

Laura LEZE, « Eléonore Batthyany-Strattman: Frauen Mutter, Schön Lori: through her correspondence with Louis Batthyany, her son », master thesis of modern history, directed by François Cadilhon, University Bordeaux Montaigne, 2016, 418 p.

Eleonor Strattman was the daughter of the famous Austrian chancellor, Theodor Strattman. She maintained a correspondence with her son, the Hungarian chancellor to be, Louis Batthyany, as a part of the highlight concerning the postal network during the beginning of the 18th century. Indeed, the material organization of the letters haulage was just starting to fall within the interests and the projects of the monarchy, which had concentrate all the resources about the territories reconquest. The exchanges between the countess and her son started in 1711, during the installation of Louis in Salzburg for his studies.

The example of Eleonor Strattman demonstrates the women's ability to be equal recipient than men, without being limited to be a go-between for her husbands or sons. Quite the opposite, her authority spreads from her letters to her family and administrative circles. Describing, talking of the countess everyday life, the correspondence of Eleonor Strattman permits the rebuild of a new feminine social identity, based on a value system that shades the so-called particularities of the women's writing. Thus, these letters are an evidence of the intimate identity of the women from the nobility, who were diplomatically, but also emotionally involved, coming out of the shadow. Her letters, by being a cross between the individual and the social unveils, go beyond the nobiliary identity, the solidarity of a lignage and the dynastic connections within the Batthyany family.

The first part of this work concerns the origins of the two families, Batthyany and Strattman, but also the reasons of their alliance. It helps to make the statement of a the financial and estate inventory of Eleonor Strattman and her husband Adam Batthyany, but also the study of the economic plan settled by the countess in order to restore the glory of her estates and to strengthen the family legacy.

The second part broaches her relation with her sons and grandsons, but it also presents their education and the maternal model embodied by Eleonor. This part also takes a close look to the social success of her sons.

Finally, the last part approaches the different networks around Eleonor Strattman: firstly her administrative management, then her relatives from the court, and finally her ambiguous relationship with Eugen of Savoy.

Thus, beyond the success of an aristocrat family who had chosen to support the royal Austrian house, Eleonor Strattman embodies the success story of a woman who lived in one of the greats political and cultural centers in Europe during the 18th century. Among the court and beyond her contemporary, Eleonor Strattman distinguishes herself as an exceptional, charismatic and willful woman. Posterity brought her a reputation of the most followed woman from the court because of her influence on the prince Eugene of Savoy. Thus, « schön Lori » and « Frauen Mutter » were finally the same person, and her action has been decisive for the future of the Batthyany dynasty.



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