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NEWSLETTER

Czech-Liechtenstein Society

Member of Europa Nostra



INSIDE NEWSLETTER

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Honorary Chairman's Address Christmas with a face mask

Many things have changed this year. Yet the passing of time is one of the constant features of life. The perspective of a calendar determines that at the turn of November candles are lit on Advent wreaths and in Hanukkah lamps in many homes. It is an unmistakable sign that the days leading up to Christmas are with us.

The Advent wreath with four candles, gradually lit as the days pass by, is an inherent part of Christmas decorations in this country. The custom indirectly continues the ancient Jewish tradition of the Festival of Lights named Hanukkah that falls on roughly the same days of the year. It is a reminder of the successful uprising of the Maccabees against the persecution of the Jews by the Syrians in the second century before Christ.

The name "Advent" comes from the Latin "adventus", meaning "arrival". In the Christian tradition, it marks the arrival of the Messiah by the birth of Jesus Christ and it is celebrated during Christmas.

This may all sound like beautiful music from some very distant world. In the world in which we live, the sound of gunfire is still often heard, "alternative truths" are spread and injustices of the past persist. Truth must often fight hard to survive. Does that perhaps mean that those old prophecies failed?

I do not think so. Let's have a look at some good examples from Liechtenstein, where ancient roots coexist in a fruitful symbiosis with the modern world of today. Even in their legislation, they are not afraid



Old Town Square, Prague, on the first Advent Sunday, 29 November 2020.

to refer to several centuries' old family traditions of a successful reigning house, rooted in belief with deep biblical foundations. This belief is even to be the „leading principle for future decisions“, according to the preamble of the Constitution of the Princely House of Liechtenstein from 1993.

Advent, Hanukkah and Christmas bring festivities of light. They bring the good news that it is necessary to wake up from the slumber. Night has progressed and day is approaching. Every year, with monotonous regularity, the echo of the prophet's call comes back:

“Convert!” Nobody has so far silenced that urgent call from the Judean Desert. Neither the bloody persecutions of ancient history, nor the religious wars of the Middle Ages, nor modern totalitarian ideologies which proclaimed the death of God with proud certainty. When questioned by the Roman governor Pontius Pilate, Christ himself answered: “My kingdom is not of this world.” It was a true response. It showed that the borders between the realms of good and evil do not replicate the borders of countries and nations but lead through the heart of each and every human being. We can understand this in the sense that lighting even a single candle is better than complaining about the dark. And when this first glowing candle lights the second, the third and, perhaps, the thousandth, the light of the first is not diminished. On the contrary, there will be more light and the darkness will fade. Is this not an inspiring example of how to bring recovery even to our society? Instead of spreading a “stupid mood”, could not one think about how they could improve things around themselves? Perhaps with never-ending efforts to repair old injustices, by replacing disinformation with objective facts, by sticking to unyielding attitudes that side with the truth and what is right, or just with simple small steps of decency, honesty, fairness and interest in other people. The indomitable power of truth, as written on the Czech presidential flag, wins through in the end. There is the belief that the Lord will be faithful for ever, will open the horizons of hope in the recovery of justice and will enable the arrival of peace for the people of goodwill. Friends, I wish you a peaceful and beautiful Christmas!

Daniel Herman,
Honorary Chairman
of the Czech-Liechtenstein Society





■ Calendar of Liechtenstein anniversaries

Following the outstanding 300th anniversary of the Principality of Liechtenstein (*Fürstentum Liechtenstein*) in 2019, there are many other anniversaries ahead in the next three years related to the House of Liechtenstein and the Principality. The Historic Association Liechtenstein, which celebrated its 10th anniversary this year and which is a partner of the Czech-Liechtenstein Society, is initiating and preparing many events to commemorate the important dates.

Year 2021

- 400th anniversary of the appointment of Prince Karl I Liechtenstein as vice-regent of Bohemia. Current historical research views this figure and the Bohemian Revolt in 1618-1620 without any nationalist and ideological deviations from the facts. Karl I was an extremely skilful politician, diplomat and manager (he acquired most of the properties as long ago as before 1600) who was able to see much further ahead than most of his contemporaries.
- 340th anniversary of the purchase of the Rumburk estate by Anton Florian, Prince of Liechtenstein.
- 300th anniversary of the death of Prince Anton Florian. It was at his request that Emperor Charles VI united the estate of Schellenberg and the county of Vaduz in 1719 and elevated the territory to the Principality of Liechtenstein.
- 100th anniversary of the Bank of Liechtenstein, today's LGT Bank. The bank is owned by the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation. The anniversary will be commemorated in Vienna with an exhibition from the Princely Collections.

