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The logo for the Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien (KHM) is located in the top right corner. It consists of the words "kunst", "historisches", and "museum" stacked vertically in a sans-serif font. To the right of the word "historisches" is a green square containing the lowercase letters "khm" in white.

Egypt and Austria VII:
Representations

Book of Abstracts

Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien

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Konrad Antonicek & Theophil Antonicek

Egyptian motifs in the Viennese Baroque Opera

Egypt did not take a very prominent place in librettos of the Baroque era. Nevertheless one can find some reminiscences to the land of the pharaohs, and Egypt or Egyptian figures came up in the works of the poets of the imperial court in Vienna like the famous Pietro Metastasio. Even if a specific Egyptian character is not ever recognizable and Egypt sometimes only stands for a part of the ancient world without a special distinction to other countries, the operas presented to their audience a particular idea of the land on the Nile influenced by the reports of the classical writers. The aim of this paper is to investigate this image of ancient Egypt presented in the operas of this time.

Margit Berner

Physical Anthropology and the Representation of Ancient Egypt at the Natural History Museum Vienna

Museums and exhibitions are important vehicles for communicating scientific achievements and educating the general public alike. In the history of physical anthropology museums played an important role for conveying and presenting ideas of the concept of race. This presentation seeks to explore the tradition of exhibiting the collections of ancient Egypt in physical anthropology at the Natural History Museum, Vienna. In 1930 the Natural History Museum opened an exhibition on anthropological prehistory, which the press lauded as one of the biggest and most comprehensive exhibitions on humankind in history. Apart from offering a general overview of human prehistory, it featured a novel discussion of all perceived racial types and their relationships to one another grounded in 700 skulls and 1000 photographs. The anthropological part was curated by Viktor Lebzelter. The exhibition was structured on geographical and evolutionary classifications as well as on important collections of the museum. One section of it was devoted to the collections of ancient Egypt in Austria. Already from this exhibition a way of presentation was chosen which remained dominant in exhibition of physical anthropology for decades. This was the use of a combination of skulls, photographs and busts or face masks.

Angela Blaschek

The austrian painter Charles Wilda (1854–1907)

In the last nineteenth century several european artists called ‘Orientalistes’ dedicated their work the Near East. The austrian painter Charles Wilda, pupil of the famous Carl Leopold Mueller, even called Egyptian-Mueller, travelled serveral times to Egypt. His paintings introduce the West to the vital life, art and architecture of the Orient. As he changed his name Carl into Charles it is due to the english and french clientel, which bought preferently his works. But even exists landscapes around Vienna from him and paintings of tales and stories.

Cordula Brand

“Wir schmücken die Frauen der Welt” [We adorn the women of the world] How glassindustries of the Jablonec region changed the outward appearance of Egyptian women

“Wir schmücken die Frauen der Welt” – With this motto czech industries produced jewellery for all over the world. The great success based on the colourfull items as well as the low price and last but not least on the fact, that a network of agents watched the market and taste of the women in the different countries. These informations were given to the workshops who created different jewellery items for each country. One big market were the islamic countries, especially Egypt. This paper will try to show how czech glassindustries made a contribution to a deep change in the outward appearance of egyptian women of the different countryside regions like Nubia, the Nile Valley, the oasis and Sinai in the last two centuries. In many cases czech glass articles replaced traditional forms and colours and they enlarged the variety of adornment. Out of a summary on the traditional costume of egyptian women, based on written sources, early photographs and original jewellery items this development will be presented by the example of glass bangles, islamic glass stones and some special types of glass beads.

