

# CORONATION OF JOSEPH I

Vienna, December 1687

On 27 October the Electress of Bavaria<sup>1</sup> went hence on her return to Munich. On the 29<sup>th</sup>, the Emperor<sup>2</sup> and Empress<sup>3</sup> did also leave this town, with the Archduke Joseph<sup>4</sup> and the Archduchess Elizabeth,<sup>5</sup> to go to Pressburg. The next day they dined at Wollfshall and after having been complimented on the way by the deputies of the States, towards the evening they made their entrance into Pressburg. Several companies of Hungarian gentlemen marched before Their Imperial Majesties, followed by two troops and the hussars of Count Esterházy, Palatine of Hungary.<sup>6</sup> Count Erdödy<sup>7</sup> came after with 100 gentlemen and hussars, then the greater part of the prelates in coaches. Count Antony Pálffy,<sup>8</sup> with 200 men of the commonalty of Neutra, who marched, drum beating, and Count Badeni, with 150 gentlemen; the magistrates, in their robes of ceremony, complimented the Emperor at the gates of the town, which he entered, while three discharges were made from the artillery of the town and castle....

On the morrow after the Emperor's arrival, the States of Hungary repaired to the palace, and attended on Their Imperial Majesties to the chapel, where they assisted at a solemn Mass; after which the Emperor's propositions were made in the nobles' chamber. The Chancellor of Hungary<sup>9</sup> made a speech in the Hungarian tongue, and the Emperor one in Latin, to set forth the reasons for which he was desirous that the Prince, his eldest son, might be crowned King of Hungary. His Imperial Majesty caused his intentions to be given in writing to the Chancellor of Hungary. The Hungarian lords, and the deputies of the states, answered that they would take them into consideration, and kissed the Emperor's, the Empress', and the Archduke's hands....

Vienna, January 1688

In our last, we left the Diet of Pressburg busy in making remonstrances and bargains before they would proceed to the coronation, during whose debates there arrived at Pressburg deputies from Buda and Pest to have place in the assembly of the States of Hungary, but were not at first admitted by reason of contests for the precedency. They there demanded the first place among the deputies of the cities, as being annexed to those of the ancient metropolis of the Kingdom, and at the long run it was granted them.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of the last month, the States presented to the Emperor an ample memorial of their demands and grievances upon which they continue, with great earnestness, to require satisfaction; and, accordingly, the Court has proceeded to find out expedients for the regulation of the principal affairs of the Kingdom and, upon their re-iterated complaints, has resolved to suppress the criminal chamber of Eperies, which was erected to try the accomplices of the late conspiracy, for which several Hungarians have been sentenced to death without having observed the course established for criminal matters.

The Court has likewise granted them that the distribution of quarters for the national and German troops, the paying of them, and the fund that shall be appointed for their maintenance shall be henceforward regulated with Hungarian commissioners, that so the taxes may no longer depend upon the German officers alone, who regulated them with an absolute authority, without examining whether the people could furnish the sums they demanded of them.

---

<sup>1</sup> Maria Antonia (1669–1692), wife of the Elector of Bavaria and daughter of Leopold I

<sup>2</sup> Leopold I (1640–1705), Holy Roman Emperor (1658–1705)

<sup>3</sup> Eleanora Magdalena of the Palatinate (1655–1720), third wife of Leopold I and mother of Joseph

<sup>4</sup> Joseph (1678–1711), son of Leopold I and Eleanora Magdalena

<sup>5</sup> Maria Elizabeth (1680–1741), daughter of Leopold I and Eleanora Magdalena

<sup>6</sup> Paul Esterházy (1635–1713), Palatine of Hungary

<sup>7</sup> Miklós Erdödy, Viceroy of Croatia (1671–1693)

<sup>8</sup> Johann Anton (1642–1694), Count Pálffy

<sup>9</sup> Széchenyi György (1592–1695), Archbishop of Esztergom (1685–1695), Primate of Hungary, and Chancellor of Hungary

There will be also a chamber of finances settled at Buda, to receive the contributions which the Turks derived from the country when they were masters of the place, the greater part of which is appointed to complete repairing the fortifications, and entirely to re-fit some new works that were so ill-built that it is necessary to pull them down again, though there were expended upon them above 80.000 crowns that were furnished by the Pope.

We sent hence to Pressburg, to the value of 6000 florins in pieces of gold and silver, to be distributed on the coronation day. They have on one side a naked saber in a crown of laurel and these words *Amore et Timore*; and on the other the Archduke's name and the day of the coronation; the solemnity of which was accordingly performed on the 9<sup>th</sup> of the last month.

