

**MUNICH** ...The city of Munich, in the German tongue München, stands in the middle of a large plain in the centre of Bavaria, of which it is the capital city. The walls of it are washed by the river Isar. It is a small town, but well built, for within these few years several fine houses have been raised in it. The Elector's palace is one of the largest buildings in Europe, but it is not as handsome as Misson and many other writers have maintained; its magnificence consists principally in its bulk. The main front which looks towards a very narrow street has the appearance of a fine convent, to which the image of the Virgin over the gate contributes not a little. There is a secret passage from the palace through little galleries to all the convents and churches in the city. The nearest church is that of the Theatines, which together with their convent was built by Maria Adelaide of Savoy, the wife of Ferdinand Maria. The church of Our Lady is the parochial church of Munich. Although the houses of Munich are all very well built, there are few which can be called palaces.

*Lettres et mémoires*, London, 1747.

CHARLES LOUIS POLLNITZ  
January 1730

...The Elector's palace consists of four courts, of which the finest is that called the Prince's, being adorned with several brass statues; and the Emperor's court, the latter of which is so constructed, that combats of wild beasts may be exhibited in it. The kitchen court is the largest, and at the last nuptials a very magnificent tournament was holden there. The old Barbican, in comparison with the other three, passes for the meanest. The ascent to the Emperor's hall is a flight of wide and beautiful red marble steps; the hall itself is one hundred and eighteen feet long, and fifty-two broad. The greatest curiosity in it is a statue of Virtue made of a single block of porphyry: but it is a pity that this stately chamber and the others contiguous to it have no ceilings. The Elector's bath consists of a grotto and three rooms...

Gustavus Adolphus was so taken with the city of Munich, that he said he wanted nothing but rollers to move it to another place, being thoroughly sensible, that there was no keeping possession of this country. But if he had seen Munich as it is now, having broad streets extending themselves in a direct line, and numerous stately buildings of all kinds, in which it rivals most places in Europe, he would have been even more charmed by this capital...

Of the ecclesiastic buildings the churches of St. Anne and the Theatines deserve to be seen, on account of the stucco-work with which they are decorated. In the church of Our Lady, which has two large towers, is the stately black marble monument of the Emperor Lewis of Bavaria, with six large and several lesser statues of brass; where is also a large organ of box-wood. Not far from one of the doors is a stone with a mark on it, and to him who stands there the multitude of pillars takes away the sight of every window of the church. It must however be owned to be something dark, and it is certainly more advantageous to a church to be very lightsome, than to have no windows.

The palace and the electoral buildings, together with the brew-houses, sixteen monasteries, churches, and such religious structures, take up near half of the city. The precinct of the Augustins alone, consists of several streets, which bring them in an annual rent of three thousand guilders. The arsenal is not at present in a very good condition, having been near exhausted in the late war. Some descriptions of the city of Munich mention a tower

just by the old court, terminating in a cave above and below, but this is no more than a common balcony; and the whole account a ridiculous misrepresentation.

*Travels through Germany, Bohemia, Hungary...* London, 1756.

JOHN GEORGE KEYSLER  
June 1729

...You will see that Munich has more to be said for it than foreigners generally suppose, and you will find there not a few of those things for which you would search other German cities in vain and which are so pleasing to curious travellers such as you are yourself. ...Be sure to ask to see the Residenz, or Electoral Palace. This is an enormous edifice, constructed with regal lavishness at the beginning of the last century by Duke Maximilian, he himself being the architect. The first thing which you must be sure to see are the apartments in which not long ago lived the Prince and Princess Royal of Saxony, and the others which were intended for the Princes Albert and Clement. You should glance also at the theatre of the Court, since no visitor should neglect to look over this sort of building, for with us, as once to the Greeks and Romans, they count amongst the principal adornments of a city. The fountain decorated with bronze statues which you will pass on leaving the palace would certainly merit a place in one of our finest piazze in Italy. The four huge lions in metal which from their marble pedestals guard the two main gates of the Residenz, and the gigantic bronze statues which stand so nobly on their bases, are also ornaments designed by the worthy Peter Candid, to whom Bavaria is as much indebted for things of beauty as was he to Italy for his good taste, and the elegance and beauty of Florence.

The church of Our Lady, not very far from the square, is a great Gothic temple built in 1468 by Duke Sigismund. Spaciousness and vastness alone can give to buildings the appearance of magnificence: ornamentation can only embellish them; of which this church gives proof, for although it has none, yet you will find it imposing and commanding of respect. The church of the Theatines is a fine piece of architecture by our own Agostino Barella of Bologna. Nothing whatever could be said against this magnificent temple were it not for the quantity of stucco-work and endless Angels which adorn, or rather encumber, its walls and friezes, even the dome and vaulting.

