



Josef Grünbeck, *Historia Friderici et Maximiliani*, Duke Friedrich (later Emperor Friedrich III) escapes from the Saracens by sea. A detailed account is given of an episode which occurred during the Duke's journey home from the Holy Land. He went in disguise to jewellers' shops, was recognised and pursued, and only succeeded in escaping by means of a bold ruse.

tween 1918 and 1938, the *Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv*- whose holdings had been augmented after 1918/20 by the remaining archives of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, by the comprehensive series of the court archives (administration of the private estates of the imperial house, war victims fund), by the embassy and legation archives, etc., was subordinated to the Federal Chancellery. In 1940, it was combined with the *Finanz- und Hofkammerarchiv* (Finance and Aulic Chamber Archive), the *Unterrichtsarchiv* (Education Archive) and the State Archive of the Interior and Justice to form the *Reichsarchiv Wien* (Archive of the Reich in Vienna). In 1945, the War Archive and the Transport Archive (which today forms part of the General Administrative Archive) were added, and the new structure became a subordinate agency of the Federal Chancellery, bearing the name *Österreichisches Staatsarchiv* (Austrian State Archives). The *Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv* was one of its five departments. After the reorganisation made necessary by the creation of

the Archive of the Republic, the New Political Archive (Austrian foreign policy records from the period between 1918 and 1938) and state documents from the time after 1918 were transferred to this department of the Austrian State Archives.

In contrast to the major acquisitions in the late 19th century and after 1918, there were major losses caused by the handing over of archival material to domestic and foreign archives (Italy, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia) under the treaties concluded after the end of the First World War. Further losses occurred in 1945, the last year of the war. During the Second World War, the archival material was moved to more than 50 temporary shelters within Vienna and outside. Only one of them (Obritzberg near Herzogenburg/Lower Austria) was directly affected by the fighting - but important material was destroyed: the entire records of the state council (1760–1833), the collegial advisory board set up by Maria Theresia, which deliberated on all matters concerning Austria and Hungary in the time between 1760 and 1848. Although the registers and indexes of the state council were spared, the loss of the records was all the more deplorable, since most of the corresponding records of the Bohemian-Austrian court chancellery were destroyed in the fire at the Palace of Justice in 1927.

### Overview of the holdings

Currently the *Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv* houses more than 200 independent bodies of records, divided into 19 archive groups (I–XIX), which in many ways complement each other, as is obvious from their history. If documents cannot be found with the help of registers, there are (partly handwritten) stocklists and inventories for each archive group which facilitate the search, despite varying degrees of communication. Some archival series (imperial registers, manuscript collections) have been recorded on microfilm.

Several bodies of records have been deposited (and can be examined only with the consent of the owner) at the *Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv*. These archival records (e.g. the archive of the



King Philipp II and his entourage entering Antwerp, 1555; depiction in a codex from the Archive of the Order of the Golden Fleece.

Order of the Golden Fleece) are only accessible to researchers who have obtained written permission from the owner.

The time span covered by these records extends, as mentioned above, from the late Carolingian period to the end of the Habsburg monarchy in 1918/20; the only exception being the opera and theatre administration, whose records were conveyed to the *Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv* until 1938. The individual archive groups will be briefly described below. By way of introduction one may say that the records are unique cultural treasures, particularly the document series, the imperial registers, the manuscript collection, the archive of the Order of the Golden Fleece and also, of course, the map and plan collection. The variety of subject matter and the geographical range encompassed by these records make them an invaluable source of information for academic research. To quote Franz von Erb († 1872), one of the archive's directors, who commented in 1854: "Nowadays, hardly anybody who claims to be well educated and does not confuse fairy tales and romantic novels with history, will consider well-equipped archives to be no more than repositories of useless



papers or registries of old records which no longer serve a purpose. Such a person would certainly not be a statesman ... !"

### The Reichsarchive (Imperial Archives)

The Reichsarchive, which cover the time span from the late Middle Ages to

the end of the Old Empire (1806), are divided into three sections: imperial chancellery, *Reichshofrat* and the archive of the archbishops of Mayence.

