

Abstract: „He has resolved to collect a library“. Foundation and institutionalisation of the private library of Francis II (I) in Vienna. A research report

The article draws on book and library history as cultural studies and examines the history of the enlightened working and studying library of Pietro Leopoldo in Florence. Obviously, this Florentine library was a role model for his son, Archduke Francis, who was sent to the imperial court of Joseph II in order to finalise his education in 1784. With a focus on the library as cultural memory, the acquisition policy, collection holdings and social networks of Pietro Leopoldo in Florence is compared to the then evolving private library of Francis II (I) in the Hofburg palace. The private library of Emperor Francis I of Austria is a remarkable example of the personal book and graphics collection of a monarch that has been largely preserved in its original form up to the present. It is kept together with the library's archives at the department „Bildarchiv und Grafiksammlung“ (Picture Archives and Graphics Department) at the Austrian National Library (ÖNB). As part of a research project funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), these archives have been thoroughly analysed, all the sources relevant to the library, its establishment and maintenance have been meticulously described, and statistically relevant patterns examined.

Keywords: Francis II (I); Library history; Austrian history; Cultural studies

Schlagworte: Franz II. (I.); Bibliotheksgeschichte; Österreichische Geschichte; Kulturgeschichte