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Johann Jacob Eybelwieser (1666-1744) – painter from Wrocław

The thesis I am preparing will concern the life and work of the Wrocław baroque painter, Johann Jacob Eybelwieser (1666-1744), one of the most successful Silesian painters of the eighteenth century. My work will include both the characteristics of the works of the Silesian artist and specificities of his workshop – Wrocław's most dynamic painting studio in its time. The work will try to answer questions about Eybelwieser's life about which we still know very little, about his youth, journeyman years and later years of activity, including the nature of cooperation with the most famous painter of the Baroque period in Silesia – Michael Leopold Willmann. The main objective of the work will, however, look at the whole artistic legacy of Eybelwieser – numerous altar paintings, portraits and frescoes. Artist acting on behalf of both the powerful catholic orders (Jesuits, The Knights of the Cross with the Red Star, The Knights of Malta) and Wrocław bishop, as well as powerful families (Herbersteins, Sternbergs, Schaffgotschs), left a considerable legacy, which the vast majority remains not studied yet. A thriving workshop convened orders not only from the city of Wrocław and surrounding areas, but also from distant County of Klodzko (Grafschaft Glatz) and Jelenia Góra (Hirschberg). Therefore, the expected results of the work, apart from expanding the knowledge about the Eybelwieser's life, will also include an analysis of his work and, as a result, will help to return the painter from Wrocław proper position in the Silesian art history. An important and expected result of the research will also be an extension of an existing, known artist's *oeuvre* with new, discovered during query, works. The main problems arise from the lack of research studies on the painter, or the works that he made. Archive query, not only in Wrocław archives, but in large part also in Prague, where are situated archives of The Knights of the Cross with the Red Star and The Knights of Malta – orders with which Eybelwieser tied up for years as an artistic servitor, will be necessary. Since most of the works of the painter are located outside of Wrocław, often in small parish and filial churches, insightful wheeling query will be essential, covering several districts of Lower Silesia, especially districts of Wrocław, Jelenia Góra (Hirschberg) and Klodzko (Glatz). So far the

artistic aspects of the work of the painter were not analyzed. Meticulous study of his works will help to answer the questions about the painting technique and artistry of Eybelwieser.

The aim of the research work will therefore be analysis and characterization of the works of the most important Wroclaw's painter in eighteenth century, undoubtedly deserving of its place in the history of Silesian baroque. It seems to be important also from a slightly wider point of view. Namely, there is still no any larger scientific description of Wroclaw baroque painting, so analysis of the Eybelwieser's works could therefore be an attempt to at least partially fill this „gap”, how significant in the context of the entire history of Baroque painting in Silesia.