Year 2022

- 400th anniversary of the arrival of the Liechtenstein family on the estate of Kostelec nad Černými lesy, Plaňany, Moravský Krumlov, Ústí nad Orlicí and Lanškroun. This anniversary will be commemorated with exhibitions in Kostelec nad Černými lesy and at the GASK gallery in Kutná Hora.
- 250th anniversary of the death of Field Marshal Joseph Wenzel I "the father of Austrian artillery". For this occasion, an educational cycling route will be opened. It leads through the former Baroque artillery shooting range, founded by the Marshal near Týn nad Vltavou.
- 250th anniversary of the death of Duchess Maria Theresia of Savoy, neé Princess of Liechtenstein. She was a great benefactor and reformer of social care and parish administration in the region of Kostelec nad

Černými lesy. This important anniversary will be commemorated with an exhibition in Kostelec nad Černými lesy.

Year 2023

- 400th anniversary of the taking over of the Duchy of Troppau by the House of Liechtenstein. It will be commemorated with exhibitions in the Municipal Museum in Krnov and the Silesian Regional Museum in Opava, accompanied by a series of lectures. Subsequently, there will be an exhibition in the Museum of Ostrava.
- 390th anniversary of the elevation of the estate of Moravský Krumlov and Uherský Ostroh to the titular Holy Roman Empire Principality of Liechtenstein. This will be commemorated with an exposition and lectures given in both locations.

Finally, I would like to give a reminder of a very outstanding anniversary to be celebrated in 2022: it will be exactly 280 years since a battle took place in Chotusice near Čáslav, in which the Austrian army was defeated by the Prussian army on 17 May 1742. Field Marshal Joseph Wenzel I Liechtenstein took part in this important battle. He fought very bravely and in the same year he was entrusted with the reorganization of the artillery of Empress Maria Theresa. Until his death in 1772, he was also the chief commander of the artillery. The municipality of Chotusice will erect a new monument to commemorate this highly important battle. The Municipal Museum in nearby Čáslav, meanwhile, will prepare an exhibition about the battle. The members of the Czech-Liechtenstein Society will be notified in time about the dates of all the announced events.

*Ing. Pavel Juřík, Member of the Board
of the Czech-Liechtenstein Society*



A portrait of Joseph Wenzel I of Liechtenstein at the age of 29 by Francesco Solimano in 1725. © LIECHTENSTEIN. The Princely Collections, Vaduz-Vienna.



■ Liechtenstein's LGT Bank celebrates its 100th anniversary

Values worth sharing. This is the message conveyed by the LGT brand owned by the biggest private bank in the world, a bank that is on the cusp of celebrating the 100th anniversary of its foundation. Its story is indeed remarkable.

In 1969 when HSH Prince Max of Liechtenstein, the long-standing CEO of LGT Bank, was born, the family had owned the bank for almost 40 years. "Bank in Liechtenstein (BIL)" was founded in November 1920 as the first ever bank in Liechtenstein. The most particular objective of this small regional bank, as it was at the time, was to support economic development by providing loans to businesspersons and servicing private clients. When, due to the turmoil sparked by the world economic crisis, the bank ended up in trouble in 1930, the majority of its shares was bought by the princely family.

And thus, the history of the princely bank started: a story of a small regional bank which, especially thanks to recent developments, became an important global player in the fields of private banking, asset management for institutional clients and alternative investing. In 1981, Prince Philipp, a brother of the reigning prince, took over the management of the princely bank. Under Prince Philipp the bank grew more international. It opened an office in London in 1982, an office in Hong Kong in 1986 and one in Singapore in 2001.

Another milestone was the sale of GT Management, an important asset manager servicing institutional clients acquired by the bank in the 1980s to extend its business model with another pillar, namely asset management for institutional clients. The yield from the sale of GT Management exceeded one billion dollars. The princely family decided to entrust LGT

with the management of the capital and defined clear rules for this task. The pursued strategy has been to keep the capital and increase its value from generation to generation. "The Princely Portfolio" was established - it follows a princely strategy that innovatively combines traditional and alternative investing. Its philosophy is reminiscent of those of the big foundations of American universities such as Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Stanford. The management of the "princely strategy" was taken over by LGT Capital Management, an investment company founded in 2000 and today included in LGT Capital Partners. Not long after the "Princely portfolio" was established, the clients of LGT Bank were also given the opportunity to invest in the strategy together with the princely family.

