

THE VIENNESE COURT IN THE 18TH CENTURY – A PROSOPOGRAPHICAL STUDY

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1. What do we do?

- The princely court of the Habsburg dynasty in Vienna has undoubtedly been one of the leading princely courts in early modern Europe.
- However, we know surprisingly little about the men and women working there.
- Our knowledge is especially scarce if it comes to the non-noble „middle class“ officials, even though they ensured the daily functioning of the court.

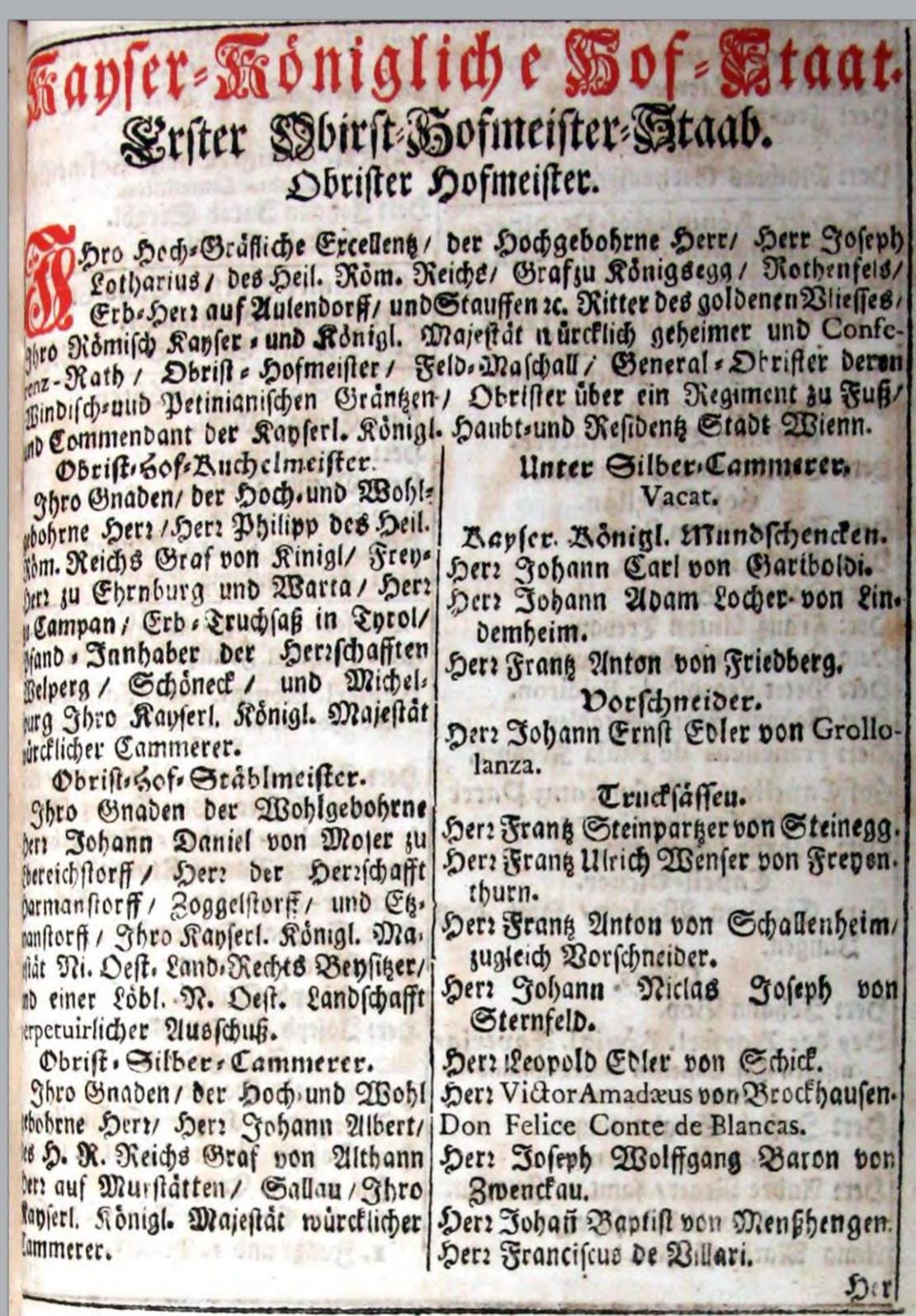
2. What are our goals?

