

# Česko – Lichtenštejnsko DNES



Historic Association Liechtenstein, Czech Republic

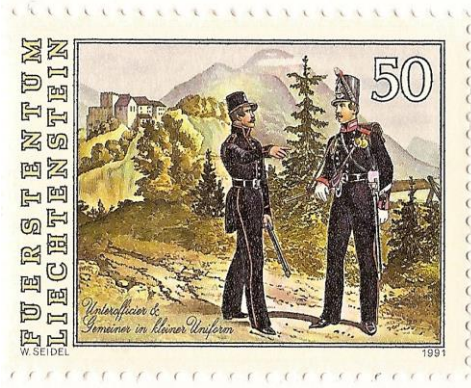
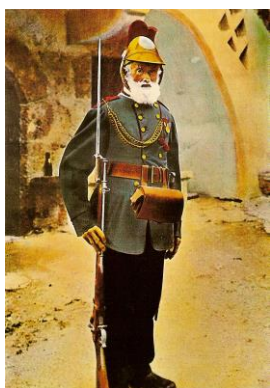
## LICHTENSTEIN CHAIRS THE OSCE'S FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION

Vienna, 23. 1. 2013: On 23 January 2013, Liechtenstein took over chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)'s Forum for Security Co-operation. Chairwoman, HSH Maria-Pia Kothbauer, Princess of Liechtenstein, Liechtenstein Ambassador in Austria, the Czech Republic, the OSCE and the UN Office in Vienna, launched the forum meeting. Liechtenstein has been a member of the OSCE since 1973, and formally took over chairmanship on 23 January 2013 in Vienna.

Chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)'s Forum for Security Co-operation rotates between its member states three times a year. In four months, chairmanship will transfer to Lithuania, to be followed by the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. For decades, Liechtenstein has been known for its support for human rights worldwide and the very high level of human and constitutional rights in the Principality, which are considered exemplary. Liechtenstein is one of six European countries without an army.



Her Serene Highness Maria-Pia Kothbauer Princess Liechtenstein during opening speech on January 23. Counselor Domenik Wanger in right.



Liechtenstein abolished its army in 1868 after the Austro-Prussian War. Her last soldier died in 1939 at the age of 95 years (in picture). • Not only do well-known leaders (e.g. Marshall Johann I, Prince of Liechtenstein) remind us of the Liechtenstein army, but postal stamps do too.

## 90 YEARS OF SWITZERLAND – LIECHTENSTEIN CUSTOM TREATY

The Principality of Liechtenstein and Switzerland are closely bound to one another by economic, regional and friendly ties. It has however not always been so. Over many long years Liechtenstein's eastern neighbor Austria was its most important partner in a constantly changing world. Firstly by its immediate proximity, without the natural frontier represented by the Rhine, and secondly by the origin of the Princely House, which into the 1930s had its principal home in Vienna, a circumstance which denoted a strong political and economic orientation towards the Danube monarchy. The seal was put on this orientation in 1852 by a joint customs union, which broke up however in 1918 with the fall of the Danube monarchy. The small Principality was thus forced to reposition itself in foreign-policy terms and set about seeking a new partner, which it eventually found to the west of the Rhine. 29th March 1923 saw the signing of the customs treaty with the Confederation under which Liechtenstein became part of the Swiss customs area. The

economic survival of the at that time still impoverished Principality was thereby assured; since then however Liechtenstein's foreign policy has to a large extent been determined by the agreements stipulated in this customs treaty. But this was readily accepted: from then onwards Switzerland proved itself an extremely reliable partner.

The "Switzerland-Liechtenstein Customs Treaty 1923-2013" jubilee double stamp shows a view from a helicopter positioned above the southern national border. The central and unifying element is the Rhine, weaving its way northwards through the Rhine valley. To its left, on the "Switzerland" stamp (face value CHF 2.00), one can see parts of the Eastern Switzerland Rhine valley and the Gonen; on the right-hand "Liechtenstein" stamp (face value CHF 2.00) one can see the Ellhorn and, in the background, the Liechtenstein valley region. The aerial photograph was taken by the Liechtenstein photographer Marco Nescher; both stamps were designed by Stefan Erne.



