

Abstract: More than pleasant views? Iconographic observations on Bernardo Bellottos vedute of Vienna (1759/60)

Despite their almost iconic significance for the image of Vienna, hardly anything is known about the 16 prospects that the famous Venetian vedutista Bernardo Bellotto (1722–1780) painted during his stay at the Habsburg court in 1759 and 1760. By means of a thorough inspection and comparison of the details of what was formerly believed to be primarily decorative and atmospheric staffage figures, this paper argues that some of the figures and objects in Bellottos Viennese vedute give evidence of a common theme – if not indeed a common narration – that underlies the paintings.

Keywords: Bernardo Bellotto; Iconography; Seven Years War; Third Silesian War; Vienna; Veduta; Maria Theresia

Schlagworte: Bernardo Bellotto; Ikonographie; Siebenjähriger Krieg; Dritter Schlesischer Krieg; Wien; Vedute; Maria Theresia