

Anna ROBERT, "Antonia Batthyány of Németújvár: Representations of a 18th century Hungarian aristocrat throughout her private correspondence" [Antonia Batthyány of Németújvár : portrait d'une aristocrate hongroise au XVIII^e siècle à travers sa correspondance privée], master thesis of modern history, directed by François Cadilhon, University of Bordeaux-Montaigne, 2020.

Heir to one of the greatest aristocratic families in the Kingdom of Hungary, Antonia Batthyány maintained throughout her life an abundant correspondence with her father, the Palatine Louis Batthyány, and her younger brother the Primate Joseph Batthyány. Her letters, remarkably well preserved in the National Archives of Hungaria in Budapest, allow us today to do justice to this woman who has been too long forgotten by historiography. Giving Antonia the main place in our research enable us to break away from the masculine vision that characterized studies of the Hungarian aristocracy so far.

Thus, the ambition of this work is to get Antonia out of the stereotypical representations associated with her gender by focusing on her relationship with others and her place within her family and in society through her personal correspondence.

By their intimate aspect, the letters allow us to get as close as possible to the daily life of this aristocrat who lived in the imperial capital in the 18th century and to understand all the richness of her existence. Through her correspondence, we understand the central role that Antonia played in family dynamics and at the court of Vienna during the reign of Maria Theresa of Austria. Antonia is representative of her time, and through her it is a whole social environment which is given to us to see, in particular traditions and practices. Thus, reading Antonia's letters, we can easily understand the central place occupied by the practice of letter-writing in the daily life of the nobles at that time. Writing was indeed a daily activity for the Hungarian aristocracy who devoted several hours a day to maintaining correspondence on a European scale. This corpus of letters therefore makes it possible to study the networks of correspondence of this nobility and to shed light on the functioning of the Hungarian Post in the 18th century.

Finally, this female correspondence reveals a still too little-known vision of the Hungarian nobility. It allows us to revisit the image of the aristocratic woman in the 18th century by placing her at the heart of networks of power and influence.