- A source-based prosopographic study on the men and women working at the Viennese court in the 18th century.
- A study of the careers of the court staff, especially their “middle class” male and female members from their entry to their retirement.
- A better knowledge of the basic parameters of their employment at court and their social and gender profile.

3. Which historical sources do we use?

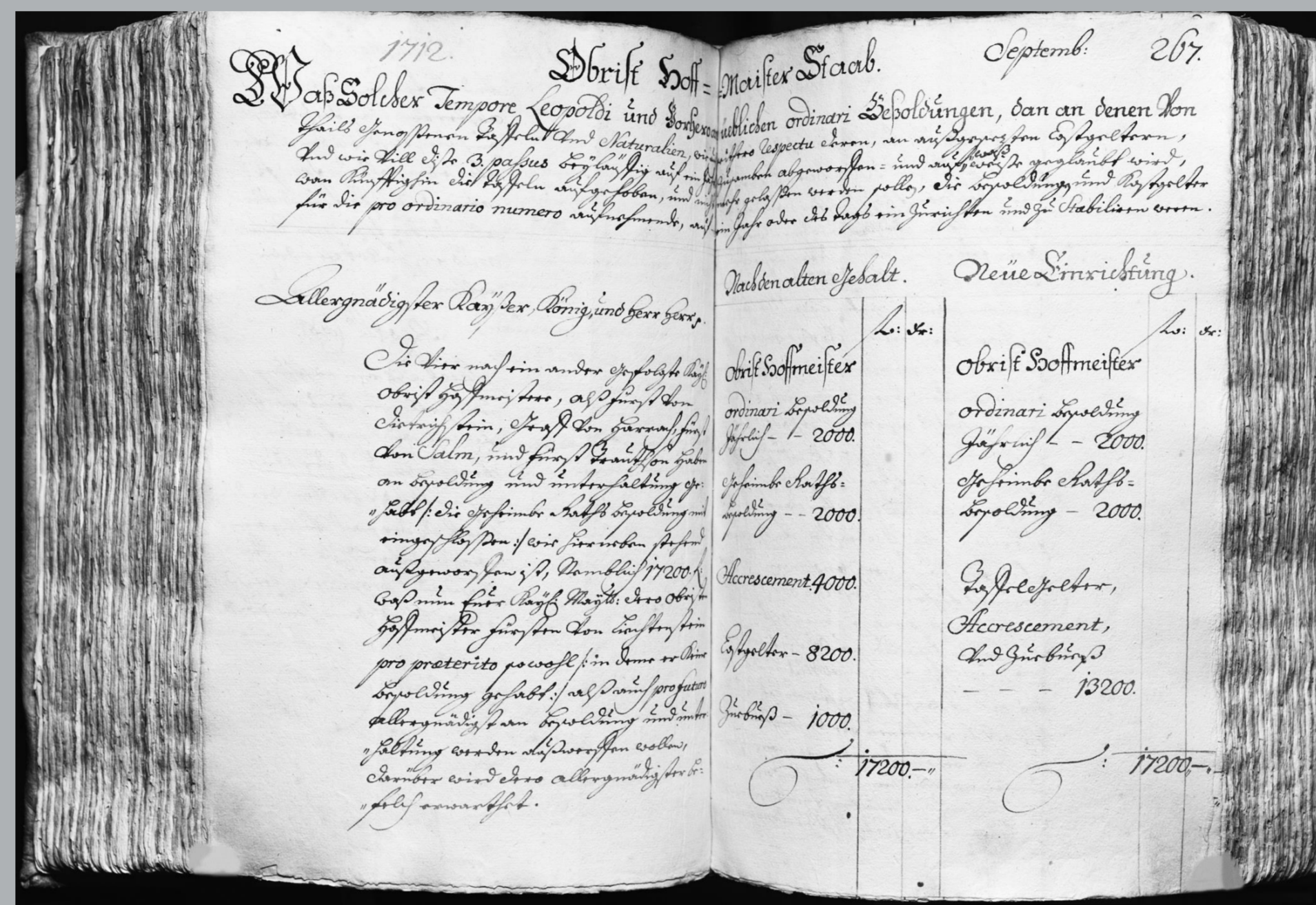
a, The “Hof- und Ehrenkalender”