Ernst Czerny

Gustav Klimt und die ägyptische Kunst. Die Stiegenhausbilder im Kunsthistorischen Museum in Wien und ihre Vorlagen

Gustav Klimt lieferte 1891 als Teil des an die „Künstler-Compagnie“ gegangenen Auftrages zur Dekoration der Zwickel und Lünetten im Prunkstiegenhaus des Kunsthistorischen Hofmuseums die beiden Bilder „Ägyptische Kunst I“ und „Ägyptische Kunst II“, die heute zu seinen spektakulärsten Frühwerken gezählt werden. Klimt komponierte seine Darstellungen aus realistisch gesehenen ägyptischen Objekten und Elementen. Dennoch gelten die Vorlagen für diese Bilder als unbekannt. Es wurde lediglich festgestellt, daß die verwendeten Stücke nicht aus den Sammlungen des Hauses stammen. Eine sorgfältige Untersuchung machte es nun aber möglich, sämtliche Vorlagen Klimts für die Wiener Stiegenhausbilder zu identifizieren. Alle Bildelemente lassen sich auf teils farbige, teils schwarz-weiße Abbildungen in archäologisch-kunstwissenschaftlichen Publikationen des späten 19. Jahrhunderts zurückführen. Dies ermöglicht interessante und überraschende Einblicke in die Arbeitsweise des jungen Künstlers und in seinen Umgang mit den benutzten Quellen.

Clemens Gütl

Representations of Egypt in adult education centres in Vienna, 1919-1938

Approximately 330 lectures given in adult education centres (Volksbildungseinrichtungen) in Vienna during the interwar years dealt with the African continent. Thematically more than one third referred to Egypt. This paper will overview the characteristics of Volksbildungseinrichtungen in Vienna, it will shed light on the lecturers who chose Egypt as their subject and it will give insights into their particular representations in the broader historical context.

Gottfried Hamernik

Anton von Lukovich. Rise and fall of a remarkable personality in Egypt

Anton von Lukovich is recorded in the archives of the Egyptian collection at Vienna as donator of three pharaonic columns to the Austrian emperor Franz Joseph on occasion of his visit to Egypt for participating in the inauguration of the Suez canal in 1869. Bergmann, the first curator of the Vienna-collection calls him “österreichischer Civilingenieur” in his publication on these columns and a recent Egyptian one by Mohamed Awad considers him as a prominent Italian architect working at Alexandria in the 19th century. He was born in Prčany, a small place near to the Boka Kotorska (Bocca di Cattaro), in 1815. After his studies at the University of Padua in engineering he moved to Egypt provided with a letter of recommendation by the former Napoleonic general Marshall Marmont. He started his career in Egypt as engineer in Mohamed Ali’s service, then he became a wellknown architect at Alexandria. Some buildings designed by him like the Greek orthodox church, the Anglican church and a mosque for instance still exist. He made a fortune and lost his money by battles with Egyptian authorities. He left the country in bitterness for Venice. Nevertheless he returned for a short stay to Alexandria where he died on the 16th January 1879.

Hana Havlůjová

Representing Women’s Voices in the Era of Late Colonialism: Two Cases of Czech and Egyptian Feminists Compared

Did international feminist bodies such as International Woman Suffrage Alliance/ International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship (IAW) rather confirm or oppose policies of the late colonialism? On the one hand, some of the evidence shows that IAW composed both national and imperial feminisms under the umbrella of universal feminism. On the other hand, the issues of a country-based membership or anti-colonial contestation challenged the idea of a global sisterhood. In order to discuss to what extent the struggle for women’s emancipation supported or challenged imperialist movements, the paper explores two cases of Czech and Egyptian feminists, Františka Plamínková (1875–1942) and Huda Sharaawi (1879–1947), who became representatives of their national associations in IAW in the first half of the 20th century.

Johanna Holaubek

Austrian Musicians and Singers in Egypt (1869-1914)

Austrian musicians and singers travelled to Egypt *representing* Austrian art and culture. In my paper I will concentrate on some of them: in the years 1869 to 1895, Josef Schrammel (1852–1895), a traditional Viennese musician and composer (the founder of the ‘Schrammel- Quartett’) travelled to the Orient. He performed his music in many restaurants and coffeehouses together with two relatives and a number of other Austrian musicians who he met on the way. Minnie Hauk (1851–1929), a famous Viennese opera-star of that period sang various roles in the Cairo Opera during the seventies. From March 18 to April 5, 1905 the ‘Wiener Männer Gesang-Verein’ travelled to Egypt. The male chorus gave charity concerts for the Austro-Hungarian ‘Hilfsverein’ in Egypt and even sang in the presence of the Khedive Abbas Hilmy II. The climax of the trip was a festive banquet where they sang at the foot of the Great Pyramid. In my paper I want to focus on the musicians’ and singers’ impressions of Egypt as well on how they were received by the Egyptians themselves.

