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The Pragmatic Sanction in the Orations at the Ceremonies of the Hungarian Diet in 1722–
1723

The ceremonies of the Hungarian Diet were significant occasions of political communication. These ceremonies included the reception of the monarch arriving for the Diet, the presentation of the royal proposals, and the mutual greeting and farewell rituals of the Upper and the Lower House on the first and the last day of the Diet. Several speeches were delivered at these events, to which great importance was attached by contemporaries. This is supported by the presence of the whole text or an abstract of the orations in diaries recorded by the envoys. Additionally, speeches were sometimes also published in print.

In the past few decades, it was German researchers who started to perform scientific analyses of the orations held in political assemblies. In addition to the study of rhetorics, their aim was to examine the speech culture of the assemblies, and they created a new definition, the oratory, for it.

Using the method of the oratory, I will present the speeches held in the ceremonies of the Hungarian Parliament starting in 1722. In this Diet one of the most important issues was the acceptance of the female succession in the Kingdom of Hungary. I will discuss how the Pragmatic Sanction was presented in the orations held by orators elected by the Diet in ceremonies both in the presence of Charles VI (Charles III as king of Hungary) and in his absences. Finally, I will examine how the speakers portrayed Charles VI and his reign in the Kingdom of Hungary in their political communication. The diaries preserved a few abstracts of the speeches of Charles VI which he held at the ceremonies. It is important to look at his speeches as well to understand the political communication between the monarch and the estates of the kingdom.