

Czech – Liechtenstein TODAY



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PRINCE HANS-ADAM II VON UND ZU LIECHTENSTEIN HAS OPENED THE EXHIBITION „HANS ADAM I OF LIECHTENSTEIN (1657-1712), POLITICIAN, ECONOMIST, GODFATHER“

The Regional Museum in Mikulov and the Historic Association Liechtenstein, o. s., have organised an exhibition about Prince Hans-Adam I of Liechtenstein, in order to remember the 300th anniversary of his death and purchase of the county of Vaduz in 1712. The exhibition is organised under the patronage of H. S. H. Hans-Adam II Reigning Prince of Liechtenstein and Michal Hašek, Governor of South-Moravian Region.

On Saturday March 31st at 12 a. m. H. S. H. Prince Hans-Adam II arrived in Mikulov together with his wife H. S. H. Princess Marie. They visited the church of St. Wenzel which was rebuilt by the family Liechtenstein after the war of the Husites in the 15th century. In this church a large tombstone of Christoph of Liechtenstein is located. The Liechtensteins owned Mikulov in 1249 – 1560. Then rare guests visited a crypte of the Dietrichsteins who were relatives of the Liechtensteins (e. g. a wife of prince Hans-Adam I was Edmunda countess of Dietrichstein).

At the castle of Mikulov, Their Serene Highnesses were invited by Mgr. Petr Kubín director of the Regional Museum in Mikulov, Oldřich Ryšavý member of the South-Moravian Region's council, mayor of Mikulov city Rostislav Košťál and Pavel Juřík, the chairman of the Historic Association Liechtenstein.



H. S. H. Prince Hans-Adam II of Liechtenstein and Oldřich Ryšavý member of the South-Moravian Region's Council and mayor of the city Břeclav during the opening ceremony.



Their Serene Highnesses Prince Hans-Adam II and Princess Marie and mayor of the city of Mikulov Mr. Rostislav Košťál.

After a lunch in the castle's Salla Terena Prince Hans-Adam II gave interviews to the Czech Radio and to Břeclavský Deník. The verissage of the exhibition (at 4 pm) was attended by over 300 people. H. S. H. Prince Hans-Adam II of Liechtenstein expressed his

satisfaction and appreciation about the fact that the exhibition takes place in Mikulov castle, where the Liechtensteins entered Moravia for the first time over 700 years ago. The exhibition can be visited until August 31, 2012. After then some of the items will be shown in an exhibition in the museum in Hodonín.

The exhibition „Jan Adam I. z Liechtensteina“ presents the history of the family Liechtenstein for the first time in the Czech Republic. Further exhibitions about the Liechtensteins and their heritage are scheduled to take place later as well as in the coming years. „After nearly 70 years of no information about the family Liechtenstein, we can see a rising demand of interest in the old Moravian and Czech land aristocracy and about the Principality of Liechtenstein“ said Pavel Juřík, chairman of the „Historic Association Liechtenstein“ in his opening address at the vermissage of the exhibition.



H. S. H. Prince Hans-Adam II watches tombstone of Christoph of Liechtenstein in the church of St. Wenzel, Mikulov.

In his interviews with Czech media Prince Hans-Adam II expressed his interest in the restitution of the family assets in the Czech Republic, but without courts, only by mutual agreement. „It would be in the benefit of the Czech Republic,“ he said in an interview for Czech Radio (Radiožurnál), „...because we are ready to invest and we have a long experience in forestry and the care about old historical buildings.“

His Serene Highness Prince also noted that he was given the birth name Hans-Adam to remember his great ancestor, because he restored and stabilised a property of the Liechtenstein family at the end of the 17th century. „My father told me, this will be also my task“, because after World War II the economic situation of the Liechtensteins and the Principality of Liechtenstein was not in good conditions. - We can definitely say that Prince Hans-Adam II fulfilled this task and the Principality today is among the countries

with the highest standard of living. Among others his country is known for high quality of education, industry and public services.



View from the Kopeček Hill to the castle of Mikulov and the church of St. Wenzel on the right.

H. S. H. Princess Marie accompanied her husband for the first time to the Czech Republic, a fact that underlined very positive developments in relations between the Czech Republic and the Principality of Liechtenstein. As an art historian the Princess was impressed by Mikulov. „Especially the old part of the city is very picturesque!“ she said during a short walk across the old town.

Recorded interviews with H. S. H. Hans-Adam II reigning prince of Liechtenstein you can find at:

- **Český rozhlas Radiožurnál**, audioarchiv, April 1, 11 a. m.
- **ČT 24**, videoarchiv, March 31

INTERVIEW WITH THE AMBASSADOR OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC, H. S .H. MARIA-PIA KOTHBAUER



H. S. H. Maria-Pia Kothbauer Princess Liechtenstein, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the Czech Republic, Austria, UN and OSCE in Vienna.

