

EÖTVÖS LORÁND UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

MÓNIKA MÁRIA LIPP

THE INTERIOR OF THE CONVENT, CHURCH AND HOSPITAL OF
THE BROTHERS HOSPITALLERS IN EGER
IN THE 18th CENTURY

THESES OF PhD DISSERTATION

Doctoral School of Art History and Cultural Studies

Art History Doctoral Program

Head of the Doctoral School and of the Art History Doctoral Program:

Prof. György Kelényi DSc

Head of the Committee: Prof. emer. Mária Prokopp CSc

Opponents: Anna Jávör PhD

András Szilágyi PhD

Secretary of the Committee: Prof. habil. János Kalmár CSc

Members of the Committee: Margit Beke DSc

Julianna Ágoston PhD (spare member)

Anna Eörsi PhD (spare member)

Supervisor: Prof. György Kelényi DSc

Budapest 2012.



S. Johann von Gott, Stifter der Barmherzigen

I. The subject of the research, the aims of the dissertation

The members of the Brothers Hospitallers used to work in Eger for more than two centuries, from 1726 until 1950. The order was dissolved in Hungary in 1950, and their institutions were nationalized. The church of the hospital in Eger was emptied in 1961. The most important aims of the dissertation are: the reconstruction of the interior of the convent, church, hospital and pharmacy in the 18th century, and to find the scattered works of art. We have tried to interpret the works of art in their original context, knowing the brothers' everyday life and activity based on the constitution of the order.

II. The research methods

Our research was based on the documents in the Archive of Heves County, in the Archive of the Archdiocese of Eger and in the National Archive. We used photos from the Photo Archives of the István Dobó Castle Museum in Eger, from the Photo Archives of the Research Institute for Art History of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and from the National Office of Cultural Heritage. Among the 18th century sources the Prothocollum of the convent in Eger and the Constitutions of the Brothers Hospitallers published in 1757 in German (Vienna, National Library) were especially important.

Besides studying the relevant literature in the field of art history, we studied the literature on the history of the Brothers Hospitallers, the life of Saint John of God (the founder of the order), the history of Eger and the history of medicine. The research carried out in libraries, museums and in the convents and churches in Austria played an important role in the reconstruction of the interior of the building in Eger. We have found a report written in 1786 about the interior of the pharmacy. We studied the documentations about the restoration of the murals, of the wooden panels, the entrance door and the clock of the refectory and of some paintings.

III. Summary of the results of the research

The artists and craftsmen who worked for the building of the Brothers Hospitallers in Eger worked for other buildings commissioned by the diocesan bishop as well, for example for the bishop's palace. The Brothers Hospitallers used the small St. Joseph Church (that had been transformed from a mosque) from 1727 until 1841. We have managed to find most of the goldsmith's works (chalices, ciborium, monstrance and reliquaries), many paintings, two statues and a wooden cross – that used to be in this church in the 18th century. Besides the objects made in Eger, there were many works of art which were purchased or donated from Austria: some paintings, an organ, a chandelier, some goldsmith's works and liturgical vestments. In 1755 a copy of the miraculous statue of Wies was donated to the church in Eger and we suppose that a copy of the miraculous Holy Family painting in Vienna (in the church of the Brothers Hospitallers) used to be there as well.

Some of the Brothers who lived in the convent in Eger took an active part in making the furnishings. For example, Brother Colmanus was the head of the joinery of the convent. His name is mentioned in the documents from 1728. The painter Brother Lucas Huetter made paintings, altarpieces and painted window shutters for the cells of the brothers. In our view the 12 pictures on the 6 wooden window shutters are all deeply connected to the religious way of life. Martinian and Evagrius on the first window shutter are fine examples for resisting temptations. Venerius and St. Paul the Simple show the importance of obedience. The hermit saints: Mary of Egypt, St. William of Maleval, St. Onuphrius and St. Francis of Assisi are all examples of poverty, asceticism and self-denial. St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Isidore of Madrid, and the hermits Mutius and Simeon all received divine help to complete their tasks. One of the most important results of our research is that Lucas Huetter used three series of engravings by Johannes and Raphael Sadeler (made after Marten de Vos (1532–1603), a painter in Antwerp) for the paintings on the window shutters.

