

## Circulation of News and Goods

### The Transfer of Modern Urban Forms of Living in the German Speaking Press in Prague and Buda-Pest

Anna Ananieva<sup>1</sup>, Rolf Haaser<sup>2</sup>, Mate Eichenseher<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1&2&3</sup> Institute for Eastern European History and Area Studies, Eberhard Karls University, Tübingen (Germany)

anna.ananieva@uni-tuebingen.de, rolf.haaser@uni-tuebingen.de,  
mate.toth@uni-tuebingen.de

Our project takes as a starting point the prerequisite that throughout Europe, a modern urban discourse of entertainment emerged during the first half of the 19th century.[1] After 1800, the imperial metropolises London, Paris, Vienna and Saint Petersburg set the tone for social and cultural life amongst urban elites. Central and Eastern European cities such as Berlin and Leipzig as well as Prague and Pest, which developed into new urban centres in the course of the 19th century, oriented themselves towards the metropolitan culture. Newspapers and journals reported in detail on these newly developing life-worlds. Therefore the periodically published printing products had a decisive impact on the staging of a new imaginary cross-border community. Especially an innovative type of “entertainment journals” fostered the circulation of news and goods.[2] Aim of the project is to trace the specific medial constellations of entertainment within the German speaking press market which were developed, implemented and also rejected through interaction of the imperial metropolises and the aspiring cities in Central Europe. The project asks particularly which forms of modernity were developed with the help of urban entertainment and entertainment press in this cultural transfer space.

The German speaking actors and media of entertainment in Bohemia and Hungary lie at the core of the studies. Looking at press market in Buda-Pest and Prague of the first half of the 19th century, the study reconstructs the interaction and transformations that took place as a result of an increasing innovation and diversification of the medial practices in the area of entertainment.[3] Questions are discussed that focus on the transfer of knowledge on a modern urban style of living within a network of correspondents, which covered Prague and Pest, Leipzig, Vienna and St Petersburg.

One of the most important aspects deals with the network of numerous mostly anonymous contributors as well as correspondents known by name. From time to time even prominent figures took a decisive position and established a lively exchange of news between the established and the new metropolises and their newspapers. Regular reports on the cultural and social life as well as literary sketches presented “colourful pictures” from the own as well as foreign cities and thereby entertained a broad audience between Leipzig, Vienna and St Petersburg. They therefore ranged among the central sorts of texts which drove forward the transfer of modern urban forms of living

#### References:

- [1] See for details: <<http://www.uni-tuebingen.de/fakultaeten/philosophische-fakultaet/fachbereiche/geschichtswissenschaft/seminare-institute/osteuropaeische-geschichte/forschung/forschungsarbeiten/zirkulation-von-nachrichten-und-waren.html>>. The research project is funded by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media.
- [2] Ananieva A. et al. (2015) Auf der Schwelle zur Moderne: Szenarien von Unterhaltung in Deutschland zwischen 1780 und 1840. Vier Fallstudien. Vol. 2. Bielefeld: Aisthesis, 580-594.
- [3] Ananieva A. & Haaser R. (2014) Wasserströme und Textfluten: Die Überschwemmungskatastrophen 1824 in St. Petersburg und 1838 in Ofen und Pest als Medienereignisse in der deutschsprachigen Prager Presse, in *Jahrbücher für Geschichte Osteuropas* Vol. 62, Issue 2, 180-214.



# CIRCULATION OF NEWS AND GOODS

THE TRANSFER OF MODERN URBAN FORMS OF LIVING  
IN THE GERMAN SPEAKING PRESS IN BOHEMIA AND HUNGARY, 1815-1848

## SUMMARY

The project investigates entertainment press in the cultural transfer space of European metropolises in the first half of the 19th century. Its aim is to trace the specific medial constellations of entertainment within the German speaking press market in Buda-Pest and Prague. Starting point is the assumption that in this time a modern urban discourse of entertainment emerged throughout Europe. Newspapers and journals reported in detail on these newly developing life-worlds. The study reconstructs the interactions and transformations that took place as a result of an increasing innovation and diversification of the medial practices in the area of entertainment.



## CITIES

The imperial metropolises London, Paris, Vienna and St Petersburg set the tone for social and cultural life amongst urban elites. Central and Eastern European cities such as Prague and Buda-Pest, which developed into new urban centres, oriented themselves towards this metropolitan culture.



J. G. Kohl, 1. von Th. Hübner

## ACTORS

Transfer took place via a network of actors, consisting of numerous mostly anonymous contributors as well as correspondents known by name, who covered Prague, Buda-Pest, Leipzig, Vienna and St Petersburg. Even prominent figures like travel writer Johann Georg Kohl or Count István Széchenyi took decisive positions and established a lively exchange of news between the old and the new metropolises.



Der Hinger

## MEDIA

Periodically published printing products, especially the innovative "entertainment journals", had a decisive impact on the staging of a new imaginary cross-border community. Regular reports on the cultural and social life as well as literary sketches presented "colourful pictures" of cities and entertained a broad audience.



## RESEARCH PROJECT TEAM

Eberhard Karls University, Tübingen (Germany)  
Institute for Eastern European History and Area Studies,  
Ludwig Uhland Institute for Empirical Cultural Studies  
Prof. Dr. Klaus Gestwa, Prof. Dr. Reinhard Johler,  
Dr. Anna Ananieva, Dr. Rolf Haaser,  
Mate Eichenseher B.A., Julian Windmüller, Johanna Heisig

## CONTACT

Dr. Anna Ananieva  
Universität Tübingen  
Institut für Osteuropäische Geschichte  
und Landeskunde  
Wilhelmstraße 36  
D - 72074 Tübingen



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