



Spring 2022

NEWSLETTER

Czech-Liechtenstein Society

Member of Europa Nostra



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Garden Palace in Vienna, venue of the March exhibition on Prince Joseph Wenzel of Liechtenstein

Chairman's Address

Covid. Tornado. Ukraine. Three words that make other issues look like a trifle. Three words that have gradually dominated the public space so strongly that each of us asks practically every day: how will we settle down in this new world?

The Czech-Liechtenstein Society has been asking this question by means of its members for the past three years. Of course, Covid-19 in particular has temporarily restricted our programme and comfort. But I am happy to say that we have never allowed these three words to corner us, we have not forgotten one or the other for the third, and, above all, they have never made us forget why we as an Association were established and why we are still active despite the turbulences brought by time. The Czech-Liechtenstein Society has stood up to all three challenges: because of Covid, we have modernised mutual

communication; after the tornado, we helped a school in the badly-hit village of Hrušky, and we have supported Ukraine with a financial gift used for the protection of this shelled and insidiously attacked country.

Naturally, none of the three words representing serious threats to our society and civilisation will cease to affect our lives in the days to come. We will monitor their manifestations, we will keep reacting to them if necessary or useful, but in the meantime we will be happy to get back to our original mission, that is, doing our best to help improve relations between the Czech Republic and Liechtenstein, spread further the information about the historic Liechtenstein legacy in our lands. In this context, I believe that 2022 will be rich in programme, interesting, spread in a varied way across our country and beyond, and that the broader public will also take note of our activities.



Daniel Herman, a member of the CLS Board and Honorary Consul of the Principality of Liechtenstein in the Czech Republic, led participants at the General Assembly held in Brno in March to a brief prayer for an end to the horrors in Ukraine. In today's opening text for this Newsletter, besides calling for a prayer for the victory of the good over the evil, I would like to present a wish: Covid, Tornado,

Ukraine. Let's not allow these three words and the related suffering to veil the purpose of our meetings and common work. Let us wish each other to stay ourselves, to retain our identity and integrity. Each of our members and the Association as a whole. ■

*Petr Svoboda,
Chairman of CLS*

Results of a survey among Czech-Liechtenstein Society members

The survey initiated by the CLS Board was designed to raise feedback from Association members as regards the practical functioning of the Association, the focus of its future activities and presentation vis-a-vis the public. The survey was conducted at the turn of January and February of this year by means of anonymous online questionnaires. Twenty-eight out of 64 Association members, or 44 percent, took part in the survey. We would like to thank everyone who has found the time to participate.

In conclusion, the members were allowed to comment on the Association's activities to date, propose further ideas on the Association's activities, and give their own observation concerning the CLS. Besides praise, we have registered proposals for trips (e.g. a trip to Vaduz and to Liechtenstein sights in Austria and across Europe), online lectures, and words of hope that the upcoming year will bring more opportunities to meet in person. We have already tried to project these wishes into our draft CLS activity programme for this year. ■

Key findings of the survey of CLS members:

- The participating members prefer sightseeing (36 %) and educational (32 %) activities
- The activities should be focused in particular on the broader public and should not be restricted to CLS members (64 %)
- The vast majority of respondents said they would prefer CLS events to take place once every three months (82 %)
- Members prefer one-day events (67 %) against multi-day events, and they prefer the Association to secure the organisation of the event programme
- Members said the overall presentation of the Association comprising its website, Instagram account and the CLS Newsletter was sufficient (54 %) or even outstanding (46 %).

Programme of CLS activities for 2022

February: A meeting of the CLS Board

The Czech-Liechtenstein Society Board met in February. The meeting focused on an approval of activities and the accounts for the 2021, a presentation of the outcome of a survey among CLS members, planned activities and the budget for 2022, and preparatory work on a General Assembly in March.

March: A gift to help Ukraine

The CLS Board reacted immediately to the war in Ukraine and decided to provide a financial gift worth CZK 20,000 to help people living in Ukraine. The sum was transferred to an account set up by the Ukrainian embassy in Prague for this purpose.