LGT Capital Partners is today one of the leading global specialists in the field of alternative investing. Its clients include over 500 pension funds, insurance companies, sovereign national funds, foundations and banks.

Over the course history, the princes of Liechtenstein became renowned as pioneers, researchers, diplomats and benefactors. They have always been engaged in different issues related to science and humankind's general well-being.

The theme of sustainability and thinking on a long-term perspective has characterised the house for centuries

The development of LGT Group is no exception here. Sustainable development based on social, economic and environmental pillars is deeply rooted in LGT corporate culture. Since 2003, the bank has included sustainability among its investment strategies.

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The family of Hans Adam II, Prince of Liechtenstein. Prince Maximilian is the first from the left.



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In 2006, Prince Max, the second son of the reigning prince, took over LGT. Within the LGT Group, LGT Lightstone was established. It is an investment platform focused on direct investing in projects that positively contribute to the sustainable development of the planet.

What was once a small regional bank became a globally successful private bank employing over 3,700 people in more than 20 locations around the globe. The story of the LGT Group is an example of how provident and able the princely family is in its activities. Having grown so successfully, as of 1 January 2021 LGT decided to divide the group into three independent entities – LGT Bank, LGT do projektů, které pozitivně přispívají k udržitelnému rozvoji planety.

■ We want to grow in the area of impact investment, says Prince Maximilian

Within the Liechtenstein family, you are in charge of LGT Group, while your older brother Alois is the hereditary prince of Liechtenstein and his role is that of a statesman. Your younger brother Constantin takes care of foundations, real estate, vineyards and art collections. Are you all happy with this distribution?

Yes, my key responsibility is supervision over LGT Group including its private equity activities. I have been doing this since 2006. I enjoy my role, also because of my previous experience. I like to develop the business and I'm definitely happy with the arrangements and the distribution of tasks in the family

*What do you want to leave behind in the family history?
What is your goal when it comes to your legacy?*

Everyone at the group seeks to generate the greatest value possible for our partners and all stakeholders. We provide advisory services and investment management for private and institutional clients. It is very important to us that our activities have a positive impact on society and the environment. This is also the reason why, in forming our strategy, we put emphasis on a sustainable strategy. We invest in areas that have potential to improve society or the environment. At the same time, however, we want to generate financial returns for our clients and the group.

Earlier this year, you introduced a new LGT bank structure. The bank is now split into three divisions.

Why did you divide it so?

This is a big move for the bank. The entire LGT group will be split into three individual companies LGT Private Banking, LGT Capital Partners and an impact investment division. The

reason for this is that these three parts are too different to fit together. Each has its own way of creating value and its own position in the market. From now on, each company will enjoy greater independence, flexibility and responsibility. As individual businesses they can take a more targeted approach to their own goals and react much more quickly. The sum of all parts -all the divisions together - will create more value in the future.

Do you expect all three entities to achieve a similar performance?

The biggest division is private banking, followed by LGT Capital Partners, our asset management division. The entity focusing on impact investment, that is, investment with a favourable impact on society and the environment, is the youngest and smallest division. Despite this, of all the divisions it should grow the most. They are all strong and fine, but each one runs a race of its own.

Can you say what types of impact investments you prefer? Shares in companies, projects or other things?

We are looking at capital growth opportunities in areas that have a positive impact on society. The key sector is health, in which we have about 10 projects. We have another three projects in education. But we also focus on environmental challenges, especially in sustainable energy, with a sustainable logistics strategy and in e-aviation.

Can you give us an example?

For instance, in Latin America, namely in Brazil, which is the biggest market there, we are investing in a project in freight transport, which improves the efficiency of deliveries. The local logistical reality is that 60 percent of trucks travel empty because they unload their cargo some place and then return empty. With the help of a smart platform, the logistics can improve markedly, which in effect means lower emissions as well as costs.



