

Czech – Liechtenstein TODAY



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WELCOME HOME! PRINCE HANS-ADAM II VISITS OPAVA



H. S. H. Hans-Adam II Reigning Prince of Liechtenstein and H. S. H. Maria-Pia Kothbauer Princess of Liechtenstein, ambassador of Liechtenstein to the Czech Republic, in Opava (foto: Roman Konečný)

On 18 – 19 May 2015, the sovereign Prince of Liechtenstein, Hans-Adam II, visited the statutory city of Opava, formerly the residence of the Duchy of Troppau. The Prince was accompanied in Opava by his cousin, Princess of Liechtenstein and Ambassador of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the Czech Republic and Austria, Maria-Pia Kothbauer.

During an official lunch with selected Opava figures, he confessed that everyone in Liechtenstein knows about Opava from when they are small. 'We have the Opava and Silesia coat of arms in our coat of arms, and as such every schoolchild learns about Opava. I'm glad I've finally managed to see Opava. Although I've been to the Czech Republic a number of times, this is the first time I've been to Opava.'

revealed the Prince, who remains today the Duke of Troppau (Opava) and Jägerndorf (Krnov).

The agreeable sovereign, who was in engaging good form, took a walk through the city after Monday's lunch. 'Opava is a beautifully renovated city,' he said of his host city. The Prince is known for his interest in culture, history and architecture. As such, the city arranged a programme for him to cover his interests. Over the course of the day, he visited the Cathedral of the Assumption of Our Lady, home of a valuable epitaph stone to Prince Karl I of Liechtenstein, then he crossed Horní náměstí, along Hrnčířska and Masarykova streets to Dolní náměstí, where he admired the Church of St Adalbert, which still today contains the Liechtenstein coat of arms. He was particularly interested in getting a detailed history of Opava's monuments, how they were damaged in the war, and how they were subsequently restored.



After his walk through the city, the Prince was welcomed at the city hall by mayor, Martin Víteček, who gave the Prince the gift of a 400-year old silver coin minted in 1615 in the Duchy of Troppau's mint. The gift was donated to the Prince by the city from an important Opava coin-collector who wanted to remain anonymous. The silver 3 kreutzer coin weighing 1.61 grams contains the face of Prince Karl I of Liechtenstein. The Prince also received a picture of the Liechtensteins' former castle in Opava and Bohemian crystal. The Prince then climbed Hláška tower to view the city from a bird's eye perspective.



This was followed by the day's highlight, the launch of Pavel Juřík's book, 'Liechtensteinové – historie a sídla knížecího rodu' (The House of Liechtenstein – the History and Residences of the Princely Family). The book was launched not just by the author and mayor, but also Hans Adam II himself. The Prince was greeted by two hundred citizens

spontaneously standing and applauding. The rare visit was further enhanced with a performance by the children's choir, Domino, who sang the Liechtenstein national anthem.



In his speech, the Prince spoke of his family's historical relations with Opava, and he wished the city and its inhabitants all the best in future. He thanked the book's author, Pavel Juřík, for his many years' support for the development of relations between the Czech Republic and Liechtenstein. After the launch, both guests took part in a book-signing of the Liechtenstein book, and the Prince also signed his book, 'The State in the Third Millennium' (Grada 2011), with other books visitors brought also being signed.

In the evening, there was a banquet at the Silesian University. This was conceived as an excursion into historic Bohemian, Moravian and Silesian cuisine. Guests were served by university students, and the Prince then personally thanked them and had his photo taken with them.

On Tuesday, the Prince and Princess took a tour of the Silesian Museum. 'I used to want to be an architect, and I'm really interested in history and I'm glad I can tour this beautiful museum,' said the Prince. By chance, there was an exhibition entitled, 'The Land and its Master' dedicated to the Liechtensteins amongst other important patrons. Prince Johann II (1840-1929) was responsible for construction of the museum's new building, and he donated a large amount of his collections to it. The Prince declared that he was delighted with his reception in Opava and promised to visit this city again.

PRINCESS MARIE OF LIECHTENSTEIN REACHES A MILESTONE

The wife of the Head of the Principality of Liechtenstein is celebrating her 75th birthday. Born in Prague, she spent some of her childhood in South Bohemia. Her main fields of interest include art, education and social care.



It doesn't often happen in modern history that a member of a ruling family was born within Czech Republic territory. One such figure is Marie-Agläe, née Countess Kinská, who was born on 14 April 1940 in Prague, wife of the Principality of Liechtenstein's current Head of State, Hans-Adam II (*14. 2. 1945).

Princess Marie was born as the fourth child of Count Ferdinand Kinsky (1907-1969) and Countess Henriette of Ledebur-Wicheln (1910-2002). She had three sisters and three brothers. Her father came from the princely branch of the Czech House of Kinsky of Wchinitz and Tettau. As a girl, Marie spent her childhood at the castle in Horažďovice until 1945, and subsequently in Bavaria.



Princess Marie with her husband, Prince Hans-Adam II at celebrations of Liechtenstein's state holiday on 15 August 2014 (Crown Prince Alois with his wife Sophie in background)

Her father took over management of the estate in Horažďovice in 1928 and five years later moved there with his wife. He was head of the Scouts in Horažďovice, honorary chairman of Horažďovice Sports Club and a member of other

organisations. Her mother learnt to speak Czech very well. During the Second World War, they did not side with the occupying powers, but rather intervened in favour of their fellow Czech citizens with the occupying authorities. As such, as honourable Czech Germans, they could be reproached for nothing. After being interrogated, they were expelled by the laws of the time to Germany.

