

# Czech – Liechtenstein TODAY



Published by the Historic Association Liechtenstein, Czech Republic

## PRINCE CONSTANTIN OF LIECHTENSTEIN VISITS CENTRAL BOHEMIA

Until 1933, a significant part of the estate of the Princely Family of Liechtenstein in the Lands of the Bohemian Crown was within the territory of today's Central Bohemia Region. The majority of it was purchased in 1623 by Prince Karl I of Liechtenstein from Imperial Generalissimo, Albrecht von Wallenstein, who had received it from Emperor Ferdinand II as land confiscated from the Smiřický family of Smiřice after they died out in 1618.



**Mgr. et Bc. Vít Rakušan welcomes the guests from Liechtenstein at the Royal Town of Kolín's town hall.**

On the invitation of Ing. Pavel Juřík, chairman of Historický spolek Liechtenstein, o.s. (The Liechtenstein Historic Association), His Serene Highness Prince Constantin of Liechtenstein came to visit the former Central Bohemian estates from 31 May until 1 June. Because he came representing his father, Sovereign Prince Hans-Adam II, he was also accompanied by Liechtenstein's Ambassador in the Czech Republic, HSH Maria-Pia Kothbauer, Princess of Liechtenstein. It was likely the first visit of a family member to this region since 1936.

The aim of the private visit was to open the exhibition 'The Duchess of Savoy – the great patron of Kostelec' in Kostelec nad Černými lesy, launch Ing. Pavel Juřík's book 'Dominions of the Smiřický and Liechtenstein families in Bohemia' and to visit places connected with the Liechtensteins and with the life of the Duchess of Savoy.

First on the agenda was a rare visit shortly before noon on 31 May to the Royal Town of Kolín, which was bathed in sun. He was welcomed in front of the town hall by a 'Lords of Kolín' Guard of Honour and town mayor, Mgr. et Bc. Vít Rakušan, and other representatives of the town and region. Following a tour of the town hall's ceremonial hall, the guests visited the repaired synagogue, the Church of St Bartolomeus which has undergone extensive renovation, and the historic centre of the town. The visit culminated in a celebratory lunch.



**Prince Constantin and the Ambassador with the 'Lords of Kolín' after laying flowers at the memorial in Křečhoř.**

Following this, the guests made their way to the memorial to the Battle of Kolín (18 June 1757) in Křečhoř. Victory in this key battle of the Seven Years' War was assured by the Imperial artillery, which had undergone fundamental

reform in 1744-1756 under the guidance of diplomat, courtier and leader, Joseph Wenzel I of Liechtenstein. The Prince laid a bunch of carnations in Liechtenstein heraldic colours at the memorial. A Guard of Honour was once again formed by the 'Lords of Kolín', while the artillery battery of Captain Bärenkopp fired a number of celebratory shots with a replica of a cannon made according to the 'Liechtenstein reforms'.

Prince Constantin of Liechtenstein's next stop was the Liechtensteins' former hunting lodge in Radim u Kolína. The Princely Family sold the chateau during the First Land Reforms in 1927. The current owners, the Dotlačils, undertook thorough repairs, fitted it out with period furniture and provided access for the public.

The Prince and the Ambassador viewed the chateau interior and tasted some historical specialities in the black kitchen. The prince ended the visit by officially opening the chateau café and taking the opportunity to hold an informal meeting with the chateau owners.



**Prince Constantin chops the rope to open the chateau café in Radim.**

The final item on his busy programme was a visit to the town of Říčany (see pg. 4).

## **PRINCE CONSTANTIN OF LIECHTENSTEIN VISITS ŠKODA AUTO**

On the morning of Friday 1 June, His Serene Highness Prince Constantin of Liechtenstein, accompanied by the Ambassador of Liechtenstein, Maria-Pia Kothbauer, Princess of Liechtenstein, visited the Škoda Auto car plant in Mladá Boleslav. The aim of the visit was to tour not just what is the most important industrial business in the Czech

Republic, but also a customer of Liechtenstein company, ThyssenKrupp Presta, the largest global manufacturer of safety steering shafts and camshafts. The guests were introduced to the history of Škoda Auto up to the present day, and also viewed a number of modern production floors and the car museum.



