SELECTION OF THE COLLECTIONS AT THE HOFBURG SITE
Exhibit and press photos

KHM-Museumsverband
Imperial Treasury Vienna

The Crown of Emperor Rudolf II, subsequently the Crown of the Austrian Empire
Jan Vermeyen
Prague, 1602
© KHM-Museumsverband

As the Crown of the Holy Roman Empire was used exclusively for coronation ceremonies, emperors and kings commissioned their own personal crowns. This personal crown was commissioned by Emperor Rudolf II. The goldsmith Jan Vermeyen crafted an object of exquisite quality at his Prague workshop. When Francis I proclaimed the Empire of Austria in 1804, the Rudolfine 'house crown' acquired a new constitutional function as the new Austrian Imperial Crown.

KHM-Museumsverband
Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna – Picture Gallery

Family of Emperor Maximilian I (1459–1519)
Bernhard Strigel
after 1515
© KHM-Museumsverband

The painting commemorates the First Congress of Vienna in 1515 and the resulting union between the Habsburgs and the Jagiellonian royal family. It depicts Emperor Maximilian I and his first spouse, Mary, Duchess of Burgundy, with their son Philip between them: in the foreground, Maximilian's grandchildren, the later emperors Charles V (centre), and Ferdinand I (left), and Louis (right), heir to the kingdoms of Hungary and Bohemia.

KHM-Museumsverband
Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna – Imperial Armoury

Ceremonial sword of Emperor Frederick III (IV), son of Ernest, Duke of Austria
between 1440 and 1452
© KHM-Museumsverband

The attribution of this ceremonial sword to Emperor Frederick III arises out of the Austrian red-white-red coat of arms and the Roman-German royal coat of arms, both of which feature on the blade. The German royal eagle situates the timeframe within which the sword must have been made. It stretches from Frederick's coronation as king in 1440 to his coronation as Holy Roman Emperor in 1452, the last to be crowned as Holy Roman Emperor by the Pope in Rome.

KHM-Museumsverband
Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien,
Collection of Historic Musical Instruments

Natural trumpet
Michael Leichamschneider
Vienna, 1741
© KHM-Museumsverband

In 1741, shortly after Empress Maria Theresa's accession to the throne, Michael Leichamschneider (1676 - 1751) was commissioned to manufacture five trumpets. A sixth trumpet was later supplied by his son and successor at the workshop, Franz Leichamschneider. The instruments in question are shown here, and they remained in use at the imperial court chapel until the 19th century. Designed in the shape of fanfare trumpets they are made of silver, partially gilded, and richly ornamented with engravings and figurative elements. The bell features the Habsburg coat of arms and the intarsia MT, a reference to Maria Theresa. In the mid-19th century the trumpets were fitted with valves, but they are now once again on display in their baroque execution.

The Collection of Historic Musical Instruments is scheduled to reopen in late summer 2018.

KHM-Museumsverband
Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna – Kunstkammer

Emperor Leopold I; bust
Paul Strudel
Vienna, 1695
© KHM-Museumsverband

This bust of Emperor Leopold I belongs to a series of six portrait busts in total of Habsburg monarchs, which were commissioned by Elector Palatine Johann Wilhelm von Pfalz-Neuburg. Leopold's third marriage was to Johann Wilhelm's sister Eleonore, and he was therefore the brother-in-law of the Elector Palatine. Originally the bust of the emperor should have been brought to Dusseldorf, yet ultimately it remained in Vienna at the express wish of the emperor.

KHM-Museumsverband
World Museum Vienna

Ancient Mexican feather headdress
Mexico, c 1515
© KHM-Museumsverband

This ancient Mexican feather headdress certainly looks back on an eventful history. But many questions remain unanswered. Where exactly does the penacho (as it is called) come from? Who used to wear it? How did it come into the Habsburgs' possession? The headdress was first mentioned as such in 1596, in the inventory of Archduke Ferdinand II's estate. In the early 19th century the penacho was moved from Ambras Castle outside Innsbruck to Vienna. And today, it is on display at the Weltmuseum Wien.

Austrian National Library

Austrian National Library
© Austrian National Library/Hloch

In 1722 Charles VI, Holy Roman Emperor, authorised the construction of a court library to house the growing imperial collection of books at a single site. The architects Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach and his son Joseph Emmanuel drew up plans for one of the world's most stunning library rooms. At the heart of the building is the oval cupola room featuring magnificent ceiling frescoes by Daniel Gran and, at its centre, the statue of Emperor Charles.

Spanish Riding School

Levade with rider
Spanish Riding School
© Spanish Riding School

The Stallburg was used to stable the Emperor's own personal horses as well as the stallions of the Spanish Riding School, the Lipizzaners. The *haute école* of classical dressage has been taught at the Spanish Riding School for more than 450 years. Many of the movements trained there are derived from the military field of action. For the *levade* featured here, the horse is required to shift its body weight onto its hindquarters and raise its forehand. With this movement the horse is able to create space for the rider amidst the turmoil of battle.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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OPENING HOURS

Daily from 9 am to 6pm

Guided tours of the Hofburg site available on request
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