

Theatres.

Vienna possesses 6 theatres and 1 summer theatre. 2 of these are in the town, the others are in the suburbs. The boxes contain from 4 to 6 persons and are generally let to one party, except at the *Theatre on the Wien*, at the *Karl Theatre*, and *Harmony theatre*, where a limited number of boxes can be let to different parties. The reserved-seats both in the pit and galleries rank next after the boxes in point of gentility and convenience. It is advisable for ladies to take either a box or reserved seats in the pit or first gallery as much as possible in the front row, and especially so at the theatres in the suburbs. Plans of the internal arrangement and disposition of boxes and seats in the different theatres, with numbers to the seats may be procured at any large print-seller's. Theatrical performances commence in Vienna at seven o'clock and are generally ended at ten. It is customary for any gentleman entering the Imperial Court Theatre (k. k. Hofburg-theater) and the Court Opera (k. k. Hofoperntheater) to take off his hat; in other theatres the same custom prevails, but only after the curtain has been drawn up.

The Court Theatre (Hofburgtheater), in the Imp. Palace, was constructed in 1760 and has, between the years 1837 and 1854, undergone frequent restorations.

Its internal arrangement and decorations leave much to wish for as far as comfort and elegance are concerned, but its actors are unquestionably the first in Germany. This theatre is exclusively devoted to classic German plays though some of Shakespeare's masterpieces such as, *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *Lear*, *Othello*, and *Romeo and Juliet* are here occasionally acted with great taste and correctness. — It has two tiers of boxes, 2 pits, and 2 galleries. — The prices are printed on the Play-bills pasted up beside the entrance.

The Court Opera (k. k. Hofoperntheater), Augustinergasse 6, was burnt down in 1761 and rebuilt in 1763; it is exclusively for German and Italian operas and ballets. It has 2 pits and five galleries, the three lowest rows of which are partitioned out into boxes. The prices are likewise specified on the bill pasted up at the door.

The New Opera-house, Operngasse, which has just been constructed after the plans of *Van der Null* and *Siccardsburg*, contains beautiful frescoes by *Schwind* and *Ed. Engerth*.

Charles Theatre (Karltheater), in the suburb Leopoldstadt, Praterstrasse 31. On this spot stood formerly a small theatre built by *Ch. Marinelli* in 1781 for popular farces, comic spectacles, pantomimes, etc. mostly in the broadest Austrian dialect, but often very amusing. At a later period, Manager *Carl* bought this theatre, whose celebrities as *Schuster*, *Korntheuer*, *Raimund*, *Krones*, *Ennöckl* and *Jäger*, had by degrees died away. He had it demolished and rebuilt (1847) on the plan of *Van der Null* and *Siccardsburg*, and now it is mostly farmed out to different good companies of actors. The price of places is

indicated on the play-bill pasted up at the door of the theatre.

The Theatre near the Wien (Theater an der Wien), Magdalenenstrasse 8, excepting the New Opera-house, just completed this is the largest of all the theatres in Vienna. It was constructed between the years 1798 and 1801, and renovated in 1838 and 1845. Dramas, comedies, light operas and ballets, are performed here. The stage is so spacious, that 500 persons and 100 horses have appeared on it at once. It has two pits with 8 boxes, 10 boxes in the first tier, and 4 galleries. Prices specified on the play-bill at the door.

The Theatre of the Josephstadt, Josephstädterstrasse 26. The present building dates from 1822. It has been restored in 1852. Dramas and Comedies, the latter chiefly in the Viennese dialect, are represented here. Price of the places specified on the Play-bill at the entrance of the theatre.

The Orpheum, situated Harmoniegasse, suburb Rossau, dates from 1866, and is devoted to the representation of small operas, farces, etc.; — Price of the places indicated on the Play-bill at the door.

The Thalia (or summer) **Theatre**, near the gate called *Neulerchenfeld*. It is an open theatre and performances can therefore take place here only in the hot summer months, and begins then at 5 p. m. Is the weather unfavourable, the performance is deferred.

Two private theatres, must likewise be mentioned, namely that of Prince *Sulkowski*, Matzleinsdorferstrasse 45, and that of Baron *Pasqualati*, in the suburb Alservorstadt.

Theatre Agents: Mr. *Holding*, agent for the court theatre; — Mr. *Prix*, Ballgasse 4; — Mr. *Kratz*, Lobkowitzplatz 1.

The Circus Renz, Leopoldstadt, grosse Fuhrmannsgasse, was built in 1855. This building, remarkable for its dimensions and elegance, was constructed at the expense of Mr. *Renz*, who in the winter season delights the Viennese public with the masterly performances of his unequalled troop of equestrians, and the choicest collection of well-trained horses that may be seen. Price of the places on the bill at the door.