March: A meeting of the CLS Board with Her Serene Highness Maria-Pia Kothbauer, the Ambassador of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the Czech Republic and Honorary Chairwoman of the CLS

The meeting of the CLS Board with Her Serene Highness Maria-Pia Kothbauer, the Ambassador of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the Czech Republic and Honorary Chairwoman of the CLS, comprised a debate not only about the outcome of the survey among CLS members, but also on the activity plan for 2022 and ideas for the upcoming period.

March: General Assembly in Brno

A General Assembly was held in Brno on Friday, March 25, at the Honorary Consulate of Austria, which also shelters the office of Mr Daniel Herman, the Honorary Consul of the Principality of Liechtenstein. The premises as well as refreshments were kindly provided to the Association



by Mr Georg Stöger, the Honorary Consul of Austria and a CLS member. The meeting was attended by 17 members (16 in person, one through a power of attorney). Mr Chairman Svoboda, who presided over the meeting, presented an Annual Report on the CLS activities and an Annual Report on CLS Financial Statement for 2021, as well as a proposed Plan of CLS activities and CLS Budget draft for 2022. The meeting approved all points of the resolution. The members also approved amendment of the CLS Statutes of Association, within which the legal entities can become members of the Association as of now. The annual membership fee for a legal entity was set at CZK 3,600. Members also had the opportunity to learn about the outcome of a survey among Czech-Liechtenstein Society members.

Members also received copies of Newsletter'21 during the meeting – a selection of the most interesting articles from four editions of the CLS Newsletter for 2021. Further copies are available at the CLS office upon request.

March: Visit to an exhibition called “The Constant Prince – Joseph Wenzel and his Art”

A joint visit to an exhibition focused on Prince Joseph Wenzel of Liechtenstein at the Liechtenstein Garden Palace in Vienna followed on Saturday, March 26. The exhibition was open to the public until the end of March. CLS members had an opportunity to see the exhibition as well as the permanent exhibition within a guided tour.

April: Trip to the Sparbach park

In April, members can visit the natural reserve of Park Sparbach, the oldest wildlife reserve in Austria, near

Vienna. On Friday, April 29, CLS members are invited to take part in a ceremonial day on the 60th anniversary of the park founded by the princely Liechtenstein family. Visitors will enjoy a ceremonial opening, guided tours and other activities.

June: Liechtenstein Day at Smetana's Litomyšl festival

Before the summer holidays, on Wednesday, June 22, a so-called Liechtenstein Day will be held within the Smetana's Litomyšl music festival. Its agenda includes a lecture for the public called “Liechtenstein Today”, the opening of an exhibition of watercolour paintings from the princely Liechtenstein collections, and a concert of a Liechtenstein-based orchestra. Members will be informed about the programme well in advance.

July: Meeting Brno

At the end of July, the CLS is planning to take part in the Meeting Brno festival. We will offer more detailed information about the festival in the summer issue of the Newsletter, due to be published at the end of June.

September/October: The Lednice-Valtice Music Festival

Autumn is the traditional season of the Lednice-Valtice Music Festival, regularly attended by a number of CLS members. This year, the festival will offer in particular Balkan rhythms, because this year's edition is linked to the story of the Moravian Croats.

December: Pre-Christmas meeting over a glass of wine

We will end the year with the traditional pre-Christmas meeting of members over a glass of wine. ■



CLS members at the exhibition “The Constant Prince – Joseph Wenzel and his Art” outside the Garden Palace in Vienna.



■ A piece of Liechtenstein at Smetana's Litomyšl

This year's edition of the Smetana's Litomyšl music festival will offer visitors a thematic programme focused on Liechtenstein and its culture, besides the traditional high-quality repertoire of classical music. Within the festival, a so-called Liechtenstein Day will be held in different places in Litomyšl on Wednesday, June 22. As a unique cultural treat, an exhibition of fifty watercolour paintings from the princely Liechtenstein collections will allow the Czech public to see a collection of works from the renowned depositories of the princely family for the first time ever.