Libor Jůn

Jiří Baum. Lectures about Orient

In my lecture, I would like to present travels of Jiří Baum from a different point of view. It will concern lectures of Baum and Foit, that were presented to a different audience - for students, clerks, workers in many towns of the Czech Republic. They were preparing advertisement, lecture, diapositives and films. We can follow the process of preparing these lectures, that were, like travelogues, very useful for the general knowledge of the Orient in the Czech Republic.

Adela Jůnova Macková

Globetrotters in the Orient in 1920s

My lecture will concentrate on two completely different types of globetrotters traveling to Egypt in 1920s. Viktor Mussik, young scout, was travelling to Egypt and Palestina with his friends just for fun during the holidays. Karel Malý Tatranský and his wife Otilie planned a journey round the world. They were travelling on foot through Europe, North Africa and Palestina, with a donkey and a camel to carry their luggage full of postcards, glass diapositives and photographs. They prepared lectures and articles for newspaper. Their journey finished tragically in Palestine.

Tomislav Kajfež

Adolf Lapaine: From Memories of Egypt. An Adventurous Journey to Egypt

In 1930 Adolf Lapaine published his memories of three journeys to Egypt entitled *From memories of Egypt* in the literary-cultural journal *Odmevi* which was being published in Ljubljana before the World War II. The article came equipped with 5 black and white photographs which had been taken by his friend Bojan Tavzes, as well as Lapaine's own watercolour of a felucca on the Nile in front of the Island of Philae with the Trajan's kiosk in the background. Lapaine's memoirs do not have any major literary or cultural-historical value. In addition to his first teenage adventure to Egypt, the author describes only the traditionally-known customs and habits of modern Egyptians. It is interesting that he does not mention any ancient Egyptian monuments or describe the landscape along the Nile although Tavzes's photos show them. It seems that the heritage of the ancient Egypt did not impress Lapaine. He was more interested in the customs and habits of modern Egyptians. Despite these drawbacks, the article remains to be an interesting example of a description of a journey and the feelings of a Slovene intellectual who considered his journeys to Egypt and his fascination with the Orient as an escape from a routine daily life at home.

Irena Lazar

Presentations of Egyptian deities in SE Alpine Region in Roman Period

Already in the Roman period the influence of Egypt, its culture and art, spread over Mediterranean not only in Italic peninsula but also in other provinces of the Empire. In the lecture we will focus on the East Alpine area (modern Slovenia) and presentations of Egyptian influence or better to say its presence in the provincial life. In the area this is mostly recognizable in the religious life, where the presence of Egyptian gods and goddesses like Isis and Harpocrates, to mention only the best known, are known from inscriptions, sculptures, reliefs etc. We will present the historical development and influence of the cults in the area.

Christian Liebl

Urania in Egypt: two study tours to the lands of the Nile, 1912-1914

In 1912 and again in 1913/14, the Wiener Urania, Vienna's foremost adult education centre, organised two study tours to Egypt and Sudan. This paper will look at the meticulous planning of these tours as well as their programmes and academic guides (Erwin Hanslik, Josef Strzygowski, Eugen Oberhummer). The accompanying correspondence, travelogues and subsequent reports reflect the expectations, perceptions and representations of Egypt in the minds of fin-de-siècle Austro-Hungarian tourist parties.

Hossam Mahmoud

Conference 1932 in Cairo

Eine wichtige Begegnung der Kulturen, die in Vergessenheit geraten ist. Der ägyptische König Fouad lud im Jahre 1932 herausragende Musikwissenschaftler, -theoretiker und Komponisten sowie Musiker aus Europa und dem arabischen Raum nach Kairo zu einer Musikkonferenz ein und beauftragte sie, die arabische Musik zu systematisieren und eine allgemein verbindliche vergleichbare Begrifflichkeit zu schaffen und sie so der Welt zur Verfügung zu stellen.