First Their Imperial Majesties, accompanied by the new King, heard Mass in the chapel of the castle, and at ten o'clock in the morning all the Hungarian and German lords repaired in cavalcade to the place of the palace, having, with great emulation, studied to outdo each other in richness of attire and equipage, according to the mode of the two nations, with a world of jewels which, upon their vestments, as well as upon the horse's trappings, produced so marvelous an effect that these animals by their prancings seemed to be thereby the more spirited. Their Imperial Majesties entered into a stately coach of parade, drawn by eight horses, whose embellishments, cut in sculpture, did surpass the value of the gold that covered it, as well as the riches within, and all the other parts, which dazzled the sight and seemed to be of massy gold, insomuch that one might with Ovid say, *Materiem superabat opus*. Such advantage did the just symmetry of the reliefs, finely wrought, give to the gilding, and received the like thence.

The new King being also got into a very magnificent coach, drawn in like manner by eight horses, marched from the castle to the city before Their Imperial Majesties, being preceded and followed by the noble life-guard of the yeomen, and of all the lords of the two nations on horseback; and being come amid the noise of drums, timbals, and trumpets before the gate of the Cathedral Church of Saint Martin—spread with most sumptuous carpets and tapestries, and adorned with a world of pictures of the most excellent painters, ancient and modern, and with a magnificent theatre, with several steps, erected in the body of the church, taking up above half its space.

It was upheld with thirty-six columns, or pillars, on which reposed the whole machine, and the embellishments of the architecture of the Mosaic and Doric fashion, sparkled with the luster of the gold with which they were set off. They were received at the church door by the Archbishop of Gran,<sup>1</sup> at the head of twelve bishops, of fourteen prelates and abbots, all invested with their pontifical habits, and by all the clergy of that cathedral, accompanied by the Cardinal Buonvisi, apostolic nuncio,<sup>2</sup> by the Cardinal de Kollonitsch,<sup>3</sup> and the ambassadors ambassadors of Spain and Venice, who introduced them with the new King amid a royal salvo of the ordnance from the city and castle, into the sacristy, where Their Sacred Majesties, having been invested with the imperial robes, were conducted to a magnificent throne that had been prepared for them, and the march was performed in the manner following:

Two heralds at arms of the Empire, with coats of arms embroidered with gold and the imperial eagles before and behind, and with all the other marks of their character, marched in their head, and were followed by the heralds at arms of the Kingdom of Hungary, also in all the ornaments of their office. The noble guard de corps of the yeomen, and that of the halberdiers, clothed with a livery of black and yellow velvet of the imperial sort, preceded the Count of Mansfeldt<sup>4</sup> and the Count Colloredo, their captains, whose sumptuous clothes did infinitely glitter with the jewels with which they were covered.

---

<sup>1</sup> Széchenyi György (1592–1695), Archbishop of Esztergom (1685–1695), Primate of Hungary, and Chancellor of Hungary

<sup>2</sup> Francesco Buonvisi (1626–1700), titular Archbishop of Thessalonica (1670–1690), Cardinal, and Apostolic Nuncio to Austria (1675–1689)

<sup>3</sup> Leopold Karl von Kollonitsch-Lipót (1631–1707), Cardinal (1686–1707) and Bishop of Győr (1686–1690)

<sup>4</sup> Heinrich Franz (1640–1715), Fürst von Fondi and Graf von Mansfeld

They were followed by Their Imperial Majesties' pages and footmen, clothed in the same livery with the yeomen and halberdiers. The clergy, with all the bishops, abbots, prelates, provosts, and others in ecclesiastical dignities, had here their rank, all with their miters upon their heads, the crosiers in their hands, and their copes upon their shoulders; they were followed by the ministers, princes, and grandees of the court, the Cardinals Buonvisi and Kollonitsch, and the Ambassadors of Spain and Venice, who preceded immediately the Emperor, having the imperial mantle upon his shoulders and the crown upon his head. He had two bishops on each side of him, and all the other imperial ornaments were borne before His Most Sacred Majesty by two princes and two counts of the Empire, viz. the sword by the Prince of Schwarzenberg,<sup>1</sup> representing the Grand Marshal of the Empire; the scepter, upon a cushion of gold, by the Prince of Hohenzollern;<sup>2</sup> the globe, or golden apple, representing the world, by the Count de Zeil;<sup>3</sup> and the case for the crown by the Count de Zinzendorf<sup>4</sup>; and in this manner, accompanied by the Empress, also in imperial habits and the crown on her head, Their Sacred Majesties went and placed themselves upon the throne that had been prepared for them.