**His Serene Highness Prince Constantin of Liechtenstein and Her Serene Highness Maria-Pia Kothbauer, Princess of Liechtenstein during their visit to one of Škoda Auto's factories in Mladá Boleslav. They were impressed by the new Škoda Fabia sports model.**

## KOSTELEC NAD ČERNÝMI LESY EXHIBITION VIEWING

**On 1 June 2012, Prince Constantin of Liechtenstein officially opened an exhibition on the life of Maria Theresia, Duchess of Savoy.**

The Town of Kostelec nad Černými lesy and its Museum of Pottery, together with the Liechtenstein Historic Association, made the pioneering decision to open a unique exhibition, 'The Duchess of Savoy – the great patron of Kostelec' in order to remember one of the most fascinating members of the House of Liechtenstein and its patron – Maria Theresia Anna Felicitas, born Princess of Liechtenstein (1694-1772). The Princess was daughter of Prince Hans-Adam I, founder of the principality of Liechtenstein.

In 1712, the young princess inherited the estates of Černý Kostelec, Škvorec, Říčany and Úhřetěves. She later purchased Plaňany, Rataje nad Sázavou, Kounice and Čechy pod Kosířem. In October 1713, she married Thomas Emmanuel, Duke of Savoy-Carignano, Prince of Piedmont, Count of Soissons and Saluzzo (1687-1729), who was nephew of the Imperial General, Prince Eugene Maurice of Savoy. They had one son, Jean Francois (1714-1734), who unfortunately died at a young age during a military campaign in Germany.

The Duchess of Savoy became well-known for her support of charity. She built or repaired dozens of churches on her estates in Central Bohemia, she had poorhouses built in Kostelec nad Černými lesy and Kounice, used her own funds to pay for a parish school, and opened her door to her subjects if they considered that the estate officials had dealt with them in an illegal manner. In 1763, she released the burghers of Kostelec from allegiance.

It was under her governance that the chateau in Kostelec was renovated in Baroque style, and the parish Church of the Holy Guardian Angels was built. In addition to the chateau in Kostelec, she also resided in the chateaux in Škvorec u Prahy and Koloděje, where she had the Renaissance chateau renovated in Baroque style.



**Kostelec nad Černými lesy chateau chapel, where the marriage of Princess Maria Theresia and Duke Thomas Emmanuel of Savoy took place.**



**Portrait of the Duchess of Savoy (with a widow's veil in her hair), borrowed from Valtice Castle's collection.**

The Duchess built a permanent reminder of her work in Vienna when she founded the Savoy Noble Academy for educating noblemen, which became famed for its quality. She also founded the Savoy Foundation for Noble Ladies for poor noblewomen. She had the Savoy Chapel constructed in the Church of St Maurice, where she was buried beside her husband. Military commander, Prince Eugene of Savoy, was also buried in the chapel.

For her kindness, she was known by the people as the 'White Lady' or 'Cafojka' (a diminutive of Savoy Lady).

Many interesting exhibits can be seen at the exhibition, e.g. the so-called Černý Kostelec Golden Book from the late 17th century (rent-roll), a portrait of the Duchess (borrowed from Valtice Castle), original Baroque gargoyles from the Kostelec chateau and copies of marriage contracts and documents with which the Kostelec burghers were released from allegiance in 1763. There are photos of major church buildings whose repair or construction were financed by the Duchess.

The exhibition also has information on the history and notable figures of the House of Liechtenstein and on the history of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the present day. There is also a display of Liechtenstein postal stamps, which celebrated their 100th anniversary this year in February.

**The exhibition in Museum of Kostelec nad černými lesy is open until July 31, 2012.**

## KOSTELEČ NAD ČERNÝMI LESY: HOLY MASS FOR THE GOOD DUCHESS

Prince Constantin of Liechtenstein and the Liechtenstein Ambassador, Maria-Pia Kothbauer, Princess of Liechtenstein's private two day visit (31 May – 1 June) ended with a mass for the salvation of the soul of Her Highness Maria Theresia the Duchess of Savoy-Carignano.