All visitors are cordially invited.

PROGRAMME OF THE SO-CALLED LIECHTENSTEIN DAY - JUNE 22, 2022

A lecture on Liechtenstein, Castle Riding School, 11:00

What is today's Liechtenstein like, who are the Liechtensteins, and what cultural legacy have they left in the Czech Lands? These are the main topics to be addressed in a lecture delivered by Daniel Herman, Honorary Consul of the Principality of Liechtenstein in the Czech Republic, and Michal Růžička, spokesman for the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation in the Czech Republic.

The opening of an exhibition of watercolour paintings from the princely Liechtenstein collections, Castle brewery, 16:00

The organisers of the exhibition are LIECHTENSTEIN. Princely Art Collections, City Gallery Litomyšl, and Smetana's Litomyšl. The exhibition is a part of the Smetana's Creative Litomyšl 2022 festival.



The beauty of the Czech Lands in watercolour paintings from the princely Liechtenstein collections.

Josef Höger (1801–1877) Border chateau.

A view of the Hlohovec pond from a first-floor hall.

1893, pencil, watercolour © LIECHTENSTEIN.

Princely Art Collections, Vaduz–Vienna

The exhibition will be held from June 9 to August 31, 2022 and will be open daily. At the time of the National Music Festival Smetana's Litomyšl, it will be open from 10 to 20 o'clock; from July 6 to August 31 from 10 to 17 o'clock.

An Ensemble Esperanza concert, Smetana House, 19:30

An exceptional concert of a string ensemble of Liechtenstein's International Music Academy, which associates the best young musicians from all over the world, will be held at the Smetana House in Litomyšl. ■



■ Exhibition & Anniversary: The Constant Prince. Joseph Wenzel and his art

Prince Joseph Wenzel of Liechtenstein (1696–1772) – a diplomat, commander, strategist, but also art lover and collector, who expanded the Liechtenstein art collection by many outstanding works of art. We could admire some of them at the recently concluded exhibition on Joseph Wenzel of Liechtenstein at the Garden Palace in Vienna. It was organised to commemorate the 250th anniversary of his death, and it also opened the annual series of exhibitions called “March at the Palace”.

Prince Joseph Wenzel of Liechtenstein was a man of many talents and pastimes, as was typical of an educated Baroque nobleman of the time. By means of the exhibits on display, the “Constant Prince” exhibition introduced to the visitors a personality that made an indelible mark in the history not only of his family, but of Europe as a whole.

One of the roles he played with success was his diplomatic career. First in Berlin, at the court of the Prussian king, later at the court of French King Louis XV, where he worked on an assignment from Emperor Charles VI

in 1737–1740. His Paris mission required huge expenditures on representation which he could only afford owing to his wealth. One of its symbols is a golden Rococo coach, one of five made for this occasion by French architect Nicolas Pineau and by which the prince of Liechtenstein ceremonially arrived as the imperial ambassador to Paris and Versailles. However, the coaches were also used later on for different representative occasions. In 1760, for instance, Prince Joseph Wenzel set out for Parma, following a request by Empress Maria Theresa, to pick up Isabella of Parma, the future wife of her son, later Emperor Joseph II. The entourage with

coaches was depicted in the main square in Parma by an unknown Italian artist. Today, this only preserved coach welcomes visitors in the entrance hall of the Garden Palace in Vienna.

A portrait of Joseph Wenzel with the Order of the Golden Fleece also comes from France. It was painted by Hyacinthe Rigaud, the most famous portrait painter in Paris at the time, following an order from the prince.

Diplomacy, however, did not always suffice. From his youth, Joseph Wenzel, following the example of his father and many other family members, decided to pursue a military career, and during his lifetime he took part in several European wars as a member of the Austrian army. During military campaigns, he noticed how poorly equipped and little efficient the Austrian artillery was. Even though he himself had no experience with the artillery, he launched a radical reform of the Austrian artillery of his own initiative and with authorisation from Empress Maria Theresa.

