

Education by Philosophy



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Lecture | April 5th, 2018, Cairo University, Faculty of Arts, Dept. of Greek & Latin language

Some words before

Dear colleagues and students,
I am glad about your interest concerning my lecture. With this PDF you will find a copy from my powerpoint presentation that was displayed on behalf of my lecture. In case you have any questions, proposals or commentary you can add a brief commentary to the blog or use the contact form through my website. – It was a pleasure to meet you and to talk with you after my lecture. I wish you all the best for your study and research.

Dr. Gabriele Ziethen

Subject

- The lecture will give an introduction in European literature of education and pedagogics, whose authors tried to educate their auditory by speaking through antique figures. This was very common since 17th century literature in Europe. Antique characters resurrected by literary adaption in order to educate the “young people”. Even in literature of fiction in early 20th century such examples can be found. The lecture undertakes to explain the impact of such authors and their texts in order to find a way of introducing their message to the public and for the young generation.
- Items discussed in the lecture are based on: Wolfgang Biesterfeld, *Der Fürstenspiegel als Roman. Narrative Ethik und Pragmatik von Herrschern im 18. Jahrhundert* (Hohengehren 2014) ISBN 978-3-8340-1401-6; Review: Gabriele Ziethen, in: *Forschungen zur Brandenburgischen und Preussischen Geschichte N.F.*, ed. Preussische Historische Kommission u. Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz, W. Neugebauer u. F.-L. Kroll, vol. 26/1, Berlin 2016, pp. 139-141. ISSN 0934-1234 (print ed.), ISSN 1865-5750 (online ed.).

History & Background

Military facts:

- Hundred Years' War, 1337-1453
- Thirty Year's War, 1618-1648
- Seven Year's War, 1756-1763: the first world war in history of mankind (as some scholars define)
- Local wars and conflicts

Social themes:

Exploration of the World, new technologies, religious diversity, rising of civil self-consciousness, debates about social life and state, search for peace, the Johannes Gutenberg invention of early-modern printing technology: spreading knowledge by mass-media

Exempla - from Antiquity to Early Modern times

Antiquity:

- Heroes, semi-gods and warriors
- Ancient Rome: Summi viri
- Wise men (philosophers) and scholars

Medieval era:

- Martyrs, Church-fathers, eremites, warriors for religious belief

Early Modern times

- Scholars, educated rulers

Who was to be educated ?

- Children of rulers and aristocrats
- Successors to the throne
- Princes and princesses
- Children from non-aristocrat leading families
- Leading social class and society in general

Which subjects of education?

- Languages
- Virtues: patience, strongness, benevolence, spirituality, austerity, science, law, diplomacy, warfare
- Responsible use of power and influence
- Economy and agricultural science
- Geography and ethnography: travels and experience in foreign countries
- Experience by study of foreign ethics
- Learning by travel and excursions

Examples for education

- Basically: Platon, Arsitoteles
- Xenophon, Kyrupaideia
- Plutarch
- Ancient Roman Kings: Numa Pompilius
- Vergil, Aeneis: a program for activity
- The example of Menenius Agrippa

Literary Examples: Antiquity and Medieval era

French authors:

- Fénelon: Télémaque, 1699
- Chancieres: Les Aventures de Néoptolème, 1718
- Ramsay: Le voyage de Cyrus, 1727
- Desfontaines: Suite de la Nouvelle Cyropédie, 1728
- Terrasson: Sethos, 1731
- Pernetti: Le Repos de Cyrus, 1732
- Florian: Numa Pompilius, 1786
- Charrière: Asychis, Prince d'Égypte, 1798

German authors:

- Justi: Geschichte des Psammetichus, 1759/60
- Haller: Usong, 1772
- Röhling: Sesostris Pharao von Mizrain, 1796-1798
- Pölitz: Saladin, Ägyptens Beherrscher, 1799-1800

{All examples taken from the cited study}



2014

Numa Pompilius

Michail Matveevič Cheraskov (1733-1807), rector of Moskow University

Numa or the flourishing Rome, 1768

- Inspired by Plutarch
- Real honor through peace and science
- Education through dialogue
- Divine structure of nature as base of living conditions

Jean Pierre de Florian (1755-1797), freemason; relative of Voltaire

Numa Pompilius, 1786

- Inspired by Plutarch, Livius, Cicero
- Agricultura
- Co-existing of Roman and Persian religion
- Si vis pacem, para bellum

Authors

- Ruling aristocrats*
- (University-) Scholars*
- Protestant theologians (only few Catholic authors)
- Illuminates*
- Diplomats
- Female authors: Madelaine Scuderie (1607-1701), Marie-Jeanne Leprince de Beaumont(1753/54), Isabelle de Charrière (1798)
- Non-aristocratic authors*

Goals of literary education in 17th/18th c.

