

# *My Dearest Cousin* Victoria

C. Marochetti  
(1805-1867)  
Queen Victoria  
Parian porcelain, 1862

Memories and Letters between Charlotte of Belgium and the Queen of England

*«My Dearest Cousin Victoria, I have received the beautiful dolls' house you have been so kind as to send me».*

So began the letter that Princess Charlotte of Belgium sent in 1848 to thank Victoria, Queen of the United Kingdom and Ireland, for her special gift. The close emotional bond between them arose from the unique relationship between Charlotte's father, Leopold I, King of the Belgians, and Queen Victoria. Leopold of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha was the queen's maternal uncle. The deep fondness that linked Charlotte and Victoria is visible in their letters and documents that refer to the various times the young princess came to visit England, especially after the premature death of her mother.

## A "Family Album"

To celebrate the 2019 bicentennial of the birth of Queen Victoria and Albert, Prince Consort, we wanted to take an in-depth look at a varied set of works that, selected from the collection at Miramare, has helped us reconstruct the extent of Charlotte and Maximilian's ties to the English court.

These paintings and prints provide us with precious 'behind the scenes' hints and fragments



F.X. Winterhalter (1805-1873)  
Charlotte as a Child  
Oil on canvas, around 1842

this talented artist to create a number of portraits starting in 1842.

The exquisite portrait of Charlotte as a child, signed by Winterhalter and painted in Paris, belonged to Charlotte's grandmother.

Another version of this painting was given as a Christmas gift to Queen Victoria, who had mentioned she wanted an image of the little girl.

The bust of young Victoria, immortalises her with a laurel wreath on her head, in the symbolic shape of a crown, enriched by roses and oak leaves. It's a refined portrait made of porcelain, which owes its creation to Italian artist Carlo Marochetti (1805-1867).

of authentic human relationships. The pieces on display can be leafed through like a family album thanks in part to the excerpts from the letters and diaries of the protagonists, who were spontaneous and warm in their domestic intimacy. German painter Franz Xaver Winterhalter has a number of works in the exhibition. Queen Victoria commissioned

**Focus on**





FX. Winterhalter,  
Portraits of Queen  
Victoria and Prince  
Albert, Charlotte's  
cousins

C. Dell'Acqua,  
Portrait of Leopold I,  
Charlotte's father  
and Victoria's uncle

Detail of the British flag  
in C. Dell'Acqua, Arrival  
of Sisi at Miramare on  
board the HMY Victoria  
and Albert

From the ducal Apartments the Focus on continues in the Museum's collections: can you find the following paintings?

The **Focus on** is a thematic study developed around one or more art objects from the Museum's collections, an opportunity to view their history from a different perspective.  
The **Focus on** exhibition is included in the Miramare Castle entrance ticket.

Next appointment with Focus on

**THE SCIENCE OF VISION**  
Photography and Optical Instruments  
during the Time of Maximilian of Habsburg

9 March — 13 September 2020

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Memories and Letters  
between Charlotte of Belgium  
and the Queen of England

16 December 2019  
1 March 2020

Miramare  
Castle  
The Duke of Aosta's  
Apartments

Museo Storico e il Parco  
del Castello di Miramare

