



Plate 11. "Blumenstrauß aus Edelsteinen" (= flower bouquet of gems). This famous piece – which consists of 2,700 gems, including amethyst, chalcedony, chrysolite, diamond, emerald, garnet, lapis lazuli, ruby, sapphire, spinel, topaz, and turquoise – was presented by the Empress Maria Theresa to her husband, Franz I, in 1764. According to Dr. G. Niedemayr of the museum where the "bouquet" is housed, the designer was probably Lautensack of Frankfurt, but as now exhibited it was rearranged by the Viennese lapidary G. Gasterstädt in 1837. (Photograph courtesy of the Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien)