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The Habsburg court and guests attend *Le nozze di Figaro* (9 Feb 1791)

Dexter Edge

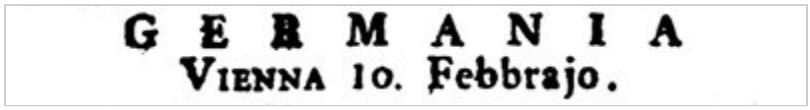
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[123]

GERMANIA

VIENNA 10. Febbrajo.

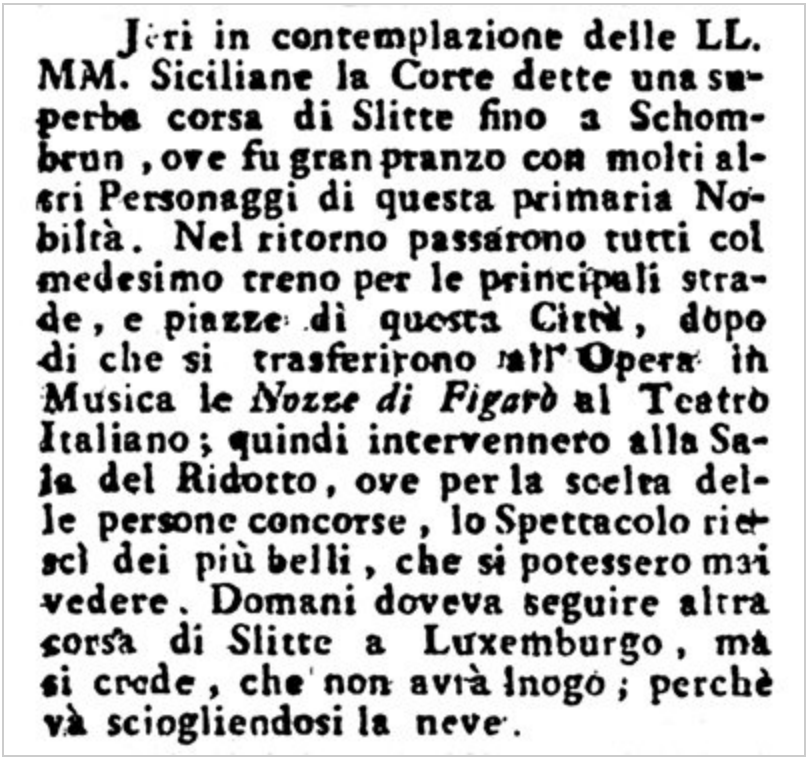
[...]


GERMANIA
VIENNA 10. Febbrajo.

[124]

Jeri *[9 Feb]* in contemplazione delle LL. MM. Siciliane la Corte dette una superba corsa di Slitte fino a Schombrun, ove fu gran pranzo con molti altri Personaggi di questa primaria Nobilità. Nel ritorno passarono tutti col medesimo treno per le principali strade, e piazze di questa Città, dopo di che si trasferirono all'Opera in Musica le *Nozze di Figarò* al Teatro Italiano; quindi intervennero alla Sala del Ridotto, ove per la scelta delle persone concorse, lo Spettacolo riescì dei più belli, che si potessero mai vedere. Domani doveva seguire altra corsa di Slitte a Luxemburgo, ma si crede, che non avrà lnogo [*sic*], perche và sciogliendosi la neve.

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[translation:]

GERMANY
Vienna, 10 February.
[...]

Yesterday *[9 Feb]* in consideration of Their Sicilian Majesties, the court gave a superb sleigh ride to Schönbrunn, where there was a grand luncheon with many other members of the first nobility. Upon the return, they all passed in the same sleighs through the main streets and squares of this city, after which they went to the opera *Le nozze di Figaro* at the Italian theater, then presided in the Redoutensaal, where because of the selection of people gathered there, the spectacle was the most beautiful that could ever be seen. Tomorrow there was to be another sleigh ride to Laxenburg,

but it is thought that it will not take place,
because the snow is going to melt

Commentary

In Sep 1790, King Ferdinand IV of Naples and his wife Maria Carolina (sister of Joseph II and Leopold II) came to Vienna to celebrate the betrothal of Archduchess Marie Clementine with Crown Prince Francesco of Naples, and the weddings of the Neapolitan Princess Maria Luisa with Archduke Ferdinand, and Princess Maria Teresa of Naples with Archduke Franz (Edge 1996, 88–93). Following a trip to Munich, the Neapolitan entourage returned to Vienna for most of the carnival season of 1791. This state visit was the occasion for a continual whirl of balls, theater outings, concerts, and other private and public events. Among other things, the Neapolitan and imperial entourages attended performances in the Burgtheater (the court theater), and in the three major suburban theaters, including the Theater auf der Wieden.

This item from the *Gazzetta universale* reports the attendance of the imperial and Neapolitan courts at the performance of *Le nozze di Figaro* in the Burgtheater on Wednesday, 9 Feb 1791, following a gala sleigh ride to Schönbrunn and back. (See also the report in the *Wiener Zeitung* on the attendance of the imperial and Neapolitan courts at a performance of the singspiel *Der Stein der Weisen* on Sunday, 13 Feb.)



Johann Hieronymus Löschenkohl, *Die Schlittenfahrt nach Schönbrunn für König Ferdinand IV. von Sizilien am 9. Februar 1791*
(Wien Museum)

This was the final performance in this production of *Figaro*, and the last in Vienna during Mozart's lifetime.

Notes (⇧)

We are grateful to Miguel Arango Calle for bringing to our attention Löschenkohl's engraving of the court's sleigh ride.

Bibliography (⇧)

Edge, Dexter. 1996. "Mozart's Reception in Vienna, 1787–1791." In *Wolfgang Amadè Mozart: Essays on his Life and his Music,* edited by Stanley Sadie. 66–117. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

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