

DUCHOŇOVÁ, Diana. *PALATÍN MIKULÁŠ ESTERHÁZY. Dvorská spoločnosť a aristokratická každodennosť. (THE PALATINE NICHOLAS ESTERHÁZY. The Court Community and Aristocratic Everyday Life)*. Bratislava: Veda Vydavateľstvo Slovenskej akadémie vied, 2017, 558 pages. ISBN 9788022416061.

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In the past, research into the history of the nobility was not one of the most important themes in Slovak historiography. For various reasons it was relegated to the periphery of interest. The problem of the nobility was traced only as a less important factor in Slovak history of the Early Modern period. This flowed from the fact that the privileged group did not have an appropriate place in previous conceptions of Slovak history. The privileged were often presented as a foreign, unwanted and unpopular element in the historic process. The fact that the young generation of Slovak historians has taken up this theme can be positively evaluated. They are no longer influenced by the older conceptions and methodological postulates. The application of modern research methods have led to research into the aristocrats and magnates of Early Modern times bringing a radical shift in the existing views and conceptions of the Slovak history of this period.

The extensive work of Diana Duchoňová on the leading member of a magnate family, the Palatine Nicholas Esterházy is an important breakthrough in this direction. After a very short time, this work is getting a second revised and supplemented edition, which is a remarkable phenomenon in Slovak historiography. The problem of the magnate families of the Kingdom of Hungary in the Early Modern period is rather complex. It has a whole constellation of complex social, political and cultural aspects, levels or fields as well as a wide range of possible theoretical and methodological points of view. To gain a rounded and objectively balanced picture of a magnate family, the author had to subordinate the structure of the whole work to this aim.

It is possible to say that the 16th century brought an interesting phenomenon in Hungarian society, namely the social and economic rise of hitherto little known or insignificant families. Members of the Esterházy family also reached the top of the social ladder as part of this wave. Their most important representative was Nicholas (1583–1645), whose political career led to the office of Palatine or Viceroy to the King of Hungary. The difficult path to the highest peak of Hungarian society included well-constructed family contacts, kin relationships, strategic marriages and economic background. Almost every member of the Hungarian aristocracy had to pass through these phases. The individual stages of the life of M. Esterházy have been worked out very clearly, especially concerning his genealogy and complex family, kinship and political connections. Widening of his economic base was an essential part of the career progress of an early modern aristocrat. Property transfers, exchanges, mortgages, purchases and sales were accompanied by a lot of building activity, which involved his permanent and temporary residences from Mukačevo to the western frontier of Hungary. On one side, the construction of aristocratic seats demonstrated first of all the social position of the owner. No less important was the presentation of his taste, aesthetic demands and the perception of modern artistic and architectural trends.

The Palatine of Hungary represented the king in his absence. The monarch was usually not present in the Kingdom of Hungary, and for this reason, a royal court or residence did not function here in its classic form. The court of the Palatine had to take over the function of the monarch's residence. Apart from common traits, every court had its own specific features impressed on it by the personality of the current Palatine. The uniqueness of the court of each Palatine was a typical feature of the political system of Hungary. Although every court strove to imitate and provide the functions of the royal court as far as possible, a degree of uniformity, continuity and the timeless dimension were lacking. We think of the considerable frequency of personalities in the positions of Palatine or Governor of Hungary. This rule can also be applied to some degree to the court of the Palatine Nicholas Esterházy. Although there is already some possibility to compare the courts of the highest Hungarian dignitaries and this could bring interesting results, it demands special study and went beyond the framework of this work.

The court of the Palatine was an administrative, political, military and partly also economic and judicial centre with its own rules serving the whole state. It was also the private and family centre of an independent aristocrat, who had a large number of specific and important functions. We can speak here of some degree of symbiosis or overlapping of the public and private activities of the Palatine. The court was both a state office and the household of an aristocrat. In many cases it is very difficult to exactly distinguish between these two spheres. The author of the work considered here has concentrated especially on the problem of the private aspect of the palatine's court. She presents it as a varied and many-layered social system. She traces questions linked with the discipline of court society and the possibilities or space to build a career at an aristocratic court. The courtiers and servants also created a varied range of social relationships.

The way of life and lifestyle, which the author documents as the rituals of everyday life, determined the specific character of the private sphere of a magnate's court in early modern Hungary. Life at an aristocratic court followed the rhythm of solving everyday economic matters, organizing celebrations, festivals, family festivities and funerals. She considers upbringing and service at court, where contacts and experiences were gained, as crucial periods in the life of an aristocrat. Marriage brought heirs, new family relationships, property and political capital. The reality of aristocratic everyday life was really specific in that every day it was necessary to perform a large number of repetitive actions and duties. His position meant that a magnate had to travel constantly between his properties and state centres to solve official matters. The author has studied this aspect in great detail.

The work on the Palatine Nicholas Esterházy provides an outstanding presentation not only of his personality, but also of his immediate surroundings and background. The structure of the work also enabled the author to depict the areas of the life of a magnate that he shaped and that shaped him. It was also possible to identify elements that contributed to shaping the uniqueness or uniformity of a magnate's court. A rounded picture of the whole range of activities of the aristocratic elite of the Early Modern period arises from the detailed and precise soundings into the court of the highest dignitary of the Kingdom of Hungary and his everyday social sphere.

The author has been very successful in combining two at first sight different levels – the scientific and the popular – into a very interesting form. She works simultaneously with a scientific note apparatus and with quotations and examples from the sources. The rich colour illustrations and tables only emphasize the attractiveness of the work not only for the scientific, but especially for the wider reading public. Diana Duchoňová's work is an outstanding example of how propagation and popularization of science can and should be done on a very high expert level.

Viliam Čičaj

DRÁBIK, Jakub. *FAŠISTA: Příběh sira Oswalda Mosleyho (THE FASCIST: The story of Sir Oswald Mosley)*. Praha: Academia, 2017, 500 pages. ISBN 9788020026798.

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Oswald Mosley's person is not unknown in historical research. But the potential importance of his person, in the modern history of Europe, disappears when compared to the more successful inter-war dictators who applied their political ideas at the head of states. Mosley's life was not exceptional just by failing to gain power. The publication, written by historian Jakub Drábik, points not only to the political life of Oswald Mosley.

The publication *The Fascist* can be divided into two forms. The first is about Mosley's transition between political parties. Mosley first served as a Conservative, then in the Labour Party, to finally end his career as a Fascist, who at the end of his life promoted a deformed and strictly British imperialist form of European integration.

In the second form, the author analyses the conditions of British parliamentarism and political culture, which could be preventive factors protecting society against the real success of Mosley's Fascist movement. He does so in particular by explaining the frontier position in which Mosley was located before setting up his most famous British Union of Fascists (BUF) project.

Jakub Drábik is engaged not only in the political career of Mosley but also in his private life. This is also evident in the titles of individual chapters. Words like Rebel, Fascist, Antisemite, Prisoner, etc. provide the reader with information about what period of Mosley's life the author is considering at the given place of publication. This interesting structure of the publication helps the reader to shape the picture of changes in Oswald Mosley's life attitudes in particular periods.

The positive feature of Drábik's publication is that it is not limited only to historical research. Interdisciplinary exploration of Mosley's motivation and the psychology of his personality is acting on the reader with a stimulating impression. However, the publication does not refer only to Oswald Mosley's life. A significant part is devoted to the British Fascist Union (BUF). The author notes many aspects of the organization's work, whether it is financing of the movement by Benito Mussolini or the story of the domestic sympathizers such as Lord Rothermere. In addition to describing the BUF's activities, the anti-fascist tradition of the United Kingdom is also remembered, but without un-