- These calendars were published once a year. Since 1715, they include every year a **systematic list of the current court staff** (the Hofstaat or Hofpersonal).
- This list ranges from the **top-position** of the (noble) **Obersthofmeister** (the high steward, see pict. below) to the numerous (mainly non-noble) **household staff** in the kitchens, chambers and stables.
- In the 18th century, the court staff amounted to roughly **1.500 to 2.300 people** per year (see fig. 2).



HHStA, Hof- und Ehrenkalender 1750, BL 38/1750. The list of the court staff always starts with the Obersthofmeister.

b, The “Hofparteiprotokolle”

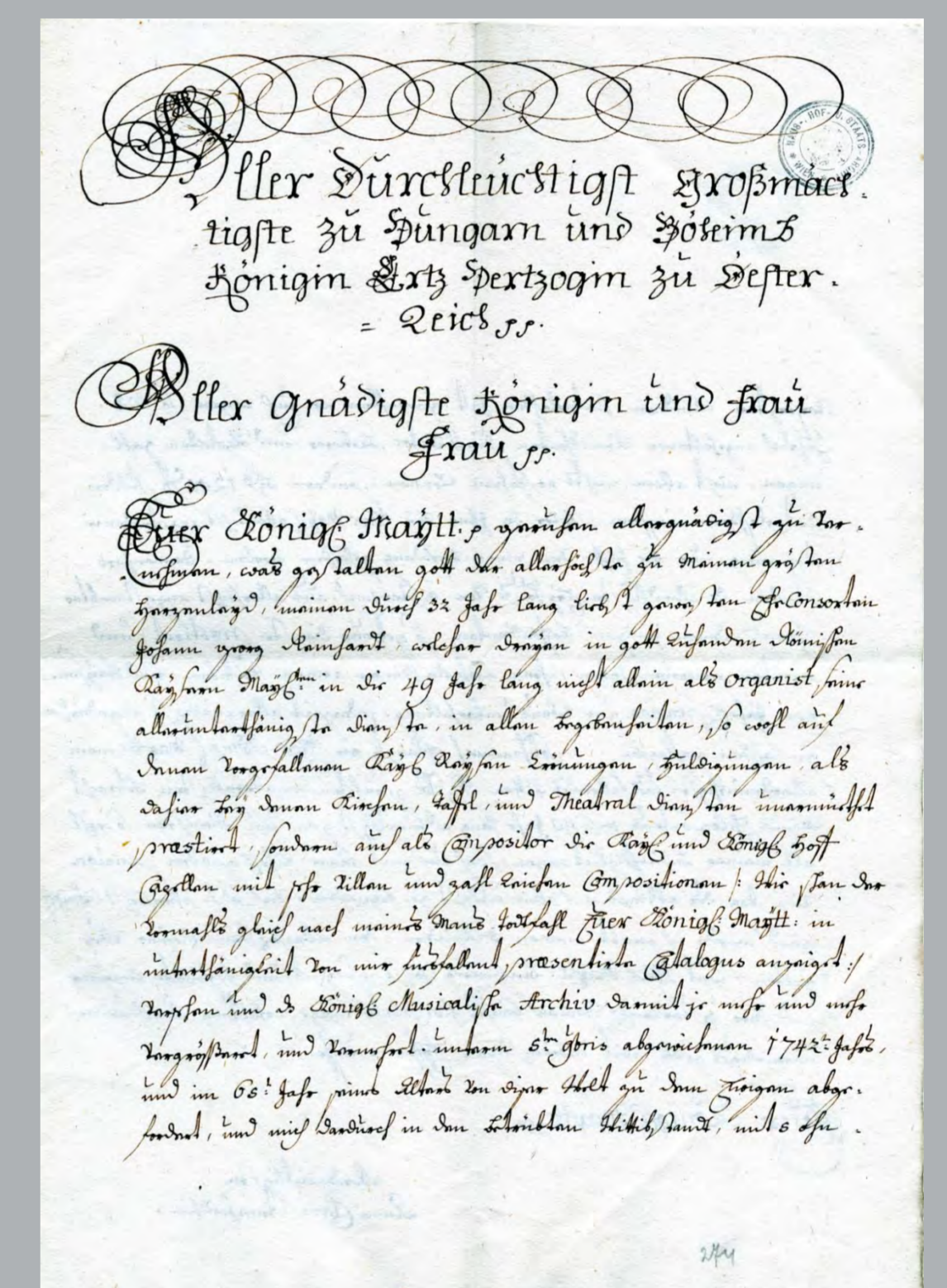


HHStA, OMA Prot. 7 (1710-1713), fol. 266r-267v. In September 1712, a new court is installed for emperor Karl VI. Here the (old and new) salary for his Obersthofmeister.

- The “Hofparteiprotokolle” are **handwritten registers** that assemble the **administrative activities** of the court in a **chronological order**, e.g. the hiring and promoting of the staff, their payment issues (see pict. above) or old-age pensions.
- They were managed by the **office of the Obersthofmeister** (the high steward) and served as **reference books** for internal purposes.

c, Additional sources

- For example **supplications** (petitions, see pict. below), **job applications** or **testaments**.
- They inform us about the **motives** of men and women applying for a job at court, for a promotion, a raise or an old-age pension.
