

Czech – Liechtenstein TODAY



CZECH REPUBLIC AND LIECHTENSTEIN ENDORSE COMMISSION OF HISTORIANS' REPORT

Prague, 13 January 2014: During a working meeting, Liechtenstein's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Aurelia Frick, and Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jan Kohout, today, Monday, approved the report of the Commission of Historians which was set up by the two governments and gave a joint declaration. The Czech-Liechtenstein Commission of Historians was set up as part of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries on 8 September 2009 with the signature of a memorandum between the governments of both countries.

The eight-member commission, made up of equal numbers of members of both countries and chaired by Tomáš Knoz (Czech Republic) and Dr Peter Geiger (Principality of Liechtenstein), has over the last three years prepared a joint history of Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia and the Princely House of Liechtenstein. In so doing, light was also shed on the relations between Liechtenstein and the Czech lands during the 20th century. The results were submitted to both governments in a joint report.

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Liechtenstein's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Culture, Aurelia Frick, and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Jan Kohout, at their press conference at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic in Czernin Palace, Prague. (Photo: Robert Janás, MZV)

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Continued from pg. 1: *'The Commission of Historians' report illustrates the exceptionally fruitful and unique alliance of our countries,'* says Aurelia Frick. *'It represents an important contribution to mutual understanding and further co-operation.'* The mutual history of Liechtenstein and Moravia dates back to 1249, when Henry of Liechtenstein (1233-1265) acquired Mikulov Castle from the Margrave of Moravia for his loyalty.

During the working meeting, the ministers exchanged opinions on the results of their fruitful co-operation in foreign policy, which was extended from 2009 to include the fields of economy, culture and education, and they prepared a mutual declaration on the report of the Commission of Historians.

The ministers praised the Commission of Historians' work, in particularly their findings relating to the extensive contribution of the Princely House of Liechtenstein to Czech and European cultural history, something still visible today. In addition, stress was placed on their contribution to economic development in forestry and agriculture, to administration, but also to social issues in many regions in Czech Republic territory. The ministers appreciated the discussion of dramatic events, not only in the 20th century,

and their negative impact on relations between both states and their citizens, as well as of the distinct role of the Principality of Liechtenstein.

The roots of the Princely House of Liechtenstein in the Czech lands and their acts in the regions of the current Czech Republic for a period of over 700 years unite both countries in their relations. *'Consequently, despite continuing different approaches in relation to certain issues, our countries have a natural closeness,'* says Aurelia Frick. *'We want to take this as a chance to further develop our relations to the benefit of our citizens and deepen them with regular exchanges and specific initiatives.'*

On the basis of the recommendations of the Commission of Historians, and in order to promote mutual understanding and overcome a historical picture often shaped by stereotypes, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs have decided in this context to publish the Commission of Historians' report in order to give information on results in the years to come through talks, exhibitions and other media resources to the general public. Additional research projects which arise from the Commission's work are also to be assessed. The results of the historians' work have already been partially published in the magazine, *Matice Moravské CXXXI/2012, Supplementum 3*. The full report will be published during the course of this year.



The chair of the Czech section of the mixed commission, Prof PhDr Tomáš Knoz, PhD, from Masaryk University in Brno summarises the results of the historians' work. (Photo: Robert Janás, MZV)

600TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIECHTENSTEINS AS THE PRINCIPALITY OF TROPPAU

In January 2014, we commemorated the 400th anniversary of the acquisition of the Principality of Troppau (Opava) by Karl I of Liechtenstein as a fiefdom. He had received the title of Prince in August 1608 from Matthias, King of Hungary and Archduke of Austria as a reward in his conflict with the older brother of Emperor Rudolf II. But Karel I didn't have a real principality. Only at the end of 1613 did the now Emperor Matthias decide to deal with the problematic situation which the Principality of Troppau was in by granting it to Prince Karl I.