Shortly before 5pm on Friday 1 June, the honoured guests entered the parish Church of the Holy Guardian Angels in Kostelec nad Černými lesy, whose every seat was occupied. Accompanied by the majestic tones of the organ, a procession of priests arrived in the church, ending with Mons. Dominik Duka, Archbishop of Prague and Czech Primate.

Among the topics touched upon in his speech, the Cardinal said that it was not important to be a nobleman, but rather to have a good heart and be able to make sacrifices for your friends and family. An example of this is mothers who risk their own lives in bringing a new life into the world... Cardinal Duka spoke of the Duchess of Savoy's exceptional

caring nature for her subjects, which went beyond what was standard for her day, and said she was a good example to follow.

The Duchess had wished for two holy masses to be said for her kindness each year. In 2012, after many decades of this tradition falling by the wayside, her wish was once again fulfilled (a requiem mass had already been said in February 2012). Some of the speech was read out in German. The Prince and Princess took Holy Communion and at the conclusion, two children gave them flowers.

Following the holy mass, an informal meeting of the guests, the Cardinal and local parishioners took place at the local rectory. They stressed that the Duchess of Savoy's legacy was still alive and inspired many people. It is of interest to note that the last known member of the family to visit Kostelec nad Černými lesy was Prince Franz Joseph II (the father of the current ruling prince, Hans-Adam II, and grandfather of Prince Constantin).



Cardinal Dominik Duka during his talk at the holy mass in the Church of the Holy Guardian Angels.



The meeting of the guests with the Cardinal and parishioners after the holy mass at the rectory in Kostelec nad Černými lesy was friendly and informal.

## THE DUCHESS OF SAVOY AND ŘÍČANY

His Serene Highness Prince Constantin also visited the town of Říčany on 31 May, where he met with mayor Vladimír Kořen, councillors and employees of the town museum. They then visited together the parish Church of St Peter and Paul, which the Duchess had converted to Baroque style. She also supported the development of the town, which was still feeling the consequences of the Thirty Years War at the beginning of the 18th century, having been almost emptied of its inhabitants.

The Liechtensteins were linked with the history of the town for almost four centuries, right up until the 1930s. It is interesting to note that still today, the Princely Family still own a field within the town territory in which lavender grows abundantly. At the end of his visit, the Prince gave an extensive interview for the *Hospodářské noviny* newspaper's *Víkend* supplement (published 8 June). We sincerely believe that relations between the Liechtensteins and the land of their ancestors has been renewed, and will continue to develop. There are a whole range of issues which would benefit from mutual co-operation between the

towns and villages of Central Bohemia and the House of Liechtenstein, and the Principality.



Mayor of Říčany, Vladimír Kořen welcomes the rare visitors from Liechtenstein in front of the Old Town Hall. Foto: Rudolf Flachs

## NEW BOOK: DOMINIONS OF THE SMIŘICKÝ AND LIECHTENSTEIN FAMILIES IN BOHEMIA

The launch of Ing. Pavel Juřík's book *'Dominions of the Smiřický and Liechtenstein families in Bohemia'* took place on Friday 1 June in the Modré dveře café in Kostelec nad Černými lesy, which is published by Libri publishers. HSH Prince Constantin of Liechtenstein and Ing. Jan Svatoš, mayor of the town of Kostelec nad Černými lesy, were chosen as 'godfathers' of the book.

The book brings together for the first time an overview of one of the most important Czech noble families, the Smiřickýs of Smiřice and their estates. The Lords of Smiřice were the richest Czech noble family before the Uprising of the Estates in 1618. Albrecht Jan Smiřický also aspired to the Czech throne, but died suddenly (probably from tuberculosis). The Smiřice estate was then taken over by his relative, Albrecht von Wallenstein. Because Karl I of Liechtenstein purchased a large proportion of their estate,

the book's second section is dedicated to a history of the House of Liechtenstein and their estates in Bohemia.