The Liechtenstein Post Office issued commemorative stamps for the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of customs union.

## ARCHITECTURAL JEWEL AWAKES FROM SLUMBER

*Vienna 23. 1. 2013: The Liechtenstein City Palace on Bankgasse prepares for opening following years of renovation.*

The Liechtenstein family built four palaces in Vienna, of which three have been preserved. Ten years ago, the Liechtenstein Museum was opened in the so-called Garden Palace, giving the public access to true gems of European art (e.g. 33 P.P. Rubens canvases, the Golden Carriage of Prince Joseph Wenzel of Liechtenstein, and more). Now, after six years of renovation, preparations are underway for the official opening of the so-called City Palace, or Majorats Palais, on Bankgasse, not far from the residence of Austrian presidents.

On Wednesday 23 January 2013, a press conference took place in the Liechtenstein Palace with the participation of His Serene Highness Hans-Adam II, reigning Prince of

Liechtenstein, his son Prince Constantin, and architect of the renovation work, Prof. Manfred Wehdorn. Some seventy journalists didn't let the option of taking a tour of the palace pass them by, and had the opportunity of being the first to visit the halls when fully renovated, even those where restorers are still finishing their work. The last interior work will be completed by the end of March. The renovation has cost more than EUR 100 million. The palace will be used for cultural and social events for the House of Liechtenstein, the Liechtenstein Museum, the Liechtenstein Embassy, the Princely Family's LGT Bank and other institutions. Special events will take place at least twice a month for the public. Individual tours can be arranged with those expressing serious interest.



**Liechtenstein Prince Hans-Adam II and his son, Prince Constantin (middle and left) at the press conference with architect, Prof. Manfred Wehdorn, responsible for the palace renovation. • The so-called Majorats Liechtenstein City Palace on Bankgasse, Vienna, has undergone costly renovations.**

The Liechtenstein City Palace is considered the first building in the High Baroque style in Vienna. Dominik Ondřej of Kounice (Dominik Andreas I Graf von Kaunitz) began construction on it in 1691, but three years later he sold the unfinished building to Prince Hans-Adam I of Liechtenstein, founder of the Principality of Liechtenstein. The building was completed by Gabriele di Gabrieli and Domenico Martinelli in 1711. On the front facade to Bankgasse, Martinelli constructed a monumental Baroque portal, which became a model for other palaces in Vienna. Martinelli built the sides of the palace fronting

Minoritenplatz and the monumental staircase together with Johann Lucas of Hildebrandt.

The sculptures on the facade, attic and interiors are the work of Giovanni Giuliani and the stucco decoration was created by Santino Bussi. Michael Kroll and Wolfgang Steinböck created the main staircase in 1699. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the halls on the first floor were remodelled in Rococo Revival style. The palace interiors impress with the high quality of its details, including stucco, engravings and parquet flooring. The largest room is the dance hall, which

was lit by up to 700 candles. The orchestra was cleverly hidden behind a rotating wall on the gallery. One of the technical achievements of the time was, e.g. the rotating door to the dance hall, which became a mirror after rotating.

In 1945, the palace building was extensively damaged in the Allied bombing of Vienna. Luckily, the bombs missed the palace, but an American bomber was shot down crashed

into the roof – luckily it didn't explode. It resulted in serious damage to the roof and grand staircase and the collapse of a number of floors. Emergency repairs were performed on the palace, but further repairs didn't take place until the 1970s. Prince Hans-Adam II remembers first visiting the palace in 1953 when he was eight. The palace was in very poor condition: *'There was an unexploded bomb and a crashed plane on the roof. It looked like a wasteland.'*



**Restorers complete gilding of the frames of the large Venetian mirrors. • The dance hall still impresses today with its beauty and technical refinements (orchestra hidden on the gallery, rotating doors-mirrors and more).**

### Princely Collections and interiors open to the public

The Liechtenstein City Palace is exhibiting hundreds of pieces of art from the Biedermeier era to the public, says Director of the Princely Collections, Dr Johann Kräftner. The works of leading artists of the period such as Friedrich von Amerling, Friedrich Gauermann and Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller will be on view. Most of the original palace furnishings from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, however, will remain with depositaries: *'Were we to show everything, there wouldn't be any large space for visitors,'* says Dr Kräftner.

