

PALATINE PAULUS PÁLFFY'S CONFLICT WITH ARCHBISHOP GEORGIUS LIPPAY OF ESZTERGOM

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The present study deals with Palatine P. Pálffy's conflict with the Archbishop of Esztergom Georgius Lippay in the years 1646 – 1653. The author used archive materials from the Trautmansdorf family archive and a memorandum written by P. Pálffy to the Emperor Ferdinand III. in the year 1650. As there are no archive documents, J. Lippay's attitude to P. Pálffy is not known. P. Pálffy and J. Lippay were leaders of political groups which were against each other and their conflicts took place in the Hungarian parliament and at gatherings of the Hungarian nobility. The Vienna court was a significant place where the two representatives had their quarrels. The conflict had a negative influence on 17<sup>th</sup> century Hungary. Because of Rákoczy's expeditions and Turkish attacks, Hungary faced an economic crisis, which required a unified approach from the Hungarian representatives, but the situation was different.

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Differences of view between leading political figures were not a rare occurrence in the past. When researching the history of the Kingdom of Hungary or of Slovakia in the first half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, we find a great number of examples of conflicts between Hungarian aristocrats recorded in the sources. The main causes of the disputes can be divided into two groups: property and power-political, but often there is no difference between them, because power conflicts were connected with efforts to gain wealth and the associated social position. The Battle of Mohács was followed by an era of acquisition of extensive properties. This process was conditioned by the coming of a new dynasty – the Habsburgs – to the throne of Hungary and by the coming of the so-called “new aristocracy” onto the political scene. However, by the first half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the political and economic elite of the country was more or less established and individual powerful aristocratic families already had the area of their activity more or less defined. The route to great properties lay either through advantageous marriages or through obtaining estates, which had returned to the possession of the crown after the male line of a family died out. Merciless struggles were carried on for their possession either in pledge or in the