## LIECHTENSTEIN AMBASSADOR VISITS MORAVIA AND THE OPAVA AND KRNOV REGIONS

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Principality of Liechtenstein in the Czech Republic, Her Serene Highness Maria-Pia Kothbauer, Princess of Liechtenstein, made a working visit to the South Moravian, Olomouc and Moravian-Silesian Regions from 2 – 4 May 2012. The aim of her visit was to get to know these regions, with which her country and ruling family have been associated for centuries.

The Ambassador first met with Governor of the South Bohemian Region, Dr Michal Hašek, and took a tour of Villa Tugendhat in Brno. She then travelled to Olomouc, where she met Deputy Governor of the Olomouc Region, Radovan Rašák.

On Thursday 3 May, Her Serene Highness met Governor of the Moravian-Silesian Region, Jaroslav Palas, with whom she discussed inter-regional co-operation.

Liechtenstein has much experience in this sphere, due to its position between Austria and Switzerland in the Alpine Rhine Valley. In response to the Ambassador's remarks, the Governor noted that as a result of the planned TRITIA European Grouping of Territorial Co-operation (between the Moravian-Silesian Region, the Silesian and Opole Voivodeships and the Žilina Self-Governing Region), Liechtenstein's experience may be of use for the Moravian-Silesian Region.

In the education field, Liechtenstein focuses on mobility, with, e.g., more than thirty students from the Czech Republic coming to Liechtenstein to study (architecture and economics) with the help of so-called Norway Funds. According to a number of international comparisons, Liechtenstein education and support for science is amongst the best in the world.



Ambassador of Liechtenstein, HSH Maria-Pia Kothbauer, Princess of Liechtenstein at a meeting with Governor of the Moravian-Silesian Region, Jaroslav Palas.



**The Ambassador on a tour of the city of Opava, where she admired the beautifully restored buildings.**

The principality is noted for its long-term and deliberate support of education and science, which represent a deliberate investment in the future of the country. Liechtenstein has no raw materials, so it has to build up know-how and produce products or provide services with high added value.

All products produced by Liechtenstein companies are amongst the best in the world (engineering, chemicals etc.). Half the country's workers commute daily from Austria or Switzerland. At the same time, Liechtenstein companies abroad employ more workers (approx. 35 000) than the population of the principality.

On 4 May, the Princess visited Opava for the first time, whose symbol (the Duchy of Troppau, or Opava) can be found in the princely coat of arms and emblem of Liechtenstein. After a walk through the city, she said: *'This city has left a great impression on me how everything is beautifully restored. I have been very impressed by the university buildings.'*

The Opavský Deník newspaper wrote on 4 May of her visit: *'At the town hall, and then on a walk through the town, you*

## **CONGRATULATIONS: 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRINCELY WEDDING IN VADUZ**

On 30 July 1967, in the Cathedral of St Florin in Vaduz, the wedding of the Crown Prince, and today's reigning Prince, Hans-Adam II of Liechtenstein (born 1945, Zurich) and Marie Aglaë, Countess Kinsky of Wchinitz and Tettau (born 1940, Prague) took place. Their marriage has been blessed with four children: Crown Prince Alois, Princes Maximilian and Constantin and Princess Tatjana. They also have numerous grandchildren. In 1968, the newlyweds first visited the former family chateaux in Czechoslovakia.

We wish the princely couple all the best in their Sapphire anniversary, and good health in particular.