With the help of the prince, the artillery was promoted to an independent army unit besides the cavalry and infantry. He invested immense financial means from his own resources in modernisation and the education of artillery men. Results were quick to come. The defeat of the Prussian army at Kolín in 1757 was memorable. The modernised artillery troops made a significant contribution to Austria's victory.

However, Prince Joseph Wenzel also made a mark in history as a keen art collector. Owing to him, the princely collections were enlarged with many valuable works of art. The first catalogue also emerged during his life. The exhibits on display comprised not only works of art, but also books, letters and documents. For instance his correspondence helped unveil the personal relationship between Prince Joseph Wenzel and Empress Maria Theresa, who described him as “an outstanding citizen and a faithful friend”, as well as the lifetime bond to Prussian King Friedrich the Great, for whom Joseph Wenzel was “a faithful prince”.





Giovanni Antonio Canal, nicknamed Canaletto (1697–1768): Venezia Grand Canal, 1723/24, loan from the Thyssen-Bornemisza National Museum in Madrid

Interview with Johann Kräftner, director of the Princely Art Collections

1. Prince Joseph Wenzel was known, among other things, as a great art collector. What did he focus on?

On the one hand, Prince Joseph Wenzel collected great works of art by famous masters of the past eras, I would mention for instance the enamels depicting the Trojan War or the equestrian statuette of Ferdinando I de Medici by Giambologna. On the other hand, he was extremely fond of contemporary art, which is obvious from his orders and acquisitions: from Bellotto and Canaletto in Venice, Chardin and Rigeaud in Paris, to Batoni in Rome. He also made an intensive use of all his travels and diplomatic missions to procure works of art.

2. What was on display at the exhibition and which must-see exhibits would you recommend to visitors?

The most important works at the exhibition were undoubtedly two large “Liechtenstein Canalettos” loaned by the Thyssen Museum in Madrid, which once used to be exhibited on the walls of the Garden Palace in Vienna alongside two other similarly large and 14 smaller paintings by the Italians Canaletto and Bellotto. These were sold in the 1950s, with the exception of Bellotto’s two views of the Garden Palace commissioned by Prince Joseph Wenzel in 1758 when the artist was passing through Vienna.

3. Did all the artwork on display come from the Liechtenstein art collections?

As has been said, the exhibition also comprised some outstanding loans. I have already mentioned two paintings by Canaletto from the Thyssen collection. Four paintings by French painter Jean Simeon Chardin from the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa and the National Gallery in Washington are equally important.



Unknown Italian master: The arrival of Prince Joseph I of Liechtenstein to Parma on September 3, 1760, painted after 1761. © LIECHTENSTEIN. Princely Art Collections. Vienna-Vaduz

We should not forget about the monumental painting by Franz Anton Palko, depicting Prince Joseph Wenzel with Emperor Joseph II and his second wife. This was an important loan from the Valtice castle. I will also mention a bust from the Belvedere by Balthasar Ferdinand Moll, which used to be a part of monumental wall decorations in honour of Prince Joseph Wenzel of Liechtenstein at the imperial armoury in Vienna. It was commissioned by Empress Maria Theresa in 1758.

4. Did you personally have a favourite item at the exhibition?

I really liked the last work on display: Messerschmidt’s bust of Prince Joseph Wenzel, created probably posthumously in 1773. It reduces the prince’s face to his impressive visage as an old man, with sharp lines of the eyes, mouth, ears and hair, without adding anything else.

5. The Joseph Wenzel exhibition opened a series of annual exhibitions called “March at the Palace”. Can you already tell us what to look forward to next year?

