



Call for Authors "Food, court cultures and the world since 1800"

After Louis XIV had invited her to dinner (in December 1674), la duchesse d'Orléans wrote to la duchesse de Hanover that because of this invitation the *courtiers* admired everything she did, whether it was good or bad. Such close bond between food and social hierarchy has been emphasized since long. Scientifically, it was discovered through qualitative and quantitative inquiries in the second half of the nineteenth century, particularly with regard to differences between (and within) working-class households. Since then, anthropological, sociological and historical studies have confirmed this link (e.g. Bray, Dietler, Lauriou, Mennell). Moreover, this connection has been clearly situated within relations and negotiations of power. Food was (and is) used to mark borders, include or exclude people, construct identity and shape subtle, refined differences between groups, subgroups, and individuals.

We wish to explore to what extent this was also true within elites, and, more specifically, within court elites of the long nineteenth century (1780s to 1914). What happened to court society *after* 1789, the chronological ending point of Norbert Elias' famous study *Die höfische Gesellschaft*? Could the food that was served at the court 'compete' with the food of the new fancy restaurant (that may be seen as the bourgeois locus of power)? Did food (still) create and maintain hierarchies at nineteenth-century courts? Who got invited to dinner by kings and queens, and did the table setting reflect contemporary social hierarchy? And how about the presumed bond between food and (social, economic, cultural, political) power?

FOST, the research team on Social & Cultural Food Studies based at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Free University of Brussels), will organize a session on '*Food, court cultures and the world since 1850*' at the European Social Science History Conference (<http://www.iisg.nl/esshc/>) in Lisbon (Portugal), 2008. Afterwards, publishing house Kegan Paul will publish the contributions. Although the paper submission for the conference is closed, FOST is still looking for authors who would like to prepare a chapter for this book.

We welcome chapters that study the *power of food at a (European) court in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries*. Please send us an **abstract** with your chapter proposal **before September 10th, 2007**. Chapters should be approximately 9,000 words and may include up to 5 images in grayscale. More information will be provided after acceptance. Chapters should be written in faultless English.

Deadline for the final contributions is **March 1st, 2008**.

Submission and information:

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