures of the European powers, such as monarchic and popular sovereignty, state and ethnic nation, autonomy, federalism, centralism, constitutionalism, democratization.  
b) Interaction between the powers.

In the future, an understanding of the European system of powers from around 1770 (following the establishment of the “Pentarchy”) will be necessary *inter alia* for a comparative structural analysis with the other European powers. Consequently, account will have to be taken both of a contemporary history of international relations, paying particular attention to the close relationship between “external” and “internal” policies, and of aspects of internal structure, unity and function (hierarchies, subsidiary delegation of functions, centralization, autonomy, self-administration, system of patronage and clientele, etc.).

3. The Historical Commission continues to be interested in publishing editions, monographs and anthologies in the three series for which it is responsible (*Fontes rerum Austriacarum*, Archive for Austrian History and Central European Studies) (such as the government and administration in Lombardy-Venetia; 1848: remembrance and memory in the political cultures of Central Europe; Karl V 1500–2000; the Bohemian and Austrian provinces in early modern history). In addition, although at greater intervals than in the past, it will organize major international conferences on topics of general relevance to research, and present their results to the public in a suitable manner. In this, it intends to increase its collaboration with a range of partners both in Austria and abroad. At the same time, it will participate in the preparation and holding of conferences and research discussions without, however, always assuming prime organizational responsibility.

### Commission for the History of the Habsburg Monarchy

The main focus of the work of the Commission for the History of the Habsburg Monarchy is and will remain

1. The completion of the work *The Habsburg Monarchy 1848–1918* (7 volumes have appeared to date). In addition to the volumes in preparation, “The Political Public” (Vol. VIII), “Social Structures” (Vol. IX), “Cultural Life” (Vol. X), “The Monarchy in the World War” (Vol. XI), there will also be a volume containing concluding analyses (Vol. XII) and one containing a systematic bibliography on “Habsburg Studies” (Vol. XIII). This programme is supplemented by a research programme accompanying the work as a whole, to the extent necessary for the continuation of the enterprise and to make good gaps in research that have become apparent in the course of the investigations to date. Although this programme of the Commission appears to be clearly delineated in terms of content, it is nevertheless open to future developments. On the one hand, new methodological approaches will always have to be taken into consideration (as is currently occurring in the “Social History” and “Cultural History” volumes), while on the other hand the focal points of the Commission’s activity will change according to the progress of the undertaking.
2. Of the accompanying research activities, mention must first be made of the *Atlas of Electoral History in Cisleithania*. On the basis of results obtained in connection with the maps on the 1897 elections for the Imperial Council contained in Volume VII of the *Habsburg Monarchy*, the project of a statistical and cartographic manual of the Cisleithanian Parliament is initially intended simply as a contribution towards reducing the information deficit concerning Austrian parliamentarianism.
3. The *Research on the Bourgeoisie* with its focus on social and mentality history came to a conclusion of sorts a few years ago; the initial intention of including the political dimension had to be abandoned in favour of other more urgent projects (completion of Volumes VII/I and VII/II of the *Habsburg Monarchy 1848–1918*). The *Research on the Bourgeoisie* project is now to be rounded off and completed.
4. The *Concept and Theory of a Cultural History of the Habsburg Monarchy* project serves as preparation for Vol. X of the *Habsburg Monarchy*. At the same time, a research project entitled *Studies of the History of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy* is being initiated.
5. In the course of its reorganization, the Commission has also been given responsibility for the *Book of Austrian Towns*. Work is currently focused on Styria (Vol. VI/I: Graz, Vol. VI/II) and Carinthia (Vol. VIII).

### The Institute for the Encyclopaedia of Austrian Biography and Biographical Documentation

The central function of the Institute for the Encyclopaedia of Austrian Biography and Biographical Documentation concerns:

1. The continuation of the *Encyclopaedia of Austrian Biography 1815–1950*, with instalments 56–60 planned for the years 2001–2005. In order to ensure that the undertaking progresses rapidly, planning is for a number of volumes at a time. Contrary to previous calculations that it would be possible to conclude the encyclopaedia in 13 volumes, the confrontation with the existing names and the important information continuously contributed by academic and contemporary history research has shown that Volume XIII will deal only with the letter S (with the sub-groups Sp and St). However, it must be pointed out that the interests of the work as a whole demand a balanced arrangement in terms of both quality and quantity, i.e., the proportion between the individual groups of letters. Technical progress has created new means of presentation, which are to be used for the supplements, addenda and corrigenda announced in the last working and research programme. Thus data is being included continuously, while supplementary biographies are available that are being prepared for Internet presentation. Given the possibilities of publication on the Internet, there currently seems to be no urgency for a separate printed edition.
2. A major basis for the publication of the encyclopaedia is constituted by the *Biographical Documentation*. This database was developed in 1995/96 and has been expanded since 1997, replacing above all the traditional card files and integrating all the information held. All the biographies, supplements, addenda and corrigenda already published in printed form and the data for any continuations have already been or are being recorded in this manner. The groups of letters not yet published are also being included in this database, as are professional group indices for the volumes already published. This is creating the basis for online access.

A further focal point of the Biographical Documentation concerns the regular collection of data for a continuation of the lexicon for the years 1951–2000.

3. The Encyclopaedia of Austrian Biography and the Biographical Documentation are being accompanied by additional individual research projects, such as on the town and technology, the history of Austrian emigration, music and theatre history relationships between the Bohemian provinces and Austria (in cooperation with institutes in Prague) or *The Biographical Investigation of the History of the Natural Sciences (Geosciences)*. The impor-

tant *Austrian Jewish Biography* project is also attached to the Institute. Roughly 14,000 biographical data sets have been collected within the framework of this project. The results of two focal-point projects on the *Compulsory Baptism of Jewish Children* and on *Converts* are to appear as separate publications in the course of the next few years.