The princely Liechtenstein collections also comprise the most important collection of statues in private hands. Therefore, the next exhibition will focus on the works of Adrian de Vries made in Prague, bronze statues by Antico, Soldani and Dusquesnois, and probably also marble sculptures by Alessandro Algardi, Domenico Guidi and Antonio Canova. ■



The exhibition also featured two paintings by Italo Bernardo Bellotto depicting the Garden Palace in 1758. One of them shows Prince Joseph Wenzel himself with his servant. © LIECHTENSTEIN. Princely Art Collections. Vienna-Vaduz



Meytens, Martin van (1695–1770), A Portrait of Maria Theresa of Savoy. © LIECHTENSTEIN. Princely Art Collections. Vaduz-Vienna

Anniversary: Maria Theresa of Savoy

(11. 11. 1694 – 20. 2. 1772)

Up to now, people in Kostelec nad Černými lesy have referred to Maria Theresa of Savoy as “our Savoyard”, a remarkable woman who contributed to the development of the entire region. Her legacy reflects her great personal piety corresponding to the waning, spiritually exalted Baroque era. With her progressive reforms which she introduced in her domains, she anticipated the breakthrough Enlightenment period. The duchess of Savoy, princess of Liechtenstein, which are only some of her many titles, died 250 years ago.

Life marked by personal tragedies

Maria Theresa, born princess of Liechtenstein, was the daughter of Prince Johann Adam I of Liechtenstein and Maria Edmunda Theresa of Dietrichstein. She was born in Vienna as their sixth child. At age 18, and following the death of her father, she took over the Liechtenstein domains in central Bohemia. Besides Kostelec nad Černými lesy, which is mentioned the most frequently in relation to her activities in the Czech Lands, she also owned the domains of Škvorec, Uhříněves and Plaňany (she later also bought the domains of Kounice and Rataje).

In terms of her wedding perspectives, it is obvious that the Liechtenstein princess and wealthy heiress Maria Theresa was a great match. The family therefore started to look for a bridegroom. They chose Thomas Emmanuel, the Duke of Savoy-Carignan, the nephew of famous commander Eugene of Savoy, who also personally took part in preparatory work for the wedding. In 1713, Kostelec nad Černými lesy witnessed a magnificent wedding held at the Castle Chapel of St Adalbert. A year later, their only child was born – son Eugene Johann Franz. However, the family happiness did not last long. In 1729, at age 34, Maria Theresa of Savoy became a widow after her husband had died of smallpox. Another tragedy followed shortly afterwards when her son died during a military campaign in France.

On the subjects' side

After the death of her husband, the duchess focused her attention on the management of her domains in Bohemia



The building of a Baroque hospital with a poorhouse, built directly under the castle by Maria Theresa of Savoy. The centre of the main façade with a triangular gable is decorated with a relief of the Savoy-Lichtenstein coat of arms.



and Austria, although the Czech domains were managed remotely from Vienna. As a widow, Maria Theresa of Savoy no longer visited the Czech Lands. However, as proven by preserved written orders and other documents issued by her office, lively correspondence was under way between the Liechtenstein palace in Vienna and the domain authority in Bohemia. The owner of the domain, however, was well aware of the cons of her absence for her subjects and in a resolution from 1766, she stated, via local priests, that *"...subjects oppressed illegally by our managerial officials or those who could not see their just demands settled without bribery and who are now afraid... are to address their complaints directly to us as the most merciful highness, either in writing or in person, and the door shall remain open to them at all times."* And since it was largely Czech-speaking citizens who lived in her central Bohemian domains, the duchess permitted her subjects to address her in Czech instead of the official German.

Enlightenment pioneer

Owing to her care, the then-Liechtenstein domains in central Bohemia finally recovered from the aftermath of the Thirty Years' War and started to flourish again. This was undoubtedly also due to the wise social policy of the duchess. Great steps taken by Maria Theresa of Savoy included the abolition of serfdom, a revolutionary move in the context of the era. The introduction of free schooling was equally important for her subjects and their children. In a resolution from 1755, the duchess ordered that teachers receive fixed wages from the local authority. This freed her subjects from mandatory payments and supplies to keep teachers at schools. This all happened several decades ahead of the great Enlightenment reforms of her namesake, Austrian Empress Maria Theresa, and her son, Emperor Joseph II.

