The exchange of letters within aristocratic or princely circles in the early modern period is not a new field of research. The letters of aristocratic women, however, have been studied less extensively than those of aristocratic men, although new approaches to women’s letter-writing have begun to correct this imbalance. More particularly, and surprisingly given its rich potential, scholars have not given due attention to the correspondence of the Habsburgs. This workshop, focusing on the period from 1519 to 1700, will bring together researchers studying the letters and epistolary practices of both branches of the Casa de Austria. The seminar will examine both letters between family members as well as letters to and from office-holders and confidants who belonged or had access to the inner circle of the imperial family. The workshop will concentrate on such topics as the expression of emotions; letters as a means of education and of inculcating dynastic values; descriptions of courtly life, architecture, and travel; and religious practices at Habsburg courts.

Convenors
Universität Wien, Institut für Österreichische Geschichtsforschung
Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Institut für Kulturwissenschaften und Theatergeschichte
Fundación Carlos de Amberes (Spain)

Coordination
Katrin Keller (Universität Wien, IfÖG)
Andrea Sommer-Mathis (ÖAW, IKT)

Organizing & Scientific Committee
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Andrea Sommer-Mathis (ÖAW, IKT)
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Laura Oliván Santaliestra (Universität Wien, IfG)

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PROGRAMME

3 December 2015

14.30 Introduction: Andrea Sommer-Mathis, Bernardo J. García García, Katrin Keller

Personal Aspects in the Correspondence of the Habsburgs

14.45 Christopher F. LAFERL (Universität Salzburg)
On Personal Matters and Gendered Differences in the Correspondence of Mary of Hungary, Charles V, and Ferdinand I (1505–1558)

15.15 Bernardo J. GARCÍA GARCÍA (Universidad Complutense de Madrid & Fundación Carlos de Amberes, Madrid)
Weather and Health in the Family Letters Exchanged Between the Infanta Isabel Clara Eugenia and her Brother Philip III (1610–1621)

15.45 Coffee Break

16.15 Dries RAEYMAEKERS (Radbout Universiteit, Nijmegen)
Pretensiones and Mercedes. Letters of Recommendation in the Correspondence of Albert and Isabella

16.45 Magdalena S. SÁNCHEZ (Gettysburg College, Pennsylvania)

17.15 Discussion

19.30 Conference Dinner

4 December 2015

Networking Within the Habsburg Family

9.00 Katrin KELLER (Universität Wien, Institut für Österreichische Geschichtsforschung)
The Archduchess, the Queen, a Jesuit and a Carinthian Nobleman: Correspondence of Mary of Styria (1551–1608) with the Spanish Court

9.30 Alejandra FRANGANILLO ÁLVAREZ (Escuela Española de Historia y Arqueología en Roma-CSIC)
Letters, Gifts and Political Interests Between Madrid and Florence. The Grand Duchess Maria Maddalena of Austria and the Convents of the Royal Discalced and the Encarnación (1611–1631)

10.00 Silvia Z. MITCHELL (Purdue University, Indiana)
The Familial and Political Networks of Mariana of Austria: Three Models of Letter Exchange (1665–1679)

10.30 Coffee Break

11.00 Renate SCHREIBER (Vienna)
Habsburg Familial Letters in Stockholm. The Letters of the Electress Maria Anna of Bavaria (1610–1665) to Emperor Ferdinand III.

11.30 Pia ZACHARY (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich)
Emotions and Narratology. The Letters of Archduke Leopold Wilhelm (1614–1662) to Ferdinand III (1608–1658)

12.00 Discussion

12.30 Lunch

4 December 2015

Correspondence Beyond the Habsburg Family

14.30 Pavel MAREK (Univerzita Pardubice)
Pernstein Women of Prague, Vienna and Madrid

15.00 Laura OLIVÁN SANTALIESTRA (Universität Wien, Institut für Geschichte)
Connecting Habsburg Women: The Epistolary Networks of Johanna Theresia Harrach (1661–1716)

15.30 Coffee Break

16.00 Petr MAŤA, Jitka MOČIČKOVÁ (Universität Wien, Institut für Geschichte) (Univerzita Karlova v Praze)
The Emperor and his Impressario. Leopold I’s Autograph Letters to Count Franz Augustin of Waldstein († 1684)

16.30 Rocío MARTÍNEZ LÓPEZ (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia)
Marco d’Aviano and the Habsburg Women. A Continuous Correspondence in the Shadow of the Emperor

17.00 Discussion

17.30 Final Remarks