



Doing court in the everyday
Artisans and servants at the court of Bavaria (1650-1726)

While recent historiography has mainly focused on the uses of the court for political purposes, the very existence of the court and its daily functioning are usually postulated as self-evident. This hidden side of the court is precisely the subject of this study. The symbolic and political use of the court is enabled by material, human and administrative structures. This foundation of the court is created, day by day, by the actors presented in this thesis. This work focuses on a particular type of actors, the artisans and servants, and their contribution not only to everyday life but more broadly to the dynamics of the court.

The present thesis approaches this questioning through the study of the court of Bavaria, in a particular period (1650-1726). The study encompasses the reign of two electors, Ferdinand Maria (1651-1679) and Maximilian Emanuel (1679-1726): one, that of Ferdinand Maria, politically stable, is defined by a long period of peace; the other, that of Maximilian Emanuel, is conversely characterised by wars and a political ambition on the European front, expressed in the governorship of the Spanish Netherlands and later in the exile of the elector. Studying the court organization and the itineraries of its employees in this period - between stability and crisis, between the presence and absence of the ruling family - allows to think about the court in a dynamic way. With this perspective, this study discusses on one hand the varied modes of action of the administration and on the other the employees who must manage the court system in these conditions while developing their own modes of action.