Woman with deeply rooted trust in God

Not only her faith in progress, typical of the future Enlightenment reformers, but also considerable personal piety and care of the spiritual life of her subjects are reflected in the legacy of this remarkable personality. She helped reorganise the parish administration of the time, she built new churches, chapels and parish houses. She had statues of St Donatus, the Bishop of Arezzo and patron saint protecting believers from storms and hail, erected in all her central Bohemian domains. They became the target of regular pleading processions seeking to avert bad weather and the related natural disasters. Bells bought for each municipality in the domain upon the duchess's order were due to fulfil the same task.



The pious duchess had a number of religious buildings built or repaired in her domains, including the single-nave Baroque Church of Holy Guardian Angels in the Kostelec nad Černými lesy square.

Sponsor and supporter of the poor

Besides bad weather, subjects in the individual cities and villages of the domain also suffered from frequent fires. The duchess therefore established a special fund to help people affected by a fire or another natural disaster. She also helped her subjects when the great famine broke out in 1755 – Maria Theresa ordered the opening of feudal granaries. The Baroque building of a former hospital with a poorhouse situated underneath the castle in Kostelec nad Černými lesy still recalls Maria Theresa of Savoy's care of the poor and the ill. This house was built in 1726-1728 next to an existing hospital built by the previous owners of the domain, the Smiřický of Smiřice family. Unlike in the past, the hospital treated both men and women from the time of Maria Theresa's governance.

The good duchess did not neglect her subjects in her last will: she forgave their debts to authorities and donated several thousand golden coins to each domain for the needs of the poor. Duchess Maria Theresa of Savoy, Duchess of Liechtenstein, died in Vienna on February 20, 1772. She is buried next to her husband and son in the Savoy Tomb of St Stephen's church in Vienna, which she had commissioned.

Savoyard's legacy is still alive

On February 20 this year, exactly on the 250th anniversary of her death, Cardinal Dominik Duka commemorated Maria Theresa when he celebrated a requiem in the Church of Holy Guardian Angels in Kostelec nad Černými lesy, also commissioned by Maria Theresa of Savoy. Participants in the mass included Petr Svoboda, chairman of the Czech-Liechtenstein Society, and Pavel Juřík, a member of the CLS Board and co-organiser of the mass. ■



■ Liechtenstein stands behind Ukraine

News of Russia's military invasion of Ukraine sparked a shock and condemnation in the Principality of Liechtenstein. It joined the vast majority of the world as its top state representatives strongly denounced this aggression against a sovereign state.

A day after the Russian military invasion of Ukraine, on February 25, the Liechtenstein government approved an immediate release of extraordinary financial aid worth CHF 500,000, both for people affected by the war directly in Ukraine and for refugees fleeing the country. Several days later, the government asked parliament to approve an additional financial sum of CHF 1.8 million to help Ukraine. Following steps taken by the European Union, the government also gradually approved sanction packages against Russia and, later on, against Belarus. They hit

both organisations and specific individuals with ties to the Putin regime. Liechtenstein also restricted payments for some Russian financial institutions and financial transactions and investment activities involving Russia. Similarly to other European countries, the Principality of Liechtenstein also saw a large wave of solidarity with Ukraine. Both individuals and organisations started to help financially or materially by means of humanitarian organisations including Charity Liechtenstein, the Red Cross of Liechtenstein and Refugee Aid Liechtenstein. Besides, as the conflict continues, since the beginning of March refugees from Ukraine have also been seeking asylum here, in the Alpine principality that is relatively remote from the conflict. They are getting a special protective status for refugees activated by the Liechtenstein government. Within international relations, Liechtenstein also cooperates in handling the refugee crisis with Moldova, which is currently overburdened with refugees from neighbouring Ukraine. At the end of March, therefore, Liechtenstein received 20 refugees from Moldova.

From a speech delivered by Foreign Minister Dominique Hasler, "Freedom and Self-Determination in Times of Aggression" at Princeton University in the United States on March 16, 2022

„We have witnessed a frontal aggression against Ukraine, a founding member of the United Nations, and an assault



The facades of different buildings in Liechtenstein, including the government building in Vaduz, symbolically put on the colours of the peace rainbow on March 3.



