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# Intellectual Correspondence Networks in Early Modern Czech Lands

Mgr. Iva Lelková, Ph.D.

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## Intellectual Correspondence Networks in Early Modern Czech Lands: Interactions Between Correspondence Networks of Athanasius Kircher (1602–1680) and Philipp Jacob Sachs von Lewenheim (1627–1672) in the Czech Lands

The paper aims to present an outline and first findings of larger project which intends to explore the interconnections between “Catholic” and “Protestant” scholarly correspondence networks within the early modern Central Europe in general and the Czech lands especially. After the Battle of White Mountain the intellectual milieu in the Czech lands changed completely with the protestant intellectuals like J. A. Comenius being compelled to exile and members of the Jesuit order being predominant in scholarly discussions for the following decades. In older literature the situation in the Czech lands during this period has been described as a general decline and the whole region deemed to be an intellectual periphery. However I would like to follow newer literature that re-evaluate this thesis and based on intellectual correspondence from and to the Czech lands show the complex nature of intellectual milieu that though mainly Catholic in its nature involved contacts not only with the leading scholars of Catholic Europe but with their Protestant counterparts as well.

The findings presented in this paper are based mostly on correspondence of Athanasius Kircher (1602–1680), J. A. Comenius (1592–1670) and members of *Academiae naturae curiosorum* especially of Philipp Jacob Sachs von Lewenheim (1627–1672) with overreach to correspondence of Henry Oldenburg (c. 1619–1677) and concern the time between the Battle of White Mountain and the death of the last big personality involved Athanasius Kircher (1680).

Paper dealing mostly with correspondence on topics from natural philosophy documents the important role of intermediaries for the flow of information in the area and enquires about the significance of correspondence as a type of communication for the transmission of “scientific” knowledge.