**Prince Maximilian, the CEO
of the LGT Group**

*An excerpt from an interview with Prince Maximilian,
which will be published in December by the weekly
magazine E15.*



Czech winner of the European Awards for Cultural Heritage 2020: technology for remote collaboration of classical musicians from the Czech institutions, CESNET and the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague.

■ Europa Nostra – working every day for European cultural heritage



In the last issue of this newsletter, we briefly introduced Europa Nostra, a federation of non-government associations, of which the Czech-Liechtenstein Society became a member this autumn. This time we will look more closely at the activities of this prominent organisation.

Europa Nostra is a pan-European federation of non-governmental organisations focused on the protection of Europe's cultural heritage. It was established in 1963 by seven European countries and gradually became one of the most important organisations in this field within the European Community. Today it includes 244 member organisations and 115 associated organisations from 37 countries as well 1,030 individual members. The Czech Republic is represented in Europa Nostra by eight organisations, while the associated member status was awarded to Charles University and the National Heritage Institute. The Association of Castle and Manor Houses Owners represented by Petr Svoboda is

a rather active member, with Petr Svoboda being not only a member of the Europa Nostra Council but also the vice-chairman of the Czech-Liechtenstein Society. Europa Nostra basically has four main tasks: it lobbies for cultural heritage in Europe, highlights examples of good practice, protects endangered sites and involves experts and the wider public in related issues. It annually awards the “Oscar in monument preservation” – Grand Prix, which is the top prize within the European Awards for Cultural Heritage. This competition evaluates cultural heritage work according to four categories: Conservation, Research, Dedicated service and Education training and awareness-raising. The European Awards focus especially on outstanding monuments and projects that are not the subject of great public popularity but are of importance to local communities. These awards are considered very prestigious within the European cultural context. In 2018, the Czech Republic was again awarded in the “Renovation” category, this time for the project to renovate St. Wenceslas' Rotunda in Prague. This year, at the beginning of May, the awardees for 2020 were announced. The 21 prize winners from 15 countries included a project from the Czech Republic: the CESNET association together with the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague won the education category prize for using network transmission that enables real-time connections between international musicians. Thanks to this new technology, musicians are now able to play “online” together with almost no time delay and with excellent sound quality preserved. Europe's 7 Most Endangered heritage sites is another important initiative pursued by Europa Nostra. The programme, which started in 2013, includes the participation of the European Investment Bank Institute and the Council of Europe Development Bank. Every two years, it selects what it sees as Europe's seven most endangered heritage sites. The selection brings prestige and media attention to the endangered sites as well as specialised consultations necessary for renovations. For a chosen site, an action plan is prepared, drawing on the work of specialists from different fields, while expert meetings and conferences are held about the given topic. The listing of Jezeří Castle in Horní Jiřetín among the Seven Most Endangered sites of 2020 shall be considered as a great success. It is the first Czech site to appear among Europe's 7 Most Endangered. Let's hope that the European publicity will help to allocate the funds needed to save Jezeří Castle.



■ Lednice Valtice Music Festival 2021 is aiming high: the biggest Antonio Vivaldi music show in Europe in 40 years.

The Lednice-Valtice Festival – an outstanding musical event continuing the legacy of the Liechtenstein family in Moravia – was held for the fifth time this year. Although shortened due to the declared state of emergency, the 2020 edition of the Lednice-Valtice Music Festival proved to be one of the most impressive yet. As soon as the applause died down after the last concert in the Rybníční castle in Lednice, preparations for the forthcoming sixth year of the festival, which will take place from 2 October to 16 October, 2021, got fully under way. It should turn out to be the biggest Antonio Vivaldi music show in Europe seen so far in the new millennium. The last similar event dedicated to the work of this Venetian master was held in the 1980s.



Pohansko castle near Břeclav, built by Prince Jan I Liechtenstein in 1811–1812.

The programme of the festival, created by Eduardo Garcia Salas and Jiří Partyka, will introduce Vivaldi as a complex composer who left a rich music legacy extending from instrumental concerts to chamber and sacred music as well as to opera, of which he was a prominent author. The programme is focused on Vivaldi's ties to the Czech lands: around 1730, the Venetian composer spent some time in Prague. He was also connected with Vienna, where he enjoyed the support of Emperor Charles VI Habsburg for many years.