After this first ceremony, the bishops, prelates, and whole clergy in a body, being returned to the sacristy, did there receive the new King, and conducted him to a throne erected near the altar, separated from that of Their Imperial Majesties, in the manner following. The ten heralds at arms of Hungary in their coats, embroidered with gold, having the arms of that Kingdom before and behind, and of the ten provinces that hold of it, had the first rank in this march. The new King of Hungary's guard preceded his pages and staff-men, clothed in a new very magnificent livery. The bishops, prelates, and clergy in a body, all pontifically habited, were preceded by the grandees of the Kingdom, ten of the principal of whom carried each a standard in his hand, representing the ten provinces that hold of the Crown. The new King, habited after the Hungarian mode, accompanied by two bishops with their miters on their heads, followed by the clergy, and immediately by Count Esterhazy, Palatine; Count Stephen Zeaki, Supreme Judge; Count Nicholas Erdeodi, Ban of Croatia; Count John Drascovitz, Lord Steward; and Count Erini, Marshal of Hungary.

And as soon as His Hungarian Majesty was placed upon the throne, Mass was begun, wherein the Archbishop of Esztergom, being about 86 years old and Primate of the Kingdom, officiated pontifically, and as soon as they were come to the epistle, the Palatine and Marshal of the Kingdom made a low bow before Their Imperial Majesties' throne and before that of the new King, at the foot of which they went to receive him, and conducted him to the altar, where, after having performed an act of confession of the faith, they asked him what he desired. He made answer that he would be crowned, whereupon the Archbishop blessed and inaugurated him, anointing his hand, arm, and shoulder.

The Palatine, after this unction, turning towards the Hungarian lords and people, showed them the crown he held in his hands and did, with a loud voice, call out to them three times in the Hungarian tongue, *Coronabimus Josephum Archiducem Austrice in Regem Hungarian*, and they three times answered unanimously, with a loud voice, *Coronetur*; and then the Archbishop invested him with the royal mantle of Saint Stephen, girt on his sword, put the scepter in his hand and the crown on his head, which had been presented to him by the Palatine and Marshal of the Kingdom.

And after this ceremony, he was proclaimed King of Hungary by the loud acclamations of all the assistants, amid the noise of drums, kettle-drums, trumpets, and other war-like instruments, in like manner as by a royal salvo from the artillery of the city and fortress. And after these acclamations of triumph and joy, they re-conducted His Hungarian Majesty upon the throne, and *Te Deum* was sung by way of thanksgiving for the accession of so worthy a prince to the Crown, which the invincible arms of his august father had wrested out of the hands of the enemies of the Christian name, and from the fury of rebellion.

---

<sup>1</sup> Johann Adolf I (1615–1683), Fürst von Schwarzenberg (1670–1683)

<sup>2</sup> Maximilian (1636–1689), Fürst von Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen (1681–1689)

<sup>3</sup> John Christopher (1660–1717), Reichsgraf von Waldburg-Zeil (1684–1717)

<sup>4</sup> Georg Ludwig (1662–1700), Reichsgraf von Zinzendorf und Pottendorf

This ceremony being ended, the Archbishop continued the holy sacrifice, and when he was at the Gospel, the Emperor arose, with the scepter in his right hand and the globe in the other, and continued standing till it was over; and after the consummation, the new King communicated, through the hands of the officiating prelate, the tenderness of whose heart which he was sensible of that day, and which he had ever so ardently desired, cannot be better expressed than by the tears of joy he shed, as well as several of the by-standers, and by the discourse in Latin which he made after Mass upon the subject of the high ministry he had newly-performed in the person of a prince, the most accomplished in the universe, and it was this excess of joy which made him end with the canticle of Saint Simeon, *Nunc dimittis servum tuum Domine*.<sup>1</sup>

This discourse being over, Their Imperial Majesties descended from the throne and returned to the sacristy to put off the imperial ornaments, and then to the castle, where a whole ox was sent forth to the people, a piece of it, covered with flowers, having been first served up to the Emperor's table; and from that time, several fountains of wine ran in abundance from divers parts of the town, as well as from the castle. In the meanwhile, the new King, who also descended from his throne with Their Imperial Majesties, being come out of the church with his royal ornaments and the crown on his head, preceded by the bishops, clergy, and all the orders of the states, and by a great concourse of the people and burghers. He went on foot procession-wise, in this manner, to the Recollet's church where, having accomplished the usual function upon the throne erected there by the creation of sixty Knights of the Golden Spur of several nations; and then, having taken a repast in the refectory, he mounted on horseback, and was preceded by the cavalcade already mentioned, and by the Counts John Esterhazy d'Emene, Nicolas Deglevig, Adam Hollonitz, Thomas Nadasti, Wolfgang Kohari, Simon Forgatz, Nicolas Berzeni, Ferdinandi Keri, and Ladislas Karoli, who carried the ten standards with the arms of the ten provinces of Hungary—viz., Bulgaria, Cumania, Lodomeria, Galicia, Serbia, Rama, Slavonia, Croatia, Dalmatia, and Hungaria—and then other grandees of the same Kingdom, with all the marks and badges of royalty, in the ensuing manner: Count John Drascovitz carried the truncheon of command; Count Adam Serini, Marshal of the Kingdom, the sword; Count Erdeodi, the dove; Count Nicolas Erdeodi, Ban of Croatia, the globe; Count Stephen Cziaki, the scepter; and the Palatine, the crucifix of Saint Stephen.

