

Czech – Liechtenstein TODAY



REIGNING PRINCE HANS-ADAM II OF LIECHTENSTEIN VISITS OLOMOUC

Olomouc 20 May 2014: His Serene Highness Hans-Adam II, Reigning Prince of Liechtenstein, accompanied by H. S. H. Maria-Pia Kothbauer, Princess of Liechtenstein and Ambassador of Liechtenstein to the Czech Republic, made a private visit to Olomouc. The objective of his visit was to participate in the presentation of the proceedings from the talks from the international scientific conference, **'The**

Princely Family of Liechtenstein in the history of the Lands of the Bohemian Crown', which took place in November 2010 in Olomouc.

The conference was organised by the Historic Association Liechtenstein and Ostrava University under the auspices of the Prince of Liechtenstein and Mons. Jan (*cont. on pg. 2*)



Mons. Jan Graubner, Archbishop of Olomouc, Yvone Kubjátová, Petr Pavlík, His Serene Highness Hans-Adam II, Reigning Prince of Liechtenstein, Pavel Juřík, Marek Vařeka (Photo: JMK, Klára Řižánková)

Continued from pg. 1: Graubner, Archbishop of Olomouc and Moravian Primate, and Mons. Josef Hrdlička, Auxiliary Bishop of Olomouc. The conference, in which seventy historians from six European countries took part, was the very first conference on the Liechtenstein family in Europe. It brought new findings on one of the most important aristocratic families in Central Europe, and helped establish contact between experts. Through the proceedings, this information will be available to more historians, historians of art and others.

Until diplomatic relations were reestablished between the Czech Republic and Liechtenstein in 2009, there was a lack of truthful information about the Princely Family of Liechtenstein in the Czech Republic. The topic was further considered somewhat 'taboo', Since that time, we have witnessed a fast growing interest in the Liechtenstein family and its involvement in Central European political, cultural, military and economic history. Historians are now discovering and making available to the public the hugely positive legacy of the family for Moravia, Bohemia and

Silesia. The latest scientific studies and books also analyse the modern history of the Liechtenstein and Liechtenstein, including the period between the two World Wars and the period from 1938 to 2009 (see www.hs-liechtensteincz/knihy).

During his visit, Prince Hans-Adam II gave an interview to the media and visited the wonderful rooms in the recently renovated Archbishop's Palace in Olomouc. The rare guest was welcomed by Mons. Jan Graubner, Archbishop of Olomouc, Mgr. Yvona Kubjátová, Deputy Governor of the Olomouc Region, Bc. Petr Pavlík, councillor of the South Moravian Region, Ing. Pavel Juřík, Chairman of the Historic Association Liechtenstein, o. s., Prof. PhDr. Aleš Zářický, Ph.D., Dean of the Arts Faculty at Ostrava University, PhDr. Marek Vařeka, Ph. D., conference organiser and Deputy Chairman of the Historic Association Liechtenstein, o. s., and Prof. PhDr. Tomáš Knoz, Ph. D., Chairman of the Czech section of the Czech-Liechtenstein Commission of Historians (Masaryk University in Brno) .



Prince of Liechtenstein, Hans-Adam II, signing the Archbishopric of Olomouc memorial book on May 20, 2014 (Photo. Pavel Juřík)

THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RENEWAL OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

Five years ago, on September 8, 2009, the Czech Republic and the Principality of Liechtenstein reestablished diplomatic relations, after a 64 year-long interruption.. – After World War II the two states did not recognize each other - a particularity in Europe.

Both countries established diplomatic relations in the summer of 1938 when Switzerland was officially representing also Liechtenstein interests in Czechoslovakia. The Principality did not recognize the Munich agreement, or the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and it was neutral during World War II. Bilateral relations were de facto discontinued after March 15, 1939, when Switzerland closed its embassy in Prague, but they were never officially interrupted by Liechtenstein government.

Yet in 1945, Czechoslovakia did not restore diplomatic relations and confiscated the property 38 Liechtenstein citizens (of which six were members of the princely family), despite the fact that the principality was a neutral country during WW2. In the years 1990-1993 there were several unsuccessful attempts to reestablish diplomatic relations. Negotiations were successful in 2008-2009 and on September 8, 2009 bilateral relations were finally reestablished.

Reining prince Hans-Adam II of Liechtenstein has visited privately the Czech Republic several times. For the first time since the reestablishment of diplomatic relations he visited the chateau Valtice in September 2009 for the presentation of the book "*Moravian Dominions of the Liechtenstein and*

the Dietrichsteins" by Pavel Juřík, which for the first time brought truthful information about the history and legacy of the Liechtenstein in the Czech Republic. In April 2011 Masaryk University Rector's Prof Petr Fiala handed over *the Great Gold Medal of the Masaryk University* to prince Hans-Adam II, in recognition of his efforts to improve relations between Liechtenstein and the Czech Republic.