- Values of self-control and virtues
- Economy and financial life
- Keeping peace and justice
- Civil co-operation
- Religious tolerance in general **and** open mind to Oriental and Muslim world
- Social skills: science and research; environment
 ➡ **Enlightenment and way to a modern society**



Impact of the subject in our time

- Analysing records by questions of our time
- Sustainable education for justice, tolerance and peace
- Improving own positions through critical dialogue
- Optimize ourself for future through a balanced education, dialogue and travel, engagement for peace and welfare

Recent voices on the subject

Prof. Dr. Efim A. Rezvan (b. 1957), famous Russian specialist in Oriental science and Qur'ān studies (Saint Petersburg/Russia); Interview September 2017

- **GZ:** “In case we would look for joined research in such fields, what should be the items to teach to the next generation?” – **ER:** “One of the most important task is to create the historical textbooks for schools and universities based not on the history of wars, like now, but on the history of culture, religion, art, philosophy, science etc. In many cases the topics are interconnected, but our heroes must be not the soldiers, but scholars, artists, religion reformers.”

Spiritual testament (15.09.2009) of Kardinal Karl Lehmann (16.5.1936-11.3.2018), Bishop em. (Mainz/Germany)

- „Unter zwei Dingen habe ich immer wieder und immer mehr gelitten: Unsere Erde und weithin unser Leben sind in vielem wunderbar, schön, faszinierend, aber sie sind auch abgrundtief zwiespältig, zerstörerisch und schrecklich. Schließlich ist mir die Unheimlichkeit der Macht und wie der Mensch mit ihr umgeht, immer mehr aufgegangen. Das brutale Denken und rücksichtsloses Machstreben gehören für mich zu den schärfsten Ausdrucksformen des Unglaubens und der Sünde. Wehret den Anfängen! ...
- Quelle: <https://kardinal-lehmann.bistummainz.de/detail/geistliches-testament-von-kardinal-karl-lehmann> [data: 28.03.2018]

Continue the track: inspired by talks at Cairo University in 2015

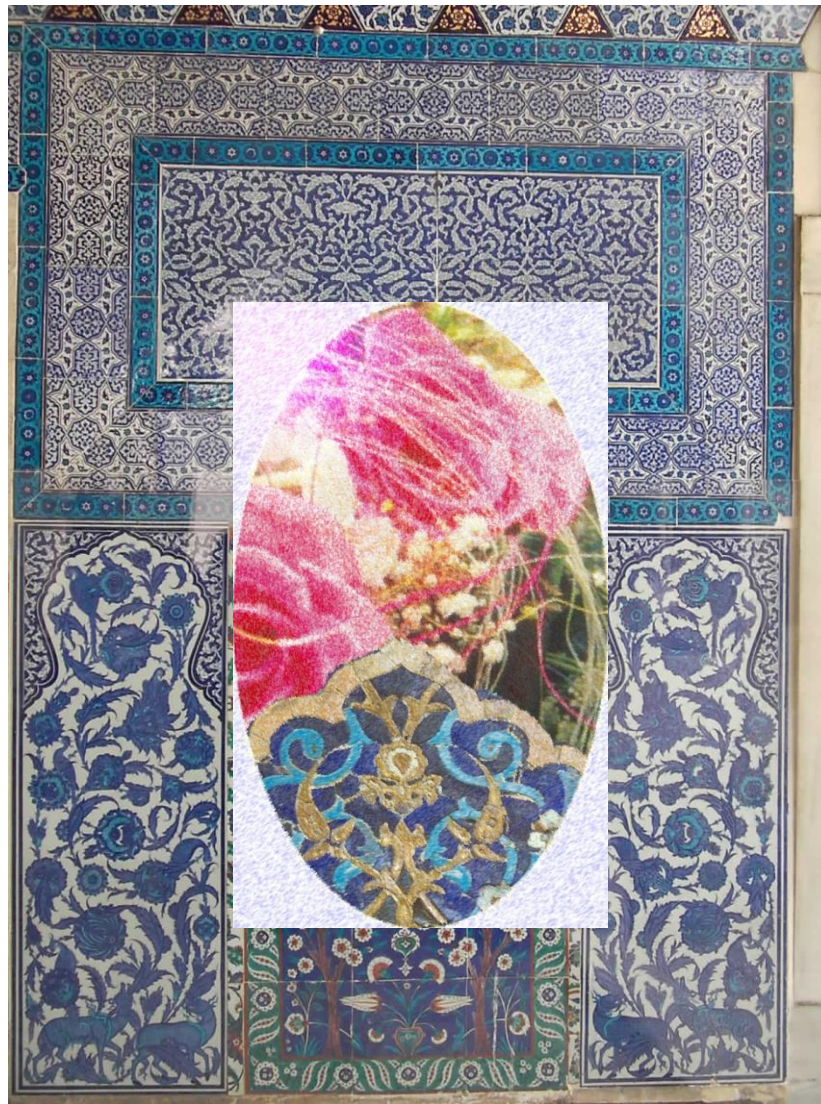
Wolfgang·Biesterfeld·&·Gabriele·Ziethen¶

Geographia·Poetica¶

Reisen·zwischen·Imagination·und·Realität·
—·Interdisziplinäre·Studien·—¶



Forthcoming 2018



Thank you very much for your attention



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