The imperial chancellery collection comprises the following series: imperial records *in genere*, imperial records *in specie*, diplomatic records, ceremo-

Diploma of Duke Rudolf IV, called the Founder, of March 12, 1364, with a magnificent equestrian seal; the Duke settles a dispute between the Jew Musche from Maribor and Hakkym from Graz.



The Czech-nationalist reformer Jan Hus is burnt on the stake at the Council of Constance, 1415; a depiction from the chronicle of Ulrich von Richenthal († in about 1437), citizen of Constance and witness to the event. This incunabulum was printed in 1482.

nial records, records of the imperial diet, election and coronation records, war records, peace negotiation records, records concerning religion, ecclesiastical election records, imperial tax registers, deductions (enclosures, mostly printed), and written communications, etc. The fact that by the 18th century at the latest, the state chancellery was competing with the imperial chancellery in the field of foreign affairs, led to the distribution of the diplomatic correspondence series to the imperial chancellery, the state chancellery and the foreign country departments. The imperial registers which contain copies of the special privileges granted by various emperors go back as far as the 14th century (Ruprecht of the Palatinate, 1309–1390). Records of the imperial *Hof- und Kammergericht* (aulic and chamber court, predecessor of the imperial court council) from the time of Friedrich III (1415–1493) – records of the same provenance are also found among the antiquissima of the *Reichshofrat* (supreme court – sphere of the imperial court) and of other registries are now chronologically arranged in the “Fridericiana” (1443–1493). The

“Maximiliana” include, inter alia, records of the chancellery of Archduke Sigmund of Tyrol (1427–1496) and of the imperial chancellery of Maximilian I. The archive of the imperial chancellery was in many cases supplemented by the series of the archives of the archbishops of Mayence, including records of the imperial diet, election and coronation records, military records, peace negotiation records, records of the *Reichskammergericht* (supreme court – sphere of the imperial diet) and correspondence, which resulted from the activities of the archbishops and electors in their capacity as estates of the empire and heads of the imperial chancellery. It is of special interest that there are two sets of records of the imperial diet, of the administrative districts and of elections and coronations. The decisive role of the archbishop in matters relating to elections, coronations and acts of state makes this archive an important source of written information on the constitutional and administrative history of the so-called Old Empire until 1806.

The archive of the *Reichshofrat*, the supreme judicial authority of the Old



The Peace of Westphalia of October 24, 1648, between Emperor Ferdinand III and the German Estates of the Empire, on the one hand, and Queen Christina of Sweden, on the other hand; signature page of the document.



Instrument of ratification of March 2, 1699, of the peace of Karlowitz concluded between Sultan Mustafa and Emperor Leopold I. First page of the document with the tugra (cipher of the reigning sultan with part of his title) in golden letters and document bag of silver cloth.

Empire (competing with the *Reichskammergericht*) is, apart from the constitutional records, which are mainly relevant to the histories of individuals and authorities, comprised of two main sections: the *Judicialia* (= court records) and *Gratitalia* (= matters pertaining to the dispensing of grace). These sections contain material important for the cultural and economic history, such as privileges granted to doctors, trades and factories, *Impressoria* (= printing privileges), the imperial commission on books, letters of safe conduct, passes as well as *Privilegia poetae laureati*. Parallel to the court records of the *Reichshofrat* (*Antiquissima, Alte Prager Akten, Antiqua, Decisa, Obere Registratur, Denegata antiqua and Denegata recentiora*) closed series of registers of the *Reichshofrat* and of minutes, some of which include minutes of the meetings of the secret council, have existed since the middle of the 16th century. The court records, which, in many cases, include maps, plans, memoranda and notices of appeal, are primarily of interest in the context of economic and social history, and provide an inexhaustible source of

information on the history of towns and regions; the imperial feudal tenure records of the *Reichshofrat* contain important material on the territorial and constitutional history of the Old Empire.