*Historický spolek Liechtenstein, o. s.*



**The symbols of the Opava, Krnov and Silesia regions can still be seen today in the lower half of the Liechtenstein coat of arms.**

*may have met a lightly made-up, smiling lady in blue wearing not a trace of jewellery. Her trouser suit was complemented by a luxury watch and high heels in the same colour. If you're still not sure what a modern princess such as she looks like, then think something along the lines of inconspicuous aristocratic charm.'*

The Ambassador's working visit finished up at the chateau in Velké Losiny. *'Velké Losiny was my father's final location here,'* she said and added: *'I was in Losiny once before a number of years ago with some of my family and Crown Prince Alois and my aunt, who went to school in Šumperk.'*

She also paid a rare visit to the city of Krnov, whose symbol is also found on the Liechtenstein family and principality's coat of arms. There are many traces of the Liechtensteins still here today. They financed, for example, the repair of the burnt out Pilgrimage Church of Our Lady of Sorrows in Cvilín, they supported the construction of the Shooting House and construction of Krnov Hospital, donated land to the city for the construction of Mikulášská street, and for the construction of the grammar school. They also built the viewing tower on Cvilín, the most well-known feature of Krnov.



**Crown Prince Hans-Adam of Liechtenstein and Marie Aglaë, Countess Kinsky during their wedding ceremony.**

## THE BATTLE OF KOLÍN – A SUCCESSFUL TRIAL OF THE LIECHTENSTEIN ARTILLERY

The Battle of Kolín is one of the most important military conflicts on the territory of the Czech Republic. The victory of the Imperial forces on 18 June 1757 not only allowed for the lifting of the siege of Prague, but also prevented the Prussian army from attacking Vienna. As a result, the lands of Bohemia were not joined with Prussia, as happened for Upper and Lower Lusatia, and so the Czech nation was not Germanified.

As well as luck, which this time was on the side of Marshall Leopold, Count von Daun, and the bravery of his officers and soldiers, the new Imperial artillery played a significant contribution to the victory of the armies of Maria Theresa. It had just undergone fundamental reform guided by General and Prince, Joseph Wenzel I of Liechtenstein – one of the reasons Prince Constantin of Liechtenstein visited the battlefield in Křečhoř on 31 May 2012.



**Prince Constantin of Liechtenstein and the Ambassador of Liechtenstein in the Czech Republic, Maria-Pia Kothbauer, visit the memorial to the Battle of Kolín on 31 May 2012 (Captain Joseph Wenzel von Bärnkopp's artillery battery with a working replica of a cannon in period uniforms).**

### The father of the Austrian artillery

*'The father of the Austrian artillery'*, Joseph Wenzel, Prince of Liechtenstein (9 August 1696, Prague – 10 February 1772, Vienna) was born as the son of field submarshall Erasmus of Liechtenstein (1664-1704). His father served in the Imperial army, fought in Italy under the command of Prince Eugene of Savoy, and fell in battle in Castelnuovo. It was said that young Prince Joseph Wenzel *'had the army in his blood'*. He displayed great talent, not only in diplomacy, but in particular in military tactics and army organisation.

As a result of his abilities, he achieved the position of field marshal in short time. He then took on the role of Imperial diplomat and in 1735 went as envoy to Berlin, and in 1741 to Paris. After losing the Battle of Chotusitz on 17 May 1742, the Emperor proposed reforming his artillery, and in 1744 he handed this difficult task to the Prince.

The Prince of Liechtenstein put a lot of work into setting up the reforms. He got hold of leading artillery experts, reduced the calibre of the cannons, increased their manufacture, and developed new munitions. New regulations were issued. The artillery were trained in ballistics, mathematics and tactics, and their abilities were tested each year in tests, including firing.



**Prince Joseph Wenzel of Liechtenstein – the father of the Austrian artillery (Lednice Castle collection).**

The artillery staff were based in České Budějovice and a school was founded in nearby Rudolfov. There was a large artillery training ground at Týn nad Vltavou (the Great Depot). Two thirds of the artillery came from Bohemia.

Prussian King Frederick II first realised the strength of the *'Liechtenstein'* artillery at the Battle of Kolín on 18 June 1757. His army were *'welcomed'* by unexpectedly precise and massive cannon fire from the Imperial artillery. When Frederick II saw the cannon fire, he apparently said: *'The enemy have the advantage of outnumbering us and of having better artillery. Liechtenstein deserves credit'*

Prince Joseph Wenzel of Liechtenstein's service in the Austrian artillery became the most feared weapon of the Austrian army right up until the end of the monarchy. The Czechoslovakian and Czech army were founded from this tradition.

