

ERZKRONHÜTERAMT FOR BOHEMIA?

The Proposal of a Counsel from Schaumburg-Lippe in 1769

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In this article, Walter Dorskocil has published the never-realized proposal of Johann Christoph Erich Springer, counsel to the Count of Schaumburg-Lippe, for the introduction of a new arch rank in the College of Electors, the “keeper of the imperial crown” (*Erzkronhüteramt*), which the King of Bohemia was to fill in the place of his previous rank of “imperial cup bearer” (*Erzschenkenamt*). The latter was destined for the new electorate of Braunschweig-Lüneburg. In his introduction, Dorskocil provides a brief outline of the development of the College of Electors and the analogous arch ranks from the time of the Golden Bull. He stresses the battles of the Guelph principalities during the seventeenth and the eighteenth century to obtain the status of electorate and arch rank. This document, from the Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv in Vienna, should also be understood in the context of the disputes of these principalities with Bavaria and the Pfalz about the arch rank.