**Österreichische Geheime Staatsregistratur (Austria's Secret State Records)**

The *Österreichische Geheime Staatsregistratur* (17th century) contains not only the diplomatic records of the Austrian court chancellery but also a large part of the records of the imperial envoys Isaak Volmar (plenipotentiary negotiator at the drawing up of the peace treaty of Münster, October 24, 1648) and Marquis Otto Heinrich Caretto di Grana, correspondence from the imperial chancellery and records from the court chancellery relating exclusively to Austrian domestic affairs (from 1620–1665). These records were transferred from the court chancellery to the state chancellery in about 1780, and from there to the *Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv*. In the late 19th century, almost the entire *Österreichische Geheime Staatsregistratur* was integrated into individual series of the foreign country section, but it was completely reconstituted before the First World War under the heading "Repertorium N". The "Repertorium N" accordingly contains source material on international relations in the 17th century, as well as material that permits the reconstruction of some of the activities of the *Geheime Konferenz* (Secret Conference).

The record series of the state chancellery and the foreign country series document the history of diplomacy and of the individual states from the 16th to the middle of the 19th centuries. The state chancellery, which used to be a department of the Austrian court chancellery, was set up as an independent authority in 1742 and put in charge of foreign affairs and matters of the House of Habsburg. Its records contain an unbroken series of indexes and registers (1710–1848) documenting the routine business of the state chancellery. The reports from envoys, the instructions issued by the central authorities in Vienna and the reports to the emperor contained therein refer not only to the correspondence series of the state chancellery but also to the foreign country section.



"February Patent" of February 26, 1861. Subsequent to the era of neo-absolutism and to the defeats of the imperial army (Solferino 1859), this patent, issued by Emperor Franz Joseph, makes some hesitant concessions towards a constitutional monarchy.

**The Records of the State Chancellery**

The diplomatic correspondence of the state chancellery, subdivided into foreign country series, such as Bavaria, German records (old and new series), Brazil, Greece, the Netherlands, etc., relates principally to the period from the 18th to the middle of the 19th centuries. The sub-series headed "consulates" contains the reports from the consulates from the late 18th century onwards (also the remains of consular archives, e.g. Travnik in Bosnia). This correspondence series has its chronological sequel in the consular correspondence of the Ministry of the Exterior.

The series headed "Deutsche Akten" (German records) holds material documenting the activities of the Central Investigation Commission in Mayence (1819–1829), the supreme censorship authority of the German Confederation. This is an important source for the history of censorship and the European-wide network of the democratic-nationalist movement of the Vormärz (period from 1815 to the March revolution of 1848). Another source of information on this group of subjects is the record series containing exchanges of

notes between the state chancellery and the other central authorities at the imperial court (*Reichskanzlei, Hofkanzlei, Studienhofkommission, Hofkriegsrat, Hofkammer, Oberste Justizstelle, Polizeihofstelle, ungarische und siebenbürgische Hofkanzlei*). Generally speaking, the correspondence between the central authorities gives insight into certain top level decision-making mechanisms. More or less the same goes for the series of reports to the emperor (1606–1868), which include the emperor's handwritten letters, as well as conference proceedings. As regards the time before 1754, the main body of the series consists of the minutes of meetings and reports of the secret conference, the secret council and other authorities.

The *Interiora* series, i.e. records documenting the internal administration of the state chancellery, is primarily of interest for the history of authorities and their staff (organisational structure of the state chancellery, personal data, *Orientalische Akademie* = consular academy); the collection of cipher codes and original letters or copies of letters intercepted at different post offices) provide information on the often subtle art of politics and diplomacy.

The science, art and literature series documents the academic aspirations of senior officials in the state chancellery and is of interest for almost all sectors of academic and cultural history as a special collection containing numerous autographs. Also included in this group are the provinces series (correspondence with the authorities of the Habsburg crownlands), the *Acta secreta*, the peace negotiation records and congress records (1814–1822), as well as the records on the nobility and *Familiaria*.

### Records of the Foreign Country Section and Correspondence

The foreign country section whose records primarily came from the imperial chancellery, the state chancellery and the Austrian court chancellery (and also includes personal papers and parts of legation archives), complements the diplomatic correspondence series, which started in the early 16th and continued until the middle of the 19th century. It makes up Group VIII, which is subdivided into *Nationalia* (German states) and non-German states, the latter being further divided into chronologically arranged series which contain diplomatic correspondence with the plenipotentiary envoys in Egypt, France, Great Britain, Russia and Poland, and the Ottoman empire.