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Pavel Juřík, *Vojevůdce a reformátor dělostřelectva, Fakta a svědectví* 7/2009

## YOU ASKED: THE CONFISCATION OF THE PROPERTY OF LIECHTENSTEIN CITIZENS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1945: *BARON JOHANN ALEXANDER VON KÖNIGSWART*

The confiscation of property in accordance with the Beneš Decrees affected not just members of the Princely Family, but also other citizens of neutral Liechtenstein. Probably the most well-known case is the confiscation of the property of Johann Alexander, Baron von Königswarter, who was of Jewish descent.

The beginnings of his family can be traced back to the third quarter of the 18th century, when they lived in West Bohemian Kynžvart (Königswart). His ancestors were successful traders, who became bankers in Frankfurt, Hamburg and Paris.

Jonas Markus von Königswarter (1807-1871) married Josefine von Königswarter from the Vienna branch of the family, and inherited her substantial property. He was successful in business and was considered one of the most important bankers in the empire. He was involved in the growth of the railways, in 1850 he became Director of the Austrian National Bank, and five years later he was one of the founders of the largest commercial bank, Creditanstalt.

Jonas Markus Königswarter was also a great patron of the Jewish community. He received an Order of the Iron Crown, 3rd Class, from the Emperor in January 1860, as a result of which he was elevated to the status of Freiherr. Ten years later, he was elevated to Baron. He stated in his will that were his descendants to convert to Christianity, they would have to pay a huge fine of 1 million Gulden to the Jewish community.

His son Moritz (1837-1893) was also a successful banker and investor. He was a great patron and art collector. During the financial crisis in 1873, he provided invaluable advice to the government, for which he received the Order of Franz-Joseph and was named lifetime member of the Imperial Council's House of Lords.

Baron Moritz purchased a number of large estates in Bohemia and Moravia: Nejdek, Děpoltovice and Horní Chodov (West Bohemia), Šebetov near Brno, Niederkreutzstetten in Austria and Cséhtélék in Hungary. From 1880-1889, he renovated and modernised the chateau in Šebetov, where he had a gasworks built, which produced gas for heating and lighting the chateau.

Most of his property was inherited by his younger son Hermann (1864-1915). Because he converted to Catholicism, he had to pay a fine of 1 million Gulden. With Melanie von Ebeck (1864-?), he had one son, Johann Alexander (1890-?).

Because Baron Johann Alexander became the target of racist attacks for his Jewish descent during the Third Reich, he asked for Liechtenstein citizenship in the 1930s (as did a number of other German Jews), which he was granted.

During the Second World War, citizenship of neutral Liechtenstein protected not just his life, but also his property in the territory of the Third Reich and the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia (4 000 hectares at the large estate of Šebetov). The situation, however, changed dramatically after May 1945, when the Beneš Decrees declared him a German and his property was confiscated. The Baron tried in vain to appeal to the Swiss embassy and the Princely commissioner, Prince Karl Alfred, for help. In the end, he was deported from Czechoslovakia in 1946. The chateau in Šebetov is today home to a social care institute.

As demonstrated by recent research of Czech historians (e.g. PhDr Ondřej Horák, PhDr. Václav Horčíčka), the Czechoslovakian authorities were hypocritical in their dealings with Liechtenstein from 1945. They purposefully considered Liechtenstein citizens to be German, while for Swiss citizens they claimed that the Confederation did not distinguish between nationalities (which wasn't and isn't true – there are four nationalities in Switzerland). They were also accommodating in their dealings with citizens of the Austrian Republic, who had been citizens of the Third Reich from 1938-1945 and had even served in their armed forces.

Although the properties of citizens of these countries were nationalised in 1945-1948, in the end financial compensation was received for them. Citizens of Liechtenstein got nothing. For this reason, diplomatic relations between the two countries were cut off between 1945 and 2009.



**Well-known banker, investor and patron of the Jewish community in Vienna, Jonas Markus Baron von Königswarter and the Königswarter coat of arms.**

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