

Habsburg Family Welcomes Exhibition of the Florentine Diamond and Other Private Jewels in Québec

Vienna, 03 September 2026: The direct descendants of Emperor Karl I and Empress Zita of Austria welcome the decision of the Canadian Trust *Fiducie Saint-Joseph* to exhibit the private family jewellery of the former imperial family, which is held in its care. The exhibition, which was organized in close collaboration with the *Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec*, will open on September 4 in Québec City.

Among the displayed pieces of jewellery of great cultural and historical value are the Florentine Diamond and other personal items belonging to Empress Maria Theresa, Queen Marie Antoinette, and Emperor Franz I.

In the fall of 2025, the family announced that the items, long believed to be lost, had been kept in Canada for over 80 years. While fleeing persecution by the Nazis in 1940, Empress Zita and her children managed to save significant parts of the family's private jewellery and bring them to safety in Québec. There, they were placed in an independent Canadian trust. As the rightful owner, the trust *Fiducie Saint-Joseph* manages the family jewellery independently and in accordance with its bylaws, which require it to preserve the collection in Canada for the long term, where it has found a new home.

Karl von Habsburg, grandson of Emperor Karl I and Head of the Habsburg Family, said in a statement on behalf of the family: "The Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec enjoys an excellent reputation beyond Canada's borders and, from the family's perspective, is the right institution to present this collection."

"We are delighted that the Trust is fulfilling the wish of our grandmother, Empress Zita, by making the family jewellery she saved and brought to Canada accessible to people from around the world. She was acutely aware of our family's cultural and historical responsibility, and it was deeply important to her that this significant private collection would once again be seen and appreciated at the right time, as is now the case at the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec."

"The exhibition is a sign of recognition that our family was saved in Québec while fleeing the Nazis. We thank Trustee Andrew Molson for making Empress Zita's wish a reality. Our family is deeply grateful to him for his commitment to preserving the collection."

Background information on the items, their history, and their rediscovery can be found at www.habsburg-heritage.com.

Further information on the exhibition in Canada can be found here: <https://www.mnbaq.org/en/press-releases>.

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