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Abstracts

Laura Casella

Noble assets in early modern Friuli: an overview and some case studies of male and female claims across the border

The article deals with the question of noble goods in early modern Friuli, taking into consideration both those territories subject to the Venetian Republic after 1420 and the county of Gorizia and Gradisca, which formed part of the Habsburg dominions from 1500 onwards. The piece begins by outlining the regulatory norms that noble goods were subject to in the two different political regions. Taking a few families as case studies and making use of institutional and private sources, the author then examines the various modes for the transition of noble goods and property from one family to another, whether by acquisition, marriage or inheritance. The aim is to illuminate the economic and marital choices that bound together or divided the families of the regional elites, as well as the concrete actions of women and men regarding the transmission of goods. Such an approach allows for a more substantive social history of the aristocracy, one oriented around issues of family and gender, thereby overcoming the political interpretation that has dominated the history of the Friulian nobility hitherto, which reflected divisive and opposing ideas about a border that was politically sensitive for several centuries.

Siglinde Clementi

Marriage in border regions. Wealth and property agreements among noble men and women in early modern Tyrol

The article is concerned with marriage agreements regarding wealth and property among men and women of the early modern landed nobility in Tyrol, which in legal terms constituted a transitional space between northern and southern traditions of law. The negotiations accompanying a noble marriage referred on the one hand to the Tyrol territorial law code (*Landesordnung*) and on the other hand to the laws pertaining in the lands of the spouse's family. The system of marriage dowry agreements practised in Tyrol reflected this legal plurality. For example, noble daughters entirely renounced any inheritance claims to family goods in return for their receipt of a substantial dowry to take into marriage, as occurred in the Italian dowry system. In contrast to the Italian system, however, marriage contracts among the Tyrolean nobility consistently foresaw a 'morning gift' (*Morgengabe*) from the husband to the wife after the first wedding night, and frequently also a so-called 'counter dowry' (*Widerlage*) comprising the wealth brought into the marriage by the husband. Such practices undoubtedly reflect the influence of the neighbouring countries to the north. The stipulations regarding widowhood sought to find

a balance between the Tyrolean regulations regarding the renouncement of inheritance and the extensive separation of goods between marriage partners. The transitional legal space in the border region of Tyrol enabled noble families a relatively large degree of freedom in their marriage agreements, as they sought to achieve a balance between potential advantages and disadvantages for individuals and families against the background of marital gifts' considerable material and symbolic significance.

Birgit Heinzle

Together or separated? Marital property practices in the Upper Styrian lordly domains of Aflenz and Veitsch, 1494–1550

Styrian marital property practices in the fifteenth und sixteenth centuries were characterized by diverse marital property systems. Legal stipulations regarding marital property rights did not develop in Styria until the seventeenth century. Therefore, the Styrian estates developed their own marital property practices, depending on a variety of economic, geographic and social factors. In particular, marriage contracts from the landed estates of Aflenz and Veitsch in Upper Styria reveal a wide range of marital property arrangements, containing joint property and separation of property, as well as combinations of these two systems. Married couples had the possibility to determine which system was most convenient for their situation. However, their decisions in these matters were strongly affected by external and internal factors, including institutional frameworks, the amount of marital property, familial influences, and the existence of children from former marriages. Hence, this article examines marriage contracts between 1494 and 1550 and analyzes the differing impacts of property arrangements on spouses and their social environment.

Gesa Ingendahl

Contractual alliances. Kinship relationships in marriage agreements in the imperial free city of Ravensburg

The analysis presented here shows how early modern marital contracts activated and maintained contemporary kinship relationships. The author offers a praxeological reading, which understands the common actions documented in the marriage contract as a practice of making a promise that was founded on the conclusion of a contract experienced both materially and physically by the par-ticipants. With the completion of the contract, the current kinship alliance was stabilised via the promises about the future that had been fixed in writing. At the same time, this practice left room for situational needs. In the marriage contract, kinship became a cooperative, compatible relationship that was actively experienced and strengthened. So to speak, the agreement made the contracting partners 'agreeable' to one another.

Cinzia Lorandini

Undivided family patrimonies and entrepreneurial activity in the early modern period: the example of the Salvadori family in Trento

The recourse to undivided patrimonies for business purposes was not at all rare in the early modern period, the major example being the Venetian fraterna. Following a description of the main features of this practice, the article focuses on the case of the Salvadori family from Trento, whose firm was based upon an undivided patrimony that belonged to an extended family group from the second half of the seventeenth through to the early nineteenth century. This case study provides numerous insights into the presence of a fraternalike form of business organization in the Prince-Bishopric of Trento. Moreover, family and business records allow us to trace precisely the evolution of the Salvadori family's strategy over more than a century and to analyse the role played by certain key variables. It is thus possible to relate the adjustment in the family lineages involved in the undivided patrimony to the presence of actors capable of promoting family cohesion, changing demographic conditions, family wealth and status, and marriage policies.

Jon Mathieu

Property arrangements and kinship in early modern Grisons: basic patterns, changes and contextual frameworks

This article shows that family patterns in the Grisons region had many similarities to those in western Tyrol. Among ordinary people, inheritance was characterised by a fairly gender neutral system of partibility, and marital funds were constituted by the separate property of husband and wife. During widowhood, however, the position of women was often weak, as shown by difficulties with second marriages and rights to housing. The nobility followed dynastic family strategies that were characterised by the giving of ever greater preference to sons over daughters and by an increasing amount of economic transfer within marriage. The article puts these regional findings into a general framework and concludes with a proposition for further research: if we wish to understand the differences in marital funds between Grisons/Tyrol and the eastern regions of the Alps (where joint property seemed to prevail), then historians should pay more attention to the controlling power of lordship (*Herrschaft*). While kinship was a crucial force behind property arrangements in the western Alps, in the eastern areas it was overshadowed by lordship.

Andrea Sarri

The diocese of Brixen / Bressanone during the Great War

The article deals with the religious teachings of Franz Egger, bishop of Brixen/Bressanone, during the Great War. The author studies the workings of the bishop and his closest collaborators by means of analysing the public instruc-

tion disseminated in the diocesan press. The examination of these documents (pastoral letters, episcopal monitions and notifications, and articles authored by the bishop's collaborators) is designed to illuminate the cultural foundations that guided the religious interpretation of the conflict on the part of the local church hierarchy. The bishop and leading members of the diocesan clergy constantly tried to give meaning to the war by justifying it in religious terms. Egger's reflections developed by referring to the doctrine of the 'just war', while his words were not free of attempts to sacralise the war itself. Above all, after Italy's intervention into the war in May 1915, Egger invoked the historic armed defence of Tyrol under the protection of the Sacred Heart. Seeing Tyrol as being undermined by the forces of secularisation, Egger affirmed the 'pedagogical' value of the war, which he interpreted as a punishment sent by God to punish Christianity's apostasy and as a chance to atone for individual and collective sin.