- Our sources are mainly in **German**, rarely in French, Italian or Spanish. Most of them are preserved in the **Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv** (HHStA, a department of the **Österreichisches Staatsarchiv**) in Vienna.



HHStA, OMA Alte Akten K. 35, S. 274. Supplication of Anna Clara Reinhardt (a musician's widow) for an old-age pension.

4. How do we work?

- We collect the **career data** of the court staff in a MS-Access Database. So far, we have the data of **more than 6.000 people** over almost a century (1711–1806).
- About **10%** of the court staff were **women**. Their offices were mainly in the **female entourage**, e.g. as a **lady-in-waiting, ladies maid, cook or laundress**.
- Among the court staff, there were many known scholars e.g. **architects, poets, librarians, historians, composers or doctors**.

Vorname	Nachname	Titel	Geschlecht	Konfession	Amte	Stab	von	Quelle	bis	Quelle	Bemerkun.
Johann Karl	Newen, E. v. Newenstein	1735 h.e., 1735 E. v. Newenstein (1745 in HK), HRRR	Männlich	Jüdisch	Post	OHMstab Karl VI	1735		1740		
					Post	Erster OHMstab MT	1745		1765		
					Post	Erster OHMstab MT u. Jll	1766		1767		

Fig. 1: This is the datasheet for the poet Johann Karl Newen von Newenstein. He appears as a member of the court staff from 1735 to 1767.



6. How can you contact us?

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5. How do we present our findings?

