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ABSTRACTS

MATERIAL CULTURE, MEDICAL CONSUMPTION AND EVERYDAY LIFE IN SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE. AN INTRODUCTION

CONSTANȚA VINTILĂ-GHIȚULESCU

Luxury and consumption are multifaceted concepts which have been constantly re-evaluated over time. Today, thanks to new trends in historiography, these concepts have become important analytical tools in global history research. Luxury, novelties, consumption, merchants, elites, artisans, advertising, goods, networks, long distance global connections are some of the research topics proposed by recent studies in global history. Maxine Berg argues the term luxury gained positive connotations during the 18th century, being associated with the development of trade and of the economy in general. However, it was only in the last two decades that consumption and luxury have inspired a whole range of research and researchers. Because it is a concept difficult to define, luxury should be analysed in the context of the time to which it belongs by relying on the consumer's interpretation of certain objects as luxury artefacts according to their social, political or symbolic value.

DIPLOMACY AND GIFTS IN CONSTANTINOPLE: THE BOOK OF ACCOUNTS OF BAILO PIERO BRAGADIN (1524–1526)

OVIDIU CRISTEA

The study of the diplomatic relations between Venice and the Ottoman Empire was done by using a vast and multifarious category of sources: the reports of the Venetian ambassadors and baili at Constantinople and their final accounts, chronicles, letters etc. From this point of view, the use of a book of accounts seems, at first sight, not only unusual, but also quite odd. However, the book of accounts of bailo Piero Bragadin (1524–1526) may shed some light on the relations of the Venetian official with the Ottoman dignitaries from the perspective of the gifts he offered and their costs. The analysis of the document presents a rigorous hierarchy of gifts, mirroring the official Ottoman hierarchy. Aside from the official reception, gifts seem to have been an irreplaceable part in the daily relations between Venice's representative and the Ottoman dignitaries, and their adaptation to the tastes and practices of the later was a sure way to gain their support. In addition to the robes of velvet, silk and other precious fabrics, offered at various ceremonies, the most appreciated gifts in daily

relations were sweets, cheese, wine and money (for the less important officials). Although the borderline between gift and bribe is thin in the light of the analyzed document, the data it provides allows a more precise understanding of the leverage used by Venetian diplomats to solve their litigations with the Porte.

SILKS AND STONES: FOUNTAINS, PAINTED KAFTANS, AND OTTOMANS IN EARLY MODERN MOLDAVIA AND WALLACHIA

MICHAŁ WASIUCIONEK

Throughout the early modern period, the Ottoman material culture and aesthetics exerted considerable influence on the tastes of Moldavian and Wallachian elites. However, while this cultural footprint has been recognized with regard to moveable luxury goods, such as garments and household objects, the architectural influence has been regarded differently within historiography. Particularly, the absence of mosques and other Islamic places of worship in the Danubian principalities has been brought up in scholarship as an argument for their position outside of the Ottoman space. In turn, the incorporation of Ottoman architectural elements was usually considered as a purely stylistic choice devoid of deeper meaning. The scope of this study is to rethink the relationship between Ottoman models and their incorporation into the built environment of the Danubian principalities throughout the early modern period. Focusing on the patterns of architectural patronage and incorporation of Ottoman stylistic elements, the paper argues that patrons in Moldavia and Wallachia not only emulated many of the trends from Istanbul but also consciously incorporated them to emphasize their ties to the imperial culture and society. By means of constructing fountains, depicting kaftans bestowed upon them by sultans and adapting a decorative program radiating from the imperial centre, rulers and boyars showcased not only their wealth but also their ties to the Ottoman political edifice and elite culture of the empire.

TRANSYLVANIAN CIVIC SUMPTUARY LAWS IN THE EARLY MODERN PERIOD: PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

MÁRIA PAKUCS-WILLCOCKS

This article examines the Transylvanian sumptuary laws of the early modern period, in a first analysis with a historical emphasis on this particular legislation. Sumptuary legislation appeared in the sixteenth century in the urban centres of the Transylvanian Saxons. Beginning with the eighteenth century, the Habsburg administration issued territorial clothing laws for the entire province, while urban councils of the Saxon towns also continued issuing their own sumptuary legislation, which were inspired by the *Policeyordnungen* of the Austrian Empire, without being simple imitations of these. As a preliminary study, I highlighted the main concerns of

sumptuary laws, their emphasis on social order and restraint, on the division of urban communities into professional and social groups, and on the notion of luxury.

