

# Czech – Liechtenstein TODAY



Historic Association Liechtenstein, o. s.

## GOVERNOR OF SOUTH MORAVIA MEETS LIECHTENSTEIN PREMIER



**Prime Minister of Liechtenstein, Adrian Hasler, Ambassador of Liechtenstein, JH. S. H. Maria-Pia Kothbauer, Princess of Liechtenstein, and Governor of the South Moravian Region, JUDr. Michal Hašek, during their meeting at the castle in Valtice**  
(Photo: Hans Štembera)

*Valtice Sept. 10:* On Tuesday 10 September 2013, a meeting took place in Valtice of the Governor of South Moravia, Michal Hašek and the Liechtenstein Prime Minister, Adrian Hasler. It was the first meeting of the new Prime Minister, elected this year, with a Czech politician. Michal Hašek and Prime Minister Hasler highlighted the current intensive development of relations between South Moravia and the Principality of Liechtenstein. Topics discussed included issues regarding economic and cultural co-operation and education. 'Amongst other issues, we discussed student

exchange, co-operation in the fields of science, research and innovation, and the opportunities for South Moravian companies to engage in a unique capital support project for companies in the field of advanced technologies and innovative enterprise. We also talked of the option for investor missions in South Moravia,' said Michal Hašek.

Adrian Hasler has been the Prime Minister since March of this year. He is also head of the Ministry for General Government Affairs and Finance.

## LIECHTENSTEIN BRINGS HOME THE GOLD

At the XV Games of the Small States of Europe, held in Luxembourg from May 27 to June 1, Liechtenstein once again impressed with its most successful team yet.

Despite sending only 36 athletes, the second smallest contingent among the nine participating nations, Liechtenstein came in fourth place in the gold medal count and the overall medal count, winning eleven gold medals and 34 metals in total.



**Julia Hassler leads the pack.**

Julia Hassler had outstanding performances at the games, winning four gold medals and nine total in her swimming events. Steffi Vogt also won multiple gold medals,

defending her 2011 singles, doubles, and mixed doubles titles.

The games, established in 1985, are a biennial multi-sport event organized by the Olympic committees of the participating countries. Recognizing that small countries face a distinct disadvantage in international sporting competitions due to their size, the Games of the Small States of Europe were founded to provide these countries a venue to compete fairly against nations of similar sizes. The member states are Andorra, Cyprus, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, and San Marino. This year, 120 events were contested from in sporting disciplines including athletics, basketball, cycling, gymnastics, judo, shooting, swimming, table tennis, tennis, and volleyball.



**Liechtenstein Team**

## LIECHTENSTEIN OPENS HONORARY CONSULATES IN ASIA

At the end of June, Liechtenstein opened its first Asian honorary consulates in Hong Kong and Singapore, two vibrant and rapidly-growing economic centers. The occasions were marked by a visit to Singapore by Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein and the opening of an exhibit at the National Museum of Singapore, featuring selected pieces from the Princely Collections.



**H.S.H. Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein and Foreign Minister Aurelia Frick present Loo Choon Chiaw his appointment as Liechtenstein's Honorary Consul to Singapore.**

Together with Foreign Minister Dr. Aurelia Frick, H.S.H. Prince Alois of Liechtenstein was present for the ceremony appointing Mr. Loo Choon Chiaw the Honorary Consul of the Principality of Liechtenstein in Singapore on June 27. Several other members of the princely family were also present at the appointment. Esteemed guests included the Senior Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mayor of Central Singapore. They were joined by ambassadors and representatives from 28 countries and business leaders from the region for the reception. H.S.H. Hereditary Prince Alois was received by Singapore's President Tony Tan.

On June 28 an honorary consulate was opened in Hong Kong by Foreign Minister Dr. Aurelia Frick. The new Honorary Consul is Henri Leimer, CEO of LGT Banking Asia Pacific and President of LGT Asia.

Mr. Leimer grew up in Liechtenstein but has lived in Hong Kong the past twenty years. Present at his appointment were government officials and high-ranking officers of Hong Kong's consular corps, as well as leaders from the business and finance sectors in Hong Kong.



## AFTER 100 YEARS, AQUEDUCT WORKING AGAIN IN LEDNICE PARK

Another structural and technical monument was repaired and put into operation in Lednice's Castle Park – the copy of a Roman aqueduct, the work of brilliant architect, inventor and entrepreneur, Josef Hardtmuth.

On 16 August 2013, South Moravian conservationists put the copy of the Roman aqueduct into operation after 100 years. The Castle Park was witness to the operation of an almost ten-metre high waterfall which was built by the Princely House of Liechtenstein in 1797 under the reign of Prince Aloys I.

