

“Admired ... desired ... Theatre cult and passionate collectorship

8 September 2021 – 18 April 2022



Lobkowitzplatz 2, 1010 Wien
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About the Exhibition

The adoration the Viennese public feels for its stars of the stage is legendary. One aspect of this love is the passion with which some fans collect keepsakes and mementos of the private and public lives of their favourite opera singers and actors. Over 300 unique treasures and the people who collected them form the centre of an exhibition that offers a first-ever comprehensive survey of the Theatermuseum's important collection of artists' souvenirs.

The collection owes its existence to Joseph Gregor (1888-1960), the founder of the Austrian National Library's Theatre Collection. A dedicated collector himself, he appreciated the special value of souvenirs and mementos connected with celebrated protagonists of Vienna's theatres, seeing the former as complimenting the different areas of the Theatre Collection. He was instrumental in the acquisition of the unique private collection assembled by Hugo Thiemig (1854-1944), actor, director and head of the Burgtheater, by the Austrian National Library in 1922 following two years of negotiations. Over time, around 4000 souvenirs - including the extensive collection amassed by the actor, singer, theatre director, scriptwriter and director Hubert Marischka (1882-1959) - entered the museum's holdings. The unusual souvenirs include walking sticks, fans, glasses, cigars, notebooks, pieces of furniture, good luck charms, decorations, splinters of wood and statuettes. They offer a comprehensive and fascinating image of their former owners and document theatre life in Vienna in the nineteenth and twentieth century. Anecdotes connected with artists and the buildings in which theatre history was made imbue these objects with strong cultural and socio-historical - as well as emotional - value.

Only a collector understands another collector

Collecting makes happy, requires at least some systematic classification, might be a display of power, and, in some cases, can even become an obsession. In his memoirs *The World of Yesterday*, Stefan Zweig, himself a passionate collector, recalls that people even saved splinters from the stage of the Alte Burgtheater, demolished in 1888, as treasured "relics".

The highlights on show in the exhibition include the so-called "good-luck seat" from the Altes Burgtheater, the former imperial court theatre in Vienna. When it was demolished, seat no 192 from the thirteenth row was saved and the set-designer Gilbert Lehner took it home as a souvenir. It repeatedly changed hands, ending up in the possession of Riki Raab, a former prima ballerina with the state opera ballet company. Her daughter Lieselotte Anton then installed the chair in her office at the Burgtheater, where countless actors - especially before a first night - sat on it for good luck, not forgetting to sign their name in the appendant "Sitzbücheln" (little seat-book).

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Also on show is one of the glasses from which a final toast to the venerable Altes Burgtheater was drunk after the curtain came down for the very last time on 12 October 1888, the fan that functioned as a guestbook at the Marischkas', and the Bambi prizes won by the celebrated actor O.W. Fischer.

More recent collectors' items tell of the changes in the way fans worship their idols, which included mass-produced merchandise. Preserving, remembering, admiring – this begins at an early age. For an up-to-date perspective on the subject, our education department has devised a project for schools entitled *Preserved! In Colour and with Sound*, which showcases unusual objects: souvenirs assembled by class 3E of the Ganztagsvolksschule Wulzendorfstrasse. They were handed down in the families and many are personal objects of importance to the pupils. In keeping with a museum's core activities, the children researched, measured and described the objects before carefully installing them in the exhibition. We have also put together a puzzle hunt in verse for young visitors, inviting them to search the galleries to discover selected objects.

Visitors are not restricted to a chronology or a pre-determined course but invited to explore different ways of collecting. Inspired by Renaissance gardens embellished with sculptures, one gallery focuses on the sensual, playful love of collecting, while the concept of the other gallery room is more severe: here a wealth of objects is displayed like hunting trophies, categorized and painstakingly exact, demonstrating the continual expansion of a museum collection.

The show takes visitors on a memorable journey along theatre-lovers' reminiscences of great (and small) moments of theatre history.

Programme of events and lectures

We offer a rich and varied programme of events and lectures that includes readings and artists' talks, guided tours and workshops for children and teenagers.

#Glueckssessel

The „good-luck seat“ from the Altes Burgtheater will be installed in the entrance hall of the Theatermuseum next to a modern good-luck seat, inviting visitors to sit down and – depending on their mood – symbolically charge it with luck and happiness or receive a little luck and happiness from it, to take a picture, share it with the hashtag #Glueckssessel and tag the Instagram channel @theatermuseumvienna.

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“Desired ... admired ...“ – podcast

In connection with the exhibition, the Theatermuseum produced its first-ever podcast. Michael Schottenberg collects crown caps, Sigrid Eyb-Green collects slips of paper, Lilli Nagy collects Schallfolien and more, and Rudolf E. Olsina collects just about everything. While the exhibition showcases theatrical objects in general and artists' keepsakes in particular, Karin Mörtl from the education department uses the podcast to introduce different collectors united by their love of collecting, though their approaches, motivations and inspirations differ widely.

