



## **Project draft**

### **The first European ceremonial manuscript, the Leges Palatinae ms. 9169 of the Bibliothèque Royale Albert I<sup>er</sup> in Brussels, its secondary manuscripts and meaning of symbolic communication**

The Leges Palatinae, promulgated in 1337, anticipate all European ceremonial texts in text, form and illustration and follow a tradition not known so far, which can be assumed between the heritage of the ancient world, the Byzantine empire and the Arabian-Islamic culture.

The Leges Palatinae circumscribe the service to the king as functional part of courtly etiquette even more precisely than all other manuscripts and texts known so far since the High Middle Ages. As it was common practice to define the services to the sovereign as general activities that are determined easily and whose reward was, if need be, to be written down, then a system of complementary and socially disciplined practices at the royal court were defined. Here, the formulation and configuration of practices were most important; WHAT is followed by HOW.

With the registration and research of the tradition of legal texts and ceremonials, the legal and cognitive conditions of social systems as well as the organization of social processes and symbolic communication are becoming clear. In addition to this specific case, Jaime III. of Mallorca inherited his empire as descendant of the second son Jaime II. of Mallorca. The descendant of the first-born and brother of Jaime III., Pedro III. the Great, as well as his descendants had always claimed for the empire Mallorca and its territories Montpellier and Perpignan. Jaime did not fulfill those claims until it happened that Pedro (IV. of Aragón) disempowered his brother by means of the destined or intended dominion of primogeniture, took the empire from him and annexed it to Aragón. Pedro IV., also called Pere IV el Ceremoniós, which is the "Ceremonious", received his second name because he had translated the Leges Palatinae into Catalan and introduced them to his court. The highly illustrated

manuscript of the *Leges Palatinae* turned into a treasured gift during Jaime's escape, which later was to be heir not only to the ceremonials in Burgundy.

The consult and research of further ceremonials made the localization of this most modern text of its kind in these times possible. Other ceremonials had fallen into oblivion since the ancient world such as the Byzantine, replaced by a rare presentation until Jaime found the possibility of external presentation and internal organization. Mallorca, functioning as platform of the Levant trade and one of the most important islands of the Mediterranean Sea in these times, consisted of Arabian, Jewish and Christian inhabitants after the Recuperation in the 13th century.

Following other research results of the project leader, we now need to find out about the manuscripts, their contents and illustration, if and if it is the case, which part a social class living in Arabian-Islamic tradition might have with respect to those innovations.

The consult and research of secondary manuscripts as well as other legal texts of these times make further insights possible with respect to the question, if stronger social disciplination or simple legislation or organization was the impetus of the manuscript.

The ceremonial establishes order with respect to the social conditions and defines possible (spacial) references of the persons to each other. It even partly defines architecture, which surrounds the potentate or includes the court. The former not only happened with respect to the personal or familiar relationship to a distinct central person - e.g. a potentate -, but also regarding his social position that he or she inherited within the social structure, which formed the basis of internal relationships at a court or in a social elite.

Contrary to the *Consuetudines* that sometimes defined a rather lax relationship or to the sharply defined and delimiting determinations, the ceremonial permitted a temporary and, from time to time, "ad hoc" occupation of a position or an activity at the court by distinct persons and therefore a constantly balanced system of social relationships. For the offices were defined in the ceremonials, sometimes even the dignitaries (in the sense of persons representing the offices), who were responsible in a ceremonial action. However, they were clearly and completely defined as "mantle" and the potentate, who occupied the ceremonial personnelly, could make changes anytime within the open characters of the recorded ceremonial. The particularities of the written concept were to be described subject to actually verified forms of symbolic communication, as long as documents are to be found (itineraries, ministers' reports, oral or written traditional penalties for the non-observance of sections of the ceremonial etc.). It seems to be sure, - however, this

needs to be verified - that many ceremonial scripts were used as means for social disciplination, or even for the order at a court.

