

# ANGELO SOLIMANN REFUSED GREATEST HONORS

By J. A. ROGERS

(Continued from page five)

given his word and he remained with the Prince of the Lichtenstein.

### Guest at Coronation

Here he remained for many years doing the same service as he had done for the Prince Lobkowitz. When Francis I died and Joseph II was to be crowned in his place at Frankfort, Germany, Angelo went with the Prince of Lichtenstein to the coronation.

At Frankfort he met the young emperor, Joseph II, for the first time, and a friendship began between the two that was to last until the death of the emperor January 30, 1790.

Maria Theresa, empress of Austria, and mother of Joseph, had given orders that Joseph should be educated as if learning were play. Joseph, becoming keenly interested in Angelo, invited him to his palace as well as to his apartments in the magnificent Schonbrunn Palace where the two would be seen together at all hours of the day. They called each other by their first names, and would stroll about the palace grounds and the city together.

### Friend of Emperor

The young emperor, it is said, "even took Angelo's arm in promenading."

Angelo with his wider experience, and noble and cultivated mind, did much to influence the emperor.

Later, Joseph succeeded to the throne of Austria, becoming one of the most liberal and enlightened of all rulers. He was a friend to religious tolerance, which his mother, Maria Theresa, had not been. He did all he could to improve the lot of the peasants and to spread knowledge. His motto was: "Reason and Enlightenment."

### Secret Exposed

Before this, however, Joseph was unwittingly to be the cause of a quarrel between Angelo and the Prince de Lichtenstein. Angelo had been secretly married for some years without the knowledge or consent of the prince. He had, however, confided in the young emperor, and the latter, in conversation with the prince one day, let slip a remark that led to the exposure of Angelo's secret.

The prince, in anger, banished Angelo from the palace, and struck his name from his will. Among the things he had destined for him was a superb diamond that Angelo used to wear on his turban when he rode with the prince on great parades or on holidays.

### Devoted to Family

The young emperor, keenly regretting what he had done, offered to intercede with the prince but

each tiring for some time of the life of the Court, refused his offer. He longed to be at last wholly with his wife and his little daughter in the cottage he had built in the midst of beautiful natural surroundings in the suburbs.

Here he devoted himself to the education of his child, the cultivation of his garden and to study. Here, also, his friends, high and low, sought him out.

Two years later, the prince died, and Prince Francis, his successor, meeting Angelo in the street one day, stopped his carriage and, inviting him to enter, told him as they rode along "that he was convinced of his innocence and wanted to repair the harm done by his uncle."

He said that he knew no one so capable as Angelo to inspect the education of his son, the Prince Louis, and offered him the post of

inspector of the young prince's training.

### Returns to Palace

On this Angelo went back to live in the palace, taking his family with him, and supervising the work of the tutors. The prince gave him a pension which was to be paid to his wife after his death.

During these years he made several voyages, sometimes on his own affairs, sometimes on pleasure. At Milan, the Arch-duke Ferdinand, warmly welcomed him and his family. At Versailles, where he visited the Queen Marie Antoinette, sister of his friend, Joseph II, he was received with high honor by the queen and her court.

At chess he ranked with the best of his day. It was an age when gambling was fashionable but Angelo never played for large sums.

### Was Kind-Hearted

The following story is told of him: One day, at the instigation of the prince, he took part in a game of faro and won 20,000 florins. His adversary, eager for revenge, bet him another 20,000. Angelo played and won, but knowing that his opponent would be ruined offered to play him, on which he arranged the cards so skillfully that the other won back the second bet. This act of delicacy, it is said, won him much admiration and praise.

When his wife died Angelo was so deeply affected that he decided to retire permanently from court life. Gaining the permission of the prince he returned to his suburban home. Here he spent the days educating his daughter, the Baroness of Heuchtersleben. He received no more friends at his table, leading as retired a life as possible. To set his child the example he drank only water.

### Perennial Youth

He enjoyed robust health, even in his declining years. He showed so little sign of age that his friends, meeting him in the streets, used to playfully tell him that they took him for his son.

On November 21, 1796, at the age of 75, while walking on the street, he was taken with apoplexy and died soon after.

The Abbe Gregoire, who seems to have met him personally, has written a short biography of him. The Abbe Gregoire was one of the foremost figures of the French Revolution, and himself one of the noblest men of all times.

He says that he got the details of Angelo's life from the French ambassador at Vienna, as well as from others who knew him well.

### Eulogized by History

"Angelo Solimann," he says, "merits a first place among Negroes who distinguished themselves by a high degree of culture, by breadth of knowledge, and still more by

morality and excellence of character.

### Handsome and Brilliant

"He was of middle height, with a supple well-proportioned body, fine, noble face . . . and well-balanced judgment. He spoke Italian, French, German, Latin, and Bohemian." (This did not include his own language in which he used to sing for the court.)

"He was by nature, impetuous, which made his unalterable serenity and sweetness all the more remarkable; they were the result of diffi-

cult combat won over himself.

### Mary-Hous Self-Control

"There never escaped from him, even when irritated, a harsh expression. He was religious without being superstitious; he observed exactly all the precepts of his religion, and gave the same example to his family.

"His word, and what he had resolved after ripe reflection, were immutable and nothing could budger him from his plans. . . . His portrait engraved at Augsburg is to be found in the Lichtenstein Gallery."

### HOUSEHOLD HINTS FOR JULY

This is the time to reduce the amount of heavy food eaten. Serve fruit cups, salads, plenty of green vegetables, apple sauce, berries, light fr. it desserts—and let them take the place of those second helpings of meat and fish that were so common last winter. Fruits and vegetables are alkaline and will go far toward giving you a healthful summer.

Then the children come in from play and clamor for something to drink, have a cool pitcher of lemonade awaiting them. It will quench thirst and also tend to make the body more alkaline, for in spite of the fact that cranberries and lemons are thought of as acid fruits, they have a very decided ultimate alkaline reaction when taken into the system.

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