

H I G H

HIGH MUSEUM OF ART **ATLANTA**

High Museum of Art

Habsburg Splendor:

Masterpieces from Vienna's Imperial Collections

An Acoustiguide Tour

Kids Tour AR Script

Acoustiguide Inc.

555 8th Avenue

Suite 1009

New York, NY 10018

(212) 279-1300

Production #4099

© Acoustiguide Inc. and Museum, 2015.

All rights reserved.

STOP LIST

1. Tournament scene
2. Helmet and shield of Archduke Ferdinand II of Tyrol
3. Arcimboldo, *Fire*
4. Many Sided Equatorial Sundial
5. Cat. No 29: Perspective-Drawing Device
6. Lorenzo Lotto, *Triple Portrait of a Jeweler*
7. Giorgione, *Three Philosophers*
8. Velazquez, *Infanta Maria Theresa*
9. Andreas Moller, *Maria Theresa as a Child*
10. Gala Carriage of the Vienna Court
11. Imperial Sleigh and Sleigh Harness of the Vienna Court
12. Regalia of the Knight of the Order of the Golden Fleece
13. Hungarian Coronation Attire of Crown Prince Otto AND Cat. No 91: Gyula Eder painting

1. TOURNAMENT SCENE

HAPPY Ooh, hello – welcome to the High Museum! You’re just in time! We’ve got a *very* long journey ahead – a journey through history! Come along – the tournament’s about to begin!

BUGLE BLOWS

Here we are! We made it! We’re at the royal court of the Habsburgs – one of the most powerful families in Europe – in the beautiful city of Vienna, the capital of Austria! The date is about 1500 – so we’ve travelled back more than five hundred years. The Emperor, Maximilian I, has invited princes, lords and ladies from all over Europe to watch one of his famous jousting tournaments. And you’re invited too!

What’s that you say? What *is* a jousting tournament?

Well, it’s a very very spectacular game. The aim is for the two riders to charge each other, and try to hit each other’s shields with those long pointy things. Lances, they’re called. The Emperor takes part himself – and so do other noblemen.

Oh – and they’re off!

THUNDERING HOOVES

The winner is the one who knocks his opponent off his horse.

CLATTER OF LANCE ON SHIELD. GROAN AND SMATTERING OF APPLAUSE FROM CROWD

It’s dangerous – but that’s what makes it exciting! It’s a bit like lots of spectator sports you have today – football or racing cars: they’re dangerous, too.

FAINT SOUND OF MUSIC/KETTLEDRUMS AND THE MURMUR OF CROWDS

BURG But it’s not just about the game. The tournament’s also about the Habsburgs showing the world how splendid they are. The riders wear shining armor, sometimes covered with gold, with feathers in their helmets; even the horses are clothed in colorful silks and satins and embroidery. It’s a truly royal spectacle.

(Aside) But, Happy, have you introduced us to our young friend?

HAPPY Oh – no, how rude of me! I was in such a hurry to get to the tournament. My name’s Happy – but you can call me Haps. And this is my twin brother, Burg. We know all about the Habsburg family. There – you can see us on your screen.

ON SCREEN: IMAGE OF DOUBLE-HEADED EAGLE

That's us: the double-headed eagle, the proud symbol of the Habsburgs! You'll see us again during the exhibition if you look closely. Follow me, and I'll show you what life was like in a great royal family, during five hundred incredible years!

BURG And *I'll* show you some of the most spectacular, rare and beautiful objects in the world, collected by the Habsburg family over the centuries: many of them have never been seen in America before! Your tour is a once in a lifetime opportunity!

HAPPY All you have to do is look for the double eagle symbol on the wall; nearby, you'll find a number, next to one of the objects in the exhibition. Just key in the number, and press Play!

BURG Let's go – next stop, look for a very special helmet and shield. We'll see you there.
CRESCENDO OF TOURNAMENT FX. END WITH A THUMP AND A LOUD CHEER

[word count 456]

2. HELMET AND SHIELD OF ARCHDUKE FERDINAND II OF TYROL

BURG So, you saw some knights wearing armor for a tournament. Now you get to have a closer look at some pieces of armor: a helmet, designed to protect the head, and a shield, to ward off blows from those sharp, pointy lances.