Prince Constantin, CEO of the Liechtenstein Foundation, introduced journalists to the concept of *'meaningful and sustainable palace use'*. Through organising company events and tours, *'operating costs, which are high, can be covered.'* Hire of rooms will be managed by Liechtenstein GmbH, which operates the Liechtensteins' City and Garden Palaces in Vienna.



**Liechtenstein palace in 19<sup>th</sup> century, after the end of the Second World War and in 2013.**

## CATOLICISM NO LONGER STATE RELIGION IN LIECHTENSTEIN

22. 12. 2012 *Vaduz*: The Catholic Church has lost the status of national church, which it has hitherto been guaranteed by the constitution. The decision was made by the parliament in Vaduz on Thursday in a vote on a constitutional amendment which puts the Catholic Church on the same level as smaller religious communities – Evangelicals and Muslims. Now all taxpayers will state in their tax return which of these churches they wish to contribute towards, or whether they intend to finance the state.

The 'tax mandate' system, similar to that in Italy, for example, will result in a reduction in income for the Catholic Church. At the same time, its privileged position in the education system will also end with the ending of obligatory religious instruction. Liechtenstein, with three

quarters of its population Catholics, has also submitted to the principle of religious freedom as set by the European Union. The state laicization process began five years ago, and its final chapter will be the preparation of a new agreement with the Vatican, which will define in full the separation of the state from the Church.

Until 1997, a Deanery had sat in Vaduz, which with Liechtenstein was part of the Diocese of Chur in Switzerland. In February 1997, Pope John Paul II elevated the Deanery to an Archdiocese, made up of parishes. On 21 December of that year, the Church of St Florin was raised to the dignity of an Archbishop's Cathedral.

## 390<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIECHTENSTEINS IN KOSTELEC NAD ČERNÝMI LESY REGION

2013 marks 390 years since the arrival of the Princely Family of Liechtenstein in the Kostelec nad Černými lesy region. It will also be 80 years since the forced purchase of their property, resulting in their having to leave the region in 1933. 310 years of the family in the Central Bohemia Region have made their mark in the region, so we'd like to mark some of its personalities and major buildings.

### 1. Karl I of Liechtenstein

One of the most significant members of the family was Karl I of Liechtenstein (30. 7. 1569 - 12. 2. 1627 Prague), first-born son of Hartmann II of Liechtenstein. He received top-class education at the celebrated Czech Brethren school in Ivančice, where his fellow pupils included future adversaries, Carl von Zierotin and Count Jindřich Matyáš Thurn.

In 1596, he married Anna Maria Černoorská of Boskovice (1569 - 6. 6. 1625 Plumlov), daughter of the wealthy Moravian nobleman, Jan Šembera of Boskovice († 1597). In doing so, he wedded into the profitable estates of Černá Hora and Úsov. Karl's younger brother Maxmilian married his sister-in-law's sister, Catherine of Boskovice (1579-1637). It was Karl I who ended the family's Protestant affiliation in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. When he saw greater prospects in service to the Emperor and converted to Catholicism with his wife in 1599, both of his brothers followed him shortly afterwards.

Karl I of Liechtenstein's political career began in 1593 when he became Governor of the Hradištsko Region. He was

assured of fast career progression through his provision of large loans to the Emperor. In 1600-1603 and 1606-1607, he was Emperor Rudolf II's Chief Intendant (Hofmeister). From 1604-1606 he was sent by the Emperor to Moravia as Provincial Governor as a result of the scheming of his adversaries. His main task was to defend the Moravian Margraviate from the soldiers of Stephen Bocskay, a task in which he proved himself and demonstrated his political foresight.

