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TITLE PAGE: Franz Xaver Winterhalter, Emperor Franz Joseph in Gala Uniform, 1865.

LEFT: Joseph Albert, Franz Joseph I, Aged 35, 1865.

FOLLOWING PAGE: Family tree for the House of Habsburg-Lorraine, c. 1889.

CHILDHOOD AT SCHÖNBRUNN

The six-year-old is long past crawling and explores every corner of the palace. Now he is standing in front of his grandfather, a gaunt old man with bony hands and a pale face. The flourishing archduke – they call him "Franzi" – has so many questions for the wizened old man! All at once, he is in the clutches of the school-master – his entire day soon filled with duties; dress at seven, then lessons until the evening meal: drawing, German, writing, geography, and in the afternoons, dance, exercise and equestrian vaulting.

Archduke Ferdinand's former adjutant, Heinrich Graf Bombelles, described by one officer as "a genial cross between a philosopher and a courtier", was appointed as his tutor.

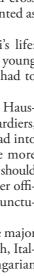
A second dignified aristocrat entered Franzi's life: Johann Baptist Coronini-Cronberg. From him, the young boy learnt courtesy, dignity and discipline – he had to

make his mother proud.

A third, Franz Edler von Hauslab, a colonel of the bombardiers, did his best to mould the lad into a soldier. It would involve more than marching and fencing: should he aim to be a fit and proper officer, he must also practice punctuality and early rising.

The lessons included the major European languages: French, Italian, Spanish, Czech, Hungarian and a little English. In between, there was time for chemistry, geography, religion, philosophy, technology, economics and law – he must be fully equipped for the place in the sun of which his mother secretly dreamt.

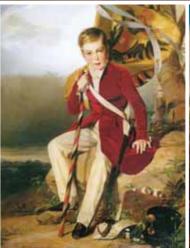
BELOW: Moritz Michael Daffinger, Arch-duke Franz Joseph of Austria, 1846.













TOP LEFT: The Gloriette and Neptune Fountain in the gardens of Schönbrunn Palace, c. 1900.

TOP RIGHT: Friedrich von Amerling, Franz I with the Insignia of the Austrian Empire 1832.

BOTTOM LEFT: Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller, *Portrait of the Future Emperor Franz Josef I of Austria as a Grenadier with Toy Soldiers*, 1832.

BOTTOM CENTRE: Friedrich von Amerling, Archduke Franz Joseph with Ensign, 1838.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Moritz Michael Daffinger, Archduke Franz Joseph, 1840.

FOLLOWING DOUBLEPAGE

Heinrich Tomec, A View of Schönbrunn Palace, circa 1900. • Top: Menci Clement Crnčić, Their Imperial and Royal Highnesses Archduke Franz Karl and Archduchess Sophie, with their children Franz Joseph and Carl Ludwig in a four-horse carriage.

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THE DEBACLE OF SOLFERINO

Franz Joseph considered himself an absolute monarch by the grace of God. The birth of the eagerly awaited son and heir, Rudolf, on 21 August 1858, was a highpoint in a life filled with calamities. But as early as the next year, the tide had turned. After the less-than-glorious prelude that was the Battle of Magenta of 4 June 1859, Franz Joseph took over supreme command of the Aus-

Johann Nepomuk Mayer, Portrait of the Emperor Franz Joseph I, 1858.



trian troops for the Battle of Solferino on 24 June 1859. The engagement turned into a bloody fiasco, the young emperor's first great military debacle. As a result of evident deficiencies in the army leadership, the Austrian soldiers were defeated by the Sardinian and French forces. War in Sardinia resulted in tens of thousands dead and even more injured, the loss of Lombardy and dishonour to his forefathers' legacy. The Treaty of Zurich required him to cede the majority of the land to Napoleon III.

A new hope arose from the rout at Solferino, however: the suffering of men bleeding and gasping to death on the battle-field prompted the Swiss Henry Dunant to found the Red Cross. Five years later, a dozen states would sign the first Geneva Convention "for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the Field". No amelioration would be forthcoming for the bleeding Austria, however. In July of the same year, 1859, Alexander

TOP: Emperor Franz Joseph I at the Battle of Solferino, 1859.

BOTTOM: Fritz L'Allemand, Emperor Franz Joseph on the Garden Steps on the Occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Order of Maria Theresa, 1857.

Bach, the epitome of the neoabsolutist era, was forced to pack his bags and Count Agenor Gołuchowski, governor of Galicia, was appointed Minister of the Interior. Change was needed, the stock market was falling, the state coffers were empty. Hungary was still unsettled, students were demonstrating in the capital and the military police responded with rifle fire. The emperor remained stubborn, refused the constitution they were demanding. The heavy defeat in Italy forced the sovereign to compromise, resulting in the federalist October Diploma of 1860. Franz Joseph set forth that he was now minded to issue and enact his laws "with the assistance of the lawfully assembled parliaments". Fine words, but the new constitu-

tion led to fierce protests in Hungary, and criticism rained down in Austria too; the press stood united against it. Now, Gołuchowski was forced to yield and a new head of government entered the ring – Anton von Schmerling. Once again, a new constitution was drawn up but the Magyars also boycotted the February Patent of 1861. Hungary was an open wound, and now another scar burst too.