Thus, His Majesty being served by the Prince of Salm, his Grand-Master, went out of the town through Saint Michael's gate, where he found the regiment of foot of Staremberg, and that of Palfi's curassiers, in battalions and squadrons; and being come to the stately scaffold that was erected just opposite to the monastery of the Brothers of Mercy, he alighted, placed himself upon a throne that was prepared for him under a state of cloth of gold, and then, amid the noise of the cannon, took the oath of maintaining the privileges of the Kingdom in the manner agreed on.

After which, taking horse again, he went to another theatre erected upon a rising ground at the Fish-Gate, whence he ran full speed up Koningsberg, or Mount-Royal, with his naked sword in his hand, with which he also made the sign of the cross towards the four parts of the world, to express that he would defend the Kingdom against all its enemies. He was attended on in all these stations by the Camergrave of the cities of the mountains, and by the Baron de Viecter, councilor of the chamber of the finances, who threw out to the people, within and without the town, medals and other species of gold and silver money with the following inscriptions borrowed from the Patriarch Jacob's dying benediction to his son Joseph such as "I will give to Joseph and his seed after him this land for an everlasting possession." Others were "I will give to Joseph the portion I took from the enemy with my sword and with my bow." And a third sort, "The blessings of your father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors, and they shall rest upon the head of Joseph." *Iosephvs Primvs Inferioris Atqve Superioris Hvgariae Rex Pivs Fortis Avgvstvs, Archidvx Avstriae.*

And this royal function being terminated in this manner, and the new King, upon his return to the castle, perceiving that his sword was covered with his mantle royal said, in Italian, *Fatte che si veda la mia sciabola*;

---

<sup>1</sup> Now dismiss Your servant, O Lord (Luke 2:29)

and being come into the castle, amid a royal salvo of the artillery, he alighted from his horse and went to the apartments, attended by all the principal personages of both nations.

It was about five o'clock in the afternoon when he returned, and within half an hour after he caused two hundred tables, with twenty covers each, to be served to the States, wherein nothing was wanting to the profusion and delicacy of meats, and they rose not from table until three o'clock in the morning. Their Imperial Majesties took their place at the upper end of that which was prepared for them, under a rich canopy of cloth of gold; on their right sat the new King under another, and on the left the eldest Archduchess; and after having left on each side a vacant space, Cardinal Bonvisi, the Apostolic Nuncio, possessed the fifth place on the right, Cardinal Kollonitsch the sixth on the left, the Spanish Ambassador the seventh, and the eighth the Venetian, the Archbishop of Esztergom the ninth, and the tenth and last was filled by the Palatine of Hungary, whom His Imperial Majesty has created a Prince of the Holy Roman Empire, and Count Stephen Zacchi, General of Cassau, supreme judge of the court of the Kingdom of Hungary, an eminent trust that happened to be vacant through the death of Count Drascovitz.

But to return, the Emperor was served by Prince Gundaccar de Diedrichstein, the Great Master of his Household, the Empress by Count Charles Waldestein, invested with the same employ; and the new King by the Prince de Salm, on whom His Majesty has conferred the same trust. A world of Hungarian lords served as carvers, some of whom also served the cardinals and the ambassadors of Spain and Venice. There were eighty other tables in the palace, for the prelates, nobility of Hungary, and foreigners, which were served at the same time with that of the Emperor, besides the two hundred others for people of less character, and for the domestics of the lords of both nations.

After His Imperial Majesty had begun the first health, which was done amid discharges of the ordnance, the young King drank another separately to all the guests, according to the order of their sitting, for the enlargement and happiness of his Kingdom; which having been admired by all the company, the Emperor told him that he had done well, but desired to know who had put him upon it, to which he made answer that none had put him upon it, but that he had thought fitting to do it, so to declare the natural obligation which kings have to love and defend their subjects, and subjects to serve and honor their princes. So judicious and ingenious an answer as this was no less agreeably surprising than the health he had newly drunk had created admiration; insomuch that the Hungarian lords cried out aloud, and with applause, that God had given them this king totally to retrieve that realm from the oppression of the infidels, and to extend the glory of his arms much further than all his predecessors were able to do.

*The Monthly Account* (London, 1687) in Richard Bright, *Travels from Vienna through Lower Hungary* (Edinburgh: Constable and Company, 1818):xxix–xli.