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VICTORIA!

A Court Carriage and Its Colourful History

A presentation in the Imperial Carriage Museum Vienna
24 October 2024 to 4 May 2025

For the first time in more than 100 years, the Imperial Carriage Museum in Schönbrunn is presenting the vehicle that Emperor Franz Joseph was particularly fond of riding in during the last few years of his life. Millions of people were familiar with the sight of the ageing monarch riding out in his personal *Victoria* carriage. At the end of the monarchy, however, the vehicle appeared to have gone missing.

This presentation reveals how the team at the Imperial Carriage Museum succeeded in finding the *Victoria* in a collection of dilapidated stud farm carriages and through a meticulous renovation process restore it to its former glory.

Multi-year research and restoration project

After the end of the Austrian monarchy, the ceremonial carriages of the imperial family were handed over to the Kunsthistorisches Museum, where they now form the core collection of the Imperial Carriage Museum Vienna. The numerous open summer carriages of Emperor Franz Joseph I, on the other hand, were not preserved as they were considered historically irrelevant. In the 1990s, however, it emerged that some of these vehicles had survived in the former Federal Institute for Horse Breeding in Stadl-Paura in Upper Austria in a greatly altered condition.

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After years of painstaking work, a much-altered, inconspicuous carriage from this collection was identified as Emperor Franz Joseph's so called *Leib-Victoria No. 10* ('Personal Victoria no. 10'), which was believed to be lost, and its original appearance, hidden under numerous layers of paint and rust, was brought back to light.

The spectacular result of this project can now be viewed in the Imperial Carriage Museum.

Lecture video on the project

In a lecture held as part of the *Thursday Evening at the Museum* series on 6 June 2024, Monica Kurzel-Runtscheiner, Director of the Imperial Carriage Museum, Michaela Morelli, textile conservator at the Imperial Carriage Museum, and Matthias Manzini, carriage conservator at the Imperial Carriage Museum, provide interesting and comprehensive insights into the project and the interaction between historical, art historical, and conservation research at the museum.

The lecture (held in German) can be viewed on our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aw-CXrlv2eA>

Exhibition website:

<https://www.kaiserliche-wagenburg.at/en/visit/exhibitions/victoria/>

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PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

Press photographs are available in the press section of our website free of charge, for your topical reporting: press.khm.at/en



**Emperor Franz Joseph's summer carriage
or 'Personal Victoria no. 10'**

Kölber Brothers (Budapest), 1896

Condition after restoration

Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, Imperial Carriage Museum

© KHM-Museumsverband



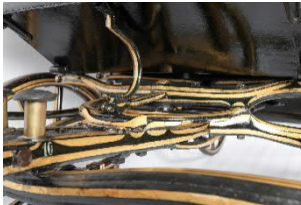
**Emperor Franz Joseph's summer carriage
or 'Personal Victoria no. 10'**

Kölber Brothers (Budapest), 1896

Condition before restoration

Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, Imperial Carriage Museum

© KHM-Museumsverband



**Emperor Franz Joseph's summer carriage
or 'Personal Victoria no. 10'**

Kölber Brothers (Budapest), 1896

Chassis detail after restoration

Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, Imperial Carriage Museum

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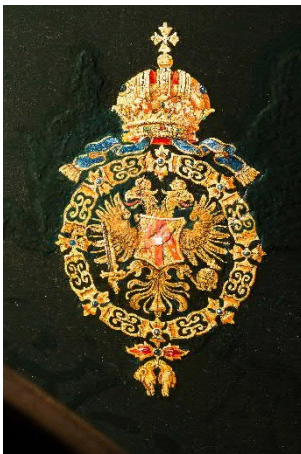
**Emperor Franz Joseph's summer carriage
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Chassis detail before restoration

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© KHM-Museumsverband



**Emperor Franz Joseph's summer carriage
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Kölber Brothers (Budapest), 1896

Reconstructed original coat of arms

Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, Imperial Carriage Museum

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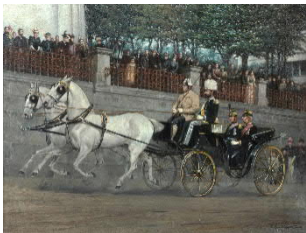
**Emperor Franz Joseph's summer carriage
or 'Personal Victoria no. 10'**

Kölber Brothers (Budapest), 1896

Imperial coats of arms rediscovered during restoration

Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, Imperial Carriage Museum

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**Emperor Franz Joseph and King Alexander of Serbia
in a personal Victoria in Bad Ischl**

Berthold Dominik Lippay, 1891

Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, Imperial Carriage Museum

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Campaign livery of a coachman at the Vienna court

Vienna, c. 1900

Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, Department of Court Uniforms

© KHM-Museumsverband



**Campaign livery of a head gamekeeper ('gun charger')
at the Vienna court**

Vienna, c. 1900

Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, Department of Court Uniforms

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VISITOR INFORMATION

All information on admission prices and opening hours of the Imperial Carriage Museum:
<https://www.kaiserliche-wagenburg.at/en/visit/besucherinformation/hours-admission>

Online tickets are available at the following link:
<https://shop.khm.at/en/tickets>

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We request that, in addition to mentioning your medium, you also specify the date of your visit and attach a scan of your valid press pass. Many thanks for your understanding!

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