Your Serene Highness, on 11 April it was one year since you presented your credentials to President Mr. Václav Klaus. How do you rate these 12 months, where do you see progress and where are reservations?

In September 2009, the Czech Republic and the Principality of Liechtenstein established diplomatic relations. The fact that our two countries exchanged non-resident Ambassadors last year demonstrates that the normalization of relations between us is well under way. Formal channels for communication have been opened. And quite a lot has been done since.

Prince Hans-Adam II of Liechtenstein gave lectures in Prague and Brno on the subject of his book, *"The State in the Third Millennium"*. The meeting that took place between the Head of the Government of Liechtenstein, Dr. Klaus Tschütscher, and Prime Minister Petr Nečas was the first working session at such a high political level in the history of the two countries. Dr. Martin Meyer, Liechtenstein's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Economic Affairs, visited the International Engineering Fair in Brno and met his counterpart, the Czech Minister for Industry and Trade, Mr. Martin Kocourek. Governor Hasek paid a visit to Liechtenstein. In addition, the Czech Republic participated in the biannual "LIHGA" Industry and Trade Fair in Schaan/Liechtenstein.

The cultural exchange between Liechtenstein and the Czech Republic has also been fruitful. Liechtenstein participated in the *German Theater Festival* in Prague and took part in *Prague Architecture Week 2011*.

The most important development, however, is the fact that the Czech-Liechtenstein Commission of Historians has taken up its work and held substantive meetings during the last 15 months. *The Historic Association of Liechtenstein* reinforces this important work with its own events and newsletters.

It is my aim to deepen the understanding and strengthen the ties between Liechtenstein and the Czech Republic. We share a long and interesting common history that could provide future opportunities for both sides.

It was a big step forward from both countries to establish diplomatic relations after nearly 70 years of interruption, wasn't it? Was it difficult for your government and the Princely Family to let confiscation issues aside and focus on the future?

I agree with you. Both countries had to move on. The fact that we were able to establish a Commission of Historians gives both sides the opportunity to reappraise the positive as well as the more

difficult aspects of our relations. Based on this work we hope to benefit from a fresh and more balanced assessment of our common history. New opportunities might arise.

According to the Czech-Liechtenstein memorandum of Understanding of September 2009 a common Czech-Liechtenstein Commission of Historians was established in 2010. What of its current findings do you see as the most important for your country?

It is too early to talk about findings. The Commission took up its work in December 2010 and has been able to hold one significant workshop. The meeting was held in a very positive spirit. I was impressed by the engagement and the professionalism of the historians.

How are the negotiations about a Double Taxation Agreement with the Czech Republic progressing?

As of today, we have held informal talks on how the Czech Republic and Liechtenstein could co-operate on tax issues. There are different options being evaluated, a Double Taxation Agreement being one of them.

Liechtenstein companies are focused on production and export of high quality products and services. Do you see any opportunities for their investments in the Czech Republic?

The Czech Republic and Liechtenstein share a long standing industrial tradition. Already now two of our flagship companies, HILTI and HOVAL, are represented and are providing employment opportunities for 220 individuals in the Czech Republic. Furthermore Thyssen Group Presta is providing Skoda with automotive components. A Czech company has participated in "LIM" – the Liechtenstein Investment Market, an international platform where companies meet potential investors.

Important parts of the Czech Crown Lands' heritage are Liechtenstein castles and collections what remained in Czechoslovakia after year 1945. Are there any plans in the area of cultural cooperation, for example exhibitions that could be shown in Prague, Brno, Vaduz or Vienna?

I agree. There are opportunities for cooperation in the cultural field. Quite a bit has happened already. The Princely Collections in cooperation with the Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague organised an important Biedermeier Exhibition in 2010 in the Valdštejnský Palác in Prague. In 2009 an exhibition entitled *"Painting and Sculpture at the court of Emperor Rudolf II in Prague"* was held at the Liechtenstein Museum in Vienna. Moreover, the Historic Association Liechtenstein in the Czech Republic has done important research and is organising interesting exhibitions.

This year we are looking forward to exhibition featuring Prince Hans-Adam I of Liechtenstein, his life and work in Mikulov; and also on the subject of Duchess Maria-Teresia of Savoy-Carignano, daughter of Prince Hans-Adam I of Liechtenstein in Kostelec nad černými lesy. Another interesting project, entitled *"Po stopách Lichtenštejnů" - "In the footsteps of the Liechtensteins"*, is being undertaken as a joint venture between Lower Austria and Southern Moravia. This project will show the centuries-old historic roots of the Liechtenstein family in Austria and the Czech Republic.