### Commission for the History of Law in Austria

The main focus of the Commission for the History of Law in Austria is – as in the past – on covering the history of Austria from the specific point of view of legal history, taking into account questions of a pan-European nature.

1. The Commission's *geographical* field of research is not restricted to the territory of the Republic of Austria, but also extends, as a broad interpretation of the concept of Austria, to the territory of the former Habsburg Monarchy and those medieval territories that once developed within this region. Consequently, the edition of the South Tyrolean *Weistümer* (Books of Judgments) is also part of the Commission's field of activity. The *time* framework of the research work is likewise very broad, extending from the Early Middle Ages to the present. In the past, the focus tended to be on research of the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period; in contrast, the next few years are to attach greater importance to "more modern" topic areas.
2. As far as the priorities of the Commission's work are concerned, the publication of legal sources (of all kinds) primarily from the Austrian region continues to take precedence. At the same time, account is to be taken in future of the particular development of legal history with respect to Europe, such as by organising symposia (possibly on the topics of *Elements of European Legal Culture* and/or *Public Holidays in Austria and its Neighbours in History and the Present*).
3. The following specific projects are in progress:
  - a) The following projects are about to be published or are in the course of publication: R. Zehetmayer, *Das Urbar des Grafen Burkhard III. von Maidburg-Hardegg aus dem Jahre 1363*; this work is to be published as Volume XV of the *Fontes iuris*. S. Pallauf and P. Putzer, *Die Waldordnungen des Erzstiftes Salzburg*; this project concerns the statutory regulation of forestry in Salzburg, and has already been submitted to the Publication Committee. F. Hartl, G. Walter-Klingenstein and E. Reisinger, *Die Vorträge für den Unterricht des Erzherzog Joseph (II.). Teil: Österreich ob und unter der Enns*; these lectures provide a deep insight into the nature of the Habsburg body politic and are above all of considerable importance in the light of the subsequent reformist policies of Joseph II. E.

Schwab, *Die Georgenberger Handschrift – kritische Edition zum oberbayerischen Landrecht von 1346*; this edition of the Upper Bavarian common law, a significant source of law for the area of southern Germany and Austria, is already at the assessment stage. N. Schneider, *Das Urbar 1457 des Zisterzienserkosters Zwettl*; a manuscript ready for printing has been submitted and is currently at the assessment stage.

- b) The research work for the coming five years will deal above all with the following projects: J. Pauser, *Edition der österreichischen Policeyordnungen des 16. Jahrhunderts*; the completion of this edition of these “statutes” serving the “good inner order” of the community (the regulation of moral and commercial issues, private law) is expected within the next two years. Ch. Gasser, *Südtiroler Weistümer*; the completion of this project is a particular concern of the Commission, since this Book of Judgments from the southern Tyrol will permit the completion of the publication of the series of *Österreichische Weistümer*. Although various associated tasks remain to be carried out, they should be completed by 2005. O. Fraydenegg-Monzello, *Urbar St. Lorenzen 1428*; this manuscript contains documents dealing with both canon law and land-ownership aspects. Preparatory work is under way, and the actual analysis is expected to be commenced in spring 2001. W. Brauneder, G. Jaritz, Ch. Neschwara, *Die Wiener Stadtbücher 1395–1430, Teil 3*; the planning of the third part of the *Wiener Stadtbücher*, which contain above all inheritance transactions (and are therefore frequently referred to as the *Wiener Testamentsbücher*) as well as kinship instructions, agreements on marital property, lists of councillors, council instructions and craft regulations, was commenced in spring 2000 and is expected to be completed within the next 5 years. In addition, the Commission is currently overseeing the project by F. Opll and P. Csentes entitled *Vienna Craft Regulations (1364–1550)*, but the time of completion cannot yet be predicted for various reasons.

### Commission for the History of Natural Science, Mathematics and Medicine

The role of the Commission for the History of Natural Science, Mathematics and Medicine is to supervise and process the Woldan Collection, the

Radium Research Collection and to process other history of science topics and issues.

1. The Woldan Collection is run and administered by a full-time staff member. New contents of research involve the inclusion for the first time of geographica, cartographica and the processing of the juridica. The collection inventory following 1800 is available in the ALEPH Austrian library network. The older inventories (specifically up to 1600) are being integrated into a local database in association with the Vienna University Library. In connection with the latter, a CD-ROM edition of *The Woldan Collection Holdings from 1500–1600* may be published.
2. With respect to the Radium Research Collection, there is a cooperation agreement with institutions in Poland (Polish Academy of Sciences, universities, higher secondary schools). This collaboration concerns the history of natural science with a focus on statistical physics – Marian Smoluchowski – and radioactivity – Marie Curie-Sklodowska. A joint conference with around 12 lectures on Marian Smoluchowski is planned to take place in Krakow in spring 2002. Another joint event will concern *inter alia* the analysis of the correspondence between Marie and Pierre Curie and members of the Academy (Suess, Lang, St. Meyer).
3. A further extensive multi-disciplinary project for general higher schools is in progress entitled *The emergence of a world image oriented on natural science in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Mankind between the stars and microbes*. The project covers the fields of physics, chemistry, history, philosophy, literature, painting and architecture. This project has already been presented as part of in-service teacher training at a number of universities (ETH Zurich, Giessen and Berlin among others).

Despite the disciplinary differences, unifying common fundamental trends can be identified in all the research work presented here. As mentioned at the beginning, these concern superordinate themes, such as the Austrian aspect defined in an international context that characterizes some of the research projects, and the historical-methodological approaches making use of comparative and interdisciplinary points of view. Working discussions within these research activities could both consolidate the common features and help to clarify the internal coherence of the research projects.