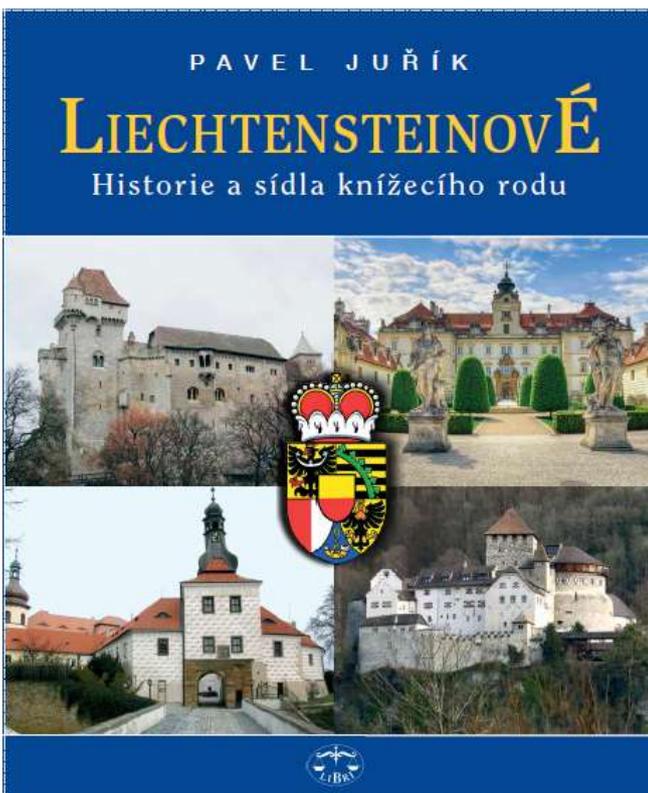
From 1946 to 1950, Marie Kinsky attended the Benedictine Sisters' elementary school in Wald Cloister in Baden-Württemberg and studied at grammar school. In 1957, she went to Great Britain to perfect her English. She then studied at the Academy for Applied Arts. Art remains her great passion today. She picked up French during a stay in Paris. In 1965, she began work as a graphic artist for a print shop in Germany.

Although the young Prince Karel Schwarzenberg visited the Kinsky home, the young Countess's heart was won by another admirer. On Sunday 30 July 1967, she married Crown Prince Hans-Adam in Vaduz's Church of St Florin (Vaduz Cathedral). It was her choice, and the princess was never sorry. In the summer of the following year, the first son was born to the Princely couple, Crown Prince Alois (*11. 7. 1968). The family grew to include Princes Maximilian (*16. 5. 1969) and Constantin (*15. 3. 1972) and their daughter Tatjana (10. 4. 1973). They have given the couple 15 grandchildren.

As wife of the Head of State, Princess Marie participates in many political events in the Principality and internationally. In Liechtenstein, she is engaged in the fields of culture, education and social care. She is the President of Liechtenstein's Red Cross and the Society for Therapeutic-Pedagogical Aid. As an art expert, she offers invaluable advice to Prince Hans-Adam II in the purchase of art works for the celebrated Princely Collections, which her husband has expanded in size by more than a third. As such, she greeted the renovation of both Liechtenstein palaces in Vienna with great pleasure, the palaces having been damaged during the Second World War. The Garden Palace and City Palace (Stadtpalais) were opened to the public in 2003 and 2013 following renovation work costing over 120 million Euro.

The Princess maintains contact with her family in the Czech Republic (the Kinsky family) and other friends. She visited the Czech Republic for the first time together with her husband in March 2012 for the occasion of the opening of an exhibition on the life and work of Prince Hans-Adam I, which was held at the castle in Mikulov. The town of Horažďovice also maintains contact with the House of Kinsky. The town is often visited, for example, by the Princess's elder brother, Professor Ferdinand Kinský (*1934), who is an honorary citizen of the town. His second-born son Johannes (1964-2008) was a well-known banker and board member of Erste Bank and Česká spořitelna.

NEW BOOK ABOUT THE LIECHTENSTEINS WAS LAUNCHED IN OPAVA



Opava May 18: The culmination of the first day of the prince's visit in the capital of Silesia Opava was the launch of the book "*Liechtenstein, History and Residences of the Princely House*", by Pavel Jurik. The book was published under the auspices and with a foreword of Mgr. Daniel Herman, Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic.

Book launch took place at May 18 in the church of St. Wenceslas in Opava, which is now a gallery and cultural center. The ceremony was attended by about two hundred guests and inhabitants of Opava, who did not miss the opportunity to greet "*their Opava Duke*" and have him sign and author the new book about one of the most important aristocratic families in Central Europe.

The book was published by Libri, it has 360 pages of large format B4 and four hundred color photos. It documents the history of the family from the 12th century until 2014.

The second book launch was held on June 1, 2015 in Nostitz Palace in Prague (Czech Ministry of Culture), with the participation of Deputy Minister of Culture Dr. Kateřina Kalistová and Marie-Pia Kothbauer Princess of Liechtenstein Ambassador of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the Czech Republic.



Autho of the book Pavel Juřík and H. S. H. Prince Hans-Adam II signing the books (foto: Roman Konečný)