

BULLETIN

of the
Czech–Liechtenstein
Society

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2018

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DO YOU KNOW THIS MEMBER?



ABOUT THE SOCIETY

Dear members,

I am writing these lines just a few days after our weekend members' meeting in Lednice, which, as I firmly believe, everyone present, myself included, truly enjoyed.

Before we immersed ourselves in Saturday's agenda, discussed important proposals, and approved several new items, we gathered the evening before over a glass of wine at the modern Eisgrub gravity-flow winery. Zdeněk Pavlů, one of its co-owners, showed us around the winery, which is located almost within sight of Mendel University's Faculty of Horticulture. It must be said that the tasting he led stretched well beyond expectations and became a genuinely exceptional experience – he deserves enormous thanks for that.

Saturday's General Assembly was unusual in another respect as well. We had the honour of welcoming Simon Biedermann, the new Ambassador of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the Czech Republic. We are delighted that he has become an honorary member of our association.

A hearty lunch in the castle restaurant was followed by an exclusive tour of the interiors of Lednice Castle, organized by our member and long time castle manager, Ivana Holásková. In her absence, the castle was presented to us – slightly differently than usual, with humour, creativity, and a charming touch of irony - by the equally excellent guide, Vendula Jandová.

Although we are already halfway through the year, the proposed activities for the coming months are more than plentiful. At the turn of September and October, I would like to invite you, dear friends, to the 11th Lednice–Valtice Music Festival, which this year will be themed around French elegance and the spirit of European cultural diplomacy of the 18th and 19th centuries. It is certainly worth noting that the main inspiration for this year's edition is the golden carriage of Prince Josef Václav Liechtenstein, a symbol of refined taste and noble representation. For our gathering, the Board recommends the Prologue, held on 19 September in the Garden Palace in Vienna, and the Opening Concert, which will take place on 26 September in the Winter Riding Hall of the Valtice Castle.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Czech–Liechtenstein Commission of Historians. To mark the occasion, it will organize a conference on 25 and 26 November in Brno and Prague. We hope to bring you more detailed information about both events very soon.

Dear friends, I hope we'll have a chance to meet again before our traditional pre-Christmas gathering. In the meantime, I wish you a wonderful summer and some enjoyable reading – perhaps somewhere in the shade by the water...

Petr Svoboda, Chairman



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Hundreds of young people filled Mikulov Castle. The Cross Border Dialogue conference took place there

The main ceremonial hall and the Sala Terrena of Mikulov Castle hosted the interdisciplinary and intergenerational Cross Border Dialogue conference on Wednesday, 29 April. The event was organised by Alpbach Czechia & Slovakia, and this year marked its second edition.

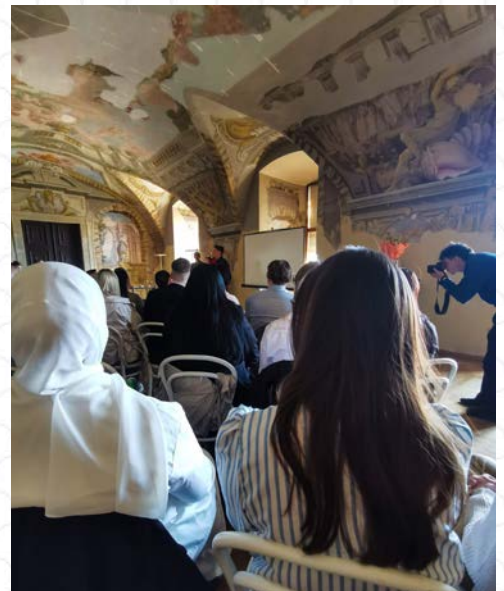
The event is organised by young volunteers, including our member Kryštof Čížmář. Their aim is to strengthen cross-border cooperation between regions and thus between countries — in this case the border area of Austria, Slovakia and Czechia. At one point, young motivated people and representatives from politics, business and academia all came together in one place.