But *these* examples were really just worn for show – in grand processions, or at festivals; they weren't made to protect you in a real battle. A beautiful suit of armor showed off how wealthy you were: basically, it was just like a very very expensive suit of clothes!

But it also made you look strong and impressive. Look at the brim of the helmet – that's the bit that comes down over the forehead. It's made to look like the wide mouth of a monster, with the nose and fierce eyes above.

SNARL OF MONSTER

The ridge running along the top of the helmet is made of a dragon's body: its two wings are spread out on top of the head, and its tail clings down the back and curls up at the back of the helmet. Take a few moments to look closely at all the wonderful details.

LONGISH PAUSE

HAPPY Imagine *you're* wearing a helmet like this - with a fierce monster sitting on your head. Why not try making a snarling face, like the monster.

[SNARL]

Does it make you feel scary?

BURG That's the goal! And the decoration on the shield is all about strength, too. It's composed of lots of different scenes. They all show heroes defeating powerful opponents. Can you spot a man wrestling with a lion, for example? It's over on the right. That's Samson, a famous strongman from the Bible. And what about a very small man overcoming a giant – at the top of the shield? Those are David and Goliath – from another biblical story.

HAPPY (*Wistfully*) I remember the young Archduke Ferdinand II wearing this helmet and shield. Ferdinand was the king's son. And, as he rode through the cheering crowds in his dazzling new armor, he looked absolutely superb! A fearless, strong, noble leader! (*Sighs*)

[word count: 397]

3. ARCIMBOLDO FIRE

HAPPY Oh Burg, what a strange picture! It's a person, isn't it? But – it looks so odd...

BURG What do *you* think is unusual about this portrait, my young friend? Take your time to look at the details.

PAUSE

Don't get too close, Happy – your wings might burn. This is a picture of Fire – in human form.

HAPPY Look at his hair – it's all made up of flames.

BURG Yes, and not just his hair: every bit of this head is made of something to do with fire. Look closely. His neck is made out of a giant candle.

HAPPY Yes, with a flame burning for the tongue!

BURG And the moustache is made of kindling – little sticks for lighting the fire.

[DISTANT VOICE: 'TAKE AIM! FIRE!' BOOM OF CANNON, SOUND OF PISTOL SHOTS]

HAPPY AND BURG (*shrieking*):
Aaargh!

HAPPY That must have been the cannons on his chest. But look at that beautiful jeweled collar too, with its little sheep's head in the center: I recognize that – that's the collar of the Golden Fleece. Remember that name, my young friend – the Golden Fleece – you'll find out more about that later on. But it's quite clear from this picture that it's got something to do with being royal and grand.

BURG Yes, and what else can you see - just under the sheep's head?

HAPPY It's us – it's us!!!

BURG Yes, the two-headed eagle of the Habsburgs. That shows that this painting was made for one of the Habsburg emperors, Maximilian II. It was painted in 1566 by a very famous artist called Arcimboldo – and it's just one of the marvelous paintings in the royal collection. The message of the painting seems to be that the Habsburgs are so powerful that they are even masters of fire – the most deadly element of all.

HAPPY Before we move on, there's another image of us nearby – two, in fact. See if you can find them. I'll give you a clue – we're surrounded by beautiful flowers.

[word count 316]

4. SUNDIAL

HAPPY Oh, I love this part of the collection, don't you Burg? All these strange and fascinating things? And it means I get to tell you about Emperor Rudolf II – who was one of my favorite Habsburgs! Rudolf was a *great* collector. He didn't just collect art: he also collected marvelous objects that could teach people more about the world.

Do you remember this one?

BURG I think so – but I can't remember what it's for.

HAPPY I know – let's play a game! And our young friend here can join in. Now listen carefully. I'm going to give you three options. Listen to them all and see which you think is the right answer.

Was this strange object used to roast meat?

Was it used to tell the time?

Was it used as a weapon?

When you've decided, press play to find out the answer.