The turn of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries was a period of considerable changes to the surroundings of the castles of Lednice and Valtice in the so-called 'Garden of Europe'. Dozens of Romantic constructions were built to the design of brilliant Liechtenstein architect, Josef Hardtmuth, and they were all sensitively incorporated into the landscape (e.g. the Minaret, the Temple of Diana, the Belvedere, the Colonnade etc.).

At the same time, the River Thaya was diverted into an artificial channel to prevent repeated destructive flooding. A number of ponds, the Minaret and the aqueduct with cave were constructed where the original channel was. This

very costly and complicated construction work also involved the movement of the trees here, weighing from a few dozen to hundreds of tons. –Even with today's technology, this would not be an easy job.

The aqueduct is powered by a pump and was only put into operation by the Princely Family on special occasions when the sight of the water falling and roaring made the view of the Castle Park even more beautiful. It wasn't built as an end in itself however, as the aqueduct also brought water into the park for irrigation. The aqueduct was last in operation almost a hundred years ago.

Visitors to the Castle Park can see the working waterfall on the hour during Park opening times until 5:00 pm (in summer). The aqueduct is 30 metres long and 7 metres high. It has eight arches, with the ninth being just a torso with its apparently collapsed parts thrown around the whole structure. It emerges from a slope into which an artificial cave has been constructed.

Czech Television report:

<http://www.ceskatelevize.cz/zpravodajstvi-brno/zpravy/238317-v-lednici-po-sto-letech-zprovoznil-stary-akvadukt/>



View of the repaired Roman aqueduct in the Lednice Castle Park

## MORAVSKÝ KRUMLOV TOWN PREPARES '380 YEARS OF THE LIECHTENSTEIN PRINCIPALITY IN MORAVSKÝ KRUMLOV' EXHIBITION

In the last issue of Česko-Lichtenštejnsko DNES, we answered a question relating to the titular principality of 'Liechtenstein' in Moravský Krumlov and Uherský Ostroh. This fascinating story (the principality here was founded almost 100 years before the founding of the principality of same name on the upper Rhine) is told in the '380 years of the Liechtenstein Principality in Moravský Krumlov' exhibition, prepared by the town of Moravský Krumlov. The exhibition also tells the story of the Moravský Krumlov secundogeniture Liechtenstein family, its principle characters, buildings related to the family and the family legacy, which came to an end in the town in 1908 when last of the family line died. The town is aiming to build on its Liechtenstein heritage, and continues to invest significant sums in repairing the castle, family tomb and other structures.

The exhibition is to take place in the Knižecí dům gallery **from 1 November 2013 until 31 March 2014**. The exhibition will be accompanied by a number of lectures for those interested in the history and culture of their town and region.

The exhibition has been supported by the South Bohemia Region, Historic Association Liechtenstein, o. s. (PhDr. Marek Vařeka is the exhibition curator), the Masaryk Museum in Hodonín, the Moravian Museum and others.


The city museum in Moravský Krumlov in cooperation with city of Moravský Krumlov  
organize an exhibition



**380 years of principedom Liechtenstein  
in Moravsky Krumlov**

**Liechtenstein's occupancy  
(1622 – 1908)**

Gallery of Knizeci Dum, T. G. Masaryk square, 40, Moravsky Krumlov  
**1 November 2013 – 31 March 2014**  
Opening hours: Mo – Fr 8 – 11, 12 – 15:30, Sa 9 – 12, Su 14 – 16



## LITERATURE:

### Sovereign Liechtenstein: The Soft Power Projection of a Very Small State, Dr. Kevin D. Stringer

Although Liechtenstein is a small state, it has succeeded through diplomacy, economics, culture and information policy to keep its independence and acquire an important position in the world. The principality's largest trading partner is, surprisingly, the United States, and only then Switzerland. The country is one of an exclusive club of states with a Standard and Poors AAA credit rating, and one of the few countries which has a large amount of government and municipality savings available to it for 'bad times'.

Dr Stringer's study gives a lot of interesting and even surprising information about a country which maintains one of the highest standards of living in the world, whose citizens are highly educated, whose companies are efficient and with no state or municipality debt. Law which is easily enforced, minimum bureaucracy, and politics with long-term goals (guaranteed by the reigning Prince), a dream for many citizens and politicians.

The Liechtenstein model of direct and responsible state and municipality management is being looked at more and

more by specialists, because it brings ideas for improving the management of public affairs in other countries. This book is a suitable accompaniment to the Prince of Liechtenstein, Hans-Adam II's book, 'The State in the Third Millennium', published in 2009.