Hana Navrátilová

Vaclav Zelenka – amateur orientalist?

Professionals in Oriental studies were often surrounded by a community of pupils and interested laymen. However, oriental studies attracted a wider variety of interest. Amateur orientalists seem to be rarer in the 20th century. Perhaps Vaclav Zelenka, a teacher of the Pardubitz "Handelsakademie" may be seen as such amateur-scholar in Oriental studies. His interest in the Orient is undoubted, and so is his fervour. However, although he was in comparatively close contact with leading scholars of his day, and published extensively, responses to his activity were mixed.

Wolf B. Oerter

Viktor Stegemann, Prag und die Koptische Paläographie

In 1940, Viktor Stegemann, who had studied Classics and Egyptology and is famous for his Coptic Palaeography, went from Würzburg (Germany) to Prague because he had been appointed lecturer at the Chair of Classics at Prague German University, there he became later on honorary professor. His bequest (lecture notes, excerpts, correspondence – inter alia with the Austrian Coptologist Walter C. Till –, etc.) is located in the Prague Literary Archive and shed light not only on the history of German speaking Czech egyptology. Stegemann was the last lecturer in Coptic before the end of World War II.

Miroslav Šedivý

The Impact of Austrian Economic Interests on Metternich's Near Eastern Policy in the 1820's and 1830's, with Particular Regard to Egypt

The goal of this paper is to analyze the extent of the trade between the Danubian Monarchy and the Ottoman Empire in the 1820's and 1830's and its impact on Metternich's Near Eastern policy. In the first part of the essay, the problem concerning the lack of sources on the economic relations of the two Empires during this period is to be discussed, and some figures relating to the trade and unknown up to the present time are to be added from several European archives. The second part reveals how Austria's vast economic interests in the Levant, and particularly in Egypt, determined the decision-making process of the cabinet in Vienna in the diplomatic affairs of the region.

Edith Specht

The Maria Theresien-Taler a.k.a. the “Levantiner”

The paper reflects the history and the commercial importance of the “Levantiner” in the Near East and in Africa especially in the 19th century and up to the present. This silver dollar was official currency in the Hapsburg countries from 1751 to 1858. Its high silver standard made it a most popular coin also in the Balkan region, in the Near East (Levante) and in Africa. Namely after the opening of the Suez-canal in 1869 it became the main currency in the North East of Africa and on the Arab peninsula, where it was accepted until the 1960ies. The supra-national acceptance of the coin enabled the fast growth of the trade with the Levant, and later on with Africa. Until today almost 400 million specimens were minted.

Lubica Zelenková

A travelling journeyman – The carpenter Daniel Šustek (1846 - 1927) hunting for a job in Egypt and the Near East

Daniel Šustek was born on January the 28th 1846 in Slovenská L'upča (Slovakia). The family foresaw for him a higher education but the economic situation forced him to learn the art of carpentry. He immersed himself in study and dreamed of becoming a travelling journeyman. Already in 1864 he set off for his trip to Esztergom, reached Buda, Pest and Székesfehérvár. The desire of Šustek to explore foreign countries and meet persons of different cultures led him to Merano, Innsbruck, Munich and Paris. He wished to enter Africa and Asia and after spending some time in Istanbul he decided to take off for Egypt. Šustek continued his travels through Egypt to the Near East and found a well-paid job in Beirut. But his thirst for knowledge was not satisfied yet. In 1872 he crossed the Atlantic Ocean towards America where he finally settled down, got married and his curiosity found its peace. The paper will present the distressful life of a Slovak carpenter who, hunting for a job and understanding, was able to visit four continents and who put down his experience in writing. Šustek's impressions from his travels were published already during his life in the Slovak newspaper “Obzor” (Horizon) and in 1874 his book “Cesta cez Turecko a Egypt do Svätej Zeme” (The Journey through Turkey and Egypt to the Holy Land) was published. His perception of the Arab World and the depiction of the Near East through the eyes of a hard-working member of the middle classes are of immense interest.