APP ALT When you've decided, tap the more button, to find out the answer.

[word count: 105]

40

'CORRECT ANSWER' NOISE (Clock Chime)

HAPPY The answer is – it was used for telling the time. This is a scientific instrument called a sundial. You see those points, or *styles* as they're called? When the sun falls on them, they cast a shadow. Now look at the hour lines that are cut into the curved surfaces: wherever the shadow falls, that's the time! Clever, isn't it?

[word count:61]

5 PERSPECTIVE DRAWING DEVICE

HAPPY I can't remember this other peculiar gadget. Can you, Burg?

BURG Ah, I *do* remember this one. If you look carefully you can probably work out it's got something to do with drawing. Artists in the 1500s were becoming more and more interested in making accurate pictures of the world around them. So they started inventing contraptions to help them do it.

Imagine an object – any object – that you'd like to draw. Got it? Well, this device could help you make a perfect drawing of your chosen object. It allows you to look at the object through the eye hole, while the short stylus traces its exact, three-dimensional shape on the paper.

HAPPY I remember how scientists and mathematicians came to the Habsburg court from all over Europe, to study the secrets of nature and the universe. Emperor Rudolf II was a shy, quiet man. He made a special collection of the newest inventions and discoveries, called a Wunderkammer—that means 'room of wonders'—so everyone could admire the wisdom and learning of the Habsburgs.

[word count: 120]

6. LORENZO LOTTO TRIPLE PORTRAIT OF A JEWELER

HAPPY Here's another mysterious picture! Isn't it odd that those three men look so much alike? Are they – what's it called when there are three twins? – oh yes, triplets?

BURG Not quite. Guess again.

HAPPY

Perhaps it's a three-headed man – like we're a two-headed eagle?

BURG No. I'll give you one more guess.

HAPPY Hm. They've all got the same brown curly hair. And the same ginger beard. And the same clothes. And the same ring on the little finger. Hey! – it's not three portraits of the same man, is it?

BURG You got there in the end. It's what's called a triple portrait – three portraits of the same person, but in one picture.

HAPPY It's clever, isn't it? In a normal portrait, you just get to see the person from one side – usually the front. But here, you can see him from three different sides at once!

BURG Exactly. In the 1500s, when this was made, painters and sculptors were arguing about who was the best. Sculptors said *they* were the best, because they could show the whole person, all round. This portrait showed that painting can do the same thing.

HAPPY It's even better in fact – you don't even have to walk round it to see him from different sides! Typical Habsburgs, to have such a brilliant and unusual painting in their collection. Do we know who this beardy man is, by the way?

BURG No, but if you look closely at the box he's holding out, you may be able to see it has rings inside. So perhaps he's a jeweler. But we don't know for sure.

HAPPY I like a mystery! It means you can make up your *own* story about the picture. Who do *you* think this person is?

[word count: 299]

7. GIORGIONE THE THREE PHILOSOPHERS

HAPPY Now, Burg, I know this is one of your favorites. What is it you love about it?

BURG Well, it's partly the colors. Look at how the three men are dressed: the young man, sitting down, in his pure white and deep green robes; the middle aged man with the white cloth round his head, and the red tunic with silvery-purple borders; and the old man in his rich, flowing gold. They're just a treat for the eyes. And the landscape, too: that glimpse, in the center, of misty green trees and mountains so distant they look blue. It's beautiful.

HAPPY But who are these men, and what are they doing, sitting outside like that? The young one and the old one both seem to be holding compasses, or scientific instruments, – and that piece of paper looks like they've been doing some math.

BURG We don't know for sure, but we think they're philosophers, or thinkers. The picture feels really peaceful to me; it's like these men have gone out into the hills just to think. I love the way the seated young man is just staring at that great big rock. And how the whole scene is bathed in this calm, golden sunlight.

HAPPY Mm. Yes, I'm starting to feel peaceful just looking at it. So, who painted it?

BURG Well, that's the other great thing. It's by an Italian artist called Giorgione. He painted it around 1505 – just a few years before he died of the plague, around age thirty-three. Despite dying so young, he became one of the most famous artists in history. This is partly because his pictures – like this one – are so mysterious and intriguing. Young friend, why do you think the young man is staring at the rocks? Is that a dark cave he's looking into? Does he want to measure it? What's inside the cave?