'Sovereign Liechtenstein' is available to download at:  
[http://ams.hi.is/sites/ams.hi.is/files/liechtenstein\\_layout\\_final.pdf](http://ams.hi.is/sites/ams.hi.is/files/liechtenstein_layout_final.pdf)



## EXHIBITION OF RARE TAPESTRIES IN VALTICE

Valtice – Valtice Castle's unique tapestry room stayed empty after the Second World War. Joseph Wenzel, Prince of Liechtenstein, received this rare collection of tapestries titled the Chinese Emperor from Prussian King Frederick. The Prince was Imperial diplomat, ambassador in Prussia and France, and above all a general and great reformer of the Habsburg artillery.

Subsequent to the Red Army being based at Valtice Castle for three years, the valuable wall tapestries were stolen,

only to reappear in 1952 in Vienna antiques stores (Austria was under the administration of the Soviet Union until 1955). The Soviet command's stay at the castle in Valtice was a disaster for the castle. As well as the theft of many valuable pieces of art (which the Liechtensteins couldn't evacuate to Vaduz at the end of the war), a number of pictures, items of furniture and architectural features of castle were damaged by the army. Subsequent to 1948, part of the castle was used as a working camp for women. The riding school was used for agricultural purposes.



**Tapestry, Audience with the Chinese Emperor (Photo: ČT)**

When the stolen pictures were found in 1952 in an antiques shop in Vienna, they were purchased by a wealthy industrialist family from Italy. The Liechtenstein family continued to search for many years for the stolen property. Only in 2006 did they succeed in tracking the valuable tapestries down and a year later managed to buy them because the family of Italian industrialists had got into financial difficulties.

The set of tapestries is, unfortunately, incomplete. The tapestry titled Dance could not be acquired, or was not preserved. Exactly how it looked is unknown even to the

curator of collections, because that particular tapestry is not seen on any photos of the time.

Thanks to the continued efforts of Valtice Castle warden, Mgr. Michal Tlusták, the permission of Prince Hans-Adam II of Liechtenstein for Valtice Castle to borrow the tapestries was successfully acquired. As a result, the almost complete series of tapestries returned to its original place in July to August 2013.

The exhibition also contained a 3D model of Joseph Wenzel of Liechtenstein's golden carriage. The aim of the exhibition

was not just to display the valuable tapestries of Berlin production which date back to roughly 1715, but also commemorate Prince, Commander and diplomat, Joseph Wenzel of Liechtenstein.

Czech Television report available at:  
<http://www.ceskatelevize.cz/zpravodajstvi-brno/zpravy/233504-po-desitkach-let-se-vzacne-tapiserie-vraci-domu-ale-jen-do-srpna/>

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1.10. 2013 – 31. 3. 2014: **‘380 years of the Liechtenstein Principality in Moravský Krumlov, Liechtenstein tenure in Moravský Krumlov (1622-1908)’**

The exhibition in the Knížecí dům gallery in Moravský Krumlov commemorates the foundation of the titular Imperial Principality in the town and the history and legacy of the Liechtenstein family in the town and region.

## MARIA THERESIA OF SAVOY ASSOCIATION



The major benefactor to Kostelec nad Černými lesy, Maria Theresia, Duchess of Savoy-Carignano, née Princess of Liechtenstein (1694-1772) has gone down in history for her

charity projects, support of education in Bohemia and Vienna, and for her care for her subjects. As such, there was an exhibition and holy mass in Kostelec nad Černými lesy for her last summer (see ČLD newsletters 2 and 3/2012).

The good duchess’s legacy is now kept by the Maria Theresia of Savoy Association, headed by Chairman Antonín Homolpa. The Association organised a concert on Sunday 8 September 2013 in her memory in the Basilica of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Tismice near Český Brod. The local basilica was repaired by the Duchess, making it a major pilgrimage site at the time.

## YOU ASKED: LIECHTENSTEIN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

Liechtenstein is one of the oldest independent states in Central Europe. Its history goes back to 1719 when the Imperial Principality of Liechtenstein was formed. The principality has been independent since 1806 when the Holy Roman Empire dissolved and Liechtenstein became an independent state, a member of Napoleon’s Confederation of the Rhine.



Until 1919, Austria represented the small and poor country abroad. After the collapse of the Habsburg monarchy, Liechtenstein began undertaking foreign policy itself through its embassies in Vienna and Bern. Its request for membership of the League of Nations was rejected because it was too small. The principality established diplomatic relations with Czechoslovakia in August 1938 through the Swiss embassy in Prague. When Switzerland recognised the formation of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and the embassy changed to a general consulate, diplomatic relations between the principality and Czechoslovakia were *de facto* severed, but not *de jure* (the principality did not recognise the formation of the Protectorate). In 1945, Czechoslovakia refused to renew diplomatic relations, but surprisingly renewed them with Switzerland which had not officially recognised the Czechoslovakian government in exile until February 1945.