Very often “private” and “semi-official” letters and messages from men involved in diplomacy and politics are much more revealing than official correspondence. Such communications from the 16th to the 19th century, as for example the correspondence of Karl Philipp Cobenzl (1741–1810) or Eugene Prince of Savoy (1663–1736), have been put together in the *Grosse Korrespondenz* series, which is supplemented by the *Collection Diplomatique* (diplomatic collection) – a collection of copies from different archives and literary sources on the history of Europe between 1640 and 1725 – and by war records, records from the state chancellery, the *Reichshofrat* et altera which relate to the diplomatic-military campaigns between 1519 and 1866.

### Embassy Archives and Records of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The legation and consular archives, alphabetically sub-divided according

to the locations of the embassies and consulates not only contain material parallel to that generated by the State Chancellery, the Imperial Chancellery and the Foreign Ministry, but also form an independent body with a source value of its own (the history of people, economics; religious protectorate – Habsburg protection for Catholics primarily in territories belonging to the Ottoman empire; judicial records relating to consular jurisdiction; school and health services), and provide information on the network of personal contacts existing among envoys and consuls wherever they are stationed. The current consular and legation archives are only a fraction of the archives which existed before 1914 and/or 1918. Only a small part of the latter found their way to the *Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv*. With very few exceptions (embassy archive at the Holy See, legation archive in Stockholm, embassy archive in Berlin, archive of the Lower-Rhine legation in Cologne) the records date from the 19th century. Moreover, part of the legation archive was incorporated into the correspondence series of the State Chancellery and the foreign country section; the ministerial correspondence of the Imperial Chancellery (18th century) contains almost exclusively material from legation archives. The records of the *Prinzipalkommission* (Imperial Chancellery) include remnants of the archive of the principal imperial commissioner at the permanent diet in Regensburg (1663–1807), just as the Belgian foreign country section includes fragments of the legation archive of Madrid.

As a consequence of the revolution of 1848 and the first written constitutions the competence for foreign-policy matters was reallocated. The political archive of the Ministry of the Imperial House and of Foreign Affairs includes all the political-diplomatic records from 1848 to 1918, with occasional overlaps in time. This means that precursor records from the State Chancellery (going back to 1830) are currently kept with the records of the Foreign Ministry; on the other hand, certain series of the State Chancellery/foreign country section go back to 1860. The records of the Foreign Ministry are divided into two sections. The so-called political archive, which contains correspondence series arranged in chronological order and broken down by groups of

countries. Group I is of special interest: it contains material on major changes in the principles governing foreign policy, on treaty negotiations, on the First World War (break-out of the war and war objectives), memoranda, secret records, records of the cabinet of the minister and some private papers left by politicians, for example of foreign minister Johann Bernhard Graf Rechberg (1806–1899). The second section was formed by the administrative records, which were subdivided into subject sections, and comprise not only official internal information, such as personal data and the organisation of missions and consulates, but also important material on the members of the ruling house (letters and presents to Emperor Franz Joseph, travels of Empress Elisabeth, etc.), on trade policies, on the religious protectorate and on matters of international law.

As regards the history of political-democratic groupings and national movements, which were kept under observation by paid agents of the (state) police, the records of the police information office (1849–1867) are of particular interest, as are the records of the information office (1868–1908) attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the *Actes de haute Police* 1849–1867, which now also include records of (state)-police departments before 1848.

The records of the literary office (1864–1918), set up as a department of the Foreign Ministry to monitor and control public opinion (press), throw light on further aspects of political-diplomatic matters in the era of Emperor Franz Joseph. The records of the information and press offices attached to the Foreign Ministry contain reports from agents in London about the activities of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, and documentation illustrating the propaganda activities of the Habsburg monarchy in neutral Switzerland during the First World War. They are supplemented by a collection of relevant press clippings in a press archive.

