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Description of the Entertainment given at the Palace of the Belvedere, on the 17th of April, 1770, by Order of their Imperial Majesties.

THEIR Majesties being desirous that the Public should partake in the Satisfaction they received from the Marriage of the Archduchess Antonia with the Dauphin, on the 15th of February last gave Orders to Baron Paccassi, their Counsellor and First Architect, to make Preparations for an Entertainment upon the Plan which he had proposed, which had been approved by them.

The seventeen great Rooms, and the Saloon which compose the principal Apartment of the Palace of the Belvedere, not being sufficient to answer the Views of their Majesties, whose Intention was, among other Things, to give a masked Ball to six thousand Persons, Baron Paccassi caused a Hall, four hundred Feet long, forty-eight wide, and forty-two high, to be built on the Ground-Floor near the Garden. The Vestible, in which is the Great Stair-case leading to the Apartments of the Palace, served, by descending a few Steps, for an Entrance to this new Hall, and made at the same Time a Communication with thirteen Rooms on the same Floor, which were made use of for Side-boards. This Hall was moreover so contrived, that you might see the whole Extent of it from three Balconies of the Palace supported by Pillars. Its Decoration consisted of Bowers with Porticos painted in Treillages, and covered with Foliages and Flowers; the Intervals of the Porticos afforded a distant View of delightful and varied Landscapes; eighty large Mirrors, and five hundred Crystal Sconces hung from Festoons and Garlands placed on each Side of the whole Length of the Hall; one hundred and fifty large Lustres were in like Manner suspended in the Middle of the Hall from Festoons of Gold and Silver Gauze, intermixed with Flowers coming from the Tops of the Bowers; and eight thousand wax Lights illuminated this great Room, on each Side of which was placed a Bench reaching the whole Length of the Room, covered with white Cloth, having a Border of Gold Lace; where there were also two Orchestras for 160 Musicians, in Balconies not quite so high as those of the Palace. The Number and Variety of the Masks, the Reflection of the Glasses, the Elegance and Freshness of the Paintings, the Richness of the Festoons, and the Brilliancy of the Illumination, afforded, altogether, a Sight equally charming and magnificent.

From the Hall you passed, on the same Floor, into thirteen Side-board Rooms, ornamented with Glasses, Sconces, Girandoles, Festoons, Garlands, &c.

The Vestible and Great Stair-case were ornamented in like Manner, and illuminated with an infinite Number of Wax-Lights; additional Decorations were made to the Saloon, and the seventeen Rooms of the Grand Apartment, by furnishing them with Seats like the Benches in the Hall, covered with white Cloth bordered with Gold, and by ornamenting them with Festoons and Garlands, from

which were suspended 95 large Crystal Lustres, and 290 Sconces, holding in all, three thousand five hundred Wax-Lights. Three Orchestras in Balconies in the Saloon, and the two great Rooms adjoining, contained fourscore Musicians. Such were the Decorations within Side. It being scarcely possible to describe particularly the Taste and Magnificence of them, in order to give a general Idea, it is sufficient to say, there were one hundred thousand Italian Flowers made use of, one thousand Pieces of Gold Gauze, five hundred of Silver Gauze, two thousand eight hundred Books of Leaf Gold, fifteen thousand Ells of Cloth, for the Hangings of the New Hall; and that the Vestible, the Stair-case, the Halls, the other Rooms, and Sideboards, were illuminated by above thirteen thousand Wax-Lights. As to the Decoration of the Outside of the Palace, a large Edifice was erected at a little Distance from this Hall, towards the Gardens, of the Composite Order, with three Fronts, being four hundred Feet in Length, by one hundred and twenty in Height.

On the Pediment of the middle Front was the following Inscription:

Hymenæo
Ob Austriam cum Francia
Novo Vinculo junctam.

Over this Inscription were placed the Arms of the august House of Austria, supported by two Fames; underneath were little Cupids decked with Garlands, and bearing Quivers, Arrows, Flowers, and Branches of Laurel; and on the Top of the Balustrade, over the Pediment, on the two Sides of the Front, were two Figures of Hercules, one with a Globe representing Austria, the other with a Globe representing France. Genii, holding antique Vases, formed four Groups near these Globes. Other Genii adorned with Flowers, and holding Love's Torches, decorated the two Extremities of the middle Front. On the Pediment of one of the Side Fronts were Apollo and Bacchus; on the other Mercury and Vulcan. On the Top of these two Fronts, an Hymen, attended by several Genii carrying Flambeaux, Vases and Garlands, held up towards Heaven two Hearts united and encircled with a Wreath of Flowers. Lastly, the Galleries, which projected from the three Fronts, were ornamented in like Manner with Garlands and Trophies of Love and Hymen.

This whole Edifice was illuminated, in a Manner correspondent to its Architecture, by one Hundred Thousand Lamps; and the Figures, the Genii adapted to the Festival, the Trophies, Crowns, Garlands, and in general all the Ornaments, being distributed with Grace and Symmetry, produced an extraordinary Brilliancy, which made them, as well as the Flutings of the Pilastres and Capitals of the Columns, appear like so much burnished Gold.

The Stone-Steps, which reach the whole Width of the grand Terrace of the Garden, and by which you go down to it from the Palace, were illuminated at proper Distances by Fire-Pots: The Terrace was surrounded by a Gallery formed of Treillages and Arcades, disposed in such a Manner, that