Then there is the Jesuit church, an eternal monument to the piety of Duke William V and to the protection which he accorded the Society of Jesus... It is claimed that the building of this church cost the nation a fortune, which is quite conceivable, considering its beauty and solidity. I can think of no modern temple in Germany which surpasses it, with the exception of the Royal chapel at Dresden; nor do I remember ever having seen any church that had, in proportion, a wider vault or one with less support... Beautiful is the paved floor entirely made of marble, lovely are the chapels and altars, and no less so the paintings which adorn them... The main front is embellished with many bronze statues, the most perfect of which is the Archangel St. Michael between the two great doors...

While going round the city, observe that the fronts of almost all the private houses are decorated with frescoes; indeed, some of the older ones are the work of very accomplished masters, Christopher Schwartz in particular.

...Nymphenburg is only three Italian miles away, and is reached by an avenue lined with trees along the side of a wide artificial canal. Notice here and there, that all the terrain through which you are passing is a mixture of shingle and alluvial sand. At one time the Isar undoubtedly flowed this way, and if you look closely you will still be able to discern the rise of its former banks and the abandoned river-bed. Nowadays, however, the Isar is far away, on the other side of the city.

Although the Nymphenburg palace is extremely large and its interior very ornate, I venture to tell you candidly that the gardens are vastly superior to it in beauty and taste. I have heard some who would put them on a par with the gardens of Versailles, but such people either have not seen them or are making fun of us. For one who has eyes to see, Versailles far surpasses all the delights of Europe, just as Nymphenburg easily surpasses all the gardens in Germany... There are but two things there that I wish to indicate to you, which I am most anxious that you should not miss. One is Amalienburg, a small palace in extremely good taste, built by Charles VII for purposes of pleasure, and in honour of his consort, the Empress Amalia; the other is the very fine Baths which were constructed in another corner of the gardens, with all the comforts which luxury, pleasure and decadence can inspire, by the Elector Maximilian Emmanuel. These baths won considerable fame in the chronicles of love and letters of that period.

*Lettere al Marchese Filippo Herculani...* Lucca, 1763.

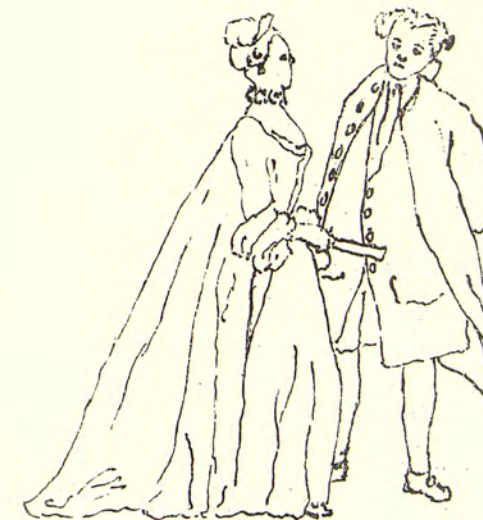
GIAN LUDOVICO BIANCONI  
November 1762

...Munich I think without exception the finest city in Germany; Dresden, while in its grandeur, I am told surpassed it, and some parts of Berlin are very beautiful; and all things considered, they now yield to this place. It is situated on the river Isar which, dividing into several channels, waters all parts of the town, so that little streams run through many of the streets, confined in stone channels, which has a most clean and agreeable effect. The streets, squares and courts are spacious, and airy, which sets off the buildings much, and makes them appear finer than others much more costly in other cities. The streets in particular are so straight that many of them intersect each other at right-angles, and are very broad, and extremely well built. There are sixteen churches and monasteries in it, many of them very handsome edifices; these, with the electoral palace and other public buildings, take up near half the city: so that it may easily be supposed the place is in general very well built.

The principal of all these public edifices is the electoral palace, which is rather a convenient than an elegant building. It is very large, having four courts in it and all of them large, but there is a want of finishing in the insides of all the places in Germany that cannot fail disgusting an Englishman who has been used to see the houses of the nobility in his own country finished to the garrets, as completely as a snuff-box; and certainly it is a most agreeable circumstance. In the palace of Munich, the finest room, which is the grand hall, being 118 feet long by 52 broad, is open to the roof, so as entirely to destroy the effect which would result from such a size if finished; birds fly about in it as in a barn, and drop their favours on the heads of the company as they pass. I have in Germany seen many instances of unfinished equal to this. There is a great profusion of marble in the several apartments, but it is not wrought in an agreeable manner. The furniture is in general old; it has been very rich, but has nothing in it striking; nor is the collection of pictures comparable to many others in Germany.