Lucas Huetter decorated the wooden panelling and the entrance door in the refectory with paintings. We think that many of the scenes from the New Testament on the wooden panels could be considered as parallels of events in the life of St. John of God, the

founder of the order. There are 8 pictures on the entrance door and these reminded the Brothers of repentance, of the last judgment and of heaven and hell. We are convinced that these topics are connected to the public confession of sins held weekly in the refectory. We have managed to find some of the engravings Lucas Huetter used for the pictures on the wooden panelling in the refectory. Two pictures were painted after compositions by Rubens, just like the Visitation on the side altar in the parish church in Erdőtelek. There used to be a beautiful cartel clock (made in 1777) on the northern wall of the refectory. We managed to gather a lot of data about the bishop's clockmaker, Wunibaldus Rein who made this masterpiece.

There are two paintings by Huetter which are called „meditation pictures” in the literature and we consider them to be Faust crucifixes. There are 8 large oil paintings that used to be on the corridor walls of the convent. They depict the founder of the order, Brothers who set good examples, and the protectors of the order who are: St. Charles Borromeo and Archangel St. Raphael. The attributes of Archangel St. Raphael (on works of art in the houses of the Brothers Hospitallers) refer to the miraculous help he gave to St. John of God.

We have managed to find some connections among the works of art in the convents and churches that used to belong to the province of Archangel St. Michael. For example there is a painting in Eger depicting St. John of God with a patient. It is a copy of a painting (made in 1763) by Franz Xaver Wagenschön in the refectory of the convent in Vienna. The iconography of the works of art in the convents of the order can be outlined. Most of the works of art depict the life of the founder of the order, the patron saints against various illnesses and personalities who are good examples for the Brothers to follow.

The Brothers Hospitallers in Eger purchased and made small devotional pictures. We have found such devotional pictures in the István Dobó Castle Museum in Eger, in the collection of Zoltán Szilárdfy and in the Museum of Ethnography in Graz. With the help of devotional pictures, paintings and engravings we have tried to reconstruct a hospital room in the 18th century. We managed to find the catalogue of the library of the convent in the Széchényi National Library's manuscript collection. In many cases we managed to correct some mistakes (for example about the statues on the facade, about the saints on the window shutters etc.) in the literature about the Brothers Hospitallers in Eger.

Table of contents

Review of the relevant literature	3
The Hospitaller Order of St. John of God	9
The historical background: Eger in the 18th century	13
The foundation of the hospital and convent of the Brothers Hospitallers in Eger	17
The history of the building of the hospital, convent and pharmacy of the Brothers Hospitallers in Eger	19
The history of the St. Joseph Church	24
The interior of the St. Joseph Church	26
The sacristy	43
The new church	53
The building of the hospital, convent and pharmacy of the Brothers Hospitallers in Eger in the 18th century	56
The reconstruction of the 18th century interior	61
The hospital	61
The first medical school in Hungary	66
The pharmacy	70
The convent	73
The inhabitants	73
The cells	74
The corridors	89
The refectory	98
Murals in the refectory	127
The kitchen	130

The garden	130
The joinery	131
The painter's studio	132
Small devotional pictures	141
Library and archive	147
Suites	150
Summary	151
Bibliography.....	155
List of illustrations	168
Illustrations.....	181

My related publications and lectures

Adalékok az egri irgalmasrendi templom és kolostor egykori berendezésének történetéhez.
Atria – Az egri Dobó István Vármúzeum évkönyve XLV. Eger 2009, 353–361.

Szent József tisztelete az újkori Egerben. Archivum – A Heves Megyei Levéltár Közleményei. 19. Eger 2010, 115–126.

Kunst in der Kirche, Konvent und Krankenhaus der Barmherzigen Brüder in Erlau (Ungarn) im 18. Jahrhundert. Internationaler Doktorandenworkshop des Instituts für Geschichtswissenschaften und Europäischer Ethnologie in Zusammenarbeit mit der Österreichischen Gesellschaft zur Erforschung des 18. Jahrhunderts. Universität Innsbruck, 2010. november 4-7.

The Convent, Church and Hospital of the Brothers Hospitallers in Eger (Hungary) in the 18th century. 13. Internationalen Kongress zur Erforschung des 18. Jahrhunderts. Graz: Karl-Franzens-Universität. 2011. július 25-29.

Művészek, patikusok, betegápolók: az egri miseriek a XVIII. században. Archivum – A Heves Megyei Levéltár Közleményei. 20. Eger 2012, 75–89.

The Convent, Hospital and Church of the Brothers Hospitallers in Eger in the 18th century.
In: Gunda Barth-Scalmani – Joachim Bürgschwentner – Matthias König – Christian Steppan
Hrsg.: Forschungswerkstatt: Habsburgermonarchie im 18. Jahrhundert / Research Workshop:
The Habsburg Monarchy in the 18th Century. Das Achtzehnte Jahrhundert und Österreich
Band 26. Verlag Dr. Dieter Winkler. Bochum 2012, 103–115.