

### Transcription from

Johann Ulrich König, *Vollständige Beschreibung aller Solennitäten bey dem hohen Königlichen Sicilianischen Vermählungs=Feste, welches im May=Monat des Jahres 1738. an dem Königl. Pohln. und Churfürstl. Sächsischen Hofe zu Dreßden in Vollmacht prächtigst vollzogen worden. Auf Befehl des Hofes ausgefertigt von Johann Ulrich König, Sr. Königl. Majest. in Pohlen und Churfl. Durchl. zu Sachsen Ceremonien=Meister. Dreßden und Leipzig, Bey Friedrich Hekel, und Georg Conrad Walther, Kön. Hof=Bücher=Livranten und Hof=Buchhändlern. 1738*

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There [in the Palace in Dresden] at this hour His Majesty, the King of Poland, went in to Her Majesty, the Queen of the Two Sicilies, in her noble apartment, whither Her Majesty, the Queen of Poland, later followed.

One can easily surmise what was discussed in this last formal meeting and just as easily how sad and painful it must have been when, during it, the Sicilian Queen received, from her royal parents, their paternal and maternal blessing.

The tenderly surging impulses of the blood between such an obedient daughter and her very loving parents were naturally expressed through a burst of tears which violently erupted and which, in the face of their now imminent separation, these two queens, so grievously suffering, were no longer able to withhold.

But after they had recovered somewhat from their pain thanks to the comforting encouragement of His Majesty the King and had regained their composure with admirable fortitude, these three Royal Personages proceeded around ten o'clock into one of the side pavilions to attend Mass, going from the Water Palace through the garden on foot. This gave many gentlemen and court servants, along with some others, the opportunity to say a most sorrowful farewell to Her Majesty, the departing Queen, by most humbly kissing her hand.

Both Their Royal Majesties of Poland led the Sicilian Queen between them, each taking one of her hands.

Nobody could appreciate, without tender pity, the constraint under which these three Royal Personages were placing themselves, for they were able to conceal their secret sorrow to such an extent that, apart from their rather reddened eyes, it was scarcely possible to become aware of any sign of the inner constriction of their hearts.

But one saw this young queen with much greater sympathy and with just as much admiration walking between her two parents – themselves stricken with the approaching loss of their daughter – with the most decorous calm, in her still tender innocence, like a second Iphigenia going to the temple; for the time was now fast approaching in which she, along with her innate love of parents and fatherland, had decided in the most courageous way to sacrifice, through a most painful separation, even her own person for the good of the state, to the will of her most noble parents and the decree of divine providence.

And yet for this childlike willingness Her Majesty [Maria Amalia] already has a rich reward from Heaven, for, after such a long and dangerous, yet successfully completed journey, She has really been placed upon the throne of her most powerful husband and thus in the ranks of the earthly Gods.

After Mass was over, during their return through the garden as well as afterwards in the rooms of the Water Palace, all who were still present frequently pressed forward to kiss the hand of

Her Sicilian Majesty once more in farewell.

This was especially the case with all the Ladies-in-Waiting and the other women of the Royal Household, not without their shedding countless tears; whereafter, facing imminent separation, nobody could deny their sadness nor conceal it any longer.

After this, the leave-taking between the departing Queen and Her Majesty's royal siblings who were remaining behind, was also completed, with the exchange of many repeated farewell kisses and tender embraces; and so, at 11 in the forenoon, the Royal departure from Pillnitz really began.

As happened each time, since she first went on foot to the wedding ceremony, her two royal parents placed Her Majesty, the Queen of the Two Sicilies, between them, each taking one of her hands, and accompanied her out of the apartments in the Water Palace, over the external stone stairway and down to the river bank.

Together they all got into a magnificent gondola and were rowed across the river, while fifty cannon erected on the other side of the Elbe were fired; to the sound, too, of the trumpets and kettle drums on the stone terrace above the afore-mentioned steps down to the water at Pillnitz.

With the greatest care, everything had been cleared out of the way which could at all distress the extremely sorrowful young Queen or which could have made Her Majesty do too great violence to herself by holding back the tears which now frequently rolled down her cheeks. For this reason the command had been given beforehand that everyone intending to kiss the hand of the Sicilian Queen should do so before she was led for the last time down to the river bank.

Thus, only the most indispensable persons were permitted to cross the river with the Royal Family; no one besides them was allowed to follow down the steps.

For this very reason, and unlike on the previous day on the occasion of the Royal Arrival, the noble cadets were not permitted to line the steps down to the water. Even the gentlemen who had come then to wait upon Their Royal Polish Majesties had been left behind in Pillnitz. They, along with some ladies and many other persons who were still present, watched the Royal Departure from the large stone terrace outside the Water Palace with sorrowful gestures and mostly with moist eyes, while all hearts were filled with gloom in the same way that the very sky was filled with darkening clouds.

[...]

Their Royal Polish Majesties hurried by coach, taking a small shortcut, to the first stop on the post road to Zehista, where Their Majesties alighted at the castle of Count von Brühl, the Master of the King's Horse, and awaited there the arrival of their august daughter. Her Highness had so little expected this deception, which was so consoling for her, that she arrived with the sorrowful notion of having already seen her Royal Parents for the very last time; but, on alighting from her carriage, she was all the more happily surprised and overwhelmed with inexpressible joy at such a pleasant and surprising encounter, because it was so unlooked-for.

[...]

After they had got up from the table and now the moment approached which had been feared for so long and had only been postponed for a short while by this final meeting, so, at around three in the afternoon, the bitter separation and repeated leave-taking began anew, at which none of those present was able any longer to resist the most sorrowful emotion it caused: especially when the Royal Parents accompanied to her travelling carriage this, their first daughter to be married, yet who was so young in years and so beloved and when they blessed her with their last farewell kiss.

During this embrace the three most painfully affected Royal Persons held each other close and all the more tenderly because, according to human judgment, it would be the very last time, for which reason and not without an inner compulsion they finally had to tear themselves away from one another.

Immediately after this sad departure of Her Sicilian Majesty, both of Their Royal Polish Majesties boarded their coach and arrived safely back here in Dresden that very evening.