The Jesuits' college is among the finest buildings belonging to the church; it is very spacious. The great church, and the Franciscan monastery, are also worth seeing; the latter order is possessed of very great revenues. Several palaces of the nobility make a very good figure, and the town-house is better than many I have seen. The number of inhabitants is computed at fifty thousand.

...The palaces most worth seeing are the Elector's country ones of Sleissheim and Nymphenburg, near Munich. Sleissheim is a fine building, and much better furnished than that



of Munich; the portico supported by marble pillars is fine. In the apartments, which are furnished in an agreeable manner, is a very good collection of pictures, but they are chiefly by Flemish masters. Nymphenburg exhibits the German taste of gardening in perfection; the Bavarians holding them to be the finest in the empire. The situation, wood, and water would admit of something beautiful, but here is nothing but the old-fashioned fountains, statues, monsters &c.

*Travels through Holland, Flanders, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Lapland, Russia, the Ukraine and Poland in the years 1768, 1769, 1770*, London, 1772-6.

JOSEPH MARSHALL

July 1770

...Munich, a beautiful city, has a population of about 36,000 inhabitants and is the seat of the Prince Elector. The grounds of the court are public, but gloomy and monotonous, and all around it there runs an extremely fine riding track, magnificently adorned and 300 feet in length. The churches have nothing of interest, but one may enjoy a splendid view from the top of the towers of the Church of Our Lady, the cathedral; the church of the Theatines is quite pretty.

The hospitals are well-endowed, but badly run. The theatre and the barracks are extremely undistinguished. Munich is on the Isar; the course of this river has been diverted and the works are very impressive and very extensive, as is everything that has to do with the canals. ...The castle of the Elector, half a league from Munich, has a fine entrance, and the main front has one hundred and thirty-five casement windows, more or less projecting, not counting two pavilions at the extremities of this front and in line with it, thirty-seven windows on each side, and many other pavilions which project forward from the line of the façade, and ten small pavilions in the courtyard.

...The gardens are superb, with wonderful fountains and playing water; there is a large number of statues and gilded vases, but they are made of lead and in bad taste. There is a very pretty jet of water in the main basin, and if one wishes, another similar one may be seen close to the hydraulic mechanism, which is extremely simple.

...General Thompson began the laying-out of another garden in the English manner, situated by the gateway from the courtyard; it is the most beautiful one he made, and it is the only walk outside the city that is practicable in the summer.

Two years ago the whole of this area was a marsh; next to it are the gardens which the soldiers cultivate for their own needs... In the grounds there are four pavilions decorated in different styles. Pagodenburg has an undistinguished ground floor, while the upper apartments are very pretty. Magdalenburg has no distinctive features and the Hermitage is not very well kept up, the interior contains nothing in particular and is decorated with shells. Amalienburg is the prettiest of the four pavilions and is more sumptuously decorated; in the centre there is a rotunda thirty-six feet in diameter which together with the parts surrounding it forms a truly splendid whole. All the mouldings are plated with silver and inspire wonder in the beholder. In the garden there are golden pheasants brought from China. On the way to and from Nymphenburg one must pass through the deer park.

*Voyages de deux français... en 1790-1792*, Paris, 1796.

137-138. BERNARDO BELLOTTO: *The Castle of Nymphenburg from the City side (details)*. Munich, Residenz Museum.

