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Public Buildings in Early Modern Europe.

Ed. Koen Ottenheim, Monique Chatenet, and Krista De Jonge.
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In the second part of this volume, dedicated to “Government and Justice,” eleven papers examine a range of building types from tollbooths to town halls and *hôtels de ville*, state prisons, and houses of correction. An admirable geographical range is covered, from Nada Grujic’s chapter on communal loggias in Dalmatia in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries extending from Pula to Zadar, Hvar, and Dubrovnik under the rubrics of siting, function, and architecture, to Lex Bosman’s examination of government buildings in Dutch Colonies in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Each essay except one here has an internal coherence because the authors have focused on a distinct building typology in one geographical area over a defined period, such as the role of *hôtels de ville* in the articulation of a French public architecture by Pascal Liévaux, and the *hôtels de l’Intendance* in eighteenth-century France by Stéphanie Dargaud.

Examining “Scottish Renaissance Tollbooths,” Charles McKean, who covers Dundee, Edinburgh, and Glasgow, first makes the important historical distinction between royal burghs and burghs of barony, the former more powerful in the sixteenth century and the latter flourishing in the seventeenth century. As with most of the essays in this collection, attention is paid to the specific function of the building type, the tollbooth being the place where the burgh court met almost daily, thus indicating its centrality in the life of Scottish towns, as did its location on central city squares. McKean shows how after the Reformation

the nave of St Giles' Church in Edinburgh was used both as "parliament house" and "toll-booth," begun as a civic initiative to create a multifunctional structure, also housing the Court of Session. Such distinctions are important as this period witnessed the separating out into dedicated buildings functions that previously were agglomerated in just one, but this naturally took time, and the St Giles' example illustrates the transitional phase between one and the other.

Barbara Arciszewska, following on from her impressive edited volume (*The Baroque Villa: Suburban and Country Residences c. 1600–1800* [Wilanów: Wilanów Palace Museum, 2009]), here examines the town halls of early modern Poland, noting that in addition to Crown and free cities, in Poland also private towns and private estates within large cities (*jurydyki*) had independent town halls, such as that at Zamosc dating to 1591–1604, which was the first example inserted into a row of town houses fronting the central market square of this private town. While there was increasing specialization of spaces, the author also notes that there was a lot of flexibility in use and plenty of room sharing, thus confirming McKean's Scottish results. Future researchers will now have two significant case studies against which to compare results in other geographical areas.

In a paper dedicated to the Weigh House, Karl Kiem makes a similar point; because a stand-alone architectural type, this building only appears in Holland, as in other countries a multipurpose building included this function, among others. Stephan Albrecht's provocatively entitled paper "Against Building Typology" argues that the Town Halls of Augsburg and Nuremberg, in their adoption of princely rather than burgher or civic architectural connotations, expressed the new importance of the institution in the seventeenth century. In a radical shift away from the traditional two-storey form with two large halls superimposed one above the other, at Augsburg a plan that rationally organized the different functions of the town hall was developed; everyday business was conducted on the ground floor, council assemblies on the second floor, and Reichstag (Parliament) assemblies were convened on the third floor in halls that innovatively ran the whole depth of the building, linked by a staircase to one side. At Nuremberg, rather, the ground plan of a palace with four wings set around a large internal courtyard was adopted for the new Town Hall there but, as the author stresses, although both these buildings broke with tradition neither had any real influence on successive town halls, pointing up the issue of continuity and discontinuity that was the subject of an earlier volume in this series.

Pieter Vlaardingerbroek's compelling paper on Dutch Town Halls and the setting of the *Vierschaar* traces the shifting location of these criminal courts, from their traditional position set in the open, in a square or loggia facing a square—as in the old Amsterdam town hall—to the interior of the institution, where they were still represented as exterior loggias, as at Delft in 1618. The author thus demonstrates the reason why the new Amsterdam Town Hall begun in 1648 by Jacob van Campen has a double height criminal court set centrally, facing the square and enclosed by the entrance staircases so that the Burgomasters could overlook the court proceedings from their upper-storey balcony that formed a crucial part of the criminal ceremonial procedures also involving the Sheriff and Magistrates. A seating plan for the ceremony to condemn an offender to death is included and analyzed thus, usefully extending the analysis of ceremony and space to civic architectural design.

Amsterdam is likewise the focus of Freek Schmid's chapter examining two houses of correction there, a highly original new building type for Holland created first in 1589, caused by the banning of begging, which prompted the need to find other suitable occupation in its stead. The *tuchthuis* or workhouse institutionalized forced labor for men and

women as a remedy adopted to correct and punish prisoners in a hybrid spatial setting falling somewhere between the prison, the hospital, and the factory.

In the third part of this volume, dedicated to “Economy,” seven papers examine fortifications and bridges, exchanges and market infrastructures. Here, for example, Deborah Howard’s fascinating paper on “The Great Rialto Bridge Debate” looks at the mechanisms of decision-making that led to the choice of its precise location and form, showing how the Venetians preferred advice based on the practical experience of the *proti* rather than the rhetoric of some of the patricians, gained via a series of public enquiries and consultation that has remarkable parallels with current procedures for procuring architecture. So too, in part 4 on Education, among the eight papers examining colleges, schools and school courtyards, academies, universities, and astronomical observatories Krista De Jonge discusses “The First Jesuits Schools in the Southern Low Countries,” distinguishing between residential accommodation of members of the order and those who engaged in teaching to other members and in day schools. The other essays in parts 3 and 4 are no less interesting, but the bookends that open and close this volume are unequal. Part 1 on “Texts and Theories” has an excellent introduction by Hermann Hipp, “Public Buildings in the Early Modern Period,” and a good case-study by Jeroen Goudeau, “A Typology for the Well-Ordered Society—Nicolaus Goldmann on Public Buildings,” whereas part 5 on Hospitals has just two papers, one a survey of Italian hospitals and the other a case study of the Hotel Royal des Invalides, but given the recent appearance of John Henderson’s study, *The Renaissance Hospital: Healing the Body and Healing the Soul* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2006), and the important collection of essays edited by Gisela Drossbach, *Hospitäler in Mittelalter und Früher Neuzeit: Frankreich, Deutschland und Italien; eine vergleichende Geschichte* (Munich: Oldenbourg, 2007), it might have been more astute simply to omit this part. The volume lacks a bibliography and, even worse, an index thus greatly debilitating the scholarly effectiveness of this volume full of important contributions.