On 30 March 1607, he acquired great privileges from the Emperor, being awarded the so-called Great Palatinate which offered numerous prestigious benefits (e.g. the right to mint your own coins, elevation to the lower nobility, and more). In the dispute between Emperor Rudolf II and his brother, Archduke Matthias, he cleverly backed Matthias. For so doing, Matthias ennobled him as hereditary prince in the Czech Lands on 20 December 1608. In January 1614, he was conferred the Duchy of Troppau (Opava), and in March 1622 also the Duchy of Krnov.



After the Battle of White Mountain, the Emperor appointed Karl against his will to head the tribunal which judged the Czech 'rebels'. In January 1621, his political career reached its pinnacle when Emperor Ferdinand II named him proconsul and vice-regent of the Kingdom of Bohemia. He carried out this function until his death in 1627. In September 1622, he became a Knight of the Order of the Golden Fleece.

Like Albrecht of Wallenstein, the House of Lobkowitz and the House of Eggenberg, Karl I gained wealth from acquiring confiscated properties after the Battle of White Mountain. He was also one of 15 members of the so-called minting consortium, which minted poor quality silver coins, resulting in state bankruptcy in 1623.

In January 1623, he purchased the Kostelec estate, Roztoky, Uhřetěves and Škvorec from Albrecht of Wallenstein, building up a family enclave near the Kingdom's capital. The Prince often stayed at the Kostelec castle, and it was here that he died of a stroke on 12 February 1627, it is said after receiving news of the plundering of his Silesian estates by imperial soldiers.

His son, Karl Eusebius (11. 4. 1611 – 5. 4. 1684 Kostelec nad Černými lesy) had to face charges of fraud involving millions of gulden against his father from his activities in the so-

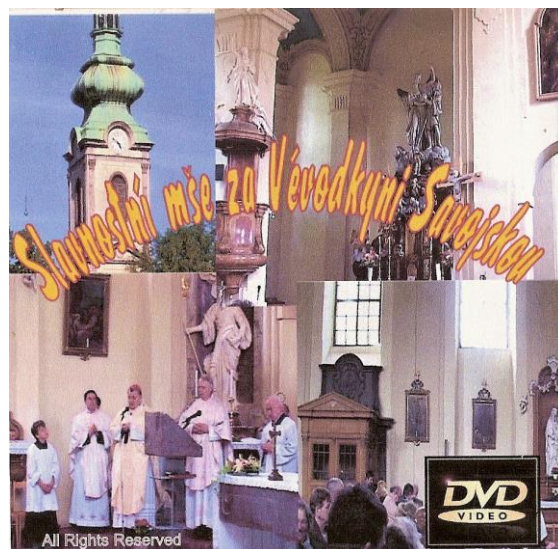
called minting consortium. In 1634, the Royal Chamber questioned the House of Liechtenstein's ownership of the Kostelec estate, and confiscated it as the Prince could not demonstrate his legitimate possession. The estate was returned in 1653 after payment of 400 000 gulden.

Prince Karl Eusebius avoided politics, instead spending most time managing his estates and involved in his hobbies. Under his reign, the castle in Valtice was converted to Baroque style as the chief Princely residence. The sick Prince died in Kostelec castle and was buried in the castle's St Adalbert Chapel. In 1699, his body was transferred to the new family tomb in Vranov u Brna.

*To be continued*

## DVD FROM THE SOLEMN MASS FOR THE DUCHESS OF SAVOY

A Solemn Mass took place on 1 June 2012 for Duchess Theresia of Savoy-Carignano, born Princess of Liechtenstein, in the Church of the Holy Guardian Angels in Kostelec nad Černými lesy, at the end of a visit by HSH Constantin, Prince of Liechtenstein and HSH Maria-Pia Kothbauer, Princess of Liechtenstein (see newsletter no. 3/2012). The mass was officiated by Mons. Dominik Duka, cardinal, Archbishop of Prague and Czech primate. This event has been recorded on DVD, which you can order: [eduard.cubr@seznam.cz](mailto:eduard.cubr@seznam.cz) (price: 300 CZK + postage).



