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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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To avoid quackery and abuse, the exercise of these arts must be regulated by the authorities. Provision must also be made for pure food and water. Environmental hygiene must be assured, and to accomplish this in towns and cities, building regulations must be instituted.³⁶

In passing from Justi to Sonnenfels, there is a definite feeling of having passed from one intellectual climate to another. While Sonnenfels stood squarely on cameralist ground, adhering to the idea of enlightened absolutism, he also reflected the contemporary humanitarian demand for social justice as well as the enlightenment of the French *philosophes*. Illustrative of his position at the conflux of these trends is the circumstance that in his chief work, *Grundsätze der Polizey, Handlung, und Finanz*, the center of the titlepage in each of its three volumes is occupied by a vignette; that in the first volume portrays Montesquieu,³⁷ the second Forbonnais,³⁸ and the third Sully.³⁹ Similarly, the motto of the first volume in the fifth edition is from Cicero, the second takes its motto from Rousseau, the third from Horace.

Joseph von Sonnenfels (1732-1817) studied law at the University of Vienna and, in 1763, was appointed professor of cameral science.⁴⁰ As advisor to Maria Theresa, Joseph II, and Leopold II, he played an influential rôle in shaping Austrian political, social, and economic policy. His views were widely accepted, in large measure through his popular textbook, *Grundsätze der Polizey, Handlung, und Finanz* (first edition, 2 vols., 1765).

Like his predecessors and contemporaries, Sonnenfels considered a large population to be of central significance for the economy of a country. To accomplish this purpose the state should use all the means in its power to encourage fecundity and to preserve life. In this connection for instance, Sonnenfels recommended the establishment of maternity hospitals and foundling asylums. In the light of this approach, he defined the science of police as the science of founding and maintaining the internal security of the state. For our purpose Chapter V, "On the Security of the Person,"

³⁶ J. H. G. von Justi: *Staatwirthschaft* . . . (2nd edition), Leipzig, 1758, vol. I, pp. 173-176.

³⁷ Charles de Secondat, Baron de la Brède et de Montesquieu (1689-1755), French political theorist, best known for his *De l'esprit des lois*, 2 vols., 1748.

³⁸ François Véron Duverger de Forbonnais (1722-1800), French economist and a leading representative of mercantilism in the eighteenth century.

³⁹ Maximilien de Béthune, Duc de Sully (1560-1641), French statesman under Henri IV. His principal work was concerned with financial administration, and contributed to the consolidation of the power of the French monarchy.

⁴⁰ Small, *op. cit.*, pp. 481-524.