FRENCH RESIDENTS IN OTTOMAN CRETE: TRADE, DIPLOMACY AND DAILY LIFE IN THE EARLY EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

DAVID CELETTI

Crete has been widely considered as a secondary trade centre by the French primary sources themselves. A deeper analysis of the files preserved at the Archives Nationales de France specifically concerned with the island's trade and diplomatic relations with France reveals, however, quite another picture. The increasing olive oil exports to Marseille – an essential raw material for the booming southern France soap industry –, the strategic position of its harbors both for military and commercial endeavors, as well as the vibrant diplomatic activity of the consuls based in Crete, made the island one of the most relevant pivots of 18th-century French presence in the South-Eastern Mediterranean. These aspects not only shed new light on the French-Cretan economic relations, but also allow us to uncover the tight interconnections between trade and diplomacy, the complex daily life of French residents united under the *Nation Française*, as well as the multifaceted relations among ethnic and religious communities living on the island.

DOWRY CONTRACTS, WOMEN'S OBJECTS AND THE CIRCULATION OF GOODS IN MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY ROMANIAN FAMILIES. THE CASE OF OLTENIA

NICOLETA ROMAN

The paper aims to investigate the nexus between family life, consumption, and socio-cultural changes in nineteenth-century Wallachia through the lens of dowry contracts. It also investigates the link between dowry and inheritance in an urban milieu and the type of goods and properties a woman could obtain at the moment of her marriage. By analysing a corpus of 250 dowry contracts registered in the Wallachian city of Craiova between 1831 and 1856, the study examines a gradual shift in the material culture of the province at the watershed marking the transition from Ottoman-style models, that had characterised the province throughout the early modern period, to the newly-emergent consumer culture influenced by the penetration of Western European commodities. Engaging in a quantitative analysis of the dowries, as well as their legal framework and social impact, the study depicts a complex process of cultural change associated with the Europeanization of tastes in the peripheral society of South-Eastern Europe.

URBAN TRANSFORMATION OF THE MYTILENIAN BOURGEOISIE: THE CASE OF THE KOURTZIS FAMILY

ANASTASIA FALIEROU

This essay examines both the process of urban transformation and the westernizing trend among the Greek bourgeoisie in Mytilene in the second half of the nineteenth century. By focusing on the papers from the Kourtzis family archive, the study analyzes the social and cultural world of Lesbos' elite and the utility of the archive for tracing the changes in the manners and pursuits of the emergent bourgeoisie. The paper investigates the ways members of the family tried to express their new status and cultural outlook through the adoption of Europeanized material culture and the networks it utilized to both shape their new way of life and acquire commodities necessary to do so.

THE PRICE OF HEALTH. THE COST OF MEDICAL TREATMENT IN PREMODERN MOLDAVIA

SORIN GRIGORUȚĂ

In premodern Moldavia as everywhere else, the cost of treatment was an important impediment to having a good and healthy life. Factors such as wealth, status and the presence and the accessibility of a trained medical personnel were crucial in this sense. The present study explores the strategies pursued by individuals to prevent and treat the diseases. From the doctors' initiatives, their relationship with the patients and the significance of religious beliefs in the people's lives, they are all discussed in connection with the subject.

THE DANUBIAN LEECH TRADE IN THE 19th CENTURY. THE GLOBAL MARKET OF A TINY PRODUCT

CONSTANTIN ARDELEANU

This paper refers to the organisation of the Danubian leech trade in the second quarter of the 19th century, a period when it grew tremendously, in the context of increasing demand for this product on the Western markets. By the early 1830s, the leech trade witnessed a tremendous growth in the Danubian principalities. Large quantities were exported, and their price boomed on the local market, making leeches a luxury product hardly accessible to its customers. Given the product's strategic importance for public health, but also with reference to environmental concerns, authorities in Wallachia and Moldavia regulated the trade in leeches. It was the moment when the demand of leeches reached its climax, and French merchants established profitable contacts in the Ottoman Empire, in Wallachia, Serbia, Bosnia, Albania, and Bulgaria. As local consumption was lower than in the West, and marshes were abundant, French wholesalers came to South-Eastern Europe and took over the

business of their former Italian, Greek or Jewish providers. These transnational trading connections completely changed the value of otherwise useless marshes. The paper details several aspects related to the profitable leech trade until the 1860s, when its popularity started to decrease, with the coming of other medical practices.