### The *Habsburg-lothringische Familienarchive* and the *Kabinettsarchiv* (The Habsburg-Lorraine family archives and the cabinet archive)

In the *Habsburg-lothringische Familienarchive*, the titles of the sections



(family records, family correspondence, office archive of Emperor Francis) are more or less self-explanatory. The archive provides all manner of information about the ceremonial at baptisms, marriages and deaths (inheritance), about the travels of the court and property matters, about the ambitions of the House of Habsburg as a patron of the arts, about

matters both "private" and "political". Attached to the above-mentioned series is a series of personal papers left by members of the Imperial House: the archive of Maximilian of Mexico (1832–1867), the incomplete collection of Crown-Prince Rudolf (1858–1889), the Montenuovo archive (which contains the remains of the archive of Arch-Duchess Maria Louise (1791–1847), the

Alliance formed by the estates of the region above and below the river Enns (Lower Austria and Upper Austria) against King Friedrich IV (later Emperor Friedrich III) to enforce the release of Ladislaus Postumus, posthumous son and rightful heir of King Albrecht II. This "Mailberger Bund" (Mailberg Alliance) of October 14, 1451 bore the seals of 254 members of the estates.

second wife of Napoleon, with letters from her son Franz Joseph Karl Napoleon (1811–1832), the Duke of Reichstadt), the personal papers left by Ludwig Salvator (1847–1915) and Franz Ferdinand (1863–1914, Hohenberg depot) and the diaries of Arch-Duchess Sophie (1805–1872), which, like the personal papers left by Franz Ferdinand, are only accessible to researchers who have obtained written permission. There are independent archival bodies in this group: the *Lothringische Hausarchiv* (Lorraine house archive) and the *Estensische Familienarchiv* (archive of the House of Este with the incomplete Chambord collection).

The *Kabinettsarchiv* comprises the papers of the registries of the monarchy in the widest sense, as well as records of the central state authorities (State Council, State Conference, Imperial Council) – with a series of manuscripts (petitions, copies of the instruction slips written by the emperor) from the period between the middle of the 18th century and 1918. From the middle of the 18th century at the latest, the imperial cabinet dealt with political matters, primarily concerning foreign policy. The reforms carried out under Emperor Francis II (I, 1768–1835) tightened the link between the imperial “writing room” and the authorities (State Council, State Conference), so that the records produced by the *Kabinettsreferenten*, the trusted, personal consultants of Emperors Franz I and Ferdinand (1793–1875), found their way into the archive of the State Council and from there into the *Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv*. The *Alte Kabinettsakten* (old cabinet records) did not come from a registry, but are files “which were left with the monarch and accumulated”. They relate primarily to the internal administration of the Habsburg lands and to the history of economics and finance in the 18th century.

The so-called confidential records and the *Kaiser-Franz-Akten* (records of Emperor Francis), which originally formed part of the so-called reference archive of Emperor Francis I (now part of the Habsburg family archive) were generated in parallel with the records of the *Kabinettskanzleiarchiv* (cabinet registry archive 1802–1848) as an independent archive of papers which the emperor wished to have at hand and kept confidential. The *Kaiser-Franz-Akten* document estate and

administrative matters of the Austrian lands during the re-organisation at the time of the Napoleonic wars. They also contain what remains of the personal papers left by Franz Karl Kressl (1720–1801) – from 1773 head of the “geistliche Hofkommission” (ecclesiastical court commission) – which relate to the dissolution of the Society of Jesus, include visitation reports by bishops, and throw light on the school system and the piety of the population. The confidential records (records of the court commissions for high treason, partly generated by the Hungarian court chancellery and by the police and court censorship office) provide information, for example in the form of minutes of interrogations and of confiscated material, about free masons’ lodges and sympathisers of the French Jacobins. The extant minutes of interrogations give detailed insight into the system of thought and the inter-relationships of early democratic activists; the documents on free masons’ lodges contain names such as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Joseph Haydn, and reveal aspects of the artistic and scientific communities towards the end of the age of Enlightenment.

The cabinet archive series, which relate to the period from 1848 to 1918, include reports to the emperor, minutes of the council of ministers 1848–1867 and secret files (= memoranda on domestic and foreign-policy matters, private papers left by Prince Felix Schwarzenberg, 1800–1852). These are well-known sources of information on the domestic policy, the administration and the constitution of the Habsburg empire, as are the series of papers from the cabinet registry. Among the papers worthy of mention are those left by Johann Freiherr (Baron) Kempen von Fichtenstamm (1793–1863, from 1852–1859 head of the supreme police authority in the era of neo-absolutism); those left by Field Marshal Franz Moritz Graf Lacy (1725–1801); the papers left by Leopold Graf (Count) Kolowrat (1727–1809) and the Zinzendorf papers with material on economic and financial issues in the 18th century. The diaries of Karl Graf (Count) Zinzendorf (1739–1813), covering the years 1752 to 1813, contain unique notes on the culture and mentality of the late 18th century.