As long as there were courts, which contained sedentary and distinct quorum of curials, ceremonials kept the court in order. We know that ceremonial determinations existed in the ancient world, in Byzantium and in the Arabian-Islamic world over the entire Middle Ages. However, we do not know about the origin that obtained the European ceremonial with its first version, the *Leges Palatinae*.

The manuscript of the *Leges Palatinae* is European on the one hand, because it influenced Europe - even if it did not originate from the mainland - i.e. today's southern France and Catalonia. On the other hand, it is different, because its roots have not been verified in the European cultural history so far. For historic conditions, it also influenced Italy, inspired the ceremonial in Burgundy, where the manuscript was to be found in the library, and came "back" to Spain. It served kings and presumably even popes as model; and as Jaime III., as already mentioned, took the manuscript with him on his escape from his empire, it even found its way across Avignon and Burgundy to Antwerp; today, it can be found in Brussels.

The manuscript has been researched partially since the *Acta Sanctorum* edition and even more detailed since 1905 in several larger works. However, the following essential components are missing, which are supposed to be presented now:

1. Critical Edition, if necessary, references to other manuscripts, collation;
2. Classification of the manuscript into the context of ceremonial manuscripts, the *Ordenacions de Cort*, *Libre de Privilegis* and other corresponding texts;
3. Review of predecessors mentioned in the text, the text genesis and the origin of words as well as the origin of the new concept;
4. Description of the position of the manuscript as legal text;
5. Description of the court order;
6. Research of sources and locations, where the ceremonial appeared – if necessary, connection of both (e.g. effects of the court and precedence order to the spacial planning, which means to the palace architecture)
7. Illustration, development of pictures, presentation of space and activities, the sovereign's self-projection, localization within the history of arts
8. Interaction between text and illustration  
(illustration comments text – text comments illustration – illustration is co-text of the written)
9. Form-historical components (reception of Italian forms in manuscripts)

10. Classification into the history of representation of courts, profane institutions and the nobility in general as well as the royalty compared with sacral dignitaries (popes, Cardinals, possibly Byzantine sovereigns in their self-conception etc.)

We plan an advisory board/committee, consisting of scientists, who will meet in 2008 or 2009 at a conference for exchanging ideas. Furthermore, we plan to carry out archive research on-the-spot, i.e. in Barcelona as well as the Majorcan crown archive, and exploring the secondary manuscripts and respectively legal texts. The project will last for about three years at least; on the net, information on the project will be presented (manuscripts, research results of archives, conference protocol) and it will be completed with a publication.

For common editing of the manuscript, it will be presented online, i.e. its miniatures, texts, editions and transcriptions. The latter are to be found in the Acta Sanctorum as well as in recent publications and will also be available in the online - "edition" as copies.

We will plan, design and carry out this first part together with the competence center of the University of Trier.

Last update: 3. September 2007

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(more information at the bottom)

The following persons are interested in a collaboration or in a border committee and respectively advisory committee, which would function as consulting committee so far:

- Professoressa Dr. Olivetta Schena, Università di Cagliari  
(particularities of the manuscript, continuation, reception in Aragón)
- Dr. Ricardo Urgell, director of the Majorcan crown archive, Arxiu del Regne, Palma  
(sources and documents of the royalty of the island)
- Prof. Dr. Blanca Garí, Prof. Titular Historia Medieval, Historia Medieval Universidad de Barcelona, Responsable Relaciones Internacionales Facultad

Geografía, Historia y Arte

(historical questions concerning the empire of Mallorca, Catalonia etc.)