On Spotify

Catalogue raisonné

The accompanying and lavishly-illustrated catalogue raisonné documents the wealth and variety of the objects assembled here. It also comprises essays on collecting, the history of the collection, provenance research and the problems and challenges faced by conservators as well as statements from three contemporary collectors, hoping to whet your appetite and invite you to immerse yourself in the world of theatre and its protagonists.

The exhibition was conceived by **Karin Neuwirth**, curator of the collections artists' souvenirs, paintings and puppet- and paper-theatre.

Schuberth und Schuberth, architectural practice in Vienna, created a contemporary setting in which the sumptuous, at times bizarre or just plain and simple souvenirs from the world of theatre enter into a dialogue with visitors to the exhibition.

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Events

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EVENING EVENTS

DER GAULSCHRECK IM ROSENNETZ

Wolfram Berger reads Fritz von Herzmanovsky-Orlando's novel
Wed, 15 Sep 2021, 7 p.m.

EIN ABEND MIT DER DOYENNE DES BURGTHEATERS / AN EVENING WITH THE DOYENNE OF THE BURGTHEATER

Actress Elisabeth Orth reads texts by Stefan Zweig, Alfred Polgar, Ludwig Hirschfeld and Alma Johanna Koenig
Musically accompanied by pianist Florian Krumpöck
Wed, 17 Nov 2021, 7 p.m.

THEATER, OH THEATER, DU! / THEATRE, O THEATRE!

A theatrical stroll in front of the curtain and backstage with Katharina Scholz-Manker and Ernst Tauchner
Musically accompanied by Georg Graf
Wed, 19 Jan 2022, 7 p.m.

MUSENKUSS / KISS OF MUSE

A cheerful evening created by and with Robert Reinagl and Helmut Stippich (music)
Wed, 9 Mar 2022, 7 p.m.

AUS DEN TAGEBÜCHERN DER CHARLOTTE WOLTER / THE DIARIES OF CHARLOTTE WOLTER

Reading with Petra Morzé, texts compiled by Claudia Kaufmann-Freßner
Wed, 6 Apr 2022, 7 p.m.

Tickets: € 25 / Students and annual ticket holders € 18

Tickets can be bought online: shop.khm.at/tickets, remainder tickets will be available at the museum's ticket box.

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GUIDED TOURS AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM (in German)

„ICH KOMME AUS DEM STAUNEN NICHT HERAUS“ / I CANNOT STOP BEING AMAZED – KULTURPLAUDEREI

Guided tour followed by a talk with passionate collectors and guests from the world of theatre:

Thu, 7 Oct 2021: Michael Schottenberg – Theatre, Travelling and Collecting

Thu, 25 Nov 2021: Katharina Scholz-Manker – Theatre anecdotes

Thu, 27 Jan 2022: Sigrid Eb-Green, finder of little notes and Rudolf E. Olsina, collector

Thu, 17 Feb 2022: Katharina Scholz-Manker – Theatre anecdotes

Thu, 24 Mar 2022: Lilly Nagy, collector with a passion for cooking receipts and theatre

Always from 3 to 5 p.m.

Tickets: € 6 (plus entrance fee)

„ACH JA, ICH ERINNERE MICH GUT“ / I REMEMBER WELL – GUIDED TOUR WITH THE CURATOR

Once per month, alternating Fri, 4 p.m. and Sat, 2 p.m.

Sat, 2 p.m.: 18 Sep and 13 Nov 2021; 29 Jan and 2 Apr 2022

Fri, 4 p.m.: 15 Oct and 17 Dec 2021; 4 Mar 2022

Tickets: € 6 (plus entrance fee)

MITTAGSPAUSE / 30 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK TOUR

Wed, 22 Sep, 20 Oct, 17 Nov and 15 Dec 2021

Wed, 12 Jan, 23 Feb and 16 Mar 2022

Always 12.30–1 p.m.

Tickets: € 3 (plus entrance fee)

SAMMLER-KIDS / COLLECTOR KIDS – ADMIRE ... DESIRED ...

Sat, 16 Oct 2021, 3.30–5 p.m.

