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Rosen. Cameralism and the Concept of Medical Police, In Bull. of the History of Medicine, 1953 [photocopie]

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- [\[anonyme ou collectif\] Bulletin of the history of medicine](#)
- [Rosen, Cameralism and the Concept of medical police, In Bull. history of medicine 1953](#)

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watchmen and detectives, (6) conducting unexpected visitations and inquisitions, (7) keeping a watchful eye on peaceful persons, things, and places in the state, (8) to that end drawing useful ordinance relating to persons and things, (9) responsibility for observance of same.²⁸

The philosopher Christian Wolff (1679-1754) pointed out the close relation between the general welfare, which he identified with the welfare of the state, and the health of the people. In his *Vernünfftige Gedanken von dem gesellschaftlichen Leben der Menschen*, published in 1721, Wolff showed that power consists above all in a rich and populous state. Lengthening the average life is important if it is desired to increase the number of people. It is clear, therefore, that good sanitary regulations are as necessary as prosperity. Contagious diseases must be prevented, and all known methods for improving the health of the community should likewise be employed.²⁹

Still another indication of the development and systematization of cameralism and the police concept was the establishment by the King of Prussia, in 1727, of two chairs for the teaching of cameralism. The occupants of these positions were to teach the principles of economic management and of police, as well as other subjects so that the students would be well prepared to deal with administrative matters and to be candidates for the Prussian civil service.

Justus Christoph Dithmar (1677-1737) was designated to the chair of cameralism at Frankfurt a. d. Oder. Four years after he assumed his duties, he issued an outline of his academic lectures entitled *Einleitung in die öconomischen, Policey—und Cameralwissenschaften*.³⁰ Dithmar takes it for granted that the welfare and power of a state rest on a well-ordered economic, police and cameral system, and devotes Part IV of his work to the science of the police. How Dithmar conceived this subject is evident from his statement that the science of police "teaches how the internal and external nature of a state is to be maintained, with a view to general happiness, in good condition and order, and accordingly that the supreme magistracy of the country must have a care that their subjects shall not only be kept in good numbers, God-fearing, Christian, honorable,

²⁸ Quoted by Small, *op. cit.*, pp. 34-35.

²⁹ Christian Wolff: *Vernünfftige Gedancken von dem gesellschaftlichen Leben der Menschen*, Halle, 1721, 275 and *passim*. See also C. E. Stangeland: *Pre-Malthusian Doctrines of Population: A Study in the History of Economic Theory* (Studies in History, Economics and Public Law, Vol. XXI, No. 3), New York, Columbia University Press, 1904, pp. 209-211.

³⁰ Introduction to the economic, police and cameral sciences.

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