The main conference day took place on Wednesday, but the programme continued until Sunday, 3 May. It was complemented by a several-day international programme for students wishing to take an active part in discussions on European topics, current challenges and the future of the region. The programme brought together students from all three countries and created space for open dialogue, the exchange of views and networking across both disciplines and borders.

The main conference day also included several panel discussions. One of them featured representatives of companies from the portfolio of the Princely Family of Liechtenstein: Hans Jörg Damm, Director of Guts- und Forstbetrieb Wilfersdorf, and Adam Lessing, who for many years served on the board of LGT Bank. They were joined by Ludmila Floková from the Department of Environmental Studies and Natural Resources at Mendel University, and Vladan Riedl, head of the Soutok Protected Landscape Area Administration. Their panel was entitled “Sustainability as a Value Beyond Borders”. Its aim was to present sustainability both as a long-term value and in terms of its practical application in our border regions. The topic attracted considerable interest from the audience, who addressed many relevant questions to the speakers.

The event was also attended by Daniel Herman, Honorary Consul of the Principality of Liechtenstein, and around ten members of the Czech–Liechtenstein Society. Vice-Chairwoman Zuzana Holendová, for example, came to Mikulov from Vienna.

The young volunteers were invited to Mikulov by the town’s Deputy Mayor Petra Korlaar, who has followed and supported Cross Border Dialogue with great interest since its first edition. “Come and take part in an inspiring meeting of young professionals from Czechia, Austria and Slovakia. The event connects public administration, science and business. A day full of discussions and lectures awaits us. The programme will also present new job opportunities for the younger generation, including possibilities for cross-border work,” she wrote in a Facebook post inviting the people of Mikulov to the event.



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The authors presented their book about the Bauer brothers in Wilfersdorf.

They were welcomed by a full hall

The German edition of the book *Die Brüder Bauer: Die Geschichte der drei Jungen aus Valtice* was presented by its authors in mid March inside the Liechtenstein castle in Wilfersdorf.

Around fifty guests from Austria and the Czech Republic attended the event to hear what the book is about and how it was created. Among the guests were Daniel Herman, Honorary Consul of the Principality of Liechtenstein in the Czech Republic; senior representatives of Wilfersdorf; the mayors of Břeclav and Valtice; members of the Czech–Liechtenstein Society; representatives of the Liechtenstein Collections, led by archivist Arthur Stögmänn; Ivana Holásková, castellan of Lednice; and Lenka Beránková, representing Richard Svoboda, castellan of Valtice. The attendance of many local residents, including members of the Lower Austrian press, was also very much appreciated.



Speaking on behalf of the co-organisers of the event, accompanied by a presentation of the book's young authors' original drawings, were Horst Obermayer, Chairman of Kultur & Tourismusverein Liechtenstein Schloss Wilfersdorf, and Hans Jörg Damm, Director of the Liechtenstein agricultural and forestry enterprise based in Wilfersdorf.

Michal Růžička, Special Envoy of the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation in the Czech Republic, was represented by his temporary deputy, Petr Svoboda, Chairman of the Czech–Liechtenstein Society.

"At first glance, it may seem that we have gathered here because of one rather small reason, small enough to fit comfortably into a lady's handbag. Namely, the book *Die Brüder Bauer: Die Geschichte der drei Jungen aus Valtice*. But behind this slender volume lies a long and profound story that, if I may say so, is rarely seen in the world. It is the story of three brothers, Joseph, Franz, and Ferdinand Bauer, born in the South Moravian town of Valtice, and talented sons of the prominent Liechtenstein painter Lucas Bauer," Svoboda began.



He reminded the audience that fate played harshly with the boys and their mother at first. "They were still very young when their father Lucas died. Yet he did not leave them entirely. He left a part of himself within them, in the form of an extraordinary artistic talent that began to show at a very early age. At the end of the eighteenth century, when painters still had to mix their own colours, when evenings were lit only by candles, and when time passed far more slowly than today, these three boys began laying the foundations of the fantastic botanical illustration art that the world still bows to and admires," he noted.

