



Smith ICJS holds conference in Austria

The content and consequences of European-American interaction during the tumultuous years at the end of the 18th century were the focus of a conference organized and conducted by the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies at the Salzburg Seminar in Salzburg, Austria.



Austrian National Tourist Office

Salzburg's Schloss Leopoldskron.

Twenty scholars from the United States and Europe participated in “The Old World and the New: Exchanges between America and Europe in the Age of Jefferson,” held Oct. 12-16 at the Schloss Leopoldskron in Salzburg.

During the eventful period that included the American and French revolutions, Americans struggled to come to terms with the emerging relationship between their new nation and Europe, while Europeans grappled with questions of how and if the new American nation and its citizens would mesh with their world. Many of the tentative conclusions arrived at during this crucial period enjoyed a long shelf life – informing, guiding, and coloring European-American relations of all stripes in the following decades and even centuries.

But these perceptions were not formed in a vacuum. Despite the upheavals of the era, Americans and Europeans interacted in numerous ways in numerous arenas.

“By examining this extensive European-American intercourse, we aim to illuminate heretofore unappreciated or underappreciated aspects of the transatlantic nature of life during the Age of Revolutions,” said Andrew J. O’Shaughnessy, Saunders Director of the Smith International Center. “But more

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ICJS conference

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importantly, we seek to understand how such divergent identities – American and European – could emerge from a historical moment when so much was shared.”

The conference’s keynote speaker was John J. McCusker, Ewing Halsell Distinguished Professor of American History at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. The closing address was delivered by Gordon S. Wood, Alva O. Way University Professor and Professor of History at Brown University in Providence, R.I.

The site of the conference was not without significance. The Salzburg Seminar was founded after World War II as a place of Atlantic exchange, with a particular mission of explaining America to Europe. And Salzburg itself was the birthplace of Mozart, whose works were included in Jefferson’s music library.

Since it was established in 1994, the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies has organized and conducted 20 scholarly conferences at Monticello and other venues, including Paris, Berlin, London, Warsaw, Edinburgh, and Bellagio, Italy.

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