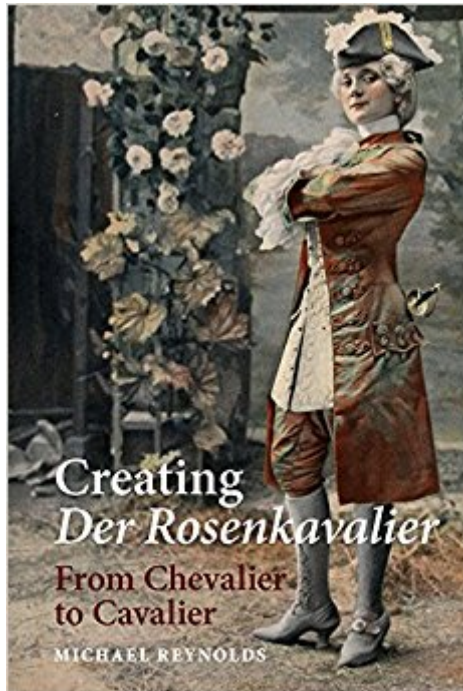




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The Creation Of Der Rosenkavalier



Synopsis

A full account of the making, during 1909-10, of *Der Rosenkavalier* with emphasis on its derivation from a French operette of 1907, *L'Ingenu libertin*, which was seen in Paris by Count Harry Kessler and which formed the basis of the opera then to be written by Hofmannsthal and Strauss. Previous scholarship has credited the narrative and characters of *Der Rosenkavalier* to much older French sources known to, and studied by Hofmannsthal, but this book shows clearly how every element in *L'Ingenu libertin* is in fact taken (and transformed) by Kessler and Hofmannsthal into the work that made fortunes for Hofmannsthal and Strauss, but left Kessler on the sidelines. Michael Reynolds casts a major new light on Strauss's most popular operatic success, highlighting in particular how it was that Hofmannsthal - who had not until then had any theatrical success as an original playwright - was advised and empowered by Kessler to produce a work that succeeded onstage from its very first performance and went rapidly on to conquer the stages of the world.

Book Information

Hardcover: 288 pages

Publisher: Boydell Press (April 21, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1783270497

ISBN-13: 978-1783270491

Product Dimensions: 1 x 6.2 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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If you love *Der Rosenkavalier*, Reynolds' book is essential-and fascinating-reading.

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