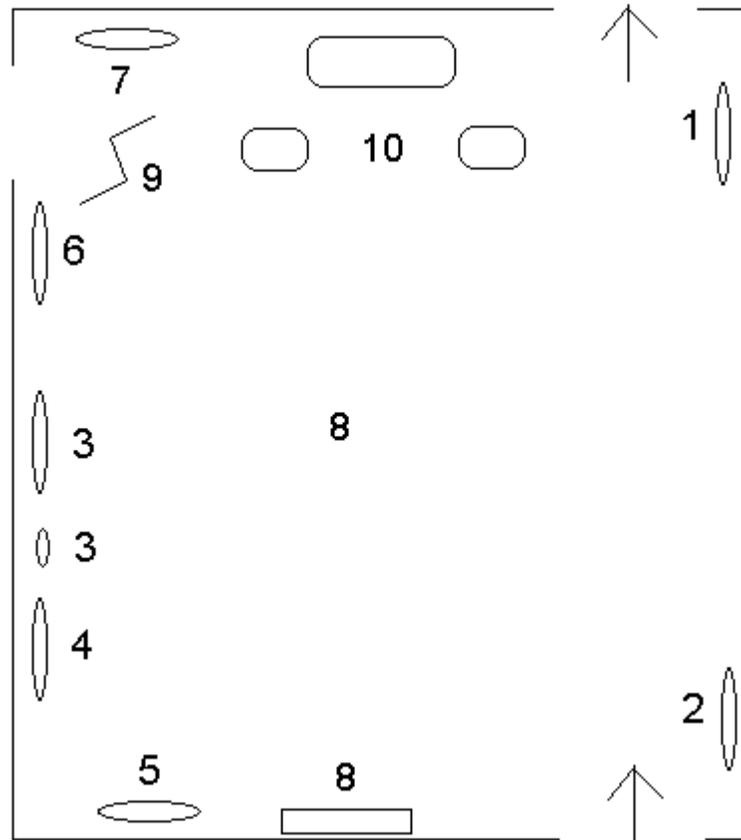


MARIA-CHRISTINA'S SITTING ROOM (05 E)



This sitting room is the only one to have kept its original Versailles style parquet flooring. The other floors and panelling have vanished, victim of the fungus which developed after the Meuse flooded. That occurred frequently after the canalisation of the river in 1876.

The room is dedicated to the house of Habsburg-Lorraine, which ruled over our provinces from 1713 to 1794.

- (1) Portrait of Maria-Christina (1741-1798). She served as governess of the Netherlands from 1780 to 1793. In this role she succeeded her uncle Charles of Lorraine. She and her husband Albert of Saxe-Teschen (founder of the Albertina in Vienna) were guests of Frederic of Beaufort-Spontin in 1785. He gave a ball in their honour in the illuminated gardens.
- (2) Portrait of Joseph II (1741-1790), brother of Maria-Christina (1) and son of Maria-Theresa (3) and Francis of Lorraine (4). He succeeded them on the throne of the Holy Roman Empire in 1765 but only really exercised the power on the death of his mother in 1780.
- (3) Two portraits of Maria-Theresa (1717-1780). On the first one you see a young woman who was thin and determined: the Queen of Hungary, no less (1740). This part of the legacy of her father, Charles VI was not contested by the European coalition fighting against her. Indeed, Hungary was close to the dangerous Ottoman Empire. On the second one you see an older

woman who has given birth to 16 children and was Empress of the Holy Empire, Archduchess of Austria, Queen of Hungary and Bohemia.

- (4) Portrait of her husband, Francis of Lorraine (Nancy 1708 - Innsbruck 1765). He was dispossessed of Lorraine by the French in exchange for Tuscany (1737). Before leaving Lorraine he sold 24 orange trees from Lunéville to the Beaufort-Spontins. Most are still in our gardens. Despite his wife giving birth 16 times, he had at the end of his life an affair with a certain Princess Auersperg. He died shortly afterwards. On leaving the funeral, which took place in St. Stephan's cathedral in Vienna, Maria-Theresa came across Princess Auersperg and said to her: "Madam, what a wonderful man, you and I have lost". A really Imperial comment !
Rather unusual, these portraits of two generations are the work of the same painter.
- (5) Portrait of Charles of Lorraine, brother of Francis (4). He was Governor of the Austrian Low Countries during the reign of Maria-Theresa. Charles offered the original of this picture to his General Comptroller (Chancellor of the Exchequer), an ancestor of Baron Francis Bonaert.
- (6) Portrait of Stanislas Leszczynski, ex King of Poland and father-in-law of Louis XV. The French named him Duke of Lorraine to replace Francis in 1737. He lived frequently in Lunéville, where he undertook substantial modifications. We owe him the famous parade ground bearing his name in Nancy.
- (7) Portrait of the field marshal Count von Daun (1705-1766) ancestor of the general Vladimir van Daun (Laubespins Room). An outstanding strategist and friend Maria-Theresa (3), he defeated Frederic II of Prussia at the battle of Kölin in 1757 with the help of the Walloon La Tour regiment.
- (8) On the whole the room is typical of the Louis XVI style. The armchairs and sofa have straight fluted legs (grooved like miniature columns) and topped by a square in bloom. The gilded ribbon at the top of the back of the seats is also very distinctive. In front of the Louis XVI fireplace, two wing chairs covered with Genoa velvet are attributed to the cabinet maker Jacob
- (9) A series of engravings representing the palace and gardens of Versailles.
- (10) The great sofa, whose legs were cut short to suit the short height of Camille of Laubespins (1.40 m), husband of Gilda of Beaufort-Spontin. The mantelpiece of the library has suffered the same lot, although Théodule, their son, who was very tall like his mother, had it raised again after his father's death.

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