

**THE AUSTRIAN  
COURT  
FROM WITHIN**

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The Austrian Court from Within by Catherine Radziwill

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**CATHERINE RADZIWILL**

**THE AUSTRIAN  
COURT  
FROM WITHIN**





EMPEROR FRANCIS JOSEPH OF AUSTRIA

*By the same Author*

**Memories of Forty  
Years**

**The Royal Marriage  
Market of Europe**

**Sovereigns and States-  
men of Europe**

# The Austrian Court from Within

*Princess Catherine Radziwill*  
By  
**Princess Catherine Radziwill**  
(Catherine Kolb-Darvin)

With Eight Photogravure Illustrations

CASELL AND COMPANY, LTD  
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1916

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## PREFACE

**B**EFORE sending this little book into the world, I would like to warn any readers which it may find that the facts related in it are published by me in full consciousness that some eventual importance may come to be attached to them.

We are fighting an enemy who ignores the most elementary moral principles, and I do think it is the duty of everyone to try to unmask that enemy, to cry out to the civilised world to beware of him. The present work is the result of a careful study of German politics for a period stretching over something like forty years: a study which has convinced me that Austria all through that time has been but a pawn in the hands of her powerful neighbour, and that she is bound in the end to become absorbed in Germany.

I have, therefore, attempted to depict a country, a Court and a society already in the last stages of decay. I will not pretend that in doing so I have been looking only for the best characteristics they may happen to possess. On the contrary, I have tried also to unmask the hypocrisy which has always lain at the bottom of Austrian policy; to point out the bigoted egotism of Austria's higher classes; to draw my readers' notice to

## Preface

the selfishness, aggravated by vanity, which from time immemorial has characterised the dynasty and the House of Habsburg.

I feel obliged to make this confession, and also to add that I am indebted to my own observations, and to the correspondence which at different times I have exchanged with several leading political men in Europe, for the facts that I have here sought to fit one with the other so as to produce a whole out of which I draw my own conclusions. Of course, there may be inaccuracies, but I have tried only to mention things which I either knew for fact, or at least had heard from people upon whose veracity I could rely.

C. R.

*Handwritten notes:*  
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really substantial  
then?

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