

Abstract

The content of this dissertation is the life and œuvre of Johann Georg de Hamilton, a relatively obscure painter of hunts, portraits of horses, hunting still-lives and hunting scenes. Johann Georg de Hamilton (1672-1737), a painter belonging to a famous Scottish family, was influenced in his creative work considerably by the 17th-century Flemish painters of still-lives and hunting scenes. He was active predominantly in Vienna and in South Bohemia, in service of Adam František, Prince of Schwarzenberg, as well as Karl VI of House Habsburg. He created hunting-themed paintings and portraits of horses to members of both the secular and the ecclesiastic aristocracy of the lands of the Austrian Empire, such as the Houses of Liechtenstein, Serényi, Althan and others. This dissertation is the very first attempt at a monographic analysis of the life and œuvre of this painter. In addition to new bibliographic data, it offers an in-depth insight into the relationship between the person who commissioned his work, Adam František, Prince of Schwarzenberg, and the painter Johann Georg de Hamilton on the basis of extant correspondence, and also attempts to present the painter's œuvre in a cultural-historical and artistic context. The dissertation mentions the first exhibition of a collection of Hamilton's work, which took place in Vienna in 1888, as well as the "research" efforts of the Schwarzenberg archivist František Mareš pertaining thereto. Approximately two dozen of Hamilton's paintings underwent pre-restoration and chemically-technological analysis prior to the commencement of restoration efforts. The specific details of J. G. de Hamilton's œuvre are reiterated also on the basis of this analysis. For the first time ever, works from Austrian collections as well as Czech ones are gathered in one place in the selection catalogue.

Key terms: Johann Georg de Hamilton; Adam František, Prince of Schwarzenberg; hunting still-life; hunt; hunting scene; portrait of a horse; portrait of a dog; equestrian portrait.