

## C H R O N I C L E

*SPLENDID ENCOUNTERS VII: CONFLICT AND PEACE-MAKING IN DIPLOMACY (1300–1800). PREMODERN DIPLOMATS NETWORK, Conference, 27–28 September 2018, Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania*

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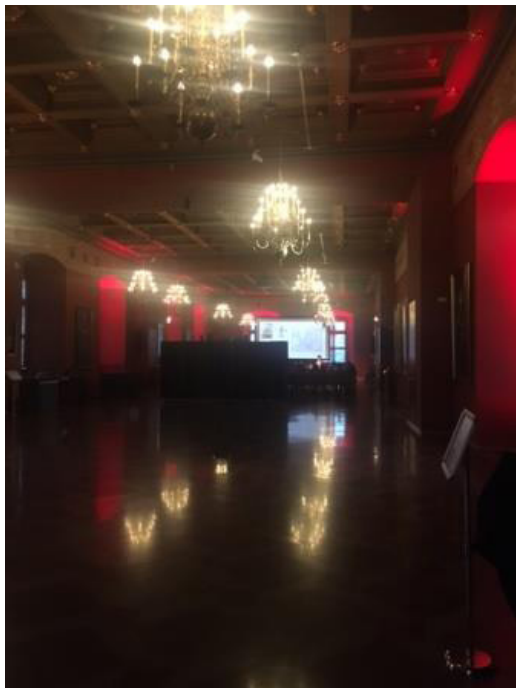
The seventh annual conference of the Premodern Diplomats Network *Splendid Encounters VII* took place in Vilnius. It was organised in cooperation with The National Museum Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania, Lithuanian Institute of History, Vilnius University, Research Council of Lithuania and Vytautas Magnus University – not to mention both the main organising institutions, Bath Spa University and Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

The topic of the Seventh Splendid Encounters conference announced through the Call for Papers was *Conflict and Peacemaking in Diplomacy, 1300–1800*, and it had the following aims:

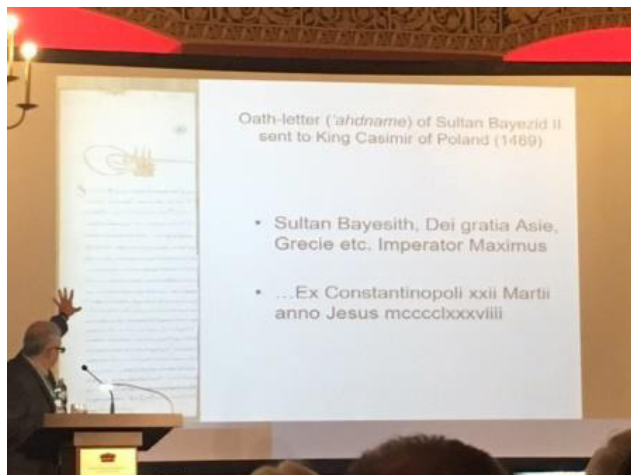
The Peace of Westphalia in 1648, ending the Thirty Years War, is often considered to be a milestone for modern diplomacy. Wars and conflicts between rulers or governing bodies have always been critical to the development of diplomatic practice. How did late medieval and early modern diplomacy approach this problem? What methods did the diplomats use to obtain the peace? All submissions on this subject are welcome, but proposals for individual papers and panels of three papers addressing the following are especially encouraged: peace negotiations on the local or regional levels; ceremony of negotiations and signing peace or truce agreements; diplomacy as a tool for ending military, religious, economic, etc. conflicts; diplomats strategies to deal with conflict on various levels; and diplomatic appeasement and peace preservation.

### The Opening

The conference was opened by a welcome address by Anna Kalinowska and Roberta Anderson, followed by two keynote speeches Rimvydas Petrauskas (Vilnius University, Faculty of History) titled 'Heathens and Christians: Diplomacy of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the age of Crusades' and Dariusz Kołodziejczyk (Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of History) gave a keynote lecture titled 'First Things First: Finding a Common Language and Date in Early Modern Diplomacy'.



Ceremonial Hall



Dariusz Kołodziejczyk during keynote speech

### Course of the Conference

The two-day conference was mainly divided into 12 parallel panel sessions featuring a total of 35 papers, and the panels were:

- Diplomacy and Conflicts Between States and/or Sovereigns I–III
- Negotiations and Negotiation Techniques
- Reporting and/or Documenting the Way(s) of Dealing with Conflict(s) I & II
- Diplomacy and the Conflicts of the Baltic Region in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century
- Cultural Dimensions of Conflict and Peace: Arts, Language and Cultural Representation and Diplomacy
- Conflict and Its Impact on Diplomatic Practice
- Muscovite Diplomacy in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century
- Oblivion in Diplomacy
- Managing Large and Small-Scale Conflicts

As far as the general course of the conference is concerned, the Polish-Lithuanian and Russian/Muscovite aspects were represented with a total of 13 papers; the other main thematic axes were Scandinavian (4), French (4), Venetian (3), Hispanic-Portuguese (1), Baltic 1, Transylvanian-Hungarian (1) contexts.