- Prof. Elisa Varela, Paleografía Universidad de Girona (paleographical questions)
- PD Dr. Gisela Drossbach, Stephan Kuttner Institute of Medieval Canon Law, Munich (historical and legal aspects or committee)
- Prof. Dr. Johann Konrad Eberlein, university of Graz (illustrations, classification of the manuscript into history of arts or committee)
- em. Prof. Dr. Marcel Durlat (Toulouse) (system of the courtly order and contents of the manuscript, committee, not secure)
- Prof. Dr. David Abulafia, Cambridge (collaboration in the field of the history of Mallorca, levant trade and trans-European relationships)
- IMA (Institut du Monde Arabe), Paris (informal exchange, literature, reception of scientists, transfer of contacts etc.)
- IREMAM (Institut des Recherches et d'Études sur le Monde Arabe et Musulman), Aix-en-Provence (collaboration still needs to be clarified in the field of the process of tradition of Islamic elements in the West)
- Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Herrmann-Otto, University of Trier (in the field of ceremonial, late antiquity to Justinian)
- Dr. Christine Mirwald (manuscripts)
- Luis Tudela, Profesor Tutor del Centro de la UNED (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia) Illes Balears (publications on diff. topics of the history of the kingdom of Mallorca)
- Amadeo Serra Desfilis, Profesor Titular de Historia del Arte Universidad de València (architecture)
- Prof. Dr. Ludwig Vones, University of Cologne (history of the Iberian peninsula; special questions)
- Prof. Dr. Werner Paravicini, University of Kiel, Residenzenkommission, former director of DHI Paris (history of the ceremonial, not secure)
- Lic. ès lettres Ph.D., emer. Prof. Oleg Grabar, Professor of the Islamist history of art at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton (Islamist history)
- Dr. Ulrike Bauer-Eberhardt, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek (manuscripts)

(others will follow)

**Project draft (planned):**

At first, the manuscript will be presented digitally and the single research fields will be determined. Afterwards, we need to carry out research with respect to the above mentioned desiderata, i.e. the following positions:

1. Critical Edition (Latin philology of the Middle Ages or similar competence)  
about 1 year
2. Linguistic and historical classification of the texts (paleology, hist. ancillary sciences)  
about 1 year
3. Research of sources on-the-spot (Barcelona, Palma, if necessary Madrid)  
about 2 years
4. Classification into the history of the ceremonial/legal history (historian)  
about 2 years
5. Administration of the entire project, editorial works, researches, investigations, research in archives, libraries and scientific institutions, organization and administration of the advisory committee – about 3 years

Vacancies:

3 positions for 2 years (promotion or publication/habilitation)

2 positions for graduate assistants, 3 years

Administration/organization: if necessary; at first, ½ year until application at the DFG, filed for initial funding at the university

**Durability:**

The entire project will last for about three years (2008-2011). We plan a conference in 2009 on the subject matter; in 2011-2012, all results will be published.

**1. Section: Preparation (2007/08)**

We plan the preparation period for 2007/08. During that time, we will determine, who will contribute distinct jobs and results to our project, and if necessary, which jobs need to be delegated. Furthermore, we need to sift through archives, ask the archives' directors with respect to the material, plan the jobs and their dimensions and calculate the approximate durability of their development. We also need to prepare historic workings (dimension etc.) and methods, proceeding and objectives.

In addition, we will make the manuscript and its texts available online (in cooperation with Thomas Burch from the competence center for electronic development and publication proceedings in humanities of the University of Trier).

This is supposed to serve as basis for a cooperation and availability of all new results, which shall be made accessible to the entire team.

The competence center will provide the following:

- ➔ Online version of the manuscript on a html basis or in a CMS
- ➔ Synchronous browsing of illustration and editions/transcriptions/translations
- ➔ Marker for editing of the manuscript
- ➔ Navigation and
- ➔ Hyperlinks

The competence center is also applicant and cooperation partner.

## **2. Section: Project procedure (2008-2011)**

Having completed the preparations, archive research and editorial duties will be carried out "en bloc", if possible. This will presumably require at least 2 years, whereas the above mentioned emphasis of the tasks, which, of course, need to be verified during the initial work, corresponds to the required positions, if we can assume an analogue source situation in other corresponding archives.

At a relatively early point in time, we will collect recent results in a conference. Afterwards, some further courses would be possible.

***For further information, please contact:***

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