

Viktor Lórinicz

École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris / Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest

I.M.A Ganneval and the Cathedral of Vác

My research focus on Marcellus Amandus Canevale (or according to István Bibó's researches, partially confirmed by my own findings: Ganneval), and his cathedral in Vác (northern Hungary). My interest in the topic dates back to my high school years, and I also won the special price of the jury at the National Scientific Students' Associations Conference with a paper on this topic. Now I'm about to finish my PhD thesis at the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes in cotutelle with the ELTE University, Budapest (supervisors: Prof. Sabine Frommel & István Bibó PhD).

One part of my researches deals with the early years of Ganneval. He was born in Vincennes around 1730 belonging to an important generation of French architects, he became student at the Académie royale d'architecture, and later a pupil of Servandoni. On the basis of numerous documents from French Archives, I present the social and familial background of Ganneval, using network theory and economic theories of migration, I also present the road to the Royal academy and later the settlement in Vienna as court architect as a rational choice. I take into consideration the impact of the new currents in the 50's on Ganneval's later works. A comparative analysis of fellow pupils, like for instance Pierre d'Ixnard, active in Germany, shed light not only on Ganneval himself, but also on the master, Servandoni, and the English sources of his work.

The economic and political (peripheral) situation in the post-ottoman Hungary, the re nascent interest in local history and antiquities, and the collecting activity of the Cardinal Migazzi (also bishop of Vác) might also explain the early emergence of neoclassical style in the region. His interest in Pompeii and his relation to Winckelmann, and the abrupt shift in his political thought from Staatskirchentum toward ultramontanism can enrich the interpretation of the cathedral as "miniature Rome" antique or modern.

The frescoes of Maulbertsch, and the activity of local masters but also artist from another regions, like Silesia for instance, show an interesting collaboration between region and styles. The different unaccomplished projects and architects for the cathedrals and

episcopal residences for different bishops, but with local masters remaining on site in Vác and elsewhere in Hungary show an exciting laboratory of architectural development.

Using psychological theories of perception, I also would like to point out, how later alteration impacted our image of the building. Departing from the work of the French architect, we can also follow the (ill) fortune of the early neoclassicism in the region, compared to the later expansion reaching even Russia, and compared to the later work and style of Ganneval himself, like the Josephinum, the Narrenturm, the Neugebäude in Budapest, or the boiserie of the Palais Paar, now (as period room) partially in Lisbon and in the Metropolitan Museum of Arts in New York.