A positive signal for the emerging relationship was sent by the first official visit of Liechtenstein's Prime Minister Dr. Klaus Tschütscher in the Czech Republic, on 30 March 2011. On 11 April 2011, H. S. H. Maria-Pia Kothbauer Princess of Liechtenstein presented her credentials to the Václav Klaus, President of Czech Republic. In October 2011, Dr. Martin Meyer, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy of Liechtenstein visited the Czech Republic. He also visited the International Engineering Fair in Brno. Economic cooperation has developed well even before 2009. Several branches of Liechtenstein companies (eg. Hilti, Hoval), operate in the Czech Republic, others are exporting their products (e. g. ThyssenKrupp Presta supplies safety steering shafts to carmaker Škoda-Auto, Swarovski and others).

More than 700-years of history of Liechtenstein-Czech relations were analysed by a joint Czech-Liechtenstein History Commission from 2010 to 2013. Its findings confirm the positive influence of the princely family for the Czech lands, refute previous distorted or false information about the family of the Liechtenstein and the Principality of Liechtenstein and will be published shortly.



The first Czech ambassador to Liechtenstein H. E. Boris Lazar (residence Bern) presented his credentials to H. S. H. Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein in January 13, 2011 in Vaduz Castle



H. S. H. Maria-Pia Kothbauer Princess of Liechtenstein presented her credentials to the President of the Czech Republic Mr. Václav Klaus in April 11, 2011, as the first Liechtenstein ambassador in Prague (residence Vienna)

EXHIBITION: THE LIECHTENSTEIN IN THE PRINCIPALITY OF OPAVA (1614-1945)

This year, 400 years have passed since the arrival of the Princely Family of Liechtenstein in Opava. Prince Karl I of Liechtenstein, received it as a fiefdom in a patent of January 1614 from Emperor Mathyas I. He and his descendents went down in the history of the Bohemian lands, and Central Europe in general, as successful politicians, generals, diplomats, economist and patrons.

The Opava (Troppau) region can boast of a number of churches and public buildings which the Liechtenstein built here. It is an unusual fact that the Opava region coat of arms is still today part of the emblem of another country – the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Liechtenstein family. A number of important historical buildings in the Czech Republic are a reminder of the Liechtenstein family, such as the Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape (since 1996 UNESCO world heritage site) and the castles of Velké Losiny, Šternberk, Úsov, Plumlov and two palaces in Prague.

Marshal Johann I was one of the most important generals and diplomats in the Napoleonic Wars, and his grandson, Johann II, known as Johann the Good, was one of the greatest patrons in Europe.

The Principality of Liechtenstein has been independent and sovereign since 1806. During the 1920s-1970s, this originally poor region with an area of just 160 km² became a country with one of the highest standards of living in the world as a result of providing of top-class engineering products and services. Diplomatic relations between Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic and Liechtenstein have not been simple, but they have developed well since they were re-established in 2009.

If you want to find out more about the history and legacy of the Liechtenstein in the Opava region and in the Czech Republic, and about the principality and the princely family, we warmly invite you to the exhibition **“The Liechtenstein in Principality of Opava, 1614-1945”**, in which you can admire many unique acts and other documents, artefacts and reproductions of portraits and engravings from the collections of the Regional Archive in Opava and other archives in the Czech Republic, and from Sammlungen des Fürsten von und zu Liechtenstein in Vienna.

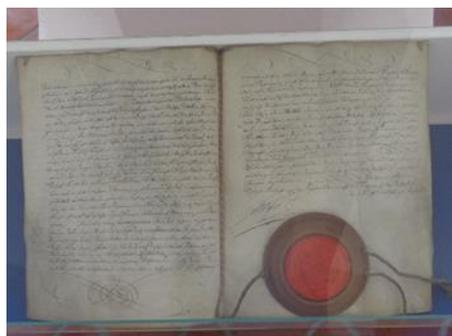
This fascinating exhibition was promoted by Historic Association Liechtenstein (author Ing. Pavel Juřík). The exhibition is to be held from 5. 9. – 1. 11. 2014.



Opavská kulturní organizace Vás srdečně zve
na slavnostní zahájení výstavy v rámci 57. ročníku festivalu Bezručova Opava

Liechtensteinové v Opavském knížectví 1614-1945
Výstavu zahájí Ing. Pavel Juřík ve čtvrtek 4. září 2014 v 17:00 hodin v Domě umění v Opavě.

Výstava potrvá do 1. listopadu 2014, otevřeno - úterý - neděle 10:00 - 17:00 hodin
Dům umění v Opavě, Pekařská 12, 746 01 Opava, www.oko-opava.cz, dum.umeni@oko-opava.cz, tel: +420 553 668 734, +420 734 862 481



Hans Adam I prince of Liechtenstein confirms the privileges to town of Opava in 1685 (original parchment with the seal, District Archive Opava, Opava City Archive) photos from the opening of the exhibition