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THE MOST ROYAL IMPERIAL HUNT

Even as a child, he had followed his noble Papa through the hunting grounds around Ischl. At the age of 13, although under the aegis of an imperial and royal forester, he brought down his first chamois buck. Later, the pas-

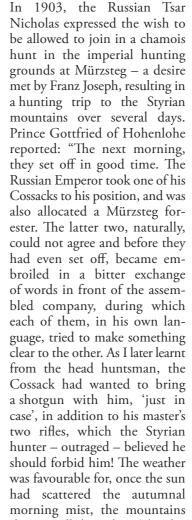
sionate hunter would hold sway over his own count hunting office, led by a genuine privy councillor. Joseph Roth described the emperor as an excellent shot, as "one of the best huntsmen in the old monarchy. He had the huntsman's hard eye, accustomed to watching for hours, a gaze that considers and occasionally also shows the magnanimity to spare the life of the object it has targeted. It is a myth that men drove the game in front of Franz Joseph's rifle..."

The woodcutters in his hunting grounds knew him clad in a loden jacket and greasy, scuffed lederhosen, above bare knees. His hat would be topped with a tuft of chamois hair, a long alpenstock in hand, the gun over his shoulder an "Ischler Stutzen" or a shotgun, occasionally a Lancaster double rifle.

In this attire, the empire's supreme hunter would go deerstalking in the Salzkammergut, Hungary or the forests around Mürzsteg. He pursued deer or chamois, and sometimes also rabbits, partridges or the proud capercaillie.

TOP: Wilhelm Gause, Emperor Franz Joseph on a Hunt Picnic, 1908.

BOTTOM: Edmund Mahlknecht, Emperor Franz Joseph in Ischl Hunting Dress, 1877.



shone in all their glory. They hunted in the 'lodge', and Charles Scolik, Photo of Emmost successfully at that. Altogether, 73 chamois and 2 peror Franz Joseph in Hunting deer were brought down, of which 11 fell to the Emperor of Russia, and 2 to our Emperor, with 17 chamois to the Archduke Franz Ferdinand. ... After dinner, at which members of the opera orchestra provided the table music, they inspected the haul by torchlight and with fanfares."



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SUMMER IDYLL AT ISCHL

THINGS, BEYOND GOOD AND EVIL, ALREADY WREATHED IN ANECDOTES AND TRANSFIGURED BY LEGEND, ALMOST EARTHLY THINGS.

Josef Schuster, Emperor Franz Joseph on the balcony of the Kaiservilla.



HE SEEMED TO STAND Year after year, the imperial family spent their summer OUTSIDE TIME, ABOVE holidays in Ischl, a dot on the map in the heart of the Salzkammergut, recommended in numerous landscape paintings and postcards. Even as a young lad, Franz Joseph had spent secluded summer days there, after 30 hours' exhausting travel on dusty country roads. It TRANSCENDING was not until much later that the little town would be connected to the European railway network. In all, Felix Salten Franz Joseph would holiday in Ischl 57 times, not including short visits at Easter or hunting trips in autumn.

> During the 1830s, the family generally stayed at a house on the Esplanade belonging to the mayor, Wilhelm Seeauer; it was not until 1853 that Archduchess Sophie's mother bought Villa Eltz at the foot of the

> > Jainzen, which she bestowed on Franz Joseph as an engagement present. After the necessary renovations, the imperial family were able to stay in what was now called the Kaiservilla from 1857 onwards.

Because the emperor's birthday fell at the height of summer, his birthday parties, featuring illuminations, ceremonial addresses and congratulations, became the highpoint of Ischl's summer season. For his 68th birthday, for example, 1,500 cyclists paid homage to the emperor in Ischl. On his 80th birthday, a special train brought huntsmen to Ischl from every country in the empire to honour their very own Nimrod, the mighty hunter. They had collected money and erected

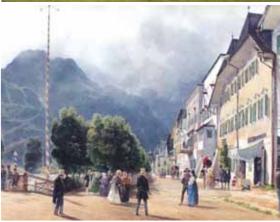
a tatue of the emperor in hunting garb; on 24 August 1910, it was unveiled in his majesty's presence. The anniversaries of his accession to the throne were also celebrated in Ischl, with participants from many nations; these included his golden and diamond jubilees in 1898 and 1908.

What a time! The monarch roamed the countryside without security measures: "The Ischlers are quite harmless!" he informed the secret service, which strove to observe his majesty as discreetly as possible. The resourceful secret police even had to disguise themselves as huntsmen so as to guard the fearless emperor on the hunt. And indeed, through all the years, it never occurred to a single assassin to lie in wait for the emperor in the Salzkammergut idyll.

The emperor was a popular guest in Ischl, and could be encountered out for a hearty ride, at the station or on a stroll. The imperial visitor also

attracted many other noble guests to the spa town, caus- TOP: The Kaiservilla in Ischl. ing not a few additional gulden to flow into the town coffers. There is a long list of illustrious visitors to the BOTTOM: Rudolf von Alt, The court in Ischl: the Prussian king (and later German Esplanade in Ischl, 1840. Kaiser) Wilhelm I came several times, first in 1871, and then 1874, 1875, 1877, 1880 and 1882. Other guests included Prince Otto von Bismarck, the French Empress Eugénie, the former American President General Ulysses Simpson Grant, King Carol of Romania (who visited twice), the boyish king Alexander of Serbia, aged only 15, and – a particularly exotic apparition – Chulalongkorn, king of Siam, in whose honour Johann Strauss conducted a special gala performance of his Fledermaus, on 21 June 1897. For this he was awarded the Order of the White Elephant, first class, and rewarded with a bowl of pure gold.





Postcard 1914

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Emperor Franz Joseph on an evening walk with his daughters Gisela and Marie Valerie on Jainzenberg, 1910.