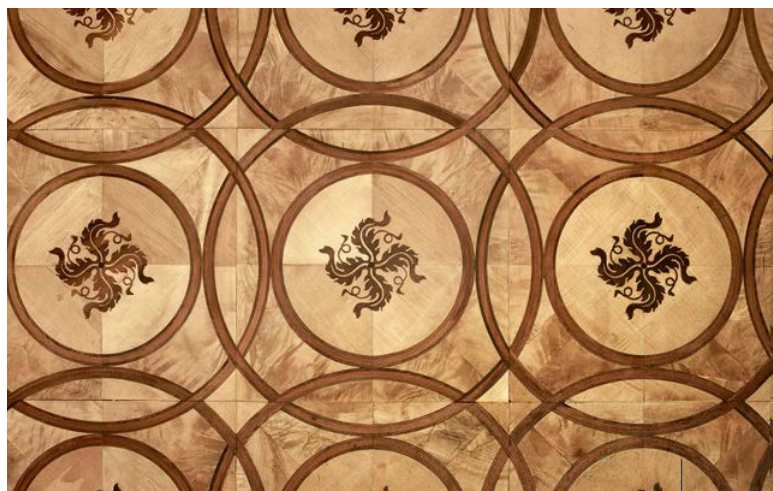
Several of Vivaldi's operas were performed during his life in Prague, particularly in the theatre of Count František Antonín Špork in his Na Poříčí palace; two of the operas were even premiered there. Many unique records of Vivaldi's works have survived in the Czech archives, many of which were commissioned by Czech noblemen. Vivaldi's most famous work, *The Contest Between Harmony and Invention*, which includes the famous *Four Seasons* concertos, was even dedicated to Czech Count Václav Morzin. Also, Johann Joseph Adam Liechtenstein was an important patron of Antonio Vivaldi. Around 1721, Vivaldi worked at his court as "Maestro di cappella", which means the *Kappelmeister* or director of music. Vivaldi later dedicated the Pavia version of his opera *Farnace*, first performed in 1731, to the Prince of Liechtenstein. The festival will feature prominent music ensembles from Spain, Italy, France and the Czech Republic specialising in authentic performances of early music. It will also include concerts for schools focused on Baroque music as well as lectures by prominent European researchers focusing on Vivaldi. The LVHF programme 2021 will be announced on www.lvhf.cz on the birthday of Antonio Vivaldi.





... take a look at our Instagram account @czechliechtensteinsociety

October 13 - Last weekend brought the end of this year's season for most cultural monuments in the Czech Republic. When they reopen in the spring, they will have a new competitor - in Valtice, visitors will be able to see the newly renovated Belvedere summerhouse. We had the opportunity to see it during repairs that were carried out this summer with the castellan of Valtice chateau, Richard Svoboda, who is also a member of the Czech-Liechtenstein Society.



November 11 - At the Liechtenstein City Palace in Vienna, Michael Thonet created unique floors with his own wood bending technique. Even after 170 years, the floors are still in good condition and look beautiful.

October 9 - The Moravian Amazonia, the largest preserved riparian forest complex in the Czech Republic, is a unique natural area at the confluence of the Morava and Thaya rivers. Its name suggests a richness and diversity of species resembling a South American rainforest. However, this is not the main reason why it recently appeared in newspaper headlines: pressure from the professional and general public led state-owned company Lesy ČR to open a discussion on how to reduce the burden on the area from intensive mining. The management approach taken to Moravian Amazonia in recent decades has led to the disturbance of local ecosystems and biodiversity.



November 13 - Do you recognise the chateau in the picture? Rudolf von Alta's watercolour from the Princely Collections depicts a very famous place that has changed beyond recognition since he painted it. This is the original Baroque chateau in Lednice, captured in 1830, i.e. 16 years before the reconstruction that gave the chateau its current, neo-Gothic form.



The Liechtenstein Princely Art Collections: From the Renaissance to the Biedermeier period

The Princely Collections, composed of private art collections that are unparalleled in the world, was established thanks to the vision, will and courage of generations of the princely House of Liechtenstein. Thanks to the enduring and consistent work of members of the princely family, the collections today include over 40,000 pieces of art and paintings from the early Renaissance to the Biedermeier period. There are works by such outstanding artists as Lucas Cranach the Elder, Raffaello, Peter Paul Rubens, Anthony van Dyck, Rembrandt, Friedrich von Amerling and others. Down the years, members of the Liechtenstein family continued the efforts of ancestors, leaving their own legacies of contemporary art in the collections.