Theatrical afternoon for kids from 5-10 years

Kids and adults: € 4

GUIDED TOURS ON DEMAND

T +43 1 52524 5310 or kulturvermittlung@theatermuseum.at

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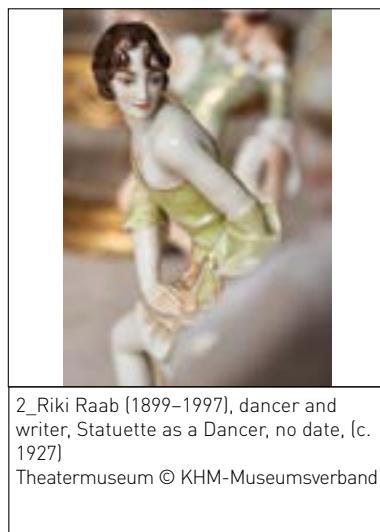
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Press Photos

Photos are free of charge in relation to the press coverage of the exhibition.
They are available for download under www.theatermuseum.at/presse/



1_Exhibition poster
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Theatermuseum © KHM-Museumsverband



2_Riki Raab (1899–1997), dancer and writer, Statuette as a Dancer, no date, [c. 1927]
Theatermuseum © KHM-Museumsverband



3_Good-luck seat“ with three small
“seat-books, seat from the K.K. Hoftheater
[Imperial and Royal Court Theatre, i.e. the
Alte Burgtheater], row 13, no 192
(before 1888)
Theatermuseum © KHM-Museumsverband



4_Group including Helene Thimig as
“Smeraldina” and Hermann Thimig as
“Truffaldino”
Fan of Charlotte Wolter
Theatermuseum © KHM-Museumsverband



5_Crab-seller from the collection of
tragacanth figures depicting “Viennese
types” assembled by Hubert Marischk
Theatermuseum © KHM-Museumsverband



6_Entrance tickets to the
Alte Burgtheater
Theatermuseum © KHM-Museumsverband

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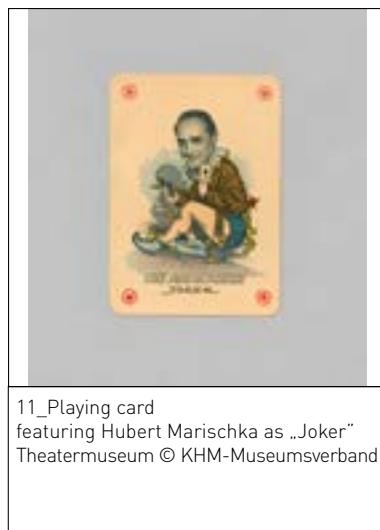
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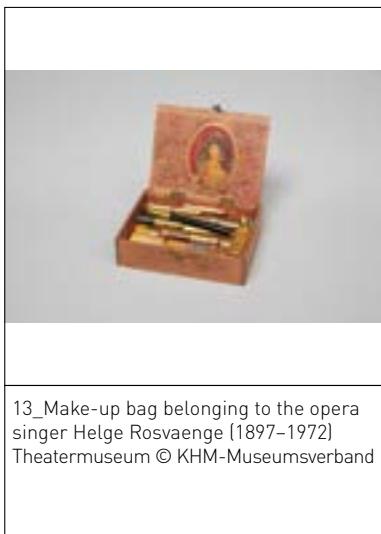
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Exhibition Catalogue



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Artists' souvenirs from the collections of the Theatermuseum

A love of theatre and of the stars of the stage, together with a love of collecting, form the basis for the creation of the Theatermuseum's exceptional collection of artists' souvenirs. Every-day objects, mementos of great performances and souvenirs from theatres, sumptuous, bizarre or plain and simple – these keepsakes recall Vienna's theatre history (and theatre stories) from a very special viewpoint.

Edited by Karin Neuwirth and Thomas Trabitsch, 352 pages, 2021, Vienna: Residenzverlag, paperback.

The book is available from the Museum Shop and online at <https://shop.khm.at/shop>; price: € 39,95
ISBN 978 3 7017 3536 5

Social Media

Follow us

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram or receive our Newsletter to stay up-to-date with preparations for the exhibition, enjoy behind-the-scenes views of the installation and be the first to know details of our programme of lectures and events. Discover our podcast about the exhibition which includes discussions and interviews on the love of collecting and is available on our Spotify channel.

facebook.com/Theatermuseum
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Opening hours

Daily except Tue 10 am – 6 pm

Admittance until 30 minutes before closure.

Entrance fees

Annual ticket	€ 49
Annual ticket U 25	€ 25
Adults	€ 12
with Vienna Card	€ 11
Concessions	€ 9
Children and Youth under 19	free

The Annual Family Ticket

€ 79*

For 2 adults and up to 3 children

or youths under 19

More information under www.khm.at/familie



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Journalists visiting the KHM-Museumsverband for professional purposes are entitled to free admission to its exhibitions and locations. For this purpose, we kindly ask you to register via info.pr@theatermuseum.at at least two working days in advance. We request that, in addition to mentioning your medium, you also specify the date of your visit and attach a scan of your valid press pass. Many thanks for your understanding!

Contact

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