

Czech – Liechtenstein TODAY



HEREDITARY PRINCE ALOIS VISITS PRAGUE CASTLE, HONOURING EMPEROR CHARLES IV

On Saturday 14 May 2016, the Czech Republic celebrated the 700th anniversary of the birth of Holy Roman Emperor, King of Bohemia, Lombardy and Burgundy, Margrave of Moravia and Count of Luxembourg, Charles IV (1316 - 1378). H. S. H. Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein also took part in celebrations of this anniversary at Prague Castle and in St Vitus Cathedral, along with Henri, Grand Duke of Luxembourg and Monaco's Prince Albert II.

Since the restoration of diplomatic relations between the Czech Republic and Liechtenstein in September 2009, this is the second meeting at the level of heads of states. The first was the visit of governing Prince Hans-Adam II to Prague Castle on 1 June 2010 when he met with then-President of the Czech Republic, Václav Klaus, on the occasion of the opening of the 'Classicism and Biedermeier in Liechtenstein's Princely Collections' exhibition, which took place in the Waldstein Palace Riding School in Prague.



H. S. H. HEREDITARY PRINCE ALOIS OF LIECHTENSTEIN AND CZECH PRESIDENT MILOŠ ZEMAN AT PRAGUE CASTLE

210TH ANNIVERSARY OF LIECHTENSTEIN SOVEREIGNTY

Liechtenstein is one of the oldest modern states in continuous sovereign existence

Prague 21 July: The defeat of Austria and Russia in the Battle of the Three Emperors on 5 December 1805 at Austerlitz (Slavkov) in South Moravia (the Czech Republic) resulted amongst other things in huge changes to the political map of Europe. Napoleon formed the Confederation of the Rhine from Holy Roman Empire states in southwest Germany, and France became its protector.

Although Liechtenstein was small and unimportant, Napoleon clearly wanted to win over its ruler, the leading imperial general and diplomat, Field Marshall Prince Johann I of Liechtenstein. As such, the principality was invited to negotiations on the founding of the Confederation of the Rhine (for more details see News archives, 24 June 2015). On 12 July 1806, the Treaty of the Confederation of the Rhine was signed in Paris, and since this date Liechtenstein has been considered a fully sovereign state. The Confederation

of the Rhine ceased to exist in the autumn of 1813, after the Battle of Leipzig in which Napoleon was defeated and subsequently forced to abdicate and exiled to the island of St. Helene.

France (843) and England (1066) are considered the oldest states in continuous existence. Other countries include, e.g., Turkey (1243), Spain (1479), Sweden (1523) and the USA (1776). The history of states in their current form is dated, e.g., for Belgium from 1830, Germany from 1871, the Czech Republic and Austria from 1918, etc.

In 2019 Liechtenstein will celebrate 300th anniversary of its formation by merging of county of Vaduz and domain of Schellenberg and their elevation to the imperial Principality of Liechtenstein, by emperor Charles V in 1719.

200 YEARS SINCE THE DEATH OF JOSEPH HARDTMUTH, THE LIECHTENSTEINS' TALENTED ARCHITECT, INVENTOR AND ENTREPRENEUR

Joseph Hardtmuth (1758-1816) was born to the family of master carpenter Anton Hardtmuth and Theresia née Meißl in Lower Austria's Asparn. Already in early childhood, he displayed a penchant for art, helping in his father's workshop and always drawing and designing furniture. At 13, he was sent to live with his uncle Meißl for three years, a builder who ran a construction operation in Poysdorf and undertook construction on the estate of Prince Aloys I of Liechtenstein, to learn the trade.



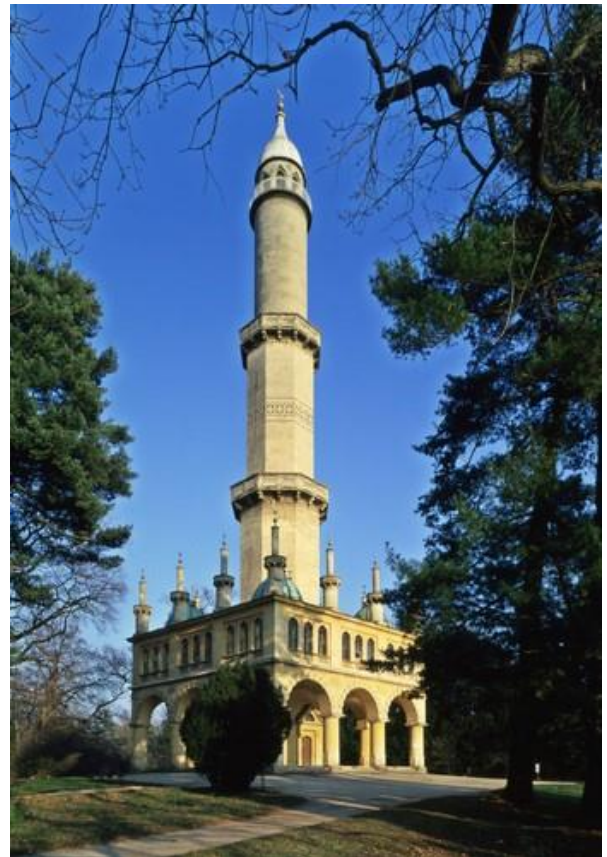
LIECHTENSTEIN'S ARCHITECT JOSEPH HARDTMUTH

His uncle recognised Joseph's talent and took advantage of his knowledge, something which also supported Joseph's professional development. In the evenings, Joseph learnt and improved his drawing and theory. Meißl acquired larger jobs in Vienna and moved the company's headquarters to Vienna, taking Joseph Hardtmuth into his company as partner. Thanks to his untiring work, in particular in drawing and acquiring knowledge from other disciplines, he was assigned complex tasks.