Rubens' painting Venus in Front of the Mirror from 1614 was presumably acquired by Prince Johann Adam I of Liechtenstein from an art dealer in Antwerp.
© LIECHTENSTEIN. Princely collections, Vaduz-Vienna.

The origins of the Liechtenstein family's perpetual collecting activities are closely connected with the first permanent holder of the princely title Karl (1569-1627). Prince Karl, as the Hofmeister at Prague Castle, was responsible for all the artists working in the imperial court of Rudolf II, a Holy Roman Emperor known for his support of the arts. The first big works purchased by Karl I have remained in the collections ever since. They include monumental bronze statues by Adriaen de Vries, namely Christ in Distress from 1607 and St. Sebastian from around 1620.

Karl's son, Karl Eusebius I Liechtenstein (1611-1684), was also a passionate art collector. In 1637, he commissioned Peter Paul Rubens to paint the altarpiece for the parish church in Valtice. The monumental painting of The Assumption of the Virgin is today on display in the Garden Palace in Vienna. Karl Eusebius laid the foundations



The collections include a golden carriage commissioned by Josef Václav I Liechtenstein in 1737. The Prince used it when he accompanied Isabella of Parma, the bride of Joseph II, on her journey from Parma to the court in Vienna.
© LIECHTENSTEIN. Princely collections, Vaduz-Vienna.



The portrait from 1793 depicts Princess Karoline Liechtenstein as Iris, the Greek goddess of the rainbow, filling clouds with water. © LIECHTENSTEIN. Princely collections, Vaduz-Vienna.

for one of the world's biggest collections of signed works by this Flemish artist. As of today, there are 36 paintings in the Princely Collections.

Karl Eusebius' son, Prince Hans Adam I of Liechtenstein (1657-1712), followed in his father's footsteps. He was one



The Badminton Cabinet has been part of the Collections since 2004. Purchased for 19 million pounds sterling, it became the most expensive piece of furniture in the world. © LIECHTENSTEIN. Princely Collections, Vaduz-Vienna.

of the most significant benefactors and builders of his time. Among other achievements, he was behind the building of both the splendid Viennese palaces: the Municipal Palace in Bankgasse and the Garden Palace in Rossau.

During the reign of Prince Alois I Liechtenstein (1759-1805), many works were commissioned to extend the collections, including a series of portraits of his wife, Princess Karoline Liechtenstein, and one of his sister, Princess Maria Josephine neé Liechtenstein. Both the portraits



were painted by the famous French painter Elisabeth Vigée-Lebrun, the court portraitist of Queen Marie-Antoinette. Vigée-Lebrun was one of 15 women accepted into the Royal Academy of Arts in the 17th and 18th century.

Paintings and furniture from the times of Classicism and Biedermeier have a unique place in the Princely Collections. Since 2013, these art pieces have been exhibited in the renovated Liechtenstein Municipal Palace. The Princely Collections boast more than 20 works by the outstanding Biedermeier painter Friedrich von Amerling.



Amerling's portrait of two-year-old Princess Maria Franziska from 1836. © LIECHTENSTEIN. Princely Collections, Vaduz-Vienna.

Prince Alois II (1796-1858), a great art lover and Amerling's sponsor, commissioned the artist to paint portraits of his children. The portrait of a sleeping, two-year-old Princess Maria Franziska is especially valued.

Protect and support the arts: this is the motto embraced by the Princely Collections.

The effort to mediate public access to the outstanding pieces of art is of equal importance. Part of the Collections has been permanently exhibited in the Liechtenstein palace in Rossau since 1807 when it became the first public gallery in Vienna. Today the Collections are permanently deposited in three places: in Vaduz and in two palaces in Vienna - the Garden Palaces (Gartenpalais) in Rossau and the Municipal Palace (Stadtpalais) in Bankgasse next to Hofburg. Part of the Collections is permanently „on the road“. Recently, art pieces from the Princely Collections were shown at exhibitions in Japan, Singapore, China, the U.S., France and Germany. Rembrandt's painting, Cupid with the Soap Bubble, from the Princely Collections, is currently on display in the Kinsky Palace in Prague. The Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation lent several of Rembrandt's works to the National Gallery for the exhibition held on the occasion of the 350th anniversary of Rembrandt's death. The exhibition Rembrandt: A Portrait of a Man is once again open to the public. It will last until the end of January.