

Maria Theresia

The Female Aspect of Dominion

Bratislava, Slovakia, 23. March 2017

The Slovak chapter of WFWP organized an event entitled „Maria Theresia. The Female Aspect of Dominion“ on the occasion of her 300th birthday (13.5.1717). Empress Maria Theresia who grew up in Vienna was crowned Queen of Hungary in Bratislava in June 1741; naturally quite many inhabitants showed great interest when the lecture was announced. Thanks to the support of some Austrian institution in town far more people than expected came; over 50 people found a place to sit or stand in the lecture hall, others did not get over the doorstep. The presentation was given by Barbara Grabner who like so many Austrians admires her, one of Europe’s most powerful rulers. Her presentation highlighted Maria

Theresia’s reforms, her marriage and motherhood (16 children), her dynastic marriage policy and how she bravely defended the Habsburg Empire against invasions from neighbouring kings. Unlike many other royals before and after her she insisted to marry the man she wanted and she loved her husband Franz Stephan dearly until he died, and even thereafter. Additionally, she outlined differences with some other female ruler. In Europe there were more than 50 ruling queens and over 30 female regents during the last 1,000 years.

Among the audience was also a well-known historian who is writing a book about Maria Theresia; he contributed some comments on her activities on

Slovak territory. Two radio journalists recorded the lecture entirely. One famous journalist interviewed Barbara Grabner and the historian; the interview was broadcasted by the Slovak Radio on Sunday afternoon. Interested guests received leaflets with an overview of WFWP activities in Slovakia. A few days later the editor-in-chief of the magazine “Women in the City” made a lengthy interview and is interested in further cooperation further.

The same lecture will be held in Austria and in Hungary (Budapest 27.4.) in various locations. Who is interested in host such a lecture, please contact barbara.grabner@gmx.at.