Last but not least, Liechtenstein is participating, together with Iceland and Norway, in the restoration and maintenance of the rich cultural heritage of the Czech Republic through its contributions to the Financial Mechanism of the EEA. For the

period 2009 to 2014, a total of 21 Million Euros has been allocated to the Czech Republic in this field alone.

Thank you for interview.

ANNIVERSARY: 100 YEARS OF LIECHTENSTEIN STAMPS 1912-2012

The history of the Liechtenstein postal system started already in 1770, when Liechtenstein used Austrian postal services. In 1818, Austria opened its first office in the Principality. In 1852, Austrian stamps were introduced in Liechtenstein and postal services were equally validated in both Austria and Liechtenstein.

In the following years the number of post offices in Liechtenstein increased constantly. In 1905, the Parliament of Liechtenstein asked for reorganization of the postal and telecommunication services with Austria through a formal international treaty. This treaty did not enter into force. Moreover, a few years later the head of the Liechtenstein post approached the government to request for changes in the postal system because of low salaries.

To improve this situation, the Government decided to produce own Liechtenstein stamps. The Parliament supported this idea and a new post agreement was signed with Austria in October 1911.



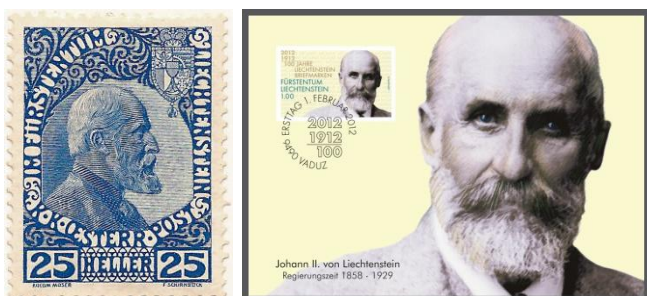
The castle of Vaduz on Liechtenstein stamps.

This step was in line with the new bilateral treaty between Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Therefore, the stamps were valued in Swiss Francs in line with Liechtenstein's customs union with Switzerland. As a consequence, the postal agreement with Austria had to be cancelled.

Today's stamps of Liechtenstein are collected throughout the world. About two-thirds of the 40,000 stamps that are printed each year in Liechtenstein are purchased by philatelists from 66 countries around the world.

The Liechtenstein Post is a member of International Post Union and its stamps are collected by many philatelists around the world. The stamps not only show nature, technology or other general topics, but also the Princely family, the Princely collections of art and the Liechtenstein castles in Austria, Moravia, Bohemia and Liechtenstein.

In 2012, the Liechtenstein Post issued a special issue „100 Years of Liechtenstein Stamps“. This serie produces not only nostalgic stamps, but also shows the four Princes who have reigned since the issuance of the first Liechtenstein stamp.



The first Liechtenstein stamp was issued in February 1, 1912 with portrait of Prince Johann II.

The next step was the opening of Liechtenstein Post Offices on 1 January 1912. One month later, the first Liechtenstein stamps were issued in denominations of 5, 10 and 25 Heller. The stamps with the portrait of Prince Johan II (1840-1929) bore the inscription „K. und K. Österr. Post im Fürstentum Liechtenstein“. The stamps were philatelic masterpieces that eventually contributed to the presentation of Liechtenstein's identity to the outside world.

By 1914, five post offices under the management of Austria were opened in the Principality of Liechtenstein. As a consequence of the difficult economic and political situation in Austria, this situation changed after World War I. In February 1920, Liechtenstein suspended the Austrian post services. After taking care of the postal system for itself for a short period of time, the Principality concluded a post agreement with Switzerland. This agreement became operational on 1 February 1921.



Reigning Prince Hans-Adam II and Princess Marie on Liechtenstein stamp celebrating their silver wedding in 1992.

PROGRAM „IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE LIECHTENSTEINS“ IN SOUTH MORAVIA

The South-Moravian Region supports the positive developments of the Czech-Liechtenstein relations since 2004. After all, most of the heritage of the family Liechtenstein is situated on its territory, e. g. the UNESCO monument Lednice - Valčice area or Ždánice.

Since about 2005 cyclists and tourists can use the „*Liechtenstein Cyclo Tours*“ on the border of Moravia and Lower Austria. In 2011, a public service company called *Po stopách Lichtenštejnů o.p.s.* (In the Footsteps of the Liechtensteins) was established in Brno. Its task is to develop the great cultural, social and historic values of the Liechtensteins' heritage in South Moravia.



Symbol of Liechtenstein Cyclo Routes we can see on many places in Moravia and Lower Austria.

The company was established under patronage of JUDr. Michal Hašek – governor of south-Moravian Region and His Serene Highness Constantin Prince von und zu Liechtenstein. More information you can find at: www.psl.cz



H. S. H. Constantin prince von und zu Liechtenstein and Marek Juha Chairman of the Board of public service company Po stopách Liechtenstejnů, o. p. s.

DO NOT MISS: „THE GOD, PRINCE, MORAVIA“ ON CZECH TV – HISTORIE.CS

An interesting reportage about the Liechtensteins was broadcasted by Czech TV as part of seria „*Historie.cs*“ on Tuesday, 17 April 2012.

For 39 mins, the two historians Prof. Tomáš Knoz and Dr. Jan Županič explained the long history of Czech – Liechtenstein relations and disproved some of the traditional mistakes or rumors about the Princely House.

The videoarchive of this broadcast can be found under:

<http://www.ceskatelevize.cz/porady/10150778447-historie-cs/212452801400015/>

HISTORIE.CS

JUBILEUM STONES OF PRINCE JOHANN II OF LIECHTENSTEIN

Prince Johann II „The Good“ (1840-1929) is so far the longest reigning monarch in Europe (70 years and 91 days). He was one of the most important reigning princes of the Liechtensteins and a great maecenas of culture, education and scientific researches and protector of nature.

To celebrate the 40. anniversary of his reign, so called memory stones were built and avenues of trees were planted in most of the Liechtenstein estates in Moravia and Bohemia. When the Prince celebrated his 50. Anniversary, additional stone plates were added to some of the memory stones.

After 1918, when Czechoslovak Republic was created and aristocratic titles were forbidden, the 60. and 70. anniversary of reign were not remembered with new memory stones. During the first land reform (1920-1933) the Liechtensteins lost about 60% of their estates in Czechoslovakia, for the official price (about 1/3 of market price). Several estates were lost completely, e. g. Kostelec nad černými lesy (Schwarzkostelez).

Altogether, there should be about 160 stones in Moravia and in Central Bohemia (19 pcs.). Most of them still exist.



Memory stone in Mukařov (Central Bohemia).

AN INVITATION TO AN EXHIBITION:

DUCHESS DE SAVOY-CARIGNANO – A GREAT GODMOTHER OF ČERNOKOSTELECKÝ REGION



Marie Terezia, Duchess de Savoy-Carignano, Duchess of Opava (Troppau), Countess de Sossoins on painting of Martin van Meytens.

One of the most important personalities of the Princely House of the Liechtensteins is Maria Terezia Anna Felicitas, born Princess of Liechtenstein (1694-1772), a daughter of Prince Hans-Adam I, who was the founder of the Principality of Liechtenstein.

In 1712, she inherited Černý Kostelec, Škvorec, Říčany and Úhřetěves estates. Later she bought the estates Rataje, Kounice and Čechy pod Kosířem. In October 1713 in Kostelec nad černými lesy castle's chappel, she married chieftain Tomasso duc de Savoy-Carignano, count de Sossoins (1687-1729). They had only one son, Jean (1714-1734).

Duchess de Savoy was famous for her social commitment. She builded or renovated over 30 churches on her estates in Central Bohemia, established poorhouses on Kostelec nad černými lesy and Kounice and payed the costs of schools on her estates. In 1763, she released from burgesses of Kostelec nad černými lesy (from imprisonment).

In 1765 she ordered statues of St. Donatus for all her estates to protect crops against hail. Maria Terezia de Savoy-Carignano also founded the *Knights' Academy* in Vienna, at that time one of the best educational institutes. She is buried in the St. Stephan Cathedral in Vienna. Because of her good hearth she was called „White Lady“ or „Cafojka“.



The house of Maria Terezia, Duchess de Savoy, is one of the monuments remembering a great godmother in Kostelec nad černými lesy.

On 1 June afternoon will take place an vernissage of the exhibition „*Duchess de Savoy – A Great Godmother of Černokostelecko Area*“ in city museum and presentation of book „*Dominions of the Smiřický and the Liechtensteins in Bohemia*“ by Pavel Juřík. At 17 p. m. Mons. Dominik cardinal Duka arcibishop of Prague will celebrate holy mass for the salvation of benign duchess Terezia de Savoy.

The exhibition „*Duchess de Savoy – A Great Godmother of Černokostelecko Area*“ will be open in the city museum of Kostelec nad černými lesy from 2 June until 31 August 2012.

Sources and pictures: Pavel Juřík, Regionální muzeum v Mikulově, www.psli.cz, *Sammlungen des Fürsten von und zu Liechtenstein Vaduz-Wien*.

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