Owing to the ravages of 1945, all that remained of the records of the State

Council were some files (from 1834 onwards) and the registries (indexes, journals). The State Council was a collegiate advisory body, which, between 1760 and 1848, (from 1808 as a state and conference council for interior affairs), dealt with administrative and political matters. The records of the (augmented) Imperial Council (1851–1868) are of equal significance for administrative and constitutional matters. Before 1848, this council, which was an advisory body with no right to initiate legislation, performed functions similar to those of the State Council and the State Conference. It was succeeded by the so-called New State Council (1861–1868) whose task it was to “advise and support” the emperor and his ministry “in finding sound and well-considered principles which are unanimously agreed upon and which draw on the insight, the knowledge and the experience of its members”.

#### *Hofarchiv und habsburgisch-lothringische Vermögensverwaltung* (court archives and administration of the Habsburg-Lorraine property)

The *Hofarchiv* are the archives of those offices and aulic services responsible for the various administrative, judicial and ceremonial duties at the ducal or imperial court respectively. The court household was essentially managed by four supreme offices (with numerous subordinate units): the office of the Lord High Steward, the office of the Lord Chamberlain, the office for ceremonial matters and the office of the Supreme Master of the Horse. In addition to these main groups, there are now archival series, such as the series of the office of the Supreme Master of the Hunt (with descriptions of hunting grounds from the 16th century, maps and plans from the 18th century), of the office of court management, of the court orchestra (1757–1900), the court pharmacy, the parish of the imperial palace, the aulic accounting department and the aulic public works board.

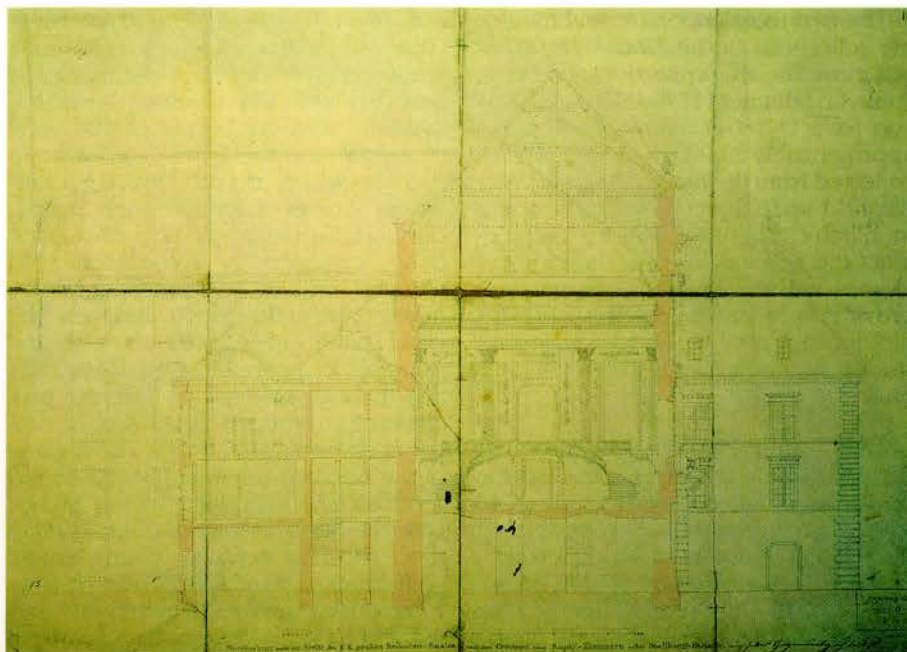
With very few exceptions (registers of the imperial household, ceremonial department and journals of the office of the Lord High Steward) these series commence in the middle of the 18th century and continue up to 1918/20. They document the ceremonial at court and during audiences and official functions – forms of cultural encounter in