- In our first monograph (published in **2013**), we present 230 pages of **introduction and analysis** + 518 pages of **court staff lists** from 1711–1765, ordered **systematically** (based on the order in the Hof- und Ehrenkalender) and then **alphabetically** (based on the family names).
- The **final lists**, ranging from 1711–1806, will be presented by the end of our project on our **website**: www.univie.ac.at/hofpersonal

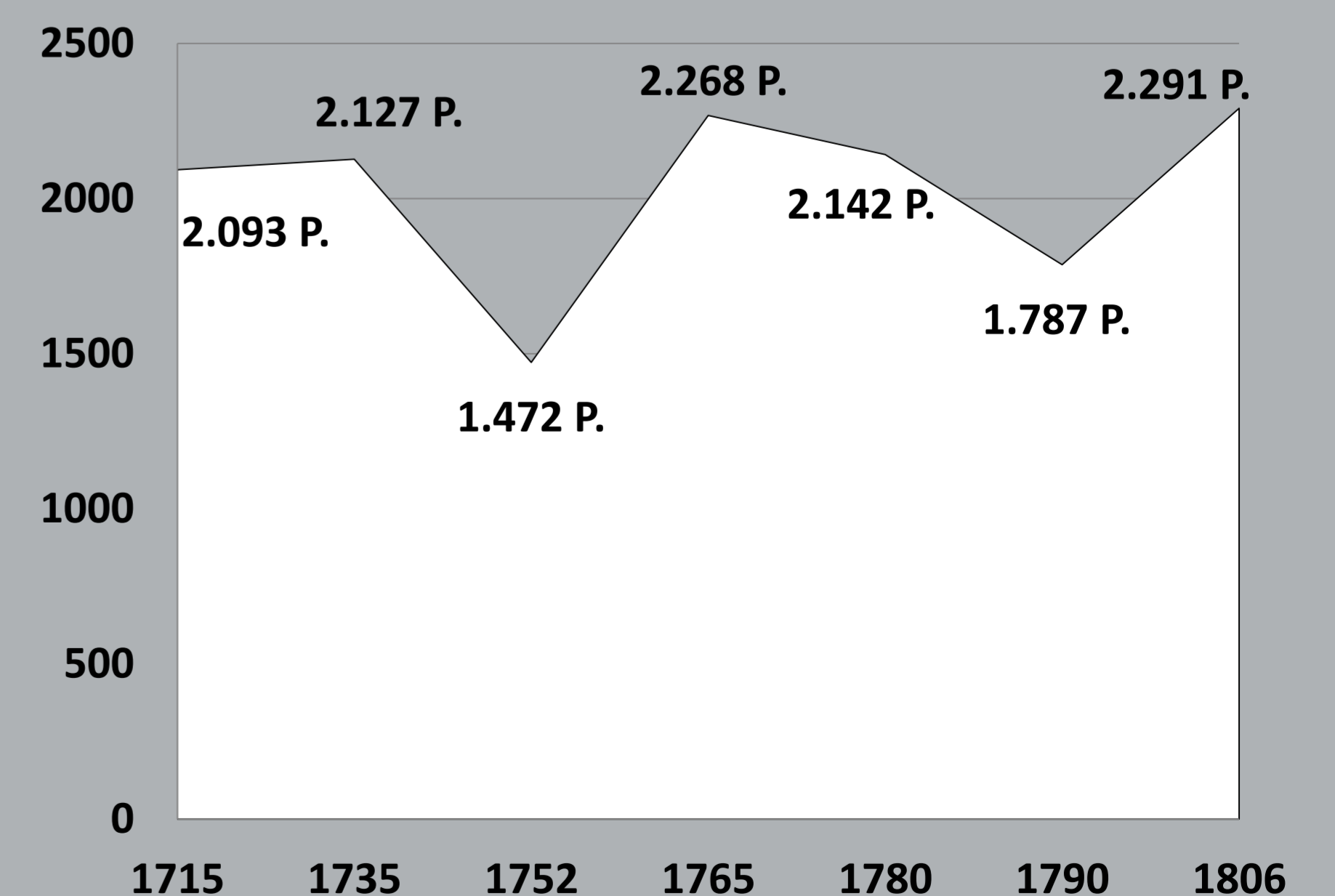


Fig. 2: This figure shows that – except for some years of crisis (e.g. wars) – there were usually more than 2.000 people in court service between 1715 and 1806.