On 28 December 1613 in Linz, the Emperor and Prince Karel I signed an agreement on the transfer of the Principality of Troppau, on the basis of which a fief letter was issued. The Emperor ordered the Highest Silesian Governor, Charles II of Münsterberg-Oels, to accept an obligatory feudal tribute

from the new Prince and introduce him to the Diet in Bratislav. The city of Opava was ready to pay the obligatory tribute to the new Prince, but the Opavian estates were not. The so-called Red Book (cartulary of letters) contains their correspondence on this topic with political figures. In the end, Karl I of Liechtenstein took on the Principality of Troppau, with his official inauguration on 15 May 1614.

Over the following almost four centuries, the Liechtensteins wrote themselves in a positive manner into the history of the region, into its economic, social, cultural and scientific development. Karl I, Prince of Liechtenstein and Prince of Troppau acquired the neighbouring Duchy of Jägendorf (Krnov) in March 1622.



Provincial symbols of Opava principality found on the coat of arms of Karl I in 1615, on the coat of arms of his son Karl Eusebius, and the current coat of arms of the Lichtensteins and the national emblem of Liechtenstein. - Prince Karl I became the prince of Opava in January 1614.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS ON THE LIECHTENSTEINS IN OLOMOUC TO BE PUBLISHED

In November 2010, Historic Association Liechtenstein and Ostrava University, in collaboration with the Archbishopric of Olomouc and the House of Liechtenstein, held an international conference on the Princely House of Liechtenstein in the history of the lands of the Bohemian Crown. The proceedings from the talks (in German) is now to be published as: **Das Fürstenhaus Liechtenstein in der Geschichte der Länder der Böhmisches Krone**, Vařeka Marek - Žářícký Aleš, Universität Ostrava - Liechtensteinisches Lan 2013.

The hardback book has 630 pages and a rich coloured appendix (we'll bring you more information in our next issue). www.cupress.cuni.cz



NEW YEAR'S AUDIENCE WITH THE HEAD OF THE LIECHTENSTEIN PRINCIPALITY

Vaduz, 9 January 2014: Ambassadors accredited in Liechtenstein, representatives of government, parliament, the courts, local governments, the church, police, associations and major local and international figures all took part in a New Year's meeting with the acting head of state, HSH Prince Alois, and head of state, HSH Prince Hans-Adam II of Liechtenstein and their wives, Princess Marie (born Countess Kinsky) and Princess Sophie (born Duchess

in Bavaria). Around 550 guests accepted the invitation and were also able to admire the sensitive renovated castle interior.

Historic Association Liechtenstein, o.s. was represented by its chairperson, Ing. Pavel Juřík, who was invited as Commander of the Order of Merit of the Principality of Liechtenstein.



← Ruling Prince Hans-Adam II during the New Year's audience at Vaduz Castle with the Archbishop of Vaduz (Photo: www.vaterland.li)

You can find a more detailed report and a large photo gallery from Liechtenstein paper VATERLAND here: <http://www.vaterland.li/page/service/fotogalerie/index.cfm>
A video report from Liechtenstein television can be found here: <http://www.local-tv.net/news/neujahrsempfang-auf-schloss-vaduz?1fl>

MAGAZINE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TRAVEL PLACES LIECHTENSTEIN IN THE TOP 20 PLACES YOU MUST VISIT IN 2014



printed an article on the 20 places in the world which tourists should definitely visit in 2014. These places, which included New Orleans in Louisiana, Córdoba in Argentina, Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado, Sarajevo and Sochi, also found a place for Liechtenstein.

'You might run into the prince and his wife at the grocery store,' says Sandra Thurnheer, an Internet entrepreneur and native-born Liechtensteiner who loves her „dwarf-country“ with its many castles and quircks, 'We have this minority complex, and we're proud of it,' she adds, boasting that Liechtenstein prints some rather rare stamps. wrote NG Travel.

'This patch of Alpine meadows, craggy peaks, and vineyards finds itself wedged between Austria and Switzerland. What it lacks in size, Liechtenstein makes up for with a mighty landscape that swoops up from the marshy green banks of the Rhine into the cloud-kissed Alps.

Liechtenstein has much to offer, including (despite its small area) hundreds of kilometres of hiking and mountaineering trails and high-quality cycle paths.

Attracted? Then you can find tourist information and offers for visiting Liechtenstein at: www.tourismus.li.

The prestigious magazine for travel enthusiasts, National Geographic TRAVEL, December 2013/January 2014 edition,