

The Vienna Burgtheater

Vienna's *Burgtheater* was established in 1776 by decree of Emperor Joseph II. In its formative years it was not exclusively a theatre of the spoken word, and indeed its early presentations included the first performances of Mozart's *Entführung*, *Figaro* and *Così fan Tutte*. However, the Burgtheater was soon to become and remain not only Austria's National Drama Theatre but, by general consent, the world's leading German-language playhouse.

The present building dates from 1888. The façade is unchanged but the interior was renovated in 1955 when the stage was given a 25 m revolve incorporating four lifts and two wagons. A new lighting control room has now been constructed at the rear of the stalls utilising part of the *stehplatz*—the traditional standing area to be found in Viennese theatres.

The new control is a *Lightboard* (a full description of this type of system will be found in TABS, Autumn 1975). The main desk contains keyboard access for 400 sockets, a palette with four submasters, two playbacks, cassette magnetic tape for repertoire storage, intercoms and a ten-master pin patch back-up. All socket level and cue progress information is displayed on video screens. There are facilities for print-out of cue information and an auxiliary desk contains five houselight controls with manual/memory switching, orchestra dimmer, nine non-dims, cue lights, worklight controls (interlocked with on-stage duplicates) and voltage/current metering of the stage supply.