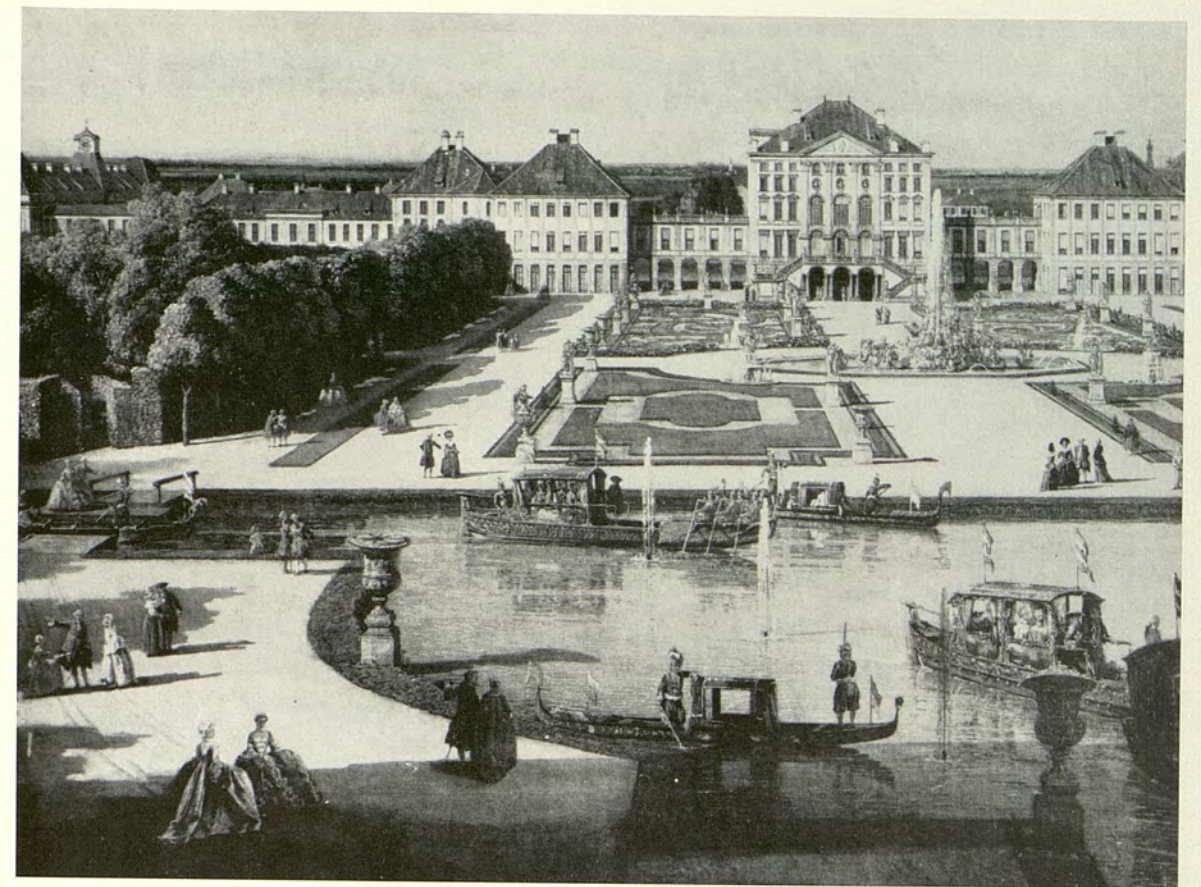
Bellotto was in Munich in 1761, after his visit to Vienna, and he painted several views of the city and of Nymphenburg. This view of the castle is from the road which leads to the city and shows, beyond the great fountain, the central building designed by Agostino Barelli (1664) and the Porcelain Manufactory.





139, 141. BERNARDO BELLOTTO:  
*The Castle of Nymphenburg from  
 the Garden side (view and detail).*  
 Munich, Residenz Museum.

The garden of the Nymphenburg was laid out by Carbonet and Girard. The viewpoint for this painting is exactly opposite that of the preceding view.



140, 142. BERNARDO BELLOTTO:  
*Munich from Haidhausen (view and  
 detail).* Munich, Residenz Mu-  
 seum.

In the foreground, on the near side of the river, is the Brückentor, beyond which is the Isar and a view of the whole city. To the left of the Brückentor is the Customs-house and to the right of it, across the river, is the 'Red Tower' and the Isar gate and the fortifications above which rise the churches and towers of the city. In the centre is the Frauenkirche (1468-88) and beside it to the left, the tower of the old Rathaus (1470) and those of the seventeenth-century Heiliggeistkirche and the Peterskirche. To the right of the Frauenkirche are the tower of the Salvatorkirche, the cupola and towers of the Theatinerkirche (built by Barelli and Zuccali in 1663-75) and on the far right the little tower of the Residenz. This painting is signed and dated 1761.



143. GIACOMO QUARENGHI: *The village of Schwabing, near Munich.* Bergamo, Biblioteca Civica.

One of a series of views by Giacomo Quarenghi in five albums preserved at Bergamo. The drawings in the album which contains two views of the surroundings of Munich are datable to about 1810. The view shows the village of Schwabing, on the river Isar close to Munich, which is seen on the left, with the two towers of the Frauenkirche.



144. GIACOMO QUARENGHI: *Pasing, near Munich.* Bergamo, Biblioteca Civica.

Another drawing from Quarenghi's last album, datable to about 1810, shows the little village of Pasing, near Munich.





145-146. JAN VAN DER HEYDEN:  
*View of Düsseldorf*. The Hague,  
Mauritshuis.

This painting, signed and dated 1667, shows the Jesuit church at Düsseldorf. The figures are by Adriaen van der Velde. It was thought at one time that the church was of the Jesuits in Antwerp, but the precise location was identified by W. Dahl, of Düsseldorf, at the end of the nineteenth century.