The other great thing about it is that there are very few pictures that we can be sure were really painted by Giorgione. So this one's very rare and very special.

[word count: 301]

8. VELAZQUEZ INFANTA MARIA THERESA

HAPPY Now, *I* love *this* one, because it's all about the Habsburg family!

BURG And *I* love it too, because it's a superb painting, by one of the greatest portrait painters of all time – Diego Velázquez, painter to the Spanish court in the 1650s. Anyway, you go first.

HAPPY Right. So this is little Maria Theresa, a Spanish princess, and a cousin of the Habsburgs in Vienna. She's only fourteen years old. But look how grandly she's dressed. That skirt is so wide she'd have to turn sideways to get through the door. And look at that huge, curly wig with all its luxurious decoration – it must have been very heavy and hot for a young girl to wear.

BURG But the most amazing thing about this painting is the way Velázquez has painted her. Look at the colors he used in her costume: pearly whites, silky silvers, and rose pinks! You can actually see his brushstrokes, they're so free and loose. And look at the way he's captured her face with his paintbrush! Her beautiful pink cheeks make her look almost alive. Even though she's in this very formal pose, standing upright, in that very stiff, uncomfortable dress, he's really brought her to life. She looks like she's just about to speak to us. What do you think she would say?

HAPPY She'd probably say something terribly clever: the princess was a very lively and intelligent girl. As well as being a very important person. As daughter of the King of Spain, kings and princes all over Europe wanted to marry her. There was no photography then, remember, so the only way they could see a picture of her was to get her portrait painted. This portrait was sent to the Habsburg court in Vienna - so all the royal princes who lived there could see what she looked like and consider her as a wife.

BURG Velázquez knew he was painting this for a great Emperor and he really pulled out all the stops to produce this spectacular portrait.

She didn't marry one of the Vienna Habsburgs in the end, though, did she Hap?

HAPPY No, she didn't. She married the King of France though – so she didn't do so badly!

[word count: 339]

9. **ANDREAS MOLLER MARIA THERESA AS A CHILD**

HAPPY This section of the exhibition is all about one of the greatest Habsburgs of them all: the Empress Maria Theresa. We've travelled forward in time by 75 years, so this is a different Maria Theresa from the one you were just looking at.

How old do you think she is in this portrait? Burg, do you want to help guess?

BURG It's hard to tell, isn't it? It looks like she has grey hair.

HAPPY That doesn't mean she's old: in the 1720s it was fashionable to powder your hair or wear grey wigs.

BURG But look at those heavy jeweled earrings. And that dress is so sophisticated – it looks like it was made for a grown-up woman.

HAPPY In fact she was less than ten years old!

BURG Really! That's a beautiful fur cape she's wearing, too, isn't it? White, with those little black tufts?

HAPPY Yes, that fur is called ermine, and it's a sign of royalty. You'll be seeing more ermine later on. Can you see another sign of her royalty?

BURG Yes – the crown on the red cushion behind her!

HAPPY That's right. That's because she's a royal princess: but one day she'll be greater still – she'll be the ruler of the Habsburgs!

BURG But hadn't Habsburg rulers all been men before?

HAPPY Exactly. Back then, Habsburg rule always got handed from father to son. When Maria Theresa grew up, and was in her twenties, her father, the Emperor, died. And he had no sons living – just daughters. Maria Theresa was the eldest. Well, the other kings and princes in Europe were delighted; they all thought – *she* can't rule, and there's no one else! This must be the end of the Habsburgs! We can divide up all their lands between us!

BURG I bet Maria Theresa wasn't keen on that idea!

HAPPY She certainly wasn't! Despite being a woman, she managed to seize power for herself – and created a new age for the Habsburgs. She introduced new and more efficient laws – including a law that all children must go to school!

And do you know how many children she had of her own?

Sixteen! And she made sure *they* all married *other* princes and princesses – so the Habsburgs had powerful friends and family all over Europe!