The then sovereign Prince Aloys I of Liechtenstein had a new palace built by builders from Poysdorf and Asparn on Herrenstraße in Vienna (demolished in 1913). Joseph Hardtmuth alone designed the palace front, as well as the internal and external palace layout and its furnishings in full detail. When Franz Meißl died, the Prince named Joseph Hardtmuth Princely architect, although he had been warned he was coarse and short-tempered in manner.



KOH-I-NOOR TRADE MARKS ARE REGISTERED IN LIECHTENSTEIN



MINARET, JOHN'S CASTLE OR DIANA TEMPLE (IN LEDNICE) ARE THE MOST FAMOUS HARDTMUTH'S BUILDINGS

His other works include: the gate to the Castle Park in Rossau, Vienna (1793), the church in Česká Třebová (1794) and three schools in the neighbourhood, the deanery in Rudoltice near Lanškroun, he rebuilt the castle in Koloděje (1803), built a castle in Adamov and the oldest Upper Bridge across the Macocha Abyss in Moravian Karst, rebuilt Nové zámky at Olomouc along with small pieces of architecture nearby and much more besides.

Joseph Hardtmuth was also a successful inventor. He invented a new method for drying malt, and designed a new type of brick furnace, and invented a new kind of stoneware and artificial pumice. His most well-known invention, however, is undoubtedly the modern pencil. Independently of his contemporary, Parisian mechanic N J Conté, he succeeded in mixing powdered graphite and clay to produce a solid of variable hardness level and embed it within a wooden sheath.

In 1790, he set up a pencil factory in Vienna, and in 1848 manufacturing was moved to České Budějovice, leading to the expansion of the KOH-I-NOOR L. C. Hardtmuth company. The quality of this new writing implement was expressed in the name of the brand, Koh-i-Noor, which is the anglicised version of a Persian expression meaning Mountain of Light – also the name of a rare Indian diamond which has been a part of Britain's Crown Jewels since 1839.

ANOTHER COURT DECISION THAT THE FORESTS IN THE ŘÍČANY DISTRICT DO NOT BELONG TO THE LIECHTENSTEINS

Prague, 18 May 2016: The Municipal Appeals Court in Prague has decided that the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation must give the state 600 hectares of land in Central Bohemia which were entered into the land registry in 2014. 'According to the Beneš Decrees, nationalisation was a statutory legal act which cannot be judged in terms of related legal defects,' said judge, Kateřina Švecová.

In its initial verdict, the court recognised that the Liechtenstein family had been wronged, but: 'The state has expressed its willingness to mitigate only some injustices, making it clear it would not correct those which occurred before 1948,' as Judge Klára Obrtlíková stated in the verdict of the District Court for Prague-East (11 November 2015). The Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation claims that the Beneš Decrees never applied to citizens of neutral Liechtenstein.

CZECH-LIECHTENSTEIN COMMISSION OF HISTORIANS ENTERS A SECOND PHASE

Prague, 17 February 2016: On Monday 15 February 2016, the Czech-Liechtenstein Commission of Historians met in Vienna with a new mandate and in a new composition in a constituent session, and subsequently its first ordinary working meeting. The constituent session was chaired by Liechtenstein's Ambassador in the Czech Republic, H. S. H. Maria-Pia Kothbauer Princess of Liechtenstein, and the Czech Ambassador in Austria, Jan Sechter. The Commission of Historians was set up in 2011 on the basis of an agreement between the governments of both countries as consequence of the restoration of diplomatic relations (relations were restored on 19 September 2009).

During its first phase of joint operations in 2010-2013, the Commission of Historians looked at roughly seven hundred years of history of the House of Liechtenstein on the territory of today's Czech Republic and relations between the Czech Republic and the Principality of Liechtenstein in the 20th century. Its outcomes were published in eight collections in both Czech and German.

The Commission comprises a total of eight members, always four from each country, and Professor Tomáš Knoz (Czech Republic) and Dr Peter Geiger (Principality of Liechtenstein) were named chairmen for the subsequent four years. The outcomes of the Commission of Historian's research during

its first phase have brought key findings on more than 700 years of joint history of the Czech lands, the House of Liechtenstein and modern history relating to the Principality of Liechtenstein. We trust that the Commission's further research will uncover more fascinating information and help to deal with open issues regarding our joint history.