## MOST BEAUTIFUL POSTAL STAMPS IN THE WORLD

Czech Post has the most beautiful stamp in the world. A ten-crown stamp with a postal museum design has won the prestigious *Grand Prix de l'Exposition* competition at the WIPA 2012 world exhibition in Vienna. Postal authorities could only enter one stamp into the prestigious competition incorporated into the WIPA Vienna world exhibition. Czech Post chose a stamp by Slovakian artist

Dušan Kállay, with further inscriptions added by Miloš Ondráček.

Stamps from Liechtenstein and Slovakia took second and third place. The rest of the top ten stamps were from Sweden, the Vatican, Ukraine, Croatia, Russia, Germany and Iceland.



The most beautiful postal stamps in the world 2012 are from the Czech Republic and Liechtenstein.

Introducing Liechtenstein companies: **HILTI**

## FROM A SMALL COMPANY TO A GLOBAL CORPORATION

One of the largest employers in Liechtenstein is Hilti, a company with an extensive network of branches and dealerships abroad. Every builder and DIY enthusiast will be familiar with its products, mainly small construction tools (e.g. drills, pneumatic drills). Hilti's product portfolio, however, is much wider and also includes mining systems, mooring equipment, mounting systems and fire protection systems.

The story of this manufacturer of construction equipment and supplier of cutting edge technologies and materials began in 1941. At its beginnings, it was a small family engineering company founded by Martin Hilti. Today, its products and services are supplied to customers in more than 120 countries in the world and it has almost 20 000 employees. Since 2000, all the company's shares have been held by the Martin Hilti Family Trust, which since 2008 has also held all Hilti Corporation participation certificates. This

ensures the life's work of company founder, Martin Hilti, will continue for many years to come.

Hilti excels in excellence in innovation, total quality, direct customer relationships and effective marketing. Two thirds of its employees work directly with the customer in sales organisations and in engineering, representing more than 200 000 customer contacts every day. Hilti has its own production plants and research and development centres in Europe and Asia.

In 1980, the Hilti family founded **The Hilti Foundation**, focused on supporting cultural, social, scientific and educational projects. These include, e.g. underwater archaeologist Franck Goddio's research expedition to Egypt. This expedition succeeded in finding the precise location of the ancient port in Alexandria. The Foundation is managed by Michael Hilti, President of the Foundation Board and member of the Hilti AG Board of Directors.



**Company founder, Martin Hilti.**

## **New books: THE LEDNICE-VALTICE ESTATE**

Authors: Pavel Zatloukal (ed.), Přemysl Krejčířík, Ondřej Zatloukal

Photography: Jiří Podrazil

Publisher: FOIBOS BOOKS s. r. o. , languages: Czech, English, German

The third book in Foibos's UNESCO Monuments series looks at the Lednice-Valtice estate. The Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape, known in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as the 'Garden of Europe', is a creation both human and natural in origin. The House of Liechtenstein was a major force in its creation, building castles, and founding gardens, parks and ponds on their estate here. In 1996, the Cultural Landscape was entered in the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage List.

The landscape is dominated by the castles of Lednice and Valtice. Both buildings are linked with the names of leading artists. Lednice Castle, built in English Neo-Gothic style, is particularly attractive to visitors, mainly due to the manneristic park with its small buildings, notably the minaret, a structure unique in Europe. There are other small buildings in the Lednice-Valtice estate, sensitively incorporated into the attractive landscape.



**The Lednice-Valtice Estate photo-book has been published in Czech, German and English versions.**

The book, edited by Prof. Pavel Zatloukal and with two other co-authors, looks not only at the buildings in the estate, but also at the extensive parks and gives a detailed history of Lednice, Valtice and Břeclav. The text is accompanied by a wide range of photographs and maps at the end of the book.