[word count: 306]

10. GALA CARRIAGE OF THE VIENNA COURT

SFX: HORSE NEIGHING AND CLIP-CLOPPING

HAPPY Look – here comes the Princes’ carriage! Do you remember how many children the great Empress Maria Theresa had?

PAUSE

Sixteen! And this is one of the luxurious golden carriages made for them to ride in.

BURG And it was a work of art in its own right.

Look closely at all the magnificent details.

The whole structure of the carriage was designed by an important architect – someone who usually designed impressive buildings.

Do you see the decorative carvings – round the roof, and all round the doors? They’re made out of wood that’s been painted with gold, and they were carved by a sculptor.

The sides of the carriage were painted by a court artist – that design of red on gold was the height of fashion in the 1750s.

And the inside, with its wonderful silk, velvet and golden tassels, was made by a skilled needlewoman, who got paid more than all the rest of the craftsmen for her work because it took so many hours to create.

HAPPY But the most important feature of the carriage was the glass windows. Why do you think that was? When you think you know the answer, press play.

APP ALT When you think you know the answer, tap the more button

[word count: 237]

LAYER

HAPPY So, what did you guess? The answer is that having glass windows allowed the people to *see into* the carriage – and to look at the faces of their rulers.

DISTANT SOUND OF MUSIC, CHEERING CROWDS, HORSES

The royal family held grand carriage processions for special occasions - like weddings, or coronations, which is when a new king or queen is crowned. Look how high the carriage sits on its big wheels: this means the people sitting inside can be seen above the heads of

the crowd. For the thousands who came out to watch, it was the only time they got to see the emperors and their families, as they paraded past in a blaze of gold. It was a bit like watching one of your Fourth of July parades, or a Thanksgiving Day parade – but with real princes and princesses!

[word count: 105]

11. IMPERIAL SLEIGH AND SLEIGH HARNESS

FADE IN: SOUND OF SLEIGH BELLS

HAPPY Oh, Burg! Our golden sleigh! Do you remember? Isn't it just the most stunning thing you've ever seen?

BURG It certainly is, Haps. You wouldn't think this was just a vehicle for travelling through the snow, would you? – it looks like another work of art. That mass of curls and frills covering every surface – it's a masterpiece of exquisite carving.

HAPPY It must have looked like a golden cloud floating over the snowy streets. And the horse's costume is just as elegant as the sleigh!

BURG Yes, those soft white plumes on its neck and back are ostrich feathers – which were incredibly rare and expensive. Imagine them waving in the breeze as the horse trots through the streets. And its coverings are silk velvet, richly embroidered with gold. But best of all – listen!

FADE UP: SOUND OF BELLS

All those tiny round bells – about three hundred and fifty of them. And with different tones, so the people in the sleigh can listen to delightful music as they ride along. And they're useful too – they alert people the sleigh's coming, as it glides silently over the snow!

HAPPY A bit like an ice cream truck today, then!

BURG And everyone riding in the sleigh had costumes made to match it.

HAPPY It all looked dazzling! But then, the sleigh *was* made for the royal family – the Empress Maria Theresa had it designed for her son Joseph.

It was his wedding day – do you remember, Burg? – back in 1765. Here – I have a picture of the occasion: it's on your screen.

ON SCREEN: DETAIL OF PAINTING SHOWING CEREMONIAL SLEIGH RIDE

He's driving his bride, the Princess of Bavaria.

FAINT SOUND OF CROWDS AND CHEERING

(Sobbing into her hankie) Oh, I love a royal wedding! The crowds that gathered in the streets of Vienna to watch and cheer!

BURG Yes, those were glorious days ... *(Fading out)* There there Happy...
[word count: 346]

12. REGALIA OF THE KNIGHT OF THE ORDER OF THE GOLDEN FLEECE

STATELY MUSIC

HAPPY Remember, in that amazing portrait of Fire you saw earlier, there was a jeweled collar with a golden sheep? And I told you you'd be hearing more about that later?

Well, here we are! The costume – or regalia – you're looking at now was worn with one of those jeweled collars. Only the very noblest men in Europe could wear this regalia: they were called the Knights of the Order of the Golden Fleece.

