

Activities Report of the **Austrian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, 2022-2023**

By Thomas Assinger (OGE18 Secretary).

This report covers activities of the Austrian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (OGE18) from August 2022 through the submission deadline of May 15, 2023.

I **Organizational and Strategic Matters**

The **OGE18** was founded in 1982 and currently has 189 members. The current **board** (https://oege18.org/?page_id=18) was elected on November 25, 2022, and will remain in office until the end of 2024. The society celebrated its 40th anniversary at its 2022 annual convention (*Tag des 18. Jahrhunderts*) by presenting an issue of its yearbook dedicated to the Enlightenment in comics and graphic novels and by a keynote lecture on Public History of the Eighteenth Century. The OGE18 is still dedicating specific efforts to the recruitment of colleagues at the beginning of their academic career. Also, a specific focus remains on targeted information exchange between national Eighteenth-Century Societies. The mid-term goal is to initiate and coordinate larger international and trans-regional grant proposals.

II **Publications**

Recently Published [Yearbooks](#) (double-blind peer-reviewed) of the OGE18:

Thomas Wallnig / Thomas Assinger / Elisabeth Lobenwein (eds.), *Achtzehntes Jahrhundert populär*, vol. 37, Wien – Köln – Weimar 2022 (OGE18-Jahrbuch: Das achtzehnte Jahrhundert und Österreich). [*Special issue with a focus on representations of the 18th century and the Enlightenment in comics and graphic novels.*]

Mona Garloff / Doris Gruber / Manuela Mayer / Marion Romberg (eds.), *Open Up*, vol. 38, Wien – Köln – Weimar (forthcoming 2023; OGE18-Jahrbuch: Das achtzehnte Jahrhundert und Österreich). [*Open-topic yearbook with contributions from members of the society from different academic disciplines.*]

Recent Publications in the [OGE18 Book Series](#):

Renate Zedinger, Maria Luisa de Borbón (1745–1792). *Großherzogin der Toskana und Kaiserin ihrer Zeit*, Wien – Köln – Weimar 2022 (Schriftenreihe der Österreichischen Gesellschaft zur Erforschung des 18. Jahrhunderts, vol. 22).

Pavel Himl, *Beobachten, Beschreiben, Gestalten. Die Polizei im Zeitalter der Aufklärung und der Moderne Staat, 1770–1820*, Wien – Köln – Weimar (forthcoming 2023; Schriftenreihe der Österreichischen Gesellschaft zur Erforschung des 18. Jahrhunderts, vol. 23).

III **Activities**

Unlike other Societies, the OGE18 does not feature a regular series of lectures. However, it tries to reach out to its members through different formats of academic exchange instead, while, of course, also participating in the co-organization of talks, conferences and excursions.

A highlight of this year's event program was the **Tag des 18. Jahrhunderts** on November 25, 2022, in Vienna. On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the OGE18, this convention was dedicated to the Enlightenment in public and popular culture. Following a roundtable on the history of the OGE18 and the presentation of the latest issue of our yearbook on representations of the 18th century in popular culture, Marko Demantowsky (Professor for Public History at the University of Vienna) delivered a keynote lecture on "Public History avant la lettre. August Ludwig Schlözers academic practice". Moreover, new members and their current research projects were officially introduced.

Entertainment was provided by Dominik Nostitz, who accompanied the event with pop songs on 18th

century themes. During the event, donations were collected for travel grants for Ukrainian colleagues who will attend the ISECS Congress in Rome.

In the context of the [Central European Book History Research Network](#) a hands-on **Workshop** on data & tools was held on January 11, 2023, at the Austrian National Library Vienna, headed by Thomas Wallnig.

Two presentations are to be mentioned from OGE18's cooperation with the **lecture series** [Geschichte am Mittwoch](#) (History on Wednesday) at the University of Vienna: On January 11, 2023, Stefan Benz (Bayreuth) talked about the visualization of 18th-century Austria in German pictorial hall works 1890-1945; on June 14, Marcus Stiebing will speak about children and the military in 18th-century Habsburg monarchy.

On April 21, 2023, at the **conference** [Wien – Berlin. Hofgesellschaften digital](#) at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, the research portals "Praktiken der Monarchie" on the Prussian court in the 19th century and "The Viennese Court. A prosopographical Portal" on the Viennese court in the 17th and 18th centuries were presented with a diverse program of lectures and discussions.

Beyond these events, the OGE18 also organizes regular seminars for the discussion of pre-circulated papers ("**jours fixes**") as well as reading groups concerned with fundamental texts on Enlightenment research ("**Arbeitsgespräche zur Aufklärungsforschung**": https://oege18.org/?page_id=1769). In order to convey hands-on knowledge about digital humanities research, the OGE18 is continuing its series of "**digital days**", an open exchange format for DH-oriented projects on the (long) eighteenth century (https://oege18.org/?page_id=1890).

In memory of Emperor Francis Stephen of Lorraine's special role as patron to the sciences and the arts in 'Austria', the OGE18 has launched a call for submissions for the **Francis-Stephen Award 2023** for excellent dissertations on the history and culture of the Habsburg monarchy in the 18th century. Furthermore, the OGE18 called for submissions for the **Francis-Stephen Promotion Award 2023** for excellent MA-theses on a topic from the field of eighteenth-century studies presented at an Austrian university. With these awards, the society aims to promote early career scholars in the field of eighteenth-century studies. The awards will be formally presented at this year's annual convention.

To **recruit new members**, the Schenk eine Mitgliedschaft (Donate a Membership) initiative was launched. Members of the OGE18 can thus give away one-year memberships, from which particularly graduate students and early career scholars should benefit.

A new **task force** will henceforth professionalize the administrative and editorial processes involved in publishing the Society's **Yearbook**. This is intended in particular to render cooperation with guest editors more transparent and to improve the peer review process.

Regarding the society's **outreach efforts**, the OGE18 regularly posts content on its **social media** (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) in addition to its website. Furthermore, new books in 18th century studies are presented in short videos and interviews via the **OGE18 Youtube channel** ("[OGE18 Bücherkiste](#)").

For a detailed account of all OGE18 activities please visit our website (www.oege18.org).