

The diaries of Prince Ferdinand of Bavaria: commedia dell'arte at the wedding festivals of Florence (1565) and Munich (1568).

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Abstract

The Munich wedding festival of 1568 of Prince Wilhelm of Bavaria rivalled those of the great Italian courts in both its splendour and the fullness of its documentation. The three published festival books, by Hans Wagner, Massimo Firsiroti, and Hans Wagner, record its exceptionally early commedia dell'arte-related entertainments. Possible influences on them are discussed in light of a detailed examination of the 1565-66 travel diary of Wilhelm's younger brother, Prince Ferdinand. Its content provides a glimpse of north Italian princely and popular diversions experienced by members of the Bavarian court in a three-month period before the Munich wedding includes descriptions of performances and festivals seen by Prince Ferdinand in Trent, Verona and Ferrara.

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