

# The London Gazette.

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From Saturday June 14, to Tuesday June 17, 1766.

*Leghorn, May 30.*

ON Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> Instant, about Eleven o'Clock, arrived here their Royal Highnesses the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Tuscany, accompanied with a large Suite of Nobility, Foreign Ministers, and other Persons of Distinction. The Road without the Pifa Gate was lined with two Battalions of Soldiers, through which their Royal Highnesses passed amidst the Firing of Cannon, and the Acclamations of an innumerable Crowd of People. When they arrived at the Gate, his Royal Highness was presented by the Governor with the Keys of the City; after which their Royal Highnesses proceeded to the Royal Palace situated upon the Great Place. The Houses were every where decorated with Carpets, Damask, and other Ornaments, and the Windows crowded with Spectators, so that there never was a more splendid Entrance seen upon any Occasion. At the Door of the Palace their Royal Highnesses were met by the Chief Magistrates of the Town; and above Stairs, in the State Apartment, were assembled the principal Italian and Foreign Ladies, the latter of which were presented to their Royal Highnesses by the Consuls of their respective Nations. In the Afternoon the Exhibition of the Publick Games began: A Circus had been erected, for this Purpose, upon the Great Place, capable of containing many Thousands of People; besides which the Houses and Palaces overlooking it, were capable of containing many more. The Magistrates had the Honor of entertaining their Royal Highnesses first with a Horse-Race: This was the only Shew exhibited that Day. In the Evening their Royal Highnesses went to the Theatre, accompanied by a great Number of the Chief of the Citizens, who had assembled together, of their own Accord, to conduct them there with Torches. The Great Street, as well as the Place and the Circus, the lower Story of which was disposed into near 200 Shops, and decorated with all Sorts of the richest and most costly Merchandize, were finely illuminated upon the Occasion.

On the 20<sup>th</sup>, early in the Morning, his Royal Highness visited the Mole, and went aboard one of his Men of War, being saluted by all the English Ships, who had gone out into the Road for this Purpose, as he passed by. At Noon he received the Principal Merchants of the different Factories settled here, they being presented by their respective Consuls; and in the Afternoon he was entertained with a Calcio, or Harpastrum, given by the English Merchants. Nothing could be more magnificent than the Apparatus for this very ancient and noble Game: Two very magnificent Pavilions were erected in different Parts of the Circus; and each Division, consisting of Fifty Combatants, besides Commanders and other Officers with their Pages

amounting to about Ten more, so that the whole consisted of 120 Persons, were dressed, one Division in blue, the other in red Sattin, richly adorned with Silver and other Ornaments, according to their different Ranks. When the Colours saluted their Royal Highnesses, a great Number of small Mortars were fired, and several Bands of Musick struck up: Afterwards the Charge was sounded, and the Play began; the Victory however was not decided this Day, as the Evening drew on too fast. Nothing could be more magnificent than the whole Appearance, which was rendered compleat by the innumerable Spectators with which the Circus and the Houses, even the very Tops of them, were crowded. In the Evening their Royal Highnesses went again to the Theatre.

The 21<sup>st</sup> High Mass, and a solemn Te Deum was sung at the Church of the Madonna, which was finely decorated, at the Expence of the Spanish and Neapolitan Factories, for the safe Arrival of their Royal Highnesses at this City. In the Afternoon their Royal Highnesses went to a magnificent Building, erected at the Mole by the Dutch, in order to see a Boat-Race, which they had prepared to divert their Royal Highnesses with. All the Ships were finely dressed out upon this Occasion, so that the whole made a prodigious fine Coup d'Œil; and their Royal Highnesses expressed the greatest Satisfaction. This Evening, as also the following ones, concluded as before.

The 22<sup>d</sup>, in the Afternoon, the French Nation exhibited a Chariot-Race, after the Manner used at the Olympic Games; no Accident happened upon this Occasion, and the whole succeeded very well.

The 23<sup>d</sup> the English repeated the Calcio, when Victory declared for the blue.

Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> the Jews gave a Horse-Race: And Sunday concluded the Feasts with a fine Procession of all the different Combatants concerned in the above Shews, in their several Dresses.

Monday Morning their Royal Highnesses gave Audience of Leave: And in the Afternoon left the City, after having visited every Thing curious in it, to the great Regret of every Body, being highly satisfied with their Reception, and leaving us some Hopes of their returning in the Month of September next, to make a longer Stay.

They dined every Day in Public, shewed the greatest Condescension and Affability; and when they went away, left to the Governor and other Principal Officers very handsome Presents, and to each of the Consuls of the Foreign Factories, who had given Publick Diversions, a very fine Diamond Ring. And the Great Duke confirmed the Privileges, granted by his Predecessors, to Foreigners who come and settle there.

*Berlin,*