A meeting of the Liechtenstein government, February 25, 2022: Deputy Prime Minister Sabine Monauni and Foreign Minister Dominique Hasler tell ministers about the sanctions adopted.

on the international rule of law of historic gravity. This has also been a direct attack against the founding principles of the United Nations – the ultimate guardian of State sovereignty also for Liechtenstein. The Liechtenstein government has strongly condemned this aggression. Together with our partners in the United States and Europe we will be steadfast and persistent in our solidarity with Ukraine, and in our resolve to ensure accountability for the crimes committed in this illegal war. I am shocked by the reports of atrocious war crimes committed by the Russian armed forces. But Liechtenstein is also keen to see the prosecution of the decision itself to launch the invasion of Ukraine – the crime of aggression.”

From an interview of HSH Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein on the war in Ukraine for the Liechtensteiner Volksblatt daily, March 3, 2022

Prince Alois strongly condemned the Russian attack on Ukraine. *“I strongly condemn the Russian invasion of*

Ukraine. This is an unacceptable violation of international law. In this difficult time, I am thinking above all of the Ukrainian people. Liechtenstein can stand behind Ukraine and its citizens at the diplomatic level on the one hand, and support them through humanitarian aid on the other.”

On the economic impact of the conflict on

Liechtenstein: *“The war will have a negative impact on the international economy, especially in Europe. Liechtenstein as a most internationally oriented business locality will feel it too. Companies for which Russia and Ukraine are important markets will be hit the hardest. In general, however, we must also reckon with a growth in the exchange rate of the Swiss franc, higher spending on energies and other problems in the segment of supplier chains.”*

On the possibility of a great war in Europe: *“I am convinced that NATO and other relevant political actors will do their best to prevent a great war in Europe.”* In spite of this, Prince Alois sees the path towards peace as thorny.

From a statement by HSH Adam II for the 1FLTV channel, February 28, 2022

On the occasion of an opening of an exhibition on Prince Joseph Wenzel I of Liechtenstein at the Garden Palace in Vienna, the ruling Prince Hans Adam II made a clear statement on the war.

On the current situation in Ukraine. *“We are witnessing a dangerous development and I’m asking myself how it will evolve.”*

Liechtenstein itself can only do little here. However, Hans Adam II has welcomed the economic sanctions, labelling them as a convenient tool “because they concern Russia above all”. Prince Hans Adam II would probably go a step further in the energy sector, which has largely been left out of the sanctions so far. “You can buy oil and gas elsewhere. We don’t need Russia for that and we don’t have to buy anything from them,” said Prince Hans Adam II. ■



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

We continue our Instagram activities! Join us and follow @czechliechtensteinsociety!

21 January 2022 – Medieval Gutenberg Castle. You will find it in Balzers, the southernmost village in Liechtenstein. A beautiful view of the Alps and the Rhine, which flows by, awaits those who climb up the hill. ■



7 March 2022 – Do you know the Pond House (Rybniční zámček)? This charming classicist building can be found in the Lednice-Valtice area, on the shore of a pond near the village of Lednice. The house was built by Prince Johann I of Liechtenstein (1760–836) and designed by the famous Austrian architect Joseph Kornhäusel. Originally, it served as housing for the forester and provided facilities for the fish and bird hunts that were held there.