The **Polish-Lithuanian** thread was represented by seven papers; this aspect is relevant for the Friedrich III project:

Antanas Petrilionis (Vilnius University): ‘Prisoners of war in the diplomacy of the Teutonic Order and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in 14th–15th Centuries’;

Vita Diamantaitė (Vilnius University): ‘Diplomats of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the chancellery of Leonas Sapiega’;

Paul Hulsenboom (Radboud University, Nijmegen): ‘Trade in Turmoil: Dutch diplomatic missions to Poland-Lithuania in the first half of the seventeenth century’;

Marius Sirutavičius (Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas): ‘Means to maintain peace: Para-diplomatic activities between Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Muscovy in the 16th century’;

Magdalena Jakubowska (University of Warsaw): ‘Making peace or a new problem? Polish-Lithuanian negotiations in Prague and Constantinople after the fall of the Michael the Brave’;

Dorota Gregorowicz (University of Silesia, Katowice): 'A refused legation. 'Why did the primate of the Kingdom impede the papal peace-making initiative?' The case of Mikołaj Prażmowski (1668–1669)';

Arnaud Parent (Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius): 'The litigation between the Republic of the Two Nations & the Kjanate of Crimea (1760–1763)'.

The **Habsburg-Imperial** aspect was treated by the following speakers and titles:

Juliane Märker (Uni Mainz): 'Habsburg Diplomats in Venice during the War of the Austrian Succession and the Seven Years War';

Olga Khavanova (Russian Academy of Sciences): 'Praying for Elisabeth Petrovna's good health: the Imperial Ambassador, Count Nicolas Esterházy at St. Petersburg Court during the Seven Year's War';

Jiří Kubeš (Uni Pardubice): 'Audiences of Imperial envoys at the English royal court and the dispute over the title of the English Kings (1660–1750)';

Charlotte Backerra (TU Darmstadt): 'A 'Willingness to forget' as the basis of Imperial–British relations'.

There were also a few papers with an **Ottoman** aspect announced (one cancelled) in the programme:

Angela De Maria (Uni St Martin-Uni of Bordeaux Montaigne): 'The diplomatic role of Venetian and Ottoman dragomans at the end of the War of Candia';

Piotr Chmiel (independent researcher): 'Consular protection as a way of small-scale conflict prevention: several cases coming from the activity of Venetian envoys to the Ottoman Empire in the 16th and 17th centuries';

Magdalena Jakubowska (University of Warsaw): 'Making peace or a new problem? Polish-Lithuanian negotiations in Prague and Constantinople after the fall of the Michael the Brave',

Michael Talbot (University of Greenwich): "'Restoring the world again to a good state": Ottoman proposals for mediation during the War of the Austrian Succession', a really brilliant lecture.



Ceremonial Hall

The **cultural dimension of the conference topic in arts, language and representation** featured four speakers with interesting themes and papers:

Luise Scheidt (University of Cambridge): ‘The Peace of Venice. The Representation of Venice as a Diplomatic Force in the Palazzo Ducale’;

Corinne Manchio (Université Paris 8): ‘Ambiguity and inconsistency of peace in the official Machiavellian correspondence’;

Ruth S. Noyes (National Museum of Denmark Copenhagen): ‘Sanctorum gloriam in tam remotis a Roma Provinciis propagare volerint. Sacred relic translation as diplomacy in early modern Baltic “relic states”: the role of sacred in peace-keeping in boreal borderland conflicts’;

Nathalie Rivere de Carles (University Toulouse Jean Jaurès): ‘Parrhesia in Early Modern Diplomatic History and Drama: an unexpected tactic of appeasement?’.



Jiří Kubeš, John Condren, Michael Talbot

#### Reflections on Framework and Content

The following can summarise reflections on *Splendid Encounters VII* in Vilnius:

- The conference duration of two days was adequate and well-balanced.
- The printed program was very well-designed; a book of abstracts along with city/affiliation information of speakers was provided. All organizing and cooperating institutions were well presented on the programme cover; furthermore, all names on the conference organizing committee were also on the back of the programme.

#### Observations on Organisation

- All coffee breaks and lunches were provided free of charge, and as opposed to Lisbon, this time there was no registration fee.
- The framework programme was the guided tour of the Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania right after the conference, brought to an end by a brief session of closing remarks held by Bobby Anderson and Anna Kalinowska.

### Remarks on Closure

The conference was closed by Bobby Anderson and Anna Kalinowska, during which Kalinowska mentioned that the pre-planning of the next Splendid Encounters events up until 2020 is already in the run, and reminded that the first issue of the Premodern Diplomats Network online journal *Legatio* is already online ([http://legatio-ihpan.edu.pl/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=11:legatio-vol-1-2017&catid=8&Itemid=136&lang=en](http://legatio-ihpan.edu.pl/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11:legatio-vol-1-2017&catid=8&Itemid=136&lang=en)), and invited contributions for the second issue, whose editorial team includes John Condren and Laura Mesotten. Following the official closure, there was a special guided tour of the palace rooms for the conference participants lasting over an hour.



Bobby Anderson during the closing remarks