He then turned directly to the artistic skill of the four girls who authored the book. "Fate was similarly generous to the

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four girls from Valtice and Lednice, Anastasia and Maria Komarová, and Veronika and Klára Kružíková. They too were gifted with an extraordinary artistic talent, enriched by Bauer like precision, a sense for detail, patience, enthusiasm, and the desire to bring the story of the three brothers back home, to a place that once knew no borders and flourished under the conscientious rule of the Liechtenstein family. Thanks to this blend of qualities, we are now witnessing the creation of a small great book, crafted for the three brothers by four sisters under the guidance of their mentor Zdeňka Žďárská Benešová, with the devoted support of the excellent professor Hans Walter Lack. And thanks to student Jana Čapková, who translated the book, those of you who do not speak Czech – certainly not an easy language – can now read it in your native language, German,” added the Chairman of the Czech–Liechtenstein Society. The event unfolded in a pleasant, convivial atmosphere and continued well into the evening.



DO YOU KNOW THIS MEMBER?

Ivana Holásková, castellan, Lednice

Do you remember how and when you first heard about the Czech–Liechtenstein Society?

I learned about the Society in 2018 through the Czech–Liechtenstein Commission of Historians, with whom I met several times in the course of our cooperation.

What led you to decide to join it?

Since I have worked for many years as the castellan in Lednice, it is important and interesting for me to contribute to the development of good relations between the Czech Republic and Liechtenstein. I had the opportunity to meet members of the princely family several times already in 1988 and 1989, and I was deeply impressed by their relationship to the Lednice–Valtice area and by the possibility of cooperating with their archives.



Where do you come from?

I was born and spent my youth in Brno, where I graduated from a humanities focused secondary school and studied sociology. Since 1978 I have lived and worked in Lednice.

What do you do in your professional life?

The work of a castellan is very diverse. In short: I am responsible for the administration, operation, and maintenance of the heritage site and the castle park in Lednice.

What do you enjoy and find most interesting?

Since childhood, I have been interested in history, literature and art, for which I am grateful to my parents, who guided me in this direction. Today, I would also add travelling and my grandchildren.

Richard Svoboda, castellan, Valtice

Do you remember how and when you first heard about the Czech–Liechtenstein Society?

I was one of its co-founders. Among other things, the initiative came from the pleasant visits of Ambassador Maria-Pia Liechtenstein to Valtice, and from friendly relations with Michal Růžička, who was already professionally involved in cultivating relations between the two countries, the Czech Republic and Liechtenstein. I believe we can learn a great deal from that small principality on the border of Austria and Switzerland. And the Liechtensteiners can learn from us as well, of course.

What led you to decide to join the Society?

I think I've already answered that.

Where do you come from?

I was born in Zlín, which at the time bore the name of the communist Gottwald. A strange name, a strange era, yet everything still revolved around the legacy of Baťa, whose factories had drawn practically everyone to Zlín in the previous generation in search of well paid work. My mother comes from Prostějov, and my father grew up in Luka nad Jihlavou and Brtnice. I left Zlín at the age of eighteen to study at the Faculty of Arts of today's Masaryk University in Brno.



DO YOU KNOW THIS MEMBER?

What do you do in your professional life?

For twelve years now, my colleagues at the National Heritage Institute and I have been trying to keep the Valtice castle in good condition. Our mission is simple: to hand the castle over to those who come after us preferably without any changes that would be inappropriate from a heritage conservation point of view, and, ideally, in a somewhat better technical condition.

What do you enjoy and find most interesting?

Fortunately, I enjoy all sorts of things, perhaps with the exception of obligatory professional bureaucracy. Although I'm increasingly aware, and that's unfortunate, that I'm becoming more of an "astronomer" (an observer) at the expense of being an "astronaut" (an active agent).