MEMBERS OF THE CZECH-LIECHTENSTEIN HISTORY COMMISSION AND AMBASSADORS OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND LIECHTENSTEIN

ZEMĚ SVĚTA – LICHTENŠTEJNSKO (COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD – LIECHTENSTEIN) MAGAZINE PUBLISHED

Lednice 6 June 2016: Lednice Castle's Knight's Hall bore witness to a presentation of the Země světa magazine issue 6/2016 focused on Liechtenstein. The magazine presentation took place with the participation of H.S.H. Maria-Pia Kothbauer Princess of Liechtenstein, H. S. H. Prince Wolfgang of Liechtenstein, Deputy Governor of the South Moravian Region Marek Šlapal, Secretary of the Statutory City of Opava Tomáš Elis, the mayors of the towns of Moravský Krumlov and Valtice (Tomáš Třetina and Pavel Trojan), Editor in Chief of Země světa Miluše Žáková, Chairman of Historic Association Liechtenstein Pavel Juřík and other guests.

On the 72 pages of the magazine Země světa readers will find 13 articles which tell of the history, sites and museums, countryside, vineyards, industry and banking of this 'Alpine tiger' in an engaging style. The magazine today gives the most comprehensive view of the Principality of Liechtenstein. The articles are illustrated by unique photographs by the authors, or from Liechtenstein's Princely collections. This particular issue has been supported by the government agency, Liechtenstein Marketing, the South Moravian Region, the Statutory City of Opava and the town of Moravský Krumlov (which in 1633 was renamed 'Liechtenstein' for a certain period and was the capital of the

titular Imperial Principality of the same name – which was founded almost 100 years before today's Liechtenstein).

We hope the magazine provides useful information for readers, not only in area of tourism.



MAGAZIN ZEMĚ SVĚTA – LIECHTENSTEIN

PICTURE FROM THE PRESENTATION OF THE MAGAZINE

LIECHTENSTEIN - NEW BOOK

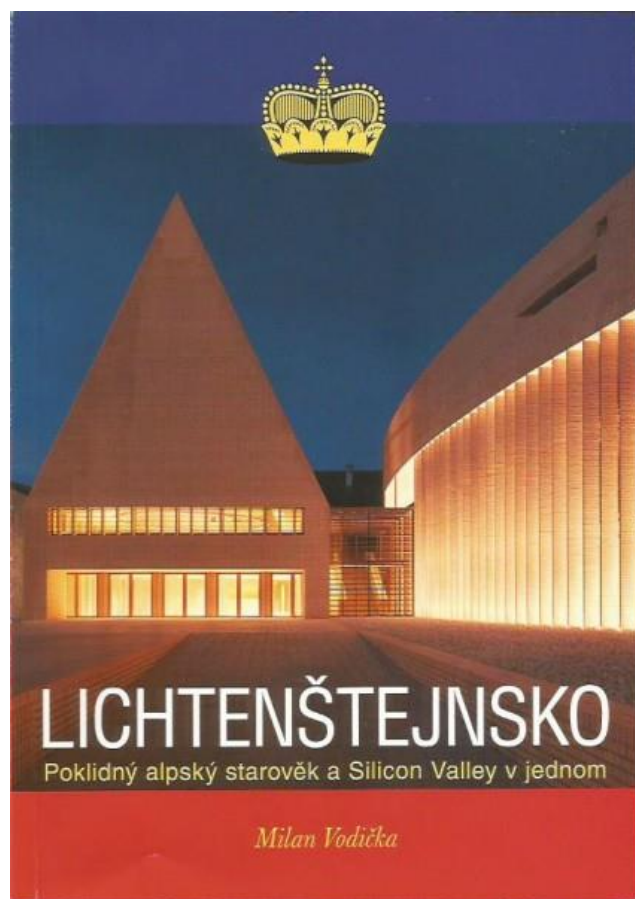
Prague, 20 February 2016: The Historic Association has supported as patron the publication of Czech journalist Milan Vodička's book, *Lichtenštejnsko, Poklidný starověk a Silicon Valley v jednom* (Liechtenstein, Tranquil Antiquity and Silicon Valley in One).

On 64 pages, the author gives a fascinating view of the present and history of one of the countries with the highest standards of living in the world. He engagingly describes the establishment of the principality, and in particular the birth of its industry, today comprising more than 40 % of its GDP.

Did you know why there is a Liechtenstein flag in the National Museum in Vaduz which journeyed to the moon in 1969 on Apollo 11 and back along with the thanks of the President of the USA for Liechtenstein's help in the space programme? Did you know that 40% of dental implants and technology in Europe comes from Liechtenstein? Find out all this and more in this enjoyable book.

JOSEF HARDTMUTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

On September 15-16, 2016 international conference „*Joseph Hardtmuth, Architect, Inventor and Businessman in Service of the Liechtensteins*“ will take place in Lednice. The conference is organised by National Technical Museum in Prague.



Newsletter Czech – Liechtenstein TODAY

Redaction: Pavel Juřík, e-mail: info@hs-liechtenstein.cz Photographs: © iDnes, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Wikipedia.com