



THE HALL OF PEACE

This hall too formed part of the apartment prepared for Napoleon and it was dedicated to the theme of Peace.

On the ceiling we see a bustling scene showing a pagan sacrifice near two altars, one dedicated to Peace and the other to Janus (Giano, in Italian). This divinity was associated to the theme of peace but, at the same time, it also recalled the name of the painter: Felice Giani. Other paintings by the same painter once decorated the ceiling but they were replaced by mirrors at the beginning of the 20th Century.

The works of art contained in this Hall are intended to exalt the figure of Napoleon as the bringer of peace, the only condition in which the arts and letters could prosper. This is the reason why the gypsum frieze along the walls is dedicated to the painters, sculptors, architects and musicians who are portrayed in the medallions. Next to each medallion there is a Winged Fame crowning the twenty-two artists with a laurel wreath. Part of the artists portrayed are Italian and part French, except for Austrian composer Joseph Haydn, who was included in the frieze because he was particularly loved by Napoleon.

The frieze is the work of Roman-born Alessandro d'Este, the favourite student of the neoclassical Italian sculptor, Antonio Canova. Canova did not produce any work of art for the Quirinale Palace although he collaborated in making the iconographic design for the wing of the Palace designated to be Napoleon's apartment.