the broadest sense of the words –, they contain legally binding documents (bequests, wills) and material relating to the history of the Viennese museums, art and natural history collections and to the court library. A sound historiography of music and theatre in Vienna is hardly conceivable without the written records of the court theatre and court opera management (after 1918/20 federal theatre management), which contain numerous autographs of managers, artists, musicians and actors. In 1916, the department for matters relating to orders was integrated into the office of the Lord High Steward. On this occasion the already existing Offices of the Order of Leopold, the Order of Franz Joseph and the Order of the Iron Crown were incorporated into the new *Ordenskanzlei* (Office of Orders).

The section of records pertaining to the administration of Habsburg-Lorraine property, that is to say of private and family funds and of the war victims fund, developed from the family provision fund, the so-called *Avitikal- und Patrimonialfonds*. In 1886/87 the directorate general of the private and family funds of the ruling house was set up to administer the entire movable and immovable private property of the imperial family. In 1919/1925, it passed into state ownership in the form of the war victims fund. These records provide valuable source material on the history of the imperial family and on regional history. They also include a series on the administration of the huge imperial domains. This series which continued from the middle of the 18th century, contains a wealth of information on the development of agriculture and forestry. In addition to the directorate general and the directorates of the private and family funds in Vienna and Prague, mention should be made of the management of the palaces of Schoenbrunn, Baden, Belvedere, Salzburg Hellbrunn, Hetzendorf, Laxenburg-Vösendorf, and Innsbruck-Ambras as well as of the demesne archives of Eckartsau, Hof an der March (Schloßhof), Leiben, Luberegg and Großenzersdorf (all of them in Lower Austria).

#### Series of treaties, diplomas and deeds, and Manuscript Collection

For a long time, the “*Allgemeine Urkundenreihe*” was a current archive.



“Durchschnitt nach der Breite des k.k. großen Redouten-Saales mit den Credenz und Supir-Zimmern nebst Stallburg-Facade” (cross-section of the imperial and royal ball room with the buffet and dining rooms and the facade of the stables) by Anton Ortner from the first half of the 19th century; one of the plans from the plan archive of the Burghauptmannschaft (management of the imperial palace).

This means that since the late 18th century contracts, state and family documents were deposited in the *Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv*; this series ends with the year 1918, the more recent series of state documents being currently deposited in the *Archiv der Republik*. The origins of this document series (“*Allgemeine Urkundenreihe*”) have already been discussed; one can hardly do justice to the series in a few words. An impression of its importance can be gained, however, from the fact that it contains the Golden Bull of Emperor Charles IV (1356), the so-called *österreichische Freiheitsbriefe* (Austrian privileges – forged documents from 1358/59), the *Mailberger Bund* (Mailberg alliance) of 1451 (with 254 [!] seals), the final act of the Vienna Congress (1815), the *Oktoberdiplom* (1860), the *Februarpatent* (1861), the so-called *Dreibund* (triple alliance) between Austria-Hungary, Germany and Italy (1882), and also the first documentation of Mattersburg in a document issued by the king of Hungary in 1202. The family documents (*Familienurkunden*) originally formed part of the family and house archive and/or the general document series, but were organised into a

separate entity in 1858. Currently they contain fragments of practically all the document series (also of the former *Wiener Schatzkammerarchiv*), e.g. household regulations, wills, marriage contracts, etc., from 1239 to 1918. In addition to series of diplomas and deeds belonging to individual demesne and family archives (Grafenegg, Erdödy, Auersperg – all of them accessible only with written permission), there are separate series of (parchment) diplomas and deeds: the Dutch documents (1277–1792), the Lorraine documents (1170–1753) and the Turkish documents and state papers (1503–1841). The latter were selected according to subject matter to create an “independent section of archival material relating to the position vis-à-vis the Turks in particular and the Orient in general”. The major part of the papers and documents issued by sultans and grand viziers (1527–1860) used to be kept in the archives of the Imperial Chancellery and the State Chancellery. Copies and translations of many of the originals (such as the ratification of the peace treaty of Karlowitz 1699 by Sultan Mustafa II) are found in the foreign country section (Turkey).