The Order was a sort of club, or society. To join, you had to be a member of the Roman Catholic Church; you had to be extremely virtuous – which means being a good person.

Let's imagine it's the evening of November 29th, 1712. The Emperor Charles VI – that's Maria Theresa's father – has chosen twenty-one new knights. And you're one of them. Your job will be to do good and noble deeds. It's time for you to put on your new regalia and process through Vienna with the emperor.

BURG First you put on the floor length robe, made of scarlet velvet, with a high collar and long sleeves. Over that you put on your floor length cape of darker red silk velvet lined with white silk. You run your fingers over the embroidered needlework of the border, with its costly gold and silver threads. You proudly admire the emblem of the Golden Fleece: a sheep's skin hanging from a golden chain, with golden flames radiating around. All sewn by hand, with tiny little stitches. Finally, you put on the cap, made of the same dark red velvet, also richly embroidered with gold, with its long piece of velvet hanging down over your shoulder.

HAPPY

You're ready to join the emperor, and to delight the people of Vienna with your splendor and nobility.

STATELY MUSIC CLIMAXES THEN ENDS ABRUPTLY

HAPPY So, how did it feel to be a noble Knight of the Order of the Golden Fleece? Before you move on, here's a quick question.

How many people do you think it took to stitch all the beautiful embroidery on this regalia? I'll give you three options. 16. 56. Or 86. When you've guessed, press play to find out the answer.

[word count: 283]

LAYER**TRUMPET FLOURISH**

HAPPY The answer is – unbelievably – 86! Just look at all that intricate gold thread – and imagine all those people working away with needles! Now move on to our final stop, where there’s even more glittering gold.

[word count: 25]

13 HUNGARIAN CORONATION ATTIRE OF CROWN PRINCE OTTO AND CAT. NO. 91: GYULA EDER PAINTING

HAPPY We're coming to the end of our story of the Habsburgs now. We just have time to meet one last character – a little boy of four years old. The Crown Prince Otto.

CORONATION MUSIC FADES UP IN BACKGROUND

This is the costume Otto wore to the coronation of his father, the Emperor Charles, in Budapest. That's the capital city of Hungary, another European country next door to Austria. The date was December 30th, 1916 – a time when Europe was torn apart by the First World War.

BURG Look at Otto's magnificent outfit: you'd never guess that those were troubled times, would you?

His tunic and cap are made of a heavy, rich fabric called brocade. They're trimmed with real ermine fur – like you saw on Maria Theresa's portrait earlier. Ermine is the fur of an animal called a stoat or short-tailed weasel, whose fur is white in winter. Only the tip of its tail stays black: can you see the little black tail tips set into the fur?

Ermine is a real luxury item, and a symbol of royalty. There's more ermine on his little white leather shoes, as well as gold lace.

Can you find a painting nearby, showing Prince Otto wearing his coronation attire?

ON SCREEN: PAINTING DETAIL

HAPPY Oh, yes, doesn't he look adorable, stepping down from the imperial gold carriage? Look at the sweet expression on his face! And I love those white feathers they added to the cap! And doesn't his mother look beautiful, in her white silk gown?

BURG Look at the footman, opening the carriage door for the little prince: he's wearing his special black and yellow uniform, which shows he works for the Habsburgs. You can see the actual uniform on display nearby.

HAPPY But just two years after this majestic ceremony, the grandeur of the Habsburgs collapsed. Defeated in the First World War, they were forced to give up their empire and Otto and his family had to escape abroad. Later, he fled here, to the United States. So little Prince Otto never became king. But he wasn't forgotten. He kept in close contact with President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and remained an important figure in European politics. He was nearly a hundred years old when he died just a few years ago in 2011.

BURG But, although the Habsburgs are no longer emperors in Europe, their legacy lives on – through their wonderful collection of art and treasures.

I hope you've enjoyed journeying back in time with us to those glorious days of Habsburg splendor.
Goodbye.

HAPPY Goodbye.

MUSIC SWELLS TO CLIMAX.

[word count: 370]