It was then given a new purpose in the 1920s by Prince Johann II of Liechtenstein (1760–1836): with his approval, the Brno University of Agriculture began natural history research on the rich fauna and flora there. Today, the Pond House is owned by Mendel University in Brno, which rents it out for various social events. Among other things, it is a popular place for weddings. ■



4 April 2022 – Where to go for a spring trip? We recommend the newly reconstructed Cvilín lookout tower in Krnov, which reopens to visitors after the winter on weekends. This cylindrical stone tower was built at the beginning of the 20th century. Because its main patron was Prince Johann II of Liechtenstein, it was formerly known as the Liechtenstein Tower. It is 28 metres high and you have to climb 134 steps to reach the top. But the view of the Krnov region together with the peaks of the Beskydy and Jeseníky mountains with good visibility is definitely worth it! ■





Media Roundup

The court ignored the facts in the dispute with the Liechtensteins and ruled according to a nationalist pattern

15 February 2022 | Pavel Šafr | FORUM 24

The Czech state is in a completely undignified situation in its dispute with the Liechtenstein Family's Foundation. The authorities and state bodies are clinging to the post-war confiscation of the Princes' property, which took place in contradiction of the laws of the time.

Moreover, the laws were despicable because they followed the logic of Nazi legislation, which introduced a racial aspect. However, the Beneš Decrees differed from the Nazi practice of determining race only in the fact that they determined confiscations by nationality according to how the citizens of Czechoslovakia had registered themselves in the census.

The most recent ruling against the Liechtensteins was made last week by the court in Břeclav, which considered the claim of the Princely Foundation to the castles of Valtice and Lednice. The judge did not deal at all with the evidence presented by the Foundation and dismissed the case with reference to the Beneš Decrees. It was clear to the judge that the family in question was a German family and that it should have been deprived of its property after the war like all other Germans in the former Czechoslovakia.

The family members of the Princely House of Liechtenstein were not listed as either German or Czech in the last pre-war census, which was decisive for the post-war confiscations. They did not participate in the census because they were citizens of the Principality of Liechtenstein. The family did not explicitly claim to be German and their small state was affected by the aggression of the Nazi Third Reich. But Czech courts have repeatedly held that the German nationality of the Liechtensteins is a „notorious fact“ and therefore the Beneš Decrees apply to them.

The arguments of the lawyers of the Liechtenstein Foundation are ignored by the Czech courts with complete arrogance. They simply do not examine them at all, because they consider 1948, when the Communist coup took place, to be the beginning of our legal history. This is similarly

perverse, as if the courts in Germany had respected the legal situation only since the rise of Adolf Hitler.

Since there are no documents that would attribute German nationality to the Liechtensteins in the sense of the legal provisions in force in the post-war period, the Czech courts decide in much the same way as the Nazi authorities did - they look at a person and say, „He is clearly German.“ Just as in another case they would say, „That's a clear Jew.“ There is no substantive difference. It is really a crying shame that Czech judges are not ashamed of their legal opinion. Yet it is clear that the opinion of the courts is not guided by legal analysis, but by nationalism and ideological indoctrination from the Communist era. For the Czechs, however, the official position taken by the Czech state in the dispute with the Liechtenstein family is also shameful. The position of our state is presented by the Office for State Representation in Property Matters (ÚZSVM). Here is an example of the position of our state, which wants to be one of the civilised European countries with a solid legal order:

„The Office for the Protection of Property is directly obliged by law to effectively defend the property interests of the Czech Republic and has consistently taken the legal view that the Liechtenstein property right was transferred to the State by right on the basis of the confiscation under the 1945 Presidential Decrees. It therefore disagrees with the assertion that the property in question was unlawfully taken. The ÚZSVM has succeeded with this argumentation before the District, Regional and Supreme Courts of the Czech Republic. The correctness of the ÚZSVM's procedure was also confirmed by the Constitutional Court in its resolution of 20 February 2020. The ÚZSVM will continue to defend the interests of the Czech Republic effectively in these disputes in accordance with its legal obligations.“

Let us add that the Czech authorities are spending many millions to fight the Liechtensteins, not only for lawyers, but also for analyses to prove that the family behaved in an „anti-Czech“ way, for example after the Battle of the White Mountain. This absurd and barbaric attitude, which is completely outside the norms of a civilised modern country, should be a topic for the new government of Petr Fiala. It is a chance to stop the stereotypes that the current Czech authorities have adopted from the era of the radical Bolshevik dictatorship and the nationalist frenzy of the post-war years. ■