Liechtenstein was neutral in both world wars, and all parties to the conflicts respected its neutrality. Despite this,

during the Second World War the country twice came close to being annexed by Germany. Adolf Hitler also had a plan to base the Pope in Vaduz, who would be taken from the Vatican in 1944. The political damage from such an act of violence towards two countries would have been huge for the Third Reich (especially in Catholic South America, where the abduction of the Pope would have been unacceptable), and the plan was abandoned.

The next stage in diplomatic relations for the principality was begun by Prince Hans-Adam II in the 1970s, when he ensured a request for Liechtenstein's membership of the UN was made (it became a member in 1990). In 1991, it became a member of the European Free Trade Association. The principality is also a member of UNESCO, WTO, EBRD, Interpol, OSCE, Intelsat and other international organisations.

There is no embassy in Liechtenstein, but there are Liechtenstein-accredited embassies usually in Bern or Vienna. There are, however, 41 honorary consulates in the principality. Liechtenstein maintains diplomatic relations

## INTRODUCING LIECHTENSTEIN COMPANIES:

Swarovski is an Austrian producer of cut crystal glass. Now, however, its business headquarters are in Triesen, Liechtenstein. Swarovski employs either directly or through its subsidiaries more than 25 000 employees in 40 countries around the world. Around 600 workers work on developing new products.

Because of their high quality and unique design, Swarovski cut crystal glass has become world-renowned. Swarovski crystals are generally known world-wide for the quality of cut and polish. The edges of the facets meet at exactly one point, as do the edges inside the crystal.

Swarovski history goes back to 1862 in Jiřetín pod Bukovou, near Jablonec nad Nisou. It was here that Daniel Swarovski (1862-1956) was born, his original name being Daniel Svárovský. He learnt artistic metalworking with the Albrechtice company, Gebrüder Feix. Company representatives sent the young Daniel to Vienna where a number of craftsmen produced jewellery. Swarovski gained the experience and technical knowledge from them to produce jewellery.

At a technical exhibition in Vienna, Swarovski met František Křiřík who had installed electric lighting there. This was an inspiration for Swarovski and he developed a machine for polishing chatons powered by electricity.

In 1892, Swarovski patented his machine and he began his own production. In order to acquire the necessary capital

with 89 states, has 6 embassies (Berlin, Bern, New York, Vienna, Washington), two permanent missions (Brussels, Strasbourg), two honorary consulates in the USA, two and Germany and since 2013 also in Hong Kong and Singapore.

The Czech Republic and Liechtenstein renewed diplomatic relations after a 64-year break in September 2009. Since then, mutual relations have been growing well, particularly in the cultural and trade fields.

Czech Republic ambassadorial post in Bern (currently vacant for Switzerland and Liechtenstein). The exceptional Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Principality of Liechtenstein in the Czech Republic, based in Vienna, is Her Serene Highness Maria-Pia Kothbauer, Princess of Liechtenstein. Her parents came from Moravský Šternberk and were very popular there.

More information available at:

<http://www.regierung.li/ministerien/ministerium-fuer-aeusseres-bildung-und-kultur/en-diplomatic-representations/>

## SWAROVSKI AG

for going into production, he used funds from his customer in France, Armand Kosmann. Swarovski then moved to the Austrian city of Wattens, near Innsbruck, where he rented



### Swarovski AG headquarters in Triesen, Liechtenstein

out factory space. In 1895, Swarovski founded his own company producing jewellery which very soon proved a market success, and he began to export his jewellery to Germany, the USA and Great Britain.

In 1956, together with Christian Dior, the Aurora Borealis effect was developed, which further breaks up the light in the glass, creating a rainbow effect. Swarovski now doesn't create just jewellery, but in co-operation with designers got into bolder production of clothes, lights, interior design etc. Swarovski began the production of glass animal figurines in



1976. These cut glass figurines became an instant success. In 1987 a club for collectors of glass figurines was even set up. In 1977, Swarovski introduced his new jewellery collection. Today, Swarovski Jewelry introduces its latest products twice a year.

Swarovski also produces a wide range of SWAROVSKI ELEMENTS (Swarovski components) crystal components which are used by many jewellery and clothes designers. They are also used for decorating various fashion

accessories, as well as mobile telephones, laptop computers, glassware (cups, glasses), and brand symbols (e.g. automobile manufacturers such as Mercedes, BMW, VW, Audi and others). Most production of these original designs on the Czech market